

# FLEX: media



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## Kynan Talks Life After Flexi

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# MY FAVOURITE ALBUM

## BY JACOB BAGNATO

**Every edition we ask a young person to tell us about their favourite albums. It can be a new or old album. You just need to love it.**

In this edition, Jacob Bagnato writes about one of his favourite albums, In Rainbows by Radiohead.

In Rainbows is Radiohead's seventh album released in 2007. Radiohead are an English band fronted by Thom Yorke. They are known for influencing a generation of fans and other musicians alike.

The album caused a stir when it was released as the band released it online and fans could pay whatever they liked for it. This was in the early days of digital releases before even streaming services existed and was a pivotal point in the new way the music industry operated.

At the time the album was considered a return to their more guitar driven style of music. It is a good mixture of relaxing, more mellow type songs to more upbeat, nosier type songs. The songs flow well with drummer Phil Selway's drumming a standout feature of the album.

As always, Thom Yorke's voice is amazing. For those that haven't heard Thom Yorke sing, his voice is innovative and unique. He has an amazing range and can sing in a variety of styles from soft and haunting to loud and shouty and everything in-between.

Standout songs for me are Jigsaws Falling Into Place and Weird Fishes. I like these songs for their intricate, hypnotic guitar riffs and the driving beat of the songs as well as Thom's unique vocal style.

If you like Indie/alternative guitar music and you don't know Radiohead I recommend you check them out and In Rainbows would be a good album to start with.



# JADE

**Jade has been at Noosa Flexi since 2021 and immediately established herself as somebody with an outstanding talent for music and singing.**

Incredibly, At the young age of 14, Jade wrote and recorded a song here at Flexi called '5 Again' that won a national Flexi songwriting competition and earned our music program \$5000 for new equipment.

More recently, Jade has been working on a recording project where she re-recorded all of the vocals on Billie Eilish's Ocean Eyes track. This involved re-recording 25 tracks and the final result blew us all away.

Jade continues to work on her songwriting craft and is also fast becoming an accomplished guitarist and piano player.

Luckily for us, Jade will be performing at the end of year graduation ceremony at The J in what will surely be one of the highlights of the show.







# Kynan

**Kynan has been busy and productive since graduating from Flexi last year. They have completed a certificate in support work and have recently released the single ‘Sorry for Being Queer’ on spotify under their artist name of Dumb Servant.**

**We met with Kynan last term for a catch up and interview for the music magazine where they discussed their inspirations, songwriting process and goals for the future.**

**Hi Kynan, You have just released a new single, what is the song about?**

It is about me coming to terms with my gender being non-binary. It was more of a song for myself. It’s kind of hard to explain. I feel like it’s a song that a lot of people can relate to who are queer of some sort because it’s about the stigma around it and coming to terms with all that, but it can be whatever people get out of it even if it isn’t what I was intending. I think that’s perfectly fine.

**What inspired you to create the new song?**

Well, I recorded that song about two years ago. That recording is a very old recording that I’ve had for ages and I just haven’t been ready to release it until now.

At the time I think I was trying to create a Nirvana song or something like that. When I first started making music one of my big inspirations was Nirvana because of the simplicity Kurt Cobain had when writing music.

**What made you finally release the song after so many years?**

That single is part of an EP that I’m ready to release soon. I want to release another single from it and then release the whole EP.

It’s going to be a heavier EP and along with that, I have another two EP’s ready to be released as well. And they’re all different.

**When did you realise you could write songs?**

It originally started with me telling people I could write songs and showing them songs that they would have never heard of and just showing them the lyrics and saying that I wrote that. And then it just slowly became a bit embarrassing, and I decided to take it into my own hands and learn how to do it.

It’s more of a learning thing. You just need to stick to it and keep it going. I get writer’s block all the time. If you have writer’s block I believe that it just means



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you can't write that day. I'm not going to force myself to, because then I think the song is probably going to end up pretty crap.

### **What is your creative process behind writing your songs?**

I mainly have a lot of instrumentals written and then I write lyrics when I feel ready, but then it also happens vice versa. I also have lyrics that don't have any music, so it's all about mix and matching and seeing what works.

### **When you write, do you write on software like GarageBand or do you come up with riffs?**

Well, it depends, because I make all types of music. I don't just make music with guitar. A lot of it is beats and electronic songs. I feel like GarageBand can really capture a song. The writing process is all about going with the flow. It's more of a vibe and you just sort of go with the flow. And that's sort of how the best music comes out. You can't force it.

