



Capital city care in coastal setting

By David Petrikas

Offering the quality and range of dental services usually found only in a major city - but in a regional coastal setting - has been the objective of NSW South Coast dental practice, Vincentia Dental Care.

The state-of-the-art practice, located in the recently opened Vincentia Marketplace shopping centre, offers affordable, high-quality dental treatment, in a smart, relaxed and modern environment.

Principal dentist, Dr Chris Kourshounian, worked as a dentist for over 20 years both abroad and interstate before settling on the picturesque South Coast to establish his own private practice.

With his wealth of experience, including more than 17 years doing implants and endodontic procedures, Dr Kourshounian brings with him the convenience of local access to the latest 3D CBCT digital imaging equipment and specialty treatments for patients without the need for referrals to outside imaging services or city-based specialists.

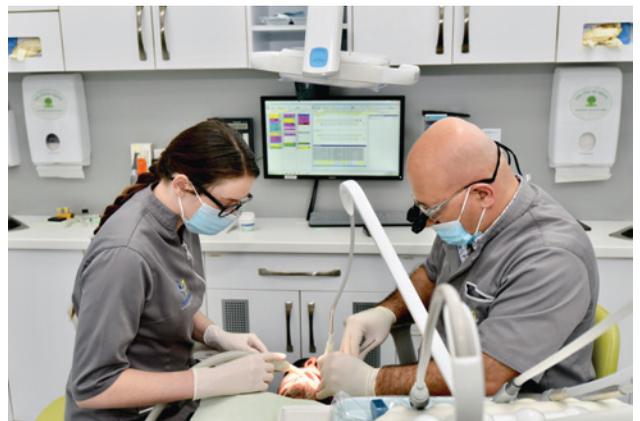
At the outset, Dr Kourshounian wanted to invest in the best equipment to provide the utmost in patient care and provide the level of services patients would normally have to travel to a major city to find.

The practice includes an independent dental prosthetist, Trish Burnham, who operates "Bay Dentures" within a dental laboratory and separate surgery inside the dental practice.

Working together in this way enables Dr Kourshounian to offer patients a range of treatment options, from common, but proven and affordable dental treatments to very sophisticated, high-end options including endodontics, oral surgery, implants and implant-supported fixed prostheses.

At the same time, being located in a regional area about three hours from Sydney, the biggest challenge initially faced was to find the expertise needed to design, build and equip the practice.

While he was unable to secure a dental fit-out company in the timeframe required, Dr Kourshounian was able to obtain the services of a skilled dental designer, Mark McKibbin, who designs for leading fit-out companies and private clients.



Mr McKibbin came up with a practical and attractive layout that provides ample room, a logical workflow and also harnesses available light to give the practice a clean and modern feel. Generous above and below bench storage for equipment and consumables is built into each surgery and the semi-open steri room.

On the all important question of equipment, Dr Kourshounian worked at Mackay in North Queensland prior to moving to NSW and knows more than anyone, the importance of reliable dental equipment to maximise productivity and avoid downtime.

For this reason, he chose A-dec 511 dental units with Continental delivery systems and also specified the latest ergonomically

designed A-dec 500 dental chairs and assistants' stools for his main surgeries.

He was fortunate in finding support from South Sydney A-dec dealer, Dental Installations, who was able to provide his complete equipment needs without having to find a number of different suppliers.

Dental Installations also installed the equipment, provides ongoing training and support and routinely services the large range of equipment from dental units and chairs, compressors to digital imaging, sterilisation equipment, handpieces and even some common consumable items.



Vincentia Dental Care has four fully equipped surgeries, a separate lab and sterilisation room, compact plant room, discrete staff facilities off the main waiting room, a wide reception and payments desk and consumables and magazine storage with large TV monitors throughout the patient areas.

Given the long hours spent working between up to three surgeries on any day, Dr Kourshounian felt it wise to invest in equipment which would support him and the dental team in their work by avoiding OH&S issues caused by poor posture which can result from working on equipment without a strong ergonomic focus.

The A-dec 511 dental units with compact seamless backrests provide optimum access for the dentist without compromising

patient comfort, while the new A-dec 500 stool design provides optimum upright posture support, a zoned chair seat armature to aid blood-flow to the legs and oscillating armrests to support the forearms during procedures. Ceiling mounted A-dec stadium style LED lighting provides “daylight” quality light which matches that produced by the LED+ equipped W&H Synea handpieces.

A more compact A-dec 400 chair with A-dec 300 delivery system is used in Dr Kourshounian’s dual access “implant” surgery because of its slightly smaller footprint. This leaves more room for ancillary equipment such as the W&H surgical motor and computer-assisted anaesthesia wand used to gently inject anaesthetic in small continuous doses, which avoids the discomfort and anxiety caused by conventional needles.



Summary

The Practice

The Practice	Vincentia Dental Care
The Principal	Dr Chris Kourshounian
Practice Type	General
Location	Vincentia, New South Wales
Size	106 square metres
No of chairs	4

The Team

Colour Design	Mark McKibbin, McKibbin Design
Equipment	Dental Installations, Sydney
Installer	Darren Welsh, Dental Installations

Equipment

Dental Units	A-dec 500 with A-dec 511 delivery A-dec 400 with A-dec 300 delivery
Sterilisation	W&H Lisa Automatic
X-Ray	X-Mind Unity with Acteon PSPIX PSP scanner
CBCT	Acteon X-Mind Trium
Diagnostic	Acteon SoprOLIFE intraoral camera
Compressor	Cattani AC300
Suction	Cattani TurboSmart
Software	Dental4windows

Vincentia Dental Care was also the first practice in Australia to install an Acteon X-Mind Trium 3D extraoral imaging unit that provides unprecedented image quality plus 3D image manipulation, bone volume calculations and reporting to identify all vital structures and help plan safe surgical procedures.

The unit takes the guesswork out of complex root canal procedures, assists greatly in implant planning and is also important in assessing and planning for impacted wisdom tooth removal where the main mandibular nerve may be affected.

For more straight-forward imaging requirements, Dr Kourshounian has low dose X-Mind Unity digital X-rays in each surgery and a choice of digital sensors or a compact PSPIX phosphor plate unit depending on the patient and type of image required.

He also routinely uses the advanced SoprOLIFE intraoral camera with inbuilt caries detection function, which harnesses fluorescence to highlight demineralised dentine and early onset caries as well as a macro setting and a pre-set focal length to easily capture sharp images at the swipe of a finger.

This provides a baseline for each patient's dentition as well as a record of all procedures performed and an ongoing record of oral health, which also serves as a medico legal record.

Despite some build and finish problems and delays to the fit-out process, the end result reflects the amount of experience and thought put into the design, while the choice of equipment shows the emphasis on optimum patient outcomes and access to specialist services not normally found in a regional setting.

