



ratio consultants newsletter February 2010

this months featured project is:

Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre



Ratio Consultants is proud to be working with Jackson Architecture on the much anticipated Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre project at the Austin Hospital. The Centre will focus on developing innovative cancer therapies and international research programs, with the best of patient-centred care and medical treatment.

The Centre has been designed to fit within the landscape of the existing Hospital buildings, with clever design seeking to make the most of available space. The Ratio traffic engineering team, lead by Russell Fairlie, focused on the provision of access for private, service and emergency vehicles.

A key challenge on the project was to maintain vehicular access to the Hospital's existing service areas whilst providing suitably for visitors of the new Centre. The requirements of ambulances and fire trucks were also to be considered.

Russell and his team used vehicle swept path analyses as a basis for their design advice, including re-configuration of the Hospital's existing loading dock arrangements and assessment of the proposed ramp access for visitors and patients.

The landmark facility will include the first cancer wellness centre in the southern hemisphere and construction is due to commence in 2010.



Images courtesy of Jackson Architecture

Ratio assists DPCD . . .

Last year, Ratio Consultants was selected by the Development Facilitation Unit at DPCD to provide outsource assistance to cover a massive influx of Ministerial call-in requests. Recently Ratio has taken a much more involved position at DPCD to further assist with the ongoing progression of priority planning projects in an attempt to stimulate economic activity through the significant capital expenditure and job creation of construction.

Robbie McKenzie's (Senior Planner) role involves reporting and presenting projects for consideration to the Development Facilitation Unit, and where appropriate, making recommendations to the Minister for Planning to intervene and fast track major development projects.

This experience has strengthened Ratio's working relationship with the Department, and has given a valuable insight into the internal machinations of the Minister's office. This puts Ratio one step ahead of its competitors.

For further enquiries, please contact Robbie McKenzie or William Bromhead.

New Ratio members...

Ratio Consultants is proud to announce the arrival of two new 'Ratio babies'. David Crowder and his wife Lia are the proud parents of Olivia Margaret Crowder, born on 5 October 2009 and William Bromhead and his wife Catherine are the proud parents of Lucy Patricia Bromhead, born 5 December 2009.

Both bubs and both Mums are doing well. Both Dads are enjoying fatherhood for the third time and are particularly relishing the sanctuary of the Ratio office.



Olivia



Lucy



This issue, we cast our eyes on Alice Maloney

Passions:

Following horse racing, and cheering on the mighty Dees. 2010 – hopefully the year of the Demons . . . Also enjoy catching up with friends over a few drinks, particularly at the races, or after a hit of tennis.

Favourite Website:

Racing Victoria, to keep a track of the races and when our horses are racing and the TAB website, for a bit of a flutter. Like most of Gen-Y, also enjoy checking out Facebook – during non-work hours of course!

Happiest day of your life:

Apart from my first day at Ratio? Most recently, cheering our horse on when he won at Moonee Valley on a Friday night. Hopefully he can repeat that effort in a couple of weeks.

What am I reading right now:

Right now? The draft Brunswick Structure Plan. Scintillating stuff. At home, gearing myself up to read War and Peace, which has been gathering dust for about a month.



ratio

Bendigo Road Transport Strategy

The City of Greater Bendigo, in partnership with VicRoads (Northern Region) recently appointed Ratio Consultants to prepare a road transport strategy for Bendigo. This strategy will replace the "Bendigo '2020' Transportation Strategy" which was developed in the early 90's and has guided the improvement and development of the road network since its adoption. A number of the key recommendations of that earlier study have been implemented or are well advanced in the planning phase. Therefore it is important that a new document be produced to guide the development of the road network to 2020 and 2030.

The purpose of the Road Transport Strategy will be to provide the City of Greater Bendigo, VicRoads and the Bendigo community with a clear understanding of the requirement of the future road network, based on predicted land use and population changes. This will include recommendations on improvements to the existing road network and any expansion of the network to meet these future demands

Consultation with key stakeholders, and the Bendigo community generally, will be a key part of the strategy process.



