



# Junior School retrospective

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The history of Junior School is intertwined with the history of Campbell House, the Preparatory School and the Kindergarten. Let's take a journey back in time and remember where Junior School has come from and where it is heading

Junior School has a rich history and is evolving still, 91 years after its first iteration.

Through the recent redevelopment, the students have been given the opportunity to explore the evolution of their school.

The introduction of House groups from Prep to Year 3 has also served to provide a greater sense of community. It offers students the chance to develop leadership and collaborative skills.

## 1871: The Junior Department

The College's first Junior Department, under the direction of William McVean, was mentioned in the Annual Report of 1871 and was likely for middle school aged students.

The College's enrolment registers show that boys as young as seven attended from 1871, although boys aged five or six years of age did not commonly appear until the Preparatory School opened in 1921.

## 1890s: Junior College

A Junior College was then established in the 1890s for boys aged 8-12 years of age.

## 1921: The Preparatory School

The Junior College was replaced by the Preparatory School built on Aphrasia Street, which opened in 1921.

It also catered for children from 8-12 years of age.

## 1929: Kindergarten

In 1929, the Kindergarten was added to the Preparatory School campus. Catering for boys aged from four to seven years of age, it was co-located with the Preparatory school until 1936 when purpose-built facilities were constructed on the north west corner of the Senior School campus.

The Kindergarten was led by a series of directors in the early years, from Sylvia Baird, Miss Winning, Miss L. Baird, and Mrs L Bechervaise. In 1941 Miss Lorna Hamer was appointed, and soon after the College's first Parents Association was formed at the Kindergarten.

## 1962: Campbell House

In 1962, the Kindergarten was re-named 'Campbell House' as a tribute to long-serving Preparatory School Headmaster, Leslie J Campbell (1932-1962).

Campbell House relocated to the Preparatory School campus in 1968/1969.

## 1974: Co-education

In 1974, under the tenure of then-headmistress Joan Sweetman (1949-1978), the Kindergarten and early learning classes became co-educational.

Five girls started, with another two joining them during the year.

Campbell House was the first part of the College to have co-educational classes, before being joined by the Preparatory School and Senior School in 1975.

In Helen Primrose's sesquicentenary 'The Way to the Stars', Joan Sweetman recalls,

"We were a happy group. Our small classes enabled us to let the children advance at their own rate."



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#### 1994: Early Learning Centre

In 1994, the Kindergarten was transformed into an Early Learning Centre for pre-school children under the direction of Andrée Fitzgerald.

In Campbell House, Andrée and Diane Bourke introduced the Reggio Emilia approach to early years learning, emphasising small group learning, imagination and creativity.

With Libby Russell’s appointment in 1997, this approach to learning was evolving and classrooms became flexible learning spaces.

#### 2018: Junior School Redevelopment

On the 9 May 2018 the sod was turned on the Junior School development project.

The school’s new multi-purpose room, Wayaperree (Wadawurrung for ‘place to meet’), opened on 27 February 2019.

The remaining building stages were recently completed, and are now open to students.

*Images above from left: The Preparatory School (1955), Kindergarten Boys in Capeweed near New Oval October (1936), A Kindergarten class, Campbell House moves to the Preparatory School site in Minerva Road (1968/1969), Co-ed Kindergarten class (1974)*



Joan Sweetman with students, Catherine Black and Joanne Chisholm.

## LES GIRLS

The Geelong College history is noted for ventures that began in a quiet and unobtrusive way. No-one was able to say precisely what the outcome of these ventures would be. In reflection we have been grateful for the foresight and faith that was shown.

The 1974 school year ushered in yet another venture—the enrolment of girls at sub-primary level.

Spectacular?—No. Who could say that the attendance of five little girls at the Prep School was spectacular?

Significant?—Yes. The new venture has aroused considerable interest. A decision has been reached after much forethought which in years to come may be referred to as foresight.

## Timeline

**1870s:** Junior Department (unknown ages)

**1890s:** Junior College (8-12 year olds)

**1921:** Preparatory School opens (8-12 year olds)

**1929:** Kindergarten opens (4-7 year olds)

**1936:** Kindergarten building opens

**1962:** Kinder and early learning renamed Campbell House (K-2)

**1968:** Campbell House moves to Preparatory School site, Minerva Road (K-3)

**1974:** Co-education introduced. (K-3)

**1994:** ELC created

**2014:** Campbell House renamed Junior School (ELC-3)

**2018:** Junior School development project commenced

**2020:** The renovation of Junior School is complete