



**CONCORDIA**  
COLLEGE

# HERITAGE TRAIL

A Self-Guided Tour of the  
College and its History



## Locations

1. Hamann Wing
2. Eastern Wing
3. Peace Memorial Wing
4. The Hub
5. Former Gymnasium
6. Sports and Recreation Centre
7. Oval
8. Former Mathematics Centre
9. Former Chapel
10. Gardens
11. Nautilus Centre
12. Chapel and Peter Schmidt Music Centre
13. Georg Memorial Library
14. Yangadlitya Resource Centre
15. Seminary
16. St John's Campus

Cover photo :  
1932 Concordia  
College and Gardens

## Heritage Trail – Foreword

The Concordia College Heritage Trail is a self-guided tour celebrating significant milestones in the College's history.

Concordia's first home at Murtoa in the Victorian Wimmera was a modest timber building. Two classrooms and an extra wing were added over the next six years.

A more favourable location as well as the availability of a solid two-storey sandstone building with 32 rooms to cater for both boarding and teaching needs were two of the deciding factors behind the move to Adelaide in 1904.

Rising enrolments and changing educational needs have continued to stimulate new projects, and this has often meant the demolition of obsolete buildings. The dining room gave way to Yangadlitya, Murtoa rose from the site of the seminary/LTC/Media Centre and the Centenary Chapel and Peter Schmidt Music Centre now spans the site of the headmaster's residence.

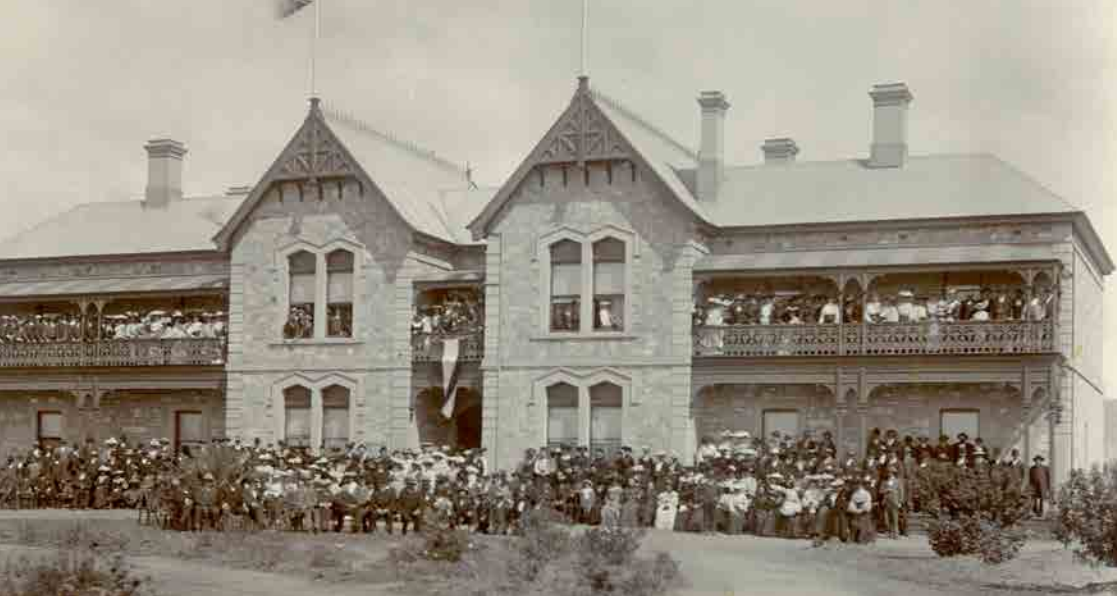
Foundation stones and dedication plaques with relevant Bible verses pointing to Concordia's spiritual foundations are part of many buildings. The Eastern Wing has a quote from Ephesians 2:20 referring to Jesus Christ as the 'cornerstone' and the former Chapel cites Psalm 111:10: 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom'. Perhaps it is a touch of whimsy that Psalm 147:5 was chosen for the Mathematics Centre plaque: 'Great is our Lord and abundant in power: his understanding is beyond measure.'

This Heritage Trail encapsulates in words and pictures the unfolding history of the Concordia campus and its buildings. These stories and memories are recorded for the benefit of old collegians as well as for future generations.

**Jenni van Wageningen**

Archivist





1905 Concordia Opening and Dedication

## Hamann Wing

A new era began with the opening of Concordia College in Malvern on 22 February 1905. The day was filled with special celebrations, from a dedication service in the morning, attended by 500 people, to a festival service in the evening at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Flinders Street. There were just 26 students at the start of the year.

