

HISTORY AND INNOVATION MOVE TOGETHER

CLIENT : Maroondah City Council
MAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY : Ireland Brown Constructions
SUPERINTENDENT : Turner & Townsend
ARCHITECT : Co.op Studio

Images this page: Maroondah City Council

The Ringwood Activity Centre Carpark project, delivered through a partnership between Maroondah City Council and the Australian Government, provides 324 parking spaces across six levels. Easing parking congestion and improving connectivity to Ringwood station, the project highlights the capability of major construction to combine innovation with heritage preservation, with the integration of the historic 1914 Blood Brothers storefront into the new structure.

Situated within Ringwood's growing transport and retail precinct, the Ringwood Activity Centre Carpark project required a balance of engineering precision, architectural sensitivity, and community awareness.

The location of the new multi-level carpark at 1 Bedford Road is home to the former Blood Brothers store which holds heritage and social significance for the community. Ireland Brown Constructions (IBC), managed the raising and relocation of the early 20th-century Blood Brothers storefront, repositioning the historic building to accommodate the carpark.

"The existing site around the building was on grade, so we had to pick a horizontal cut line above which to maintain the heritage elements," explained Dermot Walsh, Senior Project Manager at IBC. "We then determined the weight and mass distribution of the building and reviewed its construction and condition to confirm any weakness in the structural integrity. Temporary steel supports were designed to brace weakened walls and accommodate jacking and dolly locations."

To keep the building perfectly level during relocation, IBC imported a unified jacking system from the USA, supervised by a specialist in heritage relocation. Unexpected soil conditions added another layer of complexity. "The existing ground conditions couldn't resist the wheel loads, so a pathway of steel road plates was laid to disperse the force and keep the dollies stable," Dermot said. The building was rotated 110 degrees into its new position on the south-eastern corner of the site.

"Creating a multi-storey carpark that integrates with an urban setting is always a challenging design task," Dermot explained. "The heritage store became the primary design driver for the façade of the car park. The brick construction inspired the use of a lightweight red brick tile screen to provide a contemporary interpretation that sits comfortably with the traditional brickwork of the Blood Brothers store."

This approach not only preserved the historical character of Ringwood but also restored the store to a position of prominence, acting as a bridge between suburban streetscapes and showcasing the scale of the new parking facility.



Blood Brothers storefront built circa 1914



The project's proximity to Ringwood station and active public thoroughfares meant detailed planning was essential. "The tower crane for the project was designed to reduce the risk to Metro passengers," Dermot noted. "We employed a luffing crane instead of a hammerhead, ensuring the boom never crossed the rail corridor. An electronic lockout was also incorporated to guarantee no lifts encroached within a 20m zone of the tracks."

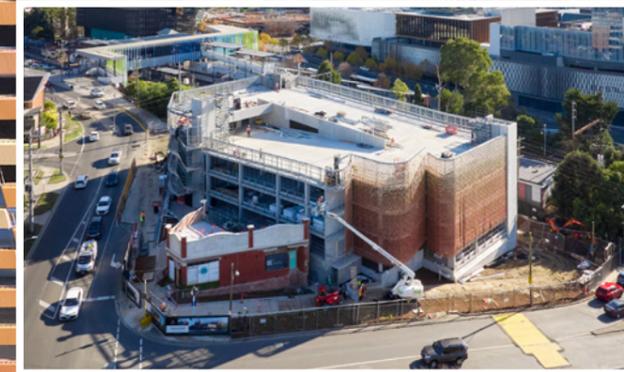
With Melbourne's Big Build rail upgrades underway nearby, traffic and public transport co-ordination was critical. IBC carried out SIDRA analysis to model traffic flows and manage bus movements, while traffic management plans for pedestrians were developed with Maroondah City Council.

"Any major disruptive works, such as removal of the tower crane, were scheduled during school holidays to minimise peak-time disruption,"

Dermot said. "These were carefully co-ordinated with public transport operators to ensure no major delays."

The integration of heritage and modern infrastructure is the standout achievement. "This project celebrates Ringwood's history while meeting the needs of a growing city. To take on the engineering challenges of relocating and preserving the Blood Brothers storefront, while also delivering a contemporary, high-functioning carpark, shows what can be achieved with collaboration, innovation, and respect for heritage."

For more information contact Ireland Brown Constructions, Level 1, 1180 Toorak Road, Camberwell VIC 3124, phone 03 9805 5200, email enquiry@ibconstructions.com.au, website www.ibconstructions.com.au



Façade System:
Flexbrick®
Installer: Tensile
Products Used:
Flexbrick® – Terracotta
Colours: Blanco, Tenere,
Venecia, Salmon, Rojo
Project Size:
1,890m² façade coverage

FLEXBRICK® BRINGS STRENGTH, SPEED, AND SUSTAINABILITY TO AN URBAN LANDMARK

The new Ringwood Carpark for Maroondah City Council showcases how architecture, sustainability, and efficient construction can come together in a single cohesive design.

