

THE BROWN REPORT

SPRING EDITION 2010

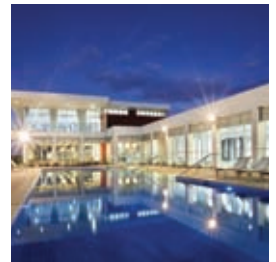
**ON THE MOVE
IN VICTORIA**

**HELPING
YOUNG WOMEN
DREAM BIG**

**THE BEST
SCHOOLS ARE
IN SINGAPORE**

**HIGH DEMAND
IN AGED CARE
SECTOR**

**PLUS MORE
INSIDE....**

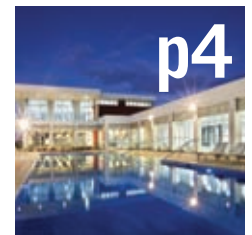


THE BROWN REPORT

SPRING EDITION 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE	p3
ON THE MOVE IN VICTORIA	p4
HELPING YOUNG WOMEN DREAM BIG	p6
ON THE ROAD TO A BETTER RESULT	p7
THE BEST SCHOOLS ARE IN SINGAPORE	p8
RIVERSIDE WHARVES PRECINCT TRANSFORMS INTO PARKLAND	p10
LOCAL OFFICE GROWS TO KEEP PACE WITH DEMAND	p12
HIGH DEMAND IN AGED CARE SECTOR	p13
NO MORE DEBATE IN THE A.C.T	p14
APPOINTMENTS	p15
LEADERS IN 12D	p15



MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR



Welcome to The Brown Report. Since our last issue, most of us have experienced the effects of the GFC to some extent, with some businesses impacted more dramatically than others. I acknowledge that it has been a tough time in the development industry.

In recent months we have had the opportunity to reflect on our business' direction and objectives. We have refined our strategic plan and defined our corporate mission.

Our goal is to be *your consultant of choice*.

This privileged position is not easily obtained – nor should it be. To achieve this goal our aim is to provide a quality service at a fair price; with continual focus on adding value to your business and delivering more innovative solutions. In everything we do, our intention is to create sustainable environments with creativity, care and value.

Over the coming months and into 2011 you will see some changes at Brown Consulting. Like the environment around us, we will be adapting, changing and growing. We plan to expand our engineering capabilities to include a broader range of civil, environmental and structural solutions.

Via the merger of Victorian-based Tomkinson and the Victorian Division of Brown Consulting, we have added land surveying and town planning to our range of services (see p4). Similarly, in New South Wales, town planning and survey capabilities have recently been added.

I am also pleased to announce that we have recently launched our Dream Big Scholarship Program on a national basis. The program, of which we are very proud, is open to young

women in Year 12 who are interested in pursuing university studies in engineering, town planning or surveying. For more information on this program see p6.

“ In everything we do, our intention is to create sustainable environments with creativity, care and value.”

I reflect with pride the ongoing achievement of the firm and the great clients we have the pleasure of working with.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Spence', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary Spence
Managing Director, Brown Consulting

ON THE MOVE IN VICTORIA

COVER STORY

In 2009 the Victorian Division of Brown Consulting and local Melbourne/Geelong firm Tomkinson, merged to form Brown & Tomkinson. The combined 60+ person consultancy offers clients access to an expanded range of services via professional project managers, town planners, civil and structural engineers and land surveyors.



Both Brown Consulting and Tomkinson have been established in the Victorian market for many years. Combined, Brown & Tomkinson offer clients an extended range of services specialising in Urban Development, Structures, Roads and Traffic, and Water and the Environment.

Gary Spence, Managing Director of Brown Consulting, said the merger of the two very respected entities aligned with the vision of Brown Consulting and would ultimately benefit clients.

“Unlike many of our competitors, senior staff are hands-on with client projects. The Brown & Tomkinson experience is

personalised and that’s a key difference,” said Gary.

Tony Spencer, Regional Manager – Victoria, supports the hands on management approach. “At Brown & Tomkinson the senior team leaders have direct involvement with client projects. Clients can be assured that their project is not reassigned to less experienced staff,” he said.

“At the same time, for larger or specialised jobs, Brown & Tomkinson can offer clients the backing and experience of a large national team, with the benefit of a local manager directing the project,” said Mr Spencer.



“ Unlike many of our competitors, senior staff are hands-on with client projects. The Brown & Tomkinson experience is personalised and that’s a key difference.”

