

## Health options open up



MEDICAL MEN: Turning a sod on the site of the proposed Montserrat hospital at North Lakes are Ben Korst and Dr Peter Stephenson.

AN \$8million day hospital able to complete 10,000 surgeries a year will open in North Lakes in September.

The two-storey North Lakes Day Hospital, managed by Montserrat Day Hospitals, will create about 45 local jobs.

Co-owner Dr Peter Stephenson, a retired gastroenterologist and former president of the Australian Day Hospital Association, said the hospital would attract patients from across the Moreton Bay region.

“Patients come in, have a procedure and go out within 24 hours,” he said.

“It’s very non-disruptive to life, you get back to your home quickly and you don’t

have those overnight hospital adverse events, like antibiotic resistant infections. Most of all it’s convenient, the outcomes are excellent and it can be done in your own community.”

Dr Stephenson said there was a need for the hospital in a growing area.

Australian Medical Association Queensland President Dr Gino Pecoraro said the hospital would be welcomed.

“It’s always good to have choice. If there are more hospitals and more hospital beds, then residents have more options,” he said.

“We think opening another hospital is always a good thing.”

Dr Pecoraro said he was unsure if the new hospital would lower wait times at surrounding medical services because it was a private facility.

Dr Stephenson said the hospital would concentrate on ophthalmology, gynaecology and IVF, orthopaedics and gastroenterology.

Dr Stephenson said with Strathpine Hospital becoming a psychiatric and non-procedure hospital, the North Lakes facility would be an attractive employment opportunity.

The hospital will be built near the North Lakes Health Precinct.

\*Source: <http://pine-rivers-press.whereilive.com.au/news/story/health-options-open-up/>