From the Principal

Dear Friends,

It was difficult for a child growing up in the last century. However, the struggles for young people in this decade have evolved both in scale and complexity. There is constant pressure to just be, be true to yourself (without really knowing who self is), speaks directly into a huge problem. After all, this is what mass murderers, people addicted to drugs, internet trolls and people with all kinds of perverse and questionable ethics claim. Likewise, where the advice is given that you can do anything you want to, or be anyone you want to be, it implies that there are no boundaries and that it's all up to you. Indeed, our cultural understanding of freedom seems to be one of license in which anything is allowed and one's choices in life are of no concern to others. This concept of freedom, of license, of there being no authority vested in others, of little accountability to others, of all truth being relative, is at the heart of endlessly divisive social conflicts. In essence, license is at the heart of rebellion.

According to many social commentators, the West appears to be in rebellion against its Christian heritage, and a *license* form of understanding freedom is driving this. We do not want to be constrained. The modern progressive secular program is to drive out the Christian religion and its institutions from the public square. Interestingly, its animosity is not directed toward other religions, just Judaeo-Christianity. This is not new. Psalm 2:1-2, and the first half of Luke 23, echo the same opposition to God and those anointed in His service. Similar to the account in Luke's gospel, progressive secularism or our current cultural forms of Neo-Marxism

are not interested in reason, debate or evidence-based decisions in life. They are only concerned with an ideology of freedom that is not subject to any restriction. Their desired outcomes are not focused on the common good of society, only on the rather tribal perspectives of particular identities. Social media adds to the widespread efficacy of these global tribes as measured by a count of their *likes* and online following as well as the movement away from previous civil ways of disagreement into shouting out tribal hatreds and engaging in uproar and vulgarity.

Alternatively, a Christian perspective of freedom contains boundaries and limitations. Its freedom is not license but one of constraint, wisdom, reason and faith. Christian freedom involves a formation of the person. Indeed, the definition of personhood carries with it the notion of having reached some level of maturity and formation. Christian freedom is like a work of art where a sculptor chips away at a block of marble to eventually reveal an end product of what was meant to be. Christian freedom is like being part of an orchestra, in tune with others and responsive to the conductor. Christian freedom shapes us into becoming who we are; the body of Christ, with a task of looking after the world and pointing others towards God. In the current political and social climate, this is no easy task, but it is one that Oxley Christian College is privileged to be involved in. It is a task to be done with patience, joy and humility, where we seek the best for others and absorb the pain of struggle and profound disappointments.

Douglas Peck



Devotion

Cambodia Reflection

In January this year, 21 Year 12 students took part in the Cambodia Discovery Trip, accompanied by four teachers generously sacrificing their peace and quiet, as well as three members of the Samaritan's Purse organisation.

In order for us to gain an understanding into the country's harrowing past, which has left it in the condition we see today, the trip started with visits to Tuol Sleng prison and the Killing Fields. While this experience was undoubtedly shocking and deeply impactful, the events of the following days demonstrated to us the immense positivity of the people as they recover and are shown the love of God.

The element most commonly associated with the trip, is that of the shoebox distributions. As part of Operation Christmas Child, gifts from strangers around the world are made and sent to developing countries like Cambodia, as a way of spreading God's love to the people. We were able to distribute boxes and share in the joy of the children and their families as they explored the contents. The best part for me was our team leading games and songs before the distribution, seeing all the children able to engage and enjoy us being there even though they didn't understand what we were singing.

An integral part of the trip, and the highlight for many of us, was the time spent in schools and villages exploring the various projects Samaritan's Purse conducts in the community. One of these is known as the STAR Project, standing for *Strong, Tall and Robust*, which aims to teach mothers the importance of nutrition for their children, and also enables them to provide it. We were given the opportunity to actually prepare food for them which, as one of the first interactions we'd had in the villages, meant a lot

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done."

to us to be trusted by these mothers and to be able to serve them in this way.

We were able to witness the advance made in fresh water availability and the provision of better teachers and educational resources. The poor quality of education being something that particularly stuck with our group. For me, what I gained from these different experiences was the challenge to recognise the needs around me and to take every opportunity to share the love of God in these situations. I think more often than not we should look to the example of those who dedicate their lives to helping and showing love to others and, while we may not all be called to be missionaries in an organisation like Samaritan's Purse, to nonetheless do our part wherever we can using the gifts that God has given us.