COMBINED BUSINESS STRENGTHS:

- > Expanded service offering across survey, town planning, project management and civil & structural engineering
- > More than 60 staff located in Victoria – Melbourne and Geelong offices
- > Backing of a national and international team with more than 270 staff
- > Continued focus on personalised client relationships and management involvement in projects.



Photos: (opposite left to right) Award winning Alamanda and Season’s Estate, (above top to bottom) Season’s Estate (top) and VicUrban’s Tenterfield.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Tony Spencer
Regional Manager - Victoria
Tony.spencer@browntomkinson.com.au
Ph 03 9203 9000

HELPING YOUNG WOMEN DREAM BIG



Alexandra Kelly can thank her younger sister for her career choice. Back in 2006, when Alex was in her final year of high school at All Hallows in Brisbane, she was away ill for several weeks. Fortunately for Alex, her younger sister kept her informed and told her about an engineering scholarship on offer at Brown Consulting.

Alex decided to apply, and upon being accepted into her engineering degree she was successfully awarded a scholarship at Brown Consulting. The scholarship provides financial support during university, paid work experience and a job upon degree completion.

Four years into her studies Alex hasn't looked back.



“ If I had to sum up an aspect which makes Brown Consulting

stand out, I would have to say it is their mix of professional and personal approach towards their staff. ”

“When I was in high school I wasn't sure what an engineer did, but I was good at maths and science, so on hearing about Brown's scholarship program I decided to find out more,” said Alex.

“I met with the Managing Director, Gary Spence, who explained more fully the role of an engineer, as well as outlining the scholarship. I felt confident

about my decision to embark on an engineering career, and that Brown Consulting was the right place for me,” confirmed Alex.

“Working at Brown Consulting on the holidays, and as university permits during the semester, has meant that I get to experience engineering projects first hand. I really feel like it makes a huge difference in my overall understanding of theoretical and practical concepts,” said Alex.

“If I had to sum up an aspect which makes Brown Consulting stand out, I would have to say it is their mix of professional and personal approach towards their staff. I would certainly recommend the Dream Big Scholarship program to anyone who was considering a career in engineering,” said Alex.

In 2011, Brown Consulting is offering scholarships in engineering, town planning and surveying in Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra*.

** Note: scholarships available vary by region.*



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Jo Hardwick
Human Resources Manager
Jo.hardwick@brownconsulting.com.au
Ph 07 3895 3444

ON THE ROAD TO A BETTER RESULT



It's not easy to get two competing developers, a state government road authority, a local council and an engineering consultant to work together – on virtually any project. But that was the challenge for Brown Consulting to deliver a solution which caters for future traffic demands within the high growth area of Sydney's south west, and also keep all parties happy.

Wayne Azzopardi, Senior Project Manager – Urban Development explained, “Brown Consulting has been involved in most of the large development projects in the Sydney south west growth centre, including Harrington Grove, Oran Park Town and Gregory Hills.”

“We've been actively involved in the transformation of Camden Valley Way and Cobbitty Road, two significant road infrastructure projects in south-west Sydney. Given our local knowledge and sound working relationships with all parties, it made sense for us to help plan and design the future road network requirements, specifically the high traffic volume Camden Valley Way,” said Wayne.

Brown Consulting prepared the concept and detailed designs for the intersection of Cobbitty Road and Camden Valley Way, as well as a separate design for a 1.2km upgrade of Cobbitty Road for Harrington Estates. Brown Consulting also prepared the concept and detailed designs for the 620m upgrade of Camden Valley Way – Gregory Hills Drive to Turner Road for Dart West Developments.

“Although the clients are different and each project has its own nuances, we have effectively merged three separate projects to allow construction of each to be undertaken in parallel,” said Wayne.

“ It made sense for us to help plan and design the future road network requirements, specifically the high traffic volume Camden Valley Way. ”

Much of the complexity associated with these projects has been associated with simultaneous construction of trunk infrastructure through and around the site whilst continually allowing road works to progress steadily and maintaining traffic flows.

“The developer, relevant authorities and community all benefit by working collaboratively. It's a real example of a win-win situation,” said Wayne.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Wayne Azzopardi
Senior Project Manager – Urban Development
Wayne.azzopardi@brownconsulting.com.au
Ph 02 8808 5000

THE BEST SCHOOLS ARE IN SINGAPORE

In Singapore education is a cultural priority. Whilst Australians also believe in the importance of education, the demands on Singaporean students to excel are extraordinary.



