



ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY  
BALLARAT EISTEDDFOD



# ACU Speech, Drama & Comedy 2026

## Schedule of Sections

Monday 24 August to Friday 28 August

(Subject to entries)

**VENUE:**

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

**SECTION CHAIR**

Kris Carroll

**SUB COMMITTEE**

Zoe James, Alexandra Meerbach, Rachael Shelton, Tammy Vandenberg, Mika Wallace,

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# Contents

SECTIONS .....	1
UNDER 8 YEARS.....	1
UNDER 10 YEARS .....	1
Special Awards for Under 10 Years .....	2
UNDER 12 YEARS .....	3
Special Awards Under 12 Years .....	4
UNDER 14 YEARS .....	5
Special Awards for Under 14 Years .....	7
UNDER 16 YEARS .....	8
Special Awards for Under 16 Years .....	11
SENIOR DIVISION.....	12
Special Awards for Senior Division.....	15
COMEDY SECTIONS.....	16
GROUP SECTIONS.....	17

## SECTIONS

### UNDER 8 YEARS

- 600 NURSERY RHYME OR RHYME ~ Entry Fee \$15**
- Memorised recitation of a poem or Nursery Rhyme.
  - Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
  - Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed. · Time limit: 2 minutes
  - Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

### UNDER 10 YEARS

- 610 POETRY RECITAL~ Entry Fee \$18**
- Memorised recitation of a Poem.
  - Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
  - Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
  - Time Limit: 2 minutes
  - Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

### 611 PREPARED READING OF OWN CHOICE ~ Entry Fee \$18

- Reading of an excerpt from a Novel.
- **Prepared reading**- competitors must read from the text (Book or printed excerpt) during the performance.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- **Prepared Reading**- No script needs to be handed in.
- Time Limit: 2 minutes
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

### 612 ROALD DAHL CHARACTER IN COSTUME ~ Entry Fee \$18

- Memorised performance of any character selected from Roald Dahl's stories.
- Attire: Costume appropriate to chosen character. Closed toed shoes.
- No penalty for no costume however points **WILL** be awarded for costume.
- Small props that can be carried onto and off the stage by competitors can be used.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 2 Minutes
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

### 613 IMPROMPTU MIME ~ Entry Fee \$18

- **Improvisation**- competitors **silently** tell a story using their face and body.
- Competitors will be given a choice of three subjects.
- All competitors must be present at the commencement of this section
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Preparation time: 30 seconds
- Time Limit: 1 minute. A warning bell will sound at 30 seconds and a double bell will sound at 1 minute.
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

### 614 POEM FOR TWO ~ Entry Fee \$18

- Two competitors share the reading of a poem – must also include some unison work
- **Prepared reading**- competitors must read from the text during the performance.
- The text may be held by each competitor.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 3 minutes
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

### Special Awards for Under 10 Years

**THE KAVAL FAMILY PRIZE:** \$30 and a trophy will be awarded to the competitor with the highest combined points scored in sections 610, 611, 612 & 613 using the aggregate scoring method. (General Rule 7.3)

# UNDER 12 YEARS

Medals kindly donated by the Margery James Trust Fund for the Under 12 section.

## 620 POETRY RECITAL~ Entry Fee \$20

- Memorised recitation of a Poem
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 2 Minutes
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

## 621 PREPARED READING OF OWN CHOICE ~ Entry Fee \$20

- Reading of an excerpt from a Novel.
- **Prepared reading**- competitors must read from the text (Book or printed excerpt) during the performance.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- **Prepared reading**- No script needs to be handed in.
- Time Limit: 2 minutes
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

## 622 CHARACTER PERFORMANCE ~ Entry Fee \$20

- Memorised performance of a character.
- Characters should be located within an imagined scene
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Small props that can be carried onto and off the stage by competitors can be used.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 2 minutes
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

## 623 IMPROVISATION WITH OBJECT ~ Entry Fee \$20

- While this is first and foremost a section encouraging a movement based improvisation with an object, the object may be used to prompt an improvisation in a story telling genre. Competitors will have a choice of three physical objects; they choose one with which to develop their improvisation on stage. The object may be believably transformed eg: a wooden spoon may become a wand.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Preparation time: 30 seconds
- Time Limit: 2 minutes. A warning bell will be rung at 1 minute 30 seconds.
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

