



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
VICTORIA

**CHRIST CHURCH GRAMMAR SCHOOL:
OPENING NEW BUILDING AND CELEBRATING 120TH ANNIVERSARY**

Wednesday 6 June, 2018

Mr Paul Sheahan AM, Chair, Christ Church Grammar School Board

Ms Chrissy Gamble, Principal, Christ Church Grammar School

The Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne and Primate, and **Mrs Joy Freier**

Distinguished guests

Teachers and students

Let me start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land upon which we are gathering and pay my respects to their elders past and present and to any elders here with us this afternoon.

It is a particular pleasure for me to join you today.

First, it is always nice to call in on our close neighbours, seeing that we, of course, live 'just over the way'!

Secondly, I am conscious that your close proximity to Government House – something particularly evident from the top of our tower with Christ Church's handsome spire to be seen front and centre – means that we are bound in history.

For generations of Victoria's Governors – and for a period, Governors-General – Christ Church was their local parish church.

But the third reason we are particularly pleased to join you is that we are well aware that in helping you to celebrate your proud 120 year history today, we are also helping you to mark a very contemporary presence, as evidenced by this spectacular new building.

As the temporary custodian of a role that is also steeped in great history and tradition, but one in which we too consciously work to meet the community's contemporary needs, the ethos of this school resonates with me.

But let's go back to the very beginning. What an interesting story your history tells.

As you know, when this school opened its doors, it was as a Choir School for the boys who sang at Christ Church, enabling them to study as well as to practise their singing.

But you were always ahead of the curve, for example, as the first private co-educational school in Victoria.

What a leap it must have been for the school, for the family and, above all, for little Clarice Ruby Lindsay when, in 1921, as a six year old, she started at the school, having flatly refused to be educated away from her older brother.

What a plucky little girl. When you look at an early school photograph, in which Clarice sits cross-legged in the front row – the only girl amongst the boys – that is plain to see.

Soon she was joined by many girls, and the number of women on staff rapidly increased so that Christ Church Grammar became not only the first, but also one of the finest examples of equal educational opportunities for girls and boys.

But you are not a school that has ever rested on your laurels.

And so, here you go now with this stunning new building, that shall be officially opened today, to become one of only a few schools with a designated science space for primary school children.

We all know how important it is to ignite a love of science and technology in the next generation. How much our country's prosperity will depend on such knowledge.

The Resource Centre, with its areas for group and individual work, will help facilitate the learning of skills needed as these young ones move into their secondary schooling: independence, time management and collaboration.

The building is not only attractive. It has also been designed to be environmentally sustainable, and has employed clever techniques to improve passive thermal control, which will reduce the reliance on energy consuming heating and cooling.

And the external areas are quite superb, with a games area, green wall and display boxes exhibiting the children's achievements.

Yes, it is a beautiful building, but importantly, no-one has lost sight of its purpose in accordance with your school's values: cherishing individuality, inspiring excellence, thinking globally and showing respect and faith.

You lucky students have already been using this building for a few months now. I am sure that as you are coming to know it better, you are discovering new places and uses that you are growing to love.

This building will shape the way you look back on your time in primary school years.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this huge undertaking.

Congratulations to the School Board, senior leadership, the Project Control Group, architects and builders.

How auspicious that you are celebrating this new building and your 120th anniversary at the same time.

It leaves me to say just two things. Firstly 'happy 120th birthday'. And also that I now officially declare this building open.