

# DAMASCUS COLLEGE TIMELINE

**1881 - 1994**

## **Sacred Heart College**

- Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in Ballarat East
- Initially focused on music; expanded to humanities, science, and arts.
- Boarding house operated from 1887 until its closure in 1978.

**1967 - 1994**

## **St Martin's in the Pines**

- Senior campus for Sacred Heart College at Mt Clear (opened 1967), accommodating female day students and boarders in Years 11 and 12.
- Became co-educational in 1988.
- Boarding house closed in 1994.

**1995**

## **Damascus College Founded**

- Opened on 3 February with Years 7-9 at the Victoria St campus (former St Paul's site) and Years 10-12 at Mt Clear (formerly St Martin's).
- Total of 975 students across the 2 campuses.
- Official opening and blessing 19 February.

**2011**

## **Single Campus School**

- All students (Years 7-12) at Mt Clear campus.
- Total of 1025 students and 130 staff.

**2021**

## **140th Anniversary Celebrations**

- The school marked its 140th anniversary with various events, reflecting on the rich history of Damascus College and its three foundation schools, beginning with Sacred Heart College in 1881.

**2025**

## **St Brendan's Campus Dunnstown Opens**

- Home of the Year 8 St Brendan's Program involving Year 8 students spending a term immersed in a unique learning program in Dunnstown.

**1948 - 1994**

## **St Paul's Technical College**

- Managed by the Christian Brothers, inspired by the philosophies of Edmund Rice
- Focused on technical subjects (woodwork, metalwork, etc.).
- Originally based in Lydiard St, moved to Victoria St, Ballarat East in 1987.

**1992 - 1994**

## **The Damascus Project**

- Proposal to merge Sacred Heart College, St Martin's, and St Paul's to form a co-ed Catholic secondary school.
- After community consultation "Damascus College" announced as the new school's name.
- John Shannon appointed inaugural principal; the John Shannon Centre was renamed in his honour.

**2005 - 2010**

## **Consolidation to Mt Clear Campus**

- Decision to consolidate on a single campus at Mt Clear.
- Year 9 moved to Mt Clear in 2009, Victoria St campus closed at the end of 2010.

**2017**

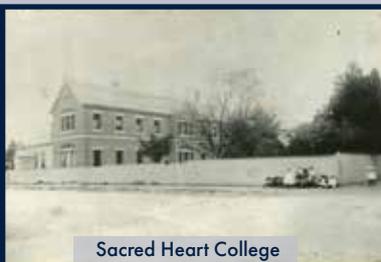
## **50th Anniversary of Mercy Education at Mt Clear**

- Commemorative walking track opened to mark 50 years of Mercy education at Mt Clear.

**2022**

## **Transition to DOBCEL Governance**

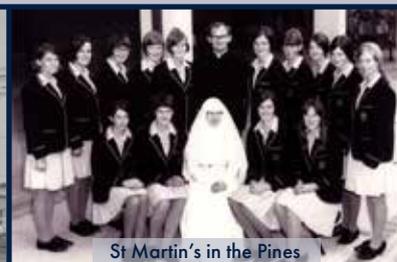
- The school transitioned governance from Co-governors, the Sisters of Mercy and the Diocese of Ballarat, to DOBCEL (Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited), ensuring the continued legacy of the Mercy Charism.



Sacred Heart College



St Paul's Technical College



St Martin's in the Pines



Damascus College Mt Clear

## WHY DAMASCUS COLLEGE?

When it came time to name the new college, parents were asked to provide suggestions, leading to a wide range of ideas. Some of the early suggestions included names like Eureka Catholic College, Trinity College, Catherine McAuley College, and Mercy Regional College.

Many people felt that, given Sacred Heart College had such a long history, its name should be preserved. Others believed that a Catholic school should have a name that clearly reflects its religious identity.

Ultimately, **Damascus College** was chosen. Not only was it the most popular choice in the survey, but it also made sense because the name 'Damascus Project' was familiar to the community having been associated with the school's development for several years.

The word 'Damascus' has special meaning. It connects the traditions of all three founding schools and symbolises transformation, new beginnings, and hope for the future. The name also references the story of St. Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus, representing a meeting with the Mercy of God. This made Damascus College the perfect name to unite the schools and reflect the school motto; To Live By The Light of Christ.

## DAMASCUS LOGO DESIGN

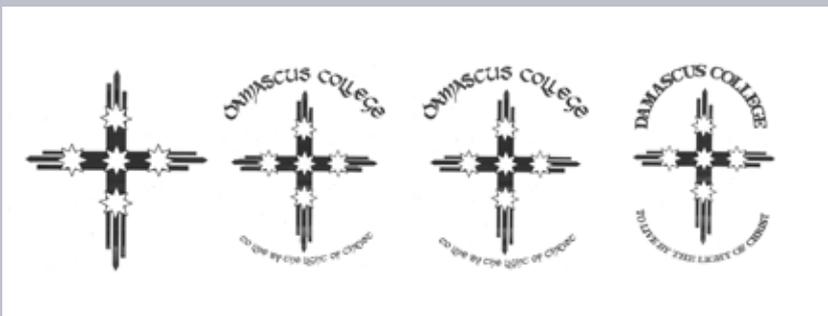
The Damascus College logo was created by Sr. Anne McMillan RSM in 1994 and remains the same today in 2025. Each part of the logo holds special meaning that connects us to our past, our faith, and our future as a school community.

Firstly, the **Light** represents the concept of conversion — a transformative process often linked with personal growth, enlightenment, and faith.

Secondly, the **Christian symbol of the Cross** is central to the logo, underscoring the College's Catholic foundation. With the unique design of the three lines at the ends of the cross representing the three schools joining together as one.

Finally, the **Eureka symbol** is included to connect the College to the local history and heritage of Ballarat, Australia, where the school is located. Together, these symbols convey the unity of three schools coming together to form Damascus College, grounded in faith, history, and the pursuit of learning.

## LOGO ITERATIONS



## PRINCIPALS

1995 - 2004	John Shannon
2005 - 2010	Tony Duggan
2011 - 2022	Matthew Byrne
2022 - current	Steven Mifsud

In 2025 we celebrate **30** years of Damascus College, built on a legacy since 1881