

# ROCKHAMPTON BASE HOSPITAL

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# BUILDING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH

Led by J.M. Kelly Project Builders, the Rockhampton Hospital redevelopment saw the construction of a new Emergency Department, new Rehabilitation, Maternity, Paediatrics and Dialysis Units, and a new Learning and Development Centre.

ROCKHAMPTON BASE HOSPITAL / J.M. KELLY PROJECT BUILDERS



**Below** The new rehabilitation unit at the Rockhampton Base Hospital redevelopment.

**J.M. Kelly (Project Builders) Pty Ltd** is the flagship of the J.M. Kelly Group of Companies – a group that encompasses 10 diversified business units. The Rockhampton office (group head office) was established by J.M. Kelly's Managing Director Geoff Murphy in 1961. With close to 400 employees within the J.M.K Group of Companies, including almost 80 apprentices, J.M.K this year celebrates the 50th anniversary of its Central Queensland operations.

As one of Queensland's leading building construction companies, J.M. Kelly Project Builders goes from strength to strength and continues to expand its Rockhampton and Brisbane operations, building upon its reputation and integrity as a professional, reliable service provider to industry, government, commercial and private enterprise. The company has a sound history in successful delivery of a complex and diverse portfolio of projects across the majority of market sectors - from landmark health, retail and resort projects to local community projects. J.M.K projects are delivered employing Traditional, Design and Construct and Managing Contractor procurement and delivery routes as well as various Joint Ventures and Partnerships.

Mick Drew, J.M.K's Construction Supervisor for the Rockhampton Hospital project (widely considered to be one of the most challenging projects in the State), says that although there were issues encountered along the way, these were successfully resolved thanks to the company's extensive experience, expertise and professional approach.

"J.M. Kelly have taken a proactive approach to the evolving project scope, operational integrity of the hospital site and buildability of various elements of this technically challenging project and have worked closely with the design team and other project stakeholders, recommending alternative products and systems to reduce impact on time and hospital operations," Mick says. "As a result of careful planning and extensive communication with the Principal (Queensland Health), all of the major service diversion and cut-in works were completed without incident and with little inconvenience to patient care or support services."

Similar philosophy saw the installation of the new domestic water pumping system installed in parallel with the existing equipment with a bypass valve enabling the team to switch between the two until the integrity of the new system had been proven. "Through further design input from J.M.K the shut-down period to commission the entire chilled water system was less than four hours," Mick says.

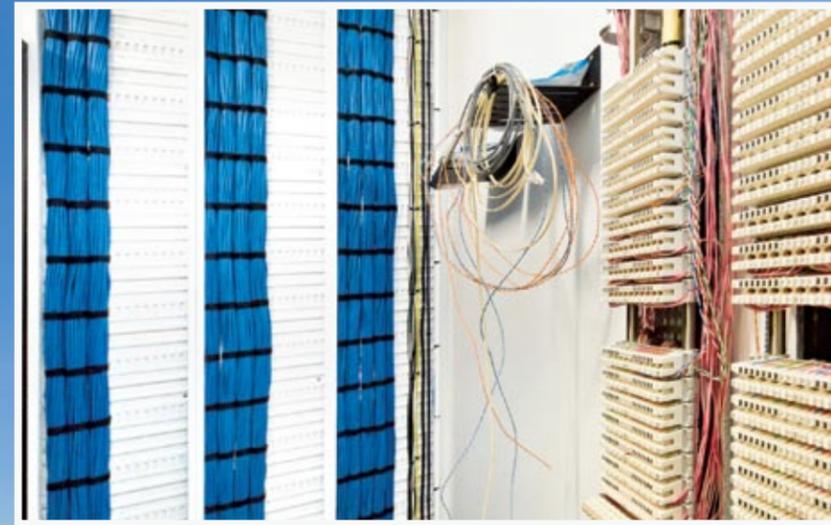
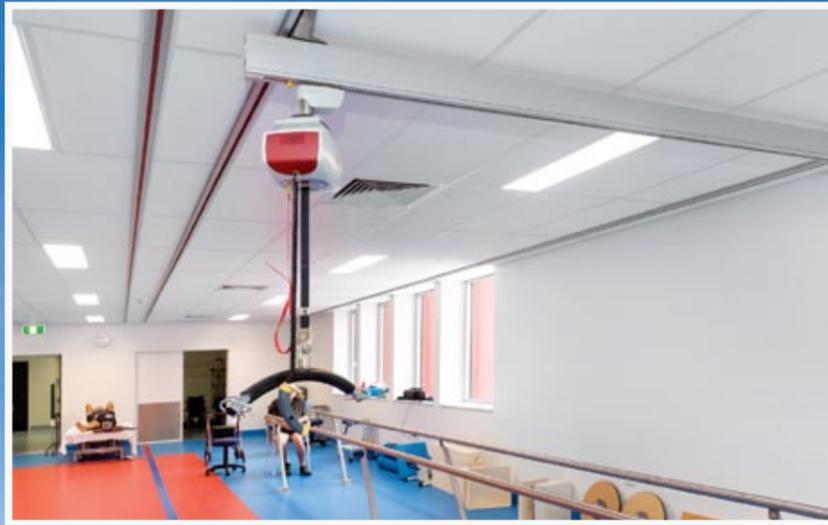
An interesting feature of the project was the introduction of locally sourced, interlocking, structural retaining blocks leading to time and cost savings and reduction of impact on hospital operations to manageable levels.

