

SQUIRREL



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VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON DEBATING SOCIETY

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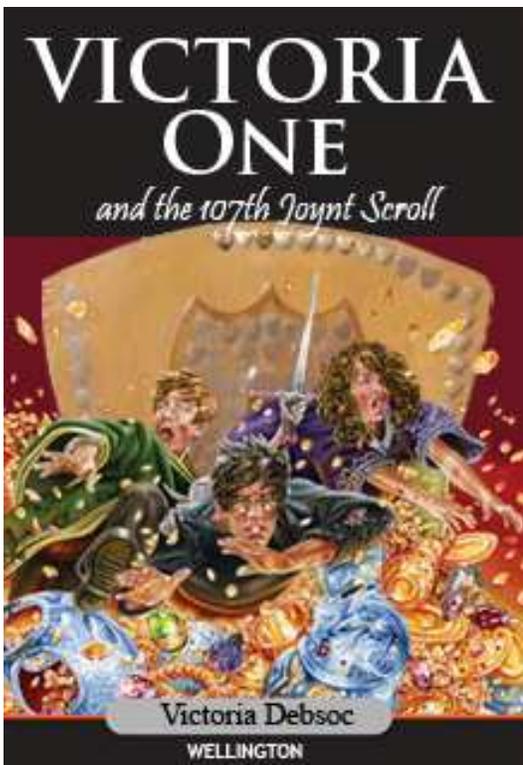
I am loving Joynt Scrolls on girls at the moment. The way that this one goes with Ella's skin tone is very glam.

- Joynt Scrolls are a very useful accessory for adding a final touch.

- Joynt Scrolls are a great way for men to add some interest to an ensemble too. I am heartened to see the two men here wearing a Joynt Scroll for the second time.

The very exciting metallic scroll centrepiece is what first caught my eye in this ensemble. It's very glam. And glamorous. It's full of glam, and also daring but mostly just glam.

This is an example of a particularly big Joynt Scroll (it's fine to be any size) and these are still being seen a lot. It is certainly more effective than, for instance, a tremendously ugly sequined headband.



Less provocatively though, the holidays saw Vic rounding off another successful Joynt Scroll victory, and also once again a very thorough dominance of the speaker prizes. Read more inside this print media.

And there's heaps coming up! Most importantly of note is the Debsoc AGM coming up in the second to last week of term, charged with determining those lucky few to organise the 2010 Great Debate. And other stuff. On top of that is the conclusion of the internal BP Grade - this year with competition so strong that former Worlds semi-finalists go into the final preliminary round in the bottom room. Though that's not entirely their fault.

- Seb Templeton, Secretary.

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By Ella Edginton

JOYNT REPORT: SERIOUS



Victoria's three year run of domestic victories remains unbroken after Joynt Scroll. It was more challenging than useful though, with Auckland in particular fielding a strong squad with many speakers who performed exceptionally at the recent Australs. But Victoria was up to the challenge, with Vic 1 containing two previous winners (Stephen Whittington and Seb Templeton) and Vic 2 containing last year's best speaker Kathy Scott-Dowell and NZ team reserve Richard D'Ath.

The Joynt Scroll is both New Zealand's oldest competition (founded in 1902) and most prestigious domestic debating tournament. This is partly because of the work which is required to win – the competition is fully prepared, so unlike Easter's it's not a matter of just relying on your wits. The topics the teams had to prepare were

varied and interesting. The influence of Chris Bishop as chief adjudicator was writ large in topics like constitutionally limiting the size of government and refusing to buy fair trade.

2009 saw the introduction of a new power pairing system, replacing the old system of a fully pre-released draw. One quirk of this was that in round three almost all rooms contained two teams from the same campus and this led to a particularly heated debate between Vic 1 and 2 about allowing minors to have sex change operations, as well as an innuendo laden lol-fest between Vic 3 and 4.

The break was clean, with Vic 1 breaking first, unbeaten, followed by Auckland 1, Vic 2, then Auckland 2 all on 4 wins. The topic for the semi final was that the judiciary should be allowed to strike down laws which are inconsistent with the Bill of Rights Act. Vic 1 negated against A2, winning in a 4-1 split. The same split sadly saw Vic 2 knocked out – making A1 (Max Harris, Akif Malik and Glenn Riddell) the first non-Vic NZ team in a final since NZBP 2007.

