

HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY



COMMENCEMENT

In 1975 a small group of concerned Christians formed an association known as Geelong Association for Parent-Controlled Christian Education (now known as Geelong Christian Education Association). Drawn from several denominations, their aim was to provide parents with the opportunity of giving their children a truly Christian education. Motivated by the call of Scripture and the successful operations of such schools elsewhere in Australia and overseas the Association grew until in 1979 it was able to open the Geelong Christian School (now known as Covenant College) in temporary premises in North Geelong.

Since then the purchase of a suitable site at Bell Post Hill has been made possible through members' contributions, fund raising efforts and donations from Christians, who share the desire to serve Christ by providing Christ-centered education in this city. Covenant College was one of more than seventy members of the National Union of Christian Parent Controlled Schools throughout Australia. In 1983 the school, assisted by generous Government grants, was able to move into new premises constructed on this site.

The Association

The Geelong Christian Education Association consists of both parent and non-parent members who are actively involved in a variety of Christian churches. From the Association the Board of Directors are elected. The Board is responsible for the Governance of the school and for setting the strategic direction and goals as well as appointing the School Principal.

The final authority for children's education, lies not with the school staff, not with the State, not with the Church, but with the parents. Members of the Association share the belief that the school is an extension of the home. The school should operate in partnership with the home, supporting the parents in the upbringing of their children. Parents delegate some of their responsibility for the nurturing of their children in the Lord to Covenant College Staff. Staff are thus called to carry out the educational tasks within the school, and parents respect the staff's authority within this calling.

Chronology

- 1975** Parents set up the Geelong Association for Parent-Controlled Christian Education.
- 1979** The school opened as Geelong Christian School in temporary premises in St David Street, North Geelong with 33 students in Prep to Year 7.
- 1983** The school moved to Creamery Road Bell Post Hill with 119 students in Prep to Year 9.
- 1984** The first Year 10 students graduated. Construction of Junior School building - stage 1.
- 1987** Construction of Junior School building - stage 2.
- 1993** The school's name changed to Covenant College.
- 1994** Construction of the library.
- 1996** The Kindergarten commenced. Construction of the Administration building.
- 1997** The introduction of VCE (Year 11). Construction of the VCE buildings.
- 1998** Year 12 commenced with 23 students. Construction of the Science buildings and two general purpose learning areas (GPLAs) rooms 10 and 11.
- 1999** Introduction of the three-tiered structure; ie:
Junior School Prep - Year 4
Middle School Year 5 - Year 8
Senior School Year 9 - Year 12
- 2002** Introduction of the Maxtrax program (Year 9 and 10).
- 2003** Construction of the Music Centre - stage 1
Construction of the Technology Centre.

- 2004** Celebration of the College's 25th Anniversary.
- 2005** Launch and implementation of the Vision-based Growth Program.
First overseas excursion to Japan.
- 2006** First mission visit to Chiang Rai, Thailand.
Launch of the Multi Purpose Centre Project.
- 2007** Commencement of Year 9 Program at the Eagle Parade Campus.
- 2008** Construction of Multi Purpose Hall commenced.
Introduction of New House Names.
Introduction of Vetamorphus 'Certificate III in Christian Ministry'.
- 2009** 'Covenant Warriors' is introduced.
Opening of the New Multi Purpose Centre.
Celebration of the College's 30th Anniversary.
VCAL - Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning.
- 2010** New Language Centre and Theatre buildings opened.
- 2011** Refurbishment and extension of the Administration building.
New Art and Library buildings opened.
- 2012** New Senior School classrooms opened.
- 2013** Opening of the New Year 9 Building and "The Cage".
- 2014** Introduction of the Covenant College Netball Academy.
- 2015** Opening of the Covenant College Trades Skills Centre.
- 2016** Geelong Association for Parent-Controlled Christian Education *changed to* Geelong Christian Education Association
- 2017** New Middle School Buildings - stage 1
- 2019** Middle School Rooms - stage 2
- 2020-21** Maintenance & Transport Facilities
Design Technology & VCAL refurbishment
Middle School Rooms - stage 3
- 2022-23** Tailored Education Program Building
Middle School building finalized.

Philosophy

Children in Christian families are in a special relationship with God and are therefore to be challenged and encouraged to respond to him in faith and obedience. The Christian school, as an extension of the family, exists to help parents in their God-given task of bringing up their children to fear the Lord by submitting to the authority of His Word. Basic to the school's philosophy are two principles which are as follows.

- Parents are primarily responsible for the education of their children.
- All areas of life, including education and schooling, are directed by Biblical principles.

Therefore the home and the school, parents and staff, work in harmony with respect to the child's education. This harmony is evident in the Christian attitudes, principles and values fostered in the school. The school's educational practices and standards are guided by Biblical principles. In its discipline and time, the school's aim is to nurture the child in the truth of God and to direct it in the way of righteousness.

Aims

- To assist Christian parents in the task of equipping their children for life as Christians.
- To lead children into service of God and of others as a thankful response to the work of God in Christ.
- To nurture in children the development of the Biblical view of the world and life.
- To establish an educational environment that is characterised by the Christian values of love and respect.
- To discover and fully develop each child's gifts and abilities.
- To promote in children a striving for excellence in all aspects of life.