## 624 DEvised FAIRYTALE CHARACTER IN COSTUME ~ Entry Fee \$20

- Any character from a fairy tale, fable, legend, or myth, or similar, in a scene that differs from their original story. The character may be presented in any context (not necessarily in the context of the original story) but must be recognisable as coming from a fairy-tale (e.g., the witch from Snow White is not the same as the witch in Hansel & Gretel.)
  - This piece **must** be the original and devised by the competitor.
  - Attire: Costume appropriate to chosen character.
  - No penalty for no costume however points **WILL** be awarded for costume.
  - Small props that can be carried onto and off the stage by competitors can be used.
  - **Prepared Improvisation-** No script needs to be handed in.
  - Time Limit: 2 minutes
  - Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

## 625 POEM FOR TWO ~ Entry Fee \$20

- Two competitors share the reading of a poem – must also include some unison work
- **Prepared reading-** competitors must read from the text during the performance.
- The text can be held by each competitor, or a music stand will be available.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 3 minutes
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

## Special Awards Under 12 Years

### SALLY VAWDREY MEMORIAL PRIZE

- The six competitors with the highest combined scores across sections 620, 621, and 622, provided they have competed in at least two of these sections, are invited to compete for the Sally Vawdrey Memorial Prize.
- This is awarded to the competitor who, according to the adjudicator, performs best in a short impromptu poetry reading. The poem will be selected by the committee/adjudicator.
- Competitors will be given one minute to look over the poem prior to beginning.
- Appropriate allowances will be made for children with reading disabilities.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Prize Money for this award kindly donated by families of Ballarat & Queens Anglican Grammar School.
- Prizes: First \$100, Second \$50 & Third \$25

### SOROPTOMIST AGGREGATE PRIZE

- \$30 prize money will be awarded to the competitor who is the winner of sections 620-624 using the aggregate scoring method. (General Rule 6.3)

### SOROPTOMIST ENCOURAGEMENT AWARDS

- \$30 prize money will be awarded at the discretion of the adjudicator, to competitors who have not placed first, second or third in any solo section and are worthy of encouragement.

# UNDER 14 YEARS

## 630 POETRY RECITAL~ Entry Fee \$22

- Memorised recitation of a Poem
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 3 minutes
- Prizes: First \$30 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons
- Prize money donated by the Adam Lindsay Gordon Memorial Fund.

## 631 PREPARED READING OF OWN CHOICE ~ Entry Fee \$22

- Reading of an excerpt from a Novel.
- **Prepared reading**- competitors must read from the text (Book or printed excerpt) during the performance.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- **Prepared reading**- No script needs to be handed in.
- Time Limit: 3 minutes
- Prizes: First \$30 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons
- Prize money donated by the Adam Lindsay Gordon Memorial Fund.

## 632 CHARACTER PERFORMANCE~ Entry Fee \$22

- Memorised performance of a character.
- Characters should be located within an imagined scene.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Small props that can be carried onto and off the stage by competitors can be used.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 3 minutes
- Prizes: First \$30 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons
- Prize money donated by the Adam Lindsay Gordon Memorial Fund.

## 633 IMPROVISATION BASED ON A HAT ~ Entry Fee \$22

- Competitors will select a hat from behind stage and are required to develop an improvisation around the hat.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Preparation time: 30 seconds
- Time Limit: 2 minutes. A warning bell will sound at 1 minute 30 seconds
- Prizes: Margery James Trust Fund First \$25 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

### 634 DEvised FAIRYTALE CHARACTER IN COSTUME ~ Entry Fee \$22

- Any character from a fairy tale, fable, legend, or myth, or similar, in a scene that differs from the original story. The character may be presented in any context (not necessarily in the context of the original story) but must be recognisable as coming from a fairy-tale (e.g., the witch from Snow White is not the same as the witch in Hansel & Gretel.)
- This piece **must** be the original and devised by the competitor.
- Attire: Costume appropriate to chosen character.
- No penalty for no costume however points **WILL** be awarded for costume.
- Small props that can be carried onto and off the stage by competitors can be used.
- **Prepared Improvisation-** No script needs to be handed in.
- Time Limit: 2 minutes
- Prizes: First \$30 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons
- Prize money donated by the Adam Lindsay Gordon Memorial Fund.

