

Brief Report on 2017 MUNA

Once again we were fortunate to be able to hold MUNA in the beautiful Victorian Parliament House. We should never underestimate the impact on the students of this elegant historical building, the atmosphere of the place, and the fact that the students are actually sitting and working in the seats normally occupied by our lawmakers.

This year 40 teams took place representing 40 countries in five blocs that are grouped according to the geopolitical and economic development stages of the countries. Due to very strong demand for places in MUNA unfortunately some teams missed out and were placed on a reserve list. Two teams from this list were later added to the MUNA cohort to replace teams that withdrew.

There were a number of complex issues and resolutions debated over the two days. There were very few interruptions to debate which resulted in nine resolutions being examined and discussed. The teams were fairly well balanced with no team or delegate dominating the proceedings. The delegates from North Korea got many laughs by quoting their supreme leader. Costuming was of a high standard with many of the teams making an effort to represent the national dress of their allocated country. Rotaractors in their red shirts working as diplomatic couriers added a lot of colour and movement to the event. Catering satisfied the needs of all of the youngsters, and the visitors were able to share in the morning and afternoon tea delicacies.

The team from Sacred Heart Girls' College Oakleigh representing Sri Lanka was judged as the best performing team of the weekend. The team from the very small Beaufort Secondary College representing South Africa were the runners up. This year the students agreed with the judges and voted for the Sri Lankan delegates as the best contributing team to the debate. The prize for best costumes went to delegates for Brazil, from Koonung Secondary College. The District Governor's encouragement prize went to Spain for effort and participation. A team from Avila College representing Lebanon received the prize for submitting the best student resolution which was debated as the first resolution on Sunday morning.

2017 MUNA received very strong support from the majority of the clubs in the district, with schools also very keen to take part in this event. This program is viewed as part of leadership training for many of the schools. There were queries from schools as late as ANZAC weekend wanting to participate in MUNA. Teachers from these schools all stated they would be working with nearby Rotary clubs to ensure they are able to have their teams registered in time for 2018 MUNA.

Joe Somers

Chair, D9810 MUNA Committee

9 May 2017