OLIVIA IS A LOCAL LEGEND

NO OBSTACLE is too great for Southern Cross Catholic College student Olivia Hargroder.

Olivia, who has Down syndrome, signs, plays the piano, acts, swims, likes painting and is determined to run her own business.

World Down Syndrome Day – a day to celebrate the lives and achievements of people with Down syndrome – was on March 21.

Olivia, 16, is definitely someone to be celebrated; she recently spoke at the Down Syndrome Association of Queensland “Expect the Best Education Conference” to educate teachers on how to treat those with Down syndrome. Her message? No differently.

“We are actually born thinking we are pretty cool and can do everything really well. That’s not just the smart kids – it’s all kids,” Olivia said.

“Teachers should have high expectations for all kids – even kids like me who have Down syndrome. We might surprise you.”

Teacher Setae Neuendorf said Olivia was a great example to other students.

“Olivia is so positive, so friendly,” she said.