

SUMMER 2019/2020



vose

BEYOND

VOLUME 15



PRINCIPAL POINTS

DR BRIAN HARRIS
PRINCIPAL

Many of our supporters have heard that Vose Seminary and Morling College are in serious talks about possibly merging to form what would effectively be one college with three campuses – the Morling Campus in Sydney, the Vose campus in Perth and an online campus, which would serve students all over the world.

When people ask me why such talks are underway my short answer is, “It’s the 21st century. Geography is no longer the most important consideration.” I then elaborate and tell them about a recent intensive Dr David Cohen led for us at Vose. Apparently the student from Pakistan was the one most engaged in the topic, and was the star contributor to the class discussions. But here’s the thing – her contributions were made from Pakistan. Zoom technology made it possible for her to see and interact with all class members in real time, while the class could also see and converse with her – no time delays, no awkward pauses... just 21st century technology giving a student in another country the same experience as the students who were sitting in the class.

It’s not just our students who are able to “attend” class from anywhere in the world. Our lecturers can also lecture anywhere in the world while comfortably located in their Perth office. It’s already happening, and it is clear that as we move deeper and deeper into this millennium, what currently seems surprising will be viewed as entirely routine. It does not take too much imagination to sense the possibilities that arise from theological colleges working together

more closely – indeed, merging their efforts to ensure their students have truly exceptional learning experiences is one way to effectively steward the gifts possessed by their faculty.

So why are we talking merger?

- If the merger takes place, the new entity will be one of the largest theological colleges in the Southern Hemisphere, and students will be able to benefit from a well-resourced, highly qualified and specialized staff team.
- Staff specialization will be possible in a way that has not been practical before.
- There will be significant economies of scale. A more cost effective model makes it possible to invest funds saved to enrich the educational experience of our students.
- Unnecessary duplication can be done away with (for example, at present both Vose and Morling produce excellent online products – but realistically, we only need one online program).
- The research potential of the new entity will be remarkable. Theological colleges should have a prophetic edge that guides the church towards the future, and the merged college should be a genuine think tank for the church in Australia and beyond.

For over half a century Vose has effectively and creatively served the churches of Western Australia. Owned by the Baptist Churches of Western Australia, from its earliest days it has served students from all denominations.

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It has served as a champion for women in ministry, and in more recent years has trained students from many cultural backgrounds. It has been unafraid to explore difficult questions, and has done so with grace and wisdom. It continues to highlight the relevance of the biblical message to a changing world. Our latest project, "Open Book: A Biblical Literacy Project" is currently helping thousands of teachers in Christian Schools around Australia to understand the Bible better and to apply its teaching in their setting. Naturally, long time Vose supporters are anxious lest this enviable heritage gets lost in a new larger entity. However, representatives chosen by the Baptist Churches of Western Australia will serve on the board of the merged college, and will help to ensure that the needs of WA are understood and met. We should be able to offer WA more, not less.

Please understand that these conversations are currently in progress – and nothing is yet certain. We believe in transparency, and know that as valued supporters, you will be praying for us. The future is as bright as the promises of God, who can always be trusted. Thank you for your support and prayers.

THIS CHRISTMAS



Christmas is a time of giving at Vose. Consider making a gift to Vose this Christmas, and investing in the training and formation of our Christian leaders. Their stories aren't possible without you, and we thank you for your generosity and partnership.

All donations to Vose are tax deductible, so head to www.vose.edu.au/donate to give Vose a Christmas gift this year.



VOSE MISSION UPDATE

LLOYD PORTER

DIRECTOR VOSE MISSION & ACADEMIC DEAN

It's been a good year for Vose Mission with our units being well attended and students preparing for long-term mission work in South East Asia and Japan. In our current Aid and Development class we have 17 students looking at the many dimensions of poverty and examining ethical issues, such as low cost clothing, that often results in the exploitation of vulnerable people. Other graduates are already out on the mission field in places such as Mozambique and Cambodia. Nathaniel Killick, one of our recent graduates is serving in Cambodia and is preparing for marriage in January. Nathaniel writes:

"In 2017, I was looking to make a longer commitment into the world of mission. I had traveled to Nepal in 2015 with Operation Mobilisation and decided that I needed to weave some practical components into my theological studies. As part of my MDiv program, I enrolled in the Cross-Cultural Field Education unit and was accepted by OMF International in Cambodia to teach English for 6 months. A little over a year ago, I

made a long-term move to Cambodia after completing my placement. As well as falling in love with the Cambodian culture and language and the people, I fell in love with a local Khmer Christian girl. I have been teaching English at an international school since January 2019 and find teaching English as a second language fun and rewarding (as well as so tiring). We spend Sundays in a Khmer church, in my fiancée's village, and with friends and family. Thankfully I have learned some Khmer language. In January, we will get married! It will be a full day ceremony, with lots of colour, lots of people and tradition. The government process is tedious and expensive on top of wedding expenses, so prayer for stewardship of finances would be greatly appreciated. After that, who knows where we will end up! Maybe we will stay here, or maybe return to Australia for work - but wherever we go, we are so thankful to God for our opportunities which we never expected to have and all the things to come."



