Whitley College is a dynamic educational community, committed to academic excellence, with a vision to develop leaders for a different world:

- a place to live, to receive support and make friends, while studying at the University of Melbourne;
- a place to study theology, pastoral care and mission through the Melbourne College of Divinity;
- a community of ongoing support in lifelong service and leadership.
The word that best describes our life as a College this year is growth, for this word signifies change and development, but in continuity with our preceding strengths and directions.

Perhaps our most important area of growth has been a by-product of many other activities. As we have worked on various areas of policy development, as the theological faculty has developed an entirely fresh curriculum framework, as we have re-designed our web-site, created new promotional strategies and undertaken customer relations training, all these things have led us to a renewed sense of the common vision which guides our life as a college. We have adopted a ‘tag-line’ which expresses this vision: Equipping leaders for a different world.

Whitley College life is about offering a vision and experience of how the world could be different and how each one of us can be part of that different world. It is exciting to see staff catching this wider vision. It is really great, too, to have our alumni supporting, praying, giving towards this vision.

This year we have mourned the passing of our founding Principal, Mervyn Himbury, and we have farewelled some staff, even as we welcomed others. But the life of the College continues to grow. Thank you to all who have been and will continue to be part of it, wherever you go.

On a personal note, I wish to thank all those who have sent kind messages of support to me and to my family, following our traumatic experiences in Samoa. I am hoping soon to be back at work full-time. Meanwhile, your support and good wishes have been a real encouragement.

Thank you.

Rev Dr Frank Rees

In June this year the Australian paperback edition of Dr Mark Brett’s book ‘Decolonising God: The Bible in the Tides of Empire’ was launched by the Australian of the Year, Professor Mick Dodson. The launch was held at the National Native Title conference held at the MCG.

Earlier in the day, Victorian Attorney-General Rob Hulls, who was also in attendance at the launch, announced a framework agreement making it possible to settle native title claims out of court.

Mark Brett contributed to the development of this framework in his role as Policy Officer for Native Title Services Victoria, from 2005 to 2008. Mark has been Professor of Hebrew Bible at Whitley College, since 1992.

“I am not an expert on Bible theory,” Professor Dodson said. “But I do know that there is no one more qualified than Mark to write this important book.”

Whitley College students Naomi Leach and Matt Day were chosen to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on Faith and Values in Canberra from 17-20 September 2009. The four day forum was held in Canberra at the end of a parliamentary sitting week. Keynote addresses were delivered by the Prime Minister, Mr Kevin Rudd, and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Malcolm Turnbull.

The Forum hopes to direct promising young leaders of the future. The forum promotes a vision for quality leadership and the importance of faith and values as the inner resources that we draw from to become the right kind of leader and to keep our original vision alive.

‘Becoming a good leader requires more than an impressive resume and a strong personality: there must be something in you that justifies the loyalty and commitment of those who follow,’ stated the Prime Minister to the young delegates in attendance.

Ms Margie Welsford, Warden at Whitley College, states ‘We are extremely proud of Matt and Naomi. They are wonderful ambassadors for Whitley College. Both Naomi and Matt have shown leadership whilst residing at the College and in the wider community and are role-models for younger students.’

We congratulate Naomi and Matt on their selection to attend this prestigious event.
We have had an exciting and event filled time in the Residential College.

We take our mission of ‘Equipping leaders for a different world’ very seriously. Training for Transition and Orientation week next year has already commenced. We begin 2010 with a leadership retreat to start the process of leadership development and skills building that will be vital for leadership in the College next year and for students’ lives beyond Whitley.

Academic life has thrived under our Co-Deans and tutors. As testament to this high quality learning we have awarded ten academic awards to students who achieved straight H1s in first semester.

A number of Whitley sportsmen and women flew to the Gold Coast for the 2009 Unigames. Outstanding results were recorded by students in individual and team sports. Chris Xu won two Gold medals in fencing, Rosie Powell and Alix Taylor won Silver with their squash team and Jess MacDonald won Bronze with her basketball team.

The residential Valedictory Dinner was held on Friday 23rd October 2009. The Dinner was attended by two College Council members, Rev Val Bilingham and Dr Don Stewart. Paul Higgins, an alumnus of Whitley College and a registered speaker with Leadership Victoria, was our guest speaker on the night. He spoke on the topic: “Leadership in an Internet Age”.

