

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY'S FOOTSCRAY NICHOLSON LEARNING COMMONS OFFERS A VISUALLY-STRIKING, CONTEMPORARY STUDY SPACE



Learning commons #5 for Victoria University

A student festival provided a lively backdrop when Victoria University celebrated the official opening of its newest learning commons at their Footscray Nicholson campus recently.

Designed by Cox Architects, the visually-striking \$8.3 million facility offers students a contemporary study space, including café-style booths and eye-catching walkways linking different areas of the learning hub. The facility also includes two new study rooms, a flexible, multipurpose auditorium and an extra 100 student PCs over its two levels. A quiet study area and social and collaborative work spaces are all incorporated into this one-stop shop learning hub, which includes the library, student support services, café facilities and access to information and technology services.

Officially opened by Victoria University Vice Chancellor Professor Peter Dawkins and Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Anne Jones, the launch included a speech by student Majok Doong, who started his studies with Victoria University with his Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and is now undertaking a degree. He

provided an inspiring talk about his experience as a student and student rover at the campus, and how the newest learning commons had already improved education for Victoria University students.

University Librarian Ralph Kiel says the new space had seen a transformation of the facility.

"It has moved from a tired, dark, industrial space to a state-of-the-art, split level complex awash with light and attractive design features. It embodies an approach to supporting student learning that takes into account the whole learning experience of the student while at university – not just their time in the classroom," he said.

The Footscray Nicholson facility is the fifth learning commons to be built as part of the university-wide strategy initiated seven years ago to transform the library and other educational services. This latest facility has truly transformed the library and other education services on the campus.

Claire Leunig
Client Communication Coordinator
Footscray Park Learning Commons
Victoria University
claire.leunig@vu.edu.au

Adrian Gallagher
Associate Librarian information
Resources, Systems and
Infrastructure
Victoria University Library
adrian.gallagher@vu.edu.au



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