Equally, the facilities demanded by parents, teachers and school boards are expected to support the pursuit of academic and sporting excellence and enhance the prestige and desirability of the school.

With space at a premium in this tiny island nation (only 699 sq km in size), WP Brown (Brown Consulting's Singapore based arm) has worked with a number of schools to upgrade, redevelop and design new facilities.

SH Leong, Managing Director – Singapore said WP Brown had a strong reputation for its

ingenuity, especially in the design of precast and prestressed concrete and steelwork.

“We have a loyal client base. Schools don't build new halls, auditoriums or classrooms every day, but when they are ready to expand or upgrade, they do remember good work,” said Mr Leong. “We always design to suit the client's needs and budget. For larger spans and evenly spaced column grids we recommend a post-tensioning system, whereas smaller, irregular layouts are better suited to in-situ beam and slab systems.”

Not all of the jobs requested by schools are standard. Many, including the recently completed international-size hockey field at St. Hilda's Secondary School was one of those 'special' projects. The hockey field is located 22m above the ground.

According to Mr Leong, St Hilda's was a challenging job. The project required additions and alterations to existing buildings to create a new complex with an indoor sports hall, a multi-purpose hall and Singapore's first roof-top hockey field. The column-free multi-purpose hall features a post-tensioned beam with a 37m span and a column free standing height of 11m.

“ St. Hilda's Secondary School was a 'special' project. The hockey field is located 22m above the ground.”

WP Brown has recently provided structural engineering services at Special Education Schools such as MINDS Fernvale Gardens School, Grace Orchard School, Horizon Primary School and the Pathlight Special Education School.

“Each school has its own special requirements. We've designed sky bridges, curved buildings, 45m long buildings with a 2.5° pitched roof and piling systems with 50m penetrations through soft marine clay,” said Mr Leong.

“After almost 20 years in Singapore there's not a lot the team at WP Brown haven't done.”

Photos: (opposite) St Hilda's new facility, (above top to bottom) school students, Grace Orchard School



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

SH Leong
Managing Director - Singapore
Sh.leong@wpbrown.com.au
Ph (0011) 65 6291 1221

RIVERSIDE WHARVES PRECINCT TRANSFORMS INTO PARKLAND

One of Brisbane's last remaining riverside wharf precincts will soon be transformed into public parkland. Howard Smith Wharves, originally a working goods wharf until the mid 1960s, sits on a site under the Story Bridge and adjacent to a cliff face in the inner city suburb of Fortitude Valley.

Until now the site been virtually untouched, but earlier this year the Brisbane City Council gave the green light to start the Howard Smith Wharves Landscape Restoration Project.

The key objective of the project is to enhance the site's visual amenity and develop a desirable living public space for residents and visitors alike.

Brown Consulting is part of the project's consultancy team, led by PLACE Design Group, charged with preparing the design for the redevelopment.

Michael Cooke, Brown Consulting's Queensland Manager – Structures, explained that once finished, the space would be public parkland complete with walking trails, open lawns, sculptures and abseiling facilities. There will also be a lift and stairs at the eastern end of the cliff face to connect the parkland to the streetscape above.

"Brown Consulting is pleased to be a part of this landmark project. Not only will the revitalisation of the space ensure generations to come can enjoy our rich history, the parklands will be a unique and creative space where locals and tourists can experience the city," said Mr Cooke.

Stage One consists of restoring parts of the 3.5 hectare area with initial works including stabilising the cliffs, followed by extensive landscaping.

Brown Consulting is providing structural design services for the cliff stairs, lifts, shelters and landscaping structures as well as civil engineering and water sensitive urban design.

Mr Cooke said that the structural design of the stairs is the most challenging design component. "The overall rise of the stairs is about 20m,



over seven flights. The project team is using 3D modelling to position each flight so that it conforms to the cliff face. This method is helping to ensure there is a minimum of rock excavation. The stair flights will be supported by landings cantilevered from the cliff face," said Mr Cooke.

"For our civil design input, our specific focus is on water and sewer servicing to the new amenities building. To minimise rock excavation we have to consider alternative methods and routes to provide services," he added.

Brown Consulting is also providing water and environment services for the project. During the preliminary design stage the team has predominantly focused on Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) and stormwater drainage.



Photos: (opposite top to bottom) The current Howard Smith Wharf precinct, (above) Proposed plans for redevelopment

“ Not only will the revitalisation of the space ensure generations to come can enjoy our rich history, the parklands will be a unique and creative space where locals and tourists can experience the city. ”

This included providing concept sizing of pipelines, overland flow paths, outlets to the nearby Brisbane River and stormwater quality improvement devices.

