



St Edmund's College

EXCELLENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION



*Inspiring Independence, Transforming Lives*

## Newsletter

Term 1, Week 7,  
19th March 2021



### Principal's Message ...

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of St Edmund's,

#### **Lenten Season**

We are well into the 40 days of Lent, the Christian season of reflection and repentance and you can't see the sackcloth and ashes for the discarded Easter egg wrappers. If you consider how difficult it is for the average citizen of Sydney to focus on the inner self - to contemplate and reflect on one's human and spiritual journey, whilst the surrounding distractions of pre-season football fill our consciousness, you start to get an idea of the task of the average teacher of Religious Education in a Catholic school, at any time of the year.

The rhythms of the Church year, through Lent and Easter, Advent and Christmas - from contemplation to celebration - are ancient markers for us to interweave the spiritual and material flow of our lives and they still exist, are celebrated and can be seen in the symbols and celebrations of Catholic school and parish life. However, the world around us seems to move in a different way; faster, newer, coming to life in the electronic media and not the soul or chapel, grabbing our attention and trumpeting the different values of life lived on the immediate and gratifying surface of daily existence.

As entertaining and enjoyable as this can be, sometimes reflecting great human creativity or achievement, it can represent a reality which threatens to fill all the spaces of our time and consciousness, to the point where the deeper reflective self, that part which is unique to each and where God comes to each, can be neglected and then forgotten.

The teacher of Religious Education is at the front line of trying to bridge that gap for young people; usually from a challenging and difficult position where the teachers themselves are attempting to discover or retain that sense of spiritual space in their own lives. At the same time, awakening and inspiring that possibility in the young people they are working with who are immersed completely in that other more immediate world - at home, amongst their peers and in the whole busy world surrounding them. Of course, it is *all* teachers in a Catholic school who share that task but the important subject of Religious Education is where a convergence is attempted between the two worlds, along with other associated activities, including liturgy and sacraments and beyond teachers, given that parents are the first educators of their children, intentionally or otherwise, parents have a critical influence in the openness of their children to the possibilities that are offered to them.

Lent is a good time of year to think about that; develop some ideas about assisting in the recovery of a spiritual sensibility in the midst of everyday life and take some practical steps in that direction.

#### **Welcome Mrs. Lois Horne - PDHPE Coordinator**

Next week we welcome Mrs. Lois Horne to our College community who will be taking on the role of PDHPE Coordinator.

Mrs. Horne has been employed as a PDHPE Teacher at Asquith Girls High School and has also held positions as Year Advisor, Assistant Head of Department and Sports Coordinator. Lois has a Bachelor of Physical and Health Education from the University of Wollongong and is also a qualified AUSTSWIM instructor.

Please make Lois feel welcome and we look forward to her contributing to the PDHPE and Sport program as well as the broader College community. I also take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Jodie Gross who has been filling in during this time - this has been greatly appreciated.

## Principal's Message continued ...

### Parent Group

I look forward to welcoming parents to the College next Tuesday evening, 23<sup>rd</sup> March from 7.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m. for our first Parent Group meeting for the year.

Parents will have an opportunity to hear from other parents who have recently navigated post school opportunities for their child. This should be an informative and practical session giving you an understanding of how to support your child from school to post school opportunities.

A reminder that we have a maximum number of 50 parents who can attend so registration is required. Please use the trybooking link which can be found in the advertisement below and I look forward to seeing you on the night.

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Jon Franzin  
**PRINCIPAL**

### From the Parent Group



Dear Parents and Carers

We are very fortunate to have two former parents of students of St Edmunds attending to share their experiences of 'Where are they now?'. Each are from different families and year groups and each have their own experiences. Come along, learn from and support our former parents and enjoy the chance to mingle - our first opportunity in over a year.

We are restricted by numbers so please RSVP as soon as possible - details are below.



Janine Eastham – Tom's mum

**TERM 1 : PARENT GROUP MEETING**

**Where are they now?**  
Hear from two former St Edmund's parents about their child's transition to the workforce post high school.

