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Promoting young people making a difference

ipisi

inside:
writing for the world

creating change

taking IT global

ipisi project

journey of
kijana

**PILOT EDITION
May 2003**



surfers assisting
youth studies



youth & conflict



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Youth & Conflict Focus

Editor's Welcome

Welcome to the magazine. Or rather, welcome to a fresh outlook on promoting and connecting young people across Australia. We're pioneering a new concept that aims to get active young people together and working more effectively, and then following it through by helping to promote some of the many fantastic initiatives involving young people.

Getting the magazine from concept to reality has been a challenging experience, frustrating at times, joyous at others. The ongoing success of the project is dependent upon the feedback we gather, so please, let us know what you think by responding to the attached questions.

A huge shout of gratitude needs to go out to the many people who've helped us over the past few months, notably Nick Moraitis, Mike Furdyk and the entire TakingITGlobal community, Jon Carnegie, Mike Blanchard, Kate Gilbert, and the fantastic crew of writers, designers and advisors who've come on board as contributors in this pilot edition.

Finally, thanks to you, the reader, for joining us on this journey, may it be the first step of many.

Simon Moss
simon@ipisimag.grokspot.com

Photo credits: Lewis Best p.10; Marcus Bingemann p.1, 12; Simon Moss p.1, 14; SAYS p.1, 8, 9; UNYA p.11

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The views expressed are those of individual writers, not ipisi. All efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented, please contact ipisi@212.com to cite errors.

Creating Change

Great! You're motivated, inspired and want to get involved. But how do you go about it, and where do you start?

TakingITGlobal suggest that you need to "Think Globally, Act Locally! Global change begins with positive action within communities." It's true. To create change anywhere, you need to start locally, and at a small level. Even then, many people our age don't know how to take action, it all seems too hard, so we stop trying, content to complain about the world and how we don't have a say. But things can be different, if we choose to make them so.

So *ipisi* have brought together some information and advice on where to start, and how to go about getting your project off the ground, working through a three-step process of *Identify*, *Learn* and *Involve*.

Identify

Before you even start a project or your own initiative, you have to *identify* your talents, skills, and what it is you want to change. To do this, all you need to do is get a piece of paper and write down answers to these questions;

- What do you care passionately about?
- What do you want to change in your community?
- What skills do you have to help create this change?

As an example; you're a good skateboarder who is concerned about theft and property damage at your local skate park. Combining your skills and interests, you may decide that lockers should be installed at local skate parks.

Learn

Once you have your idea, it's simple to go out there and get into motion. But before you do, you need to learn a bit more about your future project. Try and find out as much as possible, it can't hurt to know a lot about a certain subject. The more you know the more chance you have got to be successful in the project you have started. Some questions you might like to find answers for include;

- Has anyone else done a project like the one you are planning?
- What were their experiences?
- What are the causes of the issue you are trying to solve?
- What can your project do to address these causes?
- What will your project do to address the effects of the issue?

In terms of the skate park example you may find that;

- skate parks all over the country have this problem
- they installed cameras in Adelaide and it didn't work
- theft was an effect of poor security at venues, making them soft targets for drug-related crime.
- lockers would increase security and decrease the ease of theft

These questions may seem daunting and extensive, but there are lots of resources out there to help you; many of which we've outlined in this edition, with more on the *ipisi* website. If ever you're feeling lost, email us (ipisi@212.com), and we'll see how we can help.

Involve

Here's where you get to really put your project into motion. To get it up and running, you need to inform people about your project, get them involved, and, in most cases, get funding.

Spreading the word can sometimes feel like a bit of a sales pitch, because, in truth it is. You're trying to sell people your idea, so start locally, with people who will directly see benefit from it, moving onto people with a common interest. If it's a community project, try and get your local councils, schools, youth groups and local community involved. If it is a larger, nation-wide project you want to start, try and get support from national organisations or government agencies.

People/groups you may approach for the skate park;

- local council youth services department
- other skate parks
- other skaters
- skate-related media (magazines, websites, etc.)



For more project resources, see page 6, for a comprehensive set of links and project assistance, go to <http://ipisimag.grokspot.com>

TakingITglobal

Many of us at *ipisi* were awestruck upon first encountering TakingITGlobal, a youth run international organisation with over 15 000 members from 190 countries. As the world's largest online network of young leaders, TIG, as it is affectionately known, is a vibrant community where individuals and organisations from all corners of the globe can come together to share knowledge, ideas and experiences.

TakingITGlobal thinks of itself as positioned at the intersection of three major global trends;

1. Young people form a huge proportion of the population – and are a vast untapped resource for development.
2. Major challenges facing our planet, from AIDS to terrorism are global – and such global challenges demand global solutions.
3. Technology is changing everything about how we live, learn, work and play – facilitating connectedness and empowerment.

Creating a community

Amidst the skyrocketing share prices and scrambling takeovers of the dot-com boom, young Canadians Mike Furdyk and Jennifer Corriero first made their mark. Having each created their own thriving net-based businesses by the ages of 18, Mike and Jen moved on to create TakingITglobal, a net-based community that they envisaged would connect young people not only in Canada, but all around the world.

