



The 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

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

## Regional Championships

The 2008 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 (23 May -26 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.

## Worlds Schools' Debating Championships

In 2008, the best speakers from the National Finals will be selected as Members of the Russell McVeagh New Zealand Schools' Debating Team and will travel to the World Schools' Debating Championships in Washington, DC.

## 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, 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](http://www.debating.org.nz)) has been redeveloped and includes new resources and up-to-date information.

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

## 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.

*Cover Photo: Maria English (Samuel Marsden Collegiate School) debating in the 2007 Grand Final held at Parliament.*

*Main Photo: Left to right. Tim Clarke (Partner, Russell McVeagh), The Hon. Peter Dunne MP, Ella Edgington (Sacred Heart College), Jaz Morris (Wellington College), Paul Smith (Scots College), Jane Pring (Nga Tawa Wellington Diocesan School for Girls, Captain of the 2007 NZ Schools' Team), Maria English (Samuel Marsden Collegiate School, Best Speaker at the 2007 National Finals), Mr Howard Broad, Commissioner of Police.*

**NORTHLAND: 29/30 MARCH**

CONVENORS: MITCHELL COOPER & KATE MILLS  
416 REDOUBT RD, MANUKAU HEIGHTS, AUCKLAND  
TEL: 021 661 987 (MITCHELL) or 021 180 3861 (KATE)  
EMAIL: northland@debating.org.nz

**AUCKLAND: 15/16 MARCH**

CONVENOR: DESLEY HORTON  
14 TAHORA AVE, REMUERA, AUCKLAND  
TEL: (09) 520 4265 or 027 531 0520  
EMAIL: auckland@debating.org.nz

**WAIKATO (INCLUDING KING COUNTRY): 9 MARCH**

CONVENORS: LAURA HABLOUS  
702B BRUNTWOOD RD, RD3, HAMILTON  
TEL: 027 202 2838  
EMAIL: waikato@debating.org.nz

**HAWKES BAY: 8/9 MARCH**

CONVENOR: ARMANDO NERIS  
24 GEORGE ST, HOSPITAL HILL, NAPIER 4011  
TEL: 027 289 2372  
EMAIL: hawkesbay@debating.org.nz

**CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND: 30 MARCH**

CONVENOR: JOSH CAMERON  
32 DISLEY ST, KELBURN, WELLINGTON  
TEL: 027 216 5169  
EMAIL: cni@debating.org.nz

**WELLINGTON: 15/16 MARCH**

CONVENOR: STEPHEN WHITTINGTON  
4 EVEREST ST, KHANDALLAH, WELLINGTON  
TEL: (04) 938 2981 or 027 368 7547  
EMAIL: wellington@debating.org.nz

**NELSON/ MARLBOROUGH AND BULLER: 1/2 MARCH**

CONVENOR: DAVID TURNER  
42 MAXWELL ROAD, BLENHEIM  
TEL: (03) 578 3208 or 021 161 2532  
EMAIL: nelson@debating.org.nz

**CANTERBURY / WEST COAST: 29/30 MARCH**

CONVENOR: ROSE AUSTEN  
c/- 134A WAIMAIRI ROAD, ILAM, CHRISTCHURCH  
TEL: 027 337 5536  
EMAIL: canterbury@debating.org.nz

**OTAGO/SOUTHLAND: 8 MARCH**

CONVENOR: NICHOLAS GAVEY  
51D DUKE STREET, DUNEDIN  
TEL: 027 404 3524  
EMAIL: otago@debating.org.nz

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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 2008 National Finals. For more information on the Police Act Review, visit [www.policeact.govt.nz](http://www.policeact.govt.nz)

REGIONAL SPONSORS



The Bioethics Council work to promote discussion of bioethical issues in order to enhance New Zealand's understanding of the cultural, ethical and spiritual aspects of biotechnology, for more information visit [www.bioethics.org.nz](http://www.bioethics.org.nz)

Contact The New Zealand Schools' Debating Council via:

**Jeremy Johnson**  
President, NZSDC  
134A Waimairi Road, Ilam  
Christchurch 8041  
[president@debating.org.nz](mailto:president@debating.org.nz)

[www.debating.org.nz](http://www.debating.org.nz)The 21<sup>st</sup> Russell McVeagh

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**RUSSELL McVEAGH**