### 635 POEM FOR TWO ~ Entry Fee \$22

- Two competitors share the reading of a poem – must also include some unison work.
- **Prepared reading-** competitors must read from the text during the performance.
- The text can be held by each competitor, or a music stand will be available.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 3 minutes
- Prizes: Margery James Trust Fund First \$30 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

### 636 LEANNE McINNIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ~ Entry Fee \$22

- Two items to be performed in the order of the competitors choosing.
- Item 1: a memorised performance of a lyric poem
- Item 2: **Either** a memorised performance of an excerpt from a novel containing either, or both, narrative text and dialogue from one or more characters **or** a character performance.
- Contrast between the selected pieces is advised. (Eg. Differing mood, themes, language, time period etc.)
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Small props that can be carried onto and off the stage by competitors can be used.
- Printed copy of both pieces must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 5 minutes overall
- Cash Prizes donated by the Leanne McInnis Memorial Fund
- Prizes: First \$100 + Trophy. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Medals, HM & HC Ribbons
- Trophy donated by Mr Brian McInnis in memory of his daughter Leanne.

### **637 PREPARED SPEECH ~ Entry Fee \$22**

- Own selection of topic.
- **Competitors must write their own speeches**; Information taken from the internet and other sources must be appropriately acknowledged.
- Each speech will be followed by a 2 minute Q&A with the adjudicator on the presented topic. This does not count toward the total time limit.
- Attire: School Uniform **OR** Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Time Limit: 4 minutes.
- Prizes: Margery James Trust Fund First \$25 + Medal; Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

### **638 IMPROMPTU SPEECH ~ Entry Fee \$22**

- Competitors will have a choice of three topics chosen by the adjudicator.
- Attire: School Uniform **OR** Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- All competitors must be present at the commencement of this section
- Cards and a pen will be provided, and competitors are welcome to use notes created during their preparation time.
- Preparation time: 1 minute
- Time Limit: Minimum 1 Minute – Maximum 2 minutes
- A bell will be rung at 1 minute and a double bell will be rung at 2 minutes
- Prizes: Margery James Trust Fund First \$25 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

### Special Awards for Under 14 Years

#### **THE MR & MRS R MORGAN AGGREGATE PRIZE**

- \$50 will be awarded to the competitor who is the winner of Sections 630 - 634, 637 & 638 using the aggregate scoring method

#### **ROTARY CLUB OF BALLARAT EAST JAMES F O'SHEA MEMORIAL PRIZE**

- \$50 will be awarded to a competitor in sections 630 - 634, 637 & 638, who has not placed first, second or third in a solo item and who is determined by the adjudicator as worthy of encouragement.

# UNDER 16 YEARS

## 640.1 POETRY RECITAL~ Entry Fee \$24

- Memorised recitation of any Poem
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 3 minutes
- Prizes: Margery James Trust Fund First \$30 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

## 640.2 POETRY RECITAL~ Entry Fee \$24

- Memorised recitation from the works of Adam Lindsay Gordon, Banjo Petterson, Henry Lawson.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 3 minutes
- Prizes: Margery James Trust Fund First \$30 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

## 641 PREPARED READING OF OWN CHOICE ~ Entry Fee \$24

- Reading of an excerpt from a Novel.
- **Prepared reading**- competitors must read from the text (Book or printed excerpt) during the performance.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- **Prepared reading**- No script needs to be handed in.
- Time Limit: 3 minutes
- Prizes: Margery James Trust Fund First \$30 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

## 642 CHARACTER PERFORMANCE Entry Fee \$24

- Memorised performance of a character.
- Characters should be located within an imagined scene
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Small props that can be carried onto and off the stage by competitors can be used.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 3 minutes
- Prizes: Margery James Trust Fund First \$30 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

**643 IMPROVISATION BASED ON A LINE OF PREVIOUSLY UNSEEN DIALOGUE -  
“PULLED OUT OF A HAT” ~ Entry Fee \$24**

- A range of different lines of dialogue will be in a hat; each competitor will choose one, 30 seconds before performing.
- Competitors must use the line of dialogue, exactly, at some point during the improvised scene.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Preparation time: 30 seconds
- Time Limit: 2 minutes
- A warning bell will sound at 1 minute 30 seconds
- Prizes: Margery James Trust Fund First \$30 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

