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MEDIA RELEASE

**GOOD SHEPHERD STUDENTS HEAD TO PERTH TO CHALLENGE
SOME OF THE BEST MINDS IN AUSTRALIA**

Following an outstanding win at the Queensland state finals of this year's Tournament of the Minds Challenge (TOM), seven of Good Shepherd Lutheran College's most creative and articulate minds will travel to Perth to represent Queensland at the Australasian-Pacific Finals in October.

Good Shepherd's Language Literature Team (Team 5) came first in their category – rising to the challenge of writing a nursery rhyme to depict a moment in history all in only three hours.

Good Shepherd TOM's Mentor and Mathematics teacher, Miss Jo Anna Morrison said, "The girls wrote a really terrific rhyme that parodied the suffragette movement of the early 1900s."

"I think it was especially relevant as they are an all-girl team."



Back Row L-R: Rachael Tedesco, Skye Taylor, Carly Bryan, Jodie Freeman & Jannikka Balko-Seemann. Front Row L-R: Kesten Hill, Lizzie Schluter & Miss Jo Anna Morrison.

"Obviously their presentation was excellent, but I think they did especially well in the spontaneous part of the challenge - they really came up with some great ideas!" said Miss Morrison.

Good Shepherd Lutheran College has an incredible winning record in the Tournament of the Minds Challenge.

For the past four years, the GSLC Maths-Engineering team has won and competed at nationals, however, this is the first time that a Good Shepherd Language Literature team has won at the state level and gone to nationals.

The Queensland Director of TOM, Kath Underhill, has hailed Good Shepherd Lutheran College as the most successful Tournament school in Queensland, and possibly Australasia.

According to Mr Martin Polkinghorne, TOM Co-ordinator for Good Shepherd Lutheran College for the past 17 years, this may be due to the fact that no state has ever won the national titles for two consecutive years; let alone the same school.



“The enthusiasm, hard work and creativity shown by the students, especially when complemented with collaborative teamwork, is fantastic to witness and no doubt provides the keys for success,” said Mr Martin Polkinghorne.

“The Good Shepherd teams demonstrated that Good Shepherd students develop the skills to be formidable competitors in the Tournament of the Minds challenges.”

“The College’s teams of students displayed a level of intellect, ingenuity and dedication which assisted them to continue a fantastic track record of success over fifteen years.”

“Also, congratulations must go to one of our staff, Mr Stock, who has accepted the responsibilities of Regional TOM Director.”

The Regional Tournament of the Minds Challenge was held on Sunday, 28 August at the University of the Sunshine Coast, with five Good Shepherd teams qualifying for the State Finals held at Griffith University earlier this month.

The Applied Technology Team (Team 1) and the Maths-Engineering Team were both outright winners in their categories and, as a result, the Maths-Engineering team has now won this competition for 14 consecutive years.

The Language-Literature, Social Science and Applied technology (Team 2) teams each earned Honours and were offered a place at the Queensland State Finals after reviewing state-wide regional results.

At this year’s Queensland State Finals, also held at Griffith University’s Nathan Campus, three GSLC teams came home with medals.

The Maths-Engineering Team and the Applied Technology Team (Team 3) both earned Honours and, of course, the Language Literature Team (Team 5) came first in their category and now travel to Perth to represent Queensland at the Australasian-Pacific Finals.

Tournament of the Minds is a non-profit organisation that has been running challenges for students with a passion for learning and problem solving for over 25 years.

The aim of the Tournament of the Minds competition is to enhance the potential of our youth by developing diverse skills, enterprise, time management, and the discipline to work collaboratively within a challenging and competitive environment.

Every year thousands of students from across Australia compete in the Tournament on a regional, state, and Australasian Pacific level, allowing students to demonstrate their talents in an exciting, vibrant and public way.

The philosophy behind the Tournament of Minds is to enhance Creative and Critical Thinking and to develop positive team building skills, both of which are significant components of the new National Curriculum.



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