**Tuesday 23rd March 2021, 7pm-8pm**  
**on site at St Edmund's College.**

Please note, attendance is limited to 50 persons on site.  
**Please RSVP via this link <https://www.trybooking.com/BPTBI>**  
by Monday 22nd March.  
Any questions, please email Candice Palin on [palin@erses.nsw.edu.au](mailto:palin@erses.nsw.edu.au).  
Thank you.





## Deputy Principal's Message ...

### Personalised Planning Meetings

Thank you to all parents and carers who have recently attended personalised planning meetings either in person or over the phone/Zoom. These meetings are an important part of your child's learning journey and allows an opportunity to plan for the semester ahead. Teachers are now busily preparing these documents which will be posted to all families during the term break.

### Student Illness

As the weather has changed a little and we are moving towards the cooler months, I remind parents to be conscious regarding any illness your child may have. We encourage anyone with flu-like symptoms/mild symptoms of COVID-19 not to attend school and to obtain a negative COVID test result before returning. It is best to ensure that students are symptom free before returning to school to minimise the risk. At times students will have reasons for recurrent symptoms, such as hay fever, in which case we may ask you to obtain a letter from your GP to negate the requirement for continued tests.

### Class Dojo

It is wonderful to see families beginning to engage more with this platform. I have had some great feedback from parents regarding some of the photos posted and being able to engage in conversation with their child about their learning. A reminder that the messaging option on this platform between teachers and parents is for minor issues such as lost hats/checking dates for excursions etc. For more substantial wellbeing issues regarding behaviour and wellbeing, we ask parents to use email to discuss these issues. If you require your Homeroom teacher's email address, please get in touch with the office who will be able to assist. For further information about guidelines for using Class Dojo, this can be found on Class Dojo School story where the document '2021 St Edmund's College Class Dojo Guidelines' document can be found.

Rebecca Kirwan  
Deputy Principal

St Edmund's  
COLLEGE

EDDIE'S BIG NIGHT OUT

*Save The Date* 2021

SATURDAY 17TH JULY  
Miramare Gardens, Terrey Hills

Eddie's Night Out  
presented in partnership with St. Edmund's College & your parents



## Mission and Identity

**LENT:** As the season of lent moves ever closer to the events of Holy Week and Easter we must ask ourselves how open are we to welcome the Risen Christ into our heart again this Easter...We may like to pray this prayer found at the door of a Church in Ireland long ago...

'O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship and a heavenly Father's care and narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and hate. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, or to straying feet, but rugged enough to turn back the tempter's power.

Make it a gateway to thine eternal kingdom'

Amen

**ST PATRICK:** Patrick is not just Ireland's national Saint. He has been embraced throughout the world even though his legacy is shrouded in myths and legends which have encompassed him over the centuries. Our own Blessed Edmund Rice was embedded in this tradition and spirituality, so who was Patrick?

The details of his life are sketchy, yet he has always been honoured with a central place in Irish spirituality and history. On my bookshelf I have a little copy of the 'Confessions of St Patrick' which is considered to be Patrick's own account of his life. From his writing we catch a glimpse of his resilience, endurance, commitment and faith born out of enforced slavery as a child. Little did his captors realise that their brutal act of kidnapping would unleash the blossoming of a spiritual tradition that would influence the course of history on the island of Ireland and in far flung corners of the world.

What can we glean about Patrick from his Confessions? Aged sixteen, alone, exiled and at the mercy of the elements on what is traditionally held to be a bleak hillside on the Slemish mountains near modern day Larne in Co Antrim, Patrick's slavery is lived out as a shepherd. He admits that he has neglected his God as a youth. In this solitary experience of exile and alienation, young Patrick's inner world experiences an awakening and a discovery of his God as 'Anam Chara' ('soul friend' from the Gaelic). He recognises that what is happening to him is a breaking in of God's Spirit which is enabling him to endure and grow through his trying circumstances.

He develops into a true contemplative and records that he is drawn to pray: 'all the time, right through the day. More and more the love of God and fear of him grew strong within me and as my faith grew, so the Spirit became more and more active, so that in a single day, I would say as many as a hundred prayers. In snow, in frost, in rain, I would hardly notice any discomfort and I was never slack but always full of energy. It is clear to me now, that this was due to the fervor of the Spirit within me.' Patrick, like Joseph, is visited by his share of dreams. He is shown a ship that will release him from his slavery. Trusting the dream narrative, Patrick pursues it, finds a ship, escapes and returns to his home and is reunited with his family after six years as a shepherd. Again, the dream interrupts and disturbs his new found freedom and he hears the voice of the Irish people calling him, 'come back and walk among us once more'.

