

Young High School upgrade and joint use library and community facility

Archaeological investigations and salvage works

December 2021



Project overview

A major upgrade is underway at Young High School. The project will deliver a new joint use library and community facility, funded under a partnership between Hilltops Council and the NSW Department of Education. The new facility will include:



a range of new learning spaces



technology including video conferencing and multimedia spaces



reading and study areas



children's activity area



coffee bar



top floor dedicated to the arts, including gallery space, dark room and pottery space



the Wiradjuri learning and cultural centre

The project will also include additional upgrades to other aspects of the school site, funded by the department. These will include:



repurposing the existing school library into a staff hub



construction of a new canteen



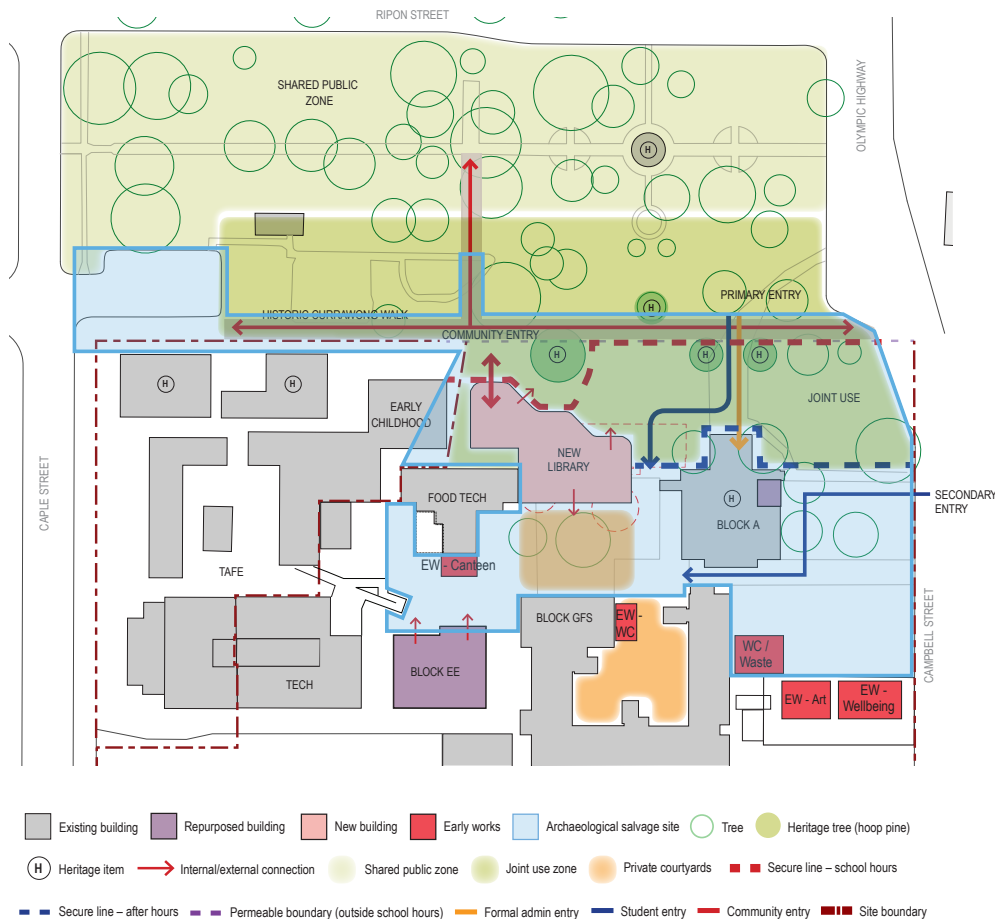
construction of a new student amenities block



landscaping

Site plan

The site plan below shows the layout of the construction works at Young High School and the area for archaeological salvage works.



Early works

- Demolish existing Arts Block B
- Repurpose offices in Block A to Music Room
- New canteen block
- New toilet blocks
- Relocate wellbeing demountable
- Trenching required for site services to all new buildings and demountables.

Main works

- New 2.5 storey joint use library and community facility
- Repurpose existing library block
- Landscaping works.

Archaeological salvage works

Area where the archaeological salvage works are currently underway.

Works progress and next steps

Construction on the project is progressing well. Work on the new canteen and student toilets for Young High School has continued and we expect the buildings to be ready for use in early 2022.

The archaeological team will soon finish the salvage works and preparation works will then begin to lay the concrete slab for the new joint use library.

Update on archaeological salvage and excavations

Archaeological salvage works restarted in September on the site for the new joint use library building. The archaeological team has recovered and processed over 4000 historical artefacts so far, with most dating from the 19th century.

The artefacts include fragments of glass and ceramics, buttons from police uniforms, pen nibs, a piece of an animal rib bone (likely from a sheep) with a hand-carved floral design, and firearms-related artefacts (including projectiles fired). Some of these are believed to be associated with the Lambing Flat riots.

The archaeological team has also recently started working with local Aboriginal groups on excavations for Aboriginal stone artefacts in an area north of the old courthouse. We will provide information on the outcomes of this in a future project update.

Artefacts uncovered from the archaeological salvage works

Here are some of the items that have been recovered:



19th century piece of an animal rib bone (likely from a sheep), with hand-carved floral design, believed to have been part of a picture frame



Gold pen nib



Corroded metal spike



1860s revolver projectile



Carbine clip used by mounted troopers to attach their carbine (a short musket) when on horseback



Carbine ball from an early 1860s police carbine (short musket) of the type used during the riot of 1861



Chinese coin dated to 1723-1908, evidence of the presence of Chinese people on the Gold Fields



Fragments of 19th century thimbles with "forget me not" embossed around the base



Remains of a spoon



19th century NSW police buttons



Piece of police "rank braid" from a uniform



1860s bottles from a refuse pit at the government camp



Examples of different types of projectiles found on the site



Examples of a 19th century safety pin and various straight pins



Examples of 19th century nails

Frequently asked questions

What is the heritage significance of the areas being investigated?

Young is within the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people. Test excavations in 2019 identified an Aboriginal archaeological site at the northern edge of the school, consisting of stone artefacts below the surface.

Young High School, along with Carrington Park, was the site of the Lambing Flat riot of 1861 where the Riot Act was read. The school is located on the site of the nineteenth century government camp and the first courthouse.

What will happen to the artefacts recovered from the archaeological salvage works?

Location details and information about each find will be recorded on a detailed map and items will be cleaned, catalogued, and analysed.

The results of the salvage works will be publicly available and arrangements will be made for the long-term storage and display of the artefacts.

When will the new joint use library be completed?

Construction across NSW has been affected by COVID-19 and recent Public Health Orders, and border closures have impacted the availability of tradespeople, suppliers and materials. Our team is working closely with the contractor to understand the ongoing impact on the project.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to deliver this important project. We will continue to provide updated information about project construction schedules and delivery dates when it is available.

What are the construction hours for the project?

Construction hours are 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday, and 8 am to 1 pm Saturday.

Who can I contact if I have a question about construction work?

The safety and wellbeing of the community is our biggest priority. Should you have any questions, concerns or feedback throughout the construction phase, please contact School Infrastructure NSW by emailing schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au or calling 1300 482 651.

Stay informed



Website

Stay up to date by visiting the School Infrastructure NSW website schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au



Email

Contact the Community Engagement team by emailing schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au



Phone

Contact us between 9:00am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday on **1300 482 651**