Three versions of the website appeared within the first 12 months, the site flourishing and evolving at a frantic pace as an ever increasing group of committed young people with skills and experience in programming, communication and technology gathered together to create the framework of the site.

The huge array of still evolving options and avenues for expression has made TIG a self-perpetuating community; a living organism that is driven by the input of members, rather than controlled directly from above. In this way, members can truly say they belong to a group where their input counts and where their ideas can be freely explored. This in turn has allowed for a phenomenal growth rate, some 10 000 members having joined in the last year alone.

LATEST UPDATES

- Exams, good friends, and ...
mikael (22:57:35)
- Website Launch
BoNo_FaN (21:48:36)
- TV Commercials
Justin (20:50:32)
- Global Youth Service Day-...
arpatil1 (15:02:03)
- Consumption society
Anouk (13:04:00)

[POST UPDATE](#)
[VIEW MORE](#)

All members of TIG have their own updates page; a place where you can post articles, info and images on whatever you want, creating a log of thoughts for people to read.

It's fully customisable, from colour scheme, to comments, to displaying details of your fave sites and friends' list.

For a real example check out <http://updates.takingitglobal.org/read/mossy>

LATEST ARTICLES

- "Precision Strikes" and "Fr...
chuckles1053 (04-16-2003)
- All the same....
Jarra (04-15-2003)
- Untitled...
Syxxxflare@hotmail.com
(04-15-2003)

[VIEW MORE](#)
[SUBMIT](#)

This archive abounds with stories, poetry and essays by community members.

For ease, it's split into topic areas; with dozens of great articles from around the world on topics like peace and conflict, cultural diversity and creative expression.

Why not submit your best piece of writing?

TAKINGITGLOBAL.ORG

INSPIRE. INFORM. INVOLVE. CONNECT TO THE WORLD! TAKE LOCAL ACTION! GET INVOLVED!

Learning the Ropes

With so many members and so many options, the Takingitglobal site may seem a little daunting at first inspection. To ease the angst without removing the joy of discovering the many features, here are a few handy hints for exploring the community:

- The homepage is comprised of several modules that contain links to a specific section of the site, examples of which are shown and explained below. These offer easy access to the most recent posts of that sort
- Click on any member's name on any page to go to their profile or updates page.
- Write your bio/profile page, it's the best way for others to learn something about you
- The easiest way to get to know others is to comment on their discussions & updates

The *ipisi* - TakingITglobal vision

Right now, the online community may be global, but those really involved and active in affecting change through projects, workshops and events are mainly in North America. We in Australia can capitalise on the huge reach of the network to connect with each other and do more than just talk, we can act. TakingITglobal and *ipisi* envisage a future for the site where young Australians play a leading role in taking this next step, moving from conversation about change, to actually affecting it. For more information about how we can do this, see the **action box**, below.

If you've got an opinion and would like to share it and see what other people think, then the TIG discussion boards are perfect.

Containing discussions on hugely diverse topics from international political affairs to your favourite colour, you can create your own topic or respond to someone else, all the while interacting with other young people from all over the world.

NEW DISCUSSIONS

is britney spears & ...
posted by luke
What's ur Color?
posted by JasonM
teen pregnancy
posted by rawan
TIGAid for the Poor
posted by mikael
Matrix 2: Reloaded
posted by laisha1

VIEW MORE

The TIG Global Gallery is an amazing online collection of members' artwork.

Organised along lines of theme and artist, within this section you can find photos, drawings, digital images and more, all annotated by the artist, awaiting your comment.

Join TIG and share your work with the world.

FEATURED EXHIBIT

Peace & Conflict

Visit the Gallery!

Explore and contribute to this

month's contest theme of Peace & Conflict!



SUBMIT ART

VIEW MORE

TIG presents you with an opportunity to get inspired, informed and involved.

To join, click the "signup" button on the toolbar at <http://www.takingitglobal.org>

Action-focused areas of TIG;

Projects database

<http://projects.takingitglobal.org>

Local (Australia Site)

<http://australia.takingitglobal.org>

Events database

<http://www.takingitglobal.org/ops/event-home.html>

Organisations database


<http://www.takingitglobal.org/ops/event-home.html>

More info on getting active at the *ipisi* website;

<http://ipisimag.grokspot.com/tig>

Jessica Kiely

Toolbox Time



We've invited the young Australians behind Youth2Youth, Karen and Jess, to share with us their passion for ensuring that young Australians get educated – get involved – and get enterprising.


Do any of these phrases ring a bell ? Life-long learning - no jobs for life - constant change – high youth unemployment - economic instability – and portfolio work.

These phrases about the reality of today may paint a bleak picture in some respects, as it seems we live in uncertain times. We could say that young people no longer have a career path carved out for them when they leave school, our economy is less stable, meaningful work is hard to find and job security is obsolete.