Master planning and preliminary design was completed in May 2010 and detailed design is currently underway. It is anticipated that construction will commence by late 2010.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



Andrew McPhail
 Manager – Water & Environment (Qld)
Andrew.mcphail@brownconsulting.com.au
 Ph 07 3895 4444



Michael Cooke
 Manager – Structures (Qld)
Michael.cooke@brownconsulting.com.au
 Ph 07 3895 4444

LOCAL OFFICE GROWS TO KEEP PACE WITH DEMAND

With a population of around 320,000 and growing at a rate of 3% per year, no wonder the Sunshine Coast is the third fastest growing region in Australia.



As a result of sustained growth the Brown Consulting team has expanded from an office of one, when it opened in 2001 to 16 staff today.

Whilst the Sunshine Coast office can deliver a range of services, most of the team are focused on delivering urban development projects – many of which are owned by Stockland.

Stockland owned Kawana Waters, is already home to 22,000 people and the team is now working to help deliver Birtinya Island, bringing online approximately 850 lots over the next 4-5 years. The addition of the Birtinya Island precinct will welcome up to 2,500 more people to the Kawana Waters' community.

Troy Schultz, Brown Consulting's Project Manager said that the staff are connected to the project.

"All of the staff at Brown Consulting are residents in the area and we take great pride in the work we do. We are not just consultants; we are members of the community which we help develop. Our contribution is not only professional – it's personal. Our goal is to make a difference – both short and long term," said Troy.

Stockland's Development Manager for Birtinya Island, Lucy Dahl said that Brown Consulting enjoyed a positive relationship with Stockland due to their level of service and overall value.

“ We are not just consultants; we are members of the community which we help develop. Our contribution is not only professional – it's personal. Our goal is to make a difference – both short and long term. ”

"I've been impressed with the team's technical knowledge and the fact that they consider the best way to deliver value for money whilst helping deliver a better product for the families who will eventually live here," said Lucy.

Brown Consulting is also providing engineering services to Stockland for Brightwater Estate at Bundilla and Bellvista II at Caloundra.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Troy Schultz
Engineer – Urban Development
Troy.schultz@brownconsulting.com.au
Ph 07 5470 9260

HIGH DEMAND IN AGED CARE SECTOR



According to the Federal Government, by 2050 there will be only 2.7 working age Australians for every one person aged 65 or older. Today, the ratio is 5:1*. Whilst governments and businesses plan for massive demographic and social change, many businesses, government agencies and community groups are already experiencing high demand for services and facilities which cater for our current population of seniors.

Brown Consulting and specialist architectural firm, Bickerton Masters Architecture, work in the health care, aged care and community care sector.

“We are currently working collaboratively with Bickerton Masters to deliver a new residential retirement and high care residential facility for Holy Spirit Care Services,” said Michael Cooke, Manager – Structures.

The new development is located in Boondall (12km from Brisbane’s CBD). When complete it will comprise two six-storey towers and a three storey wing that will accommodate 128, 1, 2 and 3 bedroom independent living units and a 10 bed high care facility. The facility will also feature a chapel, gym, pool and other community facilities as well as parking for 130 cars.

The Bickerton Masters’ design philosophy focuses on delivering social, cultural and spiritual solutions that are both practical and effective.

“At Brown Consulting our mission is to provide innovative and sustainable environments with creativity, care and value. So culturally our two businesses are aligned, which makes working together to achieve the client’s goal, much easier and more satisfying,” said Michael.

Brown Consulting’s significant experience in multi-storey residential, aged care and community facility projects has made the team ideally suited to provide the civil and structural engineering to Holy Spirit Care Service’s \$45m project.



“The team’s strength lies not only in understanding the complexities of the brief, but also in building flexibility into the design so that it can be modified to suit the successful contractor’s preferred construction methods,” said Michael.

**Source: Intergenerational Report, 2010*

“ Culturally our businesses are aligned, which makes working together to achieve the client’s goal, much easier and more satisfying. ”



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Michael Cooke
Manager – Structures (Qld)
Michael.cooke@brownconsulting.com.au
Ph 07 3895 3444

NO MORE DEBATE IN THE A.C.T

In 1908, after much debate, Canberra was selected as the site for the nation's capital. This former hamlet, with a population of around 1,000 people at the time, has transformed into one of the few modern, truly planned cities in the world.