Echoing our own St Mary Mackillop, who herself was attentive to the 'whisperings of God' in her heart, Patrick is again prepared to journey to the next threshold and returns to Ireland formed and educated as a Priest and Bishop to evangelise the people of Ireland. Growing more and more contemplative, conscious of his weakness and unworthiness, but in tune with and totally trusting in God's goodness, mercy and choice of him, he now embraces his destiny as a spiritual shepherd. Patrick's shepherding emanated from a generous, magnanimous heart in serving and caring for the people of his adopted homeland.

He engaged sensitively and wisely with the prevailing Druidic culture. He moved gently and respectfully and built bridges between the pre-Christian and Christian dimensions of belief and worship on the Island and from these humble and fortuitous beginnings a new expression of Celtic spirituality was born. History dates the conversion of Ireland to Christianity to be around the year 432 AD. The Lorica or the Deer's Cry or the Breastplate is attributed to Patrick but if not written by him, it breathes his spirit. In this prayer, he names the elements and beauty of the landscape and infuses them with the energy of the Divine Creator.

## Mission and Identity continued ...

His mystic soul may have intuited the interconnectedness of all things in a hidden theology of creation. Wherever we are in the world, as we celebrate his feast day, may our hearts echo his symphony of praise. May we too:

‘Arise today, through strength of sky,  
light of sun, moon’s reflection, dazzle of fire,  
speed of lightening, wild wind, deep sea,  
firm earth, hard rock with Christ within, before, behind,  
around and about to protect and defend us and all creation’.



**HARMONY DAY:** Harmony Day is a wonderful opportunity for us to acknowledge and celebrate that differences are normal and reflect an authentic image of humanity within our nation and also globally. We celebrated Harmony Day through various activities and sharing, highlighting Mount Zion as our House who would lead the day fundraising for Project Compassion.

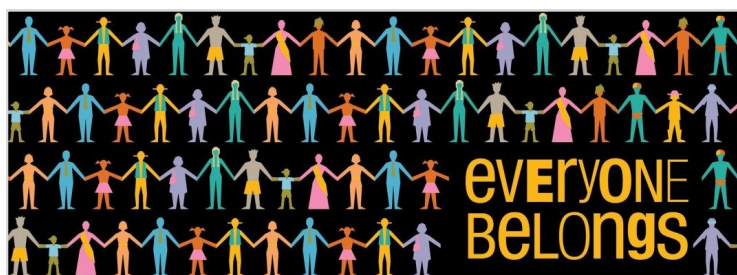
**YEAR 7 SPIRITUALITY DAY:** Today Year 7 ventured to Oxford Falls to engage and reflect on belonging to a new school community. The students explored each other’s gifts and talents that they bring to their year group and how they can continue to build relationships with one another. The day also opened up the traditions and history of Blessed Edmund Rice and how we can live these values today.

**HOLY WEEK LITURGY:** The season of Lent is moving towards Holy Week. Holy Week recalls the key events in Jesus’ journey of being faithful to God’s promise. The week begins with Palm Sunday as Jesus is welcomed into Jerusalem at the time of Jewish Passover.

The joy filled welcome quickly turns as Jesus moves closer to his acceptance that his message and Kingdom of love has a consequence. This consequence will overturn all that is against God’s love and promise for humanity. Jesus shares a meal as a new covenant and washes the disciples’ feet, for the presence of God will forever be found in the Eucharist – a memorial of love and in the service of others.

It is on Good Friday that we walk with Jesus, recognising that the Cross is the invitation to reject all that oppresses us and all that make us less than human. The events of the passion and its various characters reflect each of us at different times in our lives; from doubting, to denying others, from choosing to be part of a crowd to washing one’s hands of responsibility. Death is not avoided by Jesus, the face of God. This brings great hope as we must also face this knowing in faith that we are not alone. The empty tomb continues this hope that Easter is a promise, a new covenant and we are Easter people who daily choose to see life, love and goodness in all that we meet and when these are absent, to commit to creating them in that situation.

