

graffiti

SPRING 2023

ON THE WORLD STAGE

HIGGINS HOSTS 2023
CPIA AUSTRALIAN
PAINTING TOUR

SAVING THE PLANET

HIGGINS JOINS THE
WAR ON PLASTIC



CANBERRA

Canberra
Hospital

MELBOURNE

Camberwell
Grammar School

PERTH

Barrack St
Jetty

WELCOME

TO THIS EDITION OF GRAFFITI MAGAZINE.

It's hard to believe how quickly this year has passed. We kicked off 2023 with a remarkable event — the CPIA Australian Painting Tour — which brought together commercial painting experts from around the world. It was a fantastic opportunity for us to learn from one another, exchange ideas, and, of course, have some fun along the way.

We're thrilled to announce the expansion of our network in Northern Victoria with the opening of a new branch in Shepparton. In this edition, we feature an interview with Dean Gagliardi, our local painting expert, who brings over 22 years of industry experience to Higgins and the region.

For many years, Dulux has been a valued paint partner of Higgins. Recently, we joined forces to launch the Project Earth sustainability initiative. To delve deeper into our commitment to becoming a more sustainable business, turn to page 07.

As always, our teams have been hard at work on an array of projects across the country, spanning various sizes, complexities, locations, and industries. One such notable project is the makeover we completed at Essendon Airport's Hangar 6 in Melbourne's north-west.

So, grab a coffee, sit back, and immerse yourself in the latest updates from Australia's favourite family-owned commercial painting company. Enjoy the read!

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ON THE WORLD STAGE

Higgins hosts global paint experts on the 2023 CPIA Australian Painting Tour.

Commercial painting experts from around the world joined Higgins Coatings on an educational tour of Australia to discuss issues facing the industry internationally, share global best practices, and to see Higgins in action at a range of projects around the country.

The opportunity for Higgins to host this year's CPIA tour followed the success of our trip to the United States in 2022 for the Commercial Painting Industry Association (CPIA) Conference in Orlando, Florida.

CPIA delegates from the US, UK and Germany joined Higgins on the tour, which included visits to projects in Melbourne and Brisbane, and took in scenic locations in Victoria's Yarra Valley, Sydney and the Gold Coast.

Representatives from Bell Group in the UK, Heinrich Schmid in Germany, and US firms Caligari Gerloff, Diverse Works, Graco, Magnum Drywall and PPD Painting attended the tour.

Each delegate provided an overview of their own operations and we exchanged ideas on continuous improvements.

Our paint partner Dulux also hosted a tour of the facilities at its Dulux Head Office in Clayton that included an overview of their research and the research and development centre where Dulux develops its specialised paints.

Along the way, delegates were wined and dined in Victoria's beautiful Yarra Valley, sampled the scenic delights of Sydney with a harbour cruise and had the opportunity to see the city from the top of the landmark Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The ten day event culminated in a workshop session hosted on the Gold Coast, and a lunch cruise on the Gold Coast waterways.

We look forward to the 2023 CPIA conference in Chicago in September and continuing to grow our international painting partnerships.



NATIONAL



TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT





HIGGINS JOINS THE WAR ON PLASTIC

Higgins Coatings is working closely with Dulux to help save the planet, one paint pail at a time, by participating in the paint company's Project Earth sustainability initiative to recycle plastic paint pails.

"FROM A SUSTAINABILITY PERSPECTIVE, IT IS EVERY GENERATION'S RESPONSIBILITY TO LEAVE THE WORLD IN A BETTER PLACE THAN HOW WE FOUND IT."

— BEN COOK, NATIONAL SAFETY, HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY MANAGER

 NATIONAL

 SUSTAINABILITY

Higgins expects to be able to recycle more than 90% of the Dulux paint pails it uses as part of the project.

Project Earth supports our broader goal of minimising and managing our environmental impact, according to Higgins' National Safety, Health, Environment and Quality Manager, Ben Cook.

Higgins Coatings is also ISO 14001:2015 certified and committed to meeting and exceeding environmental standards expected by our customers, employees and other stakeholders as part of our service delivery.

"Project Earth is a good sustainability story," Cook says. "Higgins can reduce the cost of waste disposal, divert plastic packaging from landfill and reuse the plastic to make paint roller trays and accessories."

"NOT ONLY DOES IT MAKE FINANCIAL SENSE, BUT IT'S ALSO THE RIGHT THING TO DO."