### **When you write songs, do you create stories along with them or do you put a bit of reality in too?**

A bit of both, there are songs that I've made with stories, and without stories that have actual meaning behind them. I think being creative is very fun in that way, and along with that, I would also like to say I'm actually very grateful as a person. I think everyone should be grateful that we are gifted with the ability to create things. The fact that we can come up with something that's never been heard before or said before or thought of before is absolutely insane to me. And I'm grateful that we can create things and we can change people's lives with that, and even just change the way the world is with creating things.

### **What type of music do you like? Do you have a favourite musician?**

There's one band that changed my way of listening to music, and that is The Garden. They're one of my favorite bands. There's just something about them. They're just so themselves. I've seen how they've, like, hustled their way to where they're at now, and I find it quite inspiring. I love it. I think they're very punk, especially for something so new. They sound fresh. I also love JPEG Mafia. I'm absolutely obsessed with him and my girlfriend and my best friends are absolutely sick of me talking about him! His creative process is like unlike anything I've ever seen before. I think he is a genius. Like, he will make a rap song that you wouldn't understand how he rapped over that beat. Or like, you wouldn't understand how he even came up with that beat in the first place because his music is seriously that weird.

### **You just completed a Cert in Support Work. So are you interested in becoming a youth worker?**

Yes, in Flexi, a lot of the teachers are youth workers and just seeing the amount of help that they gave me to feel comfortable in myself and stuff like that, I want to sort of pass that on to more young people.

I think the next generation is pretty...like they're all growing up with TikTok and all these short forms of content where it's like they're just scrolling and it's something new every time. I see that and it's numbing their brains and it's killing their attention spans.

I used to watch a lot of TikTok and stuff like that, but I'd much rather sit through an entire YouTube video and learn something than sit and mindlessly scroll for three hours.

### **Have you got a message for Flexi and young people?**

Yeah, the teachers are here for you. They're here to help you and take that with both hands and run. Don't be scared of what people think of you because you're you. I try to find the best in people. There's so many people that I don't have anything in common with who I can talk to because I can find something. You need to find something in common with someone.

I think a lot of people don't do that. And that's why there's a lot of bad shit in the world, like war. Don't get me started on all that, because we'll be going for ages. But yeah, I believe that we shouldn't be spreading hate.

We should be loving each other, because love's a good thing.

**"I think everyone should be grateful that we are gifted with the ability to create things"**





# Questions for Tristan

**At the beginning of this term, we fired some quick questions to Tristan about some of his favourite things. Here are his responses.**

**What's your favourite band or singer?**

I'm going to go with my boys, Faded Flows, that's Dylans band (ex Flexi young person) and Suicide Boys.

**What style of music is it, is it him doing Beats and raps or is it a band?**

It's both, hes doing it on his own at the moment, but he is also working with Kynan.

**What's your favourite song at the moment?**

Probably Ugliest by Suicide Boys.

**What's your favourite sport?**

Basketball.

**Who's your favourite basketballer?**

I'm going with my boy, Tracy McGrady.

**Why do you like him?**

He was impossible to defend against and he was a beast in his prime and Kobe even said he was the hardest player to guard for him.

**Can you share your most memorable music related moment?**

Last year, in December I went to the Good Things Festival in Brisbane. It was a rock festival and I don't listen to rock, but it was probably like the most insane day of my life. There was probably 2000 people there, and they're all just jammed up the front and they're all jumping to Bring Me The Horizon, it was just so crazy.





# Matt Hawkins



Last term, we interviewed our former Principal, Matt Hawkins, who is now CEO of Flexis throughout Australia. He also happens to be a singer songwriter who released an album last year and was kind enough to take time out of his busy schedule to speak to us about his music and his thoughts on Flexi.

**Welcome, Matt. Thanks for coming.**

Thanks, great to be here.

**What made you want to start playing an instrument?**

I actually didn't start playing any musical instrument until I finished school, I would have been 17 or 18. I went to university and I was living in a dorm where heaps of students live when they're at uni. The guy who lived across the corridor from me was a muso. I was studying a degree that meant I didn't have to go to uni many hours per day or week so I had a fair bit of time on my hands. I'd always liked the idea of learning guitar and he said, "do you want me to teach you a couple of chords?" And I said, "yeah, that'd be awesome". So he did. And then there was a guy who was in the next room over who was a drummer. Then the guy who was teaching me said, "you should learn to play bass, I'll play guitar and sing and this guy can drum and we'll start a little band". So in my first year of Uni, even though I had no idea what I was doing, we started a little band and I played bass.

**Who are the bands and songwriters that have inspired you?**

At different times I probably have different favourite bands but the bands that are constant for me or musicians that have been constant with me for a long time are, and this one is one that Daz will like to hear me saying, The Beatles. The Beatles are my favourite band of all time. Do they inspire me though? No actually, I would never aspire to write songs like The Beatles because it's like they're from a different planet.

