

Melbourne schoolgirls get MAD leadership skills to become tomorrow's change-makers

This weekend will see 36 girls from schools across Melbourne skill up to make a difference in their world at the annual Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia's *Making a Difference: Girls for Change Leadership Summit* from 29-30 July at Strathcona Baptist Girls' Grammar School in Melbourne.

The Making a Difference (MAD) event is a unique opportunity for Year 9-11 students to connect with incredible entrepreneurs and social change makers; uncover creative leadership and entrepreneurial skills; to explore effective advocacy; and to develop the communication skills needed to effect change.

Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia (the Alliance) Executive Officer Loren Bridge said the summit aims to give girls the grit, motivation and self-belief to take on leadership roles and make change happen.

'In our incredibly connected world, today's students are already global citizens and have an increasing desire to make a difference to both their local community as well as communities far and wide,' said Loren.

'The Alliance brings these likeminded girls together to equip them with the analytical skills and decision-making abilities to become young leaders' she said.

The dynamic sessions and workshops take the girls on a learning journey through to a practical project that they can implement once they leave the summit.

This year girls will hear from some of Melbourne's leading not-for profit organisations. Speakers are: **Morgan Koegel**, CEO of **One Girl**, an organisation driven to educate 1 million girls in impoverished countries; **Carmen Hawker**, Head of Communications at the **The Global Women's Project**, a movement for gender equality across the world and **Rebecca Chau**, Senior Marketing Manager at **Thankyou**, a unique charity brand selling consumer goods and putting 100% of the profits towards food, water, health and sanitation programs around the world.

CEO of One Girl, Morgan Koegel, said she was really looking forward to speaking at the event.

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“Its going to be great talking to the girls because this summit ties in so beautifully with a core belief of ours, that through education girls can develop enormous confidence in their own abilities and go on to achieve great things in the world,’ said One Girl CEO Morgan Koegel.

Summit attendee, Year 11 Methodist Ladies College (MLC) student Isabelle Tuttle, said she was hoping to develop her leadership and creative skills and foster networking opportunities for the future.

‘I strongly believe that effective leadership and vision are cornerstones to making a difference within and beyond school,’ said Isabella.

‘I hope to gain the skills and knowledge to become a “world ready woman” who is committed, focused, innovative and who hopefully can make a difference in the lives of others,’ she said.

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INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOS AVAILABLE.

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About the Alliance of Girls’ Schools Australasia:

The Alliance is a not for profit organisation which advocates for and supports the distinctive work of girls’ schools in their provision of unparalleled opportunities for girls. It represents all school sectors – independent, Catholic and state, and has over 160 member schools throughout Australasia, representing over 132,000 girls and 10,000 educators.