"From a sustainability perspective, it is every generation's responsibility to leave the world in a better place than how we found it." To date, more than 500 paint pails have been recycled as part of the project across Higgins sites in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. This equates to 11.5m³ of plastic that was prevented from going to landfill.

Branches in the Sunshine Coast, Darwin and Adelaide will also soon begin recycling their paint pails with Project Earth.

As part of the initiative, used Dulux water-based paint pails are recycled and manufactured into reusable paint roller trays.

The project involves setting up strict plastic paint pail cleaning, drying and collection practices on Higgins sites. Metal handles and lids must be removed while plastic handles can be recycled through the same process.

Dulux then picks up and granulates the pails, turning them into plastic pellets. They are then made into paint roller trays that can be infinitely recycled.

Since the program began, more than 24 tonnes of plastic waste has been diverted from landfill.

It is on track to save more than 120 tonnes of plastic waste, equating to savings of more than \$2.5 million in waste disposal costs.

Among the paint ranges whose pails can be recycled are the Dulux Weathershield range, Dulux Wash&Wear, Dulux Professional range, Dulux 1Step, the Dulux EnvirO2 range, Porters Water Based products and Dulux Acratex products including Acrashield, Acraskin, Acraprime (water based), Green Render Sealer and Roof Membrane.



"I PERSONALLY LOOK FORWARD TO HELPING HIGGINS GROW ITS DELIVERY OF PAINTING SERVICES IN THE AREA."

— DEAN GAGLIARDI,
SHEPPARTON BRANCH MANAGER

SHAKING UP SHEPPARTON

Higgins' plans for growth bear fruit in Shepparton.

Higgins Coatings is bringing its family-owned, customer-focused approach to commercial painting to Northern Victoria with a new branch in Shepparton managed by home-town local Dean Gagliardi.

Gagliardi has over 22 years of experience in delivering commercial painting solutions in the region, and previously worked in an array of roles across a number of multi-national companies.

"I grew up in the region, (and) attended high school and university in Shepparton and Bendigo respectively," says Gagliardi. "For me, it's home."

Gagliardi is looking forward to employing locally, as well as working closely with local suppliers.

Higgins' painting experts have already delivered several projects in the region including Goulburn Valley Health, St Monica's Primary School, Bendigo Hospital and Bendigo Maxiparts.

"I personally look forward to helping Higgins grow its delivery of painting services in the area," Gagliardi says.

"WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO SUPPORTING COMMUNITY INITIATIVES ONCE OUR FEET HAVE HIT THE GROUND."

Gagliardi says Higgins' commitment and professionalism has been obvious from day one, with welcome calls scheduled from a range of people within the company as well as training and induction all combining to make him feel at home.

"The support at Higgins starts from the top and permeates every level of the business — the expertise of any Higgins employee is only ever a phone call away," he says.

"The knowledge and comfort I'm afforded knowing that I have the backing of over 74 years of experience provides me with confidence that we will do 'whatever it takes' in delivering the best commercial painting and maintenance solutions to the region."

 **NORTHERN VICTORIA, VIC**

 **HIGGINS IN THE COMMUNITY**



SUSTAINABILITY MASTER CLASS

Commitment to environment sustains Camberwell Grammar School revitalisation.

The prestigious Camberwell Grammar School, in Melbourne's inner east, upholds high standards, not only in education but also when it comes to maintaining the unique mix of heritage buildings and modern structures on campus.

When it initiated a three-year painting plan to protect and revitalise the external and internal facades of a number of buildings on campus, the school was adamant that its painting contractor should reflect its own commitment to operating sustainably.

Higgins Coatings' commitment to sustainable operations, which includes ISO 14001 accreditation in environmental management systems, was a key contributing factor in being appointed to the project.

In addition, we partner with paint supplier Dulux to reduce material waste by diverting plastic goods from landfill as part of the Project Earth sustainability initiative.

Camberwell Grammar School wanted its painting contractor to manage everything from the works schedule to paint materials and specialised access equipment, and to coordinate the schedule of works to minimise disruption of school activities.

Our Melbourne team conducted assessments to assess and prioritise those sections of the school that needed more attention while offering the school flexibility.

The project commenced during the school holidays, which minimised obstructions while we accessed various parts of the buildings. Boom lifts and scissor lifts were utilised to gain access to higher surfaces.

Over the three-week project duration, our team rejuvenated the external surfaces of the school's sports facility, Junior School, and administration building.

We used premium Dulux paints to guarantee maximum coverage and a high-quality finish, in the process successfully integrating the old and the new.