2019 VOSE ANNUAL LECTURE

On Friday, August 2, 2019 Ben Witherington III delivered the Annual Vose Lecture on the theme, "A Singular Jesus in a Pluralistic Culture." In essence, the lecture was an applied New Testament apologetics within a Wesleyan Evangelical framework of thought. Witherington explored Jesus' self-understanding as reported in the gospels, assessing the historical worth of this portrayal, and arguing that an incarnational understanding of Jesus is a necessary deduction from the New Testament data, and the foundation of Christian witness in a pluralistic context.

On Saturday morning following the public lecture, Ben Witherington addressed a second more academic lecture to another audience on the theme of "Paul, Covenantal Theology, and the Law." In this thoughtful and thought-provoking lecture Witherington insisted that the Law must be understood within its Old Testament / Ancient Near Eastern context,

that the Mosaic covenant was a covenant of both grace and law—and indeed all the biblical covenants had this feature. The New Covenant was not a renewal of the Old Covenant, i.e. as one covenant with diverse administrations, but was an entirely new covenant.

Both lectures were followed by a lively Question & Answer session, and by ongoing conversation after the formalities were concluded. It was a privilege to have such an accomplished New Testament exegete and commentator visit Vose Seminary and bring the wealth of his learning to our community. Further, Ben Witherington's Wesleyan commitments also brought a fresh flavour to the lectures; it is not that often that this perspective has been so competently and enthusiastically presented and defended in Perth in recent years. Despite his great learning, massive literary output, and global stature, Ben wore his learning lightly. This was the third Annual Vose Lecture, and a very fine addition to this growing heritage.

- Written by Dr Michael O'Neil, Director Vose Research



FACILITY HIRE AT VOSE

At Vose we have some amazing facilities that are available to hire. Be one of the increasing number of groups who are realising how great our facilities are, and book a space for your next function.

Please go to www.vose.edu.au/college-facilities/ to find out more. You can also contact us at 08 6313 6200 or office@vose.edu.au and let us show you around, talk you through pricing, and help you book a space.





STUDENT SERVICES

ANDRE KURNIAWAN

DIRECTOR STUDENT SERVICES

The Student Services team are passionately committed to providing an exceptional learning experience for our students. We understand the importance and the commitment required for studying in the 21st century and we aim to serve each student pastorally, tailoring their enrolment to their unique seasons of life, growth and future calling.

Improving our student portal experience has been the major focal project for the Student Services team in 2019 as we look to streamline our recruitment and enrolment procedures, policies, compliance and online services. Our student portal now allows students to complete student administration forms online on the website as well as having web page access to our policies, procedures and student handbook in one central portal.

The introduction of a new course in 2020 – Master of Theological Studies - has seen a number of our alumni, prospective and current students enquiring and meeting with our Course Advisors about the benefits of what the new course has to offer.

The Master of Theological Studies is a great postgraduate coursework program for anyone. Whether you have completed your theological studies and are wanting to go further, coming from a non-theological background or looking for a pathway into a higher degree by research – the Master of Theological Studies can be tailored and personalized to suit your circumstances and future calling. Please feel free to get in touch with one of our Course Advisers to see how the Master of Theological Studies could benefit you.

As we move towards 2020 – we move forward with courage and peace knowing that God is working in us as we develop and improve our Student Services. We are grateful for the role we are able to play supporting and training the people of God for the work of the Kingdom.

As 2019 comes to an end – we would not be able to do what we do without your support and prayers and for that, we appreciate you and thank God for you.

PHD



Dr Aaron Chidgzey

Aaron Chidgzey, Vose's VET Content Developer and Director of Online Learning, completed his PhD this year and was conferred in October. The thesis was titled "Reframing Resurrection: Toward a Renewed and Redeemed Creation," exploring theological, historical, and philosophical issues relating to Jesus' resurrection in dialogue with theologians Wolfhart Pannenberg and N.T. Wright.

NEWS



Dr Nathan Hobby

Vose Librarian Nathan Hobby's PhD thesis was passed in September. Completed within the English and Cultural Studies discipline at the University of Western Australia, its title was "Astir with Great Things: The Early Life of Katharine Susannah Pritchard". Nathan is currently working on the rest of the biography of Pritchard (1883-1969), an acclaimed Australian novelist, to publish as a book.



