



Young Voices

by bou

Save the tag-AGE

In a time of such political and economic turbulence and uncertainty, one thing is for sure. Generation Y, yes, the current youth of Australia are, quite plainly- selfish, hertenoisitc, disorganised and are seemingly more and more computer driven.

My name is Bou. I, also am a member of the Australian youth. This weekly entry will offer some insight into the happenings of the immediate world through my eyes and whether you like what I have to say or not, let's face it, I'll always give you something to read!

So, whilst we grow into our converse shoes, our university admissions, our late night rendezvous and our philosophised minds... our reliance on the Internet and digital media simultaneously sprouts.

While we grow used to seeing ourselves sprawled across and idling on social networking sights; mySpace, Flickr and mostly, Facebook, or 'fatsa-book' (that's for you, Papou).

Do we really understand what we have gotten ourselves into here?

That's a good question...

We know that listing our phone number and best ways to lure us into stranger's cars may not have been the smartest thing to do - now that the guy with the long overcoat seems to be everywhere we go. But if we are not doing these things on mySpace and Facebook... what are we doing?

You see, I'm full of good questions.

It seems that instead of calling a friend, or sending them a quick text message to wish them a 'Happy Birthday' a Facebook wall post buys you a free ticket out. What happened to private phone calls?

Now, we have conversations that are broadcasted all over the 'Australia Network'. Is this what lies ahead? A generation of mindless, out of touch individuals that no longer have the ability to communicate emotively over the phone or in person...

or better yet, a generation skilled in interpreting and manipulating people over the internet?

Here's another; if we know nothing about the person that we are 'accepting as a friend', simply with one click, you find yourself judging- who they are, who their friends are, what they do and what kind of crowd they are in.

It's a small world after all... in this cohort of people we are becoming a tag-team. By tagging one friend we are giving access to see people in so many different social circumstances. Then, we realise that the person to the left of the photo with your best friend is your primary school friend or your archenemy. Through this air, we are being confronted in so many ways;

soon there will be no way to escape your face. Attending- Maybe Attending- Not attending.

Ok, so I'm going to try not conforming to the nature of a journalist and not look at everything negatively!

So, let's say that digital invitations and digital pictures are better for the depleting nature of the environment, right. But what happened to the good old 21st birthday invitations (I used to want to make a collection of those!), what happened to giving something a tangible value. Is everything becoming de-materialised? Are we being incited into an area of what anthropologists call time-space compression?

How is this helping the already disorganised generation of students and workers that comprise generation Y?

By clicking attending to (no understatement) one hundred things, how are you supposed to keep tabs on anything, let alone attend everything?

Alors.... Generation Why?

They've got the attitude, they've got the ambition, they've got the BlackBerry in one hand, and the half mocha soy latte in the other. Welcome to the world of Generation Y.

So Voila! They're hip, smart-talking, brash and sometimes seem to suffer from an overdose of self esteem.

And if there's a generalisation to be made about young Generation Y people, it's that they don't like waiting.

Marketing guru Penny Burke, author of Forced Focus, says "they grew up in the world of the five-minute abs workout, two-minute noodles and one-minute manager - and they probably think they're all too slow nowadays".

There are about 4.5 million Gen Y Australians - born between 1980- 1994 and here's some facts that are seemingly invariable.

They are the most educated-minded generation in history and are more optimistic about life and work, than their predecessors, Generation X.

They are generally socially aware, tolerant and accepting of cultural differences.

They are more likely to follow the advice of their peers than that of their parents or advertisers. Of the record 3.7 million new credit-card applications last year, almost a third were from those aged 18 to 27. But our desire to consume can cause trouble. Oops.

They are technically savvy- as toddlers they learned to flip TV channels via remote control and played with computer graphics in primary school. No wonder that almost three-quarters of all SMS messages are sent by Gen Ys.

They are the most technology-fluent, multi-tasking, adaptable and team-oriented group in history.

The only problem might be their impatience with the old ways: they want instant gratification, think email is snail mail and want to be chief executive of the company by 25. And, of course, all in no more than 35 hours a week.

So, are we just creating a vicious ring of fire? Where all we rely on is ourselves, our peers and our status updates?

What's more refreshing then a 4 hour blogroll and 2 hour facebook-chat conversation.

Well, I honestly couldn't tell you.

Stay Savvy,
bou xx

Laughter is not at all a bad way for beginning a friendship, It certainly is the best way to end one.

- Oscar Wilde (*The Picture of Dorian Grey*)

Here's something a little more fresh and innocent.

Laughter

- Children know laughter
- They know tears
- Children know peace
- They know chaos
- Children know acceptance
- They know rejection
- Children know joy
- They know pain
- Children know abundance
- They know lack
- Children know health
- They know illness
- Children know fulfillment
- They know emptiness
- Children know hope
- They know dismay
- Children know love
- They know hatred
- What they don't know is WHY!

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Happenings

- Monday** *The most esteemed night at the Victoria Tea Rooms, Potts Point Sydney.*
- Tuesday** *The Darlo Bar in Darlinghurst, Screening Free movies Madame Flong in Newtown, above Soni's on King Street, screening black and white films as well as tapas and wine all night, for \$20 a head.*
- Wednesday** *Oxford Art Factory, Second Night Gig*
- Thursday** *'Sha na na' chilled music night at Dean's Cafè, Kellet St, Kings Cross.*
- Friday** *Soesume Dance Night at Q Bar, Oxford St, Paddington*



Art Express 2009

On Friday the 13th, yes a day before Valentines, people were falling in love with more than just themselves. It was the opening of the 2009 Art Express, which showcased the exceptional art works of the young youth of Sydney. Fortunately, that I was to attend such an esteemed event, I was awed by the various types of work that was there and the amount of effort, self and patience that went into creating the artworks. From photography, to paintings, to sketches, to films and sculptures, it is a remarkable sight to see. The Gallery of NSW will host the Art Express until the end of March. Check it out!

