

# PLUNGE... • •

a Gap year experience

Prepare to go  
deeper in life  
and faith.



Prepare to PLUNGE.



Morling College  
The Baptist Bible & Theological  
College of NSW & ACT

A Partnership of Morling College &  
Baptist Youth Ministries NSW & ACT  
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[www.baptistyouthministries.org.au](http://www.baptistyouthministries.org.au)



RTO 0145

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# PLUNGE – The Brief

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PLUNGE is one year of focussed biblical and spiritual engagement for 18-23 year olds looking to journey deeper into life and faith.

PLUNGE is a journey of reality, faith and relationship – equipping you with the skills to navigate a fluid culture.

PLUNGE is an opportunity to become equipped as a leader, prepared to live out dynamic faith, radical lifestyle, and adventurous mission.

PLUNGE is about God and the Bible, you and the world you live in. You'll look up, you'll look in and you'll look out. You'll explore yourself, your city, and your world.

PLUNGE is about learning, living, laughing and loving. Together.

PLUNGE is going to stretch you, confound you, engage you and intrigue you. Your experiences and learning will raise a lot of questions and provide you with the space to consider and reflect. PLUNGE will help you to look. Deeper.

PLUNGE offers you life and ministry experience, community engagement with issues that count, foundational bible training, the opportunity to complete a Certificate IV in Ministry, and so much more.

PLUNGE will further equip you to minister effectively in the local context God has already placed you.

PLUNGE will help you explore topics such as *Theology and the Bible; Personal Development; Spiritual Formation; Engaging Faith, Engaging culture, Engaging the planet.*

PLUNGE is about the  
rest of your life.  
**RIGHT NOW.**



# PLUNGE at a glimpse

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- PLUNGE is all about whole-of-life faith and discipleship.
- PLUNGE equips you with understanding, skills, and behaviour that will help you negotiate life ahead with confidence and competence. PLUNGE is holistic in nature, offering an integrated program of personal and spiritual development in a strong and supportive Christian community environment.
- PLUNGE is a yearlong experience that follows the College year and semester schedule. The teaching method utilises an action – reflection model and you'll engage with learning in the lecture room, in small groups, with your mentor, and as you engage in community and mission experiences.
- The In-class teaching times include interactive group discussions, mentoring, experiences and reflections, interactive lectures and peer presentations.
- Off campus learning will involve visiting places of interest, engaging in community experience, being challenged as a group and physical challenges, research and reflection.
- PLUNGE is designed so that you can continue to explore what you are learning in PLUNGE through ministry in your local church or ministry setting.
- As well as this you will have opportunities to engage with and be part of the wider Morling College Community.

Your week at PLUNGE will look something like this:

|       | Tuesday                                | Wednesday   |       | Thursday                               |
|-------|--|---|-------|--|
| 9:10  | Lecture                                | <b>PLUNGING IN</b><br>Community<br>Engagement and<br>Field Experience | 9:10  | Lecture                                |
| 10:00 | Morning Tea                            |   | 10:00 | Morning Tea                            |
| 10:20 | Lecture                                |   | 10:20 | Lecture                                |
| 11:30 | Chapel and<br>Prayer Triplets          |   | 12:10 | Lecture                                |
| 1:00  | Lunch                                  |   | 12:20 | Chapel                                 |
| 2:00  | Lecture /<br>Mentoring                 | Reflection and<br>Journaling  | 1:10  | Lunch                                  |
| 2:50  | Afternoon Tea                          |   | 2:00  | Lecture                                |
| 3:00  | Lecture                                |   | 3:50  | Afternoon Tea                          |
| 5:00  | Research/<br>Reflection/<br>Journaling |   | 4:10  | Lecture                                |
|       |  |   | 5:00  | Research/<br>Reflection/<br>Journaling |

# Exploring...

Experience  
Thinking  
Spirituality  
Influence  
Mission  
Mentoring



## Experience

Experience at PLUNGE will enable you to engage in the world around you and to actively reflect on your role as a follower of Jesus in it. Here's a look at just some of the things you'll have the opportunity to do:

