

Noosa News

13 November 2015



WINNERS: Good Shepherd Junior Two debating team with their medals after the grand finals (from left) Ben, Casey and Lawson with coach Ian Smith. *PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED*

Students put up a good case

GOOD Shepherd Lutheran College's Junior Two debating team have proved themselves to be one of the best, after recently making it to the grand finals of the Sunshine Coast Schools' Debating Competition held at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

The competition was strong between competing schools, with a total of 102 teams from 23 schools ranging from Years 6 to 12, coming together from all over the region.

This year, Good Shepherd entered four Junior (Years 6 and 7), four Intermediate (Years 8-9) and two Senior teams

(Years 10-12) – all under the guidance of dedicated student, teacher and parent coaches.

Good Shepherd Lutheran College debating co-ordinator Liz Newton said the pressure was immense for teams, as the three student speakers and their coach were given their topic only one hour before having to present their argument.

"The Junior Two team's grand final topic was 'That the PlayStation has destroyed the playground', with the Junior Two team being allocated the affirmative side of the argument," she said.

"The team's opposition

was Chancellor State College and our team gave it their all."

"They had well developed arguments and very confident presentations; the debate was extremely close but ultimately awarded to Chancellor State College."

According to Good Shepherd Lutheran College principal Anthony Dyer, debating is an excellent medium for collectively teaching relevant life skills.

"Through debating, students learn and practise skills such as team work, planning and organisation of ideas as well as public speaking."