

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS' CUP DEBATING COMPETITIONS

Last Thursday 9 of our wonderful debaters from Year 10 competed in the Macquarie Schools' Cup (Senior Division) Debating Competition. This was particularly impressive as the competition is aimed at Year 11 and 12 students. As our seniors were not able to attend, these Year 10 boys bravely stood up and took on the challenge.

There were approximately 50 students who attended the competition. The boys were outnumbered in gender on the day, with the other students coming from Cheltenham Girls School, Tara, Meriden, Monte Sant'Angelo, Hornsby Girls' High School and PLC Sydney.

The topics were quite advanced and required higher order thinking skills, a good general knowledge base and logical reasoning. They needed to debate "That Western democracies should suspend humanitarian aid support to countries which deny equal rights to women" and "That we should reserve seats in parliament for Indigenous Australians" and "That CEOs should be responsible for environmental damage caused by their company."

Special mention must go to Daniel Scipione and Ky Simpson who had their debut in their debating careers on the day. The adjudicators commented on how well Daniel and Ky spoke and how impressed they were with their performance and points made, particularly as it was their first time to debate. Daniel and his teammates Leo Lovesy and Hamish Alexander won their 3rd debate of the day.

A tough challenge was put to our team of Oliver Tysoe, Cian Roberts and Nicholas McKenzie on the day. As there were an uneven number of teams competing this year, these boys had to participate in what is called a 'swing debate'. This was a team made up of university students who are very experienced and have even participated in the World Championships. Well done to these brave boys for taking on the challenge.

Whilst our students were not successful in most of the results of their debates on the day, they all agreed that it was an extremely worthwhile experience. They had the opportunity to attend lectures given by accomplished World Debating Championship debaters on topics such as thematic rebuttal, the burden of proof and normative vs. empirical debates. They enjoyed debating against students from different schools and year levels, and found the feedback given by their adjudicators to be very useful. Some of them even got the opportunity to try the different roles of 1st, 2nd and 3rd speaker on the day!

Overall, the boys were excellent ambassadors for St Pius X College on the day. We look forward to competing in more Macquarie University Schools' Cup Competitions in the future.

Mrs S McCormack - Year 10 Debating Coach