

# McLean Delmo Celebrates our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## **‘Great support makes great success possible’**

**In 2010, McLean Delmo celebrates four decades of committed service to our clients. This anniversary has provided an opportunity to go back through the history of the Firm from 1970 to now.**

**Here is a snapshot through the decades:**

### **1970s**

In 1970, a new firm called Santamaria Briglia was created in Carlton following the acquisition of O’Shanessy, Gazzola as a going concern. There were two Partners - John Santamaria and Paul Briglia - and seven staff members.

Allan McLean joined as a Partner in March 1972, then in 1977 the practice – now called Briglia McLean and Partners - moved to the corner of Faraday and Lygon Streets, Carlton. In 1978, Barry Dowsing also joined the practice as a Partner.

### **1980s**

The 1980s saw the firm develop as partnership numbers increased and the move was made to the eastern suburbs. In 1980, John Delmo became a Tax Partner. Soon after this in 1982, the office was moved to 32 Camberwell Road, Hawthorn – not far from the Burwood Road intersection. Partner, Paul Briglia left the practice and Frank Delahunty, Kevin Meredith and John Gartner all joined as Partners during this period.

As staff numbers grew more space was needed and so a major renovation of a 1970s building on 300 Burwood Road Hawthorn took place in 1986.

The operations of the firm were still very manual with a huge storage room housing the massive computer servers and equipment. The women in the typing pool and the computer room were courted by Partners and staff alike, all wanting their work completed and ledgers posted quickly. Most staff worked until 8.30pm each Tuesday and Thursday evenings to get the work done, as well as most Saturdays. The hard work paid off with large increases in revenue at the end of each year.

### **1990s**

The 1990s will be remembered for general growth and prosperity. McLean Delmo was also in a period of growth, venturing into new areas of business such as the establishment of our Financial Planning Division in 1996. The partnership was also changing. In 1994, after working in the Practice for eight years, Tina Polimeni was asked to join as the first female Partner.

In March 1998, the sudden death of John Gartner, a young, vibrant, well respected and experienced Partner, left an incredible void in the partnership group and throughout the firm.

Near the end of this decade, Allan McLean retired from the practice after a distinguished career spanning three decades

### **2000 and beyond**

As a major move for the firm, McLean Delmo joined the Kreston International network in 2002. This association allowed us to extend our reach internationally and provide our clients with services locally and globally.

The growth continued into the new millennium with mergers and acquisitions of Sothertons (2003) and Abbinga (2006) accounting practices.

Partners Graeme Marriott and Digby Looker joined the practice on 1 April 2007 when McLean Delmo merged with Hall Chadwick – a four partner accounting practice located in Melbourne's CBD.

McLean Delmo's history was now shared with the legacies of these three firms and our service capabilities were boosted by the skills and experience of our new colleagues.

In 2008, our Lending and Finance division was established and has developed quickly to be recently announced as the 2010 Australian Financial Group's (AFG) Platinum award winner for best commercial loans writer in Victoria.

2008 also saw a strengthening of our specialised focus on the Asian region with Alan Ling joining the practice.

Today, after 40 years of continuous practice, McLean Delmo has 12 Partners and 90 staff dedicated to meeting the needs of a diverse and growing client base.

There is no doubt that innumerable things have happened in this time and countless people have been part of the success McLean Delmo has enjoyed. Thousands of clients have trusted us to represent them on scores of projects both in Australia and internationally.

Forty years is a long time in anyone's book. But even taking into account all of the hard work and commitment expended, it is hard to believe so much time has passed.