

14 December 2005

RE: Darren Pereira Shape Your Destiny Seminar

Darren ran his Shape Your Destiny seminar for our Year 10 students for the first time on 6 December 2005. It is with pleasure that I reflect on the session and its preparation and write an appraisal of aspects of it.

As a professional, Darren is efficient and accommodating in all respects. His paperwork and student worksheets are meticulously prepared and he presents all material in a highly professional manner. Accommodating at all times, Darren makes himself available for consultation about impending engagements and remains in close contact with colleagues to see the project through from the incipient stages to completion. He is receptive to ideas concerning personalities of an audience as a whole and as individuals and this is borne out in his willingness to cater for a range of different characters and student goal levels.

Darren's seminar content is relevant and varied. He is able to turn his hand to handling any audience and is considerate of audience members from different backgrounds. He relates exceptionally well to young people and has the uncanny knack of being able to elicit meaningful responses from the students while entertaining them. His use of a DJ and music is a powerful tool and brings students to want to work for him.

Darren's vivacity is indefatigable and infectious; from the outset he had the cohort under his spell as willing participants and he maintained his singular electric energy throughout the seminar. His pleasantly loquacious disposition lent a feel of camaraderie to the seminar, rendering it constructive and enjoyable. Students remained engaged for the duration of the seminar and immediately recognized the value of the exercises they were undertaking. Links to the future were made at the outset and students gained swift familiarisation with the terminology employed.

Removing the seminar from the school to a professional setting (ours at Four Points by Sheraton Geelong) was a decisive factor in setting this seminar on the map as a real opportunity for thinking about the shaping of future adult lives. Raising the level of the surroundings automatically raised expectations and the level of importance of the seminar to the students. This provided the ambience necessary for quiet meditation, reflection and writing as well as the space and freedom for Darren and the DJ to work as a cohesive team with the students.

This was a most worthwhile seminar and I endorse it with my highest recommendation.



David Kaberry
Year 10 Study Skills Co-ordinator