



FUN AT SUMMER CAMP

Over January, our camp staff have been busy running summer camps from both CYC in the city and from our Malmsbury site. Each camp ran for five days and catered for ten to twelve-year-olds. We predominantly promoted these camps through schools and asked teachers to refer students who would otherwise not have had the opportunity to go away on holiday.

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OUR CAMPS

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Staff from community agencies working with children also recommended participants. The camps were very popular and filled up quickly.

Our city campers had the opportunity to experience some of the special events in Melbourne over summer. They attended the Australian Open and felt the excitement of an international event. They also had a ride on the Skyline Ferris Wheel on the St Kilda foreshore, which is only there in the warmer months. Other perennial favourites included in the programme were trips to the zoo and water activities at the State Sports Centre in Albert Park.

Our Malmsbury campers enjoyed being in the bush and a range of outdoor adventure activities. They went kayaking on Golden Point Water, horse riding and visited the local Jirrahlinga Conservation and Wildlife Centre. They participated in all the onsite activities offered at our Malmsbury Camp including archery, the climbing walls and the giant swing and the last night was a massive fair with a variety of food and activities.



MALMSBURY MAKEOVER CONTINUES

Our programme of upgrades at our Malmsbury Camp continues unabated. We have just finished working with engineers to develop a plan to replace the existing sanitation system, which will be rolled out over the next twelve months. Our current system is old and was never designed to cope with current numbers, especially when there are school groups during the week followed by community groups over the weekend.

DOXA BENDIGO SCHOOL AWARDS NIGHT

On 4 December, the Doxa Bendigo School held its end of the year Awards night in the historic St Killian's Hall. It was a time to reflect on the successes of the year and to acknowledge the individual achievements of young people at the school.

The night was well attended by students and their families, and was awash with excitement.



Kate Fogarty, the Director of Catholic Education Sandhurst and Julie Harrison, CEO of DYF, alongside the Principal, Vanessa Brown, presented the major awards. One of them is in memory of Ken Barry, a distinguished corporate lawyer, who was on the board of DYF and chair for many years.

MEET OUR TEAM: STEPHANIE LI

Stephanie Li, our finance manager, has been with DYF for over **ten years**. She was born in Xiang Tan in China and went to school and completed a business degree at the university there. Xiang Tan is famous for being the hometown of several founding members of the Communist Party, including Chairman Mao Zedong. In 2003, Stephanie came to Melbourne to study a Master of Business in Professional Accounting at VUT and enjoyed being in Australia so much that she never left.

Stephanie is married to William and has a daughter, Qing Qing, who is eleven. Stephanie marked the end of ten years of working with DYF with a trip with her family to Taiwan during the summer break. Stephanie loves being in the outdoors and Taiwan has many beautiful nature and wildlife areas. She is a particular fan of camping, hiking, and stand-up paddling and keeps nature journals filled with her drawings and thoughts about these experiences.



OUR CADETSHIP PROGRAMME

THIS IS US . . . 2024

The Doxa Cadetship Programme had an incredible 2024, and we couldn't resist ending the year with a festive celebration at Brunetti's in the city. Amidst delicious pizza and mouth-watering desserts, we reminisced about the year's successes and eagerly anticipated the exciting promise of 2025.



We welcomed three new cadets just before the end of 2024. Mia

is set to hone her environmental sustainability and outdoor education skills at Doxa's Malmsbury Camp while Danny and Serena will dive into the finance and marketing departments at Doxa Community Club. We're also gearing up to celebrate two of our graduating cadets at a special function in July in 2025.

As the new year starts, David Lugton our programme manager, and Effie Maniatis, Coordinator Cadet Support, have been busy interviewing remarkable applicants from all over Melbourne and Victoria during January. The talent is exceptional, with over 60% of applicants scoring an ATAR above 80! Our outreach through Career Expos and mailouts is clearly making an impact.

Looking ahead, we have a packed calendar of events, including expos, networking events, social activities, and workshops in 2025. Our first big adventure is on February 28th at Malmsbury Camp, where cadets will tackle the giant swing, climb the massive wall, have a go on the leap of faith pole and bond over other fun activities available at the camp. We can't wait to share photos from this and many more events in our upcoming newsletters.

Here's to an exciting year ahead with the Doxa Cadetship Programme!

CHRISTMAS!



On Friday, December 20th, 2024, a scorching hot day with temperatures soaring above 36 degrees, Doxa staff from Melbourne and Malmsbury, gathered halfway between the two locations at the Ball Court Hotel in Sunbury, to celebrate the end of another successful year. The atmosphere was fun with live music, delicious food, and refreshing drinks, creating the perfect setting for celebrating Christmas and sharing plans and new year resolutions for 2025.

DCC VISITS OUR MALMSBURY CAMP

Prior to Christmas, a large contingent of the Doxa Community Club staff and the new chair of its board, Peter Hogan, spent a day at the DYF Malmsbury Camp. DCC is the fundraising arm of Doxa. Their visit began with an introductory session on the history of DYF and its current portfolio of services, followed by a tour of

the facility.

Our guests spent the afternoon enjoying hands-on experiences of all the activities available on-site including archery, the high ropes walls and the giant swing.



FATHER JOE BECOMES OUR NEW PATRON

In late November, the two arms of Doxa, the Doxa Youth Foundation and the Doxa Community Club held consecutive 2023/24 annual meetings. The highlight of the event was Father Joe Giacobbe, being made a patron of Doxa. He is being honoured for his leadership in establishing both the DYF and DCC and his ongoing support for both organisations over fifty years.

In the early seventies, Joe Giacobbe was working as a trainee priest in a parish in Fitzroy, which was a very disadvantaged suburb then. He was keen to provide opportunities for the children and young people in the area to go on holiday. He was extremely inspirational and very quickly garnered broad community support for his dream. He established the Doxa Youth Foundation in 1972 and four years later, our Malmsbury Camp opened.

Over the last fifty years, Father Joe has found many innovative ways to raise funds for DYF's operational expenses. This included holding the first ever fun run in Melbourne and convincing many high-profile celebrities to participate such as Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister of the time and Robert De Castella, our world champion marathon runner. He also set up and managed the Winning Post a newspaper for racegoers with all profits going to DYF. He then sold this publication in 1992 and used the proceeds to establish the Doxa Community Club as a hospitality business to support DYF ad infinitum.



Fr Joe being presented with the certificate by Peter Hogan, Chair DCC

MICHAEL MCINTYRE RETIRES FROM DYF BOARD

We are very sad that Michael McIntyre retired from the DYF board in December 2024. Michael was on the DYF board and its Audit and Finance Committee (AFC) for seven years and was chair of the AFC over the last year.

Michael has strong analytical and problem-solving skills and would always offer thoughtful and grounded contributions to discussion. He is a particularly empathic person who is very supportive of others. He has been an extremely valuable member of the board and its AFC committee.

