

news



Atherton and Tolga Lions Youth of the Year finalists Ashley Rains from St Stephen's Catholic College, Maree Higginson and Dakota Bowen from Mt St Bernard College with Billy Fogg and Jessica Honan from Atherton State High School.

Pictures: Supplied

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



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

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.

"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."