- Cross Cultural Missions Experience and Research Project
- High Ropes and Adventure Training
- Attending Christian Conferences
- Explore what you are learning in PLUNGE through ministry in your local church or ministry setting
- Train with St John's First Aid Experts
- Engage with chaplaincy programs in hospitals, schools, detention centres
- Visit mosques, temples and meet people of other faiths in order to gain insight into the faiths and lifestyles of those around us and the need for genuine Christian engagement with those of other faiths.
- Be part of ministry amongst the urban poor
- Engage the wider Morling College community
- Spend regular, quality time with a mentor
- Participate in a spiritual formation retreat

## Thinking

Critical to our ongoing effectiveness as followers of Jesus is our ability to think carefully and to reflect on our life experience. During your time at PLUNGE we won't simply teach you *what* to think...we're also interested in teaching you *how* to think and engage biblically, creatively and critically with your experience and culture. At PLUNGE, thinking and experience go hand in hand as we engage in a learning cycle of action and reflection.

At PLUNGE we will explore an overview of the bible, how God has interacted with humanity throughout history and how the Church has expressed faith. We'll think about what it means to take seriously and live out Jesus' statements of self-sacrifice and servant-hood in a culture that says 'anything goes' and numbs us to the needs of those around us.

You will have the opportunity to genuinely interact with other religions and worldviews and compare and contrast these with a biblical worldview as well as considering implications for evangelism and mission. We will think about how our Christian faith relates practically to our engagement with the environment, politics, and to issues of global justice.

PLUNGE is more than another year of academic study rather it offers life and ministry experience, community engagement with issues that count, foundational bible training, and the opportunity to complete a **Certificate IV in Ministry**.

## **Spirituality**

PLUNGE offers the opportunity to go deeper in your Spirituality. Not only will PLUNGE expand your knowledge about God, it will also guide you as you seek to integrate your mind, your experiences and your spirit – to become a ‘whole of life’ disciple.

You’ll engage a deep level of Christian spirituality; you’ll learn some of the stories and read some of the writings of great Christians through history. You’ll be exposed to new cultures and new ideas and new possibilities of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. To help you navigate this journey you will be mentored by someone who has walked the path before. Your mentor will help you to act and reflect on your actions.

At PLUNGE your prayer life will go deeper, your Bible reading and reflection will go deeper, your awareness of spiritual practices will go deeper and your ability to see Jesus in the midst of life experience will increase.

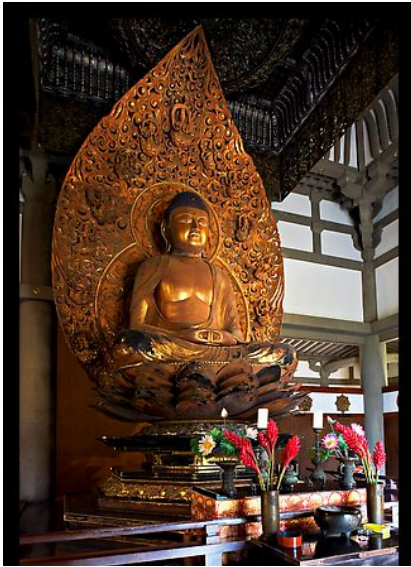
## **Influence and Personal Development**

PLUNGE is designed to help you understand influence – the things that influence you and the way you can be a positive influence in your home, your Church, your community, your nation and your world.

At PLUNGE you will have the opportunity to develop your understanding of leadership principles and practices that can be carried forward into other life situations such as career, ministry or further study. We’ll interact with some of the most influential Christian leaders in the country and engage some of their insights and teaching.

PLUNGE will also offer you the opportunity to do some of the really practical stuff, like budgeting, developing an eating and exercise plan, developing curriculum vitae, goal setting and adventure training.

## Mission



Critical to our spiritual development is the opportunity to see the world through different cultural glasses and to grapple with the realities of life and faith in other cultures. PLUNGE will provide you with mission opportunity after mission opportunity. From a short-term cross-cultural mission trip to experiencing different languages and cultures within Sydney to engaging inner city ministry with the urban poor and marginalised to working with kids or the elderly...it's all here.

