



Royal South Street Competitions

ACU Debating Challenge

2022

Heats:

Monday July 25th to Friday July 29th

Semi Finals:

Monday August 15th

Final:

Monday August 22nd

VENUE:

Australian Catholic University (ACU)
Connors Hall
1220 Mair Street, Ballarat

Further Information Contact

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This organisation is supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria



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About Debating

Debates, Essays, Elocution, Readings, Lectures and Recitations formed an integral part of the South Street Young Men's General Debating Society when it was first established on 10 July 1879. The Society met every Friday night to indulge their passion for debating literary and musical items and these quickly became a central focus for South Street's first Eisteddfod, which took place in 1891. Fred Barrow won the first debate, 'The Best Means of Coping with the Liquor Traffic'. Through the 1920's and 30's topics tended to feature the political and social issues of the day.

Given the popularity of debating and impromptu speeches – with several of our future Prime Ministers including Alfred Deakin and James Scullin, the Society's most vibrant supporters – it was surprising to see debating deleted from the 1940 competitions. It made a triumphant return in 1977.

From then debating continued to grow and was further strengthened with the introduction of a Primary School Section in 2002. The Australian Catholic University commenced its association with the Debating Section in 2015, creating the ACU Debating Challenge Cup. The association was continued in 2018 when the arrangement was renewed for a further 3 years. That year also saw the event hosted at ACU Connors Hall, which is a truly magnificent venue. Hosting the event at Connors Hall also gives both primary and secondary students the opportunity to visit the ACU Ballarat Campus.

In 2019, we had a very successful ACU Debating Challenge Cup with 78 teams and 300 competitors from 16 schools across the Ballarat district, including strong presentation from Catholic, private and state schools. Unfortunately, in 2020 and 2021 the ACU Debating Challenge Cup was cancelled due to Covid.

Section Chairs

Allyson Hankin – Primary Schools
Chris Rickard – Secondary Schools

Sub Committee

Jade Browning, Rebbecca Grime, Loretta Kaval, Kelly Healy, Deborah Marshall, Mary-Rose McLaren and Tamara Vandenberg

Adjudicators

Years 5 and 6 – Winter Greet
Years 7 and 8 – Rebbecca Grime
Years 9 and 10 – Liam O'Shea
Years 11 and 12 – Rebbecca Grime



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Special Conditions

To be read in conjunction with the General Rules listed on the RSSS website and in Stardom.

1. The Debating Challenge Cup is a competition for school teams. Teams will be registered under the name of the school they represent.
2. Schools will be invited to enter a team or teams in one or as appropriate in more than one of the following levels. Entry fees & time limits are as follows:
 - **Section 820 Primary Years 5 & 6**
 - **Time Limit ~ 2 minutes per speaker**
 - **Section 821 Secondary Years 7 & 8**
 - **Time Limit ~ 3 minutes per speaker**
 - **Section 822 Secondary Years 9 & 10**
 - **Time Limit ~ 4 minutes per speaker**
 - **Section 823 Secondary Years 11 & 12**
 - **Time Limit ~ 5 minutes per speaker**

Entry Fee per team ~ \$35

3. Schools are responsible for the supervision and welfare of their competitors. Royal South Street Society is not responsible for supervision or the welfare of competitors.
4. Teams in each section will consist of four speakers, three primaries plus a nominated substitute to be available in case one of the primaries is unable to compete.
5. In the event that two speakers are unavailable in a team that qualifies for the semi-final, that team can call on their nominated substitute speaker and one other unregistered speaker (subject to point 6 below) to compete in the semi-final if necessary. If the team has not registered a substitute speaker, it will not be permitted to use two unregistered replacement speakers and will have to forfeit.
6. A student can be a speaker in only one debating team.
7. Each School is advised to carefully consider the number of teams it enters and must ensure that teams are ready to compete when scheduled. This is most important as if a team must withdraw after the draw is finalised it will mean that the opposing team can take no part in the competition.
8. The school's competition requires an equal number of teams in each section. Where the number of entries received by the closing date is not even, the Debating Committee will make every effort to find an additional team to



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adjust the imbalance before making the decision not to accept the entry of an individual team to balance numbers.

9. Our discipline is adopting the Government's Gender Equity policy. The adoption of gender equity in language is **vital to the co-existence of the sexes**. 'By developing a respect for one another and de-sexualizing everyday language, it is highly possible that equality can be achieved in all aspects of society. By pushing away gender stereotypes and generalizations, the human behind the gender is revealed.'

What is inclusive language?

Inclusive language is a way of acknowledging and respecting the diversity of bodies, genders and relationships.

All schools in Victoria are teaching Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships (RRRR). A major focus of this program is eliminating gender-based language and developing positive gender relationships.

10. Schools will be provided with a timetable and their debating topic/s at least one month prior to the start of the competition. Each team must register the names and speaking order of the debaters at the registration desk at least 15 minutes prior to the starting time for its debate.
11. The format of the debates will follow the generally accepted procedures in the Australian – Asian Debating Guide.
12. An MC will control the debate. The MC will welcome and introduce each team, the adjudicator and timers plus announce the topic.
13. The timer will sound a warning bell one minute (30 seconds for year 5/6 debates) before the end of the speaker's allotted time and a second bell to indicate the end of the speaker's allotted time.
14. At the end of each debate the adjudicator will give a verbal critique and announce the result of the debate
15. Teams will be provided with an adjudicator's written critique and a breakdown of the results for each debate following the heats and the semi-finals.
16. The four (4) highest scoring winning teams in each section of the school's competition will progress to the semi-finals, with the winners of each semi-final competing for the Challenge Cup for that section.
17. Perpetual trophies will be held by the winning teams for 11 months. It is an expectation that perpetual trophies **must** be returned to the Royal South Street Office once notified to do so. Holders of the perpetual trophies will be responsible for their safekeeping, and return. Trophies must be returned in same condition they were received along with being engraved with the school name.



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18. The lodging of an entry is taken as agreement to abide by the special conditions as detailed above.
19. Audience ~ Royal South Street Society encourages schools to bring students to be a part of the audience for debates, providing they are effectively supervised. Prior arrangements for school groups to attend must be made by emailing admin@royalsouthstreet.com.au. The cost of entry will be \$1 per student & \$2 per supervising teacher.



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AWARDS

Section 820: Years 5 & 6

Team awards:

Winning team: The Debating Challenge Cup & Replica Cup

Runner-up team: Certificate

Individual:

Winning and runner-up team members: Certificate & Medal

Best Debater in section heats: Certificate, Medal & \$40 Ballarat Zonta Group

Runner-up Best Debater in section heats: Certificate & Medal

Section 821: Years 7 & 8

Team awards:

Winning team: The Debating Challenge Cup & Replica Cup

Runner-up team: Certificate

Individual:

Winning and runner-up team members: Certificate & Medal

Best Debater in section heats: Certificate, Medal & \$50 Ballarat East Rotary

Runner-up Best Debater in section heats: Certificate & Medal

Section 822: Years 9 & 10

Team awards:

Winning team: The Debating Challenge Cup & Replica

Runner-up team: Certificate

Individual:

Winning and runner-up team members: Certificate & Medal

Best Debater in section heats: Certificate, Medal & \$60 Ballarat East Rotary

Runner-up Best Debater in section heats: Certificate & Medal

Section 823: Years 11 & 12

Team awards:

Winning team: The Debating Challenge Cup & Replica

Runner-up team: Certificate

Individual:

Winning and runner-up team members: Certificate & Medal

Best Debater in section heats: Certificate, Medal & \$70 Ballarat Zonta Club

Runner-up Best Debater in section heats: Certificate & Medal