



NEWSLETTER

PO BOX 4570 North Rocks NSW 2151
www.asca-speech.org

The ASCA Newsletter

April - June, 2025

Keeping you up to date, and in the loop, with ASCA goings on.

Welcome to new member, **Naomi Middlebrook** from Queensland.

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The **ASCA awards ceremony** was held on 29 March at Ravenswood for Girls.

It was a wonderful occasion with students, parents and teachers attending from all over the state of NSW. The Master of Ceremonies was Dr Paul March.

The Guest Speaker was Suzie Broome, who spoke about using the power of Communication throughout life.

Studio Achievement medals, Studio Medals and Centre Medals were awarded. **Certificates and Diplomas were also presented to recipients.**

Special Awards were also presented.

Award for Excellence in Communication.

Suzie Broome.

National Scholarship Award for Excellence.

Abby Joy McCutcheon- Burgess Studio.

Gina Pioro Director's Award for Outstanding Performance.

Lauren Edinborough- Arndell Anglican College.

Graduate Teaching Award.

Abby Cassen- Presbyterian Ladies College, Sydney.

There were also special performances by ASCA students who were selected based on their 2024 ASCA exam result.

The performers were:

Grace Groves	Burgess Studio.
Chelsea Dodd	St Paul's Grammar School, Cranebrook.
Edith Marie Kyngdon	Loreto Kirribilli
Abira Sanan	MLC, Speech and Drama Studio
Isabella Kim	Ravenswood School.
Celia Watson	SCEGGS Darlinghurst.
Elisa Chamoun	PLC , Sydney.

Congratulations to all of the performers for entertaining the large audience with their skills and talent.

Thank you to all the volunteers who make the Awards Ceremony possible.

A very special Thank You to **Ravenswood School for Girls** for hosting the event. The beautiful theatre/ auditorium provided a wonderful space for both performers and audience.

The Inaugural Dame Enid Lyons Oratory Award



This year a new competition has been open to girls' schools in NSW called the Dame Enid Lyons Oratory Award (DELO). It was largely organised by the Independent Girls Schools Association (IGSA) with Sonia Berry the IGSA chair and its greatest Champion.

It is similar to the Lawrence Campbell Oratory Award which has been running for 90 years among NSW boys schools, mostly private schools. It is an impromptu speaking competition where students are given three topics - in the DELO the girls were given three quotes, and had 15 minutes to prepare an 8 minute talk. The students are expected to engage deeply with their chosen topic and explore the ideas they choose to speak on in an engaging and thought-provoking manner. It is a very challenging style of competition.

Three heats were held where roughly 30 students participated and 10 were chosen to compete in the final.

The finalists were from:

Abbotsleigh
Ascham School
MLC School
Monte Sant' Angelo
Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta
PLC Sydney
Pymble Ladies' College
Queenwood
SCEGGS Darlinghurst
St George's Girls High School

The final was held in the Drama Theatre at the Sydney Opera House with Dr Julia Baird MC-ing and Samantha Luck as Chief Adjudicator along with Brigid Glanville from the ABC and Justice Kevin Lyons, the grandson of Dame Enid herself.

It was an entertaining and enjoyable night with 10 excellent speeches presented by the girls.

The place winners were:

1. *SCEGGS Darlinghurst*
2. *Pymble Ladies' College*
3. *Queenwood*

Celia Watson from SCEGGS Darlinghurst won speaking on the topic

"When they go low, we go high", Michelle Obama.

The other two topics were:

"The most effective way to do it is to do it," Amelia Earhart and

"For most of history, anonymous was a woman" Virginia Wolfe.

Congratulations to Celia, who is an ASCA student.



The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, hosted eight of the finalists and teachers from their schools at Admiralty House earlier that day to congratulate and encourage the girls.

It was a wonderful day all round, a day the girls and their teachers will never forget.

There is an article found here [ABC Article](#) and a story here [ABC News Story](#).

Elizabeth Walsh

More good news: Jillian Burgess has written a children’s book.



The Mumbling Gum Blossom –

By Jillian Burgess

A fictional story of a young gum blossom who can’t say her name clearly.

Acacia, Grevillea and Hakea from Wattle Brush decide to help her by taking her to Tawny Frogmouth, the wisest creature in the Australian bush. He advises the gum blossoms to find other Australian animals who teach the young one to speak out and up and to say her name with pride and ownership.

This is Jillian’s first foray into children’s literature and to discover more about the characters and the story be sure to visit her website: <https://jillianburgessauthor.com> .



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Congratulations to Jillian Burgess

Membership reminder.

Just a reminder regarding the 2025 membership form and fees - **they are now overdue.**

The membership forms can also be downloaded from the website.

Membership annual fees are:

Student Associate Membership	\$20
Individual Membership	\$40
Corporate Membership	\$100

Please make cheques payable to ASCA and send with completed form to Mrs Susanne Harrison, ASCA Membership Secretary, PO Box 322, Manly, NSW 1655. Please also include a stamped addressed envelope for your receipt.

Membership can also be paid by Direct debit. ASCA BSB 222906 Account 00131200. Remember to identify exam date and school/teacher on the description on bank deposit. Eg Smith Dec 28

Important dates for ASCA Examinations

Notes: If an ASCA teacher has at least 3 hours of Examinations, an ASCA Examiner can be appointed to attend the teacher's school or studio. Examinations will also be available via Zoom.

*If fewer than 3 hours of examining, exam candidates can be examined at the **Open Days**. There are **2 Open days each year**. Please note that the **Open Day** is to be used by small studios only.*

EXAMINATION VENUE:

Ravenswood School for Girls, Henry Street, Gordon.

EXAMINATION DATES For OPEN DAYS

Saturday 28 June for Practical and Written Examinations.

Saturday 29 November for Practical and Written Examinations

Entries must be received by ASCA 6 weeks prior to the Open Day

ASCA MARKET PLACE. 2025

Buy, Sell or Swap.

Just a reminder that ASCA is offering an opportunity to buy, sell or swap , books, resources, costumes, props, posters or anything relating to Speech , Communication or Drama.

Please send your enquiries to ASCA if you are searching for an “out of print” book or a particular costume. Include an email address for reply. If you have something to sell or swap, please send a picture or description plus an email address and price if selling.

The first offering to the ASCA Market Place is a long list of books specifically related to Speech, Drama and Speech Communication. It takes the form of a survey to test the market to see if there is interest in vintage texts.

The books are to be sold or donated on an “as is” basis and postage costs are not included in the sale price.

If anyone is interested in any of these books tick the “interested” column ***on the separate email attachment sent to you*** and return to ASCA with your email address.

An important note about the Marking System for High Distinction.

Sometimes parents and teachers don't quite understand the difference between a Distinction and a High Distinction.

For Example:

Currently, 2 students get 4 Distinctions in their Junior 4 exam – one ends up getting a Distinction and the other a High Distinction overall. The student who received a High Distinction received that mark because the Distinctions were all of a very high standard.

Under the new system, if students deserve a High Distinction they will now receive a **Distinction +** in one of the exam sections to indicate the High Distinction standard.

To go back to the 2 students: one receives **DDDD**, the other **D+DDD**. The **D+** student will receive a High Distinction mark!!

Some wise words: “You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think” A A Milne.

Queries

If you have any queries about ASCA, the syllabus or examinations, please contact us by email, or write and they will be handed to the committee for an answer.

ASCA Australian Speech Communication Association Inc

Affiliated with the English Speaking Board (International) Ltd. Tel: Dr Paul March 0418 234 386

CONTRIBUTIONS to the newsletter gratefully received by the editor, Susanne Harrison.

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