There's an Australian musician, Paul Kelly, who I really like. I like a lot of Australian music, actually. There's a band called Middle Kids who I really like. I love their song writing.

Then there's a little indie band from America, a little duo, two guys who I like at the moment, they're called Milk Carton Kids. I like them, they are a little bit quirky.

**What's your song writing process?**

Actually, it is fairly consistent. I tend to always start with a chord progression of some kind on the guitar. I like hearing songs and trying to work out if there's a cool chord, working out what that chord might be, look it up and then I might try and play a few chords around that.



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And then once I come up with a chord progression that I like, I'll start humming a melody or making up words to go along with those chords until I come up with a little melody that I like. Once I've got the chord progression and the melody that I like, I'll think to myself, what does that song sound like? is it a happy song or a sad song? Is it a breakup song? Is it a love song? Am I angry about something? Am I inspired by something. And then I'll think, what has gone on in my life that might fit that emotion?

I remember an example of this came up with a melody that made me feel really good, and I thought, what's something that's made me feel good in my life? So I wrote a song about the birth of my first daughter and the lyrics ended up being about that.

**You released an album in 2022, Love, Loss and The Washing Lines. The song you are talking about was on that album wasn't it? From Now On?**

Yes exactly! The inspiration for that song was the birth of my first daughter.

**You wrote a song called Toowoomba on that album too. What made you write about Toowoomba?**



I grew up in Toowoomba. My parents still live in the same house that I grew up in. I lived in Toowoomba until I left to move to Brisbane to go to university. I remember when I moved away from Toowoomba I thought I'm never moving back. I thought I hated Toowoomba. I just couldn't wait to get out, which is a pretty usual sort of teenage thing to feel like. I couldn't wait to move to Brisbane, but then as I got older and had my own kids, I started realising it wasn't such a bad place. It was actually a pretty cool place to grow up and I began to feel a bit nostalgic about it.

**Why do you think creative spaces are so important in the Flexi environment?**

Oh, so many reasons. I think being creative, firstly, just as a human being, is important. Well, for me, personally, it is. So, you know, I had a period where I didn't play for a long time and I missed it and I didn't know how much I missed it until I started playing again.

I realised how important it was for me to have a creative outlet. It literally makes me feel good. It's like my own mental health improves. If I'm playing a lot of music and listening to a lot of music, if I'm having the opportunity to go and see bands, I just feel good. So, music for me is a really, really important outlet. So why do I think creative spaces in Flexi is important? Well for all those reasons but also learning to play music. Learning the skills to play a couple of instruments, and learning to do recording, being able to do a little bit of recording at home, that skill set that I've learned has opened up this whole world to me that I wouldn't have otherwise had access to.

So if you guys can leave Flexi with a skill set to play an instrument, to create a music video, to record a song, you know, even to go and see a live band and recognise, God, I wish that bass player would turn his bass amp down. It's always the bass player! If you have that skillset, it sets you up to be able to pursue music after Flexi.

**Most people from school would know you as our Principal from last year. What is your new role?**

My title is Chief Executive Officer of EREA Flexible Schools Limited. I'm the person who looks after all the Flexi's throughout Australia. There are 23 flexis around the country, and they are all awesome. They're all different, but they all feel like Flexi schools.

**Whats your vision for the future of Flexi?**

That's a great question. Number one is that young people continue to have the best possible opportunities that we can provide. One of the reasons I applied for this job is that I love Flexi's and I really value our schools and I want them to continue to keep doing great stuff. I have had the great benefit of sitting in lots of rooms and sometimes luckily enough in music rooms with young people like you guys and, you know, I've come to the last few graduations, which are just unbelievable. I've seen so many young people come to our schools' saying things like "I hate school, I've been kicked out of school and you guys are going to kick me out". You know that their experience of school makes them walk in thinking this is going to suck and then they leave going "well, I've loved that. I've had success. I felt at home. I'm going to miss this place". So, I want that. I want that to continue. I do think we need to get better at listening to young people about what outcomes they want and setting expectations to help young people reach those outcomes. So, I don't want our staff to say you need to achieve this or else, but if you come in saying I want to get to here even on the days where you think "bugger this, I don't want to do that", our staff are going to say "no, we have so much respect for you and we value you and we know how much potential you've got. We're going to push you a bit further to help you get to where we know you can get to".



