

Hearing the voice of the Youth of Australia

The Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award competition which is aimed at enhancing oral communication skills of students aged 12 to 14 years continues to grow and in 2010 over 380 Victorian schools took part in semi finals across Victoria. **The Victorian State Final was held at the ABC Iwaki Auditorium on 11 October 2010.**

The winner was Julien (Nivashan) Nithianandan from Melbourne High School and the runner up was Kurt Cauchi from St Monica's College, Epping. Julien and Kurt will represent Victoria in the National Final which will be held in Melbourne on 8 November.

Julien was up against some tough competition from the ten finalists who competed in the State Award. He toasted the competition with his prepared speech. "Ductus Exemplo – Lead by Example'. Julien said that leadership is a big part of his life and he wanted to get a message out that one should lead by example and that you don't need to be an adult to be a leader.

"I am so excited about winning the competition" said Julien. "I feel honoured as the other contestants spoke so well. It was totally unexpected that I ended up with the Cup and I am proud to be representing Victoria in the National Final.

The Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award is a speech advancement programme for junior secondary students in State and Independent schools and colleges. It also seeks to help young people appreciate the ideals of Legacy; voluntary service, caring and comradeship and the need for remembrance. With the resurgence of the ANZAC spirit, especially among the young of Australia, it is a most appropriate combination.

Entrants are required to give a five minute prepared speech on a subject of their own choosing followed by a two minute impromptu speech. The impromptu topic for the 2010 State Final was 'Traffic Lights'.

The Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award has been operating since 1988 and became a National event in 1995. This year over 1600 students were involved in school events leading to entry in the twenty-seven regional finals across Victoria for this Award.

Melbourne Legacy extends best wishes to Julien and Kurt for the National Final of the 2010 Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award to be held in the Telstra Corporate Centre, Melbourne on 8 November.

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