At the same time, Camberwell Grammar School was able to rest easy, knowing that paint pails accumulated throughout the project would be recycled into new paint materials in keeping with our shared commitment to sustainability and protecting the environment.

We look forward to rejuvenating other areas of the school in the next school holiday period.

 **MELBOURNE, VIC**

 **EDUCATION**



BUNDABERG TEAM GET TOP MARKS

College campus and tank water preserved with 10-year painting plan.

A project to update the colour scheme and maintain the campus at Bundaberg Christian College, located in Queensland’s sunny Wide Bay-Burnett region, posed some unusual ecological challenges for Higgins Coatings’ Bundaberg team.

Bundaberg Christian College, which caters for years K-12, wanted to integrate its new colour scheme throughout the campus. The College’s management was seeking painting maintenance for the coming years, including discretionary hours that could be used on contingency projects as it saw fit.

The project represents the first large-scale education maintenance plan to which the Bundaberg branch has been appointed, less than two years after the local office opened its doors. Higgins Business Development and Project Manager Matthew Steers said a 10-year plan was the most cost-effective use of the school’s resources.

A team of eight Higgins operatives applied Haymes Solasheid to the school’s exterior surfaces and Expressions washable interior paint throughout the buildings.

Challenges included accessing some buildings with elevated work platforms due to space restrictions. Adding to the complexity of the project was the school’s water treatment plant, which collects water from roofs and drainage, and filters it into tanks for use around the school.

When washing down school roofs and buildings, Higgins carefully considered where the run-off would go, and ensured biodegradable detergents were used. The run-off was then isolated to one tank in the system, so it could be pumped out for disposal to a safe location, protecting tank water quality throughout the system for continued use around the school grounds.

In addition to the project, Higgins Bundaberg recently provided sponsorship for the school’s multi-award-winning Hoof ‘n’ Hook program, as part of Higgins’ commitment to supporting local communities. The program teaches students how to train, groom and show cattle, practice live evaluations, and present judgments to an audience. The steer named “Donald Rump” has already won multiple prizes at the 2023 Gympie and Bundaberg shows. We can’t wait to see our Donald Rump at more showings.

 **BUNDABERG, QLD**
 **EDUCATION**

TRANSFORMING FOREST LAKE

Forest Lake facilities decked out in school colours.

Built 30 years ago in Brisbane’s outer south-west, Forest Lake State School now caters for more than 900 primary school-age children.

The school’s facility management team, which is conscious of the need for proactive painting to alleviate future maintenance issues, was keen to update the school’s exterior, section by section, with a new colour scheme.

Higgins Brisbane, which has an ongoing relationship with Forest Lake State School, came to the party with a new colour scheme from Dulux, inspired by the blues and teals that form the school colours.

The paintwork at Forest Lake State School had degraded in recent years, but, working closely with the Facility Manager, Higgins scheduled the project to accommodate the school’s needs, preparing and painting one school block at a time over several school holiday periods. Work was also completed during school hours as permitted, with stringent safety measures applied; our operatives used temporary fencing to isolate particular worksites, along with signage and pedestrian management.

A combination of EWPs, scaffolding, and trestles was used to reach higher elevations.

While Higgins takes pride in upholding the highest standards when it comes to safety and best practice, the point of difference this time was the team’s ability to accommodate the school’s needs, building on the existing relationship and reassuring the Facility Manager that the project could be completed simultaneously without endangering staff and students.

Over a three-year period, Forest Lake State School’s external surfaces were successfully refreshed in a bright new colour scheme.

Our expert team has since picked up a number of minor internal repaints on top of the existing scope, cementing Higgins as Forest Lake State School’s painting contractor of choice.

Our Brisbane team looks forward to returning to the school to see even more of the facility transformed.

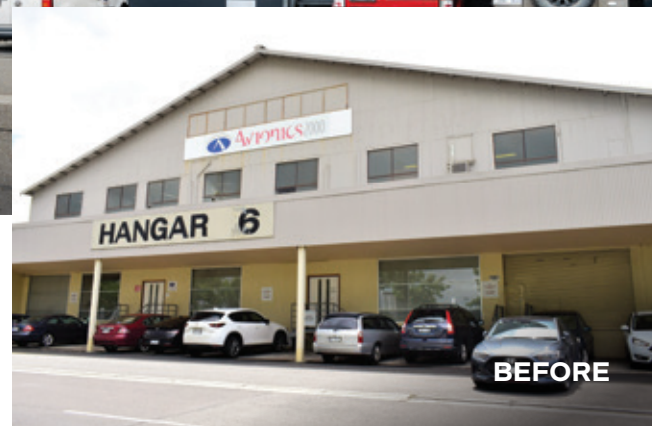
 **BRISBANE, QLD**
 **EDUCATION**





AFTER
IMAGE COURTESY OF DEAN TRAJKOVSKI

HERITAGE HANGAR REFRESH



BEFORE

Essendon Airport's Hangar 6 gets a makeover in keeping with its heritage.

