Simon Dewar | Speaker & Facilitator



About Simon Dewar

Simon's experience spans more than 20 years in teaching and education leadership roles, including 11 years as Principal of a secondary college in a country Victorian town.

His impact on school improvement and cultural change is significant. His passion and expertise in implementing Restorative Practices, developing the capabilities of middle leaders and building a strong relational culture is profound.

Simon is a passionate, dynamic leader who will inspire school leaders with his belief in the power of Restorative Practices to drive cultural change for the entire school community.

His experience and understanding of human behaviour, genuine care for young people and knowledge of the contemporary Australian school makes his presentations a must.

Keynote & Workshop Synopses

KEYNOTE: The Challenge of Working with Young People... How to make our job easier.

Teaching today sits at the intersection of challenge and opportunity. Amid increasing complexity, it is essential to stay connected to the purpose and fulfilment that brought us to teaching.

This presentation from Simon Dewar will introduce a framework that can be implemented easily and efficiently in schools to support your ambitions for a safe, relational, highly performing and productive School Culture. He will provide a practical, human response to modern teaching demands, which we call Restorative Practice 2.0 (or RP2.0).

By understanding student context and the brain processes driving behaviour, teachers and educators can make small, intentional shifts that transform learning and participation. Even disengaged students can re-engage through connection, clarity, and accountability.

RP2.0 is a simple, time-efficient framework built for the realities of Australian schools. It enhances engagement and effectiveness while saving time, with strategies you can use in your classroom and broader school community immediately.

Infused with story, humour, and practicality, this keynote inspires and equips educators to reconnect, re-energise, and rediscover the satisfaction of great teaching.

WORKSHOP: The Challenge of Working with Young People… How to make our job easier.

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Unlike a keynote, this session is about rolling up our sleeves and getting to work. It's built for participants to not only understand the model, but to walk out with practical strategies that they can implement the very next day. Importantly, it's about applying RP2.0 to their context and their students.

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KEYNOTE AND WORKSHOP: Option to run 'The Challenge of Working With Young People' as a combined keynote and workshop.

The session runs in two parts: a keynote address that inspires participants and reconnects them with their own sense of purpose. Following that, it's a hands-on workshop where participants roll up their sleeves and getting to work. It's built for educators to not only understand the model, but to walk out with practical strategies that they can implement the very next day. Importantly, it's about applying RP2.0 to their context and their students.

Infused with story, humour, and practicality, this combination of experiences will inspire and equip educators to reconnect, re-energise, and rediscover the satisfaction of great teaching. Participants don't just hear the "why", but they also know "what" to do and "how" to make the difference they desire.

KEYNOTE: Really Understanding Student Behaviour & Engagement

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KEYNOTE: The School You Want vs The School They Experience

School culture is one of the most discussed priorities in education today — yet many schools still struggle to define exactly what culture is, how it is formed, and what truly improves it. While schools often invest heavily in programs, policies and strategic plans, culture is ultimately shaped by the everyday experiences of the people within it.

In this engaging and thought-provoking keynote, Simon Dewar provides a simple and practical understanding of school culture through the lens of student and staff experience. He explores the gap between the culture schools aspire to create and the one students, staff and families actually encounter each day — in classrooms, corridors, conversations and moments of challenge.

Through humour, real school stories and practical strategies, Simon demonstrates how strong school cultures are built through intentional relationships, consistent adult behaviours and meaningful interactions that foster trust, accountability and belonging. Participants will leave with a clearer framework for improving school culture in ways that are practical, sustainable and deeply connected to the everyday realities of school life.

KEYNOTE: Culture Isn't Built in Meetings

School culture is often discussed in strategic plans and leadership meetings — but culture is not built there. In schools, culture is built in the everyday moments students experience: how they are greeted, corrected, supported and spoken to by the adults around them.

In this engaging and thought-provoking keynote, Simon Dewar challenges educators and school leaders to rethink where culture really lives and how it is formed. Drawing on the principles of Restorative Practice 2.0 (RP2.0), Simon explores how small, intentional shifts in adult language, behaviour and relationships can transform engagement, trust and learning across a school community.

Packed with humour, real school stories and practical strategies, this keynote helps schools close the gap between the culture they aspire to create and the one students actually experience. Staff will leave with immediately usable ideas for building stronger relationships, greater accountability and more connected school cultures through everyday interactions — not just policies, meetings or intentions.

KEYNOTE: The Conversations You're Avoiding Are Costing You the Most

Difficult conversations are part of everyday life in schools – with students, colleagues, parents and leadership teams. Yet too often, these conversations are delayed, softened or avoided altogether for fear of conflict, damaging relationships or making things worse. The problem is that what we avoid rarely disappears; instead, it shapes school culture in ways that reduce trust, clarity and connection.

In this practical and engaging keynote, Simon Dewar explores how strong school cultures are built through honest, respectful and accountable conversations. Whether it's addressing staff tensions, responding to student behaviour or navigating challenging parent interactions, the ability to communicate clearly and relationally is one of the most important skills educators can develop.

Through humour, real school stories and practical language strategies, participants will learn how to approach difficult conversations with greater confidence, address concerns earlier and create dialogue that strengthens relationships rather than erodes them. Staff will leave with immediately usable tools for building a culture where clarity, accountability and connection can thrive together.

Book Simon for Your Next Event

To book Simon for your next conference or event please contact:

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