

\$3.77 million Alpine school for Glen

Glenormiston is set to be home to a new \$3.77 million rural learning centre after the State Government set aside 20 acres for its construction.

The single-level centre will be built on Blacks Road at the back of South West TAFE's Glenormiston College campus and will be the third of its kind in the state.

Similar centres already exist at Dinner Plain, on Mount Hotham (known as the Alpine School) and at Marlo in East Gippsland.

While visiting the proposed location last Wednesday, State Education Minister Bronwyn Pike said the centre would provide excellent learning opportunities for students across the state.

"The aim of rural learning centres is to inspire and encourage students to see themselves and their peers in a new light, and also to develop projects they can take back to their school to enhance their own communities."

Principal of the multi-

campus schools, Mark Reeves, said the centre would be modelled on the design and principles of the state's other two centres.

"The Glenormiston campus centre will offer a live-in learning experience for 45 Year nine students with 15 staff employed to provide

tuition and expertise," he said.

"Adhering to the same education opportunities available to students at Dinner Plain and Marlo, the curriculum will focus on individual and team learning projects sourced from students' home regions."

The three rural learn-

ing centres provide students with a term of residential education in small teams from their school.

The curriculum is built around a project sourced from their area that will put something back into their local community, while focusing on personal devel-

opment, leadership and team building skills.

In a largely symbolic gesture, Ms Pike, along with former Alpine School students, Terang College school captain Ben Sloane and Derrinallum Year 10 student Megan Buchholz, cut the fence marking the path for the new access road at Blacks

Road that will serve as the entrance to the proposed centre.

Mr Reeves said he was "very impressed" with the students from Terang College who had spent a term at the Alpine School, and with the community projects they had developed.

He was also happy Glenormiston had been

chosen as the site for the third centre.

"We are anticipating a neighbourly and reciprocal relationship with South West TAFE, Glenormiston College campus," he said.

The Glenormiston centre is set to open in 2009 and is expected to assume an indigenous name.



Terang College school captain Ben Sloane cuts the fence to mark the entrance of the proposed Glenormiston rural learning centre. 2008E

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