

SAND & STONE

The official magazine of the CMPA

- GEOTECHNICAL GUIDELINE
- MONITORING ELECTRICITY

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ISSUE 59

Oct/Nov 2011

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CONTENTS

COMMENTS

From the CMPA Secretariat, **Pg 5**

Bendigo Washed Sands, **Pg 7**

FEATURES

Aboriginal Heritage Act, **Pg 10-11**

DPI's Geotechnical Guideline, **Pg 12-13**

Monitoring your Electricity Supply, **Pg 14-15**

Use of Recycled Materials for Road Works, **Pg 17**

Changes to the use of Explosives, **Pg 18-19**

Draft Model Work Health & Safety Regulations, **Pg 21**

SAFETY

WorkSafe Blitz on Quarries, **Pg 22-23**

Working in Heat, **Pg 24-25**

EDUCATION

Reviewing CMPA Reference Manuals, **Pg 26**

Collect and Prepare Samples, **Pg 27**

BUSINESS

Festive Season Celebrations, **Pg 29**

MEMBERSHIP

Symphony Wire the screening surface specialist, **Pg 32-33**

A new direction at Galesafe Weighing, **Pg 34-35**

Civil Works Action at Victorian Expo, **Pg 36**

REGULARS

CMPA News.....	8-9
VLPA Update.....	28
DPI Update.....	31
Training & Events.....	37
Associates Directory.....	39





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General Manager makes the comment - It's time for action!

BRUCE MCCLURE, General Manager CMPA comments on the number of submissions provided to various bodies in Victoria.

GOVERNMENTS of all persuasions like enquiries, they like to be seen consulting with the community, they like to be seen to be looking at ways of improving the society that we live in. Yet there comes a time when we as a community need to see results, we need to see improvements. In the case of the extractive industry, the CMPA has been consistently discussing with the government departments ways of improving the mechanisms used to regulate the industry.

The CMPA has consistently pointed out during reviews major problems that will or have arisen from poorly thought out legislation. These are not limited to our own act, native vegetation, cultural heritage and planning policies and consequently are resulting in the sterilisation of extractive sites which will have major repercussions on Victoria's economy over the next fifteen to twenty years. One such issue that all members would be aware of is that of rehabilitation bonds. Since its inception, the CMPA has also openly stated that the current method of assessing and funding rehabilitation bonds is without foundation and not based on any historical problems, but simply what might happen, placing a major restraint on Member's business finances.

A quick review of our records shows that over the last five years from June 2006 to June 2011, the CMPA has reviewed, commented or provided a submission on 65 occasions to various bodies in Victoria. One presumes that most of these submissions have been considered by the relevant bodies, but there is very little to suggest this is the case when subsequent reports, recommendations were submitted to government without any reference or consideration of the comments from stakeholder groups like the CMPA.

There had been a trend developing in recent years where less and less of the concerns and issues raised by industry groups like the CMPA are being considered. I do not deny that there has been the opportunity to make comments, to suggest possible improvements, to be part of the

consultation process that governments like but unfortunately there has been very little evidence to show that the regulations and planning imposed has actually resulted in any improvements to process within the extractives industry. This is underpinned by the fact that over the last 5 years, only two Extractive Industry Work Authorities with rehabilitation bonds greater than \$50,000 have been issued where over the same time in excess of 240 million tonnes of product has been consumed.

We have a new state government in Victoria who has been in power just on twelve months. The CMPA discussed its concerns, especially the impacts on family businesses, with shadow ministers well in advance of the election in November 2010 but has been unavailable to discuss our members concerns with our minister since the new government election, despite a number of requests for a meeting. At present there is no clear evidence of policy change or improvement to the many restrictions on small family business in our industry in Victoria.

These concerns are not simply to aid the financial viability of the industry but are also being brought forward because of the concern that CMPA members have for the future of this state, for the future of their children whom most hope will be able to carry on in the industry. It is also about having an industry where there are fewer restrictions on entry for people who would like to develop an extractive industry business but cannot because of the costs, the departmental restrictions and the red tape.

