

Title: “Graffiti, litter and smokers to face consequences” – student speech contest

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FOR RELEASE: Immediate

Graffiti artists, litter bugs, and smokers would have been shaking in their boots last night at the final of the junior student speech contest held in the Council Chambers for primary schools (year 7/8).

Potential solutions to the issue of litter, cigarette butts and tagging suggested by speakers included those responsible being made to clean up their act, and be part of work parties dressed in pink overalls. “Cigarette butts in the gutters have increased since the indoor smoking ban was introduced – so I propose that we ban smoking in all public places” said one of the speakers.

The event is organised annually by Timaru District Council as part of the Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week promotion from 5-12 September, with local Toastmasters as judges. The eight students were able to choose their speech topic from three subjects relating to the Keep New Zealand Beautiful theme.

After the judges had made their choices, Mayor Janie Annear presented participant certificates and movie passes to each of the eight speakers, and awards with gift vouchers to the top three positions.

Winner Kim Kirkcaldie of Opihi College was also presented with the Toastmasters Shield by David Moore, current president of Alpine Toastmasters. Her name will be engraved, adding to the names of winners of the last 30 years, and the Shield re-presented at a later event, for display at Opihi College. Kim’s speech won particular praise for the way she had effectively woven a relevant poem into her speech, but all the speakers were commended for stepping up to take part. “Many adults would run down Stafford Street in their underclothes rather than speak in public”, confided Janie Annear.

Daniel Musson of Bluestone School was placed second, and Emma Moore of Geraldine High School came third.

ENDS

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*Pictured here with Mayor Janie Annear, from left:
Kim Kirkcaldie (1st, Opihi College); Emma Moore (3rd, Geraldine High School), Rachelle
Husband (Highfield School); Mikaela Farr (St Josephs, Timaru); Rickie Mitchell (Grantlea
Downs); Daniel Musson (2nd, Bluestone School); Emma Lindblom (Opihi College) and
Harriet Waldron (Bluestone School)*

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