

History of Mordialloc College

“Representations by local people and groups, including the Chelsea Progress Association as early as 1919, led to the Borough of Carrum and Borough of Mentone - Mordialloc taking joint action to the Government to have a High School established to serve both Districts.” The site selected was five acres in Attenborough Park, a public reserve divided by the rail line to Frankston. The parkland was bordered by farms of the Brown family, early settlers in the district.

The School opened on 18th February 1924 under the name of Mordialloc District High School, and the pupils were accommodated temporarily in the Mechanics Institute. The enrolment was 148 with 76 in Grade VI, 48 in Grade VII and 24 in Grade VIII.

The name of the School was changed to Mordialloc-Carrum High School in August 1924. The Borough of Carrum later became the City of Chelsea and the name of the School was again changed to Mordialloc-Chelsea High School.

By 1927 a new school building in Attenborough Park was under construction. The foundation stone was laid on 29th July 1927. With an enrolment of 407 students the main school building was first occupied on 15th February 1928 having cost thirty thousand pounds. It consisted of eight classrooms plus facilities for commercial, domestic science, woodwork, sheet-metal work and blacksmithing. The staff numbered about fifteen.

Over the years, additions to the original two buildings around the quadrangle have included the caretakers cottage in 1929; prefabricated classrooms, the canteen and Le Page Hall in 1956, the Domestic Science and Manual Arts blocks in 1961 and the Science block in 1967. In 1968 the multi-purpose Assembly Hall was erected.

Playing fields have been added to the original school property, with some of this land, seven acres, being purchased in 1939.

During the war years, 1939-45, the staff and pupils took part in regular air raid drills in the trenches, which were dug in the quadrangle, and on the oval.

In the 1950's it was common to have cows and horses grazing on the sports fields as much of the surrounding areas was still farmland. The students' chief delight was watching the staff cleaning the oval before sport could commence.

During the 1950's the Welfare Association built and equipped Le Page Hall.

Extensive beautification of school surroundings has taken place with the planting of a large number of trees in the 1960's. In 1977 a Commonwealth Library was commenced and completed in 1978.

An extensive maintenance program was carried out between 1977 and 1980 including the landscaping of the quadrangle and the renovation and alteration to some classrooms. Two multi-purpose courts have also been developed to include basketball, volleyball and tennis courts. Beautification of the garden and grounds continued during 1984/85 and an outdoor theatre was developed for use by drama and music groups. Another maintenance program took place in 1988 including an upgrading of the science rooms. On the 1st January, 1990 the school became known as Mordialloc Chelsea Secondary College, in line with government policy.

Since 1995 over \$3 million has been expended on major maintenance and refurbishment of the entire Arts/Technology facility. Further improvements included the building of a new canteen and foyers and entranceway to the Administration area as well as in the assembly hall were completed in 1998.

In 2000 the College received approval to change its name from Mordialloc-Chelsea Secondary College to Mordialloc College.

In 2003 a building project was undertaken to develop a more user friendly entrance to the school office. This included a mosaic of the school crest under the entrance portico.

In 2005, the large flexible Year 7 Learning Centre was constructed followed by the Year 8 flexible learning “Enquiry Zone” at the end of 2006. At the same time the library was transformed into the Year 12 Study Centre – “The Forum”.

As a result of the “Building the Education Revolution” program, Mordialloc College received \$1.97 million in 2009 to construct new Science facilities. The project was completed in 2011 and formerly opened by the Honourable Mark Dreyfus, Federal Member for Isaacs.

This facility is a high tech flexible ‘Smart Building’ that will allow the College to expand our Science program and fully develop student scientific skills and knowledge.

In 2011 the College began the planning and design for the building of a State of the Art Multi Media Student Resource Centre as a central learning hub for all students. This building has been successfully completed and opened for student and staff use from February 2013.

In 2013 the Year 7 Learning Centre was in need of a refurbishment after seven years since the program’s inception. This involved a new colour scheme (carpet, floor finishes, wall paint and pin boards), mobile curved screen pods to assist in defining the spaces, a new science area, teachers office space and new furniture throughout.

In 2014 the College was allocated \$1.3million in the State budget and in 2015 a further \$4.5 million to total \$5.83 million to complete the priority projects identified in our master plan. In 2015 the Student Study Forum was relocated to D1 which was refurbished along with surrounding offices to create a new study area.

During 2016 a number of significant building projects will be completed:

1. Major external maintenance works to the front two story building
2. New Performing Arts Centre to be built in the current Forum space with new canteen attached
3. New Year 8 Learning Centre to be built next to other Discovery Centre
4. New gym to be built after the hall is demolished