"I have seen a massive transformation in the 20 years that I have been here, and I'm really proud of the work which Brown Consulting has done to contribute to the city's development," said Max Bomben, Regional Manager for ACT.

Brown Consulting provides urban development, roads and traffic and environmental services in the region. "I estimate that over the 35 years that Brown Consulting has been practising in the ACT, we've helped welcome around 40,000 people into new residential developments," said Max.

With a population growth rate of 1.7%, demand for new housing remains high. Brown Consulting is currently working with the Land Development Agency (LDA) in the final land release of Harrison Estate, located approximately 10km from the CBD. When complete, Harrison 4 Estate will be a mix of 355 individual housing blocks and four multi-unit blocks, totalling 420 dwellings.

“ Brown Consulting's expertise has assisted the LDA in the delivery of more than 3,200 dwellings sites to the market in various residential estates in Canberra over the past 6 years. ”

"Brown Consulting's expertise has assisted the LDA in the delivery of more than 3,200 dwellings sites to the market in various residential estates in Canberra over the past 6 years," said John Robertson, CEO LDA.

"Brown Consulting have worked with me on the delivery of a wide range of public infrastructure



Photos: Open community space is a priority at Harrison Estate.

and led development projects since mid 2002, and I have always been impressed by their competence and professionalism," said John.

"Living in a planned city Canberrans have extremely high expectations of their developments," said Max, "moreover the LDA encourages innovation in all of its developments, especially in terms of sustainability and end-use liveability."

One of the key innovations in Harrison Estate is the master planned road and housing block configuration which is designed to maximise internal and external solar access whilst ensuring that semi rural views are retained.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Max Bomben
Regional Manager – ACT
Max.bomben@brownconsulting.com.au
Ph 02 6211 7100

Internal Appointments

Peter Lee, Manager – Town Planning (NSW)



Peter Lee has joined Brown Consulting, establishing a town planning capability in NSW. With more than 25 years' experience across both the private and public sectors, Peter's portfolio of experience is extensive and includes rezoning, due diligence, master planning and strategic planning, stakeholder and community consultation, statutory planning and expert witness services.

Daniel Hannigan, Manager – Survey (NSW)



Daniel Hannigan joins Brown Consulting as Manager of the newly established survey practice in NSW. Prior to joining Brown Consulting, Daniel held various senior roles with a leading surveying, engineering and planning consultancy. Daniel's land surveying skills will complement Brown's existing capability in urban development.

Slobodan Grojic, Regional Manager (NSW)



Following 18+ years of professional experience in the Canberra region, Slobodan relocated to Sydney in late 2009 to take up the role as Regional Manager for NSW. Slobodan's extensive management experience, mentoring abilities and discipline leadership in the Roads & Traffic field will be invaluable in the largest State economy in Australia.

External Appointments

Max Bomben, Chair of Consult Australia (ACT)



Max Bomben was recently elected Chair of Consult Australia (ACT). This is a prestigious and important appointment. In this role Max has lobbied government departments and other related industries on issues regarding contract terms and conditions for consultancies as well as documentation standards. Max is also liaising with the Australia National University and University of Canberra for the introduction of a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) to help address the ongoing skills shortage of qualified engineers.

When the developers of 12d software want their product tested by super users, Brown Consulting is one of their first ports of call.

So when it came time to hosting an international 12d users' conference, expert user, Phil Baird, Design Office Manager from Brown Consulting's Canberra office, was a natural choice as a featured speaker.

With more than 50 licensed 12d users at Brown Consulting, the proportion of staff using 12d is about one in four. "Given the importance of 12d software, especially for urban development clients, Brown Consulting sent 10 attendees to the conference. We were also Gold Sponsors at the event supporting the pursuit of excellence in design," said Phil.

"With more than 400 delegates at the 2010 event, the conference was a huge success," said Lisa Stewart, Marketing Manager of 12d.

"The conference provides the opportunity for 12d to listen to its clients in a collaborative forum and for users internationally to learn about the features of the product," said Lisa.

Brown Consulting is one of the largest urban development consultants in Australia and are regularly commissioned to conduct BETA testing on all 12d software prior to releasing to the wider market.



OFFICE LOCATIONS:

+ BRISBANE

+ CANBERRA

+ GEELONG

+ MELBOURNE

+ SUNSHINE
COAST

+ SYDNEY

+ SINGAPORE

For more information
about Brown Consulting visit
www.brownconsulting.com.au

