

ACT DEBATING UNION

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PROSPECTUS 2012

9 February 2012

Dear Schools and Affiliates,

Welcome to the 2012 ACT Debating Union schools competition. We hope you all had an enjoyable and safe holiday break. We would like to welcome all returning schools back to debating again and extend a warm invitation to new schools that have not previously participated in our competitions. In particular, we are delighted to announce that we are continuing the registration for Year 6 students in the Ford competition. As such, I strongly encourage interested primary schools to contact us for more information regarding entering teams this year.

On behalf of the committee, I wish to thank everyone who was involved in last year's successful competitions, especially to the debating co-ordinating teachers. Special thanks must go to Canberra Girls' Grammar, Canberra Grammar and Alfred Deakin High School, who each hosted competitions last year, and particular thanks to Patrick Marman, Andrew Gray and Stefano Nikolaou for acting as the liaison for each host school.

Registration is now open for this year's competitions and will remain open until **Friday 9 March**. Registration for all our competitions is to be completed online and can be found on our website www.actdu.org.au. We are also looking for host schools for our competitions. Schools that host a competition will be automatically eligible to receive a waiver for the costs of that competition entered into.

In 2012, the ACTDU will be continuing the free **Training Round** as well as the **District Coaching Program**. The training round will take place on **Monday 19 March** for Ford and **Wednesday 21 March** for Murray and Douse. We invite all new debaters to attend. We will also accredit new adjudicators on these nights. The District Coaching Program helps build the debating capacity of participating schools competing in the various competitions. Schools are highly encouraged to enquire about the District Coaching Program and more information can be found in this prospectus.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me. Best of luck to all teams this year!

Kind regards,



Anthony Lieu
ACTDU President

ABOUT THE ACT DEBATING UNION

Since 1973, the ACT Debating Union (ACTDU) has organised debating competitions for high school students in the Canberra and Southern Tablelands region. It has been touted as one of the most successful and long lasting debating unions in Australia, responsible for many of the benchmarks that define school debating today.

It is run by a collaboration of university students and professional debaters for the benefit of the community. The Union itself is one of the most successful in Australia. ACTDU is an affiliate of the Australian Debating Federation (ADF), and in 2005 was listed as the third largest debating organization in the country (next to the Victorian and New South Wales debating unions), despite the notable handicap of having the smallest population and area. The ACTDU is responsible for sending a delegate team to the Australian championships every year, and have represented the ACT with great success in the past. It is testament to the strength and vitality of the ACT debating community that ACT has been the 3rd most successful of the 8 states and territories at the National Schools Debating Championships, behind only NSW and Queensland. In 2009, the ACT was Runner Up at the National Championship, and St Clare's student Laura Birchall was selected to represent Australia at the World Schools Debating Championships in Qatar.

More information can be found here: <http://www.actdu.org.au/about.php>

THE COMMITTEE

If a school would like any more information, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant committee members: <http://www.actdu.org.au/committee.php>

WHY DEBATING?

Debating is seen as one of the best ways to help students learn vital skills for later life; skills such as self-confidence; public speaking; analytical thinking; adaptability; and effective communications; which are key skills desired by employers today. Students who debate in high school often go on to utilize these skills in a variety of different jobs.

ACTDU is committed to pursuing these goals and to teach students some of the skills that they cannot learn in a textbook or during an exam. Learning to engage with an audience and to defend ones point of view remains the key focus of our work with high schools in the ACT region, and we are always please to see the results of our work.

Debating is also beneficial as a social activity. The friends and social network that students make at debating often last late into their lives, and at the highest level of competition ACT debaters are exposed to some of the brightest and best students and coaches, not only within the ACT, but from other states.

THE COMPETITIONS

The ACTDU run five competitions every year.

From March to August, there is the **Ford Trophy** (Years 6, 7 and 8), the **Murray Trophy** (Years 9 and 10) and **Douse Trophy** (Years 11 and 12). All competitions are each conducted in Australian Style (three on three debating).

From August to October, there is the **Junior** (Years 6, 7, 8 and 9) and **Senior** (Years 10, 11 and 12) **Crime Prevention Competitions**, which involves students with debating the topics about crime and youth in the community. The Senior Competition is in British Parliamentary (BP) Style.

