

THE HIGH POINT OF HEALTH

CLIENT : Victorian Health Building Authority
MAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY : Kane Constructions
ARCHITECT : Lyons
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER : Meinhardt Group
CONSTRUCTION VALUE : \$76 million
TYPE : Healthcare



The Wonthaggi Hospital expansion involved a high degree of interfacing with the existing live facility with services and infrastructure upgrades to cater for the new facility, future expansion and improved reliability of existing services.

Multi-award-winning Kane Constructions were responsible for bringing to life the \$76 million expansion of the Wonthaggi Hospital. In the works since 2018, the expansion was earmarked for redevelopment as part of the 2018 State Election commitment to give one of the fastest growing regional areas in Victoria additional and much-needed health facilities.

Community integration and continuity of existing services was the overall theme of the development with construction taking place while the existing hospital still in operation.

Kane Constructions collaborated with Bass Coast Health to deliver the project which involved the construction of a new, four-storey hospital facility adjacent to the existing facility with three new operating theatres, a day procedure room, central sterilising department (CSSD), a new emergency department with 18 additional treatment spaces and a new, 32-bed inpatient ward to meet the capacity to treat 26,000 extra emergency patients each year.

The building is connected to the existing facility via new, undercover link ways and includes a new 'Central Energy Node' to centralise and provide upgraded plant, critical infrastructure and services connections to both facilities.

"Although a practical health facility, the new building also features several striking architectural elements such as the multi-coloured 4mm anodised solid aluminium cladding system on the external façade of the building in coastal tones, which is a credit to the project Architect Lyons and provides a unique and distinctive building for the community," said Kane Project Manager, Brendan de Neef.

"In addition, the main atrium and entry is a spacious, 3-storey space filled with natural light from large, north-west facing windows."

Green spaces were integrated strategically into the design on levels one and three, to provide multiple spaces for patients and staff to access fresh air and calm areas for respite.

Effective communication between the Kane team, Bass Coast Health and all contractors was the key during the 22-month build and Kane was managing up to 230 workers onsite at any given time. Ensuring the existing hospital's operations were uninterrupted during construction added another element to the project.

"Working and living regionally and delivering this project through the pandemic was a significant challenge as the availability of material and labour was compromised. We supported and used local subcontractors and suppliers whenever possible," Brendan said.

"In addition the location of the new building, high water table and perched water was another challenge which meant a significant amount of work went into the design and construction of waterproofing and hydrostatic slab elements to prevent leaks and building uplift over time."

The Wonthaggi Hospital has recently been approved for an additional \$290 million from the State Government, for future works. Plans include new wards and extra beds, an improved medical imaging unit and the construction of a new helipad and at least 750 local jobs will be created through the development.

The new hospital means more patients can receive treatment much closer to their homes and families, while also reducing the number of patient transfers to other hospitals.

"The end result here at Wonthaggi is a high quality outcome and we're pleased to have delivered this world-class healthcare facility for the Bass Coast region," Brendan said. "It's an important piece of infrastructure and the fact that an additional 26,000 patients can be treated each year is a fantastic outcome for the local area."

Kane Constructions, a privately-owned construction company which is active in all sectors of the industry, was founded in Melbourne in 1973, operates throughout the east coast of Australia. Responsible for delivering more than 2,500 world-class projects, Kane is currently working on several exciting projects including 120 Collins Street, Ground Floor Plane Revitalisation project, Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery, Main Works project and the Melbourne Racing Club, Caulfield Public Realm and Administration Building project.

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