Supplied by Lohas Australia, the Flexbrick® Terracotta Mesh System wraps the 1,890m² façade in a warm gradient of tones, creating a monolithic and visually distinctive exterior.

and the dry-joined system allows full recyclability and straightforward replacement of individual tiles.

Lightweight and durable, Flexbrick® allowed rapid installation using 197 prefabricated panels, typically achieving 10–15 panels or 150–200m² per day. Panels arrived pre-assembled on pallets, lifted into place with a forklift and winch, and fixed directly to the subframe.

Lohas Australia supported the project with shop drawings, panel modulation, installer training, and early onsite supervision. Working with CO.OP Studio, Lohas also developed the five-colour gradient façade that blends from Blanco to Rojo, reflecting the site's urban character.

The carpark's curved façades and shifting levels required a system capable of adapting to complex geometry. Flexbrick®'s flexible textile structure provided smooth transitions around corners and changes in elevation. "Flexbrick allowed us to softly curve around corners as the façade wraps the building," IBC notes.

With its speed, sustainability and sculptural presence, the Ringwood Carpark stands as a benchmark project demonstrating the architectural and environmental advantages of Flexbrick® in modern urban design.

Sustainability is embedded in every stage. Flexbrick®'s ceramic tiles are manufactured using biogas as the main fuel source, preventing CO₂ emissions. Lightweight, compact shipments reduce transport impact,

For more information contact Lohas Australia, phone 02 7259 1054, email info@lohasau.com, website www.lohasau.com

HIGH-IMPACT WAYFINDING COMBINES FUNCTIONALITY AND STYLE

Effective signage is essential in high-traffic carparks, helping visitors navigate safely while enhancing the precinct's visual identity.

For the Ringwood Activity Centre, Vinage Customs Signs combined precision, creativity, and high-end craftsmanship to deliver a complete signage solution that balances functionality with striking aesthetics.

"We completed all the external illuminated signage and all the internal wayfinding and statutory signage," said Managing Director, Vincent Truda.

The bold identifiers make the carpark easily recognisable within the Ringwood precinct, while the internal signage ensures smooth navigation for thousands of daily users.

Vinage's team applied specialist expertise in illumination, materials selection, and installation techniques to deliver durable, visually impactful signage that meets operational and safety requirements. Each element was customised to the site, demonstrating the company's ability to provide tailored solutions for complex, high-use environments.

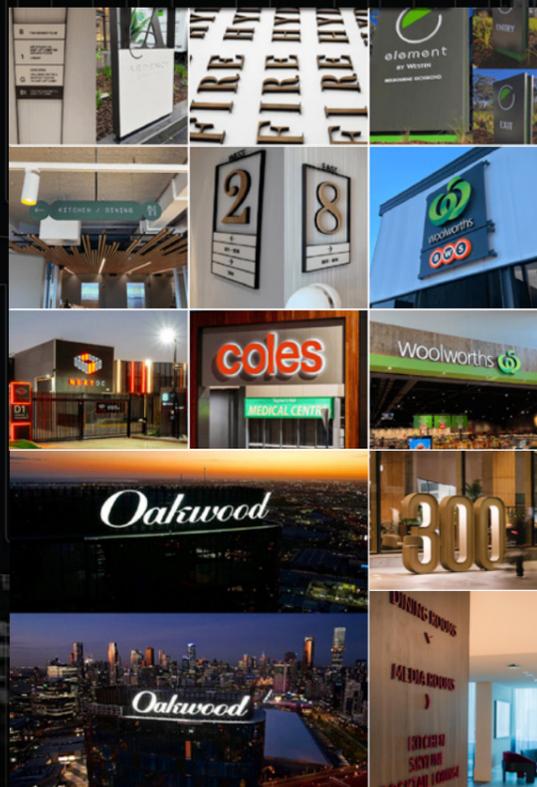
Trusted by builders, developers, and councils, Vinage continues to expand its portfolio across Victoria, with Ringwood standing as a testament to their reputation for quality and detail.

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RINGWOOD ACTIVITY CENTRE CARPARK