People were at first dubious about the final topic, that we should let endangered languages die. However, it in fact provided an excellent quality debate, with Vic 1 performing superbly to overcome a pugnacious effort from Auckland. Bish opened his adjudication with the following noteworthy comments: "I have seen the last six Joynt Scroll finals – I debated in three of them... no, no this is self deprecating, I promise... I think this was the highest quality Joynt Scroll final I have seen."

Despite the highest quality competition in some time, Vic stayed true to form scooping 5 of the 8 top speaker prizes. Kathy Scott-Dowell and Stephen Whittington were named in the New Zealand Prepared debating team, with Steve also the best speaker of the tournament. Ella Edginton and Richard D'Ath were named first and second reserves respectively, Seb Templeton was Highly Commended, Udayan Mukherjee took home the cup for the Most Promising speaker, and Paul Smith also received a promising speaker award. Daniel Wilson came second in the competition for the Bledisloe cup for oratory, speaking about violence in society. Vic adjudicators also did well. Nigel Smith accredited and we broke all three of our judges (Chris Bishop, Polly Higbee and Ihaia Tichborne) to the final.

So the Joynt Scroll is safely back at Vic for another year. Bring on 2010 here in Wellington, where we can pursue a unprecedented 5th consecutive victory.



JOYNT REPORT: SOCIAL

By Seb Templeton

Joynt Scroll is *famous* for its party nature. It's a prepared tournament, so naturally the best way to ensure you win your debates is by working harder and longer than any other team. Partaaaay. It's not actually all that bad. Joynt is no Easters, but it's a lot of fun and this year Otago did a particularly good job of making that so.



The opening night was set at the classy and popular Copa Bar. It was not classy. It was not popular. But then it was only the Friday night to send Otago students off to their holidays - traditionally a quiet night. Upon arriving anyone would have found three entire campuses (campi) standing outside having a chat. Auckland did not want to chat, and hence the campi number of three. The night was spent outside by all, based on no reason at all, simply a mob mentality.

After the first day of debating most of the squad treaded off to Mars Bar. After a certain Nick Gavey happily, and without word, watched us enter a slightly different type of bar at which we all nearly died of grievous assault (Ihaia wasn't with us at the time), we finally made it to the correct venue. The thing about this Mars Bar to distinguish it from other Mars bars was that it wasn't really a bar so much as a Lazerforce + Mini Gold + Bowling + Air hockey + Arcade games... place. But one with a bar, granted, so we were able to have a few and then run around happily sweating the booze out as Baxter would say. Whether his vision included two teams and a maze is not clear.

In the Lazerforce arena Nigel had a way with his gun which led him to impressively win the individual scores for every round he was in, much to this writer's dismay. And except for a surprisingly annoying ginger blur in Simon Connell, it would be safe to say that the proceedings were dominated by Victoria.

The third night - break night - was excellent in every respect. When one reads "5 course set menu including corkage" in the usual dirty Chinese / all you can eat curry slot, they can't be blamed for being dubious. But the delicious Italian was fantastic, with more pizza and pasta than we could eat - but just the right amount of wine. After that the squad headed off to Alibi for more fun.

Thankfully for those not able to stay out for Alibi due to the aforementioned prep pressures, semi style, there was still plenty of fun left for the final night. Chief Adjudicator started the drinking in style when he rose from



his chair after the Grand Final presentations and, everyone expecting him to make one last thanks, strode up the silent room past the podium and through the doors to the bar beyond.

From there we went out for a delicious squad Indian, where many speeches and revelries were shared, and then on to rejoin the rest at a fabulous Karaoke Bar. You may not have been able to hear how bad the singing was inside, but outside the only audio was the microphone line. I'm told my rendition of *Hey Ya* with Max, where his microphone was turned off, went down a treat with the smoking community. That plus copious numbers of Absinthe shots made the evening, and the tournament, a hangover to remember. Here's to Otago.