We will celebrate liturgically the Holy Week journey recalling the wonderful hope and direction given to us by Jesus in serving others.



## Mission and Identity continued ...

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet in his house, so always had to walk into the forest to the open defecation area. His family was often sick and open defecation caused many neighbourhood disputes. With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner agency, Laz Harfa, Arsad took part in hygiene, sanitation and financial management training. He then funded the building of a toilet in his house and helped other community members to save money to construct their own toilet.



Now, Arsad's family is healthier, their community no longer practises open defecation and is more harmonious. Arsad inspired his community to 'Be More.' Around 17% of Indonesia's rural population, or 45 million people, practise open defecation – going to the toilet outdoors in fields, forests and other open spaces. ([World Bank](#))

Watch a short film about Arsad's story [here](#).

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." Please support Project Compassion: [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au)

Jason Scanlon  
Assistant Principal  
Religious Identity & Mission

**REST AND REBALANCE  
WORKSHOPS 2021**

PART OF OUR SELF CARE AND  
NOURISHMENT PROGRAM

This 3 hour session involves guided relaxation and meditation,  
restoration practice and open discussion facilitated by  
Tanya Savva, Emotional Freedom Practitioner



**When: Saturday 24/04/21, Saturday 29/05/21  
and Saturday 19/06/21**

**Time: 3.30pm to 6.30pm**

**Where: Kinetica Yoga and Pilates, 100/7 Hoyle Ave, Castle Hill**

RSVP: Try booking link- <https://www.trybooking.com/BPLDV>  
Groups are limited to 20 people per session so please book early  
After the sessions there is the possibility of dinner for those able to attend.

\* Cost of these sessions is covered under the My Community Project Grant funded by the NSW State Government

# Mt Sion House Day



Well done all students in House Mt Sion who raised \$40.00 which will go to Project Compassion.

## Canteen Roster - Term 1

Date	Year	Name
23/3/21	7 & 8	Paula Rofail, Angela Roberts
30/3/21	10	Maria Burwood, Sally Carson, Therese Yeung

# Around the College - Important Dates

## Term 1

Tue 23rd Mar	Term 1 Parent Group Meeting
Thu 25th Mar	Term 1 Men's Group Gathering ( <i>see this Newsletter</i> )
Wed 31st Mar	2020 Year 12 Reunion (pizza night)
Thu 1st Apr	Last day of Term 1

## Term 2

Mon 19th Apr	First day of Term 2 for students and staff
Wed 21st Apr	Year 7 immunisation
Fri 23rd Apr	ANZAC Day Ceremony
Tue 4th May	College photos
Wed 5th May	Blessed Edmund Rice Day celebrations
Fri 7th May	Mother's Day Breakfast and Liturgy
Wed 12th May	Year 10 Immunisation
Fri 14th May	Term 2 College Disco
Tue 25th May	Term 2 Mufti Day
Wed 2nd - Fri 4th Jun	Years 7 & 8 Camp
<b>Fri 11th Jun</b>	<b>Staff Day (pupil free day)</b>
<b>Mon 14th Jun</b>	<b>Queen's Birthday public holiday</b>
Wed 16th Jun	Term 2 Parent Group Meeting
Fri 18th Jun	Leadership Assembly
Fri 18th Jun	Last day of Term 2

## Term 3

Mon 12th Jul	First day of Term 3 for students and staff
Sat 17th Jul	Eddie's Big Night Out (Miramare Gardens, Terrey Hills)
Tue 3rd Aug	Subject Selection Evening
Fri 6th Aug	Term 3 College Disco
Tue 17th Aug	Term 3 Mufti Day
<b>Fri 13th Aug</b>	<b>Staff Day (pupil free day)</b>
Fri 3rd Sep	Father's Day Breakfast
Tue 7th Sep	Term 3 Parent Group Meeting
Thu 9th Sep	St Edmund's Golf Day
Fri 10th Sep	Eddie's Got Talent
Wed 15th - Fri 17th Sep	Senior Retreat
Fri 17th Sep	Last day of Term 3

