

Precast jewel in a bushland crown

Project: Mahon Pool

Location: Maroubra, NSW

Master Precaster: Waeger Constructions

Client: Randwick City Council

Architect: Lahznimmo

Builder: Currenti Constructions

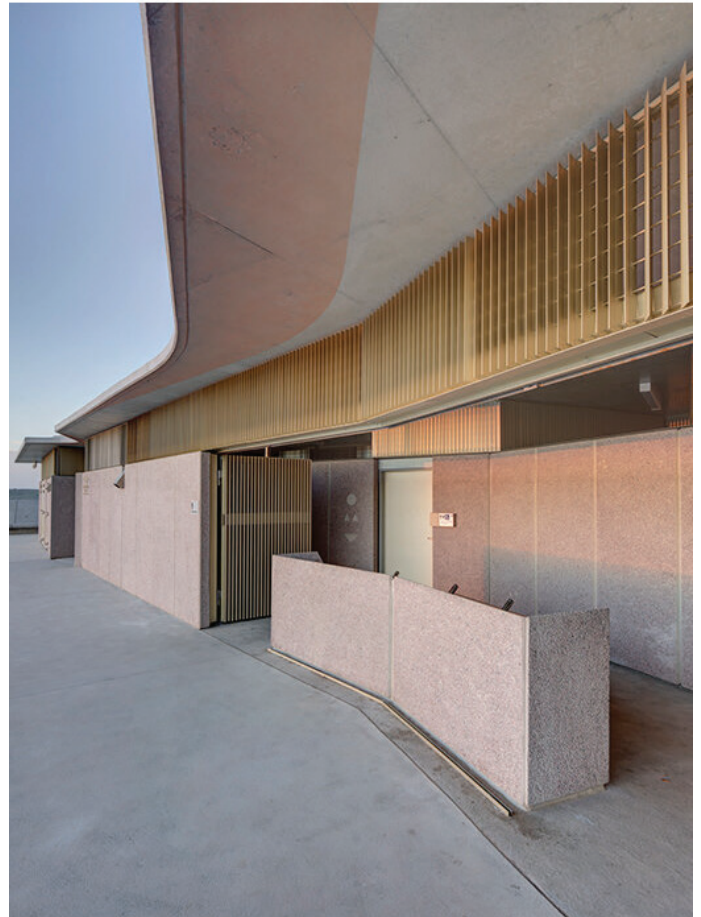
A recently completed new precast club facility and amenities block perfects the swimmer experience that is afforded by Mahon Pool, a saltwater tidal pool just a short 20-minute drive south west from the Sydney CBD.

With Maroubra Beach close by and being surrounded by scenic cliffs, Mahon Pool in Maroubra has become a popular swimming spot for tourists and locals alike. The Pool is also the home of the Maroubra Seals Swimming Club.

Randwick City Council's brief was to reduce the visual impact on the Jack Vanny Reserve Headland by the existing 1960s clifftop building - a design which was reminiscent of public toilet blocks from the 1950s and '60s - and replace it with light and airy amenities that integrated into the local landscape.

The solution: a state-of-the-art precast facility which is nestled into its surrounding bushland landscape.

National Precast Master Precaster Waeger Constructions manufactured and installed numerous



types of structural and civil precast concrete units for this project.

Scope of works included demolition of the old structure and construction of two new linked buildings, gifting the Swimming Club a new clubroom adjacent new amenities which comprise male and female toilets, change rooms, accessible toilets, showers and a parents' room.

Creating a consistent look across the whole project, extensive landscaping complements the building and paths connect it with the existing coastal walkway to Maroubra Beach.

With a total budget of \$2 million, high-quality and highly durable precast concrete was specified for the construction of the project.

Precast specifications

Waeger Constructions supplied 36 precast concrete panels of varying dimensions, all suited to the clients' brief. They were manufactured with an exposed aggregate finish, highlighting the rose-coloured red granite aggregate that was sourced from the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia. Oxide was also added to the concrete mixture to obtain the desired colour set out by the architects, Lahznimmo.

Three precast grey sandblasted concrete seats were also supplied and installed to the Mahon Pool site, all detailed with custom radii on the ends of the units.

Why was precast chosen

Located in a coastal zone, structural integrity and durability were needed to withstand the harsh climate, and precast offered the perfect solution. According to National Precast CEO Sarah Bachmann, because precast is manufactured in a factory-controlled environment, the quality of the product is far superior to what can be achieved by pouring on site.

Indeed, the precast concrete supplied for the Mahon Pool amenities block boasts quality, with a consistent and elegant finish. The ability to deliver the details required by the client was achieved with incredible accuracy.

An added benefit was that on-site construction time and labour reduced the overall timeframe of the project, as well as offering a safer and cleaner site for all.

An elegant outcome

Blending in with the surrounding sandstone and coastal landscape, the deliberate choice of the aggregates, oxides and finishes used in the production of the precast panels and seats create a cohesive and contemporary appearance.

A safe sheltered place for local swimmers and visitors alike to swim if they aren't keen to tackle the surf at Maroubra Beach, or a place to stop and take in the panoramic view of the pacific ocean, Mahon Pool is now a destination in itself. And it now boasts a new state of the art facility that houses the winter Swimming Club and provides amenities for the Club and visitors alike.

It is truly a jewel that is nestled in a crown of coastal scrub.