Youth 2 Youth exists to challenge that bleak picture by equipping young Australians with enterprise skills for life. Through these skills you take charge of your life and do not become a victim of statistics. We acknowledge that it is not just about skill building, so we assist young people to get educated, get involved and get enterprising - and we do this by having a strong connection to and involvement in the youth enterprise industry.

So what is this about a toolbox ? Here at Youth 2 Youth we believe that each of us carries around a toolbox in life - obviously not literally but metaphorically. In our toolbox are skills we have acquired up to that day. When we come to a new situation, we get to use our current tools to deal with it, or we have the opportunity to learn some new tools. Each new tool that we place into our toolbox makes it more powerful, and in turn makes us more able to deal with various situations. It sounds simple, and it is. What we need to remember from it is that we are forever learning and building our toolbox - so that we come to know that we can do anything that we put our minds to, and that every experience is a chance to learn new skills or tools.

Youth 2 Youth has created a wide variety of enterprise skill modules specifically written for young people. There is everything from budgeting, choosing the right phone plan, marketing and PR skills, strategic planning, setting up youth councils, starting a business, networking, project management, event management, creating opportunities, youth opportunities to get involved with and more. These modules are used by schools, youth groups, business groups, large organisations, and corporate to put together anything from a 40 minute session through to a 3 day event. Our programs are flexible, tailored and unique, fun and engaging and most importantly created, written and presented by young people.



To contact Youth 2 Youth for more information, or with any questions you may have on getting educated, getting involved and getting enterprising email info@youth2youth.com.au

For more info on getting your project off the ground, see page 3



www.grokspot.com

Supporting those who advocate :

- ★ **Social Justice**
- ★ **Ecological Sustainability**
- ★ **Economic Equity**
- ★ **Cultural Diversity**
- ★ and the exchange of **Knowledge**

For more info contact marcus@grokspot.com

Plasmarag Junior Journal

Shannon Molloy

Plasma Rag is a "for the youth, by the youth" media institute that focuses on the need for youth involvement in the industry. By offering experience and a place of free expression for a diverse group of people, Plasma Rag strives to become one of the most respected and widely read youth magazines.

Plasma isn't a typical zine that focuses on telling readers what is wrong with their life, and how this new product for \$29.99 can make it all better! By incorporating humour, skilled writers and an expertly designed, user friendly website, we have become one of the most widely talked e-zines in Australia.

Apart from providing an entertaining source and a place for young writers to gain experience and confidence in their work, Plasma Rag also has a strong desire to promote and expose creative artistic talent from young people.

Under the Creative Awareness Initiative, Plasma Rag features the work of young artists from a variety of different backgrounds and genres. By asking for submissions via e-mail, Plasma Rag is able to feature pieces from artists from around the world!

Being a part of the Plasma team isn't a strenuous application process either, filled with mounting forms, tests and so on. The simple application consists of an e-mail introducing the prospective writer, an example of writing ability and that's it! From there Plasma Administrative Staff make contact with the applicant.

Plasma Rag has an emphasis on youth excellence in media, and with this strong focus and dedication from a team of writers who's location, age, and background differ, Plasma Rag is definitely one of a kind.

Mervin Jebaraj

In November 1998, at the Junior Summit '98, a group of teens gathered at the MIT Media Lab, Boston, USA and decided to form a platform that would give young people around the world a voice to express their views. This platform is the Junior Journal. The purpose of this Journal is to give young people from every part of the globe a voice and hence effectively break the barriers of distance and culture - the journal now boasting some 200 reporters from nearly 100 countries. Initially only members of the Junior Summit, submitted articles to the Journal and slowly friends of these members began submitting articles to the Journal.

Currently, more than 90% of articles published are from children who haven't participated in the Junior Summit 98. Each article submitted reflects the mindset of the author and the JJ has seen articles that deal with issues affecting a micro-community to those affecting entire people-groups. This Journal has served to prove that, children, in spite of their religious, cultural and geographical differences can work together effectively. It may be noted, that in some countries in South America, the Journal serves as comprehension material for English classes.

On the 4th December 2000, the Junior Journal received The Global Junior Challenge Award in recognition of its outstanding work done in involving young people around the world. You can visit the Journal at <http://journal.jrsummit.net>

The Junior Journal would like to take this opportunity to invite you to contribute to the Journal if you are in the age group 10-19. Please write to journal-info@jrsummit.net if you are interested.



