

# Secondary Education in Dromana

Dromana Technical School 1967-1988

Dromana Secondary College 1988-2007

Dromana College 2013 - present

Dromana Technical School 1967-1988 Dromana Secondary College 1988-2007 Albeit minimal in numbers settlement commenced in the district as early as 1838. It would take until February 1861 before Dromana was proclaimed a township. Only thirteen years later in 1874 primary education began with the establishment of the Dromana State School No184, but it would take another 93 years before secondary education in Dromana commenced.

Cr George Bishop, a Flinders Shire Councillor and Policeman stationed at Dromana, having failed to get a Technical School in Mornington the year before, called a meeting at the Rosebud Memorial Hall in October 1966 for parents of prospective students. He reported to the large crowd in attendance that his tireless work had paid off and he had won the struggle to obtain a technical school at Dromana.

Cr Bishop believed that the time was right to open a technical school to compliment Rosebud High School, a co-educational secondary school that had commenced operation in 1954, and Red Hill Consolidated School which held classes from Prep to Form 4 (Year 10). Any boy however wanting a trade education had to catch a bus and those who resided on the Westernport side of the peninsula, a train to Frankston Technical School.

It was Cr Bishop's drive and enthusiasm and his no nonsense approach to the community that ensured the establishment of our school. At the time of the opening of the school (107 years after our town's humble beginnings) the population on the southern peninsula had reached a level where justification was in order for a permanent technical school for the district south of Frankston taking in the areas covered by the Shire's of Flinders, Mornington, and Hastings.

Dromana Technical School commenced on 8 February 1967 in the 'Old Tin Shed' (a former Flinders Shire works building) and some portable classrooms in Palmerston Avenue Dromana. On day one there were 109 students from all over the peninsula, 79 in Form 1 and 30 in Form 2.

The first Principal was Mr Noel Maher and he guided the school during the fledging years.

Although only at Dromana a short time he oversaw the process for acquisition of the 28 acres of land near 'Moats Corner' for the construction of the permanent school at Harrison's Road.

The second Principal, Mr Laurence (Laurie) Green was involved during the construction of the new school. This consisted of two academic wings and a trade wing with associated out buildings and tennis and basketball courts, and cost the princely sum of \$660,000.

The third Principal, Mr Gerald Blampied was involved in the building of the ECA centre, (Education & Community Activity Centre). Dromana Technical School Council & the Southern Peninsula Basketball Association worked together to achieve this.

The fourth and longest serving Principal, Mr David Barclay served the college for 20 years. He guided the change from a technical school to a secondary college. During David's time at Dromana Secondary College, he was involved in an extensive capital works program with the redesign of the science wing incorporating a visual arts area, a new canteen, library upgrade and a state of the art administration centre. David was also the drive behind the 'Richard Hudson Oval'. Which is identical in size to the MCG and levelled to create a truly sensational sports ground for the school and local community.

Mr Alan Marr, the current Principal, came to the college in Term 4 2007 where he took over the overseeing of construction of the state of the art 'Design Centre' which was completed in October 2009. In more recent years the College has invested in a number of new facilities including the completion of a state of the art Design and Technology Centre, an All Weather Multi Purpose Sports Grounds, Fitness Circuit and a dedicated Language Centre with video conferencing facilities.

With a current enrolment at 1485 plus students, Dromana College will head into a new decade with world class 'state of the art' facilities, outstanding staff and students with a vision that this is one very spectacular place to get an education. The college values of Responsibility, Respect, Integrity and Personal Best will be upheld for many years to come.

Written By:

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