

# THE COLLINGWOOD CENTRE

Providing quality co-located medical services

## New central city medical centre rises

Lack of current space and a combined health vision are the driving forces behind the Collingwood Centre, a new state-of-the-art medical and health services complex being built in central Nelson.

Behind the new multi-million dollar Collingwood Street centre is the Tasman Medical Syndicate, a group comprising 13 medical professionals, including radiologists, orthopaedic specialists and general practitioners.

Syndicate manager Peter Faulkner says when the Collingwood Centre

opens in June next year it will house Nelson Radiology, the Nelson Orthopaedic group and 'The Doctors on Collingwood' accident and medical clinic, along with various other medical services, a cafe and a pharmacy.

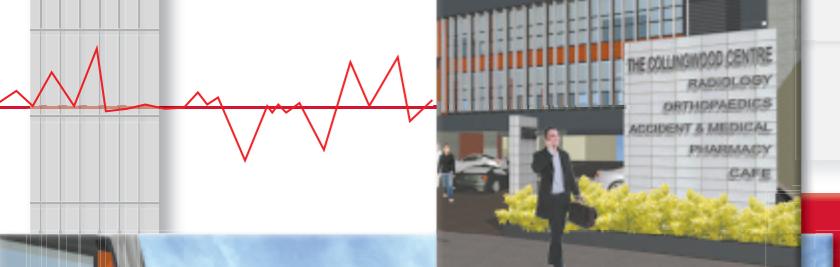
Nelson Radiology, the Nelson Orthopaedic group and Dr Karl Hellyer are all part of the syndicate, which has been planning the medical centre since 2007. "We were lucky enough to find a suitable piece of land which we purchased about the end of 2007," says Peter.

The group also owned several old homes adjoining the site and after all existing leases on the land had lapsed, in April this year the buildings were removed or demolished. Following a blessing on the land at dawn on Friday May 20, the successful tenderer, and project manager, Gibbons Construction Ltd, moved in to start the project.

Construction is due for completion in April next year, with tenants moving in during May. The centre will open on June 1<sup>st</sup> next year.



**Open day: Saturday July 16 – 9.30am -12.30pm**  
Visitors are invited to call in, look at the floor plans and learn more.



## A combined medical vision

Work on the new Collingwood Centre heralds the culmination of years of planning, by a dedicated group of local practitioners who make up the Tasman Medical Syndicate.

Chairman Ben Castle said the project was initiated to accommodate current and future needs for syndicate members and the wider Nelson Community. "It started as a new home for radiology and orthopaedics, but the enthusiasm generated has seen it grow."

Ben is quick to point out that Nelson Hospital is a crucial asset to the community, and the new medical centre is an adjunct: a community health care centre well positioned to provide for community needs; a centre that has the synergy of co-locating a raft of providers and one that is easily accessible and welcoming for the whole community.

It makes sense, Ben says, to co-locate a number of medical services that complement and assist each other; views that he believes the Ministry of Health shares. "The ministry seems to think that medical centres provide easier and faster access to community health needs, and we agree. They're good for the patients who get a raft of health needs sorted in one place, and they're good for health providers who become part of an integrated team."

Efficiencies are gained with the scale of a shared building and the ability to share some common spaces and rationalise staffing, says Ben, who has previously been involved in similar projects. "The product is a welcoming, professional and efficient environment which is a pleasure to work in and a comfortable and reassuringly professional place to visit."

Gibbons Construction Ltd was awarded the building contract for the new centre following an extremely competitive tender process, which saw a short-list of five contractors, both local and national, vie for the project. Gibbons General Manager Shane Trench says he was delighted to have been awarded the contract, which was the culmination of huge effort from his team in the time, effort and energy put into the tender process.

"The most pleasing aspect of being awarded the contract was that it was based not just on price, but on our whole team approach," he says. "Our professional approach, coupled with our ability to manage the job through to completion."

A 10-strong team is already working on-site, and that number is expected to rise to around 25 at the project's peak.

Co-managing the project is architect Jorgen Andersen, one of a four-strong Arthouse Architecture Ltd team that has developed

the plans over three-and-a-half-years. The project was one of the first approved by Nelson City Council's Urban Design panel and is a collaboration between the architects, Christchurch-based structural engineers and Wellington-based services engineers.

"The clients wanted an innovative design incorporating sustainability, without going over the top," says Jorgen. "They were open as to how the site worked, so we've been able to design an active frontage that is visually and aesthetically pleasing as well as being pedestrian friendly, and to use sustainable yet long-life materials in the construction and fittings."

A lot of 3D sharing was completed on computer between the architects, structural and services engineers before all the plans were merged and the final design developed using Building Information Modelling or BIM.

## A wide range of service providers

A 7 day, 12-hour Accident and Medical Centre will take up much of the ground floor of the new centre, along with a cafe and also a dispensing pharmacy. The second floor will be home to Nelson Radiology and Nelson Orthopaedics, while plans are for the third floor to house several medical specialists. Some areas are still available for new tenants.

Nelson Radiology will move from its current Bridge Street location after 30 years there.

Manager Peter Faulkner says the current building is too small for the volume of services provided and also the number of

people using those services. "The lack of space has meant that some services – such as the CT scanner at 132 Bridge Street – have had to be housed elsewhere. In the Collingwood Centre we will do everything we currently do here in Bridge Street, including run the national breast screening service and the CT scanner," he says.

Nelson Orthopaedic group spokesman Alex Rutherford says the re-location will enable the provision of a comprehensive musculo-skeletal service for the Nelson-Richmond population, all on the one site. "People will know where to come for all their orthopaedic injuries, worn-out joints

etc. We will provide across the board orthopaedic services."

He adds that being on the same site as Nelson Radiology will mean excellent access to all the required patient investigations. "Once set up we will also look to having rehabilitation and physiotherapy on site too," he says.

'The Doctors on Collingwood' will bring Radius Medical Services' tried and trusted, innovative model for primary health care to Nelson. The new accident and medical centre will typically open for 10 to 12 hours per day, seven days a week.

The centre will be set up to deal with minor trauma as well as provide urgent medical care, but Dr Hellyer is quick to stress it is

not a replacement for the accident and emergency department at Nelson Hospital. "Major accident victims and emergencies still need to go to the hospital," he says.

Having experienced accident and medical centres in other regions, he felt the Collingwood Centre was the perfect opportunity to provide Nelsonians with a similar level of care. "There were certain things I needed, such as on-site X-rays, full mothercare facilities etc; and we'll have all of those in one handy location."

"Radius' systems are working in medical centres throughout the country, so tapping into those proven support structures relieves us of administrative duties and will allow us to concentrate on providing quality health care to fit our community's schedules."

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