



ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY  
BALLARAT EISTEDDFOD



# ACU Debating Challenge Cup 2025

## Schedule, Rules and Conditions of Entry

Heats:

Monday 04 to Friday 08 August  
(Subject to entries)

Semi Finals:

Tuesday 19 August

Final:

Tuesday 26 August (PM)

VENUE:

Australian Catholic University (ACU)  
Connors Hall  
1200 Mair Street, Ballarat

Further Information Contact

Events Coordinator

Office: 53321054

Email: [admin@royalsouthstreet.com.au](mailto:admin@royalsouthstreet.com.au)

## **Section Chair**

Loretta Kaval

## **Sub Committee**

Rebecca Grime, Deborah Marshall, Mary-Rose McLaren, Laura Benney,  
Kelly Healy, Tamara Vandenburg

## **Adjudicators**

Years 5 and 6 – Deborah Marshall

Years 7 and 8 – Kaitlyn Handreck

Years 9 and 10 – Deborah Marshall

Years 11 and 12 – Rebecca Grime

## **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.

## **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.

**Entry Fee per team ~ \$50**

**AWARDS**

***\$200 prize money will be awarded to the winner of each year level.  
Sponsored by Ballarat Lions Club and Central Highlands Water.***

**All year levels – 5/6, 7/8, 9/10, 11/12**

**Team:**

**Winning team:**

The Debating Challenge Cup & Replica Cup, \$200 prize money

**Runner-up team:**

Certificate

**Individual:**

**Winning team members:**

Certificate & Medal

**Runner up team members**

Certificate & Medal

**Best Debater from section heats:**

Certificate, Medal and

Prize money	Year 5/6 -	\$40 – Ballarat Zonta Club
	Year 7/8 -	\$50 – TBC
	Year 9/10 -	\$60 – TBC
	Year 11/12 -	\$70 - Ballarat Zonta Club

**Runner-up Best Debater in section heats:**

Certificate & Medal

# Rules and Conditions of Entry

## 1 GENERAL

- 1.1 Schools will be invited to enter a team or teams in one or as appropriate in more than one of the following levels. Time limits are as follows:
  - Section 820 Years 5 & 6
    - Time Limit ~ 2 minutes per speaker
  - Section 821 Years 7 & 8
    - Time Limit ~ 3 minutes per speaker
  - Section 822 Years 9 & 10
    - Time Limit ~ 4 minutes per speaker
  - Section 823 Years 11 & 12
    - Time Limit ~ 5 minutes per speaker
- 1.2 Debating Challenge Cup is a competition for Primary and Secondary school. Teams will be registered under the name of the school they represent.
- 1.3 All competitors and patrons must observe directions given by Royal South Street Society Staff and Volunteers
- 1.4 The Royal South Street Society's preferred form of communication is via email [admin@royalsouthstreet.com.au](mailto:admin@royalsouthstreet.com.au)
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 Names of all debaters must be submitted at least 2 weeks before the competition start date.
- 1.8 Please list all speakers in order from 1 to 3 and also a reserve.
- 1.9 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.
- 1.10 A student can be a speaker in only one debating team.
- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 The 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 adjust the imbalance before making the decision not to accept the entry of an individual team to balance numbers.
- 1.13 Our discipline is adopting the Government's Gender Equity policy.
- 1.14 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.'

- 1.15 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.
- 1.16 The format of the debates will follow the generally accepted procedures in the Australian – Asian Debating Guide.
- 1.17 An MC will control the debate. The MC will welcome and introduce each team, the adjudicator and timers plus announce the topic.
- 1.18 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.
- 1.19 At the end of each debate the adjudicator will give a verbal critique and announce the result of the debate
- 1.20 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.
- 1.21 THE FOUR (4) WINNING TEAMS WITH THE HIGHEST SCORES WILL PROGRESS TO THE SEMI-FINALS, with the winners of each semi-final competing for the Challenge Cup for that section. In the event that there are not enough entrants to hold a semi-final, the 2 winning teams with the highest points will progress straight to the Grand Final.
- 1.22 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.
- 1.23 The lodging of an entry is taken as agreement to abide by the special conditions as detailed above.

## **2 ENTRIES**

- 2.1 No entry will be accepted unless processed online with full payment.
- 2.2 Schools, clubs etc. may submit a purchase order on MyStage. Your entry reference will be your invoice number. This must be paid within 21 days of receiving the invoice and well before the start of the competition.
- 2.3 Fees are non-refundable once entries close. Applications for special consideration may be considered by the Discipline Committee and the decision of the Committee will be final.
- 2.4 An entry confirmation will be generated for the competitor, and it will be the competitors' responsibility to confirm all details of the entry are correct.
- 2.5 Entries open on Friday 01 March 2025 and close on Wednesday 30 April 2025.
- 2.6 Should alterations be required, a request via email must be forwarded to [admin@royalsouthstreet.com.au](mailto:admin@royalsouthstreet.com.au)
- 2.7 The society is not responsible for entries lost through failed electronic transmission or incorrectly submitted online.
- 2.8 Please check your junk mail folder if you do not receive a confirmation email

### 3 COMPETITION ENTRY DISCLAIMERS

#### Copyright

- 3.1 I/we declare that I/we own the original of my chosen work and can present the original, or proof of purchase, if requested. This includes the original sheet music, music book, and/or the purchase of authorised sound recordings. Please click on link for [RSSS copyright agreement](#).
- 3.2 I/we recognise failure to comply with copyright conditions and procedures will result in the competitor being unable to compete.