## Term 4

<b>Mon 4th Oct</b>	<b>Public Holiday</b>
Tue 5th Oct	First day of Term 4 for students and staff
Fri 22nd Oct	Term 4 College Disco
Tue 2nd Nov	Term 4 Mufti Day
Wed 10th Nov - Fri 12th Nov	Years 9 & 10 Camp
Tue 23rd Nov	Term 4 Parent Group Meeting
Tue 10th Nov	Orientation Day
Fri 19th Nov	Abbotsleigh Concert
Fri 26th Nov	Year 12 Graduation Formal
Tue 30th Nov	Presentation Ceremony
Fri 3rd Dec	Year 12 Farewell Mass
Fri 3rd Dec	Last day of Term 4



## Around the College



**Terrific to see these happy and very familiar faces enjoying each other's company!**

**A fabulous effort from our Year 9 student, Zane!  
Well done!**



## Lost Property

**Please contact Mrs Acret in the front office if any of these items look familiar.**



# Around the College

## Awards

### Students of the Week:

**7F** Campbell and Elle  
**8T** James and Parmida  
**9C** Krish and Sean  
**10M** David and Tom E  
**11J** Angel and Lucas  
**12G** Jesse and Emilia

**7V** Finley and Daniel  
**8S** Adam and Seul Yi  
**9E** Hugh and Kate  
**10O** Sebastian and Byron  
**11S** Indira and Lorelle  
**12L** Jayden and Anant

### Eddie's Best:

**7F** Alexander  
**8T** Toby  
**9C** Moses  
**10M** Teena  
**11J** Brendan J  
**12G** Michaela

**7V** Sienna  
**8S** Michael  
**9E** Kavya  
**10O** Daena  
**11S** Lachie C  
**12L** Lachlan J

## Absentees

If your child is absent from the College for any reason:

- ⇒ Please phone Mrs Acret in the College office or email: [secretary@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au](mailto:secretary@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au) on the first morning your child is absent so that the homeroom teacher can be advised; and
- ⇒ A written note (or email) must accompany your child when he/she returns to the College - this is a legal requirement for the class roll.

## Requesting Leave during College term (for any reason)

It is expected that every endeavor is made for students' leave to be taken during the College holidays. If however, this is not possible, a request should be:

- ⇒ Emailed to Mr Franzin on [franzin@erses.nsw.edu.au](mailto:franzin@erses.nsw.edu.au) asking for permission and giving the reason for the leave. The necessary form will be emailed back to you to be completed and returned to the College. Mr Franzin will respond to your email, copying in the Homeroom teacher and Mrs Acret. This is also a legal requirement for the class roll.



# Community News

## Men's Group Gathering - Term 1

The Men's Group is a quarterly 'get together' for a few drinks and a light dinner with other dads from St Edmund's College and St Lucy's School. We have lots of laughs, share stories and discuss relevant topics around the pressures that our families encounter from day to day. Come along and bring another dad from your child's class!

Our next gathering is **Thursday 25th March:**

**6.30 p.m.** Light dinner and drinks

**7.00 p.m.** Discussion

**Venue:** St Lucy's School (entrance Cleveland Street, Wahroonga)

**RSVP:** Warren, Brendan and Jono.  
[hopleywarren@hotmail.com](mailto:hopleywarren@hotmail.com) or [brendan.wingrave@gmail.com](mailto:brendan.wingrave@gmail.com)

It will be great to gather at the school again after a long, annoying COVID interruption. After catching up on everyone's news we will discuss how the family has travelled over the past year. Any change can be very difficult for our children which in turn causes stresses for mum, dad, brothers and sisters. How have you handled the challenges and what are the current issues you may be facing. Lots to talk about.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Warren, Brendan and Jono.

Please watch for reminders in these Newsletters and also information on who the guest speakers will be at the upcoming meetings.