Get your
writing out
there, read
what others
are creating

takingITglobal

<http://www.takingitglobal.org/express/showcontent.html?>

vibewire

<http://www.vibewire.net>

the source

<http://www.thesource.gov.au>

voiceworks (expressmedia)

<http://www.expressmedia.org.au/voiceworks/>

ipisi

<http://ipisimag.grokspot.com>

If you know of any further
zines, email us details so we
can link to it; ipisi@212.com



<http://www.plasmarag.cjb.net>
plasmarag@hotmail.com



<http://journal.jrsummit.net>
journal-info@jrsummit.net

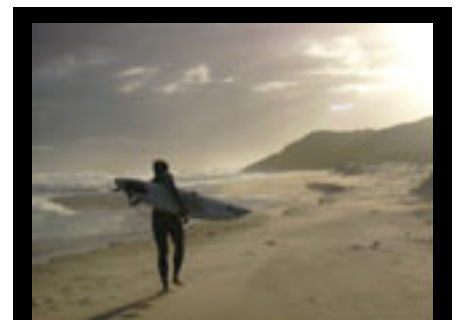


You might think that surfing has nothing to do with the last two years of high school. But the crew from Surfers Assisting Youth Studies; Howie, Danny and Ben, beg to differ. They're spending two years surfing around the world, talking to students about the similarities between surfing and school. We've compiled some information on their amazing adventure, and you can hear more of their stories from the SAYS website; www.saysadventure.com

School and Surfing




When we caught up with the crew as they were travelling through the Kimberley, Ben commented that "the more you look into it, the more you realise that the our journey and the journey of students are the same. They have dreams and goals, just like we did. And they have hardships, problems and issues achieving those goals, so did we." The SAYS team achieved their goal, and are spending time on their travels hearing about young people's goals, and how they're achieving them.

"We're saying that you need to have a go, famous people have difficulties in achieving their goals, we did, so will you. But that doesn't mean you shouldn't try." The tools that made SAYS a reality are the same skills that young people can use in everyday life - developing a **Dream, Setting Goals, Planning, Staying Positive and Being Motivated.**



A lot of people would say "I can't do that I'm not you" It was really frustrating because after that journey I believed I could do anything in the world and I thought anybody else could too To think otherwise is self defeating Jesse Martin to SAYS crew

The Crew

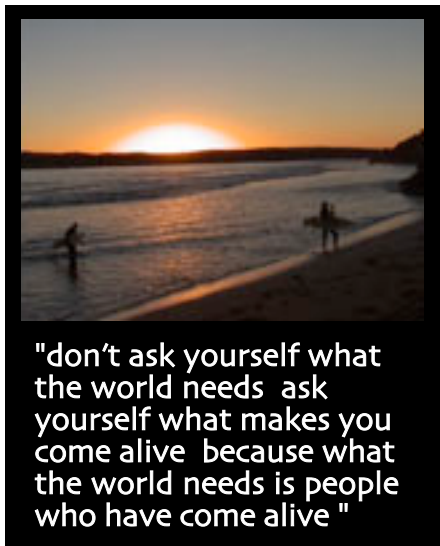
Name & age	Shaun Howard (Howie), 25	Danny Prendegast, 24	Ben Robinson, 24
Jobs - SAYS - Other	Expedition Manager PE teacher	IT support Amnesty Int'l Campaigner	Project Manager Outdoor Ed/PE teacher
Thoughts on school	In senior high school I thought I was bullet proof. I knew I had options, but at the same time I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life, but this didn't bother me. I was only 18 years old, so I tried a trial and error approach.	I felt there was so much pressure being placed upon my shoulders, not by my parents necessarily, but just simply through the process of growing up. I would hear stories of young people my own age achieving amazing things, but rather than be inspired, I'd be intimidated.	I can vividly remember in year 12, spending a day in the school library researching what I wanted to become. I spent the entire time procrastinating, because I did not know where to begin!
Contact	shaun.howard@saysadventure.com	danny.prendegast@saysadventure.com	benjamin.robinson@saysadventure.com
			

catching the wave of your dreams

The Adventure

Setting off from Wollongong in January 2003, the SAYS crew embarked on a 2 year, 160 000 km journey that will take them through 48 countries in six continents, giving them the opportunity to surf the seven seas while interacting with thousands of senior high school students through seminars, school visits, and regular updates on their website (www.saysadventure.com).

The first six months are being spent in Australia, travelling the long way round from Wollongong to Sydney, via dozens of schools and surf spots along the coast of the country. In early July, the team leave for 18 months heading around the world, a seemingly gigantic task. To make it simpler, the team have split the trip into sections - New Zealand, The Americas, Europe/Africa and Indonesia. The full itinerary is available on the SAYS website - <http://www.saysadventure.com/index.pl?page=2>



"don't ask yourself what the world needs ask yourself what makes you come alive because what the world needs is people who have come alive "

Keeping in Touch

Via the SAYS website, the team post a weekly update on where they've been, what the surf's been like, and how the adventure is progressing. As part of the adventure, the SAYS team is not only visiting students in rural and regional Australia, they're looking to hear from young people with ideas and dreams that they want to make, or are making, a reality. You can contact through any of these three channels;

- Email any of the team on the addresses provided,
- Post a message in their virtual classroom, <http://www.saysadventure.com/index.pl?page=4>
- Signup to the monthly newsletter, <http://www.saysadventure.com/index.pl?page=6>

Following Your Own Dreams

The SAYS team have made their dreams come true. They dreamed of going around the world surfing, and in planning the trip, found that what they were trying to achieve needed many of the skills as achieving in life. If you have a dream, tell SAYS about it, tell *ipisi* about, no matter how bizarre it might sound. Most dreams start off being scoffed at and dismissed as fanciful, and because of it, many get dropped.

