

- The use of galvanizing in a harsh coastal environment
- The optimum in pedestrian “hard-wear”



CHRISTIES BEACH HIGH SCHOOL

Client Department of Education,
Training & Employment,
South Australia

Architect Woods Bagot Pty Ltd

Contractor Stevens Construction Pty Ltd

Location Christies Beach High School, a large suburban high school, is located some 25 kilometres south of the Adelaide city centre in South Australia and 3 kilometres from the southern beaches of St Vincent’s Gulf. The average temperature in summer is 30°C with temperatures above 38°C not uncommon. The area experiences strong prevailing winds from the sea both in the winter and summer seasons.

History This significant high school redevelopment was undertaken to consolidate two existing campuses and to provide up to date facilities to cater for current education trends and the growing number of students in Adelaide’s southern suburbs.



Architect, David Spencer of Woods Bagot, comments that:

“The basic criteria for the school design was to incorporate low maintenance, robust building materials that were functional, attractive and long wearing. Chosen materials had to be able to withstand the harsh climatic environment and the wear and tear that large senior schools generate. The sea front exposure and very high levels of U.V. have a significant impact on material choice. Materials selected include aluminium, glass, brick and galvanized steel. All of these materials are long wearing and will not deteriorate in such environments. Christies Beach High School was designed with considerable use of steel for its open colonnade walkways, contemporary roof shelters, outdoor assembly areas and fencing features. To meet visual, functional and operational requirements, after-fabrication galvanizing was used as a steel finish to ensure maximum zinc alloy thickness and reliability. A close collaboration between the architect, the school, the contractor and the steel galvanizer during the design and fabrication stages addressed the 50 year design service life, as well as the initial quality finish and the requirement for the elimination of steel maintenance.



From an aesthetic point of view, there is inherent lasting respectability in the appearance of clean, natural metal, as well as levels of durability well beyond that offered by applied synthetic materials which demand regular maintenance. The clever architectural solutions and approach to material selection evident at Christies Beach High School has resulted in a campus which expresses a quiet dignity underlining its education purpose and suggesting a campus of substance.”

IZA INDUSTRY SUPPORT

The International Zinc Association has commenced a program of promotional support for the hot dip galvanizing industry in Asia. This will be achieved, where possible, through Galvanizing Associations and aims to increase the total market through the presentation of credible case history evidence of long term steel protection. Since convincing field data of notable construction projects or manufacturing achievements are easy to recognize by technical specifiers, the long-standing industry work of GAA is being used while we are now actively recruiting project reports on the wide use of galvanizing in Asia for inclusion in future issues.