Hale School Philosothon
Perth Western Australia
27th October 2010
Twenty four schools registered for the 2010 Philosothon. On 27th October 2010 over 300 people gathered at the Hale School Memorial Hall and the new Middle School Complex for the annual Hale School Philosothon.
Participants

- Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School, Carmel School, Christ Church Grammar School, Guildford Grammar School, Hale School, Iona College, John Septimus Roe ACS, John XXIII College, Methodist Ladies College, Penhros College, Perth College, Perth Modern School, Scotch College, St Hilda's AGS, St Mark's ACS, St Mary's AGS, Wesley College, Presbyterian Ladies College, Tranby College, Trinity College, Willetton Senior High School
Hale School Philosothon

- Students were well prepared, articulate, reflective and critical during the four Communities of Inquiry.
Do we own our bodies?

- The stimulus material included an audio presentation from Professor Donna Dickenson from the Ethox Centre in Oxford

Is the decision about removing non-essential body parts a right held by each individual?
Yaron Fisher  Yr 9 Carmel School

Is there a difference between the body and the person’s personhood?
Ashley Dunne Year 9 PLC  Perth
Is faith reasonable?

• Students read an article by Dr Paul Rout on Faith and Reason before the Philosothon.

Is God beyond Reason?
Jacob Cockayne
Year 8 Tranby College

Without language, is it possible to conceptualise ‘God’?
Alma Jovanovic
Year 10 PLC

What assumptions underpin rationality?
Lizzy Kuiper
Year 11 PLC
Is beauty purely subjective?

• Students also read work by Immanuel Kant on Beauty.

Do life experiences colour our perceptions of beauty or is beauty just stereotypical?
Sarah Maiden
Year 10 St Mary’s AGS

If a large proportion of society conform to an idea of beauty is this still subjective?
Rachel Hao
Year 11 St Hilda’s AGS

If beauty is purely objective how is it that possible that so many people share the same judgements of what is beautiful?
Jessi Genovesi
Year 11 Willetton SHS
Why Obey Laws?

The stimulus material for the last topic of the evening was a written essay on this question by R Neurath, Sydney Grammar School Philosophy Club.

If a law contradicts your moral beliefs, should you follow the law of your beliefs?
Laura Hodges
Year 10 Perth College

Do we need to remove peoples’ rights to create a better society?
Michael Allen
Year 10 Hale School

Do we obey laws through conformity or an individual decision?
Hannah Green
Year 11 St Marks ACS
Facilitators

Students were guided through the process by 12 facilitators who were either Ph.D. philosophy students or teachers trained in leading a Community of Inquiry.

2010 Facilitators were
Ryan Cox, Dr Anita Williams, Simon Kidd, Blair Hurley, Golnar Nabizadeh, Kieran Golby, Daniel Burke, Tom Vanderveen, Craig Edwards, & David Trembath, Dominic Hodnett, Clare Saunders, Raf Fecondi, Paul Brown, Kylie Sturgess and Dr Ray Driehuis.
Twelve judges awarded marks to students based on the COI marking criteria. Each of the four major universities were represented in the judging panel. This year we included community representatives as well.

Dr Miri Albahari (UWA)
Dr Peta Bowden (Murdoch Uni)
Dr Nic Damnjanovic (UWA)
Dr Colin Earl (Notre Dame Uni)
Dr Felicity Haynes (UWA)
Dr Nin Kirkham (UWA)
Dr Alan Tapper (Curtin Uni)
Assoc. Prof Stephan Millett (Curtin)
Dr Jo Naimo (Notre Dame Uni)
Colin Redmond (Notre Dame)
Dr Hartley Slater (UWA)
Dr Lubica Ucnik (Murdoch Uni)
Mrs Dianne Fischer
Redfoot Theatre Company did a wonderful drama presentation on Philosophy.
Congratulations

Year 8 Runner up (tie) - Alex Verrall, Australind; Laura Bishop, Perth College
Year 8 Winner - Joshua Dunne, Hale School
Year 9 Runner up - Yaron Fischer, Carmel School
Year 9 winner - Thomas Coltrona, Trinity College
Year 10 runner up - Laura Hodges, Perth College
Year 10 Winner - Alistair Morgan, Christ Church Grammar School
Year 11 Runner up - Robert Gillam, Hale School
Year 11 Winner - Jessie Genovesi, Willetton SHS

- Felicity Haynes Prize (APIS): winner Erin Hassett (Bunbury Cathedral College), Honourable mention, Jessie Genovesi (Willetton SHS)
- Curtin Centre for Applied Ethics and Philosophy Prize: winner Geordie Lockhart (Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School). Honourable mentions: Thomas Coltrona (Trinity College); Andrew Bottegger (Trinity College)

School Winners:
• Third: Christ Church - 319
• Second: Perth College - 322
• First: Hale School - 337
Congratulations to Hale School on winning the evening.