

Merger to result in 'better surveying service'

THE merger of Grant & Cooke Ltd and Paul Ericson Surveyors to become Grant & Cooke Surveyors Ltd this month will provide Gisborne with a better surveying service than could be provided by the component parts, say new partners Mark Clapham and Paul Ericson.

"With a bigger staff and a greater critical mass, we can guarantee excellent service and a greater range of experience," the partners said.

The new firm now has the services of

two principals Mark Clapham and Paul Ericson, both registered surveyors along with Adrian Besseling, staff surveyors Rhys Jones, Mark Stenning, Murray Harris and Roger Bell (who joined Grant & Cooke in 1970); field assistants Earl Walker and John Bayley, and office manager Yvonne Berry.

"Together, we have a proven track record, a stable staff, a tremendous depth

of knowledge and experience, and excellent relationships with local authorities."

Mark and Paul are both Otago

University graduates.

Mark, the first university-trained surveyor to join Grant & Cooke, worked for the firm before graduating.

After gaining experience in mining in New Caledonia and residential and

tourism development in Fiji, Mark became one of four partners in Grant & Cooke in 1976.

Paul worked as a surveyor for New Zealand Forest Service, PetroCorp Exploration, Lands and Survey and as a planner for Cook County before establishing his own practice in Gisborne in 1990, and joining forces with Mark on April 1 this year.

Both men enjoy the diversity of surveying work and are looking forward to a long and successful partnership.

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Celebrating this month's amalgamation of Grant & Cooke Ltd and Paul Ericson Surveyors are (from left) principal Mark Clapham, Roger Bell, Murray Harris, Adrian Besseling, Earl Walker, Rhys Jones, principal Paul Ericson, Mark Stenning and Yvonne Berry. (Absent: John Bayley.)

Land professionals have a complex job

PEOPLE are often mystified by what surveyors do — they see them staring into a theodolite, measuring angles and driving pegs into the ground to mark the legal boundaries of a property. But the job is infinitely more complex than that.

"We see ourselves as holistic land professionals," says Paul

Ericson, Mark Clapham's new partner at Grant & Cooke Surveyors Ltd.

"We deal with a wide range of complicated issues from land ownership, legal titles, resource consents, consent hearings, district plan considerations, compliance with local authority and statutory regulations, and investigations into the design and capacity of services such as water, power, telephone, gas, sewerage, storm water, roads and driveways," said Mark and Paul. "The end result of all this is the bit the public sees — the pegs in the ground."

Subdivision is a complex legal process and even a very simple

subdivision would take five to six months while a "greenfields" subdivision requiring new roads would take much longer, they said. A good example of the complexity of the subdivision process is the Potae Avenue development at Lytton West. "We began work on stage five of the project in June 2000 and should finish later this year," Mark said.

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"The completed product is a fully-developed section which can be sold with all the services mentioned above, including sealed roads and footpaths and street lighting.

"So surveying is far from just establishing legal boundaries... our job is to guide clients through a labyrinth of regulatory controls to a successful conclusion.

"A prudent developer makes an experienced surveyor his or her first port of call.

"Land is our speciality. Let us be your advocate... we have the essential knowledge, experience and networks to deal with all the requirements involved."

Challenges faced during firm's long history

GRANT & Cooke Surveyors has been around Gisborne for a very long time. It is certainly one of the oldest firms in Gisborne and may well be the oldest continuous surveying practice in New Zealand.

The practice was established in 1881 by George Grant who was joined by Arthur Cooke in 1913.

However, only two years into the partnership, Grant died after being thrown from his horse while Cooke was away at

the Great War. Cooke retired from Grant & Cooke in 1947 and died in 1970.

The early days of the practice were characterised by remote bush, road and railway surveys accessed by foot or horse only, and rugged camping conditions. It was not until the late 1950s that urban subdivision involving roading and reticulation began

to form a core part of the firm's practice. Since then, numerous suburban streets have been designed and supervised by

"... the practice has adapted to and accommodated the changing demands and trends the decades required."

Grant & Cooke, recent examples being Potae Avenue, Hillview Terrace and Ocean Park. In addition to urban development, the practice is involved in large scale rural and forestry subdivisions.

Through the ages, Grant & Cooke has displayed remarkable powers of survival, having withstood the vicissitudes of wars, depression, inflation, booms and slumps, five changes of address and at least 10 partners, emerging 121 years later as a flourishing practice in the new millennium.

Somewhat chameleon in behaviour, the practice has adapted to and accommodated whatever the changing demands and trends of the decades required.

Grant & Cooke Surveyors Ltd

Registered Surveyors

Land Development and Resource Management Consultants

Our wide range of services include —

- Subdivisions
- Easement Surveys
- Boundary Peg Location
- Engineering & Roading Design
- Topographical & Site Surveys
- GPS Surveys



- Resource Management Consultation
- Resource Consent Applications
- Building & Construction Set Out
- Design of Sewer & Stormwater Systems
- Maori Land Partitions
- Land Title Investigations

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