



## Building a strong future

**E**nsuring his new practice reflected state-of-the-art contemporary dentistry while at the same time melding in with its surrounds in rural Queensland was foremost in Dr Ian Harvey's mind when he went looking for help.

"We practice in a conservative rural area with an emphasis on preventive foundations," Dr Harvey said. "There are two dentists and two dental hygienists at Ian Harvey Dental and our motto is 'Lifelong Dental Care'. So strong is our commitment to preventive dentistry, that my wife, Helen, spent two years out of her and our family's life to study Dental Hygiene in Adelaide in 2003 and 2004. So we needed the new practice to reflect all this.

"When I finally contacted Medifit, I had already visited other surgery fit-out teams across Australia but hadn't struck a chord. We were impressed with what Medifit had achieved for other practices so far and felt comfortable working with them.

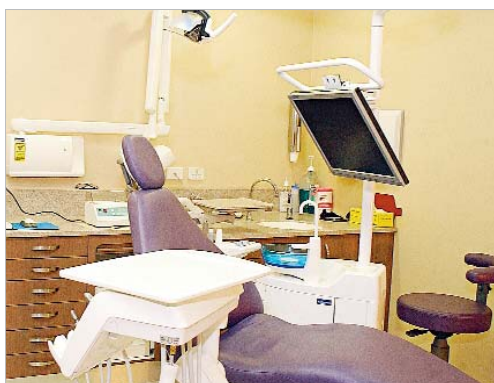
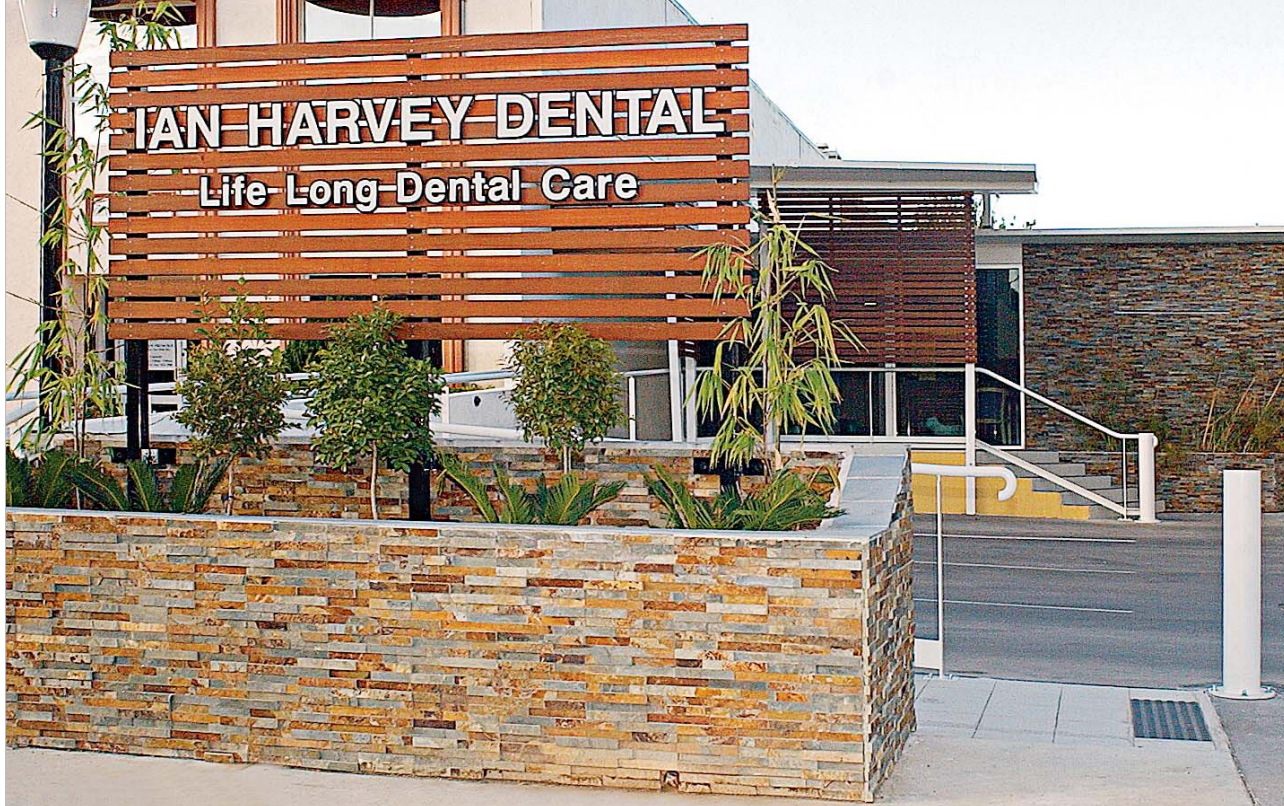
"Our brief was very clear. We wanted a state of the art surgery that would not date and still reflect quality in the 10 to 15 years I had remaining to practice. As part of that, I particularly wanted to include more surgeries than I need now to allow for future expansion. I also emphasized that there was no need to economise on fit-out or equipment. You live and work in a surgery all week and it is up to you whether you travel first class or with Jetstar."