VOSE TRAINING

JON BERGMANN
DIRECTOR VOSE TRAINING



Heading into the Christmas season is always a good time to reflect on the achievements of the year. At Vose Training, we look back with a sense of pride and accomplishment at the ways we have been able to serve in 2019.

Our mission to deliver Training that Transforms led us to establishing a model of teaching that went to the church, rather than asking everyone to come to us. We called these smaller learning communities “hubs” and we have been overwhelmed by the interest people have had in starting them up in their own areas. A real highlight for this year has been the establishment of a hub in the Pilbara – running out of Karratha Baptist Church. Thanks to Pastors Nick and Sarah Martin, we have been able to set up a weekly ‘virtual’ class with a number of students from different churches. They gather each week to learn, to grow, and to build community – exactly what education is all about!

We continue to work hard with our other partner churches and organisations as well. The hub at Riverview Church is going very well, with a constant stream of students coming through and graduating from there.

Our team has shifted throughout the year, with Justine Humphreys (Content Developer) and Daniel Bonallack (Compliance officer) leaving us and being replaced by Dr Aaron Chidgey and Bernadette Smith respectively.

We have also been working in New South Wales with our newest team member, Dennis Park, who has been diligently recruiting students into both our Ministry and Leadership & Management courses which are set to kick off in Sydney in 2020. Dennis has done a remarkable job at both generating interest in our courses, but also integrating into our team from such a distance. We are looking forward to all that he will continue to bring to Vose, but also hopefully growing our NSW team so he has some local support around him.

Finally, and as always, we are grateful for the opportunity to be able to serve the Baptist Church of Australia, especially here in Western Australia. It is an honor and a privilege to work in ministry, and as a team we look forward to all of the ways in which God will move in 2020.

Blessings to you and your families over the Christmas season.

OPEN BOOK UPDATE

Christian Schools Australia (CSA) – a group of over 150 Christian schools nationwide – recently contracted Vose Seminary to design a series of professional development sessions for staff in Christian schools. The objective was to communicate the importance of Biblical literacy in Christian education. This project became known as Open Book.

As part of Open Book, Vose – working with Sheryn Films - developed a series of high-quality videos aimed at inspiring and informing participants about various aspects of history, theology and biblical studies, as well as manuals and resources which helped to bring this learning into their own life.

Not only does this project have the capacity to reach nearly 9000 CSA staff members – making it Vose’s biggest and most ambitious project yet – but Brian Harris and Jon Bergmann also just finished running training sessions all over the country for those who were interested in using the resource. Overall, Open Book has been a great success, and the team are now at work adapting the resource so that it can be used by students, churches, and small groups – so watch this space!





VOSE NEWS



FAREWELL JOHN PIM

John Pim, our outgoing Caretaker, also a student here at Vose, was called to pastor the Esperance Baptist church in July. While wonderful for him and his family - its hard to imagine a more attractive place than Esperance in which to raise a young family - we miss his humour and congenial nature, and value his time at Vose.



FAREWELL DANIEL BONALLACK

Daniel Bonallack, who was our Compliance Officer for several years, left us in July and is now exploring further pursuits in chaplaincy. Daniel played an integral part in maintaining our compliance requirements and he did so with diligence and good humour. His enthusiastic character and integrity are missed.



FAREWELL CATE VOSE

Cate Vose, our Director of Online Learning and Business Development, left us in May to be able to spend more time with her family. Cate has been instrumental in the growth and development of Vose Seminary, and we are grateful for her outstanding contributions. We have missed her warm-hearted and engaging personality.



WELCOME ROWAN DU BOULAY

Rowan du Boulay is our new Gardens and Maintenance person. Rowan completed a Bachelor of Ministry at Vose and has experience and qualifications in conservation and land management. He is also the Discipleship Pastor at Parkerville Baptist.



WELCOME DENNIS PARK

A big welcome to Dennis our Business Development Officer based at Morling College, Sydney. Dennis currently pastors a church in Sydney with New Start Church Planting Ministry at the Baptist Association of NSW/ACT. Dennis and his wife, Carin, have three children – Robin, Leah and Jade.



WELCOME BERNADETTE SMITH

We are thrilled to welcome Bernadette Smith back to the team as Compliance Officer. Bernadette was our Compliance Officer from 2013-2014, and has over 10 years experience working with various RTO's and education providers.



