

NORTHERN PLAZA

Project delivery: 2016 | External partners: TCL, MGS Architects, Neo Construct, in collaboration with Monash University



Northern Plaza is a vibrant morning to midnight activities hub located at the heart of Monash Clayton. This public open space is integral to University life, creating a welcoming space for students, staff, residents and visitors to meet, study, work, dine and relax.

A redevelopment of the plaza was undertaken in 2016 to replace an underutilised site with thriving and socially energised public spaces. The resultant design, by Taylor Cullity Lethlean and MGS Architects, offers an exciting retail, entertainment and services destination that meets the physical, recreational and social needs of the broad university community. The plaza features grassed lawns, timber decks, and moveable outdoor furniture, accommodating seating for over 300 people to enable a range of activities and event modes. An undercover alfresco dining area incorporates nine new food outlets, specifically selected to provide diverse and healthy food offerings. A large LED screen broadcasts news, movies and major events occurring around the campus.

The Plaza was recognised by the Heart Foundation as a precedent for 'Healthy Active by Design', meeting key criteria across health, environmental, social, recreational and economic values. It encourages a 'sticky campus', enabling staff, students and the community to visit and remain on campus for longer hours and invites users to occupy and adapt the space to meet the changing needs of the wider campus community.

Location

Between Sports Walk and 21 Chancellors Walk



Images

- 1 Terraced deck, central lawn and 'the Big Screen'. Photo by Ben Wrigley.
- 2 Flexible outdoor seating and event space. Photo by Andrew Lloyd.
- 3 Alfresco dining space and flexible seating. Photo by Andrew Lloyd.