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Woods Bagot's Nossal High School: Opening the Door to an Education Revolution

The Hon Bronwyn Pike MP, Minister for Education opened the doors to Melbourne's Nossal High School yesterday – applauding Woods Bagot for propelling forward Australia's education revolution with its state-of-the-art architectural design and campus masterplan.



Caption: Nossal High School, Melbourne (Monash University Berwick Campus)

Located within the Monash University Berwick Campus, the Selective Entry High School has welcomed its first cohort of 200 Year Nine students for whom the educational facility's state-of-the-art design is a direct response to their "high-performing" needs and teaching requirements. Serving to support, not dictate learning methods, the series of adaptable future learning spaces cater to Nossal's new wave education approach.

"The masterplan aims to create a prominent identity for Nossal - facilitating a strong partnership with Monash University and the unique architectural design. The two interlinked buildings aspire to support Nossal's innovative learning program as well as providing a stimulating and fun built environment. The result is a High School design which adopts best practice from several building typologies – not just schools," said Mark Kelly, Woods Bagot Education and Science Director.

Nossal comprises two buildings – the main works to accommodate all general specialist teaching facilities, and the secondary building accommodates the music and drama faculties, in addition to a lecture theatre and sports hall.

Considered to be the design's "beating heart", the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) is accessible via several primary arterial entrances to and from general learning commons, classrooms and laboratories. The LRC acts as a sanctuary for students where access to knowledge resources and social interaction are encouraged.

“The entire program is based around an open common space that links visually and physically to all spaces, across all floors and creates socialising opportunities throughout the School despite its vertical nature. The open common space merges into the outdoor recreational zone to blur the line between inside and out,” said Kelly.

Drawing inspiration from the site’s past use as Berwick’s 55-hectare Casey airfield, both buildings pay homage to the aircraft hangar and respond to the significant constraint of an easement and no build zone running through the centre.

Kelly further reiterated Nossal’s position as one of Woods Bagot’s latest triumphs in an evolving vision for education design in Australia and beyond.

“Nossal High School is a student centred environment that creates the pathways for lifelong learning. It provides a variety of spaces that respond to the pedagogical shift, creating an innovative and adaptable environment that fosters a sense of community within the school and the greater locale. Nossal is an exemplar in educational design as it contains spaces to share ideas, interact, experiment and discover.”

END

PROJECT SUMMARY: Nossal High School, Berwick, Melbourne Victoria

Nossal High School is located on the western side of the Monash University site on Clyde Road at Berwick. The buildings have been purpose designed to provide a flexible and stimulating adult learning environment with access to state of the art facilities and an ICT rich platform allowing for collaboration, independence and extension. The school is uniquely sited on the grounds of Monash University and adjacent to Chisholm TAFE allowing for sharing of facilities, joint programs and partnership arrangements. The school will become an integral part of the Berwick Educational Precinct and will benefit from the continued growth of the tertiary campuses, the TEC, business and research facilities planned for the site. Community partnerships with the City of Casey offer potential enhanced access to sports and performing arts facilities in the future. Berwick railway station is a short walk from the school and public bus services traverse Clyde Road. The school has a co-educational enrolment maximum of 800 students in years 9 to 12 (200 per year level).

Nossal High School was named in honour of pioneering Australian scientist Sir Gustav ‘Gus’ Nossal - Australian of the Year (2000).

Estimated Cost: Approx. AUD\$20million

Area: Approx. 7, 000m² (excluding wider on site landscaping, car parking, hardcourts etc.)

Client: Nossal High School, Monash University and the City of Casey

ABOUT WOODS BAGOT

Woods Bagot’s commitment to global excellence has resulted in a workforce of 650 staff based in five regions, in cities such as Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Sydney, Beijing, Hong Kong, London and most recently San Francisco, New York and Shanghai. Woods Bagot has also announced planning permission for what will be one of the world’s most luxurious hotels at 10 Trinity Square, London and unveiled plans for the Middle East’s tallest tower – at more than 1km high – in Dubai.

Woods Bagot’s Australian studios have recently completed several award-winning flagship projects, including ivy, Sydney (with collaborative partners HP&G and Merivale), Qantas International First Lounges (with collaborative partners Marc Newson and Sebastien Segers) and the University of Western Australia Business School, Perth. Recently unveiled by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Premier Mike Rann, Woods Bagot Adelaide has also designed the new AUD \$200 million South Australian Health & Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI). A transparent ‘cocoon for ideas’ the SAHMRI is expected to be a building established from unprecedented sustainable design principles that will foster excellence in medical research.

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