There are plenty of people out there willing to criticise your idea, ready to tear down your dreams. That's because it's easy to criticise and find fault, anyone can do it. Far fewer people have the courage and the drive to ignore the critics, rising above them to imagine, to create and to act. Three everyday guys who enjoy surfing have shown what it is possible when you follow your dreams by setting goals, planning, staying positive and being motivated.

So tell people about your dreams and ideas; *ipisi* and SAYS are there to listen, help and spread the word.

Youth & Conflict

Although the war in Iraq may be over, and the protesters may have returned home to the comforts of suburban Australia, millions of people around the world remain trapped in cycles of conflict and violence. The majority of these people are children and youths. They are the combatants and the victims, pawns in larger power struggles taking place around the world.

We've gathered together thoughts from a few of the ipisi team to get you thinking, what do you think of conflict and how we're affected by it. We're looking for your thoughts on the matter, which you can get to us via the ipisi website. Over the coming weeks, we'll also be posting more details of how you can take action to reduce the impact that violence and conflict have on young people around the world.

As a theme for taking action, conflict may seem overwhelming; one wonders how can we impact on the power politics of remote countries. The simple answer is that we can't; but we can do our bit to understand the causes of conflict so that we can work towards reducing the impact it has on people while also helping those in need of humanitarian assistance brought about by war.



Here are two groups dealing with the consequences of conflict, more appearing on the ipisi site soon;

International Committee of the Red Cross

<http://www.icrc.org>

Oxfam Community Aid Abroad

<http://www.caa.org.au>

To talk about the causes of conflict and how youth are impacted by it, see **TakingITglobal's Peace & Conflict theme page**

<http://d.takingitglobal.org/themes/pac/>

comment

What's your take?

Lewis Best



It would take a brave person indeed to label the current world situation as anything but uncertain. Even living in a city like Sydney, isolated in international terms, things seem to change, however imperceptibly.

I was walking down to the Opera House just after the war finished, and things seemed to be normal. There was the usual throng of tourists taking photos, the cafés were full, and everyone appeared a little less nervous. But as I walked past the tourists and locals alike, there seemed to be an unease between people. The uncertainties of SARS, war and terrorism adding to the already massive problems that this world has. Moving further into the crowds, I even saw one group of tourists wearing surgical masks to protect themselves from SARS; this in a city that hasn't yet had a confirmed case. It left me thinking how we have come to live in such unstable times.

When war seemed inevitable, daily protests were common. Instability in the world urged people to voice their opinions, many through protesting. Sydney saw the biggest protests since the Vietnam Era, even bigger protests taking place all over the world. And then came the student protests in Sydney. They were meant to be peace marches, but turned out to be a fight between students and police. The city seemed to be enveloped in an eerie atmosphere, no one seemed to know what to think about it. And then, amidst a hail of speculation and attention, the April 2 student protest turned out to be peaceful.

In spite of all the protests the world could offer, war still broke out, with US forces taking control of Baghdad within 23 days. Back in Sydney, people were glued to their televisions and radios. Anxieties surfaced in the inescapable environment of war coverage, people on edge as they moved quickly along the streets, leaving the cafés empty.

With the war over, certainty returned to Sydney and people began to become relaxed, as good Australians are meant to be. But now, with the North Korean crisis, SARS and the validity of the US campaign against Iraq, conflict and anxiety return, leading me to wonder, what will the future hold for young Australians and the world at large?



United Nations Youth Association of Australia

Believe in youth leadership?

Believe in peace?

Believe in change?

The United Nations Youth Association of Australia (UNYA) is a not-for-profit, community-based organisation run entirely by youth, for youth. UNYA operates on both a national and divisional level, with an UNYA division in every Australian state and territory.

Operational for over forty years, UNYA aims to increase youth awareness of the United Nations and international affairs, and in the process develop students' skills in vital areas such as public speaking, debating, negotiating, leadership and problem solving. As well fostering growing international links, UNYA directly reaches thousands of school students across Australia each year, through its events which include speakers nights, conferences, model UN Security Council competitions and education programmes.



A mock session of the UN Environment Programme



A discussion group at UNYC 2002

All UNYA members can contribute to policy groups whose task it is to formulate and update national policy. The current policies include: [Australia and the Region](#); [Economic and Social Development](#); the [Environment](#); [Human Rights](#); [Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Diversity](#); [Peace and Disarmament](#); and, [UN Reform](#). These policies are the basis of UNYA press releases, government submissions and representation more broadly.

Nationally, UNYA determines its priorities and plans at biannual meetings that include a representation of the entire membership. UNYA works with other NGO's in the community to advocate for common goals and works as part of the United Nations Association of Australia.