The building itself dates from 1899 and originally belonged to Malvern Grammar School before it was leased in 1901 to Methodist Ladies College which then relocated to larger premises in Wayville. Concordia purchased the property for £2000.

The 32 rooms included seven classrooms, 17 bed-sitting rooms, a large dining room, two bathrooms, a kitchen, a pantry and a cellar.

The Director, Dr C F Graebner, and his family lived in rooms on the western end of the building until 1923.

After teaching areas on the first floor were remodelled in 1984 it was decided to name the wing after Dr H P A Hamann, a distinguished headmaster from 1926 to 1953.



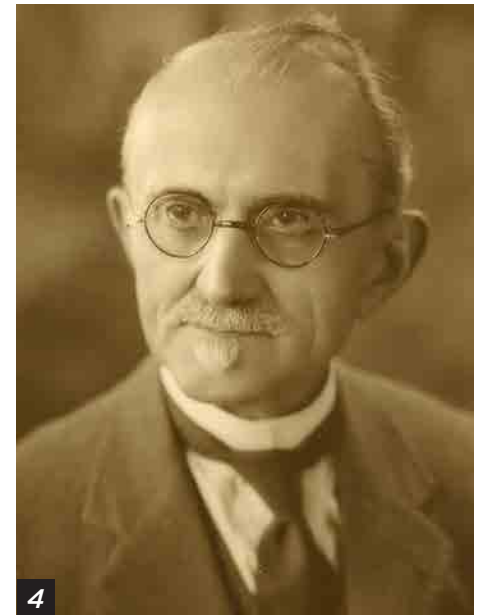
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1: 1950 Hamann Wing

2: 2014 Hamann Wing

3: 1939 Dr Hamann with wife Lillian and daughter Dorothy

4: 1912 Dr C F Graebner



1910 Eastern Wing Opening

## Eastern Wing

By 1909 the prospect of rising enrolments made additional teaching and living space a pressing issue. It was also seen as preferable to provide the older theological students with classroom, study and sleeping areas separate from the younger boys because of their different daily schedules.

The new wing dedicated on 3 March 1910 included a staffroom, three classrooms and a library downstairs, and four bedrooms and several shared studies for the theological students on the first floor. The dining room was enlarged by an addition on the south (Winchester Street) side.

An orchestra and a choir performed at the dedication service, and Mrs Graebner, wife of the Director, provided refreshments for the hundreds of people present.

By the end of that year student numbers had risen to 63.

The original building cost £1763 and has seen many alterations and refurbishments over the years. During the 1980s it became the hub for the College administration with classrooms on the upper level.



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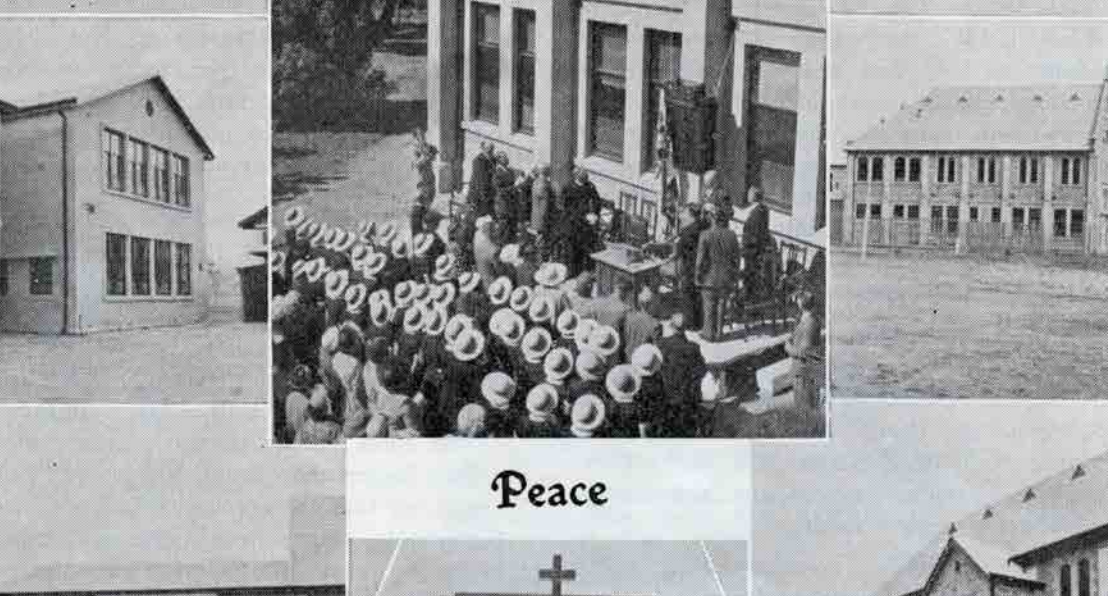
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1: 2014 Eastern Wing

