

To Rotary Club of Caloundra,

My name is Isabelle Topalian. Most people call me 'Issy'.

I am currently in Year 11 at Immanuel Lutheran College Buderim. Immanuel is a special school community which I have happily belonged to since Prep. With the support and encouragement of many, I have thrived within this school environment. Through hard work, having compassion for others and dedication to my studies, I was chosen as the Primary School Captain, along with being granted with a Senior School Academic Scholarship.

The subjects I have selected to study are Biology, Physics, Design, Geography, Maths Methods and English. I have a strong passion for Biology and learning about global matters in Geography. I dedicate myself in the hope of one day being able to support and assist those who are less fortunate than myself.

I have recently become aware of the National Youth Science Forum. Having read up and watched some summaries on this amazing program, I would love to put myself forward for this opportunity.

STEM has always sparked my curiosity. I have been inspired by the incredible discoveries being made each day and how it helps people globally. I am particularly interested in the field of Biotechnology. This has come about firstly from seeing the life-changing application of a medical device my younger sister uses to assist with a chronic condition. Secondly, I attended a University of Queensland Open Day and was very impressed by all the amazing research work being undertaken by their Biotechnology scientists. This field is something I have aligned my subject choices to and hope to pursue.

It may surprise you that as a 16 year old teenager, I actually love to garden. I get very excited to harvest my homegrown veggies and herbs and prepare a dinner including them. My late grandmother also passed on a love for sewing, where I enjoy helping my younger sisters with special event costumes and alterations for family. Netball and piano are some extra-curricular activities I'm involved in. I also have a weekend job at 'The Wonky Loaf' in Kulin. It is a special place to work, with a great team who are all passionate about providing exceptional products to our customers and creating an inclusive workplace.

A positive challenging experience in my life was attending Immanuel's four-week Mt Binga Outdoor Education Camp. Teamwork, leadership and perseverance were qualities that I feel



were strengthened by this camp. Daily cleaning chores, meal preparation and attending to farm animals were some of the responsibilities taken on by students at the camp.

I have a strong sense of community, with a love for helping others. Twice a week I help the students within our primary school at 'Homework Club' with their reading and maths. Once every school term, I participate in an Immanuel visit the Aboriginal community of Cherbourg to spend time with the kids. I have also recently joined the Interact Club at Immanuel.

Please find below a list of my main achievements in the past four years and have attached copies of my two most recent report cards.

- Senior School Scholarship recipient
- Award winner of Year 8 'Caltex All-Rounder Award'
- Consistent Academic Gold Award recipient
- 2022 Immanuel Arts Festival Award recipient

My understanding is Rotary is the Founding Partner of NYSF and conduct selections for the NYSF - Year 12 Program annually. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to be considered for this exceptional STEM program and would be more than happy to meet in person to discuss further.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm regards,
Isabelle Topalian