EXCELLENCE!

How do we fulfil our human potential?
An intensive, mind-stretching one-day conference
For all Australian Senior Students, building ethical understanding and critical thinking skills.

WITH DR. PETER VARDY

To Book
Student Places for EXCELLENCE cost $30 each, with a free teacher place when accompanying 12 or more students. Morning tea and a light lunch for teachers will be provided but no refreshments are provided for students who should bring a water bottle and a packed lunch with them. Registration will take place at 9.30am for a prompt 10 am start and the conference will conclude at 2.30pm.

Bookings must be made through Wendy Rowe
E: mail@wombateducation.com
T: 02 6227 4191
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Wombat Education
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Wendy Rowe (trading as Wombat Education) has been organising training conferences across Australia, NZ, Hong Kong and Singapore for several years. Wombat Education aims to help schools and teachers improve the standard of their offering in Religious and Values Education and Philosophy.

This session will conclude with a DEBATE: “this house believes that winning must be the primary motivation in sport!”

Will you agree with Eric Liddell that “In the dust of defeat as well as the laurels of victory there is a glory to be found if one has done his best...” or with Tiger Woods, that “if you come in second, you’re just the first loser”? Clips of exclusive video-interviews with Paul Sheahan AM, former Australian Test Cricketer and President of the Melbourne Cricket Club, and John Inverarity (chairman of selectors for Cricket Australia from 2011-14) will be shown in this session.

Wendy Rowe

Dr. Peter Vardy

MELBOURNE 4th May Xavier College
HOBART 6th May The Friends’ School
ADELAIDE 11th May Immanuel College
BRISBANE 13th May St. Peter’s Lutheran College
SYDNEY 18th May Santa Sabina College
Why restrict this sort of enrichment to any select group or subject area? Surely every young person deserves the chance to think and find out more about these issues?

Dr Peter Vardy has been working with schools and with tens of thousands of young people across Australia and New Zealand for the past twenty years. Peter has also worked with organisations such as the International Baccalaureate Organisation, the UNHRC and the HMC to improve opportunities for young people around the world to engage with the “big questions” which affect us all.

Known as a charismatic speaker, Peter has the rare ability to keep a mixed audience enthralled for hours. His lectures are pacy, packed with movie clips, references to literature, art and popular culture so there is no time to be bored, but all the same there is lots of solid academic content. Peter never dumb’s down and speaks to senior students as the adults they will soon be. As Goethe said...

“If you treat an individual as he is, he will remain how he is. But if you treat him as if he were what he ought to be and could be, he will become what he ought to be and could be.”

The event includes plenty of “buzz” activities, as well as a live discussion and a formal debate, so students get a real opportunity to practice their public speaking and frame good arguments. Extensive resources are provided to schools, enabling them to use sessions as a starting point for longer units of work, if they so wish.

SESSIoNS INCLUuDE…

Living Well
This introductory session explores the idea that there is a blueprint for living a good life. Starting with Aristotle and ending with Peter Singer, Peter will expose the fundamental questions that underpin all moral – and indeed legal and political – discussions. Are certain actions wrong for all people in all situations? On what basis? Is living well all about being happy? What is happiness – and how do we achieve it?

Making Big Decisions
This session provides young people with an insight into moral decision making, outlining the similarities and differences between Natural Law, Virtue Ethics and Utilitarianism as approaches to deciding what is right and what is wrong. At the end of this session students will work in small groups to apply their understanding and complete a challenge.

Humanity +
After break Peter will explore issues arising from technology and the potential it has for overcoming suffering and increasing happiness. In particular, the ethics of Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis and Genetic Engineering will be considered, along with the growing issue of Surrogacy. Should science get involved in reproduction – do we even have a moral duty to breed for success, as James Watson has suggested? What are the implications for family relationships, human health and society in general? How should we – and how can we - make decisions about these issues?

Carbon Crisis!
Before lunch a short session will consider the environmental crisis and whether traditional methods of decisionmaking can address it adequately. Should Australia sell its natural resources for profit now, at the expense of future generations? What are our duties to people who don’t exist yet, to non-moral beings or entities? How do we measure a country’s success – in GDP or GNH? Can insights from Business Ethics and the world of finance be brought to bear?