



# A REAL GAME CHANGER

DEVELOPER : Development Victoria  
HEAD CONTRACTOR : Kane Constructions  
CONSTRUCTION VALUE : \$64.6 million

The \$64.6 million Melbourne Sports Centres – Parkville project includes six new indoor netball courts, new indoor hockey pitch, hot and cold recovery pools, crèche for parents playing at the centre, and a high performance strength and conditioning gym. The upgrade cements Parkville as the home for netball and hockey in Australia.

**Kane Constructions has delivered the game changing Melbourne Sports Centres – Parkville.**

Having created 150 jobs during construction, including 36,000 hours worked by women, the project was a win for Kane’s pilot program to increase the number of women working in the construction industry.

Under Kane’s pilot program, a call was made to Victorian women and girls, including the thousands who play at the centre each week, to consider and encourage a career in construction.

The redevelopment is the centrepiece of the Victorian Government’s investment in women’s sport. The centre hosts more than 500,000 players and spectators each year, and reaffirms Parkville as the home for netball and hockey in Australia.

Development Victoria appointed Kane Constructions in October 2018 at the design stage to deliver the \$64.6 million dollar project.

The scope included the delivery of six new indoor netball courts to replace the current four outdoor courts. Other features included indoor and outdoor hockey facilities, a high performance strength and conditioning gym, a ‘Women in Sport Leadership Centre’, administration facilities for Netball Victoria and Hockey Victoria, upgrades to amenity and infrastructure encompassing a new front entrance, improved circulation and improved access to public transport.

The redevelopment triggered the upgrade of the existing facility to comply with current international standards for both netball and hockey. “This required an extensive examination of the existing facility to identify elements required to upgrade,” said Kane Constructions Project Manager, Paul Mrocki. “We undertook a significant investigation to ensure that all upgrade works would meet the certification requirements of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) for the outdoor hockey pitch and the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) certification for the indoor multipurpose courts.”



The existing building remained fully operational during the construction program, and this required careful planning and cooperation with all stakeholders.

Features of the project included the relocation and reconstruction of one of the outdoor hockey pitches to make space for the western component of the redevelopment, consisting the construction of a hot and cold water recovery pool and six new multipurpose courts to achieve FIBA Level 1 certification, the highest certification for a timber sports floor.

Plant inducted to the site totalled 412, with 630t of steel used and 950m³ of concrete poured. Most notably, almost 64km of timber sports flooring was laid, equivalent to the length of one and a half marathons. Carpet and vinyl flooring totalled almost 6,400m².

The redevelopment of the Melbourne Sports Centres – Parkville highlights Kane’s capabilities to successfully deliver a full design

and construct project from inception to completion. The project also represents Kane’s strength in delivering projects in live and fully operational building environments. “We are proud of our track record in designing and building some of Australia’s premier sporting facilities for elite athletes and competition. The Melbourne Sports Centres – Parkville project is amongst the best of these, and meet the strict and global certification standards of FIH and FIBA,” said Project Manager, Paul Mrocki.

Kane Constructions is a multi-award winning, privately owned commercial construction company active in all sectors of the industry. Founded in Melbourne in 1973, Kane has delivered over 2,000 projects and operates throughout the east coast of Australia and overseas from offices in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Canberra.

**For more information contact Kane Constructions**, 658 Church Street, Richmond VIC 3121, phone 03 8420 1200, email [viccontact@kane.com.au](mailto:viccontact@kane.com.au), website [www.kane.com.au](http://www.kane.com.au)

**Below** Mann Group Vic undertook the demolition requirements for the State Netball & Hockey Centre.

Mann Group Vic is acknowledged as a leader in the provision of demolition services, with capabilities in high rise structural demolition, heritage façade retention, rail and tunnelling infrastructure, refinery services, friable and bonded asbestos removal including all other perilous materials, internal strip-out in both commercial and government buildings, civil excavation and construction, with one of the most sourced expert demolition consulting services. Operating nationally, Mann Group Vic with over 70 years of experience, ensure the highest standards of safety, efficiency, leadership, ingenuity and constantly leading the demolition industry in innovation and engineered methodologies.