This year the Ford Competition will be held on Monday evenings, the Murray Competition will be held on Wednesday evenings and the ANU Douse Competition will be held on Thursday evenings.

The dates for the competition rounds can be found at:

<http://www.actdu.org.au/calendar.php>

PRELIMINARY ROUND DATES

	Ford Competition	Murray Competition	Douse Competition
Round 1	Monday 26 March	Wednesday 28 March	Thursday 29 March
Round 2	Monday 2 April	Wednesday 4 April	Thursday 5 April
Round 3	Monday 7 May	Wednesday 9 May	Thursday 10 May
Round 4	Monday 14 May	Wednesday 16 May	Thursday 17 May
Round 5	Monday 21 May	Wednesday 23 May	Thursday 24 May

Most rounds will begin at 6pm. Times will be formally posted on the ACTDU website early March.

TRAINING NIGHT

There will be a training night for primary schools and Ford debaters on **Monday 19 March**, and a training night for Murray/Douse students on **Wednesday 21 March**. Both training nights are free and we strongly encourage all students to come, especially students who are new to debating. The venue and time for these training nights will be publicized closer to the date.

PRIZES

There are also a number of prizes for the best speakers in each competition, including the Greenwell Prize & Driscoll Medal in the Ford Competition, the Farrell Perpetual Trophy & Moss Medal in the Murray Competition, and the Barnsley Shield & Wood Medal in the ANU Douse Competition.

WEBSITE

The ACTDU website is a vital tool for students, teachers and parents. All the competitions draws are currently posted on the relevant competitions home page – which includes details about a team’s competitors, their topic (or if they are in a secret topic debate), and what side of the debate they will be on. It is important that all

competing teams make sure they check the details of the draw carefully in the lead up to each round – we cannot be responsible for missed debates.

The Competition Home page can be found here:

<http://www.actdu.org.au/competitions>

COMPETITION RULES

All of the rules for the competitions are located here:

<http://www.actdu.org.au/docs/docindex.php#comprules>

It is very important that all teams, all debaters, and all coaches be familiar with the rules of the competitions – particularly those pertaining to conduct and punctuality protocols with debates. Any duty officer or ACTDU officer will be happy to explain on any rules further.

It is particularly important to be mindful of the rules concerning forfeiture (both automatic and voluntary) and outside assistance during secret topics. Any complaints that may arise during the year should be referred to our Adjudications officer Michaela Flanigan at adjudicating@actdu.org.au. Protocol for complaints can be found on the website.

SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration is completed online for each competition. Registration is now open and will close on **Tuesday 9 March**. It is important that all schools and teams ensure they are registered to compete by the closing date and that the information entered is accurate. Furthermore, please do not apply for more teams than you currently have, without contacting either the President or the relevant Duty Officer. If for reasons beyond their control schools miss the deadline for registration, please contact us so that we can try to accommodate your team/s. Registration details can be found here: <http://www.actdu.org.au>

REGISTRATION COST AND SCHOOL HOST WAIVER

As per previous years, there will be both a registration cost, and a team cost, for each of the competitions.

Schools that host a competition will be automatically eligible to receive a waiver for the costs of that competition entered into. The waiver entitles the host school to have the registration cost and the cost for the **first six teams to be waived**. For the Ford, Murray and Douse competitions, if a host school that receives the waiver has more than six teams, the cost of each additional team will be calculated from the base rate onwards and not from the seventh team rate onwards. We are currently looking for hosts now, if you are interested please contact the President.

FORD, MURRAY AND DOUSE COMPETITIONS

School Registration (per competition): \$110

1st and 2nd teams: \$110 per team

3rd and 4th teams: \$120 per team

5th and 6th teams: \$130 per team

7th and 8th teams: \$140 per team

9th team onwards: \$155 per team

JUNIOR AND SENIOR CRIME PREVENTION COMPETITIONS

School Registration (per competition): \$60

Each team: \$70 per team

ACTDU is always mindful of the fees that it charges and consistently strives to minimise the financial burden on schools in order to allow maximum participation. The ACTDU committee reviews the fees levied on a regular basis and are always committed to finding alternative revenue sources and reducing internal costs to lessen the burden on schools. However, from time to time, the fees may rise due to rising insurance premiums and increased staffing costs to maintain a highly professional adjudicating body that ensures a quality debating experience for teachers, students and parents. ACTDU regrets any fee increases and will always attempt to reduce them at the earliest possible convenience.