Many of the leaving students spoke eloquently of their deep affection for the College and about the huge impact it has had on their lives. It was a fitting celebration to end a successful year.

Ms Margie Welsford
The second semester has concluded, and for most this means a well-earned break, though most Whitley theological students will remain actively engaged as leaders in their churches and in society. Theology at Whitley is all about encouraging reflective action.

2010 will see the Theological School revising its curriculum around forming faith, hope and love. Its teaching and community life will be structured on a three year cycle, and begins in 2010 with the theme “Hope and Mission”.

It’s been great to see internship students growing and finding their future directions. Some have combined their theological studies with training in adventure camping at Camp Wilkin in Anglesea (in the 12 Watts program), while others have served in local churches all over Victoria in the In*Formation program, jointly sponsored by Whitley College and the Baptist Union of Victoria. The diploma-level studies have led some to begin to train for ordination, others to take on higher study and others still to discover their gifts in serving the local church.

A team of five Whitley students is going to Bangladesh in late November to learn from the innovative ways in which Baptists work in aid and development and share their faith with Muslims. This is the first joint Whitley/Global Interaction mission exposure trip, and we trust there will be many more.

Researchers Dr Terry Falla and Beryl Turner continue work on the Syriac Project, a five volume dictionary of the ancient language spoken by Jesus and still spoken by millions today. It has now grown into several publications and an international team of scholars researching Syriac.

2010 begins with the Whitley College Theological Commencement Service which will be held in the chapel, on Thursday 4 March at 7pm, to mark the beginning of the academic year for the whole theological community.

Dr Ross Langmead
College identity and rebranding

Over the past 12 months we have launched a number of new branding initiatives at the College. We will unveil our brand new website in November 2009. A redesigned letterhead will soon complement the new website design.

Whitley has also been captured on video in 2009 and these promotional tools will further assist new residential college and theological school students when exploring Whitley College as an option for accommodation or study in the future.

The video can be viewed on our website at www.whitley.unimelb.edu.au

We have had a series of photographs of the college taken and many of them are featured in this edition of Whitley College Life and in all new publicity materials.

Congratulations

We congratulate all the Whitley theological students graduating this year:

**Associate Diploma in Ministry:**
Tegan Caldwell

**Diploma in Ministry**
Peter Hobbs
John Izvernariu

**Bachelor of Theology**
Stacey Aslangul
John Billingham
David Janssen
David Paterson
Alison Sampson

**Bachelor of Theology (Hons)**
Sarah Carew

**Graduate Diploma in Biblical Studies:**
Caradoc William Parry

**Graduate Diploma in Theology:**
Stacey Aslangul
Young Rae Cho
Mark Lindsay
Priya Morgan
Joel Scott
Andrew Sudholz

**Master of Divinity:**
James Lewis
Gwyn McClelland
Andrew Staunton

**Master of Theological Studies:**
Geoffrey Shepherd
David Talathoti

**Master of Theology**
David Enticott

**Doctor of Theology**
Darren Cronshaw
Saw Ner Dah
Oh Young Kwon

**Doctor of Ministry Studies:**
Alison McRae

**Doctor of Philosophy**
Mark Cheeseman
Fiona Hill
One of the joys of working as Business Manager at Whitley College is that I know that what I do contributes to the wellbeing of others. I may be preparing reports, drafting budgets, liaising with catering and cleaning contractors and supervising other staff to ensure the Property and IT services are providing all that the students need. The pleasure comes from knowing that we are all helping to make Whitley College a great place to live or study.

There are many different facets of college life that help create the environment we want for the students who live and study here. Currently we are in the process of installing new servers to support the IT network. We are also anticipating that a new wireless network will be installed throughout the college in the first half of 2010.

Finding ways of minimising the use of energy and resources is constantly on our agenda – we have already made some savings including the harvesting of rainwater for use in some of the toilets.

One of the other exciting projects is the provision of a multi-purpose sports court. This will be installed in January 2010 and available for students to use at the beginning of first semester.

In the realms of finance, 2009 has been challenging on a number of fronts including the impact of the downturn in investment income. We look to 2010 to provide better returns.

We are constantly looking at ways to support those who live and study here and I believe that as we are able to share their stories with you, you will be touched and realise that you too can be part of their educational journey.

