

NYLD

3/3/25 ~ By Jack Aston

What Was the excursion?

The excursion was a trip to the Melbourne convention & exhibition centre in the CBD (Southbank) to listen to three amazing Australians and their stories on their successes and failures. This aimed to inspire leadership within all the young leaders as well as provide a shining light through each individual through their leadership as symbolised by the Halogen light.

Who was my chosen guest speaker? What were they famous for?

I chose Thomas Duncan-Watt as my speaker and he's a young screenwriter & author, awarded for shows ranging from cartoon series 'Space Nova' to 'Home & away'. As well as multiple shows across Netflix, ABC & BBC.

What did my chosen guest speaker talk about?

Duncan-watt spoke about the importance of failures and persistence in learning. If you persistently continue and attempt to do that 'thing' the "world will eventually give up". Thomas also mentioned that "every master was once a disaster" and in order to achieve self satisfaction and to thrive in life we need to have a 'big' goal and never giving up. Hinting at a determined attitude towards life's lessons and obstacles. 'Big goals' allow us to set reachable goals which are boosters for the self confidence of an individual and can motivate them to persist even further. Thomas displayed this message through humour, appeals and visuals which encapsulated the audience and related to the current generation which shortens words and has a smaller attention span. These techniques used by Duncan were a clever addition to appeal to the emotions of the appropriate audience as well as visuals which meant he (Thomas) didn't have to talk the whole time.

What Did I learn?

I learnt about the importance of engaging with the intended audience in a way they can relate with as well as being ok with failure. The quote ‘every master was once a disaster’ is a great one to keep in mind as it sets the stage for acceptance of failure and thinking ok, this person is really good at what they do now but they have had to fail lots in order to do it.

What leadership qualities do they have?

From what I could gain from the speaker was he ticked a lot of quality boxes form his presentation:

- Adaptable
- Approachable
- Ambitious
- Charismatic
- Collaborative
- Creative
- Driven
- Enthusiastic
- Innovative
- Loyal

How does this impact my leadership skills at SM & beyond?

I think these attributes of Thomas Duncan-Watt can contribute somewhat into my role as Leader at st Mary's. Approachability, Charismatic, Enthusiastic and collaborative are all qualities I could potentially apply to my leadership at Ringwood and assist me in becoming a better leader and partner within the St Mary's College community.