

Fostering the talent of our valley's youth

SEPTEMBER is Rotary Youth Month and for Taree North Rotary this is proving to be a time for fostering the talent of the youth in our valley.

At the dinner meeting held earlier this month, the club hosted the first round of a public speaking competition.

Three students, all from Chatham High School, competed.

The first speaker, Samantha Hamilton chose the topic 'Environmental Truth', Jon Dahl spoke on the Gonski Report and Cecilia Sendah named her speech, 'The Truth about Boat People'.

The adjudicators, Robert (Yogi) Weller and Peter Smith finally decided in favour of Samantha.

Samantha will now progress to the cluster round to be held later in the year.

The district public speaking competition is sponsored by Actually Travel 195 based in Newcastle and Armidale, which will provide return air travel to New Zealand during 2014.

The winner will be hosted by Rotary families while in New Zealand.

The same evening the club was also delighted to host the members of the Old Bar debating team who came along to observe the public speaking contestants perform.

Another young person, Jessica Nelson, addressed the most recent meeting of the Taree North Rotary Club, following her receipt of acceptance as a student to the 2014 National Youth Science Forum. Jessica will attend session C to be held in Canberra from January 20 until February 1 2014.

Jessica is a year 11 student at Taree High School. She undertakes advanced English, advanced maths, chemistry, biology, PDHPE, modern history and ex-

tension English.

She enjoys reading, cooking, public speaking and debating and theatre.

Jessica dances with Carmen's School of Dance and has done so for 10 years.

She learns saxophone and clarinet, is a member of the THS band, 'Rockestra' and participates in eisteddfods every year in dance and instrumental.

She also has a keen interest in creative and performing arts.

Sporting-wise Jessica plays in the Taree and District netball competition.

She works part time as a pharmacy assistant at Chemmart, is a qualified peer literacy tutor and does volunteer work as a year seven peer support officer.

Her favourite science is a combination of biology and chemistry.

She sees her vocation somewhere in the health professions.

This year the NYSF program requires Jessica to attend an orientation in October in preparation for the Canberra experience in January.

She is also required to develop a CV and an application for her 'dream job'.

Once that has been prepared a panel will interview her and assess her suitability for that position and then of-



Students Samantha Hamilton, Cecilia Sendah and Jon Dahl who contested the club round of the Rotary Public Speaking Competition with adjudicators Peter Smith and Robert Weller, along with Taree Rotary North president Susan Bell.



President Susan Bell with the Old Bar Debating Team comprising Mia Lyons, Michael Ling, Chloe Delaney and Madi Mckenzie Smith.

fer their experience to developing that dream. By participating in the NYSF program, Jessica will also be able to apply for scholarships such as the Tuckwell Scholarship program.