

THOM WOODROOFE

Executive Director of Left Right Think-Tank
2009 Young Victorian of the Year

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Thom Woodroffe, 19, is the founder and **Executive Director of Left Right Think-Tank**, Australia's first independent and non-partisan think-tank of young minds, and the **2009 Young Victorian of the Year**.

Established in early 2008, Left Right's mission is to involve young people in public policy. Its vision is for a society that seeks and embraces the ideas of young people.

Thom is currently completing a **Bachelor of Arts (Global) at Monash University** where he is a member of the **Vice Chancellor's Leadership Program**.

In addition to Left Right, Thom is also a **board member of the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria** and the **Australian Youth Affairs Coalition**; and an **advisory board member of the Australian Red Cross** and **Peace Child International** based in London which holds consultative status with the United Nations.

Thom has recently finished his tenure as a **Youth Ambassador** for both the **Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission** and the **Jane Goodall Institute of Australia**. Amongst other roles, Thom has also been on the **steering committee of the Victorian Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing Summit** and the **Chairman of the National Air Force Cadet Reference Group** representing over 6,500 teenagers across Australia.

In 2008, Thom was handpicked by Dr. Jane Goodall DBE, a United Nations Messenger of Peace, to represent Australia at a **Global Youth Leadership Summit in the United States of America**. In 2009, he was recognised as a **Global Changemaker by the British Council** and invited to attend a **Youth Forum in South Africa alongside the World Economic Forum** which was hosted by Kofi Annan GCMG, the former United Nations Secretary General.

Notably, Thom has also been the youngest participant at such high-level gatherings as **The United States Studies Centre & Harvard University National Summit**; **The Australian Davos Connection Future Summit**; **The Australian Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific**; **The Australian-American Leadership Dialogue at Stanford University**; and **The Global Foundation's Australia Unlimited Roundtable** alongside the Governor General, Prime Minister & Opposition Leader.

Thom has travelled widely overseas on **study tours to Asia, Europe and North America**, including on an **official parliamentary delegation to Malaysia**, and has also spent time **working overseas in the United States Congress during the inauguration of President Obama**.

Thom has **written extensively on contemporary domestic and international politics** and regularly appears on **radio and television** as well, including previously **ABC2 TV's News Breakfast** and **774 ABC Radio Melbourne**. Thom has **addressed numerous corporate and community organisations** including the **Congressional Youth Leadership Council** and the **White House Press Corps at the National Press Club in Washington D.C.** and facilitated the **Victorian State Government's Young People Direct Forum**.

Thom is the recipient of several awards including a **United States Congressional Certificate of Special Recognition**, the **Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award**, the **Vice Chancellor's Ancora Imparo Scholarship**, the **Trewhella Graduation Scholarship**, the **RVAC Mobil Aviation Flying Scholarship**, the **RSL Spirit of the ANZAC Award**, the **Air Vice Marshall Wrigley Sword of Honour**, the **Daylesford & Hepburn Shire Lions Youth of the Year Award**, and was his school's nominee for the **VCE High Achiever Award**.

In the future, Thom plans to continue his focus on international affairs and politics through further study and continued leadership positions with a desire to ultimately see Australia as a nation renowned for its ideas, vision and idealism.

Hard Heads, Soft Hearts & Young Minds...