



*Achieving greatness together*

SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2018





*Steve Clifford, CEO*

## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUNG VICTORIANS

**First of all, a big thank you for supporting Doxa and helping to change the lives of young Victorians. We couldn't do it without you! I'm sure you'll agree, it's wonderful to see the impacts our programs have on students.**

From the joy these young people get from experiencing the Australian bush at our Malmsbury Camp through to the professional success they achieve through our Cadetship program, it's heart-warming to see the difference we can all make to these young lives.

I was particularly delighted to hear about the story of one of our program participants, Zung Laithang (see further details of Zung's background in the following pages). Zung started with us at Doxa as a University Pathways Program participant in 2015. Inspired to study Engineering, he later went on to apply for the Cadetship program. He was the first Cadet we placed this year, with his work placement confirmed at V/Line. It is truly inspiring to see how our programs support each other and work in synergy to achieve great outcomes for our young people. I wish Zung all the very best with his Cadetship and look forward to hearing more about his career development as he continues to achieve greatness.

Greatness is something we have also seen in our Camps programs. We recently hosted a visit from Tessa Vrettas, V/Line's Community Engagement Officer, who presented our Malmsbury Camp Manager with a certificate of support to honour our ongoing partnership. We are very grateful for the subsidised travel that V/Line offer us each year to support rural and regional program participants with the opportunity to attend Doxa programs.

I hope you are finding our quarterly newsletters a useful and interesting way to hear about Doxa's programs, participants, stories and successes. For those who use social media, I also encourage you to follow us to keep up to date with everything Doxa.

In any event, please let me or the team know if there is any aspect of Doxa that you would like to hear more about in these newsletters.

**Thank you for being a Doxa supporter.**

## MEMBER & CEO GET TOGETHERS 2018

As part of our ongoing commitment to engaging our valued Doxa Members, we have been hosting regular CEO & Member Get Togethers. These have been a mutually beneficial opportunity to share the latest news of our work with disadvantaged young people and share thoughts, feedback and ideas with one another. The next date is set for Wednesday June 6 at Doxa, and we look forward to seeing many of our Members in attendance for a catch up over a sandwich. Please contact Esther [eng@doxa.org.au](mailto:eng@doxa.org.au) for more information.





Transforming  
young people  
with leadership  
potential

*Future Focus student*

## HEART-WARMING FEEDBACK ON THE IMPRESSIVE OUTCOMES OF FUTURE FOCUS

A teacher from Hume Central Secondary College wrote:

"We have seen higher levels of engagement in classes and school initiatives from students attending the program. Not only are these students more comfortable in being in new environments and with new people, they have also returned to the school environment as more vibrant and confident in their own personalities. These students have improved their confidence and public speaking abilities with some now part of school leadership. I believe some of these students may never have developed the skills to take on leadership responsibilities if it had not been for the Doxa Program. I hope the program is kept on, as the changes it has provided to these students cannot be understated."

## FUTURE FOCUS LAUNCHING IN GEELONG

Future Focus supports students in years 7 and 8 as they transition from primary school to secondary school. The consecutive year service model supports young people to build positive connections with education and to help develop vital life skills such as confidence and self-esteem, goal setting, communication skills, and leadership skills.

Due to the success of this program and ongoing support from trusts & foundations for the wonderful outcomes achieved, we are thrilled to announce that we will be launching our Future Focus program in Geelong this month. We would like to thank Perpetual and Give Where You Live Foundation for funding this expansion and enabling us to deliver this program to more young people in need.



## “AN ENGINEER CHANGES THE WORLD”

Zung began his journey with Doxa as a University Pathways Program participant in 2015. After completing the program Zung applied for the 2018 Cadetship program. With a passion for engineering, and a strong dedication to making a positive difference in the world, Zung was a star candidate for V/Line.

“An engineer changes the world” he said when asked why he chose his university course.

Arriving in Australia ten years ago from a war-torn country with no English language skills, Zung had to work exceptionally hard to fulfil his dream of attending university, while also assisting his family financially. Zung is the oldest of five children and spends a lot of time supporting his younger sister who has autism, and volunteering with his local church. He is a shining example of a young person from challenging circumstances on a pathway to achieving greatness.

This year we are proud to say that we have several Cadets who have graduated from the University Pathways Program and have been successfully placed in our Cadetship program.

*Zung Laithang is one of our amazing first year Cadets. He is studying a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) at Deakin University and is doing his work placement at V/Line.*

## WELCOME TO THE 2018 CADETSHIP COHORT

We have placed 21 cadets so far this year for our 2018 Cadetship program. Many thanks to our new and continuing Cadetship Program Partners. We look forward to working with you to support young people from challenging life circumstances in the months and years ahead.

In 2018, our new Program Partners include: Pinsent Masons, Coote Family Lawyers, SEMZ and Johnson, Winter & Slattery (JWS).

## V/LINE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT DOXA

**We are very grateful for the ongoing support from our partnership with V/Line. V/Line has been providing travel support to Doxa since 1976.**

Without this support, we would not be able to offer our camps programs to

*V/Line's Community Engagement Officer, Tessa Vrettas at our Malmsbury Camp with Camp Manager, Jess Case*

such a geographically wide range of schools from across Victoria. V/Line's Community Engagement Officer, Tessa Vrettas, recently visited our Malmsbury Camp and presented a certificate of support to Doxa. Many thanks to Tessa for making the trip out to see us!



## STUDENTS MOVE BEYOND THEIR COMFORT ZONE

We recently spoke to Chris Warke, who is a staff member at Kurunjang Secondary College near Melton. She has seen first-hand the impact Doxa has had on so many of her students – from Future Focus, through UPP and on to Cadetship. When we met with her she told us how ***"Doxa's programs encourage students to have a voice"*** and that the programs ***"give students the chance to move beyond their comfort zone and help build their confidence."***

## THANK YOU TO OUR DOXA TEAM LEADERS

We are incredibly grateful to our young Team Leaders who volunteer their time to Doxa programs and pay forward the positive experience they have had themselves.

*UPP student and Doxa Team Leader, Liang*



“As Doxa was able to support me when I was uncertain and not at all confident in myself and dreams, I want to be part of the cycle of positive social change and empowerment, to help assist the young people in knowing that they can rise above and grow from the challenges they may be facing.”

**Liang, Doxa Team Leader**



*Find out more  
about Doxa*

Find us online to discover more about our wonderful programs that offer positive life experiences, education opportunities, and employment pathways to young people experiencing disadvantage. Doxa is committed to the physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing of every child and young person that accesses our programs. See more at [www.doxa.org.au/childsafestandards](http://www.doxa.org.au/childsafestandards).



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Contact T (03) 9046 8200 E [info@doxa.org.au](mailto:info@doxa.org.au)



We acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands and waters where we work and live