

New Plymouth Competitions Society

Speech & Drama Competitions

Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th July 2025

To be held at

Highlands Intermediate School Hall

Coronation Ave, New Plymouth

Entries open 5th May 2025
Entries close 12th June 2025

Adjudicator: **Rebecca Reed - Wellington**

Convenor: Corinne Davies
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corinnedavies@gmail.com

Welcome

We look forward to welcoming you to the NPCS Speech and Drama competitions in July 2025.

This is a fun, family-friendly event, designed to encourage our young performers and speakers to take to the stage and share their talents in front of friends and family.

Whether it's a speech, a poem, a character sketch, or a group play extract, there's a wide range of classes to enter. No stage experience is required, just bring your enthusiasm!

This year we have a change of venue and return to Highlands Intermediate Hall, where the competitions were held in previous years. This venue gives us more flexibility in timing and pacing of the days, with plenty of space outside for competitors and family members to take a break.

Note that the stage at Highlands Intermediate is higher than we have been used to in recent years, so make sure competitors are prepared to take a few steps up, and to project their voices to the audience. We won't be using any backstage spaces, so all competitors will enter the stage from the front stage steps (as we've done in previous years).

We can't wait to see all of our amazing competitors on the weekend of 26/27th July!

Please contact me with any queries: corinnedavies@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Corinne Davies - Speech and Drama Convenor

Adjudicator: Rebecca Reed



Rebecca is an accomplished communications, public speaking, and public relations professional of 15 years, an examiner for Speech NZ, and has experience teaching NZ Speech and Drama at primary and secondary school level. She has three years' experience working as a Broadcast Journalist in New Zealand and in the United Kingdom. As the Director of Arriba! PR in Wellington, she specialises in media training, public speaking, writing, strategic planning, and media relations.

In 2021, Rebecca began teaching Speech and Drama at St Orans and later at Sacred Heart College in Lower Hutt. She holds a Bachelor of Communications in Broadcast Journalism, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, and two national journalism awards, including the Qantas Media Award for Breaking News Story of the Year.

Rebecca also holds an Advanced Associate Diploma in Speech and Drama Teaching and Licentiate Diploma in Speech and Drama. In 2024, she was awarded a Deidre Snedden Scholarship to study at The Globe Theatre in London and the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Entering the competition

Registration:

- Registration is via the NPCS Speech and Drama app. The link for this will be released from the week of 5th May 2025 on the NPCS Facebook page and website.
- If you have any trouble using the app, please contact the convenor: corinnedavies@gmail.com.

Entries and payment:

- Entries are made through the app above, following the registration step.
- No late entries will be accepted after the closing date, 12th June 2025.
- Payment is also made via the app above. Entries are not finalised until payment is made.
- Fees are non-refundable.
- Competitors may only enter once in each class, with the exception of Play Extract classes.

Programme:

- The programme will be released two weeks before the competition date.
- Printed programmes are not provided. We recommend you use the NPCS Speech and Drama app, or print your own copy of the programme from the PDF supplied in the app.
- Please note that while we try to avoid it, there may be late changes to the programme, so this may adjust the order or timing of sections on the day.

Rules

Please read these rules carefully. Breach of these rules may result in disqualification of a competitor from a class or these competitions.

Contact the convenor (corinnedavies@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like clarification on any of the following points.

Age limits:

- The competitor's age is to be taken as at 1st June in the year of the competition.

Competitors:

- All classes are for amateur performers. This means that competitors do not derive substantial income from Speech and Drama or related performances. Prize money does not affect amateur status.

Restricted classes:

- Restricted classes are open to competitors who have not won a first prize placement in a similar class at any similar competition or festival in New Zealand.

Time limits:

- Time limits are provided for each class in the tables below.

Chosen pieces and printed copies:

- The following rules apply to all classes **except** Prepared Speech, Sight Reading, Test Poem, Impromptu, Play Extract, Quick Study, and Storytelling.
- A hard copy of each piece (printed or photocopied) must be provided to the convenor on the day, upon arrival to the venue.
- Please label each piece with the competitor's name and class number.
- For Character Sketch and Play Extract classes, a short introduction of up to 100

words shall be provided to the convenor. All Character Sketches and Play Extracts will be introduced by an appointed person, using the introduction supplied.