UNYA is responsible for selecting the Australian Youth Representative to the UN General Assembly each year. The key task of the Youth Representative is to act as a consultant on youth opinion for the Australian Government and mission, especially in regards to those issues, which most closely effect the youth of Australia.

Internationally, UNYA is fostering and developing links with UNYA's in countries throughout the world. UNYA will be participating in discussions on the development of a World Federation of UNYA's this year in Barcelona. UNYA also has close links with the UN Youth Unit and is working with other youth organisations from across the globe to improve and increase the presence and representation of youth within the UN system.

Check out the website at www.unya.asn.au for more details and to get involved!



Marcus Bingemann

From Protesting the Protest to Pro-Protest: An Account of the Sydney Demos

March 26th -

Grabbing my camera as I raced out the door to catch a train to Town Hall I reflected on why I was going to participate in the Books Not Bombs Anti-War demonstration. I'd decided to go as I felt disempowered as a young Australian and wanted to express my opinion about our nation's involvement in a war against Iraq, a sentiment I felt was shared by many other young people.

When I got there, I was immediately overwhelmed by thousands of students (primary to university) chanting anti-war slogans and parading placards. The scene was amazing and gave me tingles all over my body. But, as I moved deeper into the crowd my original impressions rapidly changed.

The atmosphere at Town Hall square was frightening. While some student "protesters" threw rocks, golf balls, bottles and chairs at the Police, others barraged them with verbal abuse.

The media couldn't escape the mob (... I mean the protesters) and were targeted for reporting on what was happening. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw four aggressive school boys attack a cameraman and his sound assistant, smashing their equipment in the process. Not long after, I was also pushed and abused by some "fellow" demonstrator's - just for taking photos!

At Hyde Park, protesters burnt flags, abused more police, and took control of the fountain, turning it into the local kiddie's pool (urine and all). Perhaps the highlight of the day for my girlfriend and I came as one girl shouted, "It's so warm!"

The demonstration was a failure. Plans for a peaceful protest had been sabotaged by deviant school kids who were only intent on causing trouble. I almost vomited out of embarrassment when a sizeable group of students ceased their cries for "NO WAR!" and started a mass sing a long to 'Old McDonald had a farm' with "comical" references to pigs in it. By the time people started to march down the streets of Sydney, the demonstration had lost all of its appeal to me so I hopped on the next train and went home feeling bitterly frustrated and disappointed.



April 2nd -

Despite being somewhat reluctant about participating in another Books Not Bombs demo (particularly an illegal protest), my curiosity got the better of me and on April 2 I was once again at Town Hall.

Just like the previous week, I was greeted by anti-war protests and placards but this time I held my breath before passing judgement. I glanced around, looking for some sign of deviant, violent or threatening behaviour. Nothing! No police abuse, no bottle throwing. Rather, amid pictures of dead Iraqi civilians, and signs saying "We are peaceful, war is not" protesters debated pulling the troops home and addressed Iraq's looming humanitarian crisis.

Books Not Bombs had organised "legal observers" and strategically placed "Peace Monitors" in areas of potential conflict, desperate to avoid the violence that had marred the protest of March 26. Naturally, there were still a few trouble-makers, but overall, everyone was well behaved and well informed. I felt proud to be participating in this event and found myself chanting contagious slogans such as "The people, UNITED, will never be DEFEATED!" and "We are peaceful, war is not!"

Perspectives on Student Protests

"How dare the politicians do this. I am very much against war but all the protests under the sun is not going to stop a war happening and our children are in school to get an education not be taught by the polities that protests are okay. Next we will have the kids campaigning against parents, teachers and society"

Sue Kenyon

"Leave our young people to focus on an education which in the long run shall make more of a positive contribution to the future of our country, but participating in these demonstrations shall cause unnecessary distractions to both young people and our educational institutions."

Glenn McKenzie

The recent conflict in Iraq was a highly politicised issue, not only in terms of its international legality, morality and consequences, but locally, at the level of Australian democracy.

In February, some politicians urged students to skip classes to voice their (negative) views on war. Federal Youth Affairs Minister, Larry Anthony countered by saying "politicians who advocated children wagging school to march in anti-war protests were terribly irresponsible."

Here are some thoughts we gathered from adults working in the Youth Sector, in response to an article in the Sydney Morning Herald on February 24 (<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/02/24/1045935324056.html>)

"Remember Oscar Wilde;
'I never let school interfere with my education'"

George Davies

"Demonstration and activism are crucial ways for all people, including young people, to express their views on what is happening in the political arena.

I think encouraging young people to be proactive about the future direction of the nation and the world, is cause enough to miss a couple of classes."

Rena Singh

"We should all be encouraging students to take a stand for their beliefs and opinions. If that means missing school, great. Our responsibility should be to encourage the thinking to occur that should surround such an action so that it is more than a day off school."

David Mould



We want to hear your thoughts about student demonstrations and protests in general. Contact us via the website <http://ipisimag.grokspot.com> or via email; ipisi@212.com

Perspectives on protest;

Books Not Bombs

<http://www.booksnotbombs.org>

Sydney Morning Herald Report (March 27)

<http://ipisimag.grokspot.com/smh2703.html>

Have you ever been to a protest?

