

Last class

AFTER 45 years of service, Doveton Secondary College is closing its doors this Friday.

Doveton campus Acting Principal Noel Chapple said it was an emotional time for staff, teachers, the 190 remaining students and the local community, but also a time to celebrate the school's achievements.

"Over the years, the school has helped to produce many successful people who have contributed a great deal to the community," said Mr Chapple, who started teaching at the school 30 years ago, has been an assistant principal for 25 years, and campus principal for the last two years.

In 1963, Doveton Secondary College began as a technical school for

boys, in 1967 female students were welcomed, and in 1990 it became a secondary college. Classes for adults were also available throughout the years.

More than 10,000 students attended the school over 45 years, Mr Chapple said, but after the number of students declined the school council made a decision to close it and have students relocate after the forming of a partnership with Dandenong High School and Cleeland Secondary College.

To celebrate the school's achievements over 45 years, students past and present, their families and friends are invited to a barbecue lunch with rides, face-painting, and a DJ, this Friday between 2 and 7pm.



Changing Lives In Changing Times

We invite you to attend our services at:

Hallam Valley Primary School,
Fleetwood Drive, Narre Warren

• Family Bible Hour for all ages 10am • Morning Worship 11am

Pastor I Newkirk 8786 9636

(Non Charismatic)

Visit our Website: www.casey.org.au

349643-SM129-7



Acting Principal Noel Chapple gets ready to say goodbye to Doveton Secondary College, which will close its doors on Friday.

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Photographer: Stewart Chambers



Former staff members at Doveton Secondary College Murray Johnstone and John Beaumont take a trip down memory lane during last week's event.

Doveton school farewelled

PAST and present students, teachers and families enjoyed a barbecue lunch last Friday to mark Doveton Secondary College's 45 years of service.

Doveton campus principal Noel Chapple said the closing of the school was an emotional time, but also a time to celebrate the school's success.

The event kicked off at 2pm, with guests enjoying carnival rides, face painting and an afternoon tea.

More than 10,000 students attended Doveton Secondary College over the past 45 years.

Doveton Secondary College began in 1963 as a technical school for boys and in 1967, welcomed its first group of female students.

"Over the years, the school has helped to produce many successful people who have contributed a great deal to the community," he said.



Charisma, 2, spins around on one of the amusement rides at last Friday's event.²⁵⁰⁵⁸
Pictures: Luke Plummer

Bright school future

Dimity Barber

NEXT month marks the end of an era for education in Doveton.

The 45-year-old secondary college will close its doors for the last time on December 1, with students to be bussed to a new "super-school" at Dandenong High.

While some may be saddened by the demise of the former Doveton Technical School, experts say the future of education in the suburb is bright.

Built in 1963 for 120 boys and seven teachers, the Box St school first admitted girls in 1968.

By 1975 numbers had grown to more than 1000 with 104 full- and part-time staff.

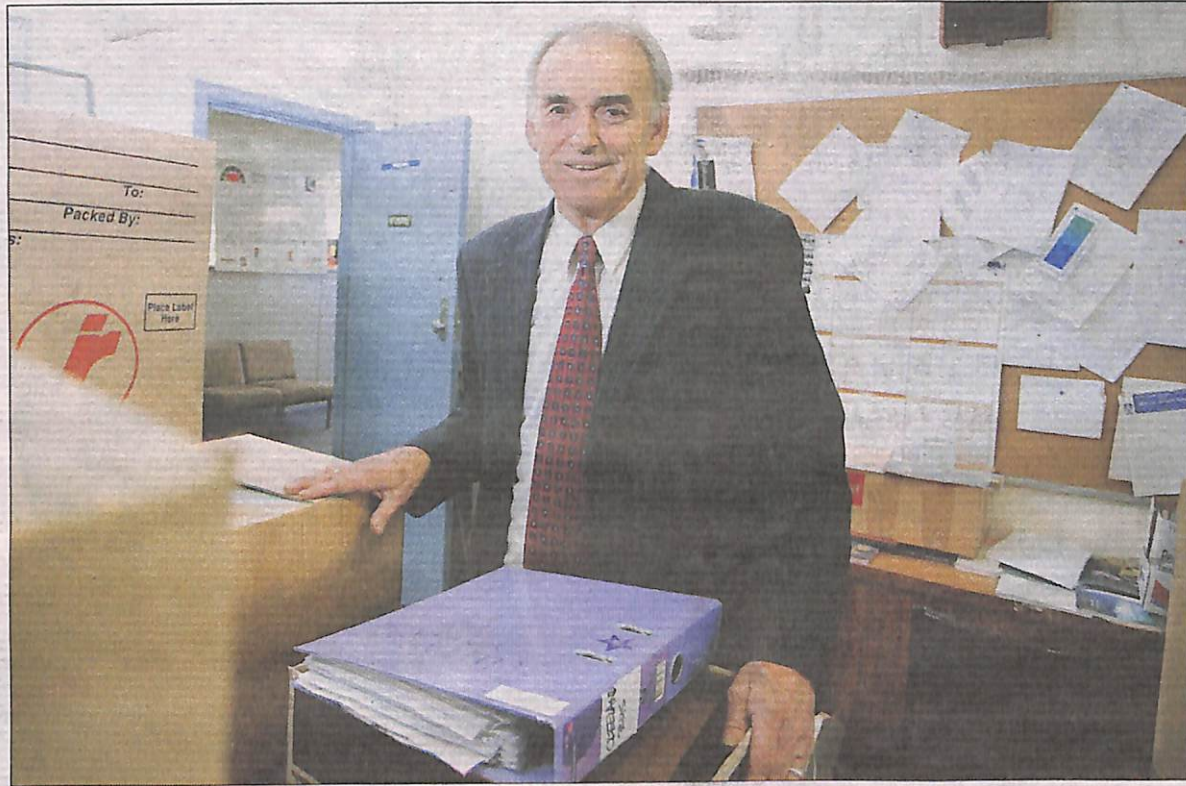
But as surrounding suburbs grew, more schools were built and Doveton Secondary College's catchment shrank.

