

YOUTH LEADERSHIP- HOW NOT TO GET STUCK



ALUMNI OF LEADERSHIP VICTORIA WERE ON HAND AT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY'S FOOTSCRAY CAMPUS RECENTLY TO TAKE PART IN A ONE-DAY "THINKING CONFERENCE" FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

The seminar, entitled How Not to Get Stuck, was part of a three-year program being run by Evolve@Typo Station, a youth-oriented non-profit organisation that works to maximise the potential of young people from disadvantaged areas and backgrounds.

Evolve's Leadership Development Program is being run for the first time this year with 30 year-9 students from five schools taking part. Along with spending a total of three week's together at Typo Station – Evolve's rural property in northeastern Victoria – the participating students take part in seminars such

completion, they will have developed and recognised a lot of skills and the projects will have grown bigger and better. It's very much negotiated learning, experiential learning – it's learning by doing."

The seminar at VUT sought to show the students different ways of approaching and overcoming problems. The day was divided into presentations to the whole group and smaller activity sessions where LV's Alumni were invited to participate. Representing LV were Alumni Terry Grimwade (EB '07) and David Corduff (EB '07), Harish Shah

De Bono hats method, which looks at an issue from one perspective at a time.

Harish Shah said the new problem solving techniques struck a chord with the young participants.

"From the second they grasped the concept, from then on they were being trained to think with the help of the new methods," he said.

Harish said time flew for all involved as they sought to resolve hypothetical problems.

"I don't know where the whole day went, but it was certainly beneficial for

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as the one at VUT and leadership development activities at school. The principal aim of the program is to enhance the leadership and project management skills of the students, with an emphasis on applying these skills to community-linked projects they each undertake throughout the year.

Andrew Peach from Evolve explained that the students' projects are a central component of the leadership program.

"Their projects will get more serious as the program goes on," he said.

"The students are invited to work on whatever they want. To help choose their topics, they consider what they value, what their beliefs are, and they base their project around those ideas.

"Hopefully, by end of three years and after a process of working on things to

(EB '08), Jenny Stephenson (WCLP '05), Campbell Pfeiffer (WCLP '07), Scott Arbutnot (WCLP '98) and ExperienceBank Coordinator, Victoria Triggs (WCLP '95).

At the opening presentation, the students were called on to recognise the many different scenarios and stories a single photo could show. Looking at the photograph, an African market scene, they identified what was different and what stood out before each hypothesizing on the story of one little boy pictured. The exercise was an introduction to the message of the day, which was to see more than what is there, to go deeper and, when applying this to problems, to not get stuck.

Later, the students considered different ways of problem solving such as the

everybody."

To Jenny Stephenson, the day's exercises illustrated the potential of the students in the program.

"You can apply the thinking demonstrated in the exercises to so many different things," she said.

"What struck me was the interaction between the students. Some were very good verbally, others were not but still got the opportunity to improve and speak up. It was great. I knew so little at the start but there seems to be so much promise and opportunity for these guys." LV

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