As part of your mission trip with PLUNGE you will have the opportunity to prepare and lead in a cross-cultural leadership conference. You will be trained, guided, briefed and debriefed. Your world will expand. Your faith will deepen. And you'll encounter God in an exciting and fresh way.

## Mentoring

Mentoring- it's been around for ages but we're only just rediscovering it! We read in Scripture of mentoring relationships such as Naomi and Ruth, Jesus and the disciples and Paul and Timothy, and just like them, we want you to have all the benefits of a great mentoring relationship. You will be paired with an experienced leader who will mentor you and hold you accountable as to who you are called to be.

Your mentor will encourage you to act and to reflect on the actions you take. Together you will consider the experiences and issues you're encountering. You'll journal, discuss, pray and think together. You and your mentor will meet together twice a month. Once a fortnight at the Morling Campus and the alternate fortnight as arranged between you and your mentor.

# Learning Areas

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During the course of the year you will have the opportunity to complete a Certificate IV in Ministry. This focussed area of learning will equip you with skills and competencies to help you apply Biblical principles to daily life.

At PLUNGE you will engage in learning both in the classroom and in the field as you experience and interact with your world. Your learning times in the classroom will be facilitated by a variety of teachers and experts in the field. This includes Mike Frost (Vice Principal Morling College); Ash Barker (UNOH); Tim Costello (World Vision) and many more. You will also be taught by one another as you each present research and participate in class discussions.

The Certificate IV in Ministry allows you to delve deeper into the four modules outline earlier with areas of focussed learning. These include:

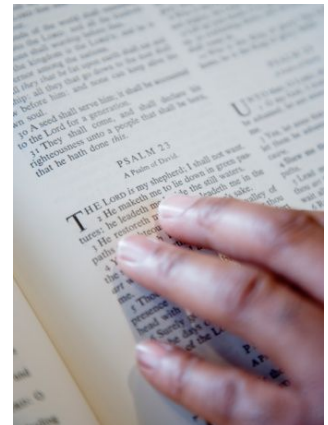
- Theology and the Bible
- Spiritual Formation
- Personal Development
- Engaging faith, Engaging Culture, Engaging the Planet

## Theology and the Bible

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### *Thinking Theology*

Thinking Theology aims to help you understand the broad themes of the Bible and how God has interacted with people over time. It will help you see how Christian thinking has developed over history and to understand how theology interacts with your world today. At the end of this unit you will be able to better understand how your faith and the Bible interact in everyday life.



### *Intro to the New Testament*

This course will provide you with an overview of the New Testament and its teachings. We will look at the social context into which it was written and how these writings came to be included in the New Testament. We will focus especially on the life and teaching of Jesus: who he is, his acts, his teachings and their implications for our lives. PLUNGE is an opportunity for you to delve deep into Jesus, beyond the

easy answers and the clichés we often encounter in our world. At the end of this unit you will have a greater understanding of the New Testament writings, a deeper appreciation for the mystery, the majesty and the depth of Jesus.

### ***Intro to the Old Testament***

This course will deepen your understanding of the Old Testament and its teachings. As we learn from the Old Testament we will become more familiar with Israel's history and God's engagement with them as his people. At the end of this unit you will have a greater understanding of how the teachings of the Old Testament are practical and useful for our context today.

### ***Mission Perspectives***

Beyond talking, beyond concepts – this unit will pitch you into the midst of a cross-cultural experience. You will have the opportunity to learn about the Biblical principles of mission as you do it! Mission perspectives will give you the opportunity to consider how the Christian Church engages in mission today and why. You'll be challenged to think and engage cultures from a theological perspective, not just a reactive one. At the end of this unit you'll have a better understanding of what it means to be involved in mission and how to minister amongst people of another culture.

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# Spiritual Formation

## ***Christian Spirituality and Growth***



Discipleship beyond theory, this unit will help you understand the things that have formed you – culture, family life, Church tradition and experiences and will give you an opportunity to explore new ways of thinking and living as a Christian.