"The works were effectively undertaken over a weekend period with closely managed activities enabling relatively unrestricted access to the adjacent hospital departments," Mick says. "Due to the 'dry' nature of the construction system the total installation was complete within a number of days rather than the anticipated weeks programmed for the specified system."

Currently, the J.M.K team is working on a mix of other projects, including some commercial developments (small retail and warehouse) and a spread of school developments funded under the Federal Government's 'Building the Education Revolution' (BER) program. "The BER projects are spread across Queensland, from Townsville to Brisbane," Mick adds. "We also have some health project work that should prove to be quite effective – delivering facilities where they are needed."

With strong presence, solid industry partnerships and access to a broad range of services and specialists from within the group, J.M. Kelly Project Builders Pty Ltd continues to provide high quality service and advice to its clients, leading to an expanding return client base.

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With 35 years of experience as a major distributor for national and international brands of equipment to the health industry, Evocare Australia Pty Limited boasts a reputation for carrying quality products and of servicing and maintaining the products it markets. "Evocare is respected in the industry for providing representation and support of well-known health equipment brands to Acute, Aged Care and Community facilities in Queensland," says Evocare's Damion Russell.

"Originally, our company traded as L & M Equipment until our name change four years ago. We are a privately owned Australian company, which has been supplying hospital and rehabilitation equipment since 1978 so we are well placed to provide product information, in-service and technical/service support to all our product lines."

Over the years the company's product range has expanded along with its steady growth. The core business has remained specialised medical equipment for hospitals and nursing homes and living and mobility equipment, often referred to as aids to daily living or ADL products.

"Evocare has increased its capacity not only to service the products it sells, but also to undertake major service agreements with institutional customers to service the majority of their equipment," adds Damion.

As part of the Rockhampton Hospital's redevelopment project, Evocare was called on to provide specialist products and service.

"We are proud to have supplied the innovative Guldmann De-mountable GH2F ceiling hoist systems in the wards and gymnasium of the Rehabilitation Unit at Rockhampton Hospital. The GH2F ceiling hoist is a flexible lifting module that is easy to move from one room to another with the help of an ancillary transport and storage trolley. The unique feature of this ceiling hoist is that it installs and removes automatically from the track system. This means that care staff can avoid inappropriate strain," he says.

The GH2F flexible hoist is an integral part of a complete range of lifting equipment that includes tracks, hoists and accessories. "These are all designed as modules that work together perfectly. The modules can be combined in numerous ways, creating endless track system configurations and installed just about anywhere. The Guldmann ceiling track systems is complemented by a full range of lifting slings," Damion explains.

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The Rockhampton Hospital in Queensland is a 227-bed facility, providing a wide range of services to the local community. The first stage of major redevelopment of Rockhampton Hospital commenced in mid-2007 and included a new Emergency Department, Rehabilitation Unit, Maternity and Paediatrics Units, Dialysis Unit, and Learning and Development Centre, together with the consolidation of a number of outlying services into the main hospital complex. These improvements will enable the establishment of a new general ward which will increase the hospital's capacity by 30 beds. Stage 1 is scheduled for completion in late 2010.