2: 1914 Eastern Wing

3: 1916 Chess game in a study





1953 Peace Memorial Wing

## Peace Memorial Wing

When enrolments reached 200 in the early 1950s, an upgrade of key classrooms and facilities became quite urgent, especially as the science rooms and laboratory were by now quite dated. The extension of the 'Old Chapel' building included a large science lecture theatre, a laboratory and storerooms on the ground floor, and classrooms and a theological library upstairs.

A public meeting convened in July 1952 resolved that this wing should be erected as a public war memorial and be known as the *Concordia College Peace Memorial Wing*. The new building cost £22 000 and was dedicated on the first day of the school year on 11 February 1953.

The wing is now home to Food Technology and The Heritage Centre.



- 1: 2005 Home Economics
- 2: 2013 Heritage Centre before renovation
- 3: 2008 Food Technology



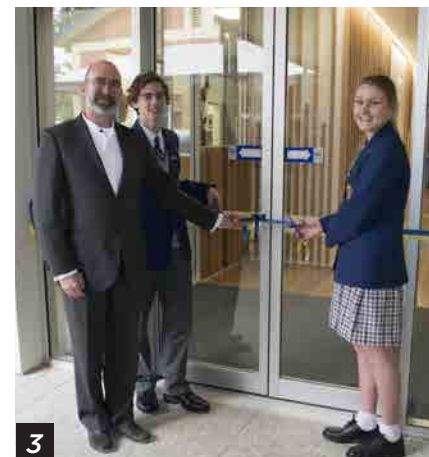


2016 The Hub Exterior

## The Hub

This addition on the southern side of the Hamann Wing was completed in 2016 and includes new classrooms upstairs, with a Student Services Office, booth-style seating for students, a Year 12 common room, and administration offices on the ground floor. It is a pleasing blend of the old and the new thanks to the exposed stone walls of the original College building and wooden floors in the passageway, as well as the extensive use of glass throughout. The Hub was opened and dedicated on 31 October 2016 by Mr John Proeve, Executive Director, Lutheran Education SA, NT & WA. Shortly after the Hub was opened, the College's official address was changed from 45 Cheltenham to 24 Winchester Street.

As soon as construction of the Hub was completed, building efforts shifted to the demolition of the former Science building in order to make way for the Nautilus Centre. For three terms whilst construction was underway on the Nautilus Centre, some of the new upstairs rooms in the Hub were fitted out and used as temporary Science laboratories to enable learning to continue uninterrupted.



Today, the Hub is a busy facility for learning and administration. Its striking glass façade and landscaped roadside frontage is often the first thing visitors to the College see as they approach the main entrance.

- 1:** Demolition of the old to make way for the new
- 2:** The Hub opening
- 3:** Student leaders cutting the ribbon



1921 Gymnastics

## Former Gymnasium 1926-1999

From 1909 gymnastics was an essential part of Concordia's curriculum. All classes were held outdoors on the lawns until the long-awaited gymnasium was opened in 1926.

Classes took place twice a week, initially under the direction of Mr A Marshall. The program included marching, running, breathing exercises, swinging high on the rings, turning on the bars and using other equipment such as the trapeze or springboard.

Gymnastic displays featured prominently in concert tours undertaken by seminary students, and a Concordia student, Martin Freund, was a SA champion.

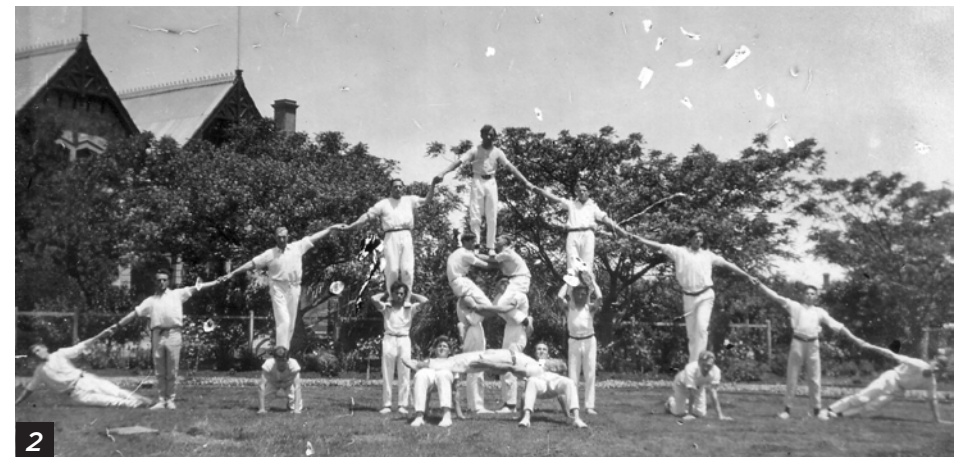
For many years the gym was also used for meetings of the Literary and Debating Society, table tennis, volleyball, break-up concerts at the end of each term, socials and exams.

