

1983

At the beginning of 1983, MDCS started with 113 students across 5 classes. These students were asked to wear slippers inside, the staffroom was in need of a teapot, the toilet building was extended, and more mothers were required for yard duty.

In the first week of school, the Ash Wednesday fires devastated areas in the Dandenongs. Twenty school children lived in or close to the Cockatoo region.

Two school families lost their homes but no community member's lives were lost. The school received offers of support from Christian schools throughout Victoria.



Stephanie Hanscamp (Yr 2/3), Andrew Schmidt (Yr 8/9/10), Eileen Brunton (Prep/Yr 1) and Andy Callow (Yr 8/9/10 Science and later Yr 6/7) joined the teaching staff. Ruth McIntosh began the role of school secretary and the euphonium playing, Ian Jones, joined the team as the school bursar.

Up to this point, MDCS has no government grants for capital works. During 1983, two new classrooms were built (currently the Indonesian and SCAMPS rooms) with the expectation of a grant in 1984.

Two highlights of this year:

- The 5 day Grampians camp for Year 8/9/10 with Mr. Schmidt.
- The inaugural Graduation Dinner for Year 10 students (and some Year 9s) at the Chateau Wyuna. These students were Sharni Darby (10), Ruth Godden (10), Cameron Knox (10), Andrew Nielsen (10), Darren Joseph (9), Andrew McIntosh (9), Warwick McIntosh (9).

An air of excitement accompanied the start of the 1984 school year. For the first time, brand new buildings were being used and people began to speak of the school 'having arrived'.

Computers came to MDCS in 1984! The staff were involved in training to familiarise themselves with the potential for computers in the curriculum.

One of the original classrooms became the art room (currently the computer room) and the next one became the library (currently the staff room). This was an exciting move for the school, but it wasn't long before the newsletter announced that over 400 books were missing from the new library!

During this year, Andy Callow continued to establish the fitness program. Students began each day with a run around the MDCS 'Tan'. Students leveled out a running path and covered it with tan bark under the watchful eye of Mr. Callow. The Year 6/7s kept a log of their running distances and collectively 'ran around Australia'. They also went on Mystery Tour Fun Runs where they would be dropped off at a 'mystery' location and then run back to school. Several students entered the Sun Super Run, a 16km public event over the West Gate Bridge. Michael Ridgway, Daniel Van Rossen and David Voight won their division (Division AO Schoolboys up to 12 yrs) and received medals at an official reception at the Melbourne Town Hall.

Terry Hunter began the 'Billy Cart Club'. This group made and 'tested' their billy carts down the school driveway.

The Prep/Ones produced a video entitled 'A day in the life of MDCS by Prep/1'. We still have this video which features some members of our current school community.

Towards the end of 1984, the Year 6/7s camped down at 'The Swamp' (near the gate at the entrance to the school). Students fished for trout and the newsletter reported that "Simon had a never-to-be-forgotten encounter with an emu". Mmmm...

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1984

The opening of the brand new classrooms



L-R Michael Ridgway, Daniel Van Rossen, David Voight