Original Poem Classes (14J, 16J, or 21J):

- Compositions must be performed by the author, at the time scheduled. Entries will be adjudicated on quality of composition and performance.
- Competitors must submit a clear copy of their composition to the convenor Corinne Davies (corinnedavies@gmail.com) by 1 July 2025. These will be forwarded to the adjudicator, prior to the start of the competitions.

Sight Reading, Test Poem, Quick Study, Storytelling, and Improvisation classes:

- Competitors will be asked to leave the room and wait together in a separate space until it is their turn to perform. After their performance they may return to sit in the audience.

Conduct:

- All competitors, teachers, family and audience members are expected to behave respectfully to others, and especially to current competitors. We ask for the audience to refrain from talking during performances, and to only enter or exit the venue between performances.

Prompting and interruptions:

- No prompting is allowed, except by the adjudicator or secretary.
- Once the adjudicator has indicated a competitor to start their piece (via a bell), no interruptions from parents, teachers, or audience members are allowed, **for any reason**.
- Interruptions from the family or teacher of a competitor may result in disqualification of the competitor from the class. Only the adjudicator, secretary, or convenor may interrupt a performance.

Taking photos and recording videos:

- Taking photos and videos of your own child is permitted, provided it does not interfere with the performance, or visibility for the adjudicator.

Adjudicators:

- The convenor reserves the right to replace any advertised adjudicator if necessary.
- Any adjudicator may decline to make an award if items are not deemed to be of sufficient merit.
- The decision of the adjudicator shall be final in all classes.
- No competitor, their teacher, family members, or any other interested parties shall communicate with the adjudicator on the subject of the competitor prior to or during the festival. The committee may disqualify a competitor for any breach of this rule.
- No competitor who has been taught or coached by the adjudicator during the last two years will be allowed to compete.
- No close family member of the adjudicator will be allowed to compete.

Cups, Trophies and Prizes:

- Trophies are the property of NPCS and may be held by the winner for the year up until the next competitions.
- The competitor is responsible for replacement or repair of trophies if damage or loss occurs.
- Engraving is the responsibility of the competitor.
- Please take care of your trophies and return them, cleaned, to the convenor (or via your teacher) the following year, at least one month before the competition date.
- Cash prizes must be signed for before the competitor leaves the venue.

Classes

The following classes will be offered in 2025. Note that classes may be removed or merged depending on the number of entries received.

Under 8 years

Class	Class name	Details	Time limit
8A	Poem	Perform a poem	3 min
8B	Poem in costume	Perform a poem, in costume.	3 min

Under 10 years

Class	Class name	Details	Time limit
10A	Poem	Perform a poem.	3 min
10B	Test poem	'Don't Panic' by Eric Finney, provided below. Competitors leave the room until their turn to perform.	3 min
10C	Character Sketch	Perform a character sketch in costume, props are optional.	3 min
10D	Sight Reading	Read a piece provided by the adjudicator, 30 seconds prep time. Competitors leave the room until their turn to perform.	3 min
10E	Memorised Prose	Perform a piece of memorised prose, no costumes or props.	3 min
10F	Light Verse	Perform a light hearted or humorous poem.	3 min
10G	Poem - New Zealand Author	Perform a poem by a New Zealand Author.	3 min
10H	Restricted class - Poem	Perform a poem. This class is for competitors that have not won a 'first place' in a similar class before.	3 min
10I	Improvisation - individual	Improvise a scene based on the topic provided by the adjudicator. 1 minute prep time. Competitors leave the room until their turn to perform.	3 min