In 2001 the building was renovated and refurbished to become the Drama Centre.



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- 1: 1930s Gymnastics in Australia Hall
- 2: 1926 Gymnasium
- 3: 1930s Former Gymnasium



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2002 Sports and Recreation Centre

## Sports and Recreation Centre

Sunday 6 June 1999 was a significant day in the history of physical education at Concordia.

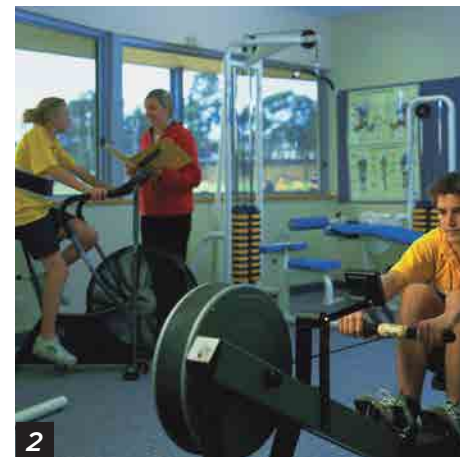
Four hundred parents, students and friends witnessed the opening and dedication of the Centre.

This long-awaited project had been a dream of the College community for many years. It gave a boost to the sports program and continues to be a great asset.

This was the first stage of the re-development and overhaul of Concordia's sport and recreation facilities. Once land was transferred from Julia Farr Services later in the year, the way was cleared for the development of a northwards facing oval.



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1: 1999 Opening of the Centre

2: 2002 Gymnasium

3: 2002 Basketball

4: 2002 Inside the Sports and Recreation Centre





1936 Cricket

## The Oval

Until the late 1940s Concordia's oval was little more than a paddock. Footballers, cricketers and athletes struggled with competing on ground that was rock-hard and in dire need of ploughing, grading and turfing.

In August 1946 a Hahndorf farmer offered his crawler tractor and plough to tackle the problem. Each student was then issued with a handful of cuttings before forming a long line across the oval to plant the grass. However, it was two years before there was any real progress, especially as grasshopper plagues stripped the oval bare on two occasions.

Finally, by 1949 the rough and dusty paddock was transformed into an oval with a smooth well-grassed surface. When the College purchased a petrol-driven mower, the old horse mower and a still older horse were put out to pasture.

In 2003 the sale of properties in Winchester Street enabled the purchase of land from Julia Farr Services and the road from the City of Unley. This development allowed for a full size north-south oval and eight tennis courts.



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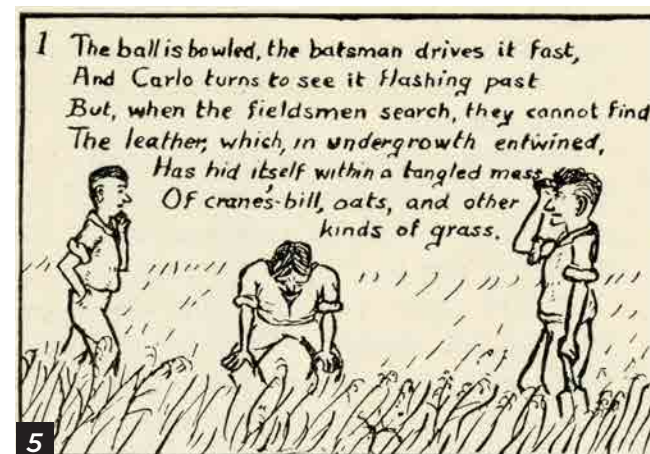
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- 1: 1939 Mowing the Oval
- 2: 1943 Mowing the Oval
- 3: 1949 New Oval Mower
- 4: 2008 Students in a PE lesson on the Oval
- 5: 1940 Cartoon from Brown and Gold