Combined with an ageing population, Doveton Secondary College's enrolment dwindled, forcing the \$40 million three-way merge with Dandenong High and Cleeland Secondary College next year.

Principal Noel Chapple said students would reap the benefits of being part of a cutting-edge school with unlimited VCE options.

"There will be seven smaller schools at the Dandenong High site, all modern in design with open-plan teaching areas and an integrated curriculum, with about 300 students in each," Mr Chapple said.

"Our students will still have the intimacy of a smaller school they are used to but with the options



Doveton High School principal Noel Chapple packs up his office.

Picture: RICHARD SERONG. N21BL309

and resources of a large school." The move will take place on December 1, giving students a three-week transition period.

"It's very exciting," he said. Casey councillor Wayne Smith said the move did not mark the end of secondary education in Doveton. "The Education Department is looking at building a

kindergarten to year 12 school somewhere in Doveton. This will be one of the first of its kind," he said.

He said in about two years, residents would have another option – a new school.

"It's the end of an era but there's a good future and the Doveton community has embraced (it)."

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It's the end of an era but there's a good future

Or WAYNE SMITH

School's out for ever, so join the party

ARE you in this picture?

After 45 years' serving the community, Doveton Secondary College will close its doors for the final time on December 1.

But Doveton campus principal Noel Chapple said, while it was a sad occasion, there was still much to celebrate.

And past students and their families are invited back to the school this Friday for a shindig to commemor-

ate the achievements of the school.

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Built in 1963 for 120 boys and seven teachers, the Box St school first admitted girls in 1968. By 1975 numbers had grown to more than 1000 with 104 staff.

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more schools were built and Doveton Secondary College's catchment shrank. Dwindling enrolments forced the \$40 million three-way merger with Dandenong High and Cleland Secondary College next year.

Friday's celebration at the school, at 64 Box St, from 2-7pm, will include a barbecue lunch, afternoon tea, rides and other activities.

Details: Mary Piggott on 9794 7700.



Past students and their families are invited to mark the close of Doveton Secondary College, which served the area for 45 years.

Fans fly flag for Nats

Your say
thejournal.com.au



Which logo? The four options council has sought comment on.

Safety drive puts sharps into focus

A GREATER Dandenong safe syringe disposal information card has been updated and the council is seeking feedback on its format.

The council has put forward four possible options for the logo and is seeking community feedback on the updated card. The card aims to improve the

By Michael Randall

A GROUNDSWELL of support is mounting for Easternats with more than 6000 people supporting a Facebook site dedicated to saving the motoring spectacular.

The event, staged at Sandown for the past 13 years, was canned by venue operator Melbourne Racing Club last month.

The Facebook site, established by car enthusiast Paul Scerpis, was

touts Easternats as an "event almost all car enthusiasts hang out for on a yearly basis".

"The whole reason the Easternats was such a big event was so we could legally drive our cars and have fun in a safe and controlled environment.

"If this event is taken away from us, where else do we have to go and do these activities?"

There were posts indicating drivers would have no choice

but to "go back to the streets".

Easternats promoter Jon Davison said the support from the motorsport community was "more than I would have expected".

"It just goes to show how popular it is and how much it's wanted."

Drouin car enthusiast Leroy Rees won the burnout competition at last year's event with his radical 1975 Holden Statesman.

"There's always going to be hoons, nothing you do will change that, but all the guys I know that do burnouts in competitions aren't hoons — if this goes, where else do we go?"

"We're not all hoons, we all love our cars, love competing, but we do it in the right way."

The MRC issued a statement to *The Journal* last month that it had "ended its relationship" with Mr Davison but did not

reveal the reasons.

Mr Davison said each party's lawyers were communicating via written correspondence, but he did not rule out calling a public meeting at Springvale Town Hall to highlight Easternats' plight.

Belfair Park manager Wade Calderwood said the MRC had no further comment at the time *The Journal* went to print.

With Gilbert Gardiner

School building lost in fire

By Michael Randall

THE hall at the decommissioned Doveton Secondary College site was destroyed by fire on Saturday night.

Fire crews were called to the Box Street location about 8.30pm and found the hall engulfed in flames.

Fire officer Doug Broom of Hallam CFA told *The Journal* yesterday that firefighters were informed by local residents that the building had previously been inhabited by squatters and was used by local youths as a "haunt".

"Initial attempts to access the fire were hampered due to the building being securely boarded up.

"Fortunately, at this point, we believe no one was injured."

Mr Broom said the fire took about two hours to bring under control and, with no access available for aerial appliances, it became a "labour intensive" fight.

"There were about 40 fire officers there and we had to have a lot of people manhandling hoses and moving them around to fight the fire."

Local Dandenong resident Chris McShane said the fire intensified quickly.



All ablaze: CFA firefighters tackle the intense flames at the former Doveton Secondary College.

Picture: Keith Pakenham/CFA

"I did wonder with the howling wind how they would stop it and how far it would go. I thought the whole school might go."

Police spokeswoman Bec Angel said the arson squad was attending the scene yesterday and was investigating the cause of the fire.

The school was closed and students moved to Dandenong High last year as part of the amalgamation of Dandenong, Doveton and Clelland senior schools.

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