WSU: VIC SHIELD

Vic Shield is unique in that it is the only knock out tournament which Victoria attends. Plus it's in the Easters style of debating so is in every way fun, quick, and exciting. All debates take place on the same evening and only the best survive.

The competition is run by the Wellington Speaking Union, so is not an internal Vic grade. It is held this year on Thursday 17 September in the SUB from 6:30. Even more so than the Parliamentary Shield below, the Vic Shield has a very strong history of Vic dominance. Last year Gareth Richards and Yogesh Patel took it out. At one point Victoria equalled our current Easters run, with 11 consecutive wins from 1991 - 2001.

Entries for Vic Shield have closed now, but if you're not competing definitely come along and watch. Vic has a great history at the competition, and Easters debates always lend themselves to a lot of humour, wit, and impressive argumentation with as little as three minutes' preparation.

If you are competing, good luck!



WSU: PARLIAMENTARY SHIELD

The Parliamentary Shield was presented in 1909 by the Wellington Members of Parliament to be the trophy for interclub debating and was soon regarded as the country's premier trophy. Past winners can be found at: <http://www.wsu.co.nz/p-shield/past-winners>. Vic has a very strong history in this competition. Last year we won it, and we also recently lost a seven year winning streak from 1997 - 2003.

This year's details are: the Shield will be competed for on Sat 3 / Sun 4 Oct in the SUB, and then at Turnbull House and Parliament on the Sunday. Saturday will see three preliminary rounds, and then Sunday one if necessary before the semis and Grand Final on Sunday afternoon.

The style for the competition is 3 on 3, with 30 minutes' limited preparation. Speeches are 8 minutes, with points of information. This is the same as the Australs Style, but with POIs added as we have them in British Parliamentary.

Teams must have a minimum of three and maximum of five speakers, and to debate in the final a speaker must have debated at least twice in the prelims and semi final. Judges will be team members who volunteer to adjudicate when sitting out rounds.

Teams do not need to represent Victoria, so you can use any non students you like in your teams. To register send the name of the captain, their email, and their cellphone number; the names of your team; and which of those team members are willing and qualified to judge to the Chief Adjudicator Chris Bishop at cjsbishop@gmail.com. Entries cost \$50 per team. **Entries must be in by Friday 25 September.**

These entry fees cover Saturday lunch and post final drinks and nibbles. There will also be an optional BYO dinner on the Saturday night.

PLUNKET RESULTS

By Emily Bruce



The Plunket Medal is always a highly entertaining and special occasion in the Debsoc calendar, and this year's event was no exception. Though all of the speakers wowed the audience with their skilfully crafted and dramatic speeches, the judges were unanimous in choosing Aidan Kang as this year's winner for his exceptional oratory "Blood Chocolate", urging speakers to consider the slave trade and the contribution that their consumption of chocolate brings to it. The video of Aidan's speech will go up on the Debsoc website soon for all to see.

The judges for the night (Melda Townsley, John Bishop and Graham Townsley) reminded us all of the distinct nature of oratory. They strongly affirmed the idea that oratory should be about powerful and moving speeches, rather than factual

analysis like we are all so used to doing in debates. The competition is therefore ideal for anyone who thinks they can use language creatively to affect the audience's emotions, and I would highly recommend that lots of people enter into it next year. Melda also, like every year, ran a Learn to Orate night, which was highly successful and gave several useful pointers.

Congratulations to Aidan, and to all of the other great competitors this year (Khunkhao Khaejornbut, Nigel Smith, Ihaia Tichborne and Daniel Wilson). Thanks also to Richard for chairing and to Ella for the food platters. I hope everyone who attended enjoyed the night and the rest of you look into entering or watching this event next year!

Seb

WORLDS SQUAD

This year Worlds is in Antalya, Turkey, and promises to be awesome. Vic is sending the maximum squad size - a very exciting achievement given the distance.

