

# LIONS YOUTH OF THE YEAR QUEST 2014

The entrant from MacKillop College in this year's prestigious event was Isabella Barrett, College Captain. On 20 February, Isabella had the opportunity to express her thoughts on a variety of topical subjects in both an interview situation and a public speaking forum. The afternoon interview before a panel of three Lions Club members, was centred on the information Isabella had previously submitted as part of her application, as well as issues relevant to youth and leadership.

Dinner that evening provided the opportunity for our Isabella to speak off the cuff on such issues as the role of Woolworths and Coles in the economic wellbeing of Australia's growth, as well as boarder security issues. Both these topics had to be addressed in a two-minute time slot without any pre knowledge of the questions! Quite a challenge even for the adults present! This was followed by her very humorous prepared speech on 'Women and Men's Place In The Universe'.

For her efforts, Isabella was awarded the Public Speaking Prize. The candidate from The Scots School is proceeding to the next round. The Lions Club is to be congratulated on their 46 year promotion of youth through this quest. The opportunities it provided are unique and invaluable experience for all the participants.

Sue Lyne



LEFT: Isabella receives her award with The Scots School student.



BELOW: Isabella giving her speech for the judges.

## New Caledonia

The educational tour each year to New Caledonia offers MacKillop students the opportunity to immerse themselves in French language and culture. For most of the Year 9 and 10 French students participating in the New Caledonia Trip of 2013, this was their first chance to take part in an in-country immersion experience.

On 6 December 2013, 27 MacKillop students, accompanied by Mrs Dianne Auhl, Mr Robert Kreuzberger and Mrs Carmel Freeman, travelled to Noumea, the capital of New Caledonia to commence an eight day immersion tour.

We enjoyed a range of activities on the itinerary, including a coach tour of Noumea and surrounds, a visit to the local produce market, an exciting wander through the new aquarium facility and French lessons at the hotel, given by a native Frenchman, Michel. A half-day tour at the Tjibaou Cultural Centre allowed our girls to learn about the history of the land and its people, and the importance of tribal customs in the Melanesian culture. The highlight of the New Caledonia tour is definitely the day-trip to Amédée Island, incorporating a dance spectacular, Melanesian feast and glass-bottom boat tour.

Thank you to the girls who were such wonderful ambassadors for both Australia and MacKillop College. They were adaptable, attentive, fun and positive throughout the tour. A special thanks to our Year 10s and group leaders, Emily Behan, Jayne Dwyer and Zoe Roberts, who provided support to the younger travellers.

The trip was a wonderful success, enhancing the knowledge and confidence of our students in an authentic French situation, bringing to life the richness that a new culture brings to one's perspective and outlook on life!

As they say....Les voyages forment la jeunesse.

Carmel Freeman

