

# FRANKSTON HOSPITAL



MAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY : Kane Constructions  
PROJECT MANAGER : Johnstaff Projects  
COMPLETION : July 2010  
PROJECT END VALUE : \$45 Million  
ARCHITECT : Lyons  
SURVEYOR : The Gardner Group  
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER : Aurecon

## HEALTHY RECORD IN CONSTRUCTION

In late April this year, Victorian premier John Brumby went to view two newly opened operating theatres at the Frankston Hospital. The theatres, now ready to be used for surgery, are some of the latest achievements in a \$45 million redevelopment at the hospital being built by Kane Constructions Pty Ltd - a company with a long and proud record in health sector construction.

The 265-employee, multi award-winning company was founded in 1973 and boasts offices in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. Kane was responsible for four major areas of the 6,000m<sup>2</sup> Frankston Hospital redevelopment. "The first one was extending the existing operating theatres in the hospital, adding four new operating theatres," explains contracts manager Peter Constantinou. "We've also added a new ICU wing, a new angio wing and recovery wing, and [we're doing] some refurbishments within the existing hospital."

The redevelopment is currently in its second stage, the first stage having been completed in late 2008. So far several challenges have

presented themselves, most significantly the need to work within the tight dimensions of the site, the need to be vigilant about requirements around infection control and the need to minimise disruption to the hospital's day-to-day activities. "There have been a lot of weekends and out-of-hours work; a lot of coordination and shutting down certain areas of the hospital to allow us to continue to work. That has all been a bit of a challenge," says Peter. "And obviously [there's the issue of] dealing with the multiple user groups within the hospital and providing a facility that is the most current and reflects all the needs of the users."

Other issues faced have been related to constructability – soft spots were found in the soil when pylons were being put in – and the discovery of more asbestos than anticipated in the old part of the building, which meant that its removal became a much larger job than originally envisaged. "Obviously, being a hospital, that had to be done very slowly and carefully. [We removed it] in a very controlled manner," says Peter. Kane has been mindful about using sustainable materials on the Frankston Hospital project. "We've tried to source local materials and materials that have a certain Green Star rating,"

says Peter. "We've used low VOC paints and timbers, and insulation and plastics that have low chemical values and that have a low impact on the environment. That has been important to the Department of Health and the consultants on the project."

Health sector projects are only one part of Kane's broad construction experience – the company has also worked on projects for the education sector, the refurbishment of historic buildings and key infrastructure undertakings such as the Gippsland Water Alliance, for which it built the environmentally sustainable Vortex Centre.

Another key recent project has been the Wild Sea exhibit at Melbourne Zoo, a \$20 million, world-class home for seals and penguins featuring state-of-the-art equipment. Kane has over 55 projects currently under construction ranging in value from \$1 million to \$75 million. "The big one we're working on is Swinburne University in Hawthorn, for which we're constructing a 20,000m<sup>2</sup> Advanced Technology Centre," says Peter. The building will be one of the first 5-star green buildings at an

Australian university; as well as featuring other sustainable elements, recycled water will be used throughout the premises. Kane is leading the \$69 million redevelopment of the Dandenong Hospital which includes a new emergency department and mental health facility. The company is also in the midst of renovating the historic Harold Holt pool in Melbourne, and is carrying out a major restoration of the Brisbane City Town Hall as well as numerous projects for the Department of Defence in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and Malaysia.

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