Whitley College was established in 1965 and since then thousands of young men and women have lived within its unique round walls.

Our alumni are a valuable part of the College community, but in recent years we have not kept in touch as much as we might have.

To help welcome our alumni back to the College, in 2013 we have created a new series of Alumni events.

The first of these was the President’s Summer Mingle for past College residents, held in February (see opposite).

In May, residents from 1983 joined us at College Hall to celebrate 30 years since they lived at Whitley. They enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with each other and share their stories with the students.

Some of their highlights from 1983 included watching Cliff Young finish the Sydney to Melbourne Ultramarathon. The students were particularly excited to meet 1983 resident Kathryn Watt. Kathryn won Australia’s first female Olympic cycling gold-medal and discussed her experience in cycling, sport and travel.

In February the Student Club President, Cody Shannon, welcomed alumni to College for a relaxed and friendly event under the trees in the College courtyard. He was particularly happy to welcome so many Student Club Presidents from previous years. Following the success of this, the first President’s Summer Mingle, it is planned as an annual alumni event, open to all past residents of the College each February.

Past residents took the chance to come back to the College to catch up and to meet Whitleans from other years. The Student Club President and his leadership team were also in College preparing for Orientation Week and enjoyed the chance to meet up with some past residents and share stories of College, old and new.

Guests enjoyed taking a look around the College, including a tour of the newly renovated bedrooms and the Junior Common Room. There was much laughter over memories brought back by finding their old rooms in the donut.

Guest Speaker Daryl Collins was the 1966 Student Club President and told some stories of his time at College. Not many things have changed, though admittedly there are more female residents now than there were in the 60s!

If you have any news or submissions for future issues, please send them to: sbinks@whitley.unimelb.edu.au

www.whitley.unimelb.edu.au

FROM THE PRINCIPAL
The Principal Dr Frank Rees was on sabbatical during the first semester of this year.
Unfortunately he had to return early from his scheduled break when Dr Ross Langmead fell ill, but we are grateful that he was able to have some time for research and relaxation.

KEEPING IN TOUCH
We are keen to make sure we have the correct contact details for all our alumni. If you know anyone who attended Whitley College who may have fallen off our list, please get them to contact Sivonne Binks on 03 9340 8000 or they can update their contact details on the Whitley College website - www.whitley.org.au/alumni
As a College community we offer such a rich learning environment; A place to learn about yourself, how to get along with your neighbours and how to adjust to people from very different backgrounds to your own. In an increasingly global world facing complex problems, learning to live well together as a community has never been more important. College is excellent preparation for work and life beyond University.

The first floor student rooms are looking bright and cosy with their new fittings and fresh paint. The Fitness Centre is complete with lots of new, fancy equipment which leaves no excuse for not being fit and healthy. Common Room refurbishment is still in progress but it is good to have tables and chairs to sit around and eat late meals and the kitchen cabinets make everything more tidy.

Our two new Tutors have settled in well. Ogi Belic tutors in Chemistry, is completing his Masters and in his spare time engages in Swordcraft and Ballroom Dancing. Mayuri Wijayasundara tutors in Business and Engineering and enjoys basketball and running when not working on her PhD. Shane Emanuelle, former Biology Tutor, submitted his PhD thesis in May and so after seven years has left Whitley College.

The semester has flown as usual. A strong leadership team lead us through a varied and interesting Orientation Week with its theme of Nintend-O. With a large cohort of new students, the leaders had their work cut out for them managing public transport in particular. The new students have integrated well, including the graduate cohort. We have 11 students involved in a range of Graduate courses.

It was a busy first semester for Intercollegiate sports, with residents competing in and supporting a whole range of sports:

ABOVE (Clockwise from centre): The boys’ rowing crew, table tennis team, boys’ hockey team, girls’ rowing crew, girls’ softball team

BELOW: Matt Rohn competes in the Intercollegiate Swimming Carnival; Celeste Bussell, Nat Fleming, Jane Lindsay and Tegan Murray brave the early morning chill to watch the rowing regatta.

The current cohort of Graduate student residents enjoy supper with the Residential Leadership Team.
One of our students was trying to think through what units she should do in Semester Two – what would fit into her degree, what suited her interests and future plans. Her email to me ended with the comment ‘...had a look through the subject descriptions. Can’t I just take all of them?’

She has discovered what makes studying at Whitley College so engaging. What we offer to students all the time, the things we do day in and day out that we often see as ‘ordinary’ or ‘everyday’ are really good – the quality of the teachers and their teaching and the buzz students get when they discover new things about the Bible and about faith.

It’s all part of what we are committed to: We are equipping leaders for a different world.

This semester we were privileged to help host two visiting students from Duke Divinity School. Benson McGlone and Tyler Smoot spent 10 weeks in Australia as part of their Field Education studies.

They both worked in local churches. Tyler worked with Anne and Richard Mallaby at Box Hill, Lyn Hunter at Syndal and also venturing into the outback to visit Jono Ingram at Granite Community Church and Stephen Field at Boort.

Tyler and Benson were both keen to soak up as much Australian culture as they could. They jumped at the chance to train with the College boys’ football team and were quick to become Carlton Football Club supporters. They instantly became part of the community at Whitley, providing interesting and intelligent reflection on Christian life in Australia.

You can read more about their experience on Tyler’s blog: www.smootdownunder.wordpress.com

Whitley College continues to provide opportunities for young people in the Residential College to grow and develop, academically and personally. However, many of our residents, particularly those from rural and regional areas, need assistance to make the most of the opportunities that come with College life.