#### Risk

- 3.3 I/we recognise that the Royal South Street Society is insured for public liability which does not comprehensively cover injury to performers, and that individuals or schools must ensure that they are adequately covered whilst performing in these competitions or otherwise enter at their own risk.

#### Photography, Videography & Image Consent

- 3.4 We encourage all schools/group/clubs to assist us to promote the performing arts and the RSSS Eisteddfod. The Royal South Street Society reserves the right to promote our core business (eisteddfod) for marketing and sponsorship which is critical to the ongoing promotion of the performing arts and our success. As such we must take and share professional photographs and/or video footage of various performers on our stage for all our disciplines. It is impossible for us to check with every school, for group/school/club photography consent for every single performer on our stage. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the school/group/club to inform us prior to the discipline competition commencing, if the school/group cannot be photographed for any reason. As per our Child Safe Policy, consent can be advised or withdrawn throughout the competition, but the onus to do so is on the school. Parents/carers are given an opportunity to provide consent for individual entries when they enter as individuals/soloists.
- 3.5 In support of Child Safe Standards, Royal South Street Society provides parents/guardians/teachers and entrants (over the age of 18) an advance option (for consent or non-consent) for children (under the age of 18) to be photographed (as per the following clauses) upon initial eisteddfod registration, and the reminder and/or opportunity to review their decision periodically (in case circumstances change or the child in question would prefer not to be photographed). Royal South Street Society reserves the right to use this initial and ongoing consent information to guide the following photography, videography and image use on an annual eisteddfod basis:
- 3.6 Any such photograph, recording or broadcast may be used at RSSS's discretion for publicity or promotional purposes, including, but not limited to, competition results, print and broadcast media and social media. Any use of images shall not necessarily constitute an endorsement of any participants, and no remuneration or compensation whatsoever shall be attributable to any participants so featured.
- 3.7 No photography or videography of any kind or any mobile device is permitted in the dressing rooms by any participant, teacher, supporter, RSSS staff member or stakeholder.
- 3.8 No remuneration or compensation whatsoever shall be attributable to any participants so featured in promotional publications or material.
- 3.9 Should the entrant have any personal or legal reasons which would preclude them from this, Royal South Street Society should be notified upon entry, or throughout the competition season. Consent can be withdrawn via this form; [Withdraw My Consent](#)
- 3.10 Royal South Street Society may publicise the name, profile and photograph of an entrant in eisteddfod publications and results, via electronic, social and printed media at its discretion.

## **Personal Details**

- 3.10 Team name, locality, and age category of sections are published in the “Program” and competitors should be aware that such details may be used by media outlets. Any further information concerning a competitor will not be provided to anyone without the competitor’s express permission.

## **Conditions**

- 3.11 Competitors/guardians acknowledge that failure to comply with any of the foregoing rules and conditions may result in disqualification, the withholding of prizes, and a future bar in competition.
- 3.12 The decision of the Board or relevant discipline committees in all questions or disputes arising out of or not provided for, by these rules and regulations will be final.
- 3.13 All entries are received according to this condition and in the spirit of friendly competition upon which the eisteddfod is based; accordingly, no dispute shall become the subject of any appeal at law.

## **Medication**

- 3.14 Competitors/guardians acknowledge that it is the responsibility of individual competitors who require medication to ensure that they always carry medication with them and have it easily accessible side stage in the event they should require it. It is the individual competitor’s responsibility to have a responsible person present to administer the medication in case of an emergency.

## **4 ADJUDICATORS**

- 4.1 The board reserves the right to appoint a co-adjudicator, or assistant, or substitute adjudicator when necessary.
- 4.2 The adjudicator’s decision shall be final.
- 4.3 Any unwanted communication with the adjudicators, either by competitors, teachers, parents or other interested parties during the competition is prohibited. Discipline Chairs or their delegates from their sub-committee may approach the Adjudicators when and if required to do.

## **5 PRIZES**

- 5.1 Medals, Certificates for Best Debaters and Prize Money will be presented onstage at the Grand Final.
- 5.2 Certificates may be purchased through the office or via this link [Order My Certificate](#).

## **6 COMPETITORS OBLIGATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS**

- 6.1 Proof of Age – The board reserves the right to ask any competitor to provide a proof of age. Any prize money may be withheld until such proof has been provided.
- 6.2 Personal presentation – All competitors are requested to dress neatly and present well on stage.
- 6.3 Performances should be appropriate to the competitors’ age and to community values. Inappropriate language and movements are not appreciated.
- 6.4 Competitors are expected and encouraged to be present for the entire section in which they are entered.

## 7 CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

7.1 In accordance with the current [Child Safe Policy](#) (effective July 2023) all persons attending RSSS Competitions should have read the current Child Safe Policy. As indicated in this policy, all persons over 18 entering the Dressing Rooms or Back Stage areas will need to show their Working with Children Card or equivalent.

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