**644 IMPROMPTU WEATHER FORECASTER IN COSTUME ~ ENTRY FEE \$24**

- Competitors present the weather in character- (this is a character of their own choice and does not need to be a ‘traditional’ weather forecaster)
- Preparing a news-like intro, outro and ideas to react to the weather script provided is advised- though competitors are free to fully improvise around the script if they prefer.
- A script, map and pointer will be provided.
- \*The task requires competitors to read, refer to the map, and engage with the audience while maintaining character.
- Attire: Costume appropriate to chosen character.
- No penalty for no costume however points **WILL** be awarded for costume.
- Time Limit: 3 minutes, with 30 seconds preparation time. A commencement bell will sound at the start, and a warning bell at 2 minutes 30 seconds.
- Prizes: Margery James Trust Fund First \$30 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

**645 POEM FOR TWO ~ Entry Fee \$24**

- Two competitors share the reading of a poem – must also include some unison work.
- **Prepared reading**- competitors must read from the text during the performance.
- The text can be held by each competitor or a music stand will be available to those wishing to use it.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 4 minutes
- Prizes: Margery James Trust Fund First \$30 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

**646 IMPROMPTU READING ~ Entry Fee \$24**

- Selection of Prose, selected by the adjudicator.
- Reading of an excerpt from a Novel.
- The provided text will be typed out or copied from the original source and blown up to a larger size of text.
- All competitors must be present at the commencement of the section
- Preparation time; 30 seconds
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Prizes: Margery James Trust Fund First \$30 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons
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#### **647 BALLARAT NATIONAL THEATRE PRIZE ~ Entry Fee \$24**

- Taking Direction as an Actor
- Competitors prepare a monologue of not more than one minute in length.
- Immediately after performing this monologue the competitor draws a prompt from a hat and must perform the monologue again, applying the direction of the prompt.
- Competitors can use the prompt to change their actions and to alter the meaning of the original text however are not to change the dialogue to fit the situation.
- Examples of prompts might be: Busting to go to the bathroom; in love with the chair; you can only shout or whisper
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Prizes: First \$100, Second \$50, Third \$25. HM & HC Ribbons

#### **648 PREPARED SPEECH~ Entry Fee \$24**

- Own selection of topic.
- Speech may be memorised or presented using cue cards.
- **Competitors must write their own speeches;** Information taken from the internet and other sources must be appropriately acknowledged.
- Each speech will be followed by a 2 minute Q&A with the adjudicator on the presented topic. This does not count toward the time limit.
- Attire: School Uniform **OR** Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Time Limit: Minimum 4 minutes Maximum 6 minutes
- Prizes: Margery James Trust Fund First \$30 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

#### **649 IMPROMPTU SPEECH ~ Entry Fee \$24**

- Competitors will have a choice of three topics chosen by the adjudicator.
- Attire: School Uniform **OR** Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- All competitors must be present at the commencement of this section
- Cards and a pen will be provided, and competitors are welcome to use notes created during their preparation time.
- Preparation Time: 1 Minute.
- Time Limit: Minimum 2 minutes Maximum 3 minutes
- A bell will be rung at 2 minutes and a double bell will be rung at 3 minutes
- Prizes: Margery James Trust Fund First \$30 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

## Special Awards for Under 16 Years

### **W S HOOPER MEMORIAL PRIZE**

- \$50 will be awarded to the competitor who secures the highest number of points in sections 640-644, 646 - 649, using the aggregate scoring method (General Rule 7.3)

### **ZONTA CLUB OF BALLARAT MAUREEN CHRISTIE MEMORIAL SPEECH PRIZE**

- The Ballarat Zonta Club prize of \$50 awarded to a competitor in sections 648 & 649 combined highest point scores.

### **ROTARY CLUB OF BALLARAT EAST JAMES F O'SHEA MEMORIAL PRIZE**

- \$50 will be awarded to competitor in sections 640-644, 646 - 649, who has not placed first, second or third in a solo item and who is determined by the adjudicator is worthy of encouragement.