To call the trip a *once in a lifetime experience* is somewhat cliché, but a sentiment that I'm sure is shared by all of us who participated. The team now shares a bond deeper than any that would develop at school alone. Together we were able to experience both the aftermath of the tragedies that have occurred, and the joy and love of the next generation.

I believe that every person who went on the trip would wholeheartedly recommend it to those in coming years.

Jessica Cornish (12.10)

















Cambodia Samaritan's Purse Trip

Senior School

It is often said that if you don't like the weather in Melbourne, you just need to wait a minute. This was certainly true as the Year 7 Parent Barbecue took place. After day time temperatures in the high 30's, the evening was punctuated with intermittent thunder and lightning and at one stage we had to duck under cover as the rain started. It did not last long or dampen the mood of the evening which was a great success. It was a delight to share stories with our fantastic families and hear them becoming acquainted with others who will journey the remainder of their school years and, in some cases, the remainder of their lives together. Many thanks to Year 8 parent-helpers who volunteered their time in the heat to prepare food for nearly 200 people who ignored the inclement weather as they served their College community. Your assistance was greatly appreciated!

Earlier in the week more than a hundred people attended sessions over two nights in the BPAC to find out more about the changes to the assessment and reporting system. To start the evening Mr Michael Mancev, Head of Teaching and Learning, discussed the research behind the changes while Mr Andrew Piper, Head of Digital Learning, demonstrated the use of SEQTA. Mr Piper showed how SEQTA can be used by parents on various devices including computers and mobile phones to provide greater insight into how each child is progressing through their secondary years. We are really excited to be able to provide such visibility to our families and enhance student learning.

The Chess Club has begun in earnest and is beginning to overflow its borders with more than 20 students attending this weekly lunchtime event. Other clubs are also beginning to run as we try increasingly to provide a range of opportunities to suit the different interests and strengths of our students.

Recently, we conducted our Investiture Assembly. Ms Bridget Vallence MP - State Member for Evelyn, addressed the assembly and shared something of her background and the role she has recently commenced within the State Parliament. She spoke of leadership and inspired those in attendance to strive to achieve their best, concluding by acknowledging our Middle Years Leaders, House Captains and Vice Captains, Music Captains, Student Leaders, International Captains, Vice Captains and College Captains. It is humbling to see the young people who pass through our doors and their eagerness to work hard to serve our community. We trust they will be well supported and truly blessed as they leave their mark in the lives of those they lead through service. We also know that they will inspire younger students to strive to achieve their very best in all that they do.

Jesus was counter-cultural in His time and His message remains counter-cultural today. This is particularly true when He talks about leadership in Matthew 20:25-28 and says, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to

become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

We pray a special blessing on all of our leaders, whether the role is recognised as a formal one as with Ms Vallence and others who serve in political positions, or a very important one that is often not formally recognised, such as parents who lead their family. May God bless you as you sacrificially serve those around you.

Greg Barker Deputy Principal – Head of Senior School

Junior School

It is so hard to believe that we have now passed the halfway mark of Term 1. Students have well and truly settled into the routine of school and their connectedness to their teachers and peers is evident.

Year 5 and 6 students have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to extend their learning beyond the classroom at their respective camps over the past two weeks. Our college camping program provides many benefits to students as it gives them the opportunity to make new friends, foster independence, learn in a different environment, build confidence and have fun! We thank our staff for their organisation and diligent supervision of students to ensure the camp experience was both educational, positive and memorable.



A Sovereign Hill Trooper with William, Jess, Hayley, Jonathan, Ananya, Harrison, Xavier, Lucy, Kayla and Jeremiah.

Staff appreciated the chance to meet with families this week at our Semester 1 Parent Teacher interviews. Parent perceptions of student strengths and needs, learning styles and involvement in co-curricular activities can help teachers to shape and individualise teaching and learning. In Term 3 we will again invite parents to attend Parent Teacher Interviews to reflect on student progress in the latter half of the year.

Plans are now underway for the Year 3-6 Athletics, to be held on Thursday 14 March on the main oval from 9.15am. Parents are warmly invited to attend and see all students participate with energy and enthusiasm. Please put this date in your diary.

