

Debaters in for pressure

By MIRANDA FORSTER

THE cream of Australia's student debating world descended on Bray Park last week when Genesis Christian College hosted the National Schools Debating Championship.

The competition, which runs in a different state each year, pits state teams against each other with five students from the pool selected to represent Australia in international competitions.

While Genesis did not have students competing, school debating co-ordinator Cate White said several Year 10 debaters

watched the event keenly with a view to auditioning next year.

Teams learned of their topic just one hour before the debate, Ms White said.

"They need to be used to it but it does take a little while to get used to," she said.

"The first speaker has to do their thing, others have to come up with a rebuttal and possible arguments, and the whole team has to split it as to who's going to say what, and then write their speeches.

"It's a lot of organisation plus writing in a very short time frame."



LET'S TALK: Young debaters Andrew Elder and Marissa Lemmer.