2012 The Atrium - Senior Learning Centre

## Former Mathematics Centre 1979-2011

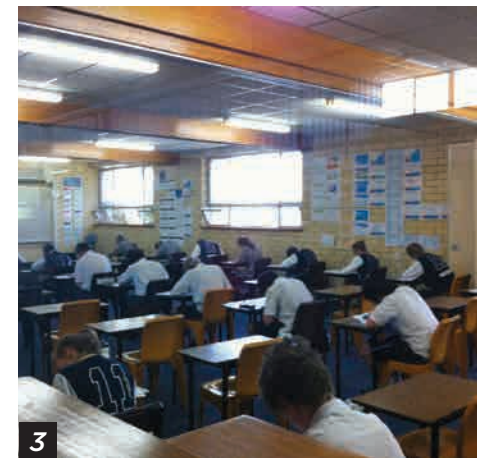
It was not until 1979 that mathematics gained a permanent home. For many years the subject was taught either in spare rooms or in 'temporary' buildings.

When the long-awaited opening of the Mathematics Centre took place on 22 July, it was such a bleak and rainy day that all ceremonies took place inside the new building itself.

The architect, Mr N Drogemuller, formally presented the key to the principal, Rev T Reuther. After the principal had opened the doors, Senator Jessop unveiled a plaque with the inscription: *Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure* (Psalm 147:5).

However, the building was not quite ready for use, so eager staff and students had to wait three weeks before they could finally occupy the classrooms.

In 2012, the centre was transformed into The Atrium. This refurbishment with a break-out central space provides a dynamic learning environment for senior students.



- 1 : 1979  
Mathematics  
Centre
- 2 : 2008 Computer  
area
- 3 : 2011 Classrooms
- 4 : 2012 The Atrium  
- Senior Learning  
Centre





Pre 1953 Chapel

## Former Chapel 1927-1990

The Lecture Hall, as it was then known, was dedicated on 29 May 1927. It was a much needed addition to the campus because of two significant developments. Girls were now enrolled at Concordia for the first time and student numbers had risen to 99. Additional teaching areas were necessary, also because the enrolment system was now annual rather than three-yearly.

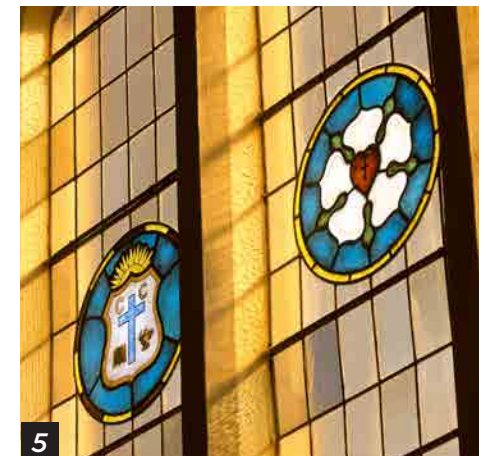
For many years this building was the hub of the daily life of the College, catering for classroom teaching at all nine year levels from Sexta (First Year) to the final theological class. The lower floor contained four classrooms and a library for the teaching staff, and the upper storey two smaller classrooms and a chapel with seating for 250 worshippers.

In 2005 the former chapel was renovated to become a function centre and meeting space. It was re-named *The Suaviter*, derived from the school's Latin motto: *Fortiter in re, suaviter in modo*.

A new Food Technology area and commercial kitchen were also part of this project.



- 1:** 1926 Building the Lecture Hall
- 2:** 1926 Laying the Foundation Stone
- 3:** 1927 Dedication of Lecture Hall
- 4:** 1987 Chapel Service with Pastor Bob Kempe
- 5:** Stained Glass Windows







1932 Concordia College and Gardens

## Gardens

When the College was dedicated on 22 February 1905, visitors walked through bare and dusty grounds with just a few sparse trees and scrubby bushes.

By 1927 the campus had been transformed. Gravel paths led past pines and cedar trees, and there was an orchard with almonds, oranges and other fruit trees. A large palm tree stood in the centre of a lawn bordered with roses and flower beds.

The gardens not only produced fruit and vegetables for the boarders, especially during the 1930s and 1940s, but also provided the students with an environment for enjoyment and relaxation.

During the years of World War II the boys dug trenches in the lawns, only to fill them once the war was over. On hot nights in the 1930s and 1940s students dragged their bedding from airless dormitories and slept on the lawn.

With the building of the science block in 1967 and the extension of the cream brick complex over the following decades, the area was re-defined to become a sheltered and shady quadrangle.



