



SUNSHINE COAST
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Media Release

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Year 8 Grammar team first Queensland Debating Union Grand Finalists in 20 years

Sunshine Coast Grammar School's Year 8 debating team has made Queensland Debating Union history being crowned 'Runners-Up' in the 2017 Grand Final.

This historical moment for Grammar breaks tradition as no school on the Sunshine Coast has made the finals in more than twenty years.

The Queensland Debating Union (QDU) is an association which promotes and organises school-level debating in Queensland, Australia. There were over 200 teams in the Year 8 competition, which began earlier this year.

Debating is an acquired skill that requires teamwork, an ability to think analytically and considerable oral facility. This activity complements the school's academic programme and helps students to develop considerable acumen.

Eloise Lawrie, Jordan Horne, Destiny Guteridge and Sophia Rodrigues took on a strong team from Churchie in Wednesday's Grand Final, when they argued against the topic "*That we should double the length of time between elections*". As the affirmative team the students were praised by independent adjudicators for their knowledge, preparation and speaking skills in a challenging match against their opponents.

"Each of the students demonstrated outstanding academic excellence and creative thinking as they put up a very strong argument. Coming together as a team for the first time at the beginning of the year and making it to the end is a magnificent achievement", said Coach and Principal Mrs Maria Woods.

"We are extremely proud of their achievements which are evidence of the core values of participation and achievement and our commitment to excellence in learning at Grammar. These students certainly have a way with words that will only bring future success for each of them."

The Grand Final took place at Somerville House in Brisbane on Wednesday the 23rd of August 2017.

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