# SENIOR DIVISION

Competitors must be 14 years of age or over

## **650 MEMORISED FREE VERSE ~ Entry Fee \$25**

- Including rap and spoken word poetry.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 5 minutes
- Prizes: \$40 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

## **651 READING ON THE THEME OF HOPE Entry Fee \$25**

- Reading of an excerpt from a Novel, where 'Hope' is a dominant image, environment, or symbol.
- **Prepared reading**- competitors must read from the text (Book or printed excerpt) during the performance.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- **Prepared reading**- No script needs to be handed in.
- Time Limit: 4 minutes
- Prizes: \$40 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

## **652 CHARACTER PERFORMANCE (not Shakespeare)~ Entry Fee \$25**

- Memorised performance of a character (not Shakespeare).
- Characters should be located within an imagined scene
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Small props that can be carried onto and off the stage by competitors can be used.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- This forms part of the Margery James Trust Fund Louie Dunn Prize
- Time Limit: 5 minutes
- Prizes: \$40 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

## **653 IMPROVISATION SET IN AN UNUSUAL LOCATION Entry Fee \$25**

- A location will be drawn from a hat.
- The competitor bases their improvisation on the location drawn
- Examples of locations are in a dog's ear; in a lead pipe; under a shoe
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Time Limit: 3 minutes with a warning bell will sound at 2 minutes
- Prizes: \$40 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

**654 A FAIRYTALE CHARACTER, DEVISED, IN COSTUME ~ Entry Fee \$25**

- Any character from a fairy tale, fable, legend, or myth, or similar, in a scene that differs from the original story. The character may be presented in any context (not necessarily in the context of the original story) but must be recognisable as coming from a fairy-tale (e.g., the witch from Snow White is not the same as the witch in Hansel & Gretel.)
- This piece **must** be the original and devised by the competitor.
- Attire: Costume appropriate to chosen character.
- No penalty for no costume however points **WILL** be awarded for costume.
- Small props that can be carried onto and off the stage by competitors can be used.
- **Prepared Improvisation-** No script needs to be handed in.
- Time Limit: 3 minutes
- Prizes: \$40 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbon

**655 THE ALMA PURCELL EFFECTIVE READING FROM THE WORK OF AN AUSTRALIAN POET  
Entry Fee ~ \$25**

- Reading of a poem by an Australian author.
- **Prepared reading-** competitors must read from the text (Book or printed excerpt) during the performance.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 4 minutes
- Prizes: \$40 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

**656 SHAKESPEARIAN PERFORMANCE Entry Fee \$25**

- Solo or Duo
- Memorised performance of a Shakespearian text or from an adaptation.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Small props that can be carried onto and off the stage by competitors can be used.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- This forms part of the Margery James Trust Fund Louie Dunn Prize.
- Time Limit: 4 minutes
- Prizes: \$40 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

**657 THE James Howard Memorial Poetry Recitation**

- Memorised recitation from the works of Adam Lindsay Gordon, Banjo Petterson, Henry Lawson.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 4 minutes
- Prizes: Margery James Trust Fund First \$30 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

## 658 PREPARED SPEECH ~ Entry Fee \$25

- Own selection of topic.
- Speech may be memorised or presented using cue cards.
- **Competitors must write their own speeches**; Information taken from the internet and other sources must be appropriately acknowledged.
- Each speech will be followed by a 3 minute Q&A with the adjudicator on the presented topic. This does not count toward the time limit.
- Attire: School Uniform **OR** Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Time Limit: Minimum 4 minutes Maximum 6 minutes
- Prizes: \$40 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

## 659 IMPROMPTU SPEECH ~ Entry Fee \$25

- Competitors will have a choice of three topics chosen by the adjudicator.
- Attire: School Uniform **OR** Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- All competitors must be present at the commencement of this section
- Competitors to supply their own cards and pens, and competitors are welcome to use notes created during their preparation time.
- Preparation Time: 1 minute
- Time Limit: Minimum 2 minutes maximum 3 minutes
- A bell will be rung at 2 minutes, and a double bell will be rung at 3 minutes
- Prizes: \$40 + Medal, Second & Third Medals. HM & HC Ribbons

## THE LOUIE DUNN PRIZE

- The six competitors who gain the highest total of points in sections 652, 653 & 656 provided they have competed in at least two of these sections will be invited to compete for the Louie Dunn Prize.
- Competitors will perform **either** a memorised excerpt from a novel containing either, or both, narrative text and dialogue from one or more characters **or** a character performance (can involve one or more characters) which they have not presented by such finalist RSSS in the current year.
- Costume **NOT** permitted
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Small props that can be carried onto and off the stage by competitors can be used.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Competitors must have a prepared piece ready to be presented in order to qualify
- Competitors must compete in both qualifying sections to be eligible to compete in this section.
- Time Limit: 6 minutes
- Prize money of \$500 plus trophy is generously supported by The Margery James Trust Fund. They will also receive a professional headshot photography session, generously sponsored by Rachael Coley Photography. This prize has been created to give our entrants the opportunity to take the next step in their careers by strengthening and elevating their professional portfolio.

