

The Annual Race Unity Speech Award

The Annual Race Unity Speech Award is held in support of Race Relations Day each year. It always has a race relations theme, although a new topic is chosen each year. The competition aims to encourage senior high school students in Years 11, 12 and 13 (Forms 5, 6 and 7) to consider issues surrounding race relations in Aotearoa New Zealand and to suggest appropriate solutions. Students may deliver their speeches in either English or Māori.

The key organiser of the Race Unity Speech Award is the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of New Zealand (an incorporated society). The New Zealand Police are the sponsors. The Speech Award is also strongly supported by the New Zealand Human Rights Commission.

In 2009, secondary schools in the following regions have been invited to participate:

Whangarei, Kaipara, Far North District
Greater Auckland
Thames, Coromandel, Hauraki
Hamilton, Waikato, Waipa, Matamata-Piako
Rotorua, South Waikato, Whakatane, Opotiki, Kawerau, Taupo
Tauranga, Western Bay of Plenty
Gisborne, Wairoa
Hastings, Napier, Central Hawkes Bay
Palmerston North, Wanganui, Manawatu, Horowhenua, Tararua,
Rangitikei
Greater Wellington
Nelson, Marlborough, Tasman
Christchurch, Selwyn, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Ashburton, Kaikoura
Timaru, Waimate MacKenzie, Waitaki
Dunedin, Clutha

Other regions that may be invited to participate in the future include
New Plymouth /Stratford/South Taranaki
Masterton/Carterton/Wairarapa

Regional winners then compete in the national semi finals (in Auckland), and, if successful at that level, in the national finals.

2009 Annual Race Unity Speech Award

Dates:

10th and 11th March Regional heats
13th March (Auckland ONLY, regional final)
3rd April 2009 National Semi-finals
4th April 2009 Finals and Race Unity Conference

Speech Topic: “Good neighbours come from all races and cultures”.

“If you meet those of a different race and colour from yourself, do not mistrust them and withdraw yourself into your shell of conventionality, but rather be glad and show them kindness.” “Be worthy of the trust of [your] neighbour and look upon him with a bright and friendly face.” (Bahá’í Writings)

- Who are your neighbours? What do you know about the diversity of your neighbourhood?
- What is your experience of being neighbourly with other races and cultures?
- What is a "good neighbour" and what practical steps could you take to be a good neighbour to somebody of a different race or culture?
- What personal qualities would you need to help “break the ice”?
- What are the benefits of good neighbours and how can you encourage others to be "good neighbours"?

Participants: Students in Years 11, 12, 13

Duration: 7- 8 Minutes

Language: English or Te Reo Māori

Students in participating regions, who wish to enter the competition should be able to get an information sheet and entry form from any of the following at their school:

HoD English	HoD Social Studies
HoD Maori Studies	HoD Drama/Debating
School Principal	

If none of these are able to assist you, please contact Bev Watson (National Organiser) by emailing: oea-watson@clear.net.nz or by phoning 03 314 6870 or 021 257 6526