

SCHOOL OF THOUGHT

Cooper and Oxley delivers a bright future for Dongara District High School

DONGARA DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL / COOPER & OXLEY



Image The newly completed refurbishment and construction of new buildings at Dongara District High School.

Cooper and Oxley Builders have constructed a stunning new project at the Dongara District High School which has been recognised at the Rural Master Building Awards.

The Western Australian School represents a milestone in the education system, which was designed and constructed with input from the Dongara community. Located 65 km from Geraldton, the new facility will service the twin towns of Dongara and Port Denison and accommodate up to 600 students. The project has been backed by a \$30 million investment from the State Government's 'Investing in Our Schools' program.

The Department of Education's brief for the project was to replace the existing 1970s mixture of brick classrooms and transportables with construction of a range of 16 new state-of-the-art buildings including:

- A new five-classroom early childhood block, two new-four classroom primary teaching blocks and one new-two classroom primary teaching block
- An administration block with staff room and conference room
- A Library and canteen
- A covered assembly area that can be completely enclosed
- A five-classroom secondary block with media classroom studio
- A science laboratory and preparation area, with a secondary art studio
- A composite woodwork and metalwork workshop
- Student and staff change rooms and sports store room
- A covered basketball court and covered primary playground area.

The project also refurbished the existing covered assembly area and canteen which has become a sports storeroom and the existing administration block which will be converted into a student services area. A further \$2.5 million was granted under the Federal Government's Building Education Revolution which is being spent to deliver a kindergarten, pre-primary and year 1 block of five classrooms.

The project has been completed in five stages. The first stage consisted of the construction of three new primary school blocks. Stage two comprised of demolition of existing blocks and construction of seven new individual blocks. These included specialist secondary school blocks, covered outdoor sports court and change rooms, library and canteen block and covered assembly area. Stage 3 was the construction of the new administration block followed by stage 4, refurbishment of the old administration building and extensive landscape and irrigation works. This included two outdoor basketball/netball courts, cricket practice nets, football and soccer ovals and outdoor play areas. Stage 5 was construction of the additional blocks for kindergarten and pre-primary.

Cooper and Oxley's expertise in project management and their dedication to meeting their client's requirements by being flexible and delivering solutions in a tight building schedule was highlighted in the project. "As the school remained operational during the building process, a number of factors had to be considered and the safety of the teachers and students

was paramount with particular attention paid to fencing and bunting. We were able to overcome any obstacles with clear communication and close liaison with the school principal and Bateman Architects. External work and deliveries were scheduled out of school hours whenever possible and we also scheduled large and potentially disrupting activities and project tasks such as demolition, to coincide with school holidays or weekends" said Jayson Baillie, Project Manager.

Cooper and Oxley teamed up with Perth based architects Bateman Architects. John Nichols, Design Director commented on the project "The orthogonal layout of the town centre and surrounding rural setting was the background stimulus for the strong community led planning for the school. Avenues have been created along the north-south, east-west axis and give the school a logical structure enabling visitors to navigate the school easily. This orthogonal layout also informed the landscape design with its grid engendering civic quality with structured planting and terraces overlooking the oval.

The building is constructed of a series of interlocking shapes that present the opportunity for a lively and playful application of materials, from face brick to custom orb and FRC. The students produced art work which led to images that they drew to be digitally printed and incorporated into perforated screens and sections of the FRC. These elements provide additional layering and give the school a unique identity."

A sustainable approach to building design was undertaken with the buildings incorporating wide verandas, lightweight materials, controlled lighting and plumbing which will minimise running costs.

The project will provide the most up-to-date teaching and learning environments and will revitalise education in Dongara and the region and give local students the opportunity to learn in quality facilities.

"We are proud to be involved in delivering this brand new facility alongside our partners. We wish to thank the Dongara District High School staff, parents and children for their very positive attitude which prevailed throughout this project. We will see a well planned and sustainable modern school which will provide a fantastic learning hub for those who will attend over the years." Commented Jayson Baillie

With a distinguished history spanning over 60 years, Cooper & Oxley has progressed into a leading commercial construction company built on the foundation of teamwork, strong leadership and consistent high standards. Underpinned by experience, the consistent delivery of quality projects has earned Cooper & Oxley an enviable reputation in the commercial construction industry. The Company has a strong emphasis on safety and the environment, innovation and technology. Their aim is to provide an exceptional construction service, exceeding expectations whilst delivering quality projects on time and on budget.

