



Rotary Clubs of Richmond and Melbourne Park
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15th March 2017

To the English Coordinator, Public Speaking / Debating Coordinator

We seek your help in encouraging suitable students to take part in the Ainger Award, a public speaking competition run jointly by the Rotary Clubs of Richmond and Melbourne Park. Now in its 28th year, the annual award is open to secondary school age students in the Melbourne metropolitan and surrounding areas.

The award promotes and enhances communication skills and helps develop the art of public speaking. It is not a debating competition, which is well catered for in other areas particularly for budding lawyers. Instead it will hone skills in confident verbal communication and will give students who take part an invaluable experience. The briefing notes provided in our information pack clearly outlines the requirement of effective delivery of the spoken word with lesser concentration on the argument presented or matter. Guidelines for participants are also included.

A school can enter up to three students to take part in the **NHP** preliminary heats. Entry is free. Entrants are required to speak on any topic for a period of 4 minutes. Each of the heats will have a first prize of \$100, a second prize of \$75 and a third prize of \$50, with an encouragement award of \$40. All entrants will receive an attractive certificate which may be an asset in their future job interviews. Our adjudicators are communications specialists and students taking part can learn valuable hints from their evaluations.

The Rotary Clubs of Richmond and Melbourne Park will provide the venue and adjudicators for the initial rounds. These will be held at the Lyceum, Melbourne Girls' College, 55 Yarra Boulevard Richmond from 7.15 pm to 10.00 pm on Monday 8th May, Tuesday 9th May, Wednesday 10th May and Thursday 11th May. Enter at Gate 2 and parking is available in the college and on the Yarra Boulevard. A light supper will be provided to the students and their families during the event. Heat winners earn cash prizes. Parents and teachers are most welcome to attend.

The heat-winner and runner-up will be invited to join in the final of the competition. This will be held at Amora Riverwalk Hotel, 649 Bridge Road Richmond on Monday 22nd May from 6.30pm at a dinner attended by Rotarians and friends. The two course meal will cost \$35 pp for parents and friends but there is no charge to finalists. Parking is available in the hotel basement car park.



The winner of the Ainger Award for Public Speaking will receive a winner's medallion and a prize of \$400 at that function, and have their name inscribed on the perpetual trophy. The runner-up will receive \$300 and the third place-getter \$200. The Rotary Club of Melbourne Park's encouragement award of \$125 will also be presented. Previous winners have set an excellent standard. We look forward to your support in this enjoyable annual contest.

This information as well as briefing notes can also be found on our website: www.rotaryrichmond.org.au

Please contact us at bhosking@bigpond.net.au if you have any questions. We will be pleased to provide you with any additional information you require. We look forward to having your school take part.

Sincerely,

Ben Hosking
Chair Ainger Award
Rotary Club of Richmond

Amanda Wendt
President
Rotary Club of Melbourne Park