In 2019, Mann Group Vic was selected by Kane Constructions to undertake the demolition requirements required at the redevelopment of the State Netball & Hockey Centre. The centre is the home of hockey and netball in Victoria and attracts over 500,000 visitors per year.

A critical work front was the roof spine removal, Mann was able to design and implement temporary bracing to the spine roof and separate from the reaming roof structure. “We worked with structural engineers to develop a unique, practical and safe plan for the bracing and removal of the roof,” said General Manager, Greg Horsey. “In addition, we completed an internal strip-out and removed around 1,500m³ of category C asbestos contaminated soil from the site.”

The experienced and skilled personnel in Mann provide a real competitive edge for the company. “Our administration team of project managers, engineers and site supervisors have over 500 years combined demolition and decommissioning experience across all industry sectors,” said Greg.

To support their team, Mann owns and operates a fleet of excavators and specialised demolition equipment which enables them to undertake projects of any size and complexity. The plant is regularly serviced to ensure no downtime occurs on their projects. Mann holds an Unrestricted Demolition Licence and Class A Asbestos Removal Licence.

The company is also proud of their record as an inclusive employer, where equality and

diversity is recognised and nurtured. Mann provides equal employment opportunities for women and is building sustainable employment pathways for indigenous communities and people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Mann also runs a graduate program and employs annually.

Mann has a wide range of recently completed demolition projects in Melbourne, The Malt District at Cremorne for Caydon, working alongside Probuild, removing seven silos by creating and implementing never before used methods, resulting in Mann being nominated for an international demolition award. The iconic Boiler House in Alphington, which involved a finesse combination of traditional demolition and innovation.

A major redevelopment at the University of Melbourne for new student accommodation working with Kane Constructions, five different buildings each requiring its own team. Mann was also honored to be involved with Grocon on the Victorian Bushfire Recovery Project. Where they had a team of 60 helping the local communities clean and clear fire damaged structures exclusively ensuring all hazardous materials were disposed of safely. Current projects include demolition of parts of Marvel Stadium for John Holland and the strip-out of the Goulburn Valley Hospital at Shepparton with Built.

Mann’s mission is to elevate the demolition industry to a new level by driving innovation, education and dedication. “Our approach of viewing projects from outside the norm has set us apart from our competitors. We diligently review all projects with our clients from the perspective of scope, innovation, methodology, efficiencies, programme to safety develop a superior outcome,” said Greg.



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**Below** Polytan completed the reconstruction of field #2 which included in situ shock pad and Poligras Platinum COOLplus synthetic grass.



**Below** Cooke & Dowsett supplied and installed sewer drainage and vents, water services including recycled water and gas services.



**Polytan is a global provider of world class sporting facilities to the Asia Pacific region, with capabilities across the design, construction, manufacture, installation and maintenance of synthetic sports surfaces.**

Having previously installed both outdoor hockey fields at the Victorian State Netball and Hockey Centre, Polytan was awarded the contract for the relocation and reconstruction of field #2 during the recent upgrade undertaken by Kane Constructions.

Detailed design and documentation was provided by Polytan to meet the latest International Hockey Federation (FIH) Global Certification requirements. “The extensive civil works required included an upgraded drainage system with a new northern and southern collector as well as amendments to the existing eastern and western grated drains to suit the new field levels. Other works completed included a full pavement reconstruction as well as some surrounding fencing infrastructure upgrades,” explained Project Manager, Anthony Kelly. “The old irrigation system was upgraded to the latest in-ground technology from Hunter with six in-ground cannons each capable of 980L/min at 800kPa to efficiently deliver the water required to irrigate the field prior to games.”

“The all-important sports surfacing included installation of an in situ shock pad and Poligras Platinum COOLplus synthetic grass,” said Anthony. “It was very satisfying to meet FIH’s Category 2 or ‘Global Certification’, ensuring that the facility can host elite level hockey games for years to come.”

The project was unique in that the requirements have changed since the centre was first built. Lateral thinking by the Polytan team was required during the design stage to ensure the existing surrounding infrastructure could be maintained following the rebuild of the field pavement. The field grades had to be cut by over 50%, making the field flatter to meet the new FIH requirements.