Under 12 years

Class	Class name	Details	Time limit
12A	Poem	Perform a poem.	3 min
12B	Test poem	'Chip Shop Story' by Helen Lehndorf, provided below. Competitors leave the room until their turn to perform.	3 min
12C	Character Sketch	Perform a character sketch in costume, props are optional.	3 min
12D	Sight Reading	Read a piece provided by the adjudicator, 30 seconds prep time. Competitors leave the room until their turn to perform.	3 min
12E	Memorised Prose	Perform a piece of memorised prose, no costumes or props.	3 min
12F	Light Verse	Perform a light hearted or humorous poem.	3 min
12G	Poem - New Zealand Author	Perform a poem by a New Zealand Author.	3 min
12H	Restricted class - Poem	Perform a poem. This class is for competitors that have not won a 'first place' in a similar class before.	3 min
12I	Improvisation - individual	Improvise a scene based on the topic provided by the adjudicator. 1 minute prep time. Competitors leave the room until their turn to perform.	3 min

Under 14 years

Class	Class name	Details	Time limit
14A	Poem	Perform a poem.	3 min
14B	Test poem	'The Lake' by Roger McGough, provided below. Competitors leave the room until their turn to perform.	3 min
14C	Character Sketch	Perform a character sketch in costume, props are optional.	3 min
14D	Sight Reading	Read a piece provided by the adjudicator, 30 seconds prep time. Competitors leave the room until their turn to perform.	3 min
14E	Memorised Prose	Perform a piece of memorised prose, no costumes or props.	3 min

14F	Light Verse	Perform a light hearted or humorous poem.	3 min
14G	Poem - New Zealand Author	Perform a poem by a New Zealand Author.	3 min
14H	Restricted class - Poem	Perform a poem. This class is for competitors that have not won a 'first place' in a similar class before.	3 min
14I	Improvisation - individual	Improvise a scene based on the topic provided by the adjudicator. 1 minute prep time. Competitors leave the room until their turn to perform.	3 min
14J	Original Poem	Perform an original poem that you have written. Must be performed by the author.	3 min
14M	Play extract (2+ people)	2 or more people perform a short extract from a play. Costumes and props are optional.	10 min
14S	Prepared Speech	Perform a speech you have written. Must be performed by the author.	3 min
14T	Storytelling	Tell a story (impromptu). The topic will be provided by the adjudicator, 1 min prep time. Competitors leave the room until their turn to perform.	3 min

Under 16 years

Class	Class name	Details	Time limit
16A	Poem	Perform a poem.	4 min
16B	Test poem	'The Bay' by James K. Baxter, provided below. Competitors leave the room until their turn to perform.	4 min
16C	Character Sketch	Perform a character sketch in costume, props are optional.	4 min
16D	Sight Reading	Read a piece provided by the adjudicator, 30 seconds prep time. Competitors leave the room until their turn to perform.	4 min
16E	Memorised Prose	Perform a piece of memorised prose, no costumes or props.	4 min
16F	Light Verse	Perform a light hearted or humorous poem.	4 min
16G	Poem - New Zealand Author	Perform a poem by a New Zealand Author.	4 min

16J	Original Poem	Perform an original poem that you have written. Must be performed by the author.	4 min
16K	Scripture Reading	Read a piece of scripture of your choice. A lectern will be provided.	4 min
16L	Lyric Poem	Perform a piece of lyric poetry.	4 min
16M	Play extract (2+ people)	2 or more people perform a short extract from a play. Costumes and props are optional.	10 min
16S	Prepared Speech	Perform a speech you have written. Must be performed by the author.	4 min

Open - 16 years and over, under 21 years

Class	Class name	Details	Time limit
21A	Poem	Perform a poem.	4 min
21B	Test poem	'Kidnapped' by Ruperake Petaia, provided below. Competitors leave the room until their turn to perform.	4 min
21C	Character Sketch	Perform a character sketch in costume, props are optional.	4 min
21D	Sight Reading	Read a piece provided by the adjudicator, 30 seconds prep time. Competitors leave the room until their turn to perform.	4 min
21E	Memorised Prose	Perform a piece of memorised prose, no costumes or props.	4 min
21F	Light Verse	Perform a light hearted or humorous poem.	4 min
21G	Poem - New Zealand Author	Perform a poem by a New Zealand Author.	4 min
21J	Original Poem	Perform an original poem that you have written. Must be performed by the author.	4 min
21K	Scripture Reading	Read a piece of scripture of your choice. A lectern will be provided.	4 min
21L	Lyric Poem	Perform a piece of lyric poetry.	4 min
21N	Quick Study Poem	Perform a poem provided by the adjudicator. 30 seconds prep time. Competitors leave the room until their turn to perform.	4 min
21S	Prepared Speech	Perform a speech you have written. Must be performed by the author.	4 min