Ratio helps 'Heronswood' get past First Base

"Heronswood" is a hugely popular tourist destination in Dromana on the Mornington Peninsula. Its success is based on the scenic and heritage values of the property, and the various activities of the "Diggers Club" conducted on the land (being Australia's largest mail order garden club with over 60,000 members). Other contributing factors include the educational programs carried out on the site, a retail plant nursery, and tearooms which showcase foods grown on the land and promoted by the Diggers Club (hence the "fork to fork" theme). As an aside, we highly recommend a visit to the site – it's a wonderful experience.

In recent times the demand for the tearooms outgrew its permit restrictions. Whilst applying to increase the seating numbers should ordinarily have been a relatively straight forward (permit) exercise, owing to a restrictive covenant limiting commercial activities on the land this route was not possible (due to the ridiculously onerous provisions relating to the removal of covenants via permit applications). The client was not keen on the Supreme Court route, and therefore a planning scheme amendment was pursued (ie – a concurrent amendment / permit application).

The tearooms are vitally important to the overall "experience" of Heronswood, and also contribute to the funding of the property. Timing was therefore critical, particularly given the need to trade over the busy Christmas / New Year period. Ratio was successful in negotiating with the Mornington Peninsula Shire and the Department of Planning and Community Development an interim "Ministerial" amendment which will vary the covenant and allow the desired seating numbers for the tearooms (ie: - pending the outcome of a regular amendment which seeks to achieve the same outcomes on a permanent basis).



Dandenong Education Precinct . . .

The newly amalgamated Dandenong High School, which comprises Cleeland Secondary College, Doveton Secondary College and the original Dandenong High School, was the recipient of the 2009 Victorian Award from the Council of Educational Facility Planners International for outstanding school facility. Whilst this award commends its architectural and interior design, the work carried out by Ratio Consultants is also noteworthy.

Ratio Consultants were commissioned in May 2006 by architects Hayball Leonard Stent Pty Ltd to be involved in the development of a 'Master Plan' for the proposed amalgamation of the three schools. The focus of this work from a traffic perspective was about improving the physical connection between the existing Dandenong High School and the Cleeland Secondary School campuses. One of the key objectives for the traffic team was to incorporate safe pedestrian access across

Herbert Street between the two campuses.

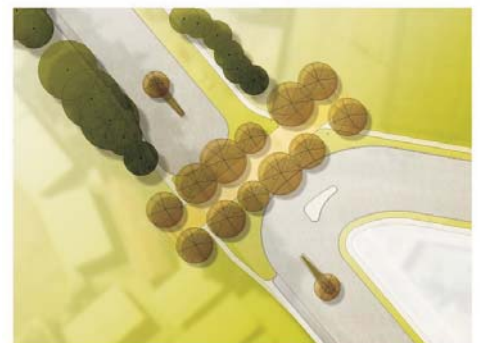
A number of traffic management treatments to allow safe pedestrian access between the two campuses were investigated including the installation of pedestrian operated signals and a flagged school crossing. However, given the future potential for up to 3,000 students to cross Herbert Street during a typical school day the preferred option was a full road closure of Herbert Street to guarantee safe and convenient pedestrian access.

As with any road closure there are disruptions to the existing and future traffic movements within the precinct, including the operation of the exiting bus route. While Council was initially not convinced of the merit of the proposed road closure, Ratio successfully liaised with Council to convince them that this was the only viable option to ensure pedestrian safety for the students.

As a result Council agreed to a 'trial'

temporary road closure for a period of six months, following which it will be removed and 'before' and 'after' traffic counts will be reviewed, in association with feedback from stake holders and the surrounding community.

The closure is currently scheduled for implementation prior to Term Two of the current school years its impact will be closely monitored.



quirky facts

The first man-made item to exceed the speed of sound is the bull whip, our leather whip. When the whip is snapped, the knotted end makes a "crack" or popping noise. It is actually causing a mini sonic boom as it exceeds the speed of sound.

A jiffy is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second. Thus the saying, I will be there in a jiffy.

About 26 per cent of all indoor water used by households in Sydney, Australia is for laundry.