Commissioned to install the data communications system for the hospital was Commsfirst, established in 2008. "Commsfirst is a Queensland-based data communication company, which has done quite a few projects. These include the administration centre for Moura Mine where we did the data installation," says Commsfirst's John Strahan.

"Commsfirst was also commissioned by Queensland Education to set up data installations in 18 school buildings."

Currently, Commsfirst is installing the data communications systems for Rockhampton Hospital. "We're installing data communication in

the new rehabilitation facility," says John. "Here we're putting in Class E data cabling."

Although there have been no major challenges on the job so far, John says there have been a few issues that have needed ironing out. "It was hard to run optic fibre from the network centre to the new rehabilitation centre as it was quite an extensive process, however, we eventually succeeded," he says.

"Now we're involved in doing the cabling for the new Accident and Emergency unit where we've just finished the ground floor. This is where they have sophisticated scanning machinery like MRIs. We're doing it in sections - as people move out of one section, we move in."

"Our philosophy is just to get on with the job in hand," John says. "So far, Commsfirst has managed to achieve successful outcomes on quite a few projects so I guess you could say we're quiet achievers."

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**Below** The long arm of Boland Cranes reaching over the construction site of Rockhampton Base Hospital.



**Below** A close eye was kept on construction to ensure a successful project.



With its well-earned reputation for getting the job done, specialist crane hire company Boland Cranes took the Rockhampton Hospital project in its robust stride. Contractors to JM Kelly on the Rockhampton Hospital project, Boland Cranes are providers of tower cranes in sizes from 6-ton capacity with up to 52-metre jib, to 20-ton capacity with 75-metre jib. The company also provides self-erecting tower cranes from 4-8 ton capacity with various jib lengths starting from 24m up to 50m.

"I have been running my own business since 2003 and prior to that I have been involved in the building and crane hire industry for over 30 years," says Pat Boland, CEO of Boland Cranes. "We supply operators, dogmen, riggers, and labour hire. We are a family business and we offer our customers a very good service at competitive rates." The company prides itself on its fleet of modern equipment. "We have a range of self-erecting tower cranes suitable for smaller projects up to 10 storeys while our hammerhead tower cranes range in size from 6 ton to 20 ton for larger projects. Recently, we also added to our fleet a 20-ton topless tower crane with a reach of 75 metres," Pat says. "For low-set jobs we can supply a Manitou, which has 16 metres of jib."

"We began the Rockhampton Hospital project in May 2008 and we're still on site now but in another stage," he says. As far as challenges

along the way with the project Pat says there have been no major dramas apart from losing some time due to weather conditions. "Nothing is too difficult for us," Pat says with a laugh. "We're tough nuts!"

"An interesting moment happened when we were putting in the big x-ray machine, which had to be lifted in through the roof but there wasn't much room to manoeuvre," recalls Pat. "We finally succeeded in getting it in along with some other equipment, however, we only had around 20mm to spare on either side."

Other projects for Boland Cranes include a number of high profile projects throughout Queensland. "We've worked on quite a few around the State including some for BMQ Queensland and the University of Queensland's campus at Gatton," says Pat.

"We've got an experienced team that strives to deliver successful outcomes and that's what counts on any project."

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With 32 years in the business, McAlister & Burford are specialists in line marking, commercial painting, waterproofing, flooring and rendering. Bruce McAlister, Director of McAlister & Burford says that working on the Rockhampton Hospital site definitely had its challenges.

"One of the issues involved the fact that they recently moved their OH&S to Federal standards which made it more challenging. During the flood there were also labour shortages, which affected the schedule to a certain degree," he says. However, the company managed to successfully resolve these issues, achieving successful outcomes.

"We have extensive experience in the industry and that pays off. We have two parts to our business. One is retail and the other includes commercial rendering, painting, waterproofing and flooring, which is what we did at the Rockhampton Hospital site for the past two years," Bruce explains. "We have worked with J.M. Kelly on numerous projects over the years including the recent Stockland Shopping Centre project at Rockhampton," Bruce says.

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**Above** A sample of the painting that McAlister & Burford accomplished on the project.