Future thinkers

The next generation will be able to rest assured that they are in good hands if the Future Problem Solving team from Knox Grammar School has anything to do with it. The Year 11 team from Knox has just returned from the University of Wisconsin, USA, as senior international champions in the Global Issue Future Problem Solving competition. The team, consisting of Dylan Hopcroft, Damian Morris, Dylan Sherman, Edward Tong, Joe Yanagisawa and Max Wright, presented solutions for emergency planning issues associated with cyber attack on city infrastructure in the year 2031.

Future Problem Solving is an international competitive program for gifted and talented students, which opens the door of imaginative and critical thinking whilst focusing on significant issues for the future. There were several components to the competition. Knox was the champion team in the dramatic action plan presentation of their best solution from the team booklet. They received many accolades as they also performed live at the awards ceremony before an audience of more than 2000 people. This performance was live broadcasted around the world.

Morris, Sherman, Wright and Yanagisawa were also placed second out of 53 international finalists in the team booklet competition. They formed a team of four with students from California, Ohio and Kentucky and they were placed first in the alternate team section. This is a particularly challenging section to compete in as the students also have to ascertain each other's skills in addition to meeting the problem solving challenges.

Hopcroft was challenged in competition as an individual against 25 finalists, finishing in the top 10.

"The brilliance of Future Problem Solving is its ability to bring people together of similar calibre and develop a close team relationship that can be applied readily in school and later life, and as such saw us through to many victories while participating at the conference in Wisconsin," he said.

It was also Wright's first time flying to the other side of the world and of experiencing another western culture.

"The awards ceremony, in fact all the ceremonies, were pretty enthralling experiences, and tiring," he said.

"The Americans enjoy any chance they can get to applaud and give their congratulations!"

The team consensus is one where the victories obtained together as a team will seal the memories for a lifetime. To see the team in action visit latest news on the website www.kgnw.nsw.edu.au.