National Young Performer Awards 2025 Class

Please refer to the PACANZ website for full details of the National Young Performer criteria and competition details: <https://www.pacanz.co.nz/>

- *Competitors must enter and compete in at least two other classes in these competitions.*
- *Competitors for this class must ordinarily reside in the Taranaki region and may be asked to provide proof of this.*
- *Competitors must send copies of their extracts to the convenor Corinne Davies (corinnedavies@gmail.com) by 1 July 2025. These will be forwarded to the adjudicator, prior to the start of the competitions.*
- *In submitting your entry you have agreed to be available to compete at the National Final in Palmerston North on 24-26 October 2025. Please advise us if you are withdrawing from the Nomination Award for any reason.*

Criteria:

A. Competitors shall be 15 and under 21 years as at 1st October 2025.

B. Each competitor shall present a programme of 13 to 15 minutes duration of a contrasting nature, marked out of 80.

1. One prepared prose of 3 to 4 minutes duration
2. One item of poetry
3. One characterisation
4. Each competitor shall introduce the programme and provide a linking commentary. This should be in extempore style.
5. The use of Props and/or Costumes is optional.

C. Each competitor shall give a two-minute Improvisation during the preliminary round. The adjudicator shall select the topic. Thirty seconds of preparation time will be allowed. The Improvisation shall be marked out of 20 marks.

D. A penalty of five marks will be imposed if the minimum time limit is not met, or the maximum time limit is exceeded by 30 seconds or more.

Society Nomination

Each Society, which is a financial member of PACANZ, may nominate up to two competitors, who shall be selected by the adjudicator, based on a performance as outlined above.

The adjudicator will determine that a competitor has displayed a sufficient standard of performance to competently represent that society at the National Young Performer Awards.

The standard required will be at the absolute discretion of the adjudicator but will include;

- A demonstration of adequate preparation
- An authority of performance
- A performance with a level of maturity commensurate with a national final competition of this age group.

If the adjudicator considers that sufficient standard has not been reached by any competitor, then no nomination will be made.

The Nominating Society is responsible for paying part of the entry fee to the National Young Performer Awards, which is \$75.00 incl gst.

The Nominee is responsible for paying their portion of the entry fee to the National Young Performer Awards, which is \$230.00 incl gst.

Direct Nomination

Via a Competition Society Member: If the adjudicator considers that more than two competitors have reached a sufficient standard, the adjudicator may report to the committee that those competitors should be given the option of a Direct Nomination.

Via a Tertiary Institution Member: Nominations may also be put forward if Speech & Drama students have reached a sufficient standard and can meet the Criteria listed above.

The Direct Nomination competitor will be responsible for paying the full entry fee, which is \$305.00 incl gst.

Scholarships

All scholarships are awarded for the highest aggregate marks for the classes listed.

Any competitors who have entered all the necessary classes will automatically be entered for these awards.

Supreme Award

Winner and Runner Up

To the competitor awarded the highest aggregate marks, over all the following age group classes:

Under 10 years: Classes 10A, 10B, 10C, 10D, 10E, 10F, 10G

Under 12 years: Classes 12A, 12B, 12C, 12D, 12E, 12F, 12G

Under 14 years: Classes 14A, 14B, 14C, 14D, 14E, 14F, 14G

Under 16 years: Classes 16A, 16B, 16C, 16D, 16E, 16F, 16G

Open: Classes 21A, 21B, 21C, 21D, 21E, 21F, 21G

Under 10 years

Winner and Runner Up

Under 10 Years: Classes 10A, 10B, 10C, 10D & 10E

Under 12 years

Winner and Runner Up

Under 12 Years: Classes 12A, 12B, 12C, 12D & 12E

Under 14 years

Winner and Runner Up

Under 14 Years: Classes 14A, 14B, 14 C, 14D & 14E

Under 16 years

Winner and Runner Up

Under 16 Years: Classes 16A, 16B, 16C, 16D & 16E

Open Under 21 years

Winner and Runner Up

Open Classes: 21A, 21B, 21C, 21D & 21E

Mediation NZ

Winner and Runner Up

Class 16S

Chris Buxton Memorial

To the competitor awarded the highest aggregate marks in Classes 21A and 21F

Would you, your family, or business like to sponsor an award? It's a simple, meaningful way to support creativity and confidence in our young performers. Contact convenor Corinne Davies to discuss: corinnedavies@gmail.com 0272727555

Trophies

Amelia Allen Cup	Winner Class 10F - Light verse Under 10 years
Anne Hunter Challenge Cup	Winner Class 21C - Character sketch - Open
Baird Challenge Cup	Highest aggregate marks in Classes 14E and 14F or 16E and 16F
Carla Brown Challenge Cup	Most sincere interpretation of a character from Classes 16C or 21C
Catherine Murphy Challenge Trophy	Winner Class 16C - Character Sketch - Under 16
Coster Challenge Trophy	Winner Class 8A - Poem - Under 8 Years
Dorne Arthur Trophy	Highest aggregate marks over Classes 16A, 16C and 21A, 21C
Duthie Trophy	Highest mark for Improvisation - Classes 10I, 12I or 14I
Firth Industries Challenge Cup	Highest aggregate marks in Classes 21E, 21G and 21N
Gunatunga Trophy	Winner Class 16E - Memorised Prose - Under 16
Healy Challenge Cup	Highest mark in any solo class other than Oratory or Sight Reading
Holyoake Cup	Winner Class 16M - Play extract (2+ people)
Janet Coote Cup	Highest aggregate marks in Classes 16A, 16B, 16C, 16D & 16F
Lafferty Challenge Trophy	Winner Class 16K - Scripture reading - Under 16
Lyn Stansfield Cup	Winner Class 14S - Prepared speech Under 14
Michelle Leuthart Cup	Winner Class 16G - Poem by a NZ Author - Under 16
NorHayati Abdullah Scholarship	Winner Class 12C - Character Sketch - Under 12
NP Toastmasters Challenge Cup	Winner Class 16S - Prepared Speech over 14 years
Powell Trophy	In recognition of competitive spirit - any age group - not necessarily a winner
Ross Hunter Trophy	Most promising boy - 12 Years & Under 21 Years - Must have entered Poem (A), Prose (E) and Sight Reading (D) in their respective age groups
St Joseph's Choir Challenge Trophy	Winner Class 21K - Scripture Reading - Open
Tasman Dental Laboratory Trophy	Winner Class 21G - Poem NZ Author - Open

Touche Ross Cup	Most promising boy - Must have entered Poem & Light Verse in their respective age groups - Classes 10A and 10F or 12A and 12F
Valentine Challenge Cup	Winner Class 14C - Character Sketch - Under 14
Victoria Holyoake Cup	Winner Class 10E - Memorised Prose - Under 10
Wall Challenge Cup	Most sensitive interpretation of a verse work - Adjudicators decision
Wadsworths Book Centre Cup	Winner Class 16L - Lyric Poem - Under 16
Yarrow Family Trophy	Highest mark in a restricted class
Zoe Holyoake Challenge Cup	Highest Aggregate mark in classes 10A and 10B

Test Poems

Under 10

Don't Panic by Eric Finney

That beating at by bedroom pane:
It's only wind and driving rain.
Relax.

That awful blind and blurry mass:
Nothing but rain streaks on the glass.
Harmless.

That monstrous shadow leaning in,
Wearing an evil twisted grin:
It's just the ivy plant, that's all
Bobbing and tossing on the wall.
Don't panic.

That scratching from my bedroom floor:
It's just a mouse, he's been before.
No sweat.

That rustling – is it just the draught?
Or giant spiders? Don't be daft!
Couldn't be.

The loops this new wallpaper makes:
Just loops, not coiled and deadly snakes.
Absurd!

