

The 24th Russell McVeagh New Zealand Schools' Debating Championships

The Russell McVeagh New Zealand Schools' Debating Championships have been held every year since 1988 and are recognised as the country's most prestigious debating competition.

You can get your students involved by entering them in the following tournaments:

Regional Championships

The 2010 Championships will be held in nine centres throughout New Zealand, from Northland to Otago/Southeast. Every secondary school in New Zealand is invited to enter its local Russell McVeagh competition. Details of these tournaments are set out overleaf - please contact your local convenor:

National Finals (27 – 30 May)

The best speakers at the Regional Championships will be selected to represent their region at the National Finals in Wellington. The Grand Final is held at Parliament.

World Schools' Debating Championships

In 2011, the best speakers from the National Finals will be selected as members of the Russell McVeagh New Zealand Schools' Debating Team which will compete at the 2011 World Championships in Dundee, Scotland, and the 2012 World Championships in Cape Town, South Africa.



Cover Photo Duncan McLachlan (Wellington College) speaks in the Grand Final of the 2010 New Zealand Schools' Debating Championships (Photo by Stephen A Court Photography)

Main Photo The 2009 Russell McVeagh New Zealand Schools' Debating Team at the 2010 World Schools' Debating Championships in Doha, Qatar: (L-R) Nick Cross, Aya Newfield, Josh Baxter, Jasmin Moran and Maria English (Captain). (Photo by Stephen A Court Photography)

How do we get involved?

Just contact your local convenor for further information (see the details set out over the page).

Do you need debating experience to enter?

Not at all! The emphasis is on getting involved. At the regional level, many of the speakers have never debated before and are sometimes as young as 14 or 15 years old. Our friendly and experienced adjudicators work on building students' confidence and coaching them constructively. That way, students learn quickly, develop new skills, and enjoy the experience.

Why should our school enter a team?

Besides the opportunity for your individual speakers to win honours such as regional or international representation, your debaters will get the chance to:

- Learn a lot – about debating, national and international events, and gain confidence in thinking on their feet.
- Have fun – for example, by competing against students from other schools and by debating controversial issues.
- Be recognised for their efforts – through the many highly commended and highly promising awards given to speakers and teams at each regional tournament.
- Meet with representatives of New Zealand's leading law firm Russell McVeagh, the Governor-General, and Government MPs.

Skills sought by employers, enhanced by debating.

Our sponsor, Russell McVeagh, supports debating because it's fun, but also because it enhances students' public speaking confidence and style; speed and depth of analysis; persuasiveness; and research, critical reasoning and listening skills.

Debating is a formal assessment tool under NCEA.

Delivering a debating speech fits well with NCEA standards 90058 (level 1, deliver a speech in a formal situation) and 90725 (level 3, construct and deliver an oral presentation).

Are there resources available for teaching or coaching?

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The Russell McVeagh tournaments are a special opportunity for students and teachers to use debating as an assessment tool because:

- students deliver several speeches in a day and often improve rapidly. The first speech of the day may receive an "achieved", but the student's last speech might be worth an "excellence";
- there are usually at least two teachers in the room during a debate. This is a great opportunity for you to compare notes with a teacher from another school and moderate your marking.

Our thanks The New Zealand Schools' Debating Council thanks our sponsor, Russell McVeagh. The firm's tremendous support of schools' debating over many years is greatly appreciated. We also thank all our regional supporters, teachers, debating coaches, and alumni for all the time, energy and support they have given to schools' debating in New Zealand.

NORTHLAND:
27 FEBRUARY AT WHANGAREI BOY'S HIGH SCHOOL
CONVENORS: ARIA NEWFIELD and CORINNE MARTI
ALLEGRA HOUSE, 39 BAYVIEW ROAD, PAIHIA, NORTHLAND
EMAIL: arianewfield@gmail.com or corinnemarti1@gmail.com
HOME PH: (09) 520 1920 or (09) 402 7930
CELL: 021 1846128 or 021 1731651

AUCKLAND:
5/6 MARCH AT ST KENTIGERN COLLEGE
CONVENOR: STEPHANIE THOMPSON
121 WOODBAY ROAD, TITIRANGI, AUCKLAND 0604
EMAIL: stephaniethompson02@gmail.com
TEL: (09) 817 4964 OR 021 294 8928

WAIKATO:
12 MARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO
CONVENOR: JOSHUA BAXTER
19 AWATEA ROAD, PARNELL, AUCKLAND 1052
EMAIL: joshua.baxter@gmail.com
PHONE: 021 173 8117

CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND:
26/27 MARCH AT FELDING HIGH SCHOOL
CONVENOR: YOGESH PATEL
APARTMENT 605, 115 VIVIAN ST, TE ARO, WELLINGTON
EMAIL: yhpate1@gmail.com
PHONE: 027 345 6204

HAWKES BAY:
5/6 MARCH AT LINDISFARNE COLLEGE
CONVENORS: UDAYAN MUKHERJEE and CAMERON PRICE
69 WOODHOUSE AVENUE, KARORI, WELLINGTON
EMAIL: udayanmukherjee.nz@gmail.com
PHONE: 021 889 897

WELLINGTON:
19/20 MARCH (VENUE TBA)
CONVENOR: STEPHEN WHITTINGTON
4 EVEREST STREET KHANDALLAH, WELLINGTON
EMAIL: whittington.stephen@gmail.com
PHONE: 021 881 411

KAHURANGI/MARLBOROUGH:
27 FEBRUARY AT NELSON COLLEGE FOR GIRLS
CONVENOR: ROSE AUSTEN
2/144 TINAKORI ROAD, THORNDON, WELLINGTON 6011
TEL: (04) 462 4294 or 027 337 5536
EMAIL: rosey.austen@gmail.com

CANTERBURY:
19/20 MARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY
CONVENOR: SEAN MASKILL
16 FIELD TERRACE, UPPER RICcarton, CHRISTCHURCH 8042
EMAIL: seanmaskill@gmail.com
PHONE: (03) 358 9989 or 027 462 3311

OTAGO/SOUTHLAND:
25/26 MARCH AT LOGAN PARK HIGH SCHOOL
CONVENOR: WILLIAM CHEYNE
3/9 WILLOWBANK, NORTH DUNEDIN, DUNEDIN 9016
EMAIL: otagosouthlandsschoolsdebating@gmail.com
PHONE: 021 151 3423

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SCHOOLS' DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

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New Zealand Schools' Debating Championships

Contact The New Zealand Schools' Debating Council via:

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www.debating.org.nz

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