This year we have been proud to launch the expanded Whitley College Rural Scholarship Program. This program aims to provide over $100,000 of scholarships to new and returning residents from rural areas each year. The program expands upon the success of our existing scholarships, such as the Ian Tatterson Scholarship and the newly established Rosemary Dillon Scholarship.

This year the Ian Tatterson Scholarship was awarded to Sam Bradley, who is from Briagalong and studying Environments. Ian’s children Ben and Sally joined us at College to present the scholarship.

Rosemary Dillon also joined us at Hall Dinner to present the first Rosemary Dillon Scholarship to Alistair Jones. Other scholarships were presented at the Commencement dinner.

With the support of philanthropic foundations and other donors we aim to award over 30 scholarships to students in 2014. If you would like to find out about supporting the Rural Scholarship Program please contact Sivonne Binks on 9340 8000 or visit the website at www.whitley.org.au/support

Whitley College was buzzing with activity over the summer break. Ian Prentice and his team of tradespeople were busy giving a face-lift to the first-floor bedrooms, involving fresh paint, carpet, light fittings, blinds, desktops, bookshelves and coloured pinboards.

FAR LEFT: Past resident Ian Roos (later Dean and Business Manager) in the first completed Whitley College bedroom in 1965.

LEFT: Current resident Samuel Lam in the same newly renovated room in 2013.

Students studying the unit ‘Luke’ listen as Dr Keith Dyer explains some of the social and political context of the text.

As special guests, Benson and Tyler took their role of judging the competition for ‘Best Costume’ during the Residential Christmas in May dinner very seriously.
On Saturday 22 June 2013 our friend and colleague Dr Ross Langmead suffered a major heart attack. After a period in intensive care, Ross died peacefully, surrounded by his family on 29 June 2013. A service was held at Collins Street Baptist Church on Friday 5 July 2013.

This has been a difficult time for all who have known and worked with Ross and the staff and students of the College are grateful for the prayer, support and love we have received from those in the College community. We thank you for your continuing support.

This biography is taken from the Order of Service from the 5 July -

Ross was born on August 13, 1949, in Albury NSW, to Oliver & Jean Langmead. As part of their calling as Salvation Army Officers, the family moved to Hong Kong in 1952, where they lived & served in a post-war orphanage for Chinese children. Young Ross became fluent in Cantonese. In 1956 the family returned to Australia, serving in various communities around Melbourne during Ross’s youth. Ross had one older sister, Jeanette, & four younger siblings, Les, Howard, Peter, Grace.

Ross married Alison Joy Wright in 1973 beginning nearly 40 years of loving relationship & teamwork. Ross & Alison welcomed Benjamin Ross in 1978, & Kia Marinna in 1980. Parenting was one of Ross’s greatest joys (and challenges!). He was a VERY proud grandfather to Zara (3), & step-grandfather to Sage (13). It was a delight to observe Ross with children, where he applied pure love-in-action. How fitting that Ross spent his final day with Zara, at the swimming pool & playground. Her final words before sleep, on the night of his heart attack, were: “He’s okay, he has his new skin on now”.

Ross was a committed & integral member of Westgate Baptist Community in Yarraville, since its formation in 1982. His home-based small group enriched his life with honest working-class faith & he felt further enriched by a large & growing group of friends from around the world, especially Karen & Chin refugees.

As a follower of Jesus, Ross “sat loosely to religious structures”, an Australian Baptist influenced by the Anabaptist tradition, the radical discipleship movement & the ecumenical movement. Some of his passions were justice, peacemaking, care for creation & exploring intentional missional community.

Ross was a talented musician who wrote songs for worship & social justice, & published a collection of songs called On the Road (1988). His music expressed the passion & struggle of his journey to live authentically, touching many around the world & will be an important part of his legacy. He was a keen environmentalist, who rode his bike or caught public transport to work most days, & introduced many to the link between faith & the environment.

Ross also had a distinguished academic and professional record as a teacher and scholar. He trained as a school teacher, then did further study in philosophy of religion (at the University of Melbourne), religious studies (at Lancaster, UK), theology (at Whitley College) and missiology (through the Melbourne College of Divinity). He researched ways churches could respond to their context, published in the Western Suburbs Conference Report (Baptist Union of Victoria, 1978). From 1980 to 1992 he was on the pastoral team at Westgate Baptist Community.

He was appointed Whitley College’s first lecturer in Mission Studies in 1993 and then Professor in 1998. He was director of the School of World Mission from 2000 to 2006 and served as Dean of the Theological School from 2009 to 2012.

Ross’s doctoral study was on incarnational mission and was published in The Word Made Flesh (2004). He also edited Re-imagining God and Mission (2007), on contextual mission in Australia, and has published numerous articles and reviews, particularly on mission theology, reconciliation, ecotheology and multiculturalism. He is the founding secretary of the Australian Association for Mission Studies and convenor of the Melbourne-based Mission Studies Network.

Over several decades, Ross contributed to the work of the MCD University of Divinity as a diligent and wise committee member, highly distinguished supervisor of doctoral and master’s students, and warm professional colleague across the entire academic community. His passion for the marginalised and less fortunate saw him regularly teaching in Burma, India and Thailand, as well as engaging in numerous activities in support of refugees, multiculturalism, ecotheology and reconciliation with Indigenous Australians.