

YOUNG SANDSTONE LEADERS' CONFERENCE

EMISSARIES TO HUMANITY

Liberated to authentically lead... self, school, and the world.

Year 11 High school students are equipped to embrace the journey of their school leadership and beyond.

- Content:** See overleaf for details
- Date:** Saturday 22nd October 2016
- Time:** Start = 9:15am - Concludes = 4:30pm
- Venue:** Gregor Heiner Lecture Theatre Bond University, Gold Coast
- Investment:** \$289+GST per person, includes:
- 1 - irresistible morning tea, lunch, afternoon snack, tea/coffee
 - 2 - transportation Brisbane to Bond & back
 - 3 - exclusive & unique curriculum only available at this conference
 - 4 - connection with like minded personalities
 - 5 - a 'Certificate of Attendance'
 - 6 - Corrigan Walk, tour through Australia's largest private indigenous art collection
- Bonus:** Register 4 or more students - receive a fifth additional complimentary registration for a student or staff.
- Transportation:** Chartered bus departs 8:00am sharp. Returns 6:00pm. Pick up/drop off at Roma St Parklands
- Registration:** Full conference package available upon receipt of registration
- Contact:** Krys - Peer Power Australia
Phone: 07 3311 2915
Email: krys@peerpower.com.au www.peerpower.com.au



THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL

Student Comments

What did you learn about leadership today?

"That learning leadership skills doesn't only help you lead better, but gives you more freedom to do so. That learning the past is essential in making good decisions and to lead well in the future. The importance of relationships and connecting with people in leadership."

What is one thing you will do differently?

"I will be more malleable, I need to not have a fixed mindset when going into situation and embrace other ideas. Also I will embrace the schools heritage and see how we as a school in this modern age can interpret these primary values."

Would you recommend this conference?

"Yes, a very successful, enriching, valuable and meaningful day. It's not often one can find themselves in an opportunity that makes us aware of the things we can do and the people we can become. It was AMAZING, and empowering. Thank you, thank you, thank you! A lot of direction for the year ahead."



Key Learning Objectives & Outcomes

Virtue, Wisdom, Change, Malleable, and Narrative.

At the end of the one-day Young Sandstone Leadership Conference, participating students were asked what they had learned about leadership, about themselves, and what they would do differently as a result of the conference. The following are the major themes that emerged from their responses, and indicate the areas in which the conference had most impact.

Naturally Purifies (Virtue) - Students reported that the conference had helped them to feel more confident about their role as a leader. It made them aware of their own strengths and also made the task appear more manageable:

- I learned of the power I have to act on my virtues, to better myself and my vision. Extending on this how I can translate this into my actions and act for change, taking appropriate risks and acknowledging where I'm come from and what I can bring to those who I will try to lead .
- I have learnt that I do have some leadership qualities, however they can definitely be developed. I have seen some situations occurring now (or in the future) where I can learn to apply these skills and learn how to properly use them.
- I learnt that I need to myself follow through with my ideas, sometimes I make things harder than they seem so I have to take a step back and remember the bigger picture and final goal.

Seeks Wisdom - Students were asked whether they would recommend this training day to others, and if so why. All students agreed that they would recommend the day, and they referred to four main themes regarding the benefits of the program:

1 - Advice and tips on leadership

- Yes, it introduces very different and interesting ideas and analogies that apply to leadership.
- Yes, having a full day allows better focus on the topic and to immerse oneself. The day is planned out in a logical structure over the course of the day with engaging discussions and activities.
- Yes, I would recommend this day because it put everything we had been told and gave it a literal and clear way to be applied. Focused on the how and why.

2 - New perspectives and insights on leadership

- I would recommend this course to those who are new to leadership – just like us – to allow them to gain wisdom, but more importantly so they don't freak out about the next year of their lives – and possibly one of the greatest!
- Challenges previous perceptions on leadership
- Yes, I definitely would. It has given me such a different perspective as to what leadership is about. I have also learned more about who I am as a person.

3 - Building networks and relationships

- Yes, it gave me good experience by interacting with other leaders who were able to share their ideas and also assist me in making 2015 better.
- Definitely, as it provides an opportunity to connect with other students in the same situations and learn from their ideas and experiences. Also, you learn what it is to be a leader.

4 - Lessons for life

- Yes, a very successful, enriching, valuable and meaningful day. It's not often one can find themselves fortunate to a small environment that makes us aware of the things we can do and the people we can become. It was an AMAZING, empowering, thank you, thank you, thank you! A lot of direction for the year ahead.
- Yes, allows you to develop as a leader and learn more about yourself. Gives you lessons for life (not just school) it sets them up for a positive future.

Performs under Pressure (Change) - One of the strongest themes to emerge was that students developed a vision for what leadership could be and were motivated to grow and develop their skills and personal qualities in order to strive towards this ideal:

- I learnt that I can work to improve my leadership by really thinking and self-assessing whether I am being a "Young Sandstone Leader" and that I have that potential.
- I learned that I still have work to do. I can be a stronger, wiser leader that I am now.
- I learnt that leadership will be a way for me to broaden myself and change through my experiences...
- I will perceive leadership as more of a learning experience and a way to change and grow as well as treat it as a responsibility.
- I want to truly change and introduce new initiatives next year.

One element of this growth mindset was a re-focusing away from an emphasis on competencies (or lack of competency) to potential for growth (or learning):

- I shouldn't be so hard on myself and assess myself on what I have learnt and how I have developed over the year.
- To have self-imposed deadlines as well as have a "growth" mindset.
- That there are many aspects to it that I can be aware of and can effectively apply to be the leader I know I am capable of being. I learned of the power and potential that is here and how I need to act on realising this and truly leading – people can follow or not, but I will put all on the table.

Focuses on Growth (Malleable) - Another element of the 'growth' mindset was the willingness to adapt or learn from failure. As there were a number of comments referring specifically to this element, it has been identified as another major theme:

- It's also about being malleable, embracing other ideas and not necessarily having a fixed mindset... I will be more malleable, I need to not have a fixed mindset when going into situation and embrace other ideas.
- To listen and be malleable, accept change... I will open up more to new ideas, keep an open-mind.

Tells a Story (Narrative) - The idea of narrative was also mentioned, especially in relation to an awareness of the importance of school heritage, values and culture:

- Also I will embrace the schools heritage and see how we as a school in this modern age can interpret these primary values.
- That learning the past is essential in making good decisions and to lead well in the future.
- You can't forget the customs and traditions that have shaped your institution/you.
- I learned that in order to become a good leader you have to understand and respect, your own values, yourself, your culture, and your history before you can lead others.

Among the many leadership qualities that students became aware of, the need to connect and communicate with others was a high priority:

- I learnt that I am open to meeting new people and I can identify with other students and other schools, there are other people that understand initiatives that can be done.
- I learnt that communication and respect are incredibly important aspects of leadership and that little gestures of community involvement make all the difference.
- Leadership is not only about a group of people leading others. It's about the leaders working together with others and being willing to take risks, deal with negativity and trust others to get results.
- I learnt that leadership is built by many different aspects (ie change, narrative) and that leadership cannot be done without negotiation/communication.
- Allows you to develop as a leader and learn more about yourself. Gives you lessons for life (not just school).