Mr Ian Prentice
The 2009 Student’s Club Executive Team hit the ground running in 2009 and worked hard to organise and plan many O Week events, working very closely with college administration to assist new students to settle in. New students received all the vital information required for a successful year of residency at Whitley. Team activities were held in Princes Park, Chinatown, Williamstown Beach and the Royal Botanical Gardens. University orientation ran simultaneously alongside O Week with new students receiving an introduction to the academic year ahead of them.

Whitley participated in many inter – collegiate sports competitions this year, with some fantastic results. Softball, cricket, tennis, swimming, table tennis men’s soccer women’s hockey, netball, football women’s basketball and athletics all had fantastic participation with some great competition.

Whitley’s Christian group, GLO, has a ripping year with many events. Amongst the events were a gelati night in Lygon Street, a pancake day to raise funds for our sponsored child and three café nights with fantastic music and food. Congratulations to Marion Doherty and Lauren Morgan for having a fantastic year as GLO leaders.

2009 has been a fantastic year for Whitley College with 2010 shaping up to be an even bigger and better year. Many thanks to Rosie Powell, Scott Bohan, Haylee Walsh, Ross Bruce, Chanu Peiris, Jo Rohrlach and Alastair Roberts-Thompson for organizing and running events enthusiastically and with great spirit in 2009. Best of luck to the incoming student executive team: Haylee Walsh, Matthew Lugg, Alfred Sum, Tim Green, Renata Coppola, Jess MacDonald and Charlie Waters in 2010.

Tim Hunt
Whitley College Student Club President 2009

On Thursday 15 October the ‘Return to Whitley’ Drinks function was held at the College. Students who attended the College between 2000 and 2009 were invited to return to the College to catch up with current and past students of the College. Work and life stories were shared and it was an excellent opportunity to gain an understanding of future college plans with friends of the college.

An original artwork by cartoonist, Ron Tandberg, was auctioned on the night, raising funds to support Whitley College students in the future.

Wonderful jazz music was provided by current students and a great time was had by all!

Scholarship Recipients 2009

- Pavia Langley scholarship
  – Melissa Germano
- Ian Tatterson scholarship
  – Patrick Au
- Invergowrie Foundation scholarship
  – Lydia Moll
- Invergowrie Foundation scholarship
  – Monique Bricknell
- Uebergang Foundation scholarship
  – Glen Kuhne
- Uebergang Foundation scholarship
  – Sinth Jegaskanka
- Uebergang Foundation scholarship
  – Rae Carter

Rae Carter
It is a great honour and privilege for me to write to you as the new Community Relations Manager at Whitley College. As impressive as the tree lined avenue of Royal Parade is and the unique architecture that is the residential college at Whitley, it is the warmth and friendliness of the students and staff that is most impressive.

2009 has been very full: a revamped website, video footage, photography, newsletters, Dinner at Hall, 2000-2009 Alumni Drinks party and meeting students past and present. I know you will enjoy reading this edition of Whitley College Life which covers the diversity and depth of a truly unique community, a truly exceptional college.

I look forward to meeting many of you in 2010.

Ms Kerry Cook

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**Tatterson scholars applauded**

Ian Tatterson was a local Gippsland community leader, sportsman and resident of Whitley College from 1968-71 when he was studying commerce at the University of Melbourne.

Upon his sudden death, in 1992, a scholarship was established by his family and friends at Whitley College. This was to honour his good name and the great community service he had contributed during his lifetime.

Ian was the CEO of the City of Springvale and was a pioneer of community service programs to assist refugees in the Springvale area.

The Ian Tatterson scholarship is based on all round performance—academic, personal and community and is awarded to a student from the Gippsland area, studying at the University of Melbourne and residing at Whitley College.

In 2009, the Tatterson scholarship has been awarded to Patrick Au. Patrick lives in Maffra and is currently studying Environments at the University of Melbourne.

The 2008 scholarship recipient, Ben Zagami, who is still resident at Whitley, is a second year student studying Science. Ben’s family is from Wy Yung.

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**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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Fax: +61 3 9347 8052
Email: kcook@whitley.unimelb.edu.au

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

- RACV
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- Uebergang Foundation
- Anna Wearne Trust
- Rev David Griffis and Mrs Kay Griffis
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- Mr Rob Morsillo and Dr Julie Morsillo
- Dr Merilyn Rees and Rev Dr Frank Rees
- Rev Dr Geoff Leslie and Mrs Debbie Leslie
- Rev Alan Marr
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