

Lilly represents Wee Waa at regional final

Wee Waa High School student Lilly Cruckshank has already achieved much in her young life and she took on some of the best young minds in the region on Saturday.

Lilly was a regional finalist in the annual Lions Youth of the Year competition.

The 17-year-old qualified by winning the Wee Waa competition and was up against five other contestants at Narrabri Golf Club on Saturday as they bid to win through to the district final.

They had to impress five local judges - chairman Jim Purcell, Ross McClure, Rob Dugdale, Amelia Hall and Karen Hodge.

The other contestants were Maddie Atkinson, who won the Narrabri competition, Janika Readett (Boggabri), Clare Muggleton (Moree), Emma Kennedy (Gunnedah) and Bronte Elliott (South Tamworth).

Lilly's CV made for impressive reading.

A gifted horse rider, she has competed at state level for pony club and

was the first person to win grand champion three times.

Lilly has been involved with the pony club since she was five and helps with other local events such as the annual Wee Waa Mardi Gras and Wee Waa Show.

She is a school and pony club captain and been a SRC representative for three years.

Apart from equestrian competitions, she also plays for the school soccer team.

The Year 11 student has plenty of academic achievements as well, also winning Education Trust awards.

Lilly had the right pedigree for the Lions competition, her sister having won it previously.

The competition took place during most of the day and into the evening.

During the day each contestant had a 30-minute session with the judges where they had to answer a series of questions relating to leadership, sporting and cultural activities, academic and general knowledge, as well as being assessed on personality.

During the evening session, the contestants had to answer impromptu questions in front of about 50 guests.

They had two minutes to respond to the questions and then had to make a five-minute prepared speech.

The winner, in a close contest, was Emma Kennedy, who also took out the public speaking award.

She will now go on to the district final at Tamworth in April.

Among her many accomplishments, Emma, 16, has a pilot's licence, having achieved a solo flight at the age of 15.

Narrabri Lions president Rob Gilbert said Emma was a worthy winner and would represent the region well at the district final.

RIGHT: Wee Waa High School student Lilly Cruckshank at the Lions Youth of the Year regional final in Narrabri on Saturday. Photo: Karen Hodge Photography.

