



**SMBC**  
SYDNEY MISSIONARY & BIBLE COLLEGE

## **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SMBC Principal Rev. Stuart Coulton—Retirement**

Geoff Deane, SMBC Chairman has announced the retirement from SMBC of Rev. Stuart Coulton, Principal, effective January 2020, following over 30 years of service at SMBC with the last eight years as Principal.

In an era of immense change in digital technology and online communities, Stuart as Principal has relentlessly pursued the priorities of gospel proclamation and spiritual formation in SMBC students. Under his leadership, as with his predecessors, Stuart has ensured SMBC maintains its strong reputation for being a Bible-centred, cross-culturally mission-focussed and prayerful College as did the Rev Benson Barnett did from its opening in 1916.

Under God, Stuart's contribution to the development of SMBC has had a wide influence. His leadership has seen the commencement of overseas biblical and mission study tours, a flourishing *100 for 100* program, and the new online Master of Intercultural Studies has become a reality. The Bridge (SMBC's mission-focussed gap year program, for 18 to 21s), commenced, and a new Associates program was initiated.

Students regularly comment on the strength of the diverse community and the teaching they receive at SMBC.

Stuart said, 'I love SMBC and it has been such a joy and privilege to serve God in various capacities within the College over all these years. Throughout my time at SMBC, it has been the contact with students and graduates of the College that has brought me great delight, encouraged me to persevere as a disciple of the Lord Jesus, and enriched my life in countless ways.'

Stuart also expressed his immense thanks to the prayer and financial supporters who contribute so essentially to the work and ministry of SMBC.

When Stuart approached the College Board late last year, advising his intended retirement, The Board expressed their enormous gratitude to him and Pauline for their considerable contribution, wise leadership and service.

Geoff Deane has advised that the Board has already prayerfully commenced the process towards the appointment of a new Principal.

The Board, faculty and staff are strongly committed to a smooth transition of leadership, and, importantly, the ongoing work of the College through its Bible-centred training in an interdenominational and missional community.

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