

# Speaking with Sir Zelman in mind

BIALIK College recently held its third annual Sir Zelman Cowen public speaking competition for students in years 8 and 9.

Named after the former governor-general of Australia and one of the community's leading figures, the competition offers students the opportunity to sharpen their oratory skills while paying tribute to the values that inspired Cowen.

This year's theme for year 8 was "Commitment - Personal, Political, Practical" while year 9 tackled "The Jewish World".

The competition kicked off with a presentation from guest speaker Ruth Barson. A Bialik graduate, Barson is a human rights lawyer working in the areas of Indigenous justice and prisoner rights.

Twelve finalists were selected to present at the final event, which was attended by special guest Lady Anna Cowen.

Speeches covered a variety of topics including feminism, Zionism, evolution and God, and what it means to be Jewish. The overall winner was year 8 student Alexandra Hershman.



**Lady Anna Cowen (left) with winner Alexandra Hershman.**