

119 years of ad-lib advice

By Sharni Carroll

A HISTORIC book has made its way back to the hands of a young public speaker after 119 years.

Donated by a local book store, the inscribed book is now part of Royal South Street Society's archive collection.

On the inside cover of the book reads a note detailing that it was presented to a Theodore Saunders in 1891 for first prize impromptu speech.

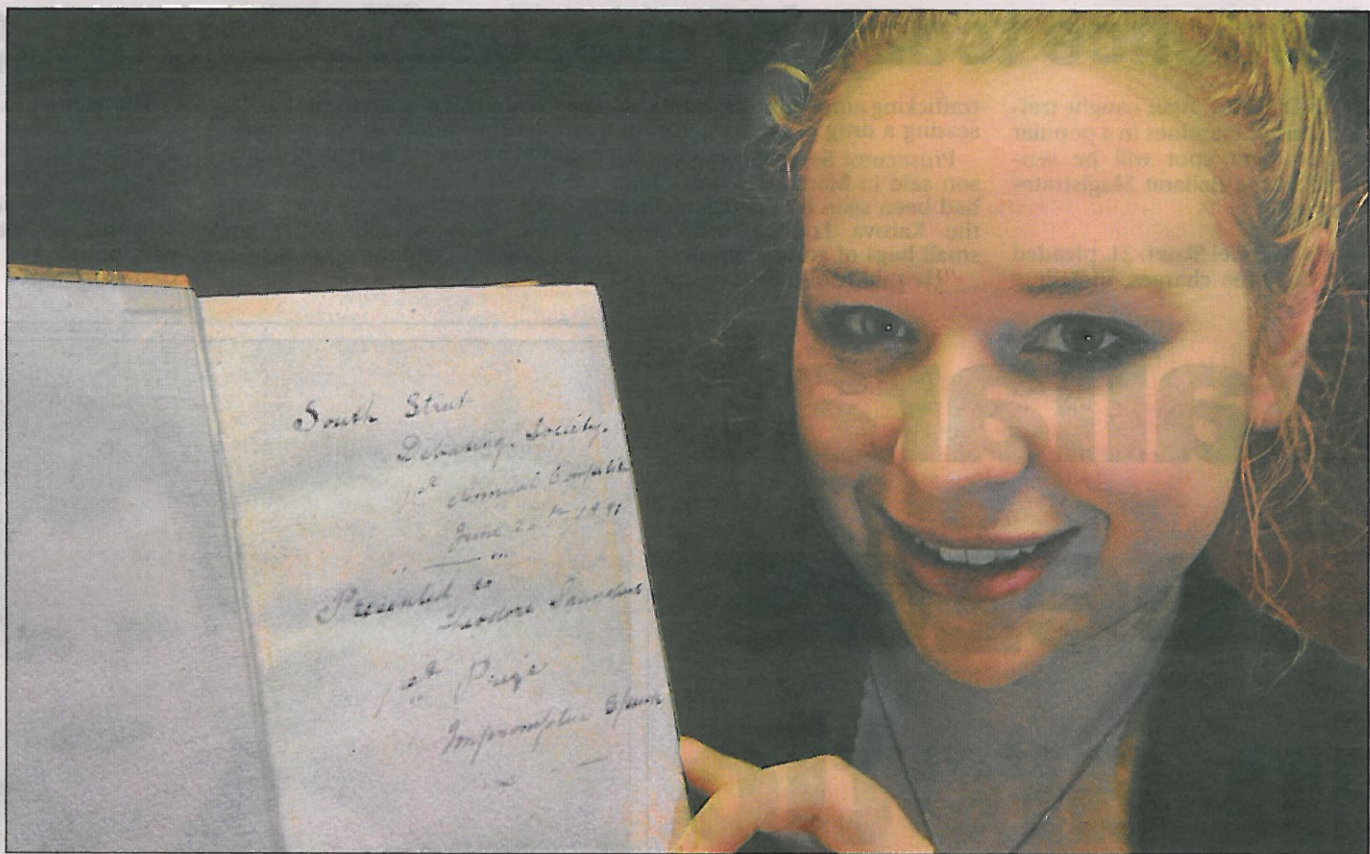
Maintaining tradition, the society de-

ecided to present the book to this year's winner in impromptu speech.

Nine competitors from across the state were involved in the competition with Damascus student Alex McLaren taking out the top prize.

With three topics to choose from, Miss McLaren argued on the topic that free thought is too expensive.

