

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Marin Balluk people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet. It is upon their ancestral lands that Overnewton Anglican Community College is built.

As we share our own knowledge, teaching, learning, faith, and research practices within this College, may we also pay respect to the knowledge embedded forever within the Aboriginal Custodianship of Country.

The purchase of the additional 13 hectares at the Keilor Campus in 2015 provided an opportunity for the College to reimagine how it could best serve the needs of current and future generations of Overnewton students through its physical assets.

The discussions about a new Master Plan for both campuses, quite rightly, began with the work undertaken, in consultation with teachers, parents and students, which resulted in the launch of the College Strategic Plan: Taking the Alpha Generation to Excellence at the beginning of 2017.

It was essential for the Strategic Plan to be in place before planning for new classrooms, specialist facilities and playing fields. For it is the Strategic Plan that has set the educational priorities for what would be needed physically in our Master Plan.

With the appointment of new College architects in the latter part of 2016, many consultation opportunities were provided for parents, staff and students to contribute their dreams, hopes, and aspirations for the physical future of the College. We are grateful to Law Architects for the work that they have achieved in developing our new Master Plan, as well as the work they are doing currently on the plans for the new Junior School and Middle School buildings.

Much work has been undertaken by the College Leadership Team and College Board in setting an agenda for a bright new future for the College and I thank those involved for their ideas, passion and dedication in getting us to this point. Whilst the desired direction was determined during the latter part of 2017, very careful consideration, strategic thinking and financial planning has culminated in the new College Master Plan.

*John Durow,  
Chair, College Board*

### THE THINKING BEHIND THE PLAN

The most important statement in our new Strategic Plan is the one: “Students are at the beginning and centre of every decision”. It may seem obvious in a school that this would be the case but it is important for us to be confident and determined that every decision can be assessed putting the learning needs of students first.

With this in mind, there is a long-standing board policy that states that every student must have the same opportunities for learning regardless of the campus they attend. You would know that an enormous amount of careful planning by staff occurs each day to ensure that this is the case for students in our Junior School and Middle School so that all students arrive at Year 9 similarly prepared. Cross-campus planning occurs to ensure that there is consistency with the curricular and co-curricular programs, assessment, reporting, exams, special days, such as the recent Middle School market day, assemblies, chapels, camps, excursions and leadership. Even Whispers articles are written as joint Junior School and Middle School articles, to show that the experience of an Overnewton student is similar regardless of the campus at which the child is located.

It is possible to talk about a student receiving an Overnewton education, not a Taylors Lakes or a Keilor education, because of the work of our staff in achieving this.

Our new Strategic Plan took up the opportunity afforded to our students through the new land at Keilor Campus, to plan for significant work around the water project and food sustainability for middle years students. There are some exciting authentic opportunities that will be created for students to be involved in longitudinal studies of water and food, two of the greatest issues facing the planet, as we all know.

As an environmental scientist myself, I could see that the opportunity for rigorous research and science at Keilor Campus, afforded by its amazing access to the Maribyrnong River as well as hectares of farm land, could never be replicated in experience for students at Taylors Lakes Campus.

Neither could the access that Keilor Campus Middle School students have to VCE teachers be replicated at Taylors Lakes Campus.