This unit is about helping you go to a deeper place in prayer, learning some new ways of connecting with God and investigating what people have used through the centuries to help them focus on God. You'll work closely with your mentor, you'll keep a regular journal and you'll explore faith and practice in ways that enable you to reflect on your own faith journey.

# Personal Development

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## ***Leadership Principles***

This unit offers you the opportunity to consider the theory, theology and practical skills involved in leadership. You will have the opportunity to meet and spend time with some of the most influential Christian leaders in the country and you will learn teamwork through activities such as orienteering. You will be equipped to consider and develop your natural style of leadership and role within teams and how to apply the skills of leadership to everyday life circumstances.

## ***Personal Development***

In this practical unit you'll develop the skills of personal budgeting, writing a Curriculum Vitae, job application and interview skills, and the skills involved in public speaking. You'll also receive training in areas like personal and professional boundaries, appropriate positional power and duty of care.

## ***Introduction to Biblical Ethics***

How do ethics affect the way we live? Why do they matter? What are the ethics that I really live by? These and other questions will be explored in this unit, enabling you to better reflect and interact with a range of ethical issues that you face everyday. This unit will enable you to examine the ethics of the Bible and the teaching of Jesus and apply them to contemporary issues and life.

# Engaging Faith, Engaging Culture, Engaging the Planet

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## ***The relationship between Culture, the Gospel and Faith***

This unit will explore contemporary western culture and its underpinning philosophy with lots of hands on examples and situations to nut through. We will be joined by some of Australia's experts on our contemporary culture and together we will consider how this new global culture shapes the way we think, live and act as Christians.



## ***A Broad Outline of Major World Religions***

In this unit you will have the chance to interact and dialogue with friends from other world faiths, including Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism as well as getting your head around a few Alternative Religious Movements. We'll visit temples, mosques and an alternative festival and reflect on our experience and reactions. This unit will give you the opportunity to better understand the faiths and lifestyles of those around us as well as considering implications for mission and evangelism.

## ***Engaging Our Communities***



This unit will enable you to experience a variety of community groups and ministries. You'll explore your faith in the very midst of daily life and serve your community in the process.

You will have the opportunity to engage a number of key experiences including **Hopestreet's – Ngage**

**Program**, exploring ministry in the urban environment where you will learn through hands-on experience, teaching and reflection. You will also have the opportunity to 'experience' homelessness as we sleep out on the streets for a night.

You will also have the opportunity to be part;

- Prison chaplaincy programmes and day visits
- Community engagement at a Children's Hospital
- Aged Care Facilities
- Villawood Detention Centre
- HopeStreet
- Urban Neighbours of Hope
- Salvation Army
- Scripture Teaching
- Christian Conferences
- Morling College Partnership Mission

## ***God, the Environment, and Us***

When God made humans he called them to take care of the planet...and we've been abusing it ever since. This unit give you the opportunity to explore the relationship between environment and spirituality and the chance to get down and dirty with a local environmental team.



# The Coaches

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## Andrew Palmer



Andrew is the director of Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministries for the Baptist Churches in NSW and ACT. He is married to Cath and they have three great kids. They live on the Northern Beaches.

Andrew has been involved in youth and young adult ministry since the late 80's and is passionate about connecting young people with Jesus and developing 'whole of life' disciples. He lectures, preaches and trains widely, with the seeming happy knack of making people laugh and think at the same time.

Andrew received his MA exploring the theme of "Reaching and Discipling Gen Y".

## Pippa Cave



Pippa has been involved in youth ministry for over ten years, working as a Youth Pastor with the Wesleyan Church and as the National Director of Wesleyan Youth Ministries. She is committed to seeing young people connected with Christ and living devoted adventurous lives for Him. Pippa has a Bachelor of Ministry through Morling College and has a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of NSW.

Pippa is passionate about social justice and mission and is committed to seeing followers of Jesus actively engaged in these areas as an active expression of their faith. Pippa has been involved with Micah Challenge Australia and other Christian movements concerned with being a powerful voice on behalf of those who are otherwise unheard.