## Special Awards for Senior Division

### **THE IVY KEATES O.A.M AGGREGATE AWARD:**

- \$150 will be awarded to the winner of sections 650-659 using the aggregate scoring method. Prize gift of the former students, colleagues, friends and family of the late Ivy Keates, O.A.M

### **ADAM LINDSAY GORDON SENIOR POETRY PRIZE**

- \$100 and trophy will be awarded to a competitor in sections 650, 655 & 657 with the combined highest point scores from a minimum of two eligible sections.

### **ROTARY CLUB OF BALLARAT EAST JAMES F O'SHEA MEMORIAL AWARD**

- One prize of \$50 awarded by the adjudicator for the encouragement of a non-prize winner that performs in sections 651-673

### **ZONTA CLUB OF BALLARAT MAUREEN CHRISTIE MEMORIAL SPEECH PRIZE**

- The Ballarat Zonta Club prize of \$50 awarded to a competitor in sections 658 & 659 combined highest point scores.

# COMEDY SECTIONS

## Year 7-9

### **670 - Tight 5- Original comedic act in any style of comedy. Entry Fee \$22.**

- A 'Tight 5' is a well-rehearsed and polished comedy performance with approximately five minutes of material that a comedian can perform reliably in front of an audience.
- Styles of comedy: Clowning, Comedy of Errors (**Not the play by Shakespeare**), Dramatic Comedy, Improvised Comedy, Musical Comedy, Physical Comedy, Prop Comedy, Sketch acts, Stand Up Comedy, or anything hilarious that comes to mind!
- Solo, Duo or Trio.
- Comedic act **must** be original and devised by the competitor/s.
- While language will not be policed, competitors are **strongly** encouraged to consider the audience, stick to the amusing and to avoid offensive subject matter.
- Small props that can be carried onto and off the stage by competitors can be used.
- Speakers/ instruments/ backing tracks to be provided by competitors, if needed.
- Attire: Clothing that the comedian is comfortable in/ suits the performance they have prepared. Closed toed shoes.
- **Self devised comedy**- No script needs to be handed in. (Note: if you want the back up of being prompted, you may hand in a script.)
- Time Limit: **Minimum** 1 minute - **Maximum** 5 minutes.
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

## Year 10-12

### **671 Tight 5- Original comedic act in any style of comedy. Entry Fee \$24.**

- A 'Tight 5' is a well-rehearsed and polished comedy performance with approximately five minutes of material that a comedian can perform reliably in front of an audience.
- Styles of comedy: Clowning, Comedy of Errors (**Not the play by Shakespeare**), Dramatic Comedy, Improvised Comedy, Musical Comedy, Physical Comedy, Prop Comedy, Sketch acts, Stand Up Comedy, or anything hilarious that comes to mind!
- Solo, Duo or Trio.
- Comedic act **must** be original and devised by the competitor/s.
- While language will not be policed, competitors are **strongly** encouraged to consider the audience, stick to the amusing and to avoid offensive subject matter.
- Small props that can be carried onto and off the stage by competitors can be used.
- Speakers/ instruments/ backing tracks to be provided by competitors, if needed.
- Attire: Clothing that the comedian is comfortable in/ suits the performance they have prepared. Closed toed shoes.
- **Self devised comedy**- No script needs to be handed in. (Note: if you want the back up of being prompted, you may hand in a script.)
- Time Limit: **Minimum** 1 minute - **Maximum** 5 minutes.
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

# GROUP SECTIONS

**Speech & Drama Special Conditions apply.**

## **660 ACTING IN PAIRS (Under 12) ~Entry Fee \$30**

- Scene for two performers, original or published material may be used
- Attire: **Costume optional.** Costume appropriate to character or comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- No penalty for no costume however points **CAN** be awarded for costume.
- Small props that can be carried onto and off the stage by competitors can be used
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 5 minutes
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

## **661 ACTING IN PAIRS (Under 16) ~ Entry Fee \$30**

- Scene for two performers, original or published material may be used
- Attire: **Costume optional.** Costume appropriate to character or comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- No penalty for no costume however points **CAN** be awarded for costume.
- Small props that can be carried onto and off the stage by competitors can be used
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 5 minutes
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