Polytan is the only synthetic turf manufacturer to make yarn in Australia and has created some of the most prestigious sporting precincts in the world, including hockey pitches for four Commonwealth Games and seven Olympic Games including the Tokyo Olympics. Poligras Tokyo GT is the world’s first synthetic hockey turf which features filaments made from over 60% regrowable raw materials, specifically sugar cane.

*For more information contact Polytan*, phone 1800 663 812, email enquiry@polytan.com.au, website www.polytan.com.au

**Cooke & Dowsett has earned a foremost reputation in the construction industry for high quality plumbing solutions delivered with exceptional service.** Cooke & Dowsett has a ‘can do’ attitude, tailoring plumbing designs to suit all needs, including the most challenging projects.

Kane Constructions chose Cooke & Dowsett to undertake all hydraulic works on the redevelopment of the Victorian State Netball and Hockey Centre Parkville, Melbourne. The scope of the project included civil stormwater, total system fire upgrade with new fire tanks and fire pump upgrades, sewer drainage wastes and vents, water services including recycled water, gas services, rainwater tank and pumps and the supply and installation of fixtures. The work also comprised a café upgrade and the refurbishment of the existing centre.

A unique feature of the project was the specific promotion of the role of women in both the sporting and construction industries. “Cooke & Dowsett was proud to have our third-year apprentice, Jasmine Garner as part of the project team. Jasmine is completing her Certificate III in Plumbing and currently plays Football for AFLW team North Melbourne,” Cooke & Dowsett’s Project Manager, Peter Mavropoulos commented.

During the internal refurbishment, work was undertaken in a live environment which posed particular challenges. Added to the challenges were the COVID-19 restrictions at various stages.

The size of the project necessitated a strong commitment of resources and at the peak of activity Cooke & Dowsett provided 10 plumbers along with five apprentices, supported by a project manager, site manager, contract administrator and hydraulic designer.

Cooke & Dowsett’s capabilities include hydraulic design and construction, project management, budget quotations, hard tender estimates and maintenance and servicing. Their coverage across Australasia is exemplified by current projects which include Deakin University Student Accommodation in Victoria, Cairns Convention Centre in Queensland, Newman Hospital in Western Australia, a Lutheran Aged Care project in New South Wales, Derwent Entertainment Centre in Tasmania and the Indigo Hotel in New Zealand.

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**Below** KPA Concrete Construction Group were responsible for placing all of the concrete for the project.



**KPA Concrete Construction Group is driven by the mission to deliver excellence without compromise.** With over 40 years experience, KPA Concrete Construction Group has earned a well deserved reputation in the concrete and formwork sectors as a committed and reliable contractor across projects ranging from the complex to the straight forward.

Kane Constructions selected KPA Concrete to provide the concrete placement at the refurbishment and expansion of the Victorian State Hockey and Netball Centre.

The KPA Concrete team placed all concrete on the site including the majority of the ground slabs outside the building. “This included the concrete which formed the under surface of the netball and hockey playing fields,” said Concrete Coordinator and Construction Manager, Shannon Gilliland with over 20 years experience. “This required very careful attention to the level finish of the surfaces over which the artificial turf was laid as the playing fields were constructed to meet international certification.”

The KPA Concrete team of up to 20 were onsite with concrete pours and finishing in approximately five months. “We could focus entirely

on the task of accurate concrete placement as all the civil preparation and formwork was completed by other contractors. From that perspective, everything went smoothly for our team,” said Shannon.

KPA Concrete has provided concrete contracting for Kane Constructions on a number of other major projects including the GMBHA headquarters in Geelong and the Wonthaggi Hospital extension. The company has also worked with other major construction groups and their largest project to date has been the M City Monash development at Clayton.

“Our capabilities cover formwork, basement construction and concrete placement for retail shopping centres, residential developments, multi-level car parks, hospitals, offices, bridges, warehouses and factories,” Shannon said. “We bring the same level of commitment to one day jobs as we do to multi-million dollar projects.”

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