

Hawkes Bay Secondary Schools Speech Competition

On Tuesday night the Japan Society of Hawkes Bay hosted its annual Secondary Schools Speech competition, judged by Japanese residents living in Hawkes Bay. The event is held annually to allow local high schools to give their pupils a chance to practise their Japanese language skills in front of a responsive audience. This year schools that sent in senior students were: Hastings Girls' High School, Iona College, Taradale High School and Napier Boys' High School.

While many students study Japanese at a Junior level in schools, not so many keep up the challenge of learning this difficult foreign language into the senior classes. Consequently there are few competitors, but the quality of their speeches is consistently high. The Sasakawa Foundation assisted with prizes for the event, and used the opportunity to publicise the scholarships that it provides for students continuing with their Japanese studies at University.

The Year 13 place-getters were:

Richard Doole 1st

Amelia Lyons 2nd

Annie King 3rd.

The Year 12 place-getters were:

Caroline McHardy 1st

Sam Blanchett 2nd

Stephanie McKay 3rd.

The Year 11 place-getters were:

Charlotte Goldenthal 1st

Ashleigh Whitfield 2nd

Isobel White 3rd