## **662 ACTING IN PAIRS (Open) ~ Entry Fee \$30**

**(Not Shakespeare – Shakespeare pairs should enter section 663 Shakespeare Recital)**

- Scene for two performers, original or published material may be used
- Attire: Costume appropriate to character or comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- No penalty for no costume however points **CAN** be awarded for costume.
- Small props that can be carried onto and off the stage by competitors can be used
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 7 minutes
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

### 663 IMPROVISATION IN PAIRS (Open) ~ Entry Fee \$30

- Two competitors create a scene of between one and two minutes in length, with 30 second planning time.
- Topics may include locations (e.g. at the beach), a line of dialogue (e.g. I told you not to), a situation (e.g. a bank robbery), or similar.
- Topics will be provided by the adjudicator, and will be randomly selected by each team, pulling their topic out of a hat.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Time Limit: Two minutes; there will a warning bell at one minute.
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

### 664 A SCENE FOR 3 OR MORE performers (Open) ~ Entry Fee \$30

- Scene for three or more performers, original or published material may be used
- Attire: **Costume optional.** Costume appropriate to character or comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- No penalty for no costume however points **CAN** be awarded for costume.
- Small props that can be carried onto and off the stage by competitors can be used.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- Time Limit: 10 minutes
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

### 665 MONICA MORGAN PRIZE FOR CHORAL SPEAKING (Any Age) ~ Entry Fee \$30

- Group speaking of a text. This must include some unison work.
- Memorised, or read.
- Groups of two or more may enter- any groups with only 2 members **must** have at least one competitor who is 16 years of age on January 1st. (Younger groups of 2 are encouraged to participate in their appropriate age group Poem for Two section.)
- Attire: Outfits appropriate to themes of selected pieces or comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Printed copy of the piece must be submitted on registration. To be used by adjudicator to check accuracy and prompt if needed.
- *This prize is in recognition of Monica Morgan's work as a Speech & Drama teacher in Ballarat over many years. Prize money kindly donated by her former pupil, Professor Jo O'Mara.*
- Time Limit: 5 minutes
- Prizes: First \$60, Second \$30, Third \$20. HM & HC Ribbons

**666 IMPROVISATIONS: Death in a Minute (Year 8 at school and below) ~ Entry Fee \$30**

- Explanation: The adjudicator provides the location and one occupation
- The group must begin their improvisation immediately, with one competitor adopting the occupation, and the group using the location appropriately. The improvisation can last no longer than one minute and must conclude with the “death “of one member only of the group.
- Groups will be adjudicated on their timing, interactions, creativity and ensemble work.
- Up to four people per group.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Time Limit: 1 minute
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

**667 IMPROVISATIONS: Death in a Minute (Open) ~ Entry Fee \$30**

- Explanation: The adjudicator provides the location and one occupation
- The group must begin their improvisation immediately, with one competitor adopting the occupation, and the group using the location appropriately. The improvisation can last no longer than one minute and must conclude with the “death “of one member only of the group.
- Groups will be adjudicated on their timing, interactions, creativity and ensemble work.
- Up to four people per group.
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Time Limit: 1 minute
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

**668 IMPROVISATION (Year 8 at school and below) ~ Entry Fee \$30**

Explanation: Each team enters the stage and draws a topic from a hat.

- Topics may include locations (e.g. at the beach), a line of dialogue (e.g. I told you not to), a situation (e.g. a bank robbery), or similar
- Groups must begin immediately to establish and develop a scene
- Groups will be adjudicated on their interactions, particularly their ability to offer and accept offers, imagination and ensemble work.
- 4 people per group
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Time Limit: 3 minutes. A warning bell will be rung at 2 minutes.
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons

**669 IMPROVISATION (Open) ~ Entry Fee \$30**

- Explanation: Each team enters the stage and draws a topic from a hat.
- Topics may include locations (e.g., At the beach), a line of dialogue (e.g. I told you not to), a situation (e.g. A bank robbery), or similar
- Groups must begin immediately to establish and develop a scene
- Groups will be adjudicated on their interactions, particularly their ability to offer and accept offers’ imagination and ensemble work.
- Four (4) people per group
- Attire: Comfortable black clothes with no logos. Closed toed shoes, any colour.
- Time Limit: 3 minutes A warning bell will be rung at 2 minutes.
- Prizes: Medals First, Second & Third. HM & HC Ribbons