Nonetheless, we are always conscious of the limited budgets of schools. In light of this, we have a system whereby we will award discounts to the base cost of registration and the cost of the first team, if a school:

- a) Will have significant financial difficulty in entering without assistance; and
- b) Has a team who is committed to entering the competition, and serious about competing. Discounts will only be awarded to teams who are dedicated to seeing out a competition to its conclusion

To enquire about a discount, please email president@actdu.org.au

COACHING PROGRAM

ACTDU will be running the District Coaching Program again in 2012. A number of the best coaches in the ACT have been chosen as special debating coaches for schools and teams who could not normally afford private coaching. There is **no obligation to pay anything** (although those schools who can contribute something are encouraged to do so), and coaching will be at a regular time and place as determined by the coach in conference with those teams.

Coaching is undertaken by professional debaters who have undergone police checks and are approved by the Department of Education, Employment and Work Place Relations to teach high school children. Parents or teachers are encouraged to attend and even participate, as long as they do not interfere with the work of the coach.

The intention is to create a positive, reinforcing environment where students who lack confidence or public speaking skills can have a chance to practice debating in a less confrontational environment and build their debating abilities before each round of the official competition.

Applications should be sent to Josh Smith (Coaching Officer) at coaching@actdu.org.au. They should include your school, the number of students involved, and the relevant competitions they will be competing in.

Places are limited and they will be filled by a first come first served basis, and a needs basis.

NOW WHAT NEXT?

We kindly ask that participating schools for the 2012 season to submit the name of their debating co-coordinator, and contact details (such as e-mail addresses) on the ACTDU website.

Registration is now open and will remain so until the **Tuesday 9 March**. If a school has any queries about registration or has any difficulties with registration, please contact the President at president@actdu.org.au

PAST WINNERS

	<u>FORD</u>	<u>MURRAY</u>	<u>DOUSE</u>	<u>JUNIOR CP</u>	<u>SENIOR CP</u>
2011	CGGJS	Radford	CGGS	CGS	Radford
2010	Daramalan	Canberra HS	CGGS	Snowy Mt	Marist
2009	St Clares	CGGS	Dickson	Canberra HS	St Clares
2008	CGS	Radford	CGGS	CGGS	Radford
2007	CGS	Lyneham HS	Radford	Radford	Radford
2006	CGS	Radford	TCCW	CGS	Canberra
2005	Lyneham HS	Radford	Radford	Radford	Canberra
2004	CGGS	C. Chisholm	Narrabundah	St Clares	Narrabundah
2003	Lyneham HS	Radford	Narrabundah	CGS	Narrabundah
2002	CGS	Radford	Narrabundah	CGS	Narrabundah
2001	CGS	Radford	Radford	CGGS	CGGS
2000	CGS	CGS	Erindale		
1999	CGS	St Edmunds	CGS		
1998	Marist	CGS	Narrabundah		
1997	CGGS	Canberra HS	Erindale		
1996	Yass	CGS	CGS		
1995	Yass	St Pats	Lake Ginn		
1994	Canberra HS	Kaleen	Radford		
1993	Canberra HS	Canberra HS	Dickson		
1992	Kaleen	St Clares	CGS		
1991	Belconnen	Marist	Campbell		
1990	Canberra HS	Campbell	Narrabundah		
1989	Canberra HS	Campbell	Hawker		
1988	Belconnen	Merici	Radford		
1987	Belconnen	Belconnen	CGS		
1986	SFX	Padua	St Clares		
1985	Belconnen	CGS	Dickson		
1984	Padua	CGS	CGS		
1983	Daramalan	St Edmunds	CGS		
1982	Kaleen	CGS	Dickson		
1981		CGS	Karabar		
1980		St Edmunds	CGS		
1979		CGGS	St Edmunds		
1978		Dickson	CGS		
1977		CGS			
1976		Hawker			
1975		Marist			
1974		Belconnen			