

Big goals to use the ASB Teaching Diploma to help others

Lily Rawson explains the impact Speech NZ has had on her life so far and continues to have.

Lily Rawson is currently studying towards a Bachelor of Science at the University of Otago, majoring in sports and exercise science and minoring in geology. She's loving university so far and manages to stay involved with Speech NZ alongside her busy schedule! Emma Carpenter reached out to Lily to ask her about her experience with Speech NZ, how she got started, what the benefits have been, and if she has any advice for others.



"I started doing speech with Robyn Keno when I was about 10 years old. My mum decided it was a good idea after noticing I was quite a shy kid. I was a part of such a cool group of friendly girls and loved going to speech every Tuesday night. This eventually progressed into a passion of mine, and I have continued to pursue my love of speech by working towards an ASB diploma in Teaching Speech and Drama.

"I want to [complete my ASB] so I can help kids who were in the same position as me when I was younger. I remember feeling too scared to even put my hand up in class! Speech NZ has given me the opportunity to give back to the community through teaching with the hopes of providing them the same experience I was lucky enough to have."

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What are some of the ways in which Speech NZ lessons have benefited you?

"Speech NZ has been a big part of my life since I was very young and has shaped me into the person I am today. Without it I would not have developed the same confidence in myself or have the courage to pursue my studies in Dunedin.

Through the modules of the syllabus I have learnt and adopted ways to calm myself during public speaking and be able to think clearly in stressful situations. This has been extremely helpful during my first semester exams along with an excellent memory that I developed during the many years of speech.

"As a former deputy head girl of Waitaki Girls High School and Chairperson of the Student Council, last year Speech NZ helped me to communicate ideas, problem solve and have the ability to connect with people effectively leaving a lifelong impression.

It also comes in handy when I need to charm my parents persuasively for something I need or a quick thinking witty comment in an argument with my siblings (which I always win)..."

What was your overall experience of Speech NZ and the Speech and Drama syllabus?

"Some of my favourite memories were from speech and drama classes whether that was performing improvisations that had crazy storylines or the friendships and connections I made. I will never forget the satisfaction I felt after completing an exam without forgetting any lines!"



What are the most important aspects of the Speech and Drama syllabus, in your opinion?

"One of the most interesting things I really enjoyed about the syllabus was having the opportunity to learn about many other authors, poets, and playwrights which have all inspired me to continue with Speech.

I was able to explore the lives of writers such as Karlo Mila and Hone Tuwhare who have created such intriguing and beautiful works. I got to act out plays and have fun with scripts that had difficult meanings to interpret but created a challenge like no other. Through their works I also learnt a lot about the history of NZ and the historical importance of different poems, plays and stories."

What advice would you have to others considering lessons with Speech NZ?

"To take every opportunity that comes your way. Speech NZ not only equips you for life but also opens many new doors that you didn't even know existed. Although it does challenge you, through perseverance and belief in yourself anything is achievable, and it is definitely worth it in the end."

If you have a success story you would like to share with us, or know of someone who does, please get in touch with the National Office at 04 498 9660 or info@speechnz.co.nz