# Contact Details

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You can find out more about PLUNGE by contacting;

**Pippa Cave** at Morling College on **p:** 02 9878 0201 **e:** [pippac@morling.edu.au](mailto:pippac@morling.edu.au)  
120 Herring Rd, Eastwood, 2122 or

BYM NSW and ACT **p:** 02 8572 3230 **e:** [admin@baptistyouthministries.org.au](mailto:admin@baptistyouthministries.org.au)  
**Locked Bag 8, Glebe, 2037**

*PLUNGE is a joint initiative of Morling College and Baptist Youth Ministries NSW and ACT.*



# The Campus

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In truth the whole of Sydney is your campus! There won't be heaps of 'classes' in the traditional sense, but for these and engaging with the rest of the Morling community we'll be utilising the campus of Morling College, in Eastwood.

The college is situated at 120 Herring Road, Eastwood – just up the road from the Macquarie Centre, and backing on to the

Macquarie University Campus. The campus includes plenty of green space, a great library, fully equipped lecture rooms, sporting fields, and a chapel. Morling College campus is close to everything you'll need including public transport.

Morling will be the launching pad for most of our adventuring. There is onsite accommodation available for an additional cost.

## Course Requirements

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PLUNGE is designed for students between the ages of 18 and 23 who have either completed Year 12 (or interstate / international equivalent) or have equivalent life experience. PLUNGE is a yearlong experience that follows the College year and semester schedule. On completion of the course PLUNGE participants will have a celebration dinner and will come back together to graduate as part of the Morling College Graduation Ceremony in the following year.

PLUNGE participants will be accepted following an interview process conducted with the Directors of PLUNGE.

## Accreditation

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The Certificate IV in Ministry is a offered through arrangement with Vose Seminary, Perth (a Registered Training Organisation, RTO 0145) whose courses are accredited by the WA Government Training Accreditation Council and so Nationally Recognised Training [Certificate IV in Ministry is NRT51953].

# The Dollars

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The cost of the entire course has been set at \$7100. This includes the cost of the cross-cultural mission trip. A payment instalment plan is available allowing the course fees to be paid through regular payments each term. As a full-time student you may be eligible for Youth Allowance however FeeHelp is not available for this course.

## FAQ

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What you need to know...

### **One) Will participation in PLUNGE take away from involvement and ministry in my local church?**

PLUNGE has been intentionally designed so that you can continue to explore what you are learning in PLUNGE through ministry in your local church or ministry context. Where appropriate, students will have the opportunity to put their learning into practice within their local church and to complete some of their assessable learning in their ministry context.

Through mentoring, study, friendships, personal and spiritual development PLUNGE participants are able to further identify areas of service or broaden their current ministry skills and understanding. As a result, local churches benefit significantly from the participants year of training with PLUNGE.

### **Two) When can I apply for PLUNGE?**

Applications will be accepted from August, when the Prospectus and Application Form appear online. Interviews will be held in November-December. If places are still available, additional interviews may be scheduled for January and February.

**However, please indicate your interest** by emailing us at [pippac@morling.edu.au](mailto:pippac@morling.edu.au) so we can keep you informed of updates.

### **Three) I'm away at the end of November and won't be available to attend an interview. What can I do?**

Send in your application form and indicate this on a covering letter. We will then organise an appropriate interview time for you.

#### **Four) Is there accommodation available?**

Morling College has limited accommodation available for students. Accommodation for students is in single rooms. Each room is carpeted and fitted with a wardrobe, desk, bookcase and bed. Students are required to bring their own bedding (blankets, sheets, pillow, pillowcase and towels.)

The residential fee for single students in 2008 is approximately \$145 per week during semesters. Single students eat together in the Dining Hall during term time. To apply for accommodation please download the form from the Morling College website at <http://www.morling.nsw.edu.au/prospective/accommodation.html>

#### **Five) Will I have time in the week to work part-time as well as study?**

YES! PLUNGE is an on-campus 3 day/week experience which is practically based and as such doesn't require too much additional study time. Most of the necessary reflection and study work has been built into the schedule of the 3 on campus days; however there will occasionally be a limited amount of reading, research and assessment pieces to be completed at other times.

