

# A REGIONAL REMEDY



DEVELOPER : Bendigo Health Care Group  
MAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY : Kane Constructions  
PROJECT VALUE : \$41 million

The \$41M St. John of God Bendigo Hospital consists of a new 4-level building adjacent to the existing hospital. Featuring a new medical ward, rehabilitation wards (with kitchen, bathroom, laundry, dining and gym facilities), along with various upgrades to the existing hospital and refurbishment of the existing external façade, the hospital provides key medical resources to the region.

**Commencing operations in Melbourne in 1973 Kane Constructions have become renowned for their professional and quality works in a wide variety of projects across many sectors from commercial, community and residential to heritage and refurbishment, with a particular focus on health, education and defence with multi-award winning results – exactly why they were appointed the Lump Sum contractor for the new \$41 million St. John of God Bendigo Hospital Redevelopment.**

Initially working from an office located above an antiques shop in High Street, Armadale, early projects included a number of Catholic Primary Schools, a range of facilities for local councils, work for the CSIRO, a private residence in Toorak and a wastewater treatment plant in Kensington. Today Kane operates down the east coast of Australia and overseas from offices in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, employing in excess of 300 people.

“The redevelopment of the St. John of God Bendigo Hospital will provide additional services for the community, that will complement

the new Bendigo Hospital and reduce the need for patients to travel to Melbourne for specialist care,” advised Kane’s Project Manager Josh Delahunty.

Features of the redevelopment include:

- Lower ground floor (Lily Street) – car parking, ambulance bay and new lift and stair access to the hospital
- Ground floor – updated front entrance and space for future ward development
- First floor – 28 new beds, ancillary space and full theatre refurbishment including two additional theatres
- Second floor – 24 new beds for rehabilitation gym and therapy spaces
- Refurbishment of all existing patient areas
- A 4-storey building of high quality architectural design projecting outwards and is partially constructed over Lily Street at the upper floor levels
- There also is a 3-level glazed walkway between the existing building and the new building and the existing car park is

formalised, with new pedestrian links and landscaping resulting in better parking arrangements and more than 50 additional parking bays.

“On this project we currently had seven Kane staff, consisting of a Project Manager, Site Manager, Foreman, Contract Manager, Contract Administrator, and two labourers,” said Josh. “We also had approximately 80 subcontractors on site, which fluctuated depending on the stage of the project.”

The project consists of a new 4-level building that is adjacent to the existing hospital and connected via two link ways, as well as upgrades to a number of areas within the existing hospital and surrounds. Separable Portion One (the new building) commenced in May 2015. Separable Portion Two and Three comprises the works inside the existing hospital, and commences after the handover of SP1 and is due to be completed by January 2017.

“The main obstacles that we’ve had to overcome are the difficult site conditions and the tight program,” added Josh. “The new building is constructed on the side of a hill which is predominately made up of sand from the mining days, and is therefore contaminated with naturally occurring arsenic. The project had a large number of bored piers that were drilled on the side of the hill, through the sand and 1m into rock.”

“The lift shaft and stair cores also involved significant excavations and blinding to achieve the required bearing capacity. A large gabion retaining wall was constructed and a large amount of the excavated contaminated material was backfilled and compacted behind the wall. The remaining material was transported to a car park across the road where it was compacted, capped and sealed for the new asphalt car park.”

The redeveloped Bendigo private hospital will complement the newly refurbished Bendigo Health, attracting more specialists to Bendigo and resulting in fewer patients having to travel to Melbourne for treatment. It will offer central Victorians more health care options close to home with 40% more beds and two new operating theatres.

Kane complete many projects in Melbourne however also have a strong presence in regional Victoria, having recently completed redevelopments at both the St. John of God Hospital and University Hospitals in Geelong, Swan Hill District Health Residential Aged Care Facility and Horsham Performing Arts Centre & Regional Arts Gallery.

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