



Porirua College trophy winners from the national speech finals. Front row, from left, Oikoumene Foisaga (third at nationals, year 12), Tiuvao Alauni (first, year 9) and Tuvale Afa (third, year 13). Back row, from left, Murray Faivalu (first, year 10), Porirua College principal Susanne Jungersen and Domanic Brown (first, year 13). Year 13 student Siloma Walton also took part, but didn't place.

Trophies galore at speech contest

KRIS DANDO

Porirua College has among the best Samoan speakers in the country – it's a fact.

The school brought home five trophies from the National Samoan Speech Finals, held in Auckland on July 30, including three for first place. Six students represented the college and were among 14 from this region at the nationals.

Year 10 student Murray Faivalu said it was an honour to represent his school at the national level and he was shocked to be able to repeat his feat from last year and take first place.

The subject for all the speeches, 'Serve with diligence today for a better



tomorrow" made him think about family, school, leadership and traditional values, he said.

"I spoke about the different things you have in your life, where you have to serve before you become a leader," Murray said.

Tuvale Afa said getting up to speak in front of hundreds of people was nerve-racking, but she was happy to do well for herself and her school. She and her fellow Porirua College contestants said speaking well in public lead to

confidence in other parts of their school and home life.

Speakers were judged on content and delivery, along with the ability to give examples and show research.

Porirua College principal Susanne Jungersen said the standard of speeches was high, at regional and national finals, and she was proud of her students' achievements.

"It was certainly a great day for the college," she said. "What they talked about [in the speeches] was service and leadership that takes place in all parts of life – church, family, school and the community. That's really important."

Bishop Viard College student Mimisa Omeri came second in the year 10 section.