Many students enjoy bringing toys or belongings from home to share with their peers. It has come to our attention that Pokemon cards are amongst these. Pokemon, which is short for *pocket monster*, are meant to have special powers and evolve into more advanced forms. For this reason, we believe that it is not appropriate for students to bring these cards to school. We thank you for your support in this matter. Please note that the College takes no responsibility for loss or damage to personal items.

Junior School Volunteer Briefing Sessions

Thank you to the parents who attended the scheduled Volunteer Briefing Sessions last week. Over 100 parents were in attendance, highlighting the wonderful support we value from parents in the Junior School. With regulations to follow, and Child Safe Standards to uphold, it is imperative that our volunteers are fully aware of their role and responsibilities when supporting teaching and learning at Oxley. We look forward to witnessing the two-fold benefits of parent support in the classroom. Please contact the school office if you were unable to attend either of the Volunteer Briefing sessions and wish to volunteer in 2019.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17

> Sharee Gaiser Head of Junior School

What Did You Do at School Today?

Prep

We are reading! It was very exciting to set up our own book boxes, which contain books of which we are beginning to read the words and books where we are reading the pictures. We have learnt to look at the details on a page so we can understand the whole story. We are building our reading stamina to read for a sustained period, and are learning to sound out words and track with our finger. We have learnt so much already. It was wonderful to begin taking books home to read to our Mums and Dads to show them all we had learnt.



Iluka reading with her book box



Ethan reading with his book box

Year 1

We have been exploring patterns in Maths. We went on a pattern hunt and found patterns on the school buildings, the play equipment and even on the footpath. We discovered patterns in nature too! God must love patterns because we saw them on leaves, flowers and feathers! It has been fun making patterns on snakes and we can't wait to make Froot Loop patterns!

Year 2

It has been an incredible fortnight of learning! In Writing, we have enjoyed sharing our personal memoirs about our favourite moments in time. Using powerful adjectives and verbs, we have painted a clear picture in the mind of the audience. In Maths, we have discovered different mental strategies that enable us to add numbers together in our head. We have learnt that it is important to always have a growth mindset and not be afraid to make mistakes.

Year 3

Students have been working hard on their written and mental addition strategies. They are learning how to confidently use vertical addition to add large numbers together. Students have proven that their answer is reasonable by showing all working out using a number line.

Year 4

As part of our History focus, we have been learning about the age of exploration. We have considered the reasons exploration occurred and discovered that explorers went in search of fame and fortune. Items like gold, silver, herbs and spices were sought after commodities and finding new trading places was a priority for many European governments. Do you know who the first explorer was to circumnavigate the world? It was the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, whose expedition went from 1519 to 1522.

Year 5

What an awesome time we had on our camp! We journeyed to Ballarat to experience many different aspects of life on the Victorian goldfields in the 1850s. At the Eureka Museum we saw the original Southern

Cross flag that flew at the Eureka Stockade. We saw a musket fired by one of the troopers. Over the next two days, we attended school at the Wesleyan Day School (5M) and the Ragged School (5R). It was quite a sight to see us all dressed up, even the teachers! After buying the customary raspberry drops and piling on the bus, we left for home. This week we have been reflecting on all the great things we saw and learned about life on the goldfields and how the discovery of gold in Ballarat helped shape the Australia we know today.

Year 6

Last week, we had a wonderful time at camp in Canberra! We explored Parliament House and participated in a role play in the House of Representatives, learning how a new law is made. At the Royal Australian Mint a highlight was seeing Titan, a mighty self-driven robot, tip over 25,000 coins at one time to be sorted. We thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each other and learning more about our nation's capital.

Written by Caitlyn Fong and Radha Robertson



Year 6 at Parliament House

School Banking

School Banking day is changing

Our School Banking day will be changing from Friday to Monday as of 4 March 2019.

Please ensure that Dollarmites deposit wallets are now brought to school on Monday mornings. Any wallets received on any other day will be sent home with a reminder note that the School Banking day has changed to Monday. Please note, this is due to the privacy and security of your child's banking information.

If your child has lost their Dollarmites deposit wallet, they can bring their money to school on the next School Banking day, in a named sealed envelope with a note including your child's name and School Banking Student ID No. A replacement will be issued.

