



TOM Testimonials

“As a facilitator the TOM experience has been enriching and rewarding, watching the children grow and expand their minds, reach new horizons, has been one of the proudest moments of my career. They have matured beyond expectation. The entire journey has been one of fulfillment and growth.”

Leanne - Facilitator, Siena Catholic Primary School

“What a wonderful experience Tournament of Minds provided for the boys. Not only did it give them an opportunity to mix with students from other year levels, but also the camaraderie and teamwork that developed over the competition weeks has continued to develop into strong friendships. It was fantastic to see their problem-solving skills at work and their confidence grow, not only relying on their own ideas but appreciating the different talents of the other team members to a point where they could each rely on one another. I am looking forward to guiding another team this year as the opportunity for students to grow, provided by Tournament of Minds is unique. It is challenging but very rewarding!”

Margie Stevens - Facilitator

“There is a competitive element to TOM, however this is peripheral to the real action of seeing like-minded kids of varying ages mixing and applying their diverse talents. No-one gets left out and teams readily support each other and enjoy each other’s presentations. The winners are all the participants, with expanded minds and free expression the products. TOM gives all types of student a chance to express themselves and to interact on a higher plane.”

“A feature of TOM is the inherent teamwork that is needed to succeed. This can be a challenge for creative types, and the biggest reward comes from learning to interact quickly and succinctly within the group. Employment agencies could do well to highlight TOM experience in clients, as it signals the ability to problem solve creatively in a group situation – surely skills for the new century! Our students organised and ran their own fundraising when they realised that they were going to the Nationals in Adelaide. In hindsight this extra teamwork bonded the group and aided them in their eventual success. I recommend TOM as a much needed extension activity for students of all ages.”

Chris Core, B Ec. DipEd. MACE - Mt St Patrick’s College

“Our school had a really enjoyable and rewarding experience with TOM during 2008. The programme and organisation from Regional through to Nationals was a credit to TOM and its staff.”

Chris Hilton - TOM Coordinator, The Knox School

TOM Facts

- Tournament of Minds is a not-for-profit national educational program which began in Melbourne in 1987 with 300 students.
- Over the last four years over 20,000 students have experienced TOM in Victoria, with participation from almost 50% of all Independent Schools, and 20% of all Government and Catholic Schools.
- Regional Tournaments are held predominantly at Universities in three metropolitan and four country regions each year.
- An Australasian Pacific Final is held in a different state each year, attended by all States and Territories, and often teams from Singapore, Hong Kong and New Zealand.
- Tournament of Minds is run by a voluntary committee.
- Tournament of Minds runs a quality workshop program around the state for both teachers and students.
- Working in multi-age teams, meeting deadlines and budgets, effective problem solving, thinking outside the square and using technology are life skills that employers highly value.



More TOM Testimonials

“Tournament of Minds is one of a kind. There is no other competition out there that encourages students to think creatively but apply educational knowledge at the same time, makes kids work hard but have the time of their lives and travel around Australia meeting people from all over the world. Some students sit at school all day, bored and tired by the same sorts of work day in and day out. Tournament of Minds provides opportunities for these sorts of kids to get out there and enjoy their education. It’s an amazing experience.”

Hayley, 12 years - Eagle Junction State School

“There are so many weeks - months - of training and preparation that go into this, but it is richly worthwhile, in terms of what it teaches about teamwork, flexibility, ingenuity, creativity, and language.”

John Marsden – Candlebark School & Author

“For me, being part of T.O.M. has been an absolutely amazing experience! I have enjoyed being part of a team and have liked the chance to compete against other schools. It has been good to be challenged in different ways. The problems were always tough and required higher order, creative thinking.”

Anna, Year 5 – Fintona Girls’ School

“I was part of one of the regional honours teams in Maths Engineering (Secondary) in 2005, and constructed a bridge, which to this day, I still consider to be one of my greatest achievements. I found the challenge of TOM very stimulating and an invaluable experience that, in all honesty, helped me get through the boredom of school!”

Brittany Reedman – past TOM Team Member

“I have been doing TOM since I was in year 6. It was my last year this year and we were lucky enough to take home top honours in Social Sciences for the second year running. Thank you to all the people, be it on the committee or just the participants and parents for making mine and many of my friends’ final year a memorable one. Trust me, winning was just a bonus. The whole thing was awesome, Dreamworld, Southbank the discos and dancing - an amazing send off. I am eager to keep up with the happenings of TOM, after all it’s become a friend. Keep up the good work and to all eligible participants keep supporting this life-changing event - trophy or not.”

Rachel, Year 10 - Nagle Catholic College

