

Media Release

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GLENROY COLLEGE DEBATING STAR

Lara Porczak, Year 11 student at Glenroy College has once again showed her prowess in public speaking and debating by winning the Debaters Association of Victoria's inaugural Swannie Award. The Swannie Awards are awarded to the speaker in each region and grade who has the highest average speaker score after completing at least three debates during the year. Lara has been part of the Glenroy College debating Team since Year 7. This year, Lara and her team made our senior team (Lara Porczak, Ruby Tupua and Wassif Hajje) made the state finals for the third year in a row, which is a fantastic achievement.

"This is the second time in a row Lara has won the Swannie Award, the award for being the best speaker in her year level in the Coburg region. It is a great privilege and we are so proud. Lara is the third speaker in her team, which is typically recognised as the hardest position because the third speaker is required to rebut the opposition's arguments rather than present pre-prepared material. Lara's extraordinary ability to analyse her opponents' arguments and then effectively counter them impressed audiences and judges all year, and she is a very deserving winner." *Jennifer Ames, Debating Coordinator*

Debating at Glenroy has grown and developed enormously over the past few years, and we look forward to even more students taking up the opportunity to improve their confidence, public speaking and teamwork skills by getting involved next year. Staff and parents were glowing in their praise of all our debaters' confident public speaking skills, and several students were awarded the 'best speaker' prize throughout the year.



Lara Porczak (foreground) and the Senior Debating Team in action

If you would like a photo opportunity or more information on this story please contact **Ms Jennifer Ames**, Debating Coordinator on 9304 0400 or ames.jennifer.j@edumail.vic.gov.au OR **Jacinta Tse**, Community and Communications on 9304 0400 on Mondays or Thursdays or anytime on tse.jacinta.f@edumail.vic.gov.au