

To Whom It May Concern:

6th August, 2009

Founded in 1981, PCI is one of the largest networks of youth-led organisations in consultative status with the United Nations. Famous for bringing the first Soviet Youth to the USA on a youth exchange to perform the musical, *Peace Child*, it has grown to unite 1,500+ affiliate groups and networks in over 180 countries. PCI's mission is to 'Empower Young People' to address the most pressing global challenges they are going to have to address in their lifetimes – climate change, peace, human rights, making poverty history and achieving sustainable prosperity for the entire human family.

Peace Child International (PCI) is often referred to as one of the world's most innovative NGOs. PCI has supported young people around the world to produce books and musicals on their major generational challenges and funded several hundred youth to undertake community-based action projects of their own through its Be the Change Youth-led Development Programme. It has created the World Youth Congress series.

One of those young people was also Ziga Vavpotic, author of *My Very Own Book*. I met him first in Hawaii in 1999 where he was a delegate to our First World Youth Congress. He also participated in the 2nd Congress in Morocco, where he was leader of strong Slovenian delegation. At the 3rd Congress in Scotland, he was a member of preparation committee and was appointed a clan leader, supervising a delegation and an Action Project at the congress.

Ziga Vavpotic is remarkable, dynamic and innovative young thinker. Peace Child International was set up to inspire, support and empower young people like him to make an impact on the world before their 25th Birthday. Ziga is amongst a handful of young people who have passed through our programmes and taken real advantage of the opportunities we offer – and grown immensely through them.

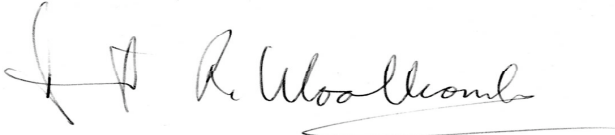
I was not in the least surprised to hear that Ziga had written and self-published, *My Very Own book*. It is an extraordinarily high quality piece of work – well written, well produced, and well thought out. It carries forward our mission to empower young people: our original musical, Peace Child, was set in the future – with a flash back to the present, allowing young people to look forward to their own old age, and think back on what they would like to have achieved by then. *My Very Own book* does the same thing – but from the other direction, encouraging young people to look down the long avenue of their lives, setting targets and milestones along it. Though not a new 'self-help' technique – it is a very effective one, and *My Very Own book* executes it better than any other book I have seen.

We would recommend *My Very Own book* to any young person or couple or group at a transition moment in their lives – such as graduations, weddings, moving from one school to another, or one job or contract to another. I look forward to the online version as I feel it will be a great teaching

device to get young people thinking positively about their future, and organising their lives and work habits accordingly.

The world is remarkably short of concrete, realisable aspirations; never were they more needed – as climate change, population growth, financial and resource crises – loom large in the lives of young people passing through our schools and universities today. It is extraordinarily important for young people to get used to planning their future, tempering and thinking about their aspirations for their own and their planet's future. *My Very Own book* helps enormously in that work.

Congratulations!



David R. Woollcombe

Best wishes,

David R. Woollcombe, *President*,
Peace Child International