Melbourne's original airport, Essendon Fields, located on the north-west edge of the city, is in the process of rejuvenating the heritage row of aircraft hangars located along Wirraway Road and last year decided to give Hangar 6 a makeover.

First built in 1939 for Australian National Airways, the gable-roofed, steel-framed building was later used by its successor, Ansett, before being leased to a series of tenants including current occupant and aircraft engineering firm, Avionics 2000.

Essendon Fields' Facilities team commissioned Higgins Coatings to deliver a comprehensive repaint designed to return the 1,064 sq m hangar to its former glory without disrupting operations within the hangar or at the airfield.

"Our intent is always to ensure works impact minimally on tenants," Facilities Manager Ashley Young said. "If that means they have to take that little bit longer to facilitate that's completely fine."

Another important consideration was to ensure paint specifications were in keeping with the original finish to remain faithful to the history of the building.

"Paint was selected based on a paint analysis, in order to keep with the original treatments," Facilities Manager Ashley Young says.

Dulux paint specifications were chosen, with the colours Surfemist used for the building surfaces, and Monument Grey applied to the five sliding hangar doors and fixed panels on the eastern facade — more than 400 litres of paint in total.

The two colours are often alternated on buildings around the airfield, Ms Young said.

Higgins' Melbourne team worked closely with Essendon Fields' Airport Safety Officers to paint the airstrip-facing side of the building and the hangar doors safely and with minimal disruption.

"THE PROCESS STARTED IN NOVEMBER 2022 AND FINISHED IN EARLY MAY 2023, AND ENSURES THAT THERE IS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR THIS IMPORTANT BUILDING IN AUSTRALIA'S AVIATION HISTORY."

 **MELBOURNE, VIC**

 **COMMERCIAL**



SMOOTH SAILING SUCCESS

Access underpins Perth ferry port repaint.

An easy stroll from the centre of Perth, Barrack Street Jetty, on the Swan River, is one of the city's main ferry ports. Playing host to thousands of passengers each day, the jetty also serves as a bustling entertainment and shopping precinct.

McGee's Property, which manages the jetty for Public Transport Authority of WA, conducted a two-year consultation to determine the scope of works required to rejuvenate the exterior and update the appearance of this popular spot.

Essential to the project was the ability to deliver a high-quality result on time while minimising disruption to the jetty's day-to-day operations as part of the city's commuter infrastructure.

With a portfolio of completed works that featured similar challenges, including Sorrento Quay Boardwalk, Higgins Perth was selected to rejuvenate the jetty and pavilion, including updating the colour scheme.

Complicating the project was the need to keep members of the public away from active work areas to preserve pedestrian and commuter safety, as well as that of our own painters.

Other complicating factors were that standard Elevated Work Platforms (EWPs) were too heavy to be used on the jetty, and the works needed to be completed within a three-month timeframe.

Higgins' Perth team identified an access plan that would keep pedestrians and our operatives safe while allowing the jetty to be used as per usual. The Perth team used cantilever scaffolding, provided by our access partner, along with specialised EWPs that did not exceed the jetty's load tolerance. Abseil access was also used for other hard to reach spaces, like below the Jetty.

Our painting experts liaised with paint manufacturer Haymes to ensure the correct painting specification was applied, ensuring the repaint lasts its intended lifetime.

"There were plenty of challenges with this particular project given the location and the atmospheric conditions," said Haymes Paint Business Development Manager Kevin Davies.

The Higgins Team applied a mix of Haymes Woodcare Wood Cleaner and Dexpress Deck and Timber Stain, which is a hybrid polymer that could be tinted to a variety of colours.

Despite the challenging nature of the project, the collaboration between Higgins and Haymes resulted in a successful project that was delivered within the budget and inside McGee's three-month timeframe with no disruption to Perth's river commuters, shoppers, and diners.