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1: 1921 Concordia College and gardens

2: 1940s Mr Phil Oster tending vegetables

3: 1949 Boys sleeping on the lawn in a heatwave





2017 Nautilus Centre Opening

## Nautilus Centre

The first buildings on this site were constructed during the 1960s. These cream brick classrooms and science laboratories were intended to blend in with the sandstone colours of the first College building on the opposite side of the central quadrangle. Over the years the complex underwent many additions and refurbishments, and was home to several subject areas, including Art.

The Nautilus Centre was officially opened on 30 October 2017 by His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia.

The Centre provides students with a leading-edge facility for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM), and features flexible learning areas, collaborative breakout spaces, and innovative outdoor learning areas.

Designed to invite curiosity and inquiry, the Nautilus Centre combines educational spaces and architectural features that encourage students to appreciate the world around them. It is a technology-rich facility equipped with large screens and writable surfaces.



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The Centre has received several awards including an IESANZ SA/NT Lighting Award of Excellence late in 2017, followed by Commendations in the 2018 Learning Environments Australasia Awards and SA Architecture Awards.

1: 1966 Science Block

2: Students working in one of the breakout spaces

3: Interior of the Nautilus Centre





1999 Rev Rob Sellars

## Chapel and Peter Schmidt Music Centre

The strong links between worship and music at the College are reflected in the design and layout of this integrated complex, which marks 100 years since the founding of Concordia at Murtoa, Victoria.

The Music Centre, named after the long-serving and talented Head of Music, Peter Schmidt, was dedicated on 1 July 1990. When the Chapel was opened and dedicated on 2 September 1990, all students and staff could now worship as one body.

The complex straddles the site of a bungalow which had been the home of many headmasters: Dr Graebner from 1923-1942; Dr H P A Hamann from 1942-1953; Dr F J H Blaess from 1953-1959; Rev Elmore Leske from 1959-1968; and Rev T T Reuther from 1968-1972. The house was also the first home of ELSA's Lutheran Archive when Dr Blaess was archivist.

When Rev T T Reuther moved to his own home in 1973 the residence was re-modelled to become a music centre in 1975. Late in 1989 it was demolished to make way for the new Chapel and Music complex. One hundred bricks were salvaged and sold as fundraisers.



- 1 : 1923 Opening Headmaster's residence
- 2 : 1989 Building Site Dedication
- 3 : Peter Schmidt
- 4 : 1990 Chapel Foundation Stone Laying





1970 Georg Memorial Library

## Georg Memorial Library 1970-2006

Concordia's first purpose-built library was once regarded as a real showpiece. In the late 1960s the College was an early recipient of generous Commonwealth funding to raise the standards of school libraries. The newly built library was described as 'large and well-lit, with seating both upstairs and downstairs. There is adequate shelving for books, as well as enclosures designed for tape recorders, record players and slides.' On 26 July 1970 over 900 people attended the Chapel service and dedication of the building which was named after the highly respected deputy headmaster and English and History teacher, Mr Vic Georg, who died suddenly in 1969.

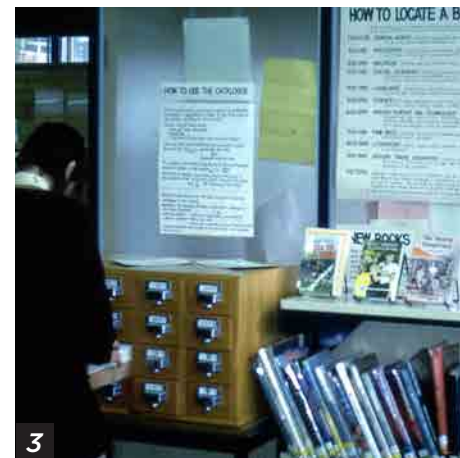
When a state-of-the-art resource centre, Yangadlitya, was opened in 2006, the old library was converted into a staff room and offices.



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- 1: 1970 Opening Georg Memorial Library with Headmaster Rev T T Reuther
- 2: Vic Georg
- 3: 1973 Library scene with card catalogue
- 4: 1999 Study in the Library
- 5: 2005 International Students in the Library





1965 Construction of Domestic Kitchen and Dining Block

## Yangadlitya

The Yangadlitya Resource Centre was opened in May 2006 by Mrs Ningali Cullen, the first female indigenous Concordia student who graduated in 1954.

The name 'Yangadlitya' is from the Kurna 'for the future'. This marks Concordia's commitment to resource-based learning and reinforces our historic links with Aboriginal culture.