"It's hard to believe I'm actually holding a book that was awarded to a man 119 years ago for the same competition," she said.



WINNER: South Street impromptu speech winner Alex McLaren with the antique book she won, 119 years after it was awarded to a competitor in exactly the same competition. Picture: **Jeremy Bannister**

APOLOGY

CATALOGUE COMMENCING 25/8/10

Page 16 incorrectly pictures checkerplate tool box at \$67. This product is plain galvanized.

Page 57 incorrectly features sheet fencing panel at \$15.50. This price is for a single panel only. Full price including posts and rails is \$99.

Page 60 features 3 step steel ladder at \$35.90. This product is currently unavailable.

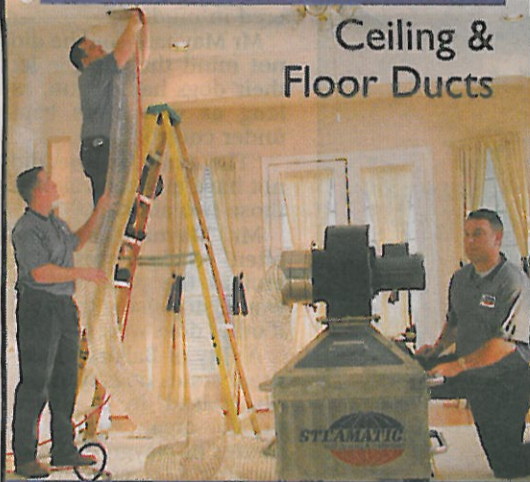
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Last chance for 'woeful' driver

Tipsters' AFL dream still alive

THE BALLARAT Magistrates Court was told the driving history of a 24-year-old man who faced his sixth drive while disqualified charge was woeful.

Defence lawyer Mike Wardell acknowledged his client presented a woeful driving history — Shane Noel Whittle, of Wendouree, already had six drive while disqualified charges and five drink drive offences to his name.

Whittle pleaded guilty to three charges at Ballarat Magistrates Court including drive while disqualified, refusing a further breath test and making an illegal U-turn.

Prosecutor Sergeant Bob Anderson said in December last year police at a preliminary breath test station had observed Whittle making an illegal U-turn.

He said a preliminary test showed alcohol in Whittle's system but he refused requests to accompany police to the police station for further checks.

Investigations revealed Whittle's licence had been

“
In this situation I could be criticised for not sending you to jail today as your priors are appalling.”
”

cancelled in 2007 for four years, he said.

Mr Wardell said although a prison term was a consideration in the circumstances he believed his young client had strong prospects for rehabilitation.

He told the court Whittle had no accompanying criminal history despite his long list of driving offences.

Mr Wardell argued his client had been involved in two serious accidents in recent years.

In May 2006 he fractured both ankles in a motorbike accident and in December of the same year had been the back seat passenger in a car involved in a collision in

which he received serious back injuries.

While his ongoing injuries would make him vulnerable in jail, they had not prevented his client from continuing to work, Mr Wardell said.

Mr Wardell argued Whittle had a difficult upbringing and had little support in the community.

Magistrate Kay Robertson told Whittle that, despite the seriousness of the charges, she would give him one more chance.

"In this situation I could be criticised for not sending you to jail today as your priors are appalling," Ms Robertson said.

She sentenced Whittle to two months' imprisonment, suspended for 12 months, for driving while disqualified, cancelled his licence for four years and placed him on a community based order for 12 months.

"Let's be crystal clear, if you re-offend it is highly probable you will be going to prison," she said.

SITTING at a set of traffic lights, Peter Brugman crosses his fingers as he takes off in his old car, knowing it's more fortune than knowledge that's coming between him and a brand new Toyota.

Mr Brugman, of Ballarat, is still at the top of the AFL's Dream Team competition, and after a long season he is still in the running to take first place.

"I heard one of my players got reported this morning, hope that's not a sign," he said.

His team, the TAGers, is currently 118 points in front of second placed team.

"(It) doesn't seem like a lot — it's not really a big break," Mr Brugman laughed.

"I don't think I've got (the win). I mean, anything can happen on the day and I don't want to get too carried away until its all over."

"I did just go in like everyone else. I got a figure to spend, I basically put it in . . . It's a few strategies, a bit of fortune."

"It's been a bit of fun with mates, more interactive than you're usual footy tipping, and if all things go as they've been going I'll be shellshocked if I get the car."

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