

A STUNNING CORONATION

MAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY : Hickory Group
DEVELOPER : MAB Corporation
ARCHITECT : McBride Charles Ryan
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER : Webber Design
PROJECT VALUE : \$75 million

The \$75M Banksia Apartments is an 18-level residential tower highlighted by striking architecture inspired by the native Australian Banksia flower, replicated in the curved structure and circlet-crown façade. It comprises 108 high end apartments configured across penthouses, sky-homes and classic apartments and features rooftop amenities complete with an infinity pool and ground floor tenancy.

Destined to become Melbourne's next iconic building and situated in NewQuay Docklands, the Banksia development has been planned to complement and contribute to its surrounds.

Designed by McBride Charles Ryan, Banksia comprises 108 apartments, configured across penthouse, sky-home and classic apartment iterations and available in four different schemes. Common areas include rooftop function rooms and gymnasium complete with outdoor plunge pools and spa. Additionally, the building incorporates a ground floor tenancy and basement car parking, and will be connected to Docklands Drive by a purpose-built access cul-de-sac.

Surrounded by a lush parkland on the edge of Victoria Harbour, Banksia's unique position ensures panoramic 360 degree park and water views back-dropped by Melbourne's city skyline. The tower itself is highlighted by striking architecture, which has been inspired by the native Australian Banksia flower, replicated in the curved structure and circlet-crown façade.

Contracted to build the project for developer MAB Corporation was innovative construction company Hickory Group. Its scope of work included the demolition of the existing promenade plaza, followed by construction of the 18-storey high end residential waterfront apartment tower with basement carpark and rooftop amenities.

Hickory was also contracted to provide the extensive upgrade to the surrounding landscape. As part of the local planning provisions, the Banksia project is subject to achieve 5 Star Green Star equivalence.

To meet this criteria, a range of ecologically sustainable development initiatives have been implemented, based on the Green Star multi-residential rating tool developed by the Green Building Council of Australia.

The expansive public park, which adjoins the development, further creates an attractive space for enjoyment between the waterfront and the Docklands shopping precinct.

"The park will provide an inviting, highly adaptable area of public open space that will be able to be utilised for community events such as markets and art exhibitions, while also providing space for family enjoyment," says Project Manager, Morrie Bahri.

Its underground car park, just metres from the sea and below high tide, meant works had to be completed in accordance with tide times. "Construction works were required to coordinate with the tides of the sea," explains Morrie. "The carpark structural shell was also required to be fully membraned to ensure a complete water-tight system."

"The design, fabrication, transit and installation of the intricate FRP façade system [also] posed many challenges. Particularly,

achieving the visual intent while respecting engineering constraints such as wind pressures, thermal expansion and contraction and general constructability.

"The use of 3D modelling and double curved fabrication techniques assisted in achieving the intricate FRP façade system that emulates the curves and peaks of an elegant Banksia flower."

Hickory started work on site in April 2016, with an expected completion date in December 2017. The Banksia project has seen approximately 250 people working onsite at the construction's peak.

"With an emphasis on safety and quality, we continuously invest in developing our people and systems to improve the way we build and deliver the best outcome for our clients," says Morrie.

In addition to the Banksia development, Hickory constructed the adjoining Aquil Promenade residential towers for MAB Corporation. Other current projects for Hickory include 50 La Trobe Street Student Accommodation, Conservatory, The Fifth, Lakeside, Collins House and Opera.

For more information contact Hickory Group Head Office, 101 Cremorne Street, Richmond VIC 3121, phone 03 9429 7411, fax 03 9428 7376, email info@hickory.com.au, website www.hickory.com.au





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Structural Engineers for the **Banksia Apartments** would like to congratulate **Hickory Group and MAB Corporation** on their landmark project.

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STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING



Images courtesy of Hickory Group

COOKING WITH STYLE

When it came to selecting the appliances for the Banksia development's kitchens, one high quality, innovative brand stood out – Gaggenau. Forged in the Black Forest, in Germany, the internationally acclaimed Gaggenau, whose history dates back to 1683, is renowned for its design and technology. The company is also credited with revolutionising the domestic kitchen.

Gaggenau was therefore a natural choice for Banksia's three-bedroom residences and the Sky homes, plus purchaser upgrades. The mixture of appliances included ovens, combination steam ovens, microwave ovens, gas cooktops, induction cooktops, ventilation and dishwashers.

"Gaggenau offered a flexible package to the apartment purchasers to personalise their own kitchens to suit their cooking style," explains Regional Commercial Sales Manager, Adam Price.

"The Banksia therefore showcases a range of Gaggenau appliances across the upper levels of this project – luxury appliances for these luxury apartments. A Gaggenau kitchen exists only to offer the best cooking experience," adds Robert Warner, General Manager Gaggenau.

"The cook can trust that deep thought and restless nights have gone into each function and every nuance. Nothing is there just because it is possible, it is there because it improves the complete experience. An important part of that experience is visual. Design has been



integrated into our processes since we made beautiful bicycles in the 1890s – it is no afterthought. There is a designer at every meeting, debating with the engineer whose role it is to make the impossible. The avant-garde design is renowned through all Gaggenau appliances."

Gaggenau are involved in multiple luxury projects across Australia. This includes Capitol Grand by LK Property (Victoria), ABC Site by Stockwells (Queensland), and Opera residence (New South Wales). These are just a selection of the many projects Gaggenau are involved in. "Gaggenau is the perfect partner for developers looking to differentiate themselves in the market and looking for luxury home appliances to match their luxury apartments," adds Robert.

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Working on the Banksia Apartments, NationWide Concrete Pumping used its satellite placing boom, static concrete pump and mobile boom concrete pumps. The company's Chris Tillman, Garry Gelevski and Joel Brown worked on the project.

The project went smoothly for the company which was run expertly by Hickory Group. NationWide Concrete Pumping says that "being part of such an iconic project on the waterfront of our city" was one of the positive aspects of its work on the Banksia Apartments. "NationWide Concrete Pumping were able to complete their works, in conjunction with Hickory Group, maintaining and building our strong relationship in the building and construction industry."

In addition to the Banksia Apartments development, NationWide Concrete Pumping is currently working on multiple high rise projects



within Melbourne's central business district, with more scheduled for the future. This includes a number of projects for Hickory such as Union Towers, Lakeside Apartments and Conservatory.

The family-owned and operated company has dedicated itself to providing exceptional customer service, aiming to meet every need. "We have the largest range of concrete pumping machinery and equipment in Melbourne, ranging from line pumps, up to our high rise satellite concrete placing booms."

In continuing to set new standards and innovative methods in the concrete pumping industry, this has translated into success for NationWide Concrete Pumping.

"NationWide Concrete Pumping pride themselves on being the biggest concrete pumping company in the industry. It's all thanks to our amazing management team and workers."

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