

# A reflection of the times

The 125th Anniversary of the formation of the Castlemaine Technical College is set to be celebrated at the Castlemaine Secondary College, Efty Street Campus on Saturday, October 13 and Sunday, October 14 and the college invites members of the local community and past and present students to join in the celebratory events for this auspicious occasion.

With the development of hard rock underground mining in the Castlemaine area in the late 1860s it became necessary for technical skills to be available. Skills in surveying, chemistry, machine construction and maintenance became crucial to the goldmining industry. As in other places

this demand was met by the establishment of the School of Mines in 1887 and so began the long tradition of technical education in Castlemaine.

In 1889 the handsome building at 27 Lytleton Street was opened.

As well as technical courses the council controlled institution also catered for the arts with drawing, painting etc being available.

In 1916 the Victorian Education Department set up a junior technical school to cater for students who wished to follow a trad-based education. This began with two form one classes under the headmastership of Mr R J Adams and was initially housed at the South School. In 1919 they moved to the recently vacated

high school building in Templeton Street. The high school moved into its new building which had been built on the Eastern Market site in Mostyn Street.

The School of Mines and the junior technical school operated as separate entities, although with some shared facilities, until the middle of the 20th century.

In 1958 the Victorian Education Department then took over control of the School of Mines and the whole operation became known as the Castlemaine Technical College.

The engineering diplomas, which had previously been awarded by the School of Mines and had been much sought after by industry, became diplomas issued by the Victorian

Education Department.

In 1967 a new high school facility was opened at Milk Maids Flat in Lawson Parade and the junior tech, which had become very cramped for space, moved into the Mostyn

Street facility. However, it did continue to use the workshops and classrooms at Templeton Street.

In 1974 female students were admitted to year seven at the junior school and so mixed

classes were established. Although female students had attended the college previously they were in the fields of dressmaking and art.

With the coming of the computer age the demand for engineer-

ing diploma courses declined in favour of the then more attractive IT courses. Consequently the engineering diploma courses were finally disbanded in the late 1970s.

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