

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Tuesday, 18 April, 2017

FIRST TECH SCHOOL OPENS IN YARRA RANGES

Around 12,000 local students will soon be using the latest technology, including robotics and virtual reality, as part of their everyday education.

Premier Daniel Andrews, Minister for Education James Merlino, Member for Eastern Victoria Daniel Mulino and Member for Eastern Metropolitan Region Shaun Leane today visited the Yarra Ranges Tech School to officially open the groundbreaking new facility.

The former Swinburne Lilydale campus had its doors padlocked in July 2013, following the former Liberal Government's cuts to the TAFE sector. But under this Labor Government the Lilydale Campus was saved, reopened and is now run by Box Hill Institute.

The Yarra Ranges site is one of ten new Tech Schools being built under the Labor Government's \$128 million Tech Schools Initiative, which uses new technology to deliver advanced education and training in science, engineering and maths.

Led by Director, Danny Tay, the Yarra Ranges Tech School includes 20 partner schools and has a local focus on precision manufacturing, digital technologies including medical robotics, sustainability and renewables, food, fibre and biotechnology.

With advice from local industries, students will find real-life solutions to real-life problems using the latest technologies including robotics, virtual reality, 3-D printing and a simulation room.

It is part of the Labor Government's plan to boost performance in STEM subjects, including a 25 per cent increase in the number of Year Nine students reaching the highest level of achievement in maths, and 33 per cent more 15-year-olds reaching the highest levels in science.

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

"Once boarded up and set to be sold off, this site will now give local students the skills they need for the job they want."

"It's no longer a choice between school or getting a technical education. The Yarra Ranges Tech School will mean students can do both."

"Our Tech Schools will help meet the needs of the next generation of industry, and the next generation of Victorians."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino

"This education hub at Lakeside Lilydale campus was on the scrap heap after years of neglect under the former Liberal Government – but thanks to the Labor Government, it's been saved."

"The re-opening of this campus – combined with the launch of our first Tech School – shows how serious we are about the Yarra Ranges' future."

Background Information: List of Partner Schools

School	Address	Principal
Belgrave Heights Christian School	20 Wattle Valley Road, Belgrave Heights	Andrew Callow
Billanook College	197-199 Cardigan Road, Mooroolbark	Roger Oates
CIRE Community School	2463 Warburton Hwy, Yarra Junction	Tim Knowles
Edinburgh College	33-61 Edinburgh Road, Lilydale	Tim Borgas
Healesville High School	10 Camerons Road, Healesville	Allan Rennick
Lilydale Heights College	17 Nelson Road, Lilydale	Rosina Fotia
Lilydale High School	25 Melba Avenue, Lilydale	Wendy Powson
Mater Christi College	28 Bayview Road, Belgrave	Mary Fitz-Gerald
Monbulk College	146-148 David Hill Road, Monbulk	Margaret Uren
Mooroolbark College	186 Manchester Road, Mooroolbark	Ann Stratford
Mount Evelyn Christian School/Ranges TEC	135 York Road, Mount Evelyn	Narelle Sketcher
Mount Lilydale Mercy College	120 Anderson Street, Lilydale	Philip Morison
Mountain District Christian School	325 Macclesfield Road, Monbulk	Jason Riding
Oxley Christian College	15 - 49 Old Melbourne Rd, Chirnside Park	Doug Peck
Sherbrooke Community School	311-313 Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Sassafras	Sue Holmes
Upper Yarra Secondary College	81-89 Little Yarra Road, Yarra Junction	Scott Tully
Upwey High School	1451 Burwood Highway Upwey	Thomas Daly
Worawa Aboriginal College	60 - 80 Barak Lane	Lois Peeler
Yarra Hills Secondary College	16 Reay Road Mooroolbark	Darren Trippett
Yarra Ranges Special Developmental School	20 Burdap Drive, Mt Evelyn	Janet Taylor

For more information on Tech Schools, visit: <http://techschools.education.vic.gov.au>

For more information on the Yarra Ranges Tech School, visit: <http://yrts.boxhill.edu.au/>