Northrop 20 years on

ESTABLISHED IN 1976, Northrop Consulting Engineers is an employeeowned firm with ten offices across Australia offering civil, structural, building services and sustainability services.

Northrop arrived on the Central Coast twenty years ago in August 2003.

Trevor Clack, who had joined the organisation a few years earlier in Canberra as a graduate structural engineer, saw the opportunities unfolding in the region and opened a small Northrop office in Terrigal that became the launch pad for a business that now employs twenty-two people locally and is one of the leading consultancies on the Central Coast.

"Our purpose when we opened was to provide a high level of service with imaginative and flexible design solutions.

Our primary challenge was therefore to manage our workload, so that we didn't win so much work that we lost sight of our "Purpose"," says Mr Clack.

"We quickly developed a strong reputation that aligned with this purpose through our early projects, the majority of which were luxury houses and units including many in Terrigal," he said. These early projects allowed him to develop relationships with others in the industry that are still strong today.

By 2008 the Northrop Central Coast office had outgrown the Terrigal space and a new home was found in the Highpoint Building in Erina.

Over the following years the Northrop team grew organically as they expanded into civil engineering services, and other services offered through the capabilities of the wider Northrop group.

This growth and development of relationships with others in the industry lead to Northrop adding more diverse projects to their mix across a number of sectors including health and aged care, hospitality, commercial and industrial, community and council projects, and multistorey residential projects.

Some of the most recognisable/notable commercial and Council projects

designed by Northrop include Bunnings at West Gosford, Tuggerah and Lake Haven, the Golflinks Commercial Estate at North Wyong, the Tuggerah Straight Commercial Centre and the St Hilliers developments in Gosford.

As the demand for more health and aged care services on the coast rises, the response has been the development of facilities including Glengara, Wood Glen and Tarragal Glen Aged Care; Peninsular Village, Woy Woy; North Gosford Private Hospital, Brisbane Waters Private Hospital; Tuggerah Lakes Private Hospital being recently completed by the Central Coast Office.

The Coast's growing popularity and desirability has seen the need for residential projects spike. The Central Coast office has proudly been involved with some of the most exclusive multi-storey residential buildings including Bonython Towers, Gosford; Rockpool Apartments, Terrigal; and Ravello and Peninsular Apartments, both located in Point Frederick.

As more and more people call the Central Coast 'home', the hospitality industry has also experienced significant growth. Trevor and his team are proud to have been



Northrop Erina Team

involved with the redevelopment of venues including the Mingara Club; Elanora Hotel at East Gosford; the Railway Hotel in Gosford; The Doylo at Doyalson and Saddles at Mount White, a popular venue for Coasties and Sydneysiders alike.

Earlier this year the Central Coast office in Highpoint was expanded to accommodate a growing team that is expected over the next five years.

Commenting on their plans moving forward Mr Clack says, "We experience the best of both worlds – the Central Coast office is just the right size to have the feel and atmosphere of a small team, where our decision-makers are at the forefront of every project that we work on. Yet we also have the direct access to specialist expertise and experience that is afforded from us being a medium to large sized engineering company.

We are an employee-owned company which means the owners of the business are working directly on projects, which in turn, means they are more heavily invested in the results and projects."

The culture that's developed in the Central Coast office over the last 20 years is the perfect balance of business and pleasure. Having fun and creating a positive environment which encourages the team to enjoy themselves has created a unique and desirable place to work, something Trevor Clack is particularly proud of.

Commenting on their success he says, "The most rewarding part of my role is that it is no longer all about me. It is about enabling others within our team to forge their own rewarding career path, taking on new opportunities and provide support for themselves and their families".

"The Central Coast has always been a place where opportunities are everywhere that you look. Disappointingly at times, those opportunities either go to competitors from outside of the region despite the Coast being full of companies like Northrop who have the local expertise to take them on, or the opportunities fail to get off the ground in the first place due to red tape. That being said, we remain optimistic that one day the Central Coast will realise its potential."