## Canteen Roster - Term 2

<b>WEEK / DATE</b>	<b>YEAR GROUP</b>	<b>NAME</b>
<b>Week 1 20 April</b>	<b>10</b>	Sabrina Forte Melissa Mossman Dale Winckel
<b>Week 2 27 April</b>	<b>8</b>	Sanh Duong Samantha Gojak Audrey Yim
<b>Week 3 4 May</b>	<b>11</b>	Frances Bull Ghazal Hedjripour Geraldine Pickford
<b>Week 4 11 May</b>	<b>9</b>	Mary-Anne Clifford Karen Neville Felicity Taylor
<b>Week 5 18 May</b>	<b>7</b>	Suzanne Casey Paula Rofail Elizabeth Whiting
<b>Week 6 25 May</b>	<b>9 &amp; 12</b>	Juliet Phelps Anne-Maree Zofrea Michelle Fry
<b>Week 7 1 June</b>	<b>10 &amp; 11</b>	Maria Burwood Marie Martin Therese Yeung
<b>Week 8 8 June</b>	<b>7</b>	Georgia Hicks Tessa Tobin Tina Triantafilakis
<b>Week 9 15 June</b>	<b>8</b>	Scarlett Howard Con/Cordelia Kalantzis Angela Roberts



# PEERS for Teenagers with Intellectual Disabilities

Our PEERS® group is specifically tailored for teenagers and high school students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or social anxiety who are verbal with a mild-moderate intellectual disability, who are facing social challenges.

We teach skills to help make and keep friends. This small group session provides teenagers and young adults with an opportunity to practise these skills.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- Conversational skills
- Entering & exiting conversations
- Electronic communication
- Using humour appropriately
- Organising get-togethers
- Being a good sport
- Handling disagreements
- Changing a bad reputation
- Handling teasing and bullying

## WHERE AND WHEN WILL THE GROUP RUN?

Concurrent teen and parent sessions are held weekly for 14 weeks on Saturdays (excluding school holidays)  
Lane Cove Business Park  
Sessions run for 90 minutes

Taking Expressions of Interest, once we have enough teens to form a well-matched group, we will confirm a start date

## COST?

The 14 week course is \$3150

Self-managed NDIS funding can be used

## TO REGISTER EXPRESSION OF INTEREST:

interest form: [www.sociablegroup.com.au](http://www.sociablegroup.com.au)

call 0414 686 054

email [thesociablegroupaus@gmail.com](mailto:thesociablegroupaus@gmail.com)



The  
SociABLE  
Group



A PLACE FOR FUN & LESSONS

# WELCOME TO REACH UP SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Your child's welfare is always our top priority!

**DROP OFF/PICK UP**  
**2 THOMAS STREET, CHATSWOOD**  
**(OUTSIDE GUIDE DOGS)**  
**9:30 AM – 3:30 PM**

These activities are all excursion based to practice community skills and social skills. This is a great opportunity for young people to reach goals, laugh, make new friends and try something new.



# BOOKING NOW OPEN

**Tuesday 6th April** - NSW rail museum  
\$35

**Wednesday 7th April** - Pizza making  
\$20

**Thursday 8th April** - Powerhouse museum - \$20

**Friday 9th April** - Chinese Garden of Friendship - \$28

**Monday 12th April** - Papermaking

**Tuesday 13th April** - Ian potter children's wild play \$25

**Wednesday 14th April** - Ferry ride \$20

**Thursday 15th April** - Maritime Museum  
\$35

**Friday 16th April** - BBQ and Games  
-\$20

What to bring:

Activity Fee

Morning Tea and Lunch (Nut Free please)

Water Bottle

Hat and Sunscreen

Topped up Opal card

Companion Card

Money for a treat (optional)

*NDIS Support Cost for 1:2*  
\$134

*NDIS Support Cost for 1:1*  
\$268

RSVP BY Tuesday 30th of March

Email: [hello@reachup.org.au](mailto:hello@reachup.org.au)

Phone: 0433619099

Reach Up ABN 85 194 916 797



## Keen to play netball?

Manly Warringah Netball Association is looking for girls to form a **Junior All Abilities Netball** team to play in the Saturday Competition.

**When:** Saturday mornings (exact timeslot TBC)

**Where:** John Fisher Netball Courts North Curl Curl

**Dates:** 17 April 2021 – 7 August 2021

**Cost:** \$60

### Interested ?

Contact **Janelle Burgmann** for more information.

Email: [tlady@tforlife.com.au](mailto:tlady@tforlife.com.au)

Mobile: 0419 770 730