 **PERTH, WA**

 **FACILITY MANAGEMENT**



A SHINING LIGHT RETURNED TO ITS FORMER GLORY

**“HAVING THE PRIVILEGE TO WORK
ON AN INCREDIBLE PIECE OF HISTORY
IS A REAL HONOUR – ONE THAT OUR
TEAM DIDN'T TAKE LIGHTLY.”**

The historic Cape Bowling Green Lighthouse was originally used during Colonial Queensland's gold and sugar boom. Erected in 1874 to safeguard shipping along the coastline south of Townsville, the lighthouse has been in dire need of refurbishment since its relocation to Sydney.

Having moved twice previously in the 18th and 19th centuries due to coastal erosion, the lighthouse was replaced by a modern structure in 1987, when it was acquired by the Australian National Maritime Museum of Australia. Constructed from a hardwood frame clad in prefabricated iron plates imported from Britain, the lighthouse was installed as a permanent exhibition at Darling Harbour, shortly after its relocation.

The lighthouse was looking decidedly weathered when ANMM decided to refurbish it ahead of reopening it to the public post-lockdown. ANMM wanted to welcome visitors back to the museum and allow them to explore the lighthouse's inner workings and climb to the top for a view of the harbour.

The ANMM's facility management team engaged Higgins Sydney to rejuvenate the exterior.

The key challenges of the project included returning the lighthouse to its former glory using an International Paints specification and ensuring the Darling Harbour marine environment was unaffected during the preparation and repainting process.

On top of that, the Higgins Sydney team had to complete the work in a tight, highly public location in which pedestrian safety was paramount – with just under one month to do it.

National Account Manager Luke Swanbury said it was an honour for Higgins to be asked to help conserve a historically significant landmark for such a high-profile client as the ANMM.

Having the privilege to work on an incredible piece of history is a real honour – one that our team didn't take lightly,” said Swanbury.

Our Higgins Sydney operatives erected exclusion zones around the lighthouse to enable the safe use of Elevated Work Platforms in what is a high-traffic area.

The two-person team opted for handwashing instead of pressure washing to prepare the exterior, allowing them to capture all dirt, debris, and paint flakes to prevent any run-off from contaminating the harbour or impacting marine life.

Using an International Paints specification, our operatives then repainted the lighthouse in its original white.

Throughout the project, the workmanship of our team was assessed independently by a NACE (National Association of Corrosion Engineers) Coatings Inspector, ensuring the project was executed safely and protected the environment.

ANMM Senior Conservator Nicholas Flood acknowledged the team's successful completion of the job within the tight timeframe, adding: “Their ability to work with the International Paints specification and NACE Coatings Inspector and deliver a great outcome for the ANMM was particularly impressive.”

“The challenge of this project was irresistible,” Swanbury said. “It truly embodied Higgins' motto of ‘Whatever it takes.’”

 **SYDNEY, NSW**

 **COMMERCIAL**



"THEIR ABILITY TO WORK WITH
THE INTERNATIONAL PAINTS
SPECIFICATION, NACE COATINGS
INSPECTOR AND DELIVER A GREAT
OUTCOME FOR THE ANMM WAS
PARTICULARLY IMPRESSIVE."

— NICHOLAS FLOOD,
ANMM SENIOR CONSERVATOR

SURF CLUB REFRESH

Surf club restoration helps protect future Frankston beachgoers.

Few structures are more exposed to the elements than surf life saving clubs, which require constant care and attention to prevent the damage that comes with unrelenting exposure to wind and salt spray. Frankston Surf Life Saving Club, located on the shores of Victoria's Port Phillip Bay, is no exception.

Situated adjacent to the beach, the club's volunteers have been providing patrol and rescue services along Frankston's beaches since 1923. The current structure's exterior surfaces were suffering from the constant exposure, resulting in damage to the painted finish and, in some places, degradation of the substrates underneath. Thanks to Higgins' long-term partnership with Frankston City Council, our Melbourne team was commissioned to restore and repaint this important community asset.

Our involvement with the project began well before the first coat of paint was applied, with recommendations to Council on how to best maintain the property long-term to maximise the life of the paint and preserve the building itself. Our experts then inspected the building and identified areas that required restoration and remediation. Higgins proposed a works schedule to suit this community facility, and maintained transparency by providing frequent updates.

Following an extensive collaboration with paint supplier Dulux, we opted for a marine-grade specification including a durable two-pack finish on all steelwork to protect it from rust that would impact the building's structural integrity. Access machinery was chosen to reduce avoidable costs while ensuring maximum safety, with boom lifts utilised to access otherwise hard-to-reach areas. The rendered surfaces were pressure-washed thoroughly to remove remaining dirt and debris before receiving multiple coats of Dulux Weathershield Render Refresh.

