

## Active learning is not about playing 'catch'!

The first school in Camperdown in western Victoria was a slab hut built in 1853 in Turkey Lane at old Timboon.

In those days, an "Active Learning Centre" might have been a paddock where the 17 original students played 'catch'! But at today's modern Camperdown College which sits proudly on the original school site, the new \$600,000 Active Learning Centre is an outstanding example of modern technology and a source of local pride.

Nestled in the heart of the beautiful 'Lakes and Craters Country', Camperdown is one of Australia's richest farming and agricultural districts. The community has a range of unique landforms, heritage buildings and historical homesteads and the college is an important part of that history.

Camperdown College is a 'P-12' school of 360 students created when the local primary and high schools amalgamated in 1995. The Active Learning Centre was constructed as part of a mini-makeover to keep year 5 and 6 students motivated and actively involved in their learning.

As Principal Jane Boyle says, "It gives students a dedicated environment for participating in a variety of class projects – everything from geography and history to model making and exploring new technology."

The Centre was commenced in late 2007, completed in February 2008 and opened by the Victorian Minister for Education, Bronwyn Pike, last August. It features movable walls, a dedicated area for art and craft projects and the latest technology. There is also a new footbridge which connects it with existing school buildings.

The Brumby Government contributed \$475,000 to the project, the Federal Government provided more than \$51,000 and the school community raised more than \$73,000.

The 280m<sup>2</sup> Centre was designed by Rowan Opat Architects (refer story on Kilberry Valley School in this issue) and built by BDH Constructions, building industry specialists who have won many prestigious awards for their work in western Victoria.

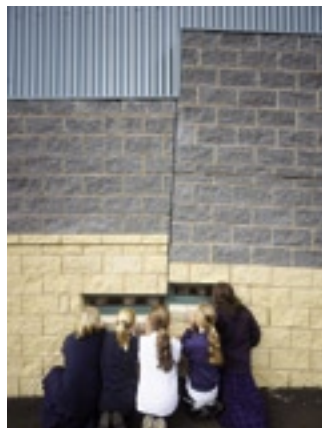
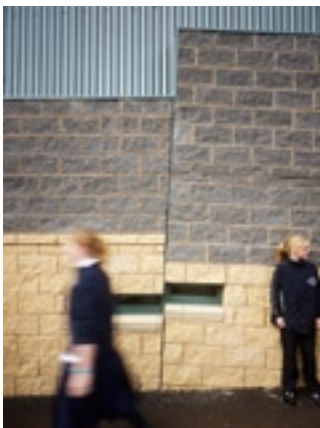


Rowan Opat says Boral 100mm masonry designer blocks in the high contrast colours of Almond and Charcoal were used on the exterior in order to meet very specific design criteria. "The external walls needed to resemble the geological sedimentary and volcanic stratas of the surrounding area. Boral products were selected because of their natural looking colour and texture banding qualities. The blocks were installed on a non-conventional angle combining Smooth and Split Face surfaces to mimic the surrounding volcanic strata and to add extra interest and effect," he says.

Rowan says the textured finish also helped minimise any possible damage caused by vandalism or graffiti while the robust quality of the blocks was ideally suited for large circulation or high impact areas.

"Boral offered a conventional building material with a wide variety of colour and texture choices at affordable prices. The designer blocks also helped us to create the impression of a city centre shopfront on the south elevation," he says.

Over the past 155 years Camperdown College has been transformed from a hut in Turkey Lane to a hub of modern technology and Boral is pleased to have played a role in its progress.



**PROJECT:** Active Learning Centre **ARCHITECT/DESIGNER:** Rowan Opat Architects **CLIENT:** Camperdown College **BUILDER/PROJECT MANAGER:** BDH Constructions

**MASONRY PRODUCT:** Designer Block **MASONRY COLOURS:** Almond and Charcoal **MASONRY TEXTURE:** Smooth & Split Face

Additional photography and information on this project is available from PIV Online. Subscribe by visiting [www.boral.com.au/piv](http://www.boral.com.au/piv)