VOSE LIBRARY NEWS

BRIDGET BARRY
VOSE LIBRARIAN

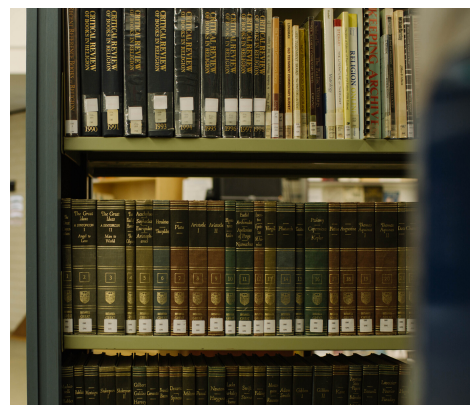
Vose Library played host to artists and archivists this year.

We invited artists interested in the Mandorla Art Award to afternoon tea, to talk theology and art. Dr David Cohen, Head of Biblical Studies and Lecturer in Hebrew Bible and Language at Vose, presented on how his theological explorations and his music inform and enhance each other. Nika Savins, Vose PhD student, was on hand to chat about the interplay of her photography and theology. The WA Baptist Historical Society held its recent meeting and AGM in the library, with encouragement, tips and displays on caring for the history of Baptists in WA.

Keeping the marvellous booksale in mind, mark Saturday, April 4th 2020 in your calendar. If you'd like to help out with preparation, sale day activities, or pack down, you can let us know here by email at library@vose.edu.au or you can call the library on 08 6313 6288

We are able to receive your quality book donations all year round in A4 size boxes. Contact Bridget at the library for details.

And with students, members and events in mind, we are always keen to hear about your experience and reflections of your library. We are conducting our annual survey, which you can participate in: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019VLB>, and would love to know what's on your mind. Tell us your dreams for Vose Library.



FREDERICK BUECHNER WRITING COMPETITION

The winners of the inaugural Vose Frederick Buechner Writing Competition were recognised in a ceremony on 29 August. We congratulate the winner, Roland Maxwell, and the equal second-prize entrants, Chris Ellery and JJ Hsieh. The three winners read from their entries at the ceremony; their full essays are available on the Vose website. The competition is a result of Vose's participation in the Frederick Buechner Center's seminary program, with the centre providing US\$1000 prize money for excellence in preaching and writing each year, as well as copies of Buechner's influential books for our students.

The judges, Dr Victoria Lorrimar, Lecturer in systematic theology, Trinity College, Queensland, and Nathan Hobby, writer and Vose librarian, presented the following report on the winner's essay.



Winner – "Faith and Fiction" by Roland Maxwell.

This essay has an overall theme of 'searching'. It's an account of the writer's faith journey after emigrating from South Africa to Australia many years ago. It has a distinctive and wise narrative voice. It is wide-ranging and has many poignant moments. The tone is elegiac and the stories illuminating. The judges commend its lively tone which compelled them to keep reading. The story running through it – from youth to vocation to death – keeps returning to elements of faith and fiction.

The seminary congratulates the winners and thanks all who accepted the challenge and entered the competition. Thanks to Victoria for being one of the judges and offering her insightful perspective on entries.



RUTH WARWICK STUDENT STORY

When you walk with God you never quite know the journey He might take you on. He has amazing opportunities planned for us if we are willing to just say 'Yes'. A year ago, because of my work in mental health, I was invited, along with my husband, to speak at a team retreat for cross-cultural workers serving with Global Interaction in Mozambique and Malawi. What a transformational experience that was for us! Listening to stories and sitting in villages with mud huts in the third world was confronting, and I grappled long after our trip was over with the disparity of our wealth in the West and the poverty yet to be addressed in developing world. Was I meant to do what the Scriptures say and 'sell all my positions to give to the poor'? How would I do that? And how would I give in a way that would not hurt those I wanted so desperately to help? How could I make a difference? What were the answers to all my questions and the difference in worldviews I had experienced? Desperately, wanting to stay

connected to our African experience, I happened to look on the Vose website at their study options for the coming semester. Low and behold they were offering a missions unit in Aid and Development. I signed up!! Fourteen weeks later (and a steep learning curve on mastering the art of writing academic essays and learning to reference properly for the first time!) so many of my questions were answered. The unit was brilliant! I loved what I learnt, and I loved the challenge of learning, of growing and of being stretched. Then, as only God could orchestrate, quite out of the blue and very unexpectedly, I was offered a job with Transform Aid International (also known as Baptist World Aid). I now get to put that very unit into practice! It seems the restlessness and stirring in my heart was for good reason. God has a new journey to take me on. And I suspect this new journey is just the beginning! You can see the work of Transform Aid International at <https://transformaid.org/>

READY TO GO DIGITAL?

We send out a new addition of Beyond twice a year; its a great way to keep in touch with our alumni, local churches and supporters. Did you know Beyond is available electronically?

To sign up to receive Beyond in your inbox, instead of your mailbox, just email us at office@vose.edu.au and we will get you connected.



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SEMESTER 1

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now open.

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