Dr Harvey completed the Medifit Dental Briefing Booklet and together with phone calls and face to face meetings, communicated his wish list. The requirements included five surgeries (with room for more), a large sterilisation area and lab, a good-sized staff room with separate bathroom, large reception and waiting area, a practice manager's office, recovery room and an OPG room. This would ensure the entire 240 square metre practice was fully utilised.

"Dr Harvey wanted to ensure the design was in sympathy with the country area around Maryborough," said Medifit design director Geoff Raphael. "He wanted a comfortable feel that his down-to-earth, family-based clientele could relate to. This in turn lead to the original colours of heritage green and taupe being selected. During the design development process, these colours evolved to include warm purple tones in the overall colour scheme."

After originally purchasing an old dental surgery intending to renovate, Dr Harvey instead decided during the design process to demolish it and build a purpose-built structure. Medifit and their Project Manager, Mr Claus Hein, were in charge of the design, manufacture and fit-out, inclusive of cabinet manufacture, plumbing, electrical, plastering and all other trades on site. They completed the fit-out in six weeks in a country town where normal building times were dou-





bled or tripled and availability of tradespeople was almost non-existent.

"At first I couldn't believe that it was possible to complete the project in this amount of time," Dr Harvey said, "but as Sam Koranis [managing director of Medifit] explained, Medifit had a unique templating system which they had developed. Their CAD drawings are read by a CNC (Computer Numerical Control) Router which in turn cuts the floor, wall and ceiling templates.

"Once these templates were positioned into the space, it allowed their factory to manufacture the cabinets before the walls were erected and to complete all the necessary core holes in the suspended concrete slab. It was like a jigsaw puzzle. This system also allowed for minimal time to install the joinery which all fitted like a glove.

"The real test of a company is when problems arise and the manner in which they deal with them. Medifit lived up to their word in that they followed through with finding solutions to some difficulties and issues that arose which were resolved in an expedient and professional manner.







"We now have everything we need including five surgeries and expansion capacity for a further three. We also have an outdoor pavilion and garden retreat which add to the relaxing surrounds."

Dr Harvey spared no expense in the practice. The fully serviced staff room not only houses the standard sink, microwave and fridge, but also has a dishwasher, washing machine and dryer and staff lockers. The staff courtyard to the rear of the property is easily accessed from the staff room and provides that ever-needed break away from the hectic life of dental practise. A staff bathroom with shower and toilet is also incorporated into the plan.



Upon entry, patients are met by a sweeping curved reception counter and generously sized waiting area for up to 14 people. The reception counter can cater for two permanent staff and the close proximity to the practice manager's office means that co-ordination between the two areas is simplified. The reception counter includes drawers and cupboards and houses computers and printers.

A sweeping curved corridor services the rooms to the left and the right and ensures that interest is created upon entering and leaving the surgeries. As patients are leaving, they pass by a purpose-built refresh bench with mirror, at which they are able to check out their smile.

The surgery cabinetry was designed with simplicity in mind and Dr Harvey was quite particular about the layout of his surgeries. With cabinets at the rear of the surgery, the dental chair is



*Above: 3D CAD drawing prior to construction.*







## Summary

### The Practice

Principal	Dr Ian Harvey
Type of Practice	General
Location	Maryborough, Qld
Size	240 square metres
No of chairs	5

### The Team

Building Design	Medifit Pty Ltd
Interior Design	Medifit Pty Ltd
Senior Designer	Geoffrey Raphael
Construction and Joinery	Medifit Pty Ltd
Project Manager	Claus Hein
Dental Installer	John Ewing, Intronic
IT Design & Installation	Henry Schein Halas Equipment

### Equipment

Units	Planmeca Compact i side delivery
X-Ray	Planmeca Intra (3), Planmeca OPG+Ceph with Scan-X digital PSP scanner
Autoclave	Mocom Millennium B
Compressor	Cattani Tandem 2
Suction	Cattani Turbo Flux
Software	Dental 4 Windows

laid in a perpendicular direction. Access to sterilisation or elsewhere is easy for the assistant via a separate door.

Purple Planmeca chairs compliment the grey-purple Corian benchtops and mid-tone timber doors used in the surgeries.

"In summary, anyone looking to build a new surgery should try to gain the services of a company such as Medifit that can manage the entire project, not just bits and pieces," Dr Harvey said. "My advice is to go a little bigger and better than you need at present so that you will not run out of room in the future. Go a little better in quality on the fit-out and equipment too, as you seldom regret quality in the future. Be clear on what you want in the early stages of design and do not incorporate too many variations late in the design stage and during construction, as these changes can be costly.

"Medifit have designed a stylish and contemporary surgery that would be typical of the latest designs in Sydney, but still sits well with the more conservative country patients. People in Maryborough appreciate not only the up-market surgery, but also what this facility has put back into the local community in terms of leaving a legacy Health Standard for future generations.

"We found that Medifit were available at all times and the distance from Perth was not an issue with modern day communication via

email and overnight bags. They were also only a phone call away.

"We highly recommend Medifit as a company who understands dentistry and its idiosyncrasies. Their design and build quality (the cabinets and joinery was the best I have ever seen) and their technical knowledge from both a building and dental equipment perspective is of the highest standard.

"Since the completion of the project last year, our practice has experienced large growth in that we are now trying to attract two Associate Dentists and two Hygienists to keep up with the ever increasing growth that the new fitout has brought with it. We could not have asked for more."



DR IAN HARVEY - MARYBOROUGH

Making it all fit medifit