

---

---

# Introduction

---

---

## Canowindra – The Year 9 Centre

Canowindra was developed in 1997 to provide a unique educational experience for Year 9 students, which will foster, through teamwork, a strong sense of individual worth and a sense of community.

### CANOWINDRA'S VISION STATEMENT

We recognise that students in the 14-15 year old age group are going through transformation as they develop themselves spiritually, mentally, physically and socially. Canowindra provides a special environment where students can focus on the development of their individuality whilst maintaining social interaction with their peers. Students become personally involved with their education by participating and collaborating in an integrated, hands on program.

Canowindra is a small community of people working and learning together. Students, having graduated from the two Middle Schools, from the Taylors Lakes and Keilor Campuses, come together as a cohort for the first time at Canowindra, uniting these groups for their final four years at school.

The Canowindra staff specialise in the needs of middle adolescents aged 14 - 15. They see the child as a whole person, an individual who needs adult support and guidance during one of the most important growing stages of their life. Students continue to move from a dependent stage in their development into a more independent stage. The staff help the child make the transition through this stage of their adolescence as smoothly as possible and at the same time help each one become a life long learner and gain strong Christian values.

Students will learn as a member of a homeroom group in core subjects and as members of smaller groups in learning choices classes and Focus Weeks. The Canowindra staff are concerned about how students learn and the fact that they can learn. One of our aims is to show students that learning is within their grasp and is their responsibility, assisting students in making a confident transition into Senior School.

## As a Learning Centre, Canowindra...

- Recognises the ongoing nature of learning
- Acknowledges that learning involves taking risks
- Recognises the variety of ways in which we learn
- Involves parents and other interested people in our classrooms
- Encourages talking, writing and doing - with parents, students and teachers
- Encourages participation from parents and students in decision-making
- Recognises that at different times of the year different programs require intense focus and attention, which impact significantly upon the regular delivery of the curriculum
- Ensures a team approach to the development of the whole curriculum across the year
- Focuses on current community issues
- Exposes students to the world beyond their local community
- Encourages professional interaction about the learning needs of young adolescents
- Acknowledges the value of having fun
- Promotes a culture of life long learning
- Involves teachers working with collaborative groups of students
- Provides a supportive learning environment
- Involves students in co-curricular activities
- Offers all students experiences in the bush and the city as well as their local community
- Fosters a close sense of community amongst the students through the emphasis on teamwork and collaboration