



About Wynspeak

Introduction

- WYNSPEAK began as a Pilot Project in 2003 when Rotary Hoppers Crossing invited 12 Students from two Wyndham schools (Thomas Carr College and Westbourne Grammar) to participate in a public speaking competition.
 - The aim was to provide an opportunity for students to develop their self-confidence through the skills of effective public speaking.
 - The Pilot proved such a success with both competing students and teaching staff, that planning for a more comprehensive program began.
 - The Apex Club of Hoppers Crossing (which had relevant adjudication experience) was then recruited as a joint partner and remains an equal partner.
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2021 Experience

- The Wynspeak Program has grown to involve additional Rotary Clubs (Caroline Springs, Melton, and Altona City) and following a Strategic Partnership between Rotary International and Toastmasters International, local Toastmaster Clubs are showing increased interest in assisting with adjudication support and feedback coaching.
 - Over 35 Schools from the Western Region of Melbourne were involved with over 100 Junior and Secondary Student being nominated.
 - Eight (8) Preliminary rounds were conducted, with 20 students selected to participate in the Final (10 Juniors (years 7-9) and 10 Seniors (years 10-12)).
 - COVID-19 restrictions impacted both Round 8 and the Final, with the WYNSPEAK Committee pivoting quickly to hold the 5-min prepared speeches using ZOOM. Due to logistical challenges, the 2-min short notice speeches were cancelled for 2021.
 - While it is strongly preferred for Students to present their speeches to a live audience, the ZOOM events were considered a great success. They were organized at short notice, and demonstrated outstanding adaptability by Students, Teachers, Parents, Adjudicators and the other Wynspeak Organisers.
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The Future

- With the proven success of the Wynspeak and Ainger Peck Youth Public Speaking Competitions, more competitions in Victoria are anticipated.
 - E.g., “Bayspeak” is a new youth public speaking competition for secondary school students around the Bayside region of Victoria, initiated by Brighton, Brighton North and Sandringham Rotary Clubs.
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