

# What is Rock Eisteddfod?

The Rock Eisteddfod Challenge is a unique and exciting opportunity for schools to take part in a dance, drama and design spectacular where the students are the STARS. While the result is a professional event staged in some of Australia's top venues, the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge is about motivating young Australians to make positive and healthy lifestyle choices. The events are produced by the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge Foundation, a not for profit organisation.

As part of the Global Rock Challenge, nearly 400 Australian schools and 30,000 students compete in Rock Eisteddfod Challenge and J Rock shows in 17 regions across Australia. Students don't have to be trained dancers or performers to participate. Anyone can get involved and Rock Eisteddfod is open to students of all levels.

Teams can be as small as 10 or as large as 120 students, which plan an eight-minute performance based on a theme of their choice and set it to contemporary commercially available music. Students, teachers and entire communities work together over months and months planning and rehearsing, before competing against other schools at events in a 100% drug and alcohol free environment. After months and months of hard work and rehearsals the highlight of any year is the chance to perform at heats and finals in front of thousands of screaming fans.

The Rock Eisteddfod Challenge strives to inspire, educate and entertain secondary students and gives them a brand new way to express themselves. The focus of this friendly and vibrant competition is on today's youth being they best they can in a 100% drug free environment.

The Rock Eisteddfod Challenge is an event produced by young people for young people with the support of the school and community.

There are 3 main Rock Eisteddfod Challenge events that we work for during the year. The first is the State Heats which are held over 5 nights in late July / early August. From the Heats the top 12 schools then move onto the State Finals held in early September. The culmination of the year is when the top schools from each state compete in the National TV Finals which are usually broadcast in late November / early December. The events are held in the divisions of Open and Premier, Premier schools are ones which have won Open division and performed a consistently high standard in Premier Division.

## NHS Rock Eisteddfod History

Northmead High School has a strong history in Rock Eisteddfod and is highly regarded as one of the leading Rock Eisteddfod schools not only in New South Wales but across Australia. A reputation like ours has come from lots of hard work and dedication and requires even more hard work and dedication to maintain.

*Our honour roll for past productions is below;*

Year	Production	Division	Placing / Awards
1992	The Wall	Open Division	
1993	Carnival of Terror	Open Division	
1994	Smurfticy	Open Division	
1996	Animal	Open Division Finalist	4 <sup>th</sup> Place
1997	The Winner Is	Open Division	
1998	Why Would Anna	Open Division Finalist	
1999	Hawaii's Last Hope	Open Division Finalist	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Best Backstage Crew Friendliest School
2000	Atlantopia	Premier Division Finalist	Best School Community
2001	So the Tale Goes....	Premier Division Finalist	5 <sup>th</sup> Place Best School Community 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place National TV Special
2002	When Ginger Snaps	Premier Division Finalist	Best School Community Best Backstage Crew Friendliest School
2003	Beethoven	Premier Division Finalist	4 <sup>th</sup> Place Best Choreography Best Drama Best Soundtrack Friendliest School
2004	Sword of Qin	Premier Division Finalist	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Best Concept Friendliest School 1 <sup>st</sup> Place National TV Special
2005	Sin: Vice or Virtue	Premier Division Finalist	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Best Costumes Best Visual Enhancement 1 <sup>st</sup> Place National TV Special
2006	Porphyria's Lover	Premier Division Finalist	4 <sup>th</sup> Place Best Drama Best Backstage Crew
2007	Capone	Premier Division Finalist	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Best Drama Best Soundtrack Award for Student Achievement

## Who can participate?

Any student currently enrolled at Northmead High School can audition to participate in rock eisteddfod. Please be aware that if for any reason during the year you withdraw from school (or are withdrawn by the school) then you can no longer participate in our production.



## Our Rocka Year

Our Rocka year starts in February when we conduct our auditions over a 3 week period. Once auditions are complete we commence rehearsals in March. Our first major event is State Heats which are held over 5 nights in late July / early August. The week before heats we do a full dressed rehearsal performance after rehearsal – this is an opportunity for all cast and crew to invite their family and friends along to view the school, it is also our only real opportunity to perform a full dressed rehearsal prior to heats. Once heats are complete based on the results our final live event for the year is the State Finals held in early September. Finals are held at the Entertainment Centre over 2 nights with the Premier Division on the second night. The final event of the year is the National TV Special which is filmed in October and airs late November / early December. Our Rocka year is full on and requires a 100% commitment from each and every person involved from February to September each year.

## How does Rocka benefit students?

Rock Eisteddfod Challenge® is a not-for-profit initiative of Global Rock Challenge

**HEALTH. LIFE SKILLS. CREATIVE THINKING.**  
100% drug, alcohol and smokefree events

- It promotes and requires a 100% commitment to being drug and alcohol free.
- Rehearsals provide a great workout each week and promotes a healthy lifestyle.
- Offers the opportunity to improve dance and drama skills.
- The chance to perform before huge audiences in some of the top venues in the state.
- The opportunity to meet other students from other schools with the same passion while at heats and finals.
- To chance to develop teamwork skills and show commitment.
- Increase the feeling of community within the school as cast and crew come from all grades.
- Students who have an interest in art or carpentry are encouraged to help with set construction and enhancement.
- Improve communication skills – a cast and crew need to be able to communicate effectively to perform at their best.
- Leadership skills are fostered by seniors who mentor students from lower grades.
- Participation promotes self-esteem as students master difficult and often challenging choreography and then perform it.
- Provide an opportunity for students and teachers from the school to have positive interactions outside the classroom and then perform it.
- Allows the wider community to be involved with the school through support and sponsorship.
- To have fun with friends that you may never have met if not for being at rocka and developing friendships that will last a lifetime.

