Tuesday 22nd April saw the historic signing of a lease agreement for the former Good Samaritan Convent in Coragulac. Thomas Carr College, a Catholic co-educational secondary school located in Tarneit, an outer western suburb of Melbourne, has leased the convent from the Parish of Cororooke which will become the College’s country campus.

After nearly eighteen months of negotiations between the Parish, the College, the Diocese of Ballarat and the Archdiocese of Melbourne the former convent is set to once again be a centre of learning. Thomas Carr College will invest close to $600,000 to refurbish the convent to accommodate students and provide an ideal country setting for its Year 9 program.

The former convent will be known as the Good Samaritan Campus of Thomas Carr College recognising the significant contribution that the Good Samaritan Sisters have made not only to the local parish but also to Catholic Education. The Good Samaritan Campus will be used for the Thomas Carr College Year 7 Orientation camps in February and March each year. Then the remainder of the year will see each class of Year 9 students take part in a three week residential country experience.

Up to twenty-eight Year 9 students will reside at the Good Samaritan Campus for three consecutive weeks, with students returning to Melbourne each weekend. During their time at the Good Samaritan Campus students will participate in a range of outdoor education activities, community service programs and undertake learning projects that take into account the local geography, history and agriculture aspect of the area.

Spence Constructions, a local building company has been awarded the contract to refurbish the convent which will see extensive works completed to provide for learning spaces, dining facilities, a commercial kitchen and new bathrooms and bedrooms to accommodate 30 students. The refurbishment works have commenced and are due for completion by July. The first group of students from Thomas Carr College will then be in residence from the beginning of term three.

The Solemn Blessing and Official Opening of the Good Samaritan Campus will take place on Sunday 3rd August. Bishop Paul Bird will celebrate Mass at St Brendan’s Church, Coragulac at 2.00pm followed by the Solemn Blessing and Official Opening of the Good Samaritan Campus.

Dr Andrew Watson
Principal – Thomas Carr College
Photo courtesy of Colac Herald