The quality of the finish will protect Frankston Surf Life Saving Club as the organisation embarks on its next 100 years!

 **EASTERN VICTORIA, VIC**

 **GOVERNMENT**



A NEW LEASE ON LIFE



Colour matched exteriors give McCracken Views a new lease on life.

Southern Cross Care McCracken Views Residential Care in South Australia's beautiful Victor Harbour is an architecturally designed, two-storey, 60-bedroom aged care facility whose exteriors needed a refresh.

The project required colour matching to existing surface colours — but unfortunately, records of some colours that needed to be matched were not available.

Following a detailed proposal, McCracken Views' facility manager asked Higgins Adelaide to repaint the exterior over a six-week period, including matching the existing colour scheme. Complicating the project were complex access requirements to each elevation, which needed to be managed without disrupting residents.

"Erecting and working from fixed scaffolding and operating mechanical access equipment around a residential building required effective coordination and consistent communication with the SCC facility management team," Higgins Adelaide business development manager Adrian Hurley said.

Other challenges included working around inclement weather in the seaside location during winter to meet the project deadline.

Higgins applied Dulux Weathershield to the exteriors, taking extra care with a variety of textured surfaces that characterised the residential facility. The resulting exterior finish gave McCracken Views a new lease on life and made for a satisfied client, who praised the professionalism, care and skill the team displayed.

"Higgins were valuable in colour match selection, making this site stand proud in the surrounding landscape," the manager said.

"They carried out all prep work, were detail-oriented, professional, courteous and cleaned up every day after their work."

"Our project was on time and communication was instantaneous and responsive to any concerns. Their team of painters made this job a breeze, with a quality finish."

**"THEIR TEAM
OF PAINTERS
MADE THIS JOB
A BREEZE, WITH
A QUALITY FINISH."**



ADELAIDE, SA



RETIREMENT AND CARE LIVING

FLEXIBILITY IS THE KEY



Executing an interior refresh and repaint during a pandemic without disrupting operations becomes a little more complicated than usual when your client is a hospital.

Higgins' Canberra team found itself navigating a very specific set of challenges after it was commissioned to update the interior of Canberra Hospital beginning in 2020 — the first year of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Canberra Hospital is the largest teaching hospital and general hospital in the region, with more than 600 beds and a large intensive care unit.

Hospital management introduced a comprehensive asset maintenance plan that required painting maintenance and reactive works to be conducted with minimal disruption to the hospital's daily operations as an essential front-line health service.

Repainting the hospital's interior while staff and patients were on-site required the use of non-invasive methods and products.

But the biggest challenge was the need to comply with sudden, unexpected shutdowns of particular areas of the hospital: at any time, the Higgins Team could be given as little as 15 minutes' notice before needing to vacate a location.

A skilled, highly scalable workforce was needed to meet the hospital's unpredictable on-site access requirements.

Higgins' Canberra team worked in small teams during the limited number of hours that were allocated for painting maintenance each month to minimise disruptions to the hospital's operations. They also used visible signage and created small exclusion zones to work safely alongside hospital staff.

Taubmans Pure Performance was used on the hospital's interior surfaces. The water-based, low Volatile Organic Compound (VOC), low-odour paint specification offers protection against bacteria and mould while being highly washable and scuff-resistant.

Our team was praised for its flexibility and communication, providing safety information on all products prior to application, and remaining in constant communication with nursing stations, allowing us to perform repaints around high-traffic areas.

Since then, Higgins has been engaged to perform additional repainting projects of varying types for Canberra Hospital across wards, clinical spaces, common areas, and waiting rooms.



CANBERRA, ACT



GOVERNMENT



SKY'S THE LIMIT

Pace, quality, and sustainability help finish Australian Catholic University's (ACU) Saint Teresa of Kolkata tower.

Our New Construction team has brought some of Victoria's highest-profile landmark projects to life, while maintaining a fast schedule of works — all completed to the highest quality. Relationships based on the quality of previous work mean a lot in the construction industry, and our relationship with construction firm BESIX Watpac held Higgins in good stead recently.

Our New Constructions team in Victoria was appointed to paint the state-of-the-art Saint Teresa of Kolkata Building on the Australian Catholic University's Melbourne campus in Fitzroy. The appointment was made based on the size and complexity of the project, as well as our reputation and relationship with the builder.

