



Whistle while you work

BY MEAGAN SHAND

When Dr Bryan Lee decided to revamp his Duncraig Dental Practice in Perth, it was no quick makeover; rather a thoughtful process of meticulous planning and “getting it just right”.

“The practice was looking a bit tired and very crowded,” he said. “We needed more space - we were crammed into 70 square metres with three operators sharing two surgeries and 10 staff. I wanted a modern look, more space and separate rooms for our office plus OPG, steri and treatment planning rooms. It was a must-do renovation but we also didn’t want to close up shop.”

The practice, located in a shopping centre, was able to acquire more space adjacent to the existing premises and Dr Lee hoped to continue working during the integration and expansion process. He first enlisted the aid of West Coast Dental



Depot to help who immediately understood his need to keep the practice running during the process.

“Most practices have to close down, but we aim to help the dentist as much as possible so they can keep patients happy and the business profitable during the transformation process,” said Joe Minervini, Sales Manager at West Coast Dental Depot.

With over 14 years experience fitting out dental practices, West Coast Dental Depot were able to structure the project to meet all requirements as seamlessly as possible.

“Joe and the team from West Coast deserve a pat on the back,” Dr Lee said. “They bent over backwards for us, helping out with all the little things. I initially chose West Coast as I liked the A-dec 500 units - they’re way ahead of anything on the market in design and function. As it turned out however, the knowledge and



experience of their team proved invaluable. They were also very reliable and punctual and happy to answer any questions and address any concerns.”

West Coast Dental Depot brought in M&M Interiors and Dent Pro Cabinets to design and install the practice fit-out. Bill Elsegood from Dent Pro Cabinets has a gift with colour and helped select the Blue Patriot Walls with White Shadow ceilings and Romantic Chintz on the doors. He installed ABS Laminate cabinets with slide out shelving for easy access and top quality metal-sided self-closing metabox drawers for strength and durability. Other features include secret fold away and tamber doors to streamline the design and hide the clutter.

The Trezzini bench top has moulded bowls and waste shoots for better hygiene and seamless upstands to contain electrical and computer wiring. One of the standouts is a blue glass splashback featured throughout the practice, which not only looks good but has improved cleaning and sterilisation techniques.

Duncraig Dental Practice is now 155 square metres in total, with three surgeries for two dentists and the other for a full time therapist. Surgery features include A-dec 500 dental chairs with seamless indigo upholstery, ergonomic continental deliveries, deluxe touchpads, large tray holders and in-built W+H electric micromotors and ultrasonic scalers. The units feature exceptionally smooth and precise A-dec 500 ceiling mounted dental lights, A-dec 500 cuspidors with support arms and for even more flexibility A-dec 500 long arms with 3-position holders: for the triple syringe, HVE and SE. A Jun Air 2000 compressor and a Cattani Turbo Tecno suction unit complete the picture.

The surgery is fully computerised with digital x-ray, linked appointment scheduling and a ceiling mounted LCD screen so patients can look at photos and x-rays or relax and watch TV or a DVD.

The surgery is a winner with patients and suits Dr Lee’s goal of delivering comprehensive dentistry. Patients comment on the new equipment and when asked to rate the design and comfort levels, responded with “beyond expectations”.





Summary

The Practice

Principal	Dr Bryan Lee
Type of Practice	General
Location	Duncraig, WA
Size	155 square metres
No of chairs	3 + 2 (planned)

The Team

Design	M&M Interiors and Dent Pro Cabinets
Construction and Joinery	Dent Pro Cabinets
Project Manager	M&M Interiors
Dental Installer	West Coast Dental Depot Tel: 1800-333-768

Equipment

Units	A-dec 500
Compressor	Jun Air 2000
Suction	Cattani Turbo Tecno

“New patients always comment on the colour scheme and patients of record are pleasantly surprised by the difference,” Dr Lee said. Most importantly, patients feel more confident. They see the investment we have made into new technology. The more confident a patient feels, the more likely they are to return for regular treatment.

Dr Lee also involved his staff in the planning process from the start, recognising that he doesn’t, for instance, spend time in the steri and reception areas and that staff know what works best.

After looking around at other surgeries and learning what worked and what didn’t, dental assistant Jodie Burton requested: “Open cupboards so we can see what stock we have and what needs ordering, a stainless steel work area on the ‘clean side’ so we can place hot trays, and holes in the bench for general waste and sharps disposal on the ‘dirty side’. The new practice is now a safer and more hygienic place to work. Before we had little storage with boxes piled to the ceiling. Now I can be more organized as there’s a place for everything.”

“My advice is to spend as much time as possible in the planning stage. Have an architect or project manager draw and redraw the plans as many times as it takes to get your ideal end result,” Dr Lee said. “In our case, the task was complicated as we wanted to keep practising while the renovation was being done. We spent at least 12 months in a meticulous planning stage but it paid off.”

Patient Coordinator Vicki Ward, who helped with the design of reception, was desperate for more space. “Now we have a huge amount of space with a funky but elegant design,” she said. “The changes have made work easier and less stressful. It’s totally uplifting and an absolute joy to come to work.”

The reception has been brought to life with a luminous Earthenware Orange lacquered curved bench, complimented by rustic brown Wenge Laminate cabinets, lounge and coffee table. There is

ample ‘productive space’ with a rear storage area featuring aluminium frosted glass doors and wall to wall pull out drawers.

As I sat in reception listening to the pleasant hum of chit chat in the background and with the fresh aroma of roasted coffee from the cappuccino machine, I forget for a moment that I was in a dental practice and may well have been sitting in a trendy café downtown.

A patient emerged from the surgery smiling, whistling and humming; his mood so positive that he was more than happy to pay his account and come back for more treatment. I couldn’t help but think that there was something very different about this dental practice!