Suppose there are though – snakes, I mean,
And evil spirits sliding in,
And ghosts and blobs and phantom riders
And armies of advancing spiders,
And vampires stalking through the gloom,
All closing in upon my room...

HELP!

Under 12

Chip Shop Story by Helen Lehndorf

I order three fish and a scoop.
I am number 34. My stomach
Is an angry tigerggrrrrwwwllll...

How long will it take to cook?

Inside the chip shop:
Four fryers are frying.
One fat lady is laughing.
Twenty tomato sachets are sitting.

Outside the chip shop:
Three dogs are sniffing.
Five bikes are leaning.
Seven people are waiting.

...urgle ... grwwwllll
I watch a little kid order a hot dog.
I tidy the magazines on the counter
I count my change then count it again.

I stand on one foot for a minute I
stand on the other foot for a minute
I watch the other families collect their white parcels

I can smell the hot oil.
I can smell the vinegar and fish.
I can smell the hot paper.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO COOK?!
I walk outside then in again.
I go and put some pocket fluff in the bin.
I read the labels in the drinks cabinet.
I'm feeling weak.
I'm going to die of hunger.
My stomach is a FURIOUS tiger.

'Order Number 34!'
Phew! The tiger purrs ...

Under 14

The Lake by Roger McGough

For years there have been no fish in the lake.
People hurrying through the park avoid it
like the plague. Birds steer clear
and the sedge of course has withered.
Trees lean away from it,
and at night it reflects, not the moon,
but the blackness of its own depths.
There are no fish in the lake.
But there is life there. There is life.

Underwater pigs glide between reefs of coral debris.
They love it here. They breed and multiply
in sties hollowed out of the mud
and lined with mattresses and bedsprings.
They live on dead fish and rotting things,
drowned pets, plastic and assorted excreta.
Rusty cans they like the best.
Holding them in webbed trotters
their teeth tear easily through the tin,
and poking in a snout, they noisily suck out
the putrid matter within.

There are no fish in the lake.
But there is life there. There is life.
For on certain evenings after dark
shoals of pigs surface
and look out at those houses near the park.
Where, in bathrooms,
children feed stale bread to plastic ducks,
and in attics,
toy yachts have long since run aground.
Where, in living-rooms,
anglers dangle their lines on patterned carpets,
and bemoan the fate of the ones that got away.
Down on the lake, piggy eyes glisten.
They have acquired a taste for flesh.
They are licking their lips. Listen...

Under 16

The Bay by James K. Baxter

On the road to the bay was a lake of rushes
Where we bathed at times and changed in the bamboos.

Now it is rather to stand and say
How many roads we take that lead to Nowhere,
The alley overgrown, no meaning now but loss:
Not that veritable garden where everything comes easy.

And by the bay itself were cliffs with carved names
And a hut on the shore by the open fires.

We raced boats from the banks of the river
Or swam in those autumnal shallows.

Growing cold in amber water, riding the logs
Upstream, and waiting for the Sea Monsters.

So now I remember the bay and the little spiders
On driftwood, so poisonous and quick.

The carved cliffs and the great out crying surf
With currents round the rocks and the birds rising.

A thousand times an hour is torn across
And burned for the sake of going on living.

But I remember the bay that never was
And stand like stone and cannot turn away.

Under 21

Kidnapped by Ruperake Petaia

I was six when
Mama was careless
she sent me to school
alone
five days a week

One day I was
kidnapped by a band
of Western philosophers
armed with glossy-pictured
textbooks and
registered reputations
'Holder of BA
and MA degrees'

I was held
in a classroom
guarded by Churchill and Garibaldi
pinned up on one wall
and
Hitler and Mao dictating
from the other
Guevara pointed a revolution
at my brains
from his 'Guerilla Warfare'

Each three-month term
they sent threats
to my Mama and Papa

Mama and Papa loved
their son and
paid ransom fees
each time

Each time
Mama and Papa grew poorer and poorer
and my kidnappers grew
richer and richer
I grew whiter and
whiter

On my release
fifteen years after
I was handed
(among loud applause
from fellow victims)
a piece of paper
to decorate my walls
certifying my release