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BDO backs Marlborough business

Blenheim chartered accountancy firm Leslie & O'Donnell Ltd are setting themselves up for growth, with both a new name and new location coming in December.

Director Paul O'Donnell, who has been with the firm for over 20 years, says the time is right for Leslie & O'Donnell to build for the future; "We've got a really strong team and we can see the potential to offer a broader range of services to our clients. The complexity of our clients' needs is increasing, and we want the ability to offer more specialised services. So after a lot of research and discussion, we're excited to announce that we will be joining the BDO network".

BDO is a 'top 5' accounting firm in NZ, with 15 offices across the country, and is part of an international network of accounting, tax and advisory firms that operate in 167 countries.

Director Alex Barton, who joined Leslie & O'Donnell Ltd in 2015, says the change will increase local capability. "We will still be 100% locally owned and operated, but we will be gaining the support and access to the resources of the wider BDO group. We'll be able to offer specialised services in corporate finance, franchising and international business advice right here in Marlborough".

Bringing together agribusiness and viticulture expertise

BDO NZ Chairman David O'Connor, is looking forward to the new partnership. "BDO is a market leader in agribusiness, so we've been looking to establish a presence in the Top of the South for several years, it's just been a question of finding the right people to partner with. We've been really impressed by Paul and Alex, and the skills of their team. The regional and industry knowledge they bring with them, particularly in the wine industry, will be an asset to the BDO network and will really complement the expertise in agri we have already built up across the firm."

Paul says the move will also allow the firm to provide more resources and opportunities as an employer. "The training resources and pathways that BDO have available are fantastic - they will be really helpful for our staff to continue upskilling themselves and developing areas of interest and expertise. Having the backing of the BDO brand will help us in attracting top talent to the region".

More seminars and training workshops for clients on the way

The move to the new brand will also coincide with a move to a larger office space, on the corner of Arthur & Henry streets, currently tenanted by the Marlborough Express. "We outgrew our current office space quite some time ago - we don't have a meeting room large enough to get the whole team together. So we've been on the lookout for new premises for a while, and when this lease became available we jumped at the opportunity to secure such a spacious and modern workspace," Alex explains. "The new location will give us much larger spaces to meet with clients and host events such as seminars & training workshops".

"We'll officially change to BDO Marlborough on the 1st of December, then open the doors at our new office a couple of weeks later on the 20th December, so it will be a month of transition for us," Paul explains. "This is a really positive development for the Marlborough region and reflects



the strength of our local economy. Having BDO on board is a real vote of confidence in the future of our region”.

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Our service lines include: Audit & Assurance, Corporate Finance, Tax, Advisory, Forensic Services, Risk Advisory, Business Recovery & Insolvency, HR Services and Information Systems. We also focus on a range of industries and specialisations, including: Automotive, Agribusiness; Government & Public Sector, Healthcare, Not-for-Profit, Professional Services, Real Estate & Construction, Retail, Technology, Entertainment & Telecommunications; and Tourism, Sports & Leisure.

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