The Squad is:

Vic A: Polly Higbee, Stephen Whittington

Vic B: Seb Templeton, Ella Edginton

Vic C: Kathy Scott-Dowell, Richard D'Ath

Judges:

Chris Bishop

Jono Orpin

Jesse Wilson

Gareth Richards



This year's squad should be very strong. Polly and Stephen have both attended a number of World Championships, and last year were semi-finalists in Cork, Ireland. This will be Kathy's second worlds, and at her first in Bangkok, Thailand in 2007/2008 she broke tot he octo-finals from Vic E as a first year. Seb has also been to worlds, again in Thailand, as a judge.

On the judging front all three are exceptionally qualified. Chris and Gareth have broken as far as the Worlds quarter-finals in the past, and Jesse and Jono are both past semi-finalists.

Many thanks to our selectors Chris Bishop, Clodagh O'Connor-McKenna, Michael Mabbett, Jono Orpin, and most importantly Ranald Clouston - the chief selector. All gave up two whole nights of their time for us and we're very grateful.

By the first black President

AGM 2009

The AGM for 2009 is scheduled for 6.30pm on the 7th of November. The AGM has a number of important functions. At the formal Annual General Meeting we approve the previous year's minutes and both the President (me) and the Treasurer (Yogesh) provide formal reports for the 2009 year to all of our members. The AGM is also a place where constitutional amendments can be made. Any constitutional amendment must be circulated to all members at least 7 days before the AGM. If you would like to pose a constitutional amendment, you should email it to Seb with plenty of time for him to circulate it.

The other exciting thing about the AGM is that it is where we elect next year's committee (apart from the 1st year rep who is elected at the start of next year). If you would like to stand for a position on committee I really encourage you to do so - anyone can stand and it a tremendous thing to do if you want to give back to the Society. The positions currently available are:

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Second Year Representative
5 x General Executive Members



If you have any questions about being on committee please do not hesitate to send me an email or ask any of the current members your questions. I commend the AGM to you all. It is your chance to make sure that the executive is serving you well and your chance to question the candidates for next year's committee.

Kathryn with a Y

BP Pro-Am RESULTS



2008 Winner Ben Moore made no comment.

Pro-Am is an opportunity for amateur debaters to be paired with an experienced older debater and hone their skills in the BP style. As BP is the format for our second trimester internal grade, the end of year National BP Champs and the World Debating Champs it's a style worth perfecting! This year we were really lucky to have a top quality pool of Pro debaters and judges, and enough people to have three rooms which was great! Teams debated three rounds, topics ranging from providing injection facilities to drug addicts, to defenses for eco-terrorism to certain surgical operations.

The topics proved to be lots of fun, especially the last, which saw a certain girlfriend having to explain to the Am-partner of her boyfriend exactly what 'hymen reconstruction surgery' meant. Delicious delicious pizza was had for lunch, late as always, but meh, that's so common now that we budget that time into timetables!

Progressing to the finals were 8 of the top Ams, who debated that merits of private gun ownership. The winning team was the Opening Opposition (Daniel Wilson and Frances Ratner), Best Speaker of the tournament was Frances Ratner and the prize for the Most Improved Speaker went to Adam Goodall.

A hearty congratulatory dinner was held that night at Tulsi restaurant (the lamb pasanda was superb) and we all proceeded to get merrily tipsy. Competing for airtime with the staff members of the Life Health franchises across Wellington, a final round of thanks was made and Happy Birthday sung to Cassandra; BP Pro-Am over for another year, can't wait to see you all at the National Champs in November!

BP Grade - POST R3

By Seb Templeton

Team Leaderboard

Team Name	OG	OO	CG	CO	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total Spks	Total Pts
Red		1	1	1	1	3	3	2	446	8
Blue		1	1	1	1	1	3	3	449	7
Teal		1	1	1	1	3	1	3	438	7
Purple		1	2		1	3	2	1	447	6
Gold		1	1	1	1	2	1	2	424	5
Indigo		1	1	1	1	0	3	1	419	4
Spearmint			2	1		1 Def		3	289	4
Black			1	1	1	2	2 Def		288	4
Maroon		1	1	2		1	2	0	424	3
Violet		1	1	1	1	1	0	2	421	3
Charcoal		1		1	1	3	0 Def		278	3
Green		1	1	1	1	2	0	0	407	2
Pink		1		1	1	0	1 Def		281	1
Yellow		1		1	1	0 Def		1	275	1
Orange		1	1	1	1	0	0	0	411	0
Pearl Lustre		1				Def	Def	Def	0	0

The 2009 BP Grade has been a huge success thus far, and looks like being a great fight to the break for the final round.

