Welcome from the Principal

Welcome to the first Whitley College Life, a newsletter featuring some of the events and achievements of our College.

Whitley has so many impressive young people, and some a bit older, studying and growing together, all supported by a wonderfully dedicated staff who care for them and teach them.

This is a good news community, of people who really want to make a difference in the world. We trust that you will be as excited about ‘Whitley College Life’ as we are.

Rev Dr Frank Rees - Principal

Academic excellence abounds.....

It is a stunning achievement that in 2009 six Whitley College students received conferral of their doctoral degrees by the Melbourne College of Divinity. This is a most impressive achievement, not only for the students but for the College community.

As well as this highlight, three of the resident tutors and one other theological student were awarded doctorates in the past year. This is indeed an indicator of the depth and quality of the academic life of the College.

Rev. Alan Marr, Director of Ministries with the Baptist Union of Victoria, praised the College and its staff. “For each of these successful doctoral students there are scores of others who are being challenged and supported in their academic pursuits at other levels of study, through both the residential and theological arms of the College. This is vital to the health of the church and the community in which many of these people will exercise their vocations.”

Living and Working Green - initiatives at Whitley

- Energy efficient globes fitted.
- Student and staff education to reduce energy and water consumption.
- Student incentive scheme – 50% of the savings in use of electricity was donated to student club funds.
- Installation of rain water tanks – water to be utilized for toilets.
- Recycling – waste paper, bottles and cans are collected and sent for recycling.
- Harvesting of shower water for use on gardens.
- Installing solar/thermal heat pumps for supply of hot water to the residential college.
Uebergang Foundation scholarship recipients 2009

Three Whitley College students from the Western District have been awarded a Uebergang Foundation scholarship in 2009. Each student has been awarded $5,000 by the Foundation to assist with the cost of college fees, whilst residing at Whitley College. The scholarship recipients are Glen Kuhne from Horsham, Rachel Carter from Warrnambool and Sinth Jegaskanda also from Warrnambool.

Glen Kuhne is working towards a major in electrical systems and has aspirations to complete a Masters in Electrical or Mechatronic Engineering. “The scholarship is a wonderful surprise but very gratefully received”, he said.

Notes from the Warden

Semester 1 has ended and the great quiet of ‘swot vac’ has descended. New students have already become an integral part of the Whitley community. Inter-collegiate sport and arts activities have involved most residents as participants or enthusiastic supporters. We have enjoyed successes in table tennis, women’s hockey and public speaking. The Masquerade Ball and Christmas in May dinner were highlights.

Ms Margie Welsford

Message from the Dean

There are more than 300 theological students at Whitley, preparing to serve the church and the world in all sorts of contexts.

We are proud of them for their commitment to reflective action to make a difference!

It’s been a great semester.

Make sure you take a few minutes to take part in the Whitley Online Survey (http://whitley.questionpro.com) - we value your ideas.

Dr Ross Langmead

TransFormation - promoting an inclusive society

The TransFormation Programme is an initiative of the Baptist Union of Victoria and of Whitley College. It is a programme of biblical, theological and practical education for members of our non-English speaking background churches.

The course began in 2003 with 40 students from 15 different countries. Students attend an all-day session for 10 Saturdays each year. It is a three year programme and each year new students join the programme. Sessions are taught by the Whitley Faculty, Regional Ministers and Pastors. Lunch is always a highlight. Each month a different community provides the meal – so all in attendance learn to explore the different tastes and learn something of the culture.

Over the years we have had Romanians, Sudanese, Karen and Chin refugees from Burma, Spanish speakers from Spain and Central and South American and many more.

Donors in 2009

We wish to recognize and thank the following donors for their generosity in 2009:

- RACV
- WHK Howarth Fund
- Bernados Max E grant
- Uebergang Foundation
- Anna Wearne Trust
- Rev David Griffiths + Mrs Kay Griffiths
- Rev Dr Basil Brown Emeritus Professor
- Mr Rob Morsillo + Dr Julie Morsillo
- Dr Merilyn Rees
- Rev Geoff Leslie + Mrs Debbie Leslie
- Rev Alan Marr
- Rev Trevor Farmilo + Mrs Gwen Farmilo
- Rev Leonard Lewis
- Rev Dr Geoff Blackburn
- B.T. Swanton
- Swanton and Davidson
- Invergowrie Foundation

Contact Us

If you would like any information on making a bequest or to donate to Whitley College please contact the Community Relations Office:

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