

Precast imbues park with new life

Project: River Red Gum

Location: Northern Memorial Park Glenroy, VIC

Master Precaster: Otway Precast

Client: Ace Infrastructure

Among the shrubs and water features of the recently redeveloped Northern Memorial Park Glenroy, super-scaled illustrations cast into an array of precast concrete panels tell the tale of a red gum pollinating the land and sprouting new life.

It's a story that delicately balances the significance of the site – a place where families come to memorialise their loved ones and the native land that surrounds.

The illustrative graphics and written story that matches have been intricately cast into the panels' front and side faces.

It's a challenge that was welcomed by National Precast Master Precaster Otway Precast, who was engaged to supply and install the set of imprinted panels. Located in Colac, the precast manufacturer supplies precast elements for large and small scale domestic, infrastructure and commercial applications.

According to Otway's Managing Director Tim Reinen, custom form-liners were used during casting the River Red Gum panels.

Being manufactured offsite in the precaster's Colac factory, meant the textured graphics were realised to a flawless finish quality and illustrative accuracy.



"In this case, the Northern Memorial Park redevelopment opted for a Class 1 off form architectural finish with off-white walls and black pigmented spacer walls, which combined to ensure a smooth, bright and welcoming appearance," says Reinen.

National Precast's CEO Sarah Bachmann adds that just as with this project, precast concrete continually proves itself as an invaluable material and canvas for architects, designers and artist alike.

“Etched graphics, cast geometries and surface finishes of precast concrete remain true to their intended appearance for many generations even when exposed to the elements, unlike comparable finish materials such as milled timber or etched steel sheeting,” Bachmann comments.

“The multi-layered graphics that have been intricately cast into the array of precast panels for this project imbues the Northern Memorial Park with a rich, contemplative architectural intervention”, Bachmann adds.

“The choice of precast concrete has ensured a perfectly articulated story.”

