

Testimonials

As at November 2008

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 their and enjoy their education. It's an amazing experience.

Hayley, 12 years, Eagle Junction State School

I really enjoyed the TOM experience because of the rounds we had to complete. At the Australasian Pacific final, I made a whole heap of friends from all over Australia and I loved the 'Melbourne Pursuit' the most. I think we won because our team was full of like minded people and we tried our best to do what we really wanted to do. To sum it all up, the independence was great and being down in Melbourne with my friends.

Bridget 11 years. Siena Catholic Primary School. Queensland.

Applied Technology Team

I really enjoyed TOM, especially considering that this is my very first year. In Melbourne, I made so many new friends and so many new friendships were tightened and strengthened. I loved the feeling of independence that we were given. It was great to see so many different people from all over Australia. Melbourne is an amazing place to go to. Even better, we got to see it all during 'The Great Melbourne Pursuit'. This has been one of the greatest experiences of my life so far.

Jack 11 years. Siena Catholic Primary School. Queensland.

Applied Technology Team.

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 Siena Catholic Primary School. Queensland.

Facilitator

I really enjoyed going down to Melbourne as a team it was a once in a life time experience which we had to take advantage of. I also enjoyed the independence that we got to experience and how we made new friends with other states and regions I think it's a great thing that gets every one involved.

Julia 11 years. Siena Catholic Primary School. Queensland.

Applied Technology Team.

“Tournament of Minds is a fantastic program that helps builds children's leadership skills, team work and self confidence. Both the Queensland and National programs were extremely well organised. I had the pleasure of taking six lively girls to the National Finals in Adelaide. I watched my team learn, work together, bond, make new friends and most importantly, had fun. As a facilitator and parent, this was a truly rewarding experience and would encourage teachers and parents to get involved in anyway possible.”

Leica Beevers

Team facilitator 2006

“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

Team Facilitator 2006

“Last year I had a unique experience, filling in as a “TOM” supervisor when other commitments meant that the genuine article was unavailable at short notice. My qualifications being parent and Social Science co-ordinator seemed inadequate, however the support network of TOM is such that no-one should feel daunted at being “thrown in at the deep end”. The paperwork is streamlined and the criteria well spelt out. More importantly, TOM is about people being creative, and this was very evident in the personal contacts and encouragement at the organisational as well as the student level.

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 that 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 centaur! 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 Patricks College
