

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 2011 over 380 Victorian schools took part in semi finals across Victoria. **The Victorian State Final was held at the ABC Iwaki Auditorium on 13 October 2011.**

The winner was Leah Milburn-Clark from East Doncaster Secondary College and the runner up was Matthew Hall from Ballarat Grammar, Wendouree. Leah and Matthew will represent Victoria in the National Final which will be held in Adelaide on 14 November.

Leah was up against some tough competition from the other 11 finalists who competed in the State Award. She toasted the competition with her prepared speech, 'Brown Eyed Friend' which was about the dogs who are in war zones alongside the soldiers. Leah said that she was inspired by reading about explosive detection dog, Herbie, who was killed in Afghanistan in June 2010 and decided to research this subject.

"I am so excited about winning the competition" said Leah. "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 2011 State Final was 'I walked through the door and to my surprise'.

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 Leah and Matthew for the National Final of the 2011 Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award to be held in Adelaide on Monday 14 November 2011.

For further information please contact:

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