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program at Oxley Christian College.

If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2019 School Banking program information pack from the school office or visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking.

Sharee Gaiser Head of Junior School

Apology

We apologise for the incorrect photo inserted for our Semester 1 Home Group Captains in the last edition of *The Vine*.



Semester 1 Home Group Captains

ANZAC 2019

2019 Oxley ANZAC Service

All Oxley staff, students and parents are invited to our annual ANZAC service. This student-run event has quickly become an Oxley tradition worth attending.

When: Wednesday 24 April at 6.30am

Where: Teardrop Car Park (in case of inclement weather

we will relocate to the BPAC)



Please join us after the event in the Dining Room for a pancake breakfast. A gold coin donation will be appreciated. All proceeds will go to a local veterans organisation.

Junior Sport

Mooroolbark District Swimming Trials

On 19 February, selected students from Year 4-6 competed at the Mooroolbark District Swimming Trials. Students who placed in first or second position progressed to the Yarra Division Swimming Championships. Congratulations to all students for their efforts on the day!

9/10 Year olds

Sanaa Geisler	1st Freestyle 1st Butterfly	
Lucas Mann	2nd Freestyle, 1st Backstroke	
Lathaniel Hill	3rd Freestyle, 4th Backstroke	
Tom Weighell	1st Breaststroke, 4th Freestyle	

11 Year Olds

i i leai Olus		
Lucy Weighell	1st Freestyle, 1st Backstroke	
Elena He	1st Breaststroke, 2nd Freestyle	
Kaitlyn Huyhn	4th Freestyle, 5th Breaststroke	
Ava Van Haaster	6th Freestyle	
Charlotte Geoghegan-Biggar	7th Backstroke, 7th Freestyle	
Alannah Moulton	4th Breaststroke, 8th Freestyle	
Isabella Collins	5th Backstroke, 9th Freestyle	
Anna Yuriev	5th Backstroke, 9th Freestyle	
Mason Trevena	3rd Freestyle	

12/13 Year Olds

Gabriella Swyny	2nd Freestyle, 2nd Backstroke
Jaimie Mann	1st Freestyle, 1st Backstroke
Shenghao Jin	1st Freestyle, 1st Breaststroke
Michael Buckle	1st Backstroke, 2nd Freestyle
Daniel Balla	2nd Breaststroke, 4th Freestyle

Joshua Gasck **Junior School Physical Education Teacher**

Music

Scheduling of private music lessons for Term 1 is now complete. Applications to start lessons in Term 2 should be received by the Music Department no later than Friday 22 March. This allows time for timetables to be prepared and distributed before the end of Term 1. Please be mindful that many of our instructors currently have full lists and so, in some instances, students applying for lessons may be placed on a waiting list.

Our ensembles are now established and ensemble students are rehearsing for upcoming performances, many of which will occur in Term 2 or beyond. Students in Camerata will be performing at our School at Work on Thursday 21 March.

If you have any queries about private instrumental lessons or ensemble rehearsals, please call the Music Department on 9727 9675.

> Angela Peacock **Performing Arts & Events Administrator**

History Competition

2019 History Competitions for Year 5-10 students

Every year, various organisations offer Australian students opportunity interest in history by running several competitions. This year we would like to promote three



specific competitions, and provide student support and advice for their entries. Please read below for more information about the competitions we will be supporting this year. You can visit the listed websites for more information.

HTAV Historical Fiction Competition

Students from Year 5 to Year 10 are encouraged to create stories based on historical events and real people. You can write about any period of history as long as the entry has a convincing setting that is historically correct in time and place. Winning students will each receive a cash prize of \$150 and a certificate. Entry is now open.

https://www.htav.asn.au/students/htav-historical-fictioncompetition

Premier's Spirit of ANZAC Prize 2019

This research-based competition offers students in Year 9 and Year 10 the opportunity to win a 2019 study tour to Canberra or a significant overseas site where Australian soldiers have served. The competition offers three broad topics to help students focus their entry. Entries can be presented in a wide range of formats including essays, poems, short stories, artworks, websites, audio-visual presentations or musical compositions. Over the past few years, Oxley students have won this competition three times and enjoyed study tours to Canberra and Turkey.