The 13-storey Saint Teresa of Kolkata tower provides a combination of centralised teaching facilities, informal learning spaces, a library, and a congregational hub, as well as upgraded student amenities, green spaces, and a rooftop multi-sports court.

Also included was the construction of three additional levels above the 99-year-old, heritage-listed Mary Glowrey building. Standard Paint specifications with low volatile organic compounds were used throughout the project.

Under the leadership of Foreman Blake Fennell and the Supervision of Richard McCarthy, a team of 8 Higgins operatives safely and quickly completed the work while university operations continued. The building is a major investment for the university, blending state-of-the-art architecture and sustainability. It is 40% more energy-efficient than a similar building constructed to the minimum standard, due partly to the building's high-quality indoor environment, including paint, plants, flooring, and furnishings.

 MELBOURNE, VIC

 EDUCATION





BEFORE



AFTER

MAKING A SPLASH

New colour scheme sparks Manuka Park Serviced Apartments update.

Centrally located in Canberra’s inner south, serviced apartment complex Manuka Park Serviced Apartments plays host to everyone from corporate, government and business guests to family, study, social and tour groups, with guests staying anywhere from overnight to short-term stays.

Within the Parliamentary triangle and just a short drive from some of Canberra’s most popular attractions, the external appearance of the apartment complex had become somewhat dated.

When the committee at the apartment complex decided to update and rejuvenate the external paintwork, Higgins’ Canberra team was called in to do the work.

Our team collaborated with a colour consultant, who advised that applying a lighter colour scheme, replacing brown tones with contrasting white and grey surfaces, would dramatically improve and modernise aesthetics of the complex as well as compliment the recently upgraded pool area. We opted for a Dulux paint specification to boost the durability of each surface as part of the repaint component of our maintenance offering.

During multiple site assessments, our experts inspected areas of the complex and uncovered degradation to the apartment building surfaces due to water ingress and age — issues that had to be addressed before the repaint could be completed. A further complication was the requirement that the repaint be delivered while the facility was operational.

Higgins’ specialists used boom and scissor lifts to apply the new coatings to all substrates, with footpaths and walkways secured by foot traffic management. Our Canberra team devised a schedule according to apartment bookings to reduce disruption to occupants, with doors, for example, painted while particular rooms were vacant. When the repaint was complete, and the once-gloomy facade replaced by a lighter, more vibrant colour scheme, the effect was transformational.

Our team’s ability to manage all components of a painting project was on display throughout the repaint, and we are looking forward to revisiting Manuka Park Serviced Apartments to provide ongoing maintenance as required.

 **CANBERRA, ACT**

 **STRATA**

WITHSTANDING THE ELEMENTS



The elegant Le Onde apartment complex, situated just a few hundred metres from the sea in Wollongong’s beachside inner suburb, was looking a little the worse for wear after eight years of exposure to the windy coastal conditions without a repaint.

With ground-level degradation compounded by years of gradual deterioration, Higgins was called in to remediate, restore and rejuvenate the exterior of the 7-storey residential strata complex.

After winning a competitive tender process, the Higgins Wollongong team set out to restore the surfaces to their original condition and prolong their life by preventing foreseeable long-term damage. The completed works included a full pressure wash followed by render patching, and a tri-colour exterior repaint of the building, including its eye-catching exposed red spine.

Over a two-month period, all external surfaces were coated with a Dulux Acrashield paint specification which acts as a protective membrane due to its elastic properties. Roller doors and vents were protected by a two-pack epoxy coating to provide maximum durability.

The project required complex site management arrangements to enable our operatives to access, prepare and repaint the multi-storey complex — including repainting the balconies of 19 families — while allowing for resident and car access.

After consulting extensively with the client, our project management team opted to utilise rope access and boom lifts to efficiently scale each substrate.

Higgins Wollongong took the time to fully understand the client’s needs before commencing the repaint. It paid dividends, according to Strata Committee Member and resident, Bill Dowson OAM, a former paint retailer, who praised our team for their skill and professionalism.

“From the initial site meetings, through to discussions on weight loading on our driveways, product and service options, and ongoing logistics planning, they (Higgins) accommodated all of our needs admirably,” Dowson said.

“THE COMMITTEE WAS VERY SATISFIED WITH THE COMPLETED WORKS AS WELL AS THE FOLLOW-UP THEREAFTER.”

“Overall, the end result was excellent and it (external repainting) is something that we don’t have to worry about for another ten years.”