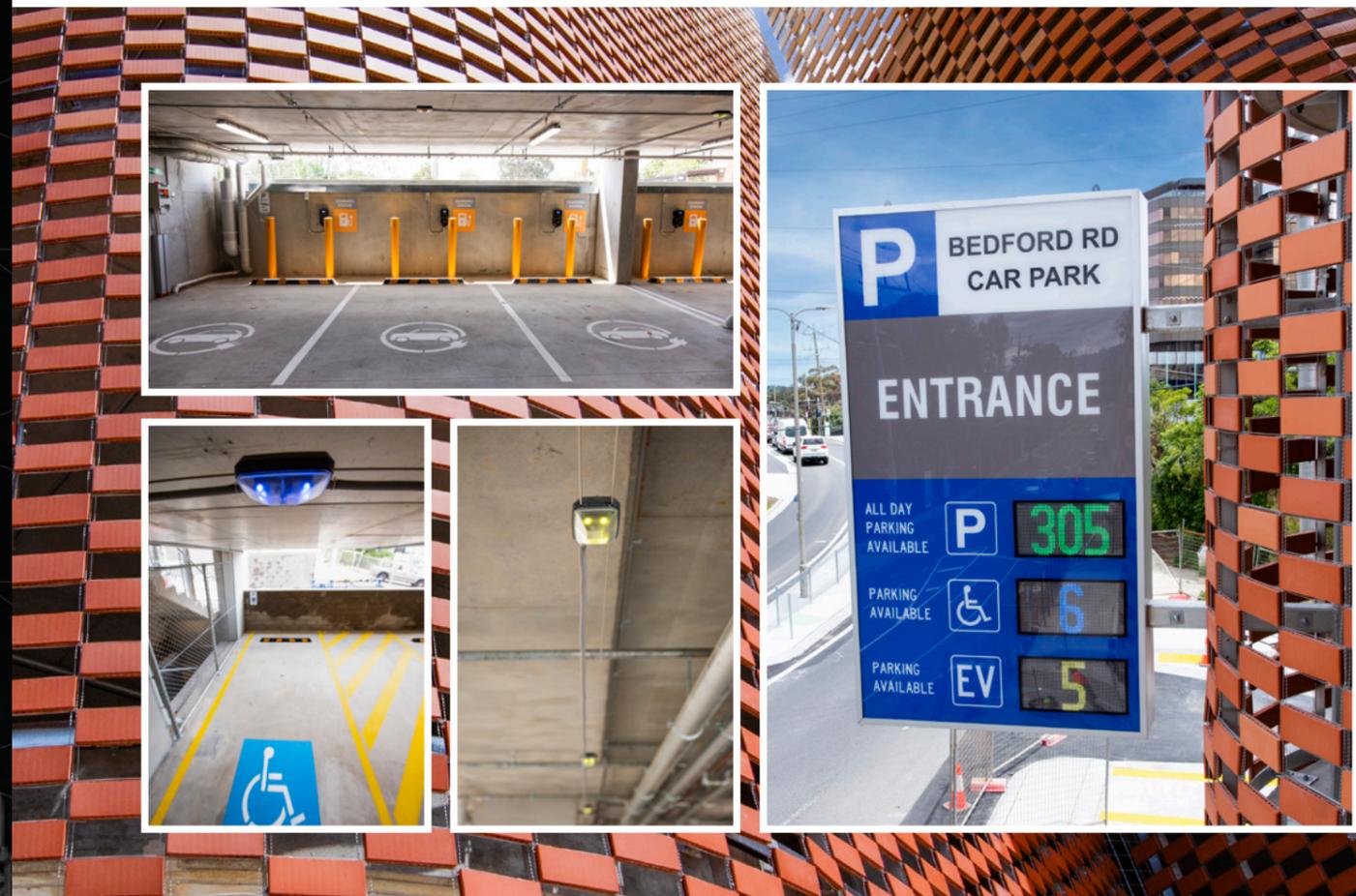


OTHER EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK



LARGE FORMAT PRINTING - WIDE RANGES OF SIGNS - 3D/ILLUMINATED - VEHICLE WRAPS AND GRAPHICS - PPF CLEAR WRAPS - STATIONARY ITEMS - CLOTHING AND MUCH MORE

Below Park Agility delivered smart parking guidance at Ringwood Activity Centre Carpark, enhancing safety, efficiency, and user experience.



SMARTER CARPARK GUIDANCE: BALANCING EFFICIENCY, SAFETY AND USER SATISFACTION

The carpark is often the first point of contact for visitors, and is by extension part of the overall user experience, shaping perceptions of accessibility, efficiency, and amenity. At the Ringwood Activity Centre Carpark, Park Agility leveraged their technology to transform the carpark into a streamlined, user-friendly gateway for commuters and visitors.

"Our scope on this project was the full parking guidance and signage solutions," explained Brad Burrows, General Manager. "That included area counting of vehicles plus speciality bay sensor and indicator lights to guide drivers quickly to available spaces."

By combining real-time counting with bay-by-bay sensor technology, Park Agility's system improves traffic flow, reduces congestion, and enhances safety within the 6-level, 503-bay carpark.

"We used our core, well-established products on this job. Proven, mature technology that we know delivers accuracy and reliability," Brad said. "In addition, we provided custom-designed signage tailored to the unique requirements of the Ringwood site."

As an Australian-owned and founded business, Park Agility takes pride

in its local footprint and supply chain. "Around 75-80% of the content in our solutions is Australian," Burrows noted. "We also have sites in most major cities across the country, which allows us to support projects nationally."

The Ringwood project adds to Park Agility's growing portfolio of high-profile work, which includes Sydney International Convention Centre, Eastgate Shopping Centre, Canberra Airport, and Kananook Car Park, among many others. Each project benefits from the company's focus on quality, scalability, and user-friendly design.

Reflecting on the outcome, Brad emphasised Park Agility's ability to integrate technology seamlessly into urban infrastructure. "This project demonstrates how our parking guidance systems can support both efficiency and community convenience. Drivers can find a park faster, and the council can ensure the facility is operating at its full potential."

For more information contact Park Agility, Unit 1, 87 Reserve Road, Artarmon NSW 2064, phone 02 8488 3333, website www.parkagility.com

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