For more information contact Cooper & Oxley Builders Pty Ltd, 9 Bishop Street, Jolimont WA 6014, phone 08 9387 9000, fax 08 9387 9090

Image John Schaap Painting were responsible for the impeccable paint finishes at Dongara District High School.

Image Topend Ceilings provided Dongara District High School with high quality ceiling and wall systems.



John Schaap Painting, have been operating for over 42 years providing quality painting services throughout Geraldton and Western Australia. Know for their high standard of workmanship, customer satisfaction and safety they have a highly respected reputation in the construction industry.

John Schaap Painting are proud to add the transformation of the Dongara District High School to their portfolio. John Schaap Painting commenced work on the state-of-the-art school in July 2011. Having worked on hundreds of projects throughout Geraldton and the surrounding areas, including the painting of the iconic Sewell Complex in Geraldton, John Schaap Painting were the perfect choice to provide their painting expertise to this project.

John Schaap Painting were responsible for the full interior and exterior painting of Dongara District High School which has included new primary and secondary school buildings, administration block, and repainting of the remaining buildings.

All finishes were durable and aesthetically pleasing in a variety of colours specified by the architects. John Schaap Painting brought their dedication and experience together to produce smooth, outstanding results. John

Schaap Painting are really proud to have played a part in making the school a centrepiece in the community.

John Schaap Painting are committed to using environmentally friendly products in every project they undertake. For the Dongara project Wattyl paint "Clean Air" was chosen for its echo-friendly, non-toxic, properties.

Recent projects include painting of the exterior of St Francis Xavier Primary School, painting of the exterior of the University of Western Australia and a major future project is the painting of the Mungullah Power Station at Carnarvon. They are also currently working on the new Queens Park Tavern for Cooper & Oxley.

In addition to offering professional commercial and residential painting services, the highly skilled crew of 10 offer graffiti removal within 24 hours of a phone call, anti-graffiti coating and marine coating services.

For more information contact John Schaap Painting, phone 08 9964 4010, mobile 0417 947903, fax 08 9921 1332, email k9sab@bigpond.net.au

Given their reputation for a professional and reliable service, Topend were awarded the contract for the supply and installation of ceiling and wall systems at the Dongara District High School.

At Dongara the ultimate function of teaching at school is highly dependent on the control of external and internal noise. Topend Ceiling Director, George Yang said "The material and finish was important to provide spaces with acceptable acoustic performance. Finishes which minimise future maintenance were also important." With a workforce peaking at around 15 the Topend Ceiling team worked for about a year installing compressed fibre cement (CFC) façade systems, perforated plasterboard ceiling systems, coruline panel systems, Versilux eave lining systems and pre-painted VitraPanel® systems.

Topend Ceilings consider health and safety to be a vital aspect of the work they perform. "The roof trusses were very high and there were numerous service units between the trusses and the ceilings. This resulted in difficulties for members of the team to physically get up to the roof and install the hanging members. We introduced the methods applied to trafficable ceiling systems, which incorporates rigid 10mm threaded rods, instead of 5mm hanging rods or 5 BMT builders angles, as supporting members to avoid any accidents. Another challenge we faced was the installation of the

ceilings to suite the recessed lights with a very tiny 5mm margin on each side" said George. Topend Ceilings were able to draw on their collective wisdom and experience and exercise the required care and precision to deliver cutting-edge results in both a time and cost effective manner. Topend has developed a strong working relationship with many well known building companies including Cooper & Oxley, Broad Construction and Badge. Current projects include the supply of ceiling and wall systems at the new major development at the domestic airport, Terminal WA in Perth and Aranmore Catholic College as well as projects for Rio Tinto in Karratha.

Topend Ceilings specialises in the supply and installation of a range of ceilings systems, including suspended, fireproof, acoustic and perforated ceilings. Other specialities include partition walls, cladding and project management. Topend Ceilings have their own distribution centre which allows immediate access to products and timely deliveries which reduces costs to the client. This Welshpool, WA based business has been handling commercial projects successfully for many years and has gone from strength to strength through their commitment to providing a personal, reliable and professional service that is efficient and cost-effective for their customers.

For more information contact Topend Ceilings, 6/8 Tomlinson Road Welshpool WA 6106, phone 08 9470 2248, website www.ceiling.net.au