

BURRINJA CULTURAL CENTRE

- UPWEY, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

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Nawkaw[®]
ARCHITECTURAL FINISHES INSPIRED BY ART & SCIENCE



THE CHALLENGE

Expanding any campus can be a difficult balancing act between adding additional use, space, and value—all while preserving the character of the existing structures. Such was the case in Upwey, Victoria, where the Burrinja Cultural Centre sits within the Dandenong Ranges.

Since 1999, the Burrinja Cultural Centre has sought to build community through the arts, but with its success came an ever-pressing need to create additional performance space and capacity. To design this new space, Melbourne-based practice Gregory Burgess Architects was commissioned to create a space both functional to the mission of the community hub and honorific of the Wurundjeri people indigenous to the land.

Their finalized design included various facade elements, such as corrugated cladding and precast concrete forms. However, to truly deliver on the project, Gregory Burgess architects required dedicated specialists to add long-lasting color to the gray concrete forms.

THE SOLUTION

To meet the needs of Gregory Burgess Architects and the Yarra Ranges Council, Nawkaw Australia was tasked with creating several unique finishes in the same warm, earthen tones found elsewhere on the campus and the newly-created structure.

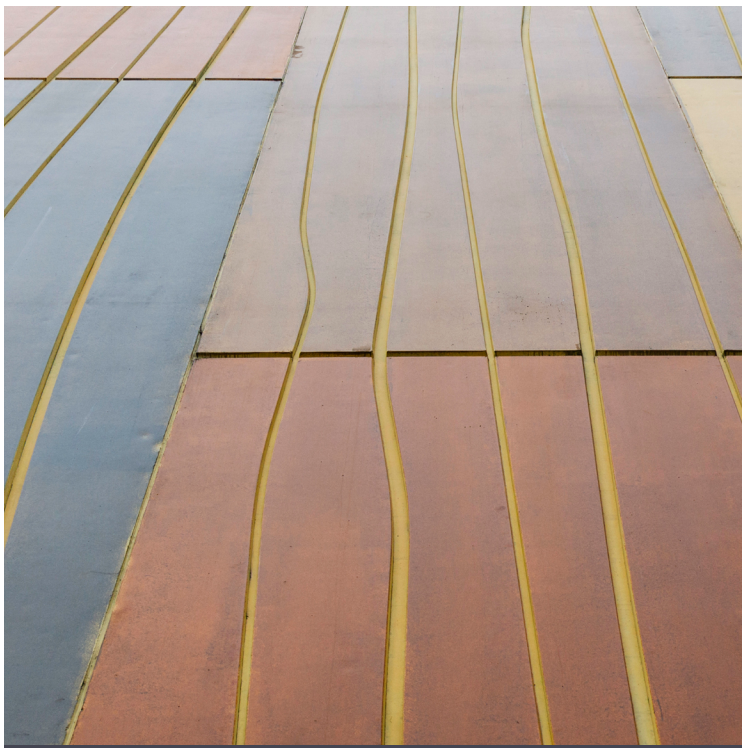
Nawkaw Australia technicians were able to craft a unique look using a powerful acrylic stain solution designed to imbue color into the concrete forms rather than coating them in film. Through collaboration with project managers and other tradespersons involved in creating the structure, Nawkaw Australia delivered a final look that blends seamlessly alongside the corrugated cladding on the new auditorium and the existing masonry work elsewhere on the campus. The warm and amiable architectural panels stand beautiful today—emblematic of the strength and resilience of superior concrete design.

Today, over ten years after Nawkaw Australia first designed and applied the finish, Burrinja stands beautifully in the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges, its color unfaded with time. Nawkaw Australia is proud to have played a small part in supporting Burrinja and its profound role in the culture of the Greater Melbourne area.

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