What did you think?

Should Students be allowed to protest?

Do protests actually achieve anything?

Why do some protests denigrate into violence?

What would you think of a pro-war protest?

On Reflection

Political demonstrations are a great way to bring an issue into the public eye and encourage further debate and discussion. They also give people the opportunity to express an opinion when all other avenues have failed.

However, they need to be well planned with clear objectives and boundaries. Furthermore, those organising the protest need to have clear statements of what they want to see changed and why, and they need to be able to clearly articulate these messages to the media.

When a demonstration lacks these qualities (form, clear goals and appropriate leadership), they become nothing more than a public tantrum and lose any appeal that they may have had. The Books Not Bombs anti-war protest on March 26th demonstrated this. Organisers were not equipped to handle the size and disposition of the crowd and even failed to maintain the peace between their own protesters.

Finally, perhaps the most important lesson I learnt, was that if we want a world of peace, the only way of achieving it is by creating it in peace.

"Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved through understanding." **Albert Einstein**

Simon Moss

ANZAC Day

What are we remembering?



As I flicked through media coverage of ANZAC Day from recent years, I felt proud to think of myself as an Australian. The pages and airwaves were filled with inspiring stories of bravery and courage from those who had offered themselves up for a greater cause, some paying the ultimate price. April 25, the anniversary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli, has come to be a day of commemoration and remembrance for those who fought and died for Australia. This year, ANZAC Day stood to take on even more significance, with active troops stationed in Iraq, and the dawn of a new era following the passing away last year of the last ANZAC veteran.

And so, early on a cool autumn morning, twenty thousand Melburnians gathered at the Shrine of Remembrance for the Dawn Service, myself amongst them. Scanning faces in the dim predawn light, I was taken aback to see how many young people, our age, who were at the service. And listening to the simple yet profound words of the service, I wondered, "Why is ANZAC day important? What are we remembering?"

A simple answer came to mind - remembering those who died for their country. But that seemed too simple, these wars are long past. There had to be something more, something greater than the memory of single people, an idea that would span generations and bring people together. The ANZAC spirit.

In context, the Anzac spirit emerges from a disastrous military campaign that started in a hail of bullets from above, as the troops were landed at the base of the cliffs of Ari Burnu, instead of the beaches to the south. In a campaign that lasted eight months and cost more than 7300 Australian lives, not a single military objective was achieved.

Yet, back home in Australia, the news was reported as a meritorious baptism of fire for the Australians. Writing the first reports from Gallipoli, Argus reporter Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett noted that "the Australians rose to the occasion, they went in with cold steel. This race of athletes proceeded to scale the cliffs without even responding to the enemy's fire." Later, of the wounded, he reported that "The courage displayed by these wounded Australians will never be forgotten."

Reports from the front, and those by official war historian C.E.W. Bean glorified the ANZAC's and ignored the gruesome realities, etching a new national identity into the minds of Australians. The myth that was started by Bean and Bartlett on the cliffs of Anzac Cove has been perpetuated for 88 years, remaining largely unchallenged.

The ANZACs, contrary to many reports today, were not fighting for Australia or its defence, for democracy or for freedom. They were fighting as colonials, for the glory of King and Empire, set against the backdrop of European power struggles. They were invading the Ottoman Empire, playing a bit part role in securing the Dardanelles as a supply line between the Mediterranean and Russia.

The challenge we face today is to come to terms with truth of our history, looking beyond the shallow nationalistic rhetoric that we see once a year on ANZAC Day. As our memories of the diggers fade, the ANZAC spirit and the conception of being Australian are becoming ever more entwined. As we pin our 'Australianness' on the name of ANZAC we must remain vigilant to know the truth, and question how history and ideas are used for political ends.



Tell us what you think about the ANZAC tradition;

<http://ipisimag.grokspot.com/anzac>

What does it mean to be Australian?

What does ANZAC Day mean to you?

Does it matter if we base our identity on myth?

Why does nationality matter?

How do the media manipulate identity?

ABC online forum

<http://www2b.abc.net.au/news/forum/newsonline9/>

John Howard's Anzac Day Speech

<http://www.pm.gov.au/news/speeches/2003/speech2257.htm>

Australian War Memorial

<http://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/anzac/>

Patrick Carlyle, The Gallipoli Story (2003)

Scott Duncan

Journey of Kijana

At a time when I was busy worrying about ENTER scores, parties and flipping burgers, a guy my age was sailing his way solo around the world. In October 1999, Jesse Martin had just completed his eleven month expedition, making him the youngest person ever to do so. Reading his journal each week in the Herald-Sun, I was reminded that outside education, there was another world that I could be a part of.