https://www.vic.gov.au/submit-entry-premiers-spiritanzac-prize



National History Challenge 2019

This competition is open to all students from the Primary years up to and including VCE. It is an exciting contest that encourages students to use research and inquiry-based learning to discover more about the past. Students are the historians. They can investigate their community, explore their own and their family's past and consider ideas throughout history. The NHC encourages the use of primary and secondary sources and offers a variety of presentation styles. It rewards students with generous cash prizes and travel opportunities. The theme for this year is *Turning Points*.

http://www.historychallenge.org.au/about/about-the-nhc/

If you are interested in finding out more about these competitions, please visit the websites or contact me for more information. You can email me at swhite@oxley.vic. edu.au or via SEQTA message. Parents of Junior School students are most welcome to contact me on behalf of their children. We would be thrilled to assist any students who enter a competition with all the resources and support they need.

Stephen White Head of Humanities

Year 10 Camp Reflections

Boating

The Year 10 Aqua Camp Boating Group was the group with the least amount of swimming, but not any less in challenges or fun activities. We learnt how to operate and drive a power boat around the jetty. Most of us thoroughly enjoyed this activity and felt a sense of achievement afterwards. During camp, there were several chances to see some wildlife and sea life; dolphins, seals, puffer fish, crabs and many other fish. We also had the opportunity to kayak in a lake near the camp. We learnt the basics of kayaking and were able to paddle around the lake and play some really fun games (even if some of us fell in). No matter what activity group we were in we all enjoyed the night walk. The moon was full and the atmosphere

was magical. New friendships were formed through song and laughter.

Charlotte McGregor and Celine Robinson

SCUBA

We were a part of the SCUBA group in the program. We loved it! It was like another world under the water. There was so much life and, while we were nervous to begin with, it ended up being one of the best experiences. We did two pier dives, where we were introduced to SCUBA diving and shown many different species of marine life, such as puffer fish, sea horses, starfish, sting rays, octopi, squid and so much more. We also did a deeper water dive, where we descended to about 10m at Pope's Eye (a marine sanctuary in the middle of Port Phillip Bay). Other amazing activities that we did included snorkelling at Rye pier and in the rock pools, as well as with seals. Sailing was a new experience for most of us, which we thoroughly enjoyed. Overall, it was the best camp ever!

Saskia Hupertz and Emily Pocock

Surfing

After a long bus trip, we arrived at Merricks Lodge, where we would play games and unite as a a year level. Our first day started with learning to stand up paddle and ended with snorkelling in the rock pools. The bus trips were great because the group could socialise while travelling to activities. While we loved learning to surf, snorkelling under Rye pier, sailing and snorkelling with seals, by far, staying at camp with all our friends was the best. No stress. No parents. Just fun with friends.

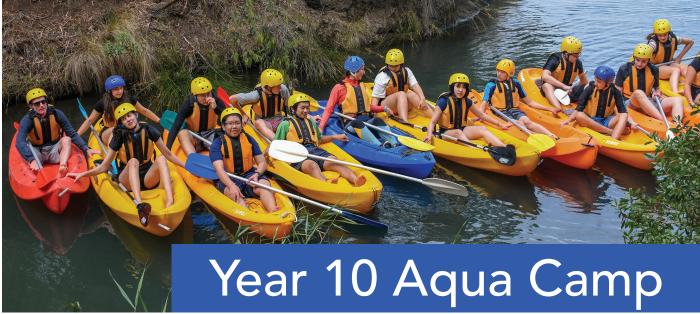
Parker Vanderhorst and Ryan Brookes































Administration

Speed limit – a reminder to parents and other drivers

Please follow the speed limit on our property and never rush. Always make allowance for the time required to park and safely drop off or pick up your child(ren).

Please be courteous to all road users on our property and remember that our roads are shared spaces – children cross our roads. You should always be alert and watch out for children.



Remember that if you do not follow the speed limit, you are breaking the law, as normal road rules apply on our property.

Thank you for your understanding and commitment to keeping our property as safe as possible for our students.

Andrew Holland Business Manager

Enrolments

2020

Parents intending to enrol children (who are not already enrolled at Oxley Christian College) for 2020 are strongly advised to do so now as we have limited vacancies in some year levels. Please obtain an Enrolment Application Form, Fee Schedule and Business Statement from the Administration Office.

