Cubs shine in Lions competition

Katherine Kokkonen

THE leaders of tomorrow have shone at the Lions Youth of the Year competition. The Lions Club of Tolga hosted the combined Atherton and Tolga Youth of the Year competition at the Atherton Hotel on Saturday, February 21.

Competitors had to deliver a prepared speech, an impromptu speech and participate in an interview. Atherton State High School student Billy Fogg, 14, took out the public speaking award and was the overall winner.

John Whyte, one of the two judges, said the five finalists impressed him with their confidence and knowledge. “During the personal interviews they were quite calm and relaxed,” he said.

“As far as the public speaking goes, their prepared speeches had a lot of research and it showed they were speaking about something they were passionate about.”

Mr Whyte said the judges had a hard time choosing the winner of the public speaking part of the competition. He said while all the speakers were nervous, they connected well with the audience.

Atherton State High School student Billy Fogg won the Atherton and Tolga Youth of the Year competition. He will compete in the zone finals in Mareeba on March 14. Picture: Katherine Kokkonen

“IT was hard to decide the winner,” Mr Whyte said. “They all had great qualities. Some were more humorous whereas others were factual.”

Mr Whyte said Billy’s knowledge was evident when he delivered his prepared speech on the positive impacts of technology on society.

“The topic he spoke on was something he was passionate and knowledgeable about,” he said. “In the interview his leadership involvement and leadership aspirations were obvious.”

“He has a lot of energy that I think will see him take on leadership responsibility really well.”

Billy will compete at the zone finals in Mareeba, on March 14. He said he was not confident he would do well in the next round.

“I’m not sure who I’m going up against,” he said. “I don’t know what the impromptu questions are going to be. It’s a big unknown.”

SES loves the sound of folk

THE Tablelands Folk Festival has thrown its support behind Malanda State Emergency Service.

Folk Festival vice-president Jenni Kruck presented a cheque for $500 to Brian Walters of Malanda SES.

Mr Walters said the donation would go towards new LED emergency lighting. LED flood lights are light and easy to set up, battery-powered. They will replace large, heavy generator-powered halogen lights.

Mr Walters said the lights had been trialled elsewhere with success and would make emergency call-outs at night safer and more efficient.

Ms Kruck said the Malanda SES regularly supported the festival and had an information booth set up at the festival every year. She said members were always ready to lend a hand and were a familiar and friendly sight over the weekend.

Tablelands Folk Festival vice president Jenni Kruck hands Brian Walters from the Malanda State Emergency Service a donation of $500. Picture: Supplied