More than forty years previously, on 30 May 1965, a new dining hall and domestic wing were officially opened on this site. The original dining area and kitchen had been outdated for some time, so this building was a fitting Diamond Jubilee project for the College.

Both seminary students and College boarders enjoyed many meals together in this spacious and attractive dining hall. It was also a venue for student socials and included a new canteen.



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- 1: 1965 Dining Room scene
- 2: 1965 Dining Room scene
- 3: 1966 Hamann Wing and Dining Room
- 4: 1971 Domestic Staff
- 5: 2019 Yangadlitya Resource Centre





1967 Concordia Seminary

## Seminary

Murtoa stands on the site of a building which represented an important part of the history of not only Concordia, but the entire Lutheran Church of Australia.

The opening of the seminary building on 16 February 1958 marked the separation of Concordia College and Concordia Seminary, two departments which had been together since 1905.

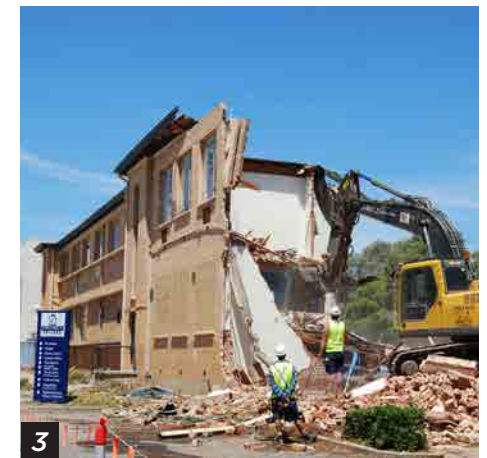
Costs needed to be kept to a minimum. There were teaching areas and a chapel downstairs, and a single long dormitory on the upper floor provided living and sleeping arrangements for the male theological students.

After the two Lutheran Churches (ELCA and UELCA) united in 1966, the building was later allocated to Lutheran Teachers College (LTC) to become a centre for training teachers, deaconesses and parish workers.

In 1975 the building was a boarding house for secondary boy students, and in 1978 it became a teaching area for Geography and Social Studies as well as a Media and Audiovisual Centre.

The building was demolished in 2009. Murtoa was opened and dedicated in March 2010 and provides flexible open spaces for teaching and learning. There are also specialist areas for media studies and additional facilities for music.

The name of the building is a link to Concordia's beginnings in 1890 at Murtoa in the Wimmera district of Victoria.



- 1:** Foundation Stone and Time Capsule found December 2008
- 2:** 1970s Media Centre
- 3:** December 2008
- 4:** 2011 Murtoa Building



1952 St John's Lutheran Primary School Opening

## St John's Lutheran Primary School, 1952-1973

St John's was the first Evangelical Lutheran primary school to be opened in suburban Adelaide.

The original school building was dedicated on 10 February 1952 by Pastor E Graebner. Due to an acute shortage of normal building materials after World War II, this structure was rather unusual. It consisted of a steel frame with walls of compressed wheat stubble straw coated with cement and had a straw ceiling. Along with a separate toilet block, it was completed mainly by voluntary labour at a cost of around 3000 pounds.

An article in The Australian Lutheran described it as 'bright, airy, thoroughly up-to-date and well equipped'.

The foundation headmistress for this one-teacher school was Miss Theodora Doecke who had attended both Concordia and Adelaide Teachers College.

In 1972 the original classrooms were demolished to make way for a new cream brick building which was dedicated in 1973.



- 1: 1952 Primary students with Miss Doecke
- 2: The school under construction. The Home for Incurables (Julia Farr Centre) is being built in the background - c1972
- 3: Dr C E Hoopmann laying the foundation stone, 5 November 1972
- 4: Miss Dora Doecke





2019 St John's Campus

## St John's Lutheran Primary School, 1973-Present

Since the year 2000, significant developments have taken place. These include a new administration area in 2000, the acquisition of the 'Red Shed' in 2006 (this was previously the workshop for the Julia Farr Centre), the opening of the Early Learning Centre in 2007, the enlargement of the hall and the construction of specialty classrooms in 2009, and the ongoing development of landscaped garden and outdoor recreational/learning areas.

From 2005 onwards, all Year 7 classes were re-located across the oval as the first year of Middle School. In 2016, St John's Lutheran Primary School and Concordia College amalgamated to become one College with two campuses. At that time, the facilities at this end of the oval became the 'St John's Campus' and the facilities on the western side, where Years 7 to 12 are located, adopted the name 'Concordia Campus'.



