



The 20th Russell McVeagh New Zealand Schools' Debating Championships

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.

Get your students involved by entering them in the following tournaments:

Regional Championships

The 2007 Championships will be held in nine centres throughout New Zealand, from Northland to Otago/Southland. 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 (10 August-13 August)

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.

Worlds Schools' Debating Championships

In 2007, the best speakers from the National Finals will be selected as Members of the Russell McVeagh New Zealand Schools' Debating Team.

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, research skills, critical reasoning skills 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).

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

- 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.

Are there any resources available for teaching or coaching?

The New Zealand Schools' Debating Website (www.debating.org.nz) has been redeveloped and includes new resources and up-to-date information. The New Zealand Schools' Debating Video and Handbook are available by completing the enclosed order form.

The Video and Handbook are outstanding resources that teach you and your students all about debating in New Zealand. The content includes:

- 2 full-length, demonstration debates (one for juniors & one for seniors) with excellent voice-over commentaries;
- 75 pages of easy-to-use, practical debating information.

The Handbook includes everything from how to prepare a case and arguments through to debating topics used at previous World Championships.

The website also includes a section devoted to the history of New Zealand Schools' Debating – check and see if your school is mentioned.

Cover Photo: Sam Coldicutt (Kristin School) debating in the 2006 Grand Final held at Parliament.

Main Photo: The 2006 Russell McVeagh New Zealand Debating Schools' team with dignitaries after the final. Left to right: Tim Clarke (Partner, Russell McVeagh), Jane Pirng (Nga Tava Wellington Diocesan School for Girls), Samuel Coldicutt (Kristin School, Best Speaker at the 2006 National Finals), Craig Riddell (Wanganui Collegiate School), Kathryn Scott-Dowell (Samuel Marsden Collegiate School, Captain of the 2006 NZ Schools' team), Richard D'Ath (Scots College), His Excellency The Governor-General of New Zealand, The Honourable Anand Satyanand, PCNZM and The Hon. Peter Dunne MP.

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.

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NORTHLAND: 26/27 MAY
CONVENOR: JORDAN WARD
208 PUKETAHA ROAD, RDT, HAMILTON
TEL: 021 138 2991
EMAIL: northland@debating.org.nz

AUCKLAND: 12/13 MAY
CONVENOR: DESLEY HORTON
14 TAHORA AVE, REMUERA, AUCKLAND
TEL: (09) 520 4264 or 027 531 0520
EMAIL: auckland@debating.org.nz

WAIKATO (INCLUDING KING COUNTRY): 6 MAY
CONVENORS: LAURA HABLOUS AND ANISA BARROWCLOUGH
5 YVONNE STREET, HAMILTON
TEL: (07) 843 8524 [H] or 027 696 7833
EMAIL: waikato@debating.org.nz

HAWKES BAY: 31 MARCH/1 APRIL
CONVENORS: MATT MCGRATH AND PEI HUANG
23 HEREFORD STREET, WILTON, WELLINGTON
TEL: 027 321 0404 (PEI)
EMAIL: hawkesbay@debating.org.nz

CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND: 20 MAY
CONVENOR: JOE CONNELL
56 KELBURN PARADE, KELBURN, WELLINGTON
TEL: 027 310 2420
EMAIL: cni@debating.org.nz

WELLINGTON: 12/13 MAY
CONVENOR: STEPHEN WHITTINGTON
4 EVEREST ST, KHANDALLAH, WELLINGTON
TEL: (04) 907 2022 [H] or 027 368 7547
Email: wellington@debating.org.nz

NELSON/ MARLBOROUGH AND BULLER: 17/18 MARCH
CONVENOR: DAVID TURNER
42 MAXWELL ROAD, BLENHEIM
TEL: (03) 578 3208 [H] or 021 161 2532
EMAIL: nelson@debating.org.nz

CANTERBURY / WEST COAST: 19/20 MAY
CONVENOR: JENNA RENNIE
PO BOX 28004, CHRISTCHURCH
TEL: 027 518 4015
EMAIL: canterbury@debating.org.nz

OTAGO/SOUTHLAND: 5 MAY
CONVENOR: JOSH MCGETTIGAN
COLUMBA COLLEGE, 17 MORGAN ST, METHVEN
TEL: 027 463 4196
EMAIL: otago@debating.org.nz

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RUSSELL McVEAGH

www.russellmcveagh.com

OFFICIAL PARTNER



The New Zealand Schools' Debating Council are pleased to welcome as additional partners the New Zealand Police. The 1950s era Police Act, which lays the legal platform for how the Police are structured and operate, is currently being reviewed.

We are pleased to be working with the Police to promote discussion about the role of the Police in contemporary society. Key issues will be debated at the 2007 National Finals. For more information on the Police Act Review, visit www.policeact.govt.nz

Our thanks

The New Zealand Schools' Debating Council thanks our sponsor, Russell McVeagh. Their tremendous support of schools' debating over many years is greatly appreciated.

The Press has supported debating in Canterbury for a long time. Our thanks to The Press for their generous sponsorship. Finally, we 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.

Contact The New Zealand Schools' Debating Council via:

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86B Memorial Ave, Fendalton, Christchurch
president@debating.org.nz
www.debating.org.nz

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