

development



Firm charts a plan for success over 20 years

Covey Associates looks back on changes as the team marks anniversary

at a glance

what: Covey Associates
 opened: July 1, 1990
 founder and director: Kevin Covey
 offices in: Maroochydore, Rockhampton, Tamworth and Narrabri

WITH large-scale projects across Australia and around the globe, consulting engineering firm Covey Associates had good reason to celebrate its 20th anniversary.

The firm's major projects over the past 20 years have included playing an instrumental role in securing approval for the original master-planned community at Peregrin Springs for Kurts Development Ltd, as well as an on-going 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 on-going work in aged care and retirement.

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

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.

Since opening their doors on July 1, 1990, the

team, led by founder and director Kevin Covey, has expanded with offices now in Rockhampton, Tamworth and Narrabri, New South Wales, which operates as Kelley Covey Group; and a visiting office in Rabaul, Papua New Guinea.

The 30-plus team still operates out of the purpose-built head office in Maroochydore. 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 for projects of all sizes.

"We are a one-stop shop. Ninety percent of the work can be handled in-house and it ensures the quality of our work," Mr Covey said.

A special guest at the 20th anniversary celebrations at Maroochydore was David Stein, who travelled from Papua New Guinea to help the team celebrate their anniversary.

Mr Covey said communication with staff and

clients was essential and he was proud he still had some founding clients as well as some of his 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. We really endeavour to also give back to the community that the teams work within. Over the years, we've carried out a few gratis jobs, including providing engineering input for new infrastructure for local public schools, church groups, pony clubs and not-for-profit retirement homes."

Mr Covey said the team had enjoyed working on coastal projects over the past 20 years.

"The benefits of working in this area are numerous," he said.

"Over the past 20 years we've seen a strong demand for sea change locations, which hasn't changed as a result of the recent GFC, and an increased focus on sustainable and environmentally friendly development."

For the next 20 years, Mr Covey predicts a growth in the retirement industry and an increase in alternative housing options geared towards affordability and maintenance-free housing.

"If I could pass on two pieces of advice it would be diversity and embracing industry innovations and exceeding best practices where possible – they are the key to long-lasting business."

"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," Mr Covey said.

And for the next 20 years he is hoping there will be even further growth.



BRIGHT OUTLOOK: Covey Associates consulting engineering celebrates 20 years



PROUD LINKS: The early stages of Parklakes at Bli Bli