



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Education**

# ***Media Statement***

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Attention: News Editor / Chief of Staff

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## **Esperance students best in Australasian brain game**

A team of Esperance Senior High School students has won a prestigious Australasian academic competition by showcasing their problem-solving skills and creativity in movie making.

The seven-member team won the title for Applied Technology in the Tournament of Minds 2009 Australasian Pacific Final, held in Brisbane on October 24.

Esperance Senior High School principal Cathy Bamblett said Esperance was the only school in the whole history of the event that had won all four divisions at the national level, and she was thrilled with the team's success.

"Esperance has a proud history in the Tournament of Minds, having won four titles in the past seven years across the competition's categories of Applied Technology, Language Literature, Maths Engineering and Social Sciences," Ms Bamblett said.

"The outstanding success of our school in this forum is due to our focus on developing students' critical thinking and creativity, and giving them the opportunity to work together in groups to solve problems."

Ms Bamblett commended the students Katelin Cary, Amber Blackburn, Jak Cary, Annika Helenius, Emily Witham, Katie Beros and Marley Redding for their efforts in Tournament of Minds.

"I would also like to acknowledge Karl and Cara Gurney who were the team's facilitators," she said.

Ms Bamblett said the students had produced a short documentary film illustrating the creation of a radio play and why audiences in the past loved listening to them.

"As well, the students had to create and perform their own radio play, which they set in a war time period that provided a powerful and poignant backdrop for the students to reach their audience."

Tournament of Minds is a problem solving competition for teams of students from primary and secondary schools. Students are required to solve demanding, open-ended challenges from one of the four disciplines, Applied Technology, Language Literature, Maths Engineering and Social Sciences.

Esperance Senior High School participates every year. In 2009 more than 60 students from Years 8 to 10 auditioned for a spot on one of the school's three teams.

(ENDS)

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