

# Tomorrow's Leaders

## Why our future looks bright

**Andrew Rennie**  
Editor in chief

It has been one of the most ambitious projects ever undertaken by Leader Community News – ask every Year 12 school captain in Melbourne to tell us how they and their generation can make a difference to the community in the future.

The words on the following pages are their own in response to one question we put to them all: *What difference can your generation make to the world?*

The answers – like the students themselves – are insightful.

Students from local schools are featured in this paper, but more than 160 responses are online at leadernews.com.au.

To capture the fantastic picture on the front of this



School captains from 26 different schools came together for a photo shoot at the Leader office. Picture: TIM CARRAFA

paper we invited captains from 26 schools across Melbourne to the city.

It was an uplifting experience, as we watched how they all interacted.

Just minutes after meeting for the first time they were chatting like they had known each other all their lives,

comparing war stories. And when quizzed as a group on issues such as mental health or social media bullying, they were measured and thoughtful in their answers.

They all showed a maturity well beyond their years. Our future is in very good hands.

## BOX HILL HIGH SCHOOL

Tom Yakubowski, 17



Tom Yakubowski

The Class of 2019 forms part of a generation where the sociopolitical stars have aligned. We're the most accepting and progressive yet.

Moreover, we understand that harnessing and embracing our diversity is a crucial asset.

We also accept the need for positive social change on issues which affect us all.

Our world view combined with the time in our lives where we step out into adulthood and broader society presents us with a unique opportunity.

Our generation has the chance to solve our climate crisis once and for all.

We all see and understand the issues we face and have the resolve to take bold steps to combat the challenge.

We now also have an opportunity to deepen our efforts for reconciliation with indigenous Australians, and welcome those who flee

“ We now also have an opportunity to deepen our efforts for reconciliation with indigenous Australians, and welcome those who flee persecution to arrive on our shores. We can be the generation that opens our hearts to humanity, decency and fundamental human rights for all, regardless of who we are

persecution to arrive on our shores. We can be the generation that opens our hearts to humanity, decency and fundamental human rights for all, regardless of who we are.

Together we stand at a pivotal moment in time, with the choice between hate and

fear and hope and optimism. I believe that we are without a doubt the passionate, creative and audacious next generation the world needs to take on unprecedented challenges and opportunities. Now is our time to shine.

## FOREST HILL COLLEGE

Dane Travers, 17  
Jack Baker, 17



Dane Travers

Vast and far-reaching advances in technology and education have placed our generation in a unique position where we can affect real change, both now and into the future.

The ever-increasing wealth of information available to us at the touch of a button provides everyone with an opportunity

to discover and do more than would have ever been possible before.

The proliferation of access to the internet is a global phenomenon, providing billions of new and eager learners with a way to expand their knowledge while empowering them to speak up and express their opinions.

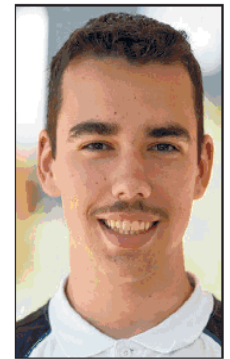
Undoubtedly, the technology available to our generation from a young age provides us with the perfect opportunity to influence the path that we all

take as a planet. Building on the platform we already have, constant change and innovation means that we're preparing for jobs and creating new things that, 10 years ago, were never thought to be possible.

As a generation with constant access to a treasure trove of information and several ways to have our voice heard, we wield a great deal of power.

We can be the generation to truly give the voiceless a voice and move the world forward.

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Jack Baker

## EMMAUS COLLEGE

Ashleigh Fraser, 17  
Jack Lucas, 17



Ashleigh Fraser

We believe that our generation is at the forefront of interconnection and communication, particularly on a global scale.

We have the opportunity to impact meaningfully on the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves – in the provision of medical aid, relief from famine and education. These are things our generation

is empowered to accomplish. Ongoing improvements in technology will admit us to interact further on a global scale. Communication and connection between people is also rapidly becoming more productive.

Our generation has proven, and will continue to be, an active voice for change. Already we have had a significant influence in political decisions, being pioneers of transformation. Responsibility for the

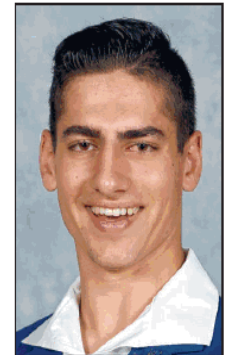
creation of new processes and devices which allow the world to work more efficiently and effectively also lies on our shoulders.

Our generation has allowed people to have a voice and express their views. The use of technology permits everyone to communicate their opinions and political persuasions.

Lastly, as the bond between countries develops and strengthens, we will construct loving, compassionate relationships with new friends,

“ Responsibility for the creation of new processes and devices which allow the world to work more efficiently and effectively also lies on our shoulders

and are confident that we can be a force for world peace, by living in unity, togetherness and prosperity.



Jack Lucas