# JEREMIAH

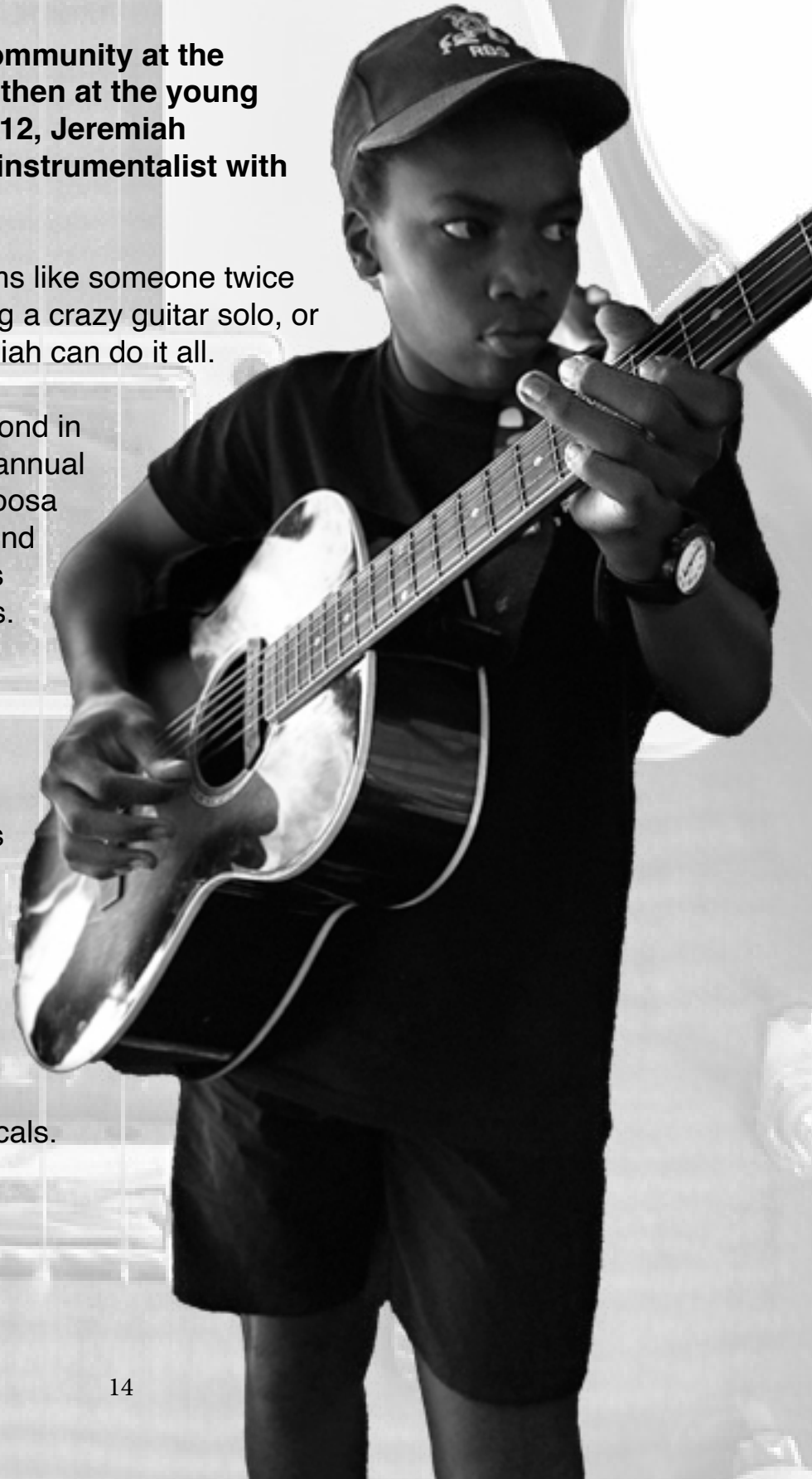
**Jeremiah joined our Flexi community at the beginning of 2022 and even then at the young age of 11, just about to turn 12, Jeremiah showed that he was a multi instrumentalist with a bucket load of talent.**

Whether its pounding the drums like someone twice his age (or size), singing, doing a crazy guitar solo, or even playing Bagpipes, Jeremiah can do it all.

Last year, Jeremiah came second in his category at the Australian annual busking competition held in Noosa and is often seen gigging around the Noosa and Tewantin areas at venues and open mic nights.

At school, Jeremiah has been experimenting with playing and recording pieces he has composed and then overdubbing all the other parts himself.

We are looking forward to Jeremiah being part of the bands playing Grad this year where he will be showcasing his ability to effortlessly swap between drums, guitar and vocals.



*John Lennon by Summer Querin*



# noosa FLEXI media

Noosa Flexi Media magazine is produced by young people at Noosa Flexible Learning Centre.

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Want to contribute to the next edition?

We are looking for young people to contribute to the next issue. Let us know if you are interested.