Some predictions from the leaderboard above:

- Whatever happens, all four teams in the top room are through to the semi-finals.
- All teams ending on 6 or higher, regardless of speaker points, will break.
- Five will almost definitely be the cut off, with some teams on five going through and others missing out.
- This would mean that nobody in the bottom room can make the break.

Having said that - a few defaults in the middle rooms could easily deflate the scores enough that four could be a breaking number so don't give up hope if you're not right up there.

Many thanks go to the judges who have given up their time to come along and adjudicate the grade. A huge part of the success has gone to the quality of judging that we have been able to get. Thanks especially to Polly and Steve, who gave up their full team in order to fill in the judging ranks for round 3, losing all breaking chance in the process.

Speaker Tab Top 20

Speaker	Total	Rounds	Average
1 Ranauld Clouston	156	2	78
2 Josh Cameron	151	2	75.5
3 Jenna Raeburn	225	3	75
4 Udayan Mukherjee	225	3	75
5 Richard D'Ath	224	3	74.67
6 Sarah Wilson	74	1	74
7 Paul Smith	221	3	73.67
8 Ihaia Tichborne	221	3	73.67
9 Ella Edginton	146	2	73
10 Kathy Scott-Dowell	145	2	72.5
11 Holly Jenkins	217	3	72.33
12 Frances Ratner	144	2	72
13 Brent Perry	72	1	72
14 Seb Templeton	72	1	72
15 Tom Matthews	72	1	72
16 Chris Bishop	72	1	72
17 Philip Belesky	143	2	71.5
18 Guy Finny	143	2	71.5
19 Daniel Jackson	213	3	71
20 Yogesh Patel	142	2	71
21 Simon Vose	142	2	71
22 Campbell Herbert	71	1	71

By Emily Bruce

FINAL PUBLIC DEBATE 2009

There are not one but two exciting public debates coming up soon!

Firstly, Debsoc in conjunction with VUWSA has decided to hold a public debate on the moot "That this house would introduce voluntary student membership." As this is a very topical issue with the bill being passed through the house, this will take place soon: on Monday 28th September at 6:30pm in GBLT1 (note it's not Rutherford House this time). There will be two politicians, two student debaters and two young political party representatives in the debate. More will be revealed very, very soon, both at Debsoc and via the old Facebook event invitation type business.

Our final debate of the year is a big and fancy one. Just like Cambridge does every year, Debsoc has decided to run "That this house has faith in Her Majesty's Government". Featuring 2 politicians and 2 student debaters (again, watch this space for confirmations very soon), it will be held on Monday the 5th October (the week after) in GBLT1. Invitations are being sent out to alumni and it should all be a very interesting affair. More details coming soon!



Pop these dates into your diary NOW and stay tuned for more!

[Editor: What Emily has not mentioned above is that she has organised not just these two, but three other public debates this year. Two major Debsoc ones and another in conjunction with the VUWSA Women's Fortnight. On top of these five debates, she also organised Plunket Medal and so is owed many thanks for her work with these public functions of the Society.]

END OF YEAR PARTY

By Sarah Wilson

Well it seems this year has flown past and already it's that time of year again. The time for Debsoc's final social event of the year. This year's end of year party celebrates the Wonderful World of Disney. Come along as Hannah Montana, the Little Mermaid, Aladdin, the possibilities are endless! Costumes at end of year parties are a serious affair. [Edit: and so much more than just a theme - bring your absurd feathers without fear of literary reprimand.]

This year it's October the 17th at Lotus Bar on Courtenay Place, so pencil it in your diaries now and be ready to buy tickets when they go on sale next week at Debsoc. Tickets are \$15 each and this includes entry, snacks and LOTS of money on a bar tab for cheap drinks.

Any music requests (Disney or otherwise) or other general queries should be emailed to sarahnewilsonnz@gmail.com as soon as possible.

We'll see you there!