2021

We are also accepting enrolments for 2021 and beyond (particularly Prep and Year 7) and again, we encourage you to submit your completed Enrolment Application Form as soon as possible.

Notice to Withdraw

Parents are reminded of their obligation to give the College one full term's notice, in writing to the Principal, if their children are not continuing at Oxley Christian College. The lack of one term's notice will result in the payment of one term's Tuition Fees.

It is also a legal requirement for you to inform us of the school to which your child's enrolment is transferring.

Caroline Lewis Registrar



Oxley Kids employment opportunities

We currently have vacancies in our team of Educators for a Team Leader in our 0-3 year old area, as well as an OSHC Coordinator.

For further information contact Oxley Kids on 9727 9200 or www.oxleykids.vic.edu.au/employment.

Kim Sopar Oxley Kids Director



Notice Board

UNIFORM SHOP

Gate 7, 15-49 Old Melbourne Rd Ph: 9036 7359

Tuesdays & Thursdays (term time) 8.15 - 9.00am & 1.00 - 4.30pm

Uniform regulations and price list are available at the Office or online at: http://www.bobstewart.com.au

CLASSIFIEDS

The Oxley Classifieds are a convenient way to buy and sell items (directly related to the education of your child) such as textbooks, uniform and musical instruments.

To advertise or purchase second hand items: http://online.oxley.vic.edu.au/ classifieds.php username: parent password: oxley

OXLEY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The College may, from time-to-time, review and update various policies and procedures. Online / digital copies of College policies and procedures can be found on the Oxley website (under 'Publications'), or on the Parent Portal (under the 'Docs' tab) which is accessible from the College website

OXLEY KIDS

Early Learning Centre Open 6.30am - 6.30pm 9727 9200

OXLEY ONLINE

The Vine is also available online via our website: www.oxley.vic.edu.au

2019 Calendar

Mar	Thursday	7	Senior School House Athletics Junior School Parent Teacher interviews (4.00pm - 6.00pm, Senior School building)
	Monday	11	Labour Day Public Holiday
	Tuesday	12	Year 12 Drama Excursion
	Thursday	14	Senior School EISM Division 3 Swimming Year 3 - 6 Athletics Carnival (9.15am, Main College Oval)
	Monday	18	National Young Leaders Day
	Mon-Fri	18 Mar - 5 Apr	Year 9 City Cite
	Tuesday	19	VCE Music Excursion
	Tue-Fri	19-22	Year 8 Camp
	Thursday	21	School at Work (9.50am - 11.30am, BPAC) Year 12 PE Excursion
	Friday	22	Year 7 Immunisations
	Monday	25	Swim Championships
	Wed-Fri	27-29	Year 7 Camp
Friday	Friday	29	Year 3 Excursion
Apr	Thursday	4	Year 9 City Cite Presentation Evening
	Friday	5	Last Day Term 1
	Friday	19	Good Friday
	Monday	22	Easter Monday
	Tuesday	23	First Day Term 2 Senior School Parent Teacher Interviews (4.00 - 9.00pm Senior School Building)
	Thursday	24	ANZAC Dawn Service (6.30am, Teardrop Car Park)
	Friday	26	Year 3 Science Excursion
	Tuesday	30	School Photos
May	Wednesday	1	Senior School Parent Teacher Interviews (1.30pm - 6.00pm Senior School Building)
	Friday	3	Early Dismissal - 1.30pm
	Saturday	4	Open Day
	Tuesday	7	Homestay Information Evening Mothers' Day Stall
	Thursday	9	Oxley 40th Anniversary Photo
	Monday	13	Junior School Cross Country

OXLEY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

A Coeducational School | Prep to Year 12

ABN: 25 005 670 682 / 008



15-49 Old Melbourne Rd, Chirnside Park, Victoria, 3116, Australia Principal: Dr Douglas Peck Ph: 03 9727 9900

Business Manager: Mr Andrew Holland Fax: 03 9727 9988

International Ph: +61 3 9727 9900 International Fax: +61 3 9727 9988

email: office@oxley.vic.edu.au

A DIVISION OF LIFE MINISTRY CENTRE LTD. OLD MELBOURNE RD CHIRNSIDE PARK, VIC, 3116. (INC IN VICTORIA)