

Lions youth of the year



Tasmania – January 2021

New to Lions Youth of the Year?

The Lions Youth of the Year (YOTY) programme is just over 50 years old and Tasmanian Lions Clubs have been sponsoring students to participate in the programme for more than 45 years. In that time, Tasmania (with around 2% of the Australian population) has had no fewer than nine National Winners. That's about 20% of all the National Winners since Tasmanian Lions Clubs have been involved in the programme.

Lions Youth of the Year (YOTY) is

designed to help you to . . .

- enhance your prospects for entering tertiary education and gaining employment
- develop new friendships and networking opportunities with other like-minded students
- optimise your leadership and citizenship qualities and play a constructive rôle in the community
- Gain experience in presenting yourself to prospective employers and speaking in a public forum

Since its inception in 1964, the Youth of the Year programme has fostered and optimised the confidence, leadership and citizenship qualities in thousands of high school students and school leavers.

Timetable

3rd February, 2021 - School Term 1 begins
16th February to 16th March – Club Finals (NW)
9th March to 24th March – Club Finals (S)
11th March to 18th March – Club Finals (N)
27th March – Regional Final – South
28th March – Regional Final – North-West
31st March – School Term 1 ends
2nd to 5th April – Easter
7th April – Regional Final - North
18th April (Sunday) – State Final
21st April – School Term 2 begins
10th May (Monday) – National Final

The Lions Youth of the Year Programme

- The Programme is managed and supported by Lions Australia and run by Lions Clubs throughout the whole of Australia in close collaboration with, and supported by, participating Schools.
- The Programme is for students who are contributors to their schools and communities and who wish to challenge themselves to gain experience in public speaking and presenting their credentials to a panel of judges in a friendly environment.
- Lions Clubs offer this Programme to students at no cost and, apart from gaining valuable experience in personal development, there are some more rewards.
 - Your Participation Certificate always looks good on your résumé.
 - You also receive tangible benefits including badges and financial rewards.
 - The overall winner at each level of the programme progresses to the next level.

What's Happening?

The Lions Youth of the Year programme will go ahead this year, despite any issues that may arise due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

As you know, the programme was abruptly cancelled last year after many sponsoring Lions Clubs had held their Club Finals but before subsequent rounds of the programme could take place. Following this cancellation, the Youth of the Year State Coordinators' Committee developed a "Pandemic Policy" that will allow us to run the programme through to its normal conclusion in mid-May. The new policy caters for running part or all of any Final remotely, using Zoom video conference software.

Eligibility: In order to participate in the Lions Youth of the Year programme you must be at least fifteen and under nineteen years old on 30th June, 2021.

From the State Winners of 2019

Youth of the Year -

Hannah ...*was a once in a lifetime experience filled with fantastic memories.*

Alyssa ... *was the most empowering, life changing and eye-opening experience that everyone should have the opportunity to go through.*

Georgia ...*has been an amazing, incredible, fantastic opportunity to develop skills and meet lots of amazing, fun, cool, fantastic people.*

Marko ... *gave me incredible friends and through those friendships the confidence to develop as a person.*

Ethan...*was a wild and eye-opening ride just learning about myself, other people and the craft of public speaking- all the soft skills which are so important in entering a university or getting a job.*

Finn...*is a safe environment for people to push themselves outside their comfort zones and speak in front of a group of people to share their own opinion and their own personal voice in a way that really matters.*

Entry Forms

If you have already completed and sent in your Entry Form for this year, thank you. Please remember that you are free to add to or change anything until about a week before your Club Final.

If you haven't yet completed your Entry Form, please do so as soon as possible. We need to know how many students wish to participate in the programme in order to determine which Lions Clubs will be required to schedule Club Finals – and Clubs often need to make scheduling / hosting arrangements several weeks in advance.

Please go to: <https://lionsclubs.org.au/activities/youth/yoty/yoty-resources/> to find the most up to date version of the Entry Form. The Entry Form is a writeable PDF document that is designed to be completed on a computer and submitted electronically.

When you have filled out your Entry Form, please send or pass it electronically to your parent or guardian. We need your parent/guardian to endorse your participation and forward the completed form to your teacher or school principal. Your teacher/school principal should endorse the academic information you have provided and forward the form to yoty@lionstasmania.org so that Lions can schedule your participation with the Lions Club that will be your host/sponsor for the programme.

Having submitted your Entry Form, this is a really good time to prepare and practise your 5-minute speech. It's also a good time to practise speaking for two minutes on various topics.