



Media Release

Mernda Hills Christian College Building for the Future

Early Learning Centre & Multi-Purpose Centre Update

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday 22 May, 2025

Mernda Hills Christian College is excited to share the latest updates on two transformative projects currently underway: a brand-new Early Learning Centre (ELC) and a state-of-the-art Multi-Purpose Centre (MPC). These developments mark a significant investment in the future of our students, their families, and the wider Mernda community.

Early Learning Centre (ELC):

Opening in early 2026, the purpose-built Early Learning Centre will provide a faith-based education for 3 and 4 year-olds, offering specialist programs designed to nurture curiosity, creativity, and a love for learning in the early years.

"This is more than just a new building," says College Principal, Ms Kristin Hankins. "It's the beginning of a lifelong learning journey. Our Early Learning Centre will provide a Christ-centred foundation that supports children spiritually, socially, emotionally, and academically. We want every child to feel known, safe, and inspired from their very first day."

With four large, flexible classrooms and dedicated spaces for allied health and family services, the ELC is designed to support the whole child. Families enrolled in the ELC will also benefit from priority entry into our thriving Foundation to Year 12 College community, ensuring continuity and connection throughout the school years.

An excited prospective parent, Mr Perera shared,

"We are excited about the Early Learning Centre at Mernda Hills Christian College because it offers a caring and supportive environment where our daughter can grow, learn, and feel safe. Even though the centre is still being built, we are impressed by the school's strong focus on early childhood development and their commitment to helping each child reach their potential. We also like that the ELC is designed with young children in mind, with new, modern facilities and space for play and learning. It's clear that Mernda Hills values family and community, and we look forward to being part of a welcoming and nurturing school environment."

Multi-Purpose Centre (MPC):

The College's new Multi-Purpose Centre, expected to be completed towards the end of 2025, will house a large, flexible gymnasium, contemporary canteen and eatery, office space and amenities. It will become a vibrant hub for sport, school functions, and community events.

“Our Multi-Purpose Centre will be a place where students can discover and grow their God-given talents,” says Ms Hankins. “Whether through physical education lessons, House and inter-school sporting events, a collaborative learning experience, or a community event, this facility will give our students room to flourish.”

The projects have received strong support from community leaders, including State Member for Yan Yean, Ms Lauren Kathage, and Mr Justin Esler, Acting Executive Director, North Eastern Melbourne Area, Department of Education, who recently toured the site and expressed enthusiasm for the value these developments will bring to families in the region.

“We’re incredibly thankful for the support of Adventist Schools Victoria, as well as our local representatives and funding from our State government,” adds Ms Hankins. “These facilities reflect our commitment to delivering high-quality, Christ-centred education and to serving our community with excellence.”

We are pleased to report that both the ELC and MPC are progressing on schedule, with recent milestones including major structural work, roofing and preparations for interior development. The school community eagerly anticipates the day these new spaces open their doors and begin making a lasting impact.

At Mernda Hills Christian College, we remain committed to providing an environment where every student is nurtured, challenged, and empowered to thrive; now and into the future. These new facilities are a bold step forward in that vision.



Photo caption: **Touring the ELC Construction**

Front row (L-R): Ms Lauren Kathage, Member for Yan Yean, Ms Kristin Hankins, Principal of Mernda Hills Christian College, Mr Mark Roberts, Business Manager, Mernda Hills Christian College.

Back row: (L-R): Mr Hamid Akramy, Project Development at Lorden Vella (builders), Mr Trent J Martin, Head of Secondary, Mernda Hills Christian College, Ms Katherine Darroch, ELC Regional Manager, Adventist Schools Victoria, Mr Ricardo Schaffers, General Manager - Finance, Adventist Schools Victoria, Mr Justin Hunter, Head of Primary, Mernda Hills Christian College.



Photo caption: **Touring the MPC Construction**

Front row (L-R): Mr Justin Hunter, Head of Primary, Mernda Hills Christian College, Mr Trent J Martin, Head of Secondary, Mernda Hills Christian College, Mr Hamid Akramy, Project Development at Lorden Vella (builders), Ms Lauren Kathage, Member for Yan Yean, Ms Kristin Hankins, Principal, Mernda Hills Christian College, Mr Mark Roberts, Business Manager, Mernda Hills Christian College.

Back row (L-R): Ms Katherine Darroch, ELC Regional Manager, Adventist Schools Victoria, Mr Justin Esler, Acting Executive Director, North Eastern Melbourne Area, Department of Education, Mr Ricardo Schaffers, General Manager - Finance, Adventist Schools Victoria.



Photo caption: **Aerial Render of new builds. Early Learning Centre at the front, Multipurpose Centre at the back.**

CREDIT: Kneeler Design Architects



Photo caption: **External proposed render of Early Learning Centre**

CREDIT: Kneeler Design Architects



Photo caption: **Internal proposed render of Multipurpose Centre.**

CREDIT: Kneeler Design Architects