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1: Day of dedication of the new school, 11 February 1973

2: Miss J Schultz and Mr R Kube working with their students in an open-space classroom, early 1973

3: ELC Garden Opening, February 2018

4: Opening of undercover courtyard, August 2016



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**Above** : Aerial photo of both campuses, May 2017



**Left** : Nautilus Centre being built, with heritage buildings in background, May 2017

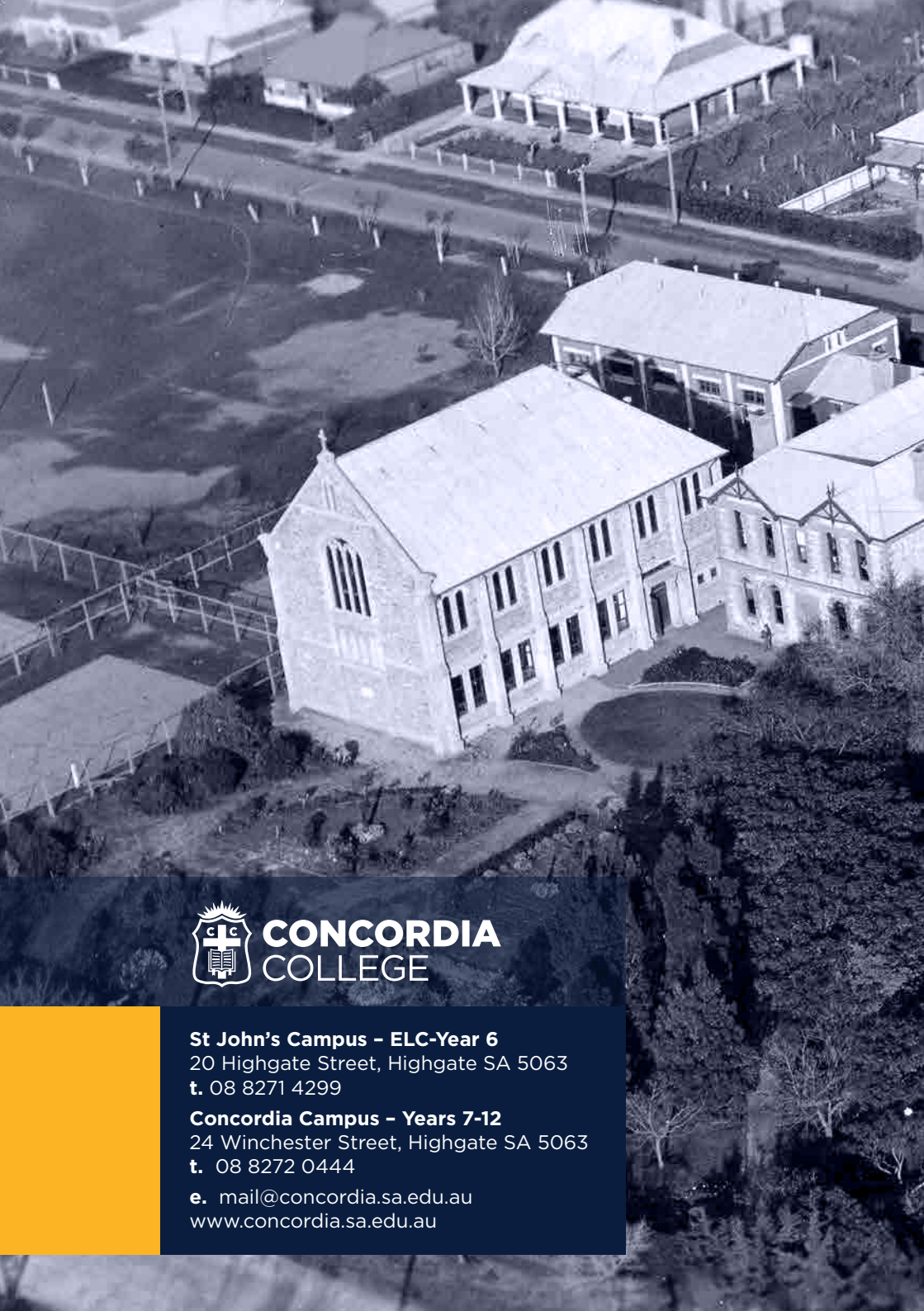
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Laraine Nelson – Staff  
Connie Held – Staff  
Maree Svanborg – Staff  
Helen Karapandzic – Staff  
Lester Saegenschnitter – Past Principal  
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Committee members

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