During the 328 days aboard "Lionheart," Jesse worked on developing a proposal for his next journey; "Kijana," meaning young people in Swahili. Jesse and a group of other young people would travel the world over a period of three to four years, visiting places like the Amazon, Galapagos, the Spice Islands and Papua New Guinea. Each of the crew members would each bring skills that would be used to develop a documentary series, focusing on the topics of "youth, environment, culture and adventure." (Lionheart, Pg 240)

The journey departed in March 2002, the crew of six comprising of Jesse, his brother, Beau; cameraman and friend, Josh Schmidt; Reach Youth Leader, actor and writer, Mika Tran and American student, Nicolette Fendon. But as the journey progressed, the thread in the sails of Kijana began to come apart at the seams. Martin, Tran and Fendon were not getting along and it was in Darwin that Tran and Fendon chose to leave the journey. Not long after, Beau decided to leave the journey to focus on following other dreams, and more recently Martin himself announced that he had decided to abandon the journey.

"Young people make mistakes. I am allowed to get things wrong and as long as I'm being honest, I can live with myself, no matter the results." (Dream On, p. 3)

To me, Jesse will continue to be someone who I respect and admire. Each and every one of us somewhere deep inside has a dream they want to achieve or a vision of for the future, evident through the number of posts on the Kijana website Wonderwall. The problem is that for far too many of us, they simply remain dreams, rather than being something we work toward making a reality. Whilst his second attempt may not have turned out as originally planned, Martin can at least know that he tried, while the rest of us wonder what could have been.

As for the Journey of Kijana, the rest of the team in Melbourne is in crisis mode. With sponsors pulling out and Josh as the only remaining crew member, one wonders what will become of this ocean adventure. Whilst it may have been Jesse's dream, many see no reason why Josh and other new team members couldn't continue the journey. As one sponsor in a recent interview with the Herald-Sun pondered "why should Martin's departure bring an end to what was an otherwise brilliant idea?"

Even Josh wonders, noting on the Kijana website that "Jesse is a pretty good draw card, but at the end of the day, I think the sponsors linked into the dream of young people, inspiring, and being inspired by other young people." It would appear however, that others don't share the same vision. The deadline in obtaining further funding for the venture as since past and it appears without Martin's name behind the project, interest levels have dropped considerably.

The Journey of Kijana was about young people learning through experiences. Although the journey may have been vastly different to what was expected, valuable lessons can be still taken from the experiences of the group. And the rest of us can take heart in thinking that a journey as well-planned as this still encounters the same sorts of problems and obstacles as we do, working on our dreams.

Meanwhile, Kijana sits in waters off Thailand, waiting for its next ocean adventure. The question on everyone's lips is whether or not this will be its final destination.

Be inspired by Jesse's feats, see what others are dreaming, and let us know;
ipisi@212.com

Kijana Wonderwall

<http://www.kijana.net/wonderwall/index.asp>

Jesse Martin's books;

Dream On : The journey of Kijana - making it happen (2002)

Lionheart - A Journey of the Human Spirit (2000)

Herald-Sun (Melb) feature

Jamieson, Tim "Mutiny at sea" in 'Weekend', 19/04/03, p.7

Dreams are not all glory and success, but without them, what is life?

(www.kijana.net)

ipisi – looking forwards

Ipisi magazine is an Australian based non-profit, youth-run organisation that is committed to connecting, empowering and involving young people in their communities through providing them with accurate information on issues they care about, and opportunities to take action.

Vision:

We envisage a world in which young Australians play an active, important and recognised role in creating and effecting positive change in fields of social, cultural and economic development and entrepreneurship. We aim to achieve this through improved communication and interaction between active young Australians and the community, and through the support, encouragement and promotion of youth-driven and -oriented initiatives.

Nice idea, but how are you going to do it?

ipisi plans to operate as the glue that binds young people together with a common vision and sense of purpose. We're doing this by creating a hub of knowledge and resources for you use and interact with; an ever-growing dynamic database that young people shape and mould.

We're bringing you information on opportunities and organisations to get involved in, competitions, conferences and more. We're looking to get your opinions on issues that matter to you, by providing you with links to fora and the chance to contribute to shaping our community.

What on earth does "ipisi" mean?

ipisi is made-up; it's a nonsense word that has been created to describe an idea about how we see the world, and how we can about changing it.

The core belief that underpins ipisi is that positive change in our world is possible, and that young people can play a part in effecting this change.

ipisi is an idea of the individual and group coming together, questioning, understanding and acting to improve their world because they choose to.

get involved with ipisi

To ensure the ongoing success of ipisi, we're looking for enthusiastic young people to get involved. Whatever your skills, you can bring them to ipisi to help shape our future.

In particular, we're looking for people with some of the following interests;
 - web programming - graphic design - feature writing -research

To get in contact and find out more, email us ipisi@212.com and check out the website; <http://ipisimag.grokspot.com>

IF YOU'RE NOT CREATING
 THE **FUTURE**,
 YOU'RE LIVING
 IN THE **PAST**.

If you are interested in film, art, music, politics, activism, zines, theatre and more, join the conversation at www.vibewire.net



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