



Sunshine Coast Daily  
Kevin Covey  
of Covey  
associates  
P/L with staff  
photo Bob  
Gourlay

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# Building on future

Consulting engineering firm still growing after 20 years of operation

**T**HE Global Financial Crisis might have taken its toll on some local businesses, but for local consulting engineering firm Covey Associates, it has been a period of growth.

The firm, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this Thursday, has expanded operations in the past 12 months, opening a new branch in Rockhampton.

The expansion brings the firm to a total of five offices, including the head office in Maroochydore, with others in Tamworth and Narrabri in New South Wales, which operates as Kelley Covey Group, and a visiting office in Rabaul, Papua New Guinea.

Between them, they take on large-scale projects across Australia and around the globe in regions as far-flung as Papua New Guinea, Fiji and the Middle East.

Covey Associates founder and director Kevin Covey said the firm carried out civil, structural, hydraulic and environmental engineering as well as operating as project managers.

"We are a one-stop shop. Ninety

## SECRETS OF OUR SUCCESS

*Covey Associates*

per cent of the work can be handled in-house and it ensures the quality of our work," he said.

He attributes his company's success to this fact.

But he said communication with staff and clients was also essential and he is proud he still has some founding clients and original staff.

"We have a low turnover of staff and we look after our staff," he said. "Chris Camp, our office manager, has been with the company for almost 18 years."

Hard work, persistence and diversification have also been keys to his success. In 2002, Mr Covey realised he needed a branch of the business that did not rely solely on development and this led to the acquisition of the Tamworth office.

The firm's major projects over the past 20 years have included playing an instrumental role in

**ESTABLISHED:** 1990

**STAFF:** 30

**SECRETS:** Most work kept in-house to ensure high quality, communication, diversification, hard work

securing approval for the original master-planned community at Peregrin Springs for Kurts Development Ltd, as well as an ongoing role in the project until stage four.

Other developments include Noosa Parklands Estate, Seabourne and Providence apartments in Caloundra, Castaways Cove at Marcus Beach, the Riverside Centre in Maleny and extensive ongoing work in aged care and retirement.

More recently, Covey Associates have managed the master-planned estates of Parklakes at Bli Bli and Sandstone Lakes at Ningi since their inception.

Overseas, the firm created and project-managed the wharf design and construction, accommodation and mess hall for the Simberi Gold Mine in PNG and was part of a

joint venture for upgrading telecommunication towers for PNG Telecom.

"This was an incredible job," Mr Covey said. "We were involved in the design of 15 telecommunication facilities on mountains 2000 metres above sea level."

Mr Covey said the Tamworth office worked predominantly with the local authority and the team had designed hundreds of bridges, agriculture and storage facilities as well as greyhound and harness racing facilities in Australia and the Middle East.

To celebrate the firm's 20th anniversary, Mr Covey and his team are hosting a thank you dinner and celebration in Maroochydore this Saturday.

The 200 guests will include local dignitaries, valued clients, Coast businesspeople and staff.

"We have an award-winning business, which continues to grow, and that is thanks to all of the people who have worked with us over the past 20 years, many of whom will be helping us celebrate," Mr Covey said.