 **WOLLONGONG, NSW**

 **STRATA**

TOWERING TRIUMPH



Perth team delivers the ‘bees knees’ of repaints at Mill Point tower.

The recent repaint of the stately apartment complex at 63 Mill Point Road, South Perth, created a few more logistical issues than usual for our Perth branch.

The high-end, 7-storey apartment block was one of the first apartment projects to be built on the Mill Point promontory. Its western facade faces the Swan River, opposite Perth’s central business district.

With its coastal location, less than 200m from the water’s edge, the risk of corrosion is high, so the coating systems used had to be resilient and hard wearing.

In addition, high winds in the area meant that works had to be scheduled to occur when safest. Access to the balconies was through the apartments, so painting works were carefully planned ahead of time so the chairman of the council of owners and occupants could be advised.

Higgins’ focus on using premium products to deliver a premium finish saw us appointed to the project in a competitive tender process.

The project entailed updating the exterior of the apartment complex including repainting 34 balconies, two penthouses and the underground car park.

With a tight budget, the complex project was undertaken by a 2–3 person team of painters, as well as three additional sub-contracted painters and two abseilers over the course of 12 weeks.

Paint specifications selected for the project included Dulux Acratex Acrashield, which offers enhanced crack bridging and weather-proofing properties in a paint-like finish, along with two-pack epoxy to protect metal surfaces.

An Elevated Work Platform (EWP) was used to access higher floors, with contract abseilers brought in where necessary.

The logistical requirements of managing access to the building’s 34 balconies, including entering apartments to access individual balconies, moving and returning furniture to its original location, painting and cleaning up — all with minimal disturbance to residents — were challenging.

Added to that, work in the car park had to be kept to a minimum on windy days to ensure clients’ cars were kept free of paint flakes. With an owners’ fleet that included Porsches, BMW, Mercedes and Teslas, extreme care was taken, with paint times and locations organised to keep disruption to a minimum.

A few more residents than usual were disturbed when a swarm of bees was found nesting in one elevation of a building in 4 extraction fans connected with an apartment range hood. Luckily, pest control could be brought up in the EWP to take care of the insects and ensure a good outcome for our happy clients.

 **PERTH, WA**

 **STRATA**



OUR SERVICES



GENERAL PAINTING

Painting is in our blood. We take care at every step, with a lifetime focus on the safety of our people and yours. Our solutions are flexible, with specifications to suit your needs and an unparalleled experience that matches the quality of the output. Our reliable teams are qualified to take on any size project no matter how complex or difficult.



MAINTENANCE PAINTING SOLUTIONS

Our tailored painting maintenance plans protect all structures, regardless of size and are designed to provide long-term savings by maximising the life of existing surfaces.



NATIONAL MULTI-SITE PAINTING

Higgins understands the necessity of providing consistency in service, quality, project management, and pricing. We can respond quickly with the right skills and resources to ensure conformity across all outlets for any national and multi-site situation. Our expertise includes design concepts, signage, and specialised coatings to meet your project's specific needs.



COLOUR AND SPECIFICATION CONSULTANCY

For clients looking to refresh the colour of their facility, Higgins offers a complete colour consultation, taking into consideration the function and the style of your property. We also provide a detailed paint specification service to ensure your property is better protected from premature deterioration.



SPECIALISED ACCESS

Higgins provides versatile, safe, and cost-effective access solutions tailored to suit your property. We have EWP and scaffold options available, as well as a certified team of abseilers and operators trained in the use of motorised access equipment to ensure work is completed safely and in a timely manner.



BUILDING SERVICES

From replacement of windows and doors to laying new carpet, our team of licensed building experts can undertake a variety of non-structural building related projects. ***Not available in all locations.**



PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Our experienced project managers will oversee your entire painting project from start to finish, providing a single point of contact throughout the duration. Our best practice management skills will be applied to deliver your project on time and within budget. We can also provide our expertise in managing other trades on site.

Photography —

Bradley Cummings, **Bradley Cummings Photography**
Charlie Bliss, **Charlie Bliss Photography**
David Johnson, **Virtual Productions**
Dean Trajkovski
Jilijana Griffiths, **J Griffiths Photography**
Michael Bond, **Overland Media**
Robert Edwards, **Robert Edwards Photographer**
Simon Young, **Solana Photography**
Steve Murray and Chris Connors, **JMAcreative**

Design — JMAcreative

Copywriting — Lara Sinclair, **Honeycomb Content**



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