#### **Six) Is PLUNGE just an excuse for a year of fun?**

Whilst PLUNGE is definitely a fun time and is based around experiential learning, PLUNGE is not just a chance to have a good time. Friendships, experiences, challenges and learning are all part of what make PLUNGE an enjoyable yearlong experience. However it also needs to be noted that PLUNGE is an accredited course of learning and in order to graduate students will need to contribute to class time, engage in research and reflection, as well as complete meet appropriate subject competency levels. PLUNGE is an opportunity to have fun whilst laying the right foundations and taking opportunities for spiritual and personal.

#### **Seven) How do I get to Morling College?**

Morling College is located at 120 Herring Rd, Eastwood and is easily accessible by car as well as public transport. Eastwood Railway station and Epping Railway station both have regular buses to Macquarie Centre that travel past the front of the College. Macquarie Centre and Macquarie University are both within walking distance of Morling College and have regular bus services from all parts of Sydney.

#### **Eight) Is PLUNGE only for Baptists?**

No, people from non-Baptist churches are welcome to participate in the program. Whilst Morling College is the official training college for Baptist Churches in NSW, we are open to people from any denomination.

### *Nine)* **How do I defer my Uni course?**

Deferment means that you have received an offer to enrol in a program but have been given permission by the University to delay the commencement of the program until Semester 1 of the following academic year. Most Universities offer this service however you can find out your chosen universities deferment policy on the University Admissions Centre website <http://www.uac.edu.au/pg/general/defer.html> or by contacting the university directly. Information included with your UAC letter of offer will explain how to apply for deferment.

# Application Form

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## Personal Details

|                |    |          |  |
|----------------|----|----------|--|
| Full name      |    |          |  |
| Street address |    |          |  |
|                |    |          |  |
| Postal address |    |          |  |
|                |    | Postcode |  |
| Phone number   | Hm | Mob      |  |
| Email          |    |          |  |
| Date of Birth  |    |          |  |

## Local Church Details

|                |  |          |  |
|----------------|--|----------|--|
| Church Name    |  |          |  |
| Name of Pastor |  |          |  |
| Street address |  |          |  |
|                |  |          |  |
| Postal address |  |          |  |
|                |  | Postcode |  |
| Phone number   |  | Fax      |  |
| Email          |  |          |  |

## Referees

Please provide contact details for two people PLUNGE can contact for a personal and confidential reference. One of your referee nominees must be your Church or Youth Pastor and the other can be a responsible Christian friend/ mentor.

Referee one:

|                |  |          |  |
|----------------|--|----------|--|
| Full name      |  |          |  |
| Postal address |  |          |  |
|                |  | Postcode |  |
| Phone number   |  | Mob      |  |
| Email          |  |          |  |

Referee two:

|                |  |          |  |
|----------------|--|----------|--|
| Full name      |  |          |  |
| Postal address |  |          |  |
|                |  | Postcode |  |
| Phone number   |  | Mob      |  |
| Email          |  |          |  |

### **300-Word Faith Statement**

Complete a 300 word statement which addresses the following 4 areas:

1. Describe how you became a Christian, and where you have gone to church.
2. Describe some significant life experience which you have had eg. travel, family break-up, illness, death, exchange student etc and why you found those experiences significant.
3. Why you want to do PLUNGE.
4. Any other information about yourself you would like to share

### **Passport Photos**

Enclose two passport photos with your completed application. These are used for your student card and your file.

### **Interview**

Once we have received your application form we will contact you to arrange an interview. This is a no-pressure conversation with the PLUNGE Directors or other appropriate people to discuss your application and give you further information about the year.

**Please post your completed application to  
"PLUNGE"  
120 Herring Rd, Eastwood 2122**

**or email it to**

**[plunge@morling.edu.au](mailto:plunge@morling.edu.au)**