It is time to see action; it is time to see decisions being made that will ensure that the extractives industry remains a viable component of Victoria's economy. ■



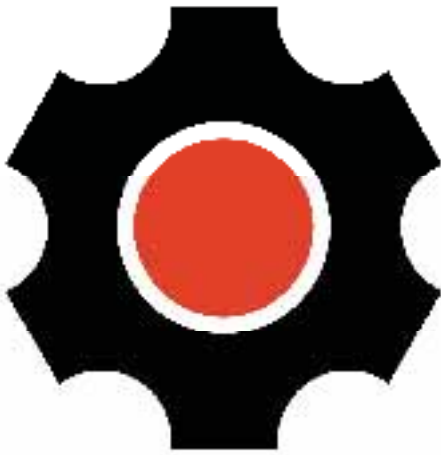
LAND TAX ON QUARRY SITES

The Secretariat was recently advised by a CMPA member that it appears that his quarry site may be subject to land tax imposed by the Victorian State Revenue Office. In this instance the land tax would amount to approximately \$44,000 per year and with at least a life of 50 years left in the quarry, this amounts to a considerable sum each year for the foreseeable future.

Discussions with CJ Ham & Murray Pty Ltd have indicated that they were aware that other quarries were being considered for land tax payments.

CJ Ham & Murray Pty Ltd has done some research on land tax implications on quarry sites, the exemptions that may apply etc and these details will be made available to the CMPA for further investigation.

The CMPA will further investigate this issue and will bring its findings back to all members in a future issue of the *Sand & Stone* magazine.



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Bendigo Washed Sands

GARY MCCLURE, reports on the history and development of Bendigo Washed Sands.

THE tertiary gravels of White Hills had long been exploited for gold and sand products as far back as the late 1850's. The gravel in Bendigo accumulated in situ as a result of high energy river systems that laid down broad sheets of the gravels draining north and north east from the central highlands.

Bendigo Washed Sands negotiated with Rocla Quarry Products to purchase the White Hills Amatek tertiary gravel quarry at Bendigo in 2000. The remaining stone reserves at the time of purchase were estimated at about 200,000 cubic meters within three work authorities; WA 10, 16 and 533 which was processed at the Powell Street processing plant (WA 16). The current plant is rated nominally at an annual production in the order of 65,000 cubic meters of aggregate and sand products.

The Rocla operation was established in 1976 and have provided washed sand and aggregate products to the Bendigo market since. Raw gravel feedstock has subsequently been exhausted from WA 10 and WA 533 and is now transported to Bendigo from our quarry at Guilford, south of Castlemaine (WA 326).

The White Hills tertiary gravel formation has been used for many years as a source of sand and gravel for building, road construction and general construction purposes. The sand and aggregate is used by the ready mix concrete industry, garden and landscape suppliers. The resource and plant site is significant, as it is less than 3 kilometres from the centre of Bendigo. The processing site consists of the plant area and associated process water and slimes dams with the remainder of the 12.96 hectare site containing product stockpiles and slimes drying areas. Approximately 75% of the

product is washed sand and 25% is washed aggregate including oversize that is crushed and screened to size.

Further resources of tertiary gravel exist on site; however these are unlikely to be exploited due to significant vegetation and historic values. Bendigo Washed Sands (formerly Malcolm McClure Pty Ltd) has been operating the Guildford Gravel Pit since June 1966. Prior to this, Malcolm McClure operated out of the Tarilta Pit until the former Newstead Shire took over this operation. An extractive industry Licence was granted to Malcolm McClure Pty Ltd in 1972 and this gravel pit has been operating continuously supplying gravel to our own washing plant in Castlemaine until its closure in 1989, various shires, VicRoads, private clients and in recent times to our operation in Bendigo.

Bendigo Washed Sands was created when the company bought the Rocla Quarry Products operation in Bendigo in 2000. Bendigo Washed Sands accelerated the cartage of raw tertiary gravel from Guildford when the supply of gravel from the quarry source at Bendigo was exhausted in 2009.

All the raw gravel resource to maintain our washed sand business in Bendigo is now carted in from Guildford using company owned vehicles and occasionally when demand requires, additional subcontract cartage. Over the last 4 years, an average of 46,200 cu.m. of gravel annually has been hauled from this pit.

Bendigo Washed Sands has been a member of the CMPA since its inception and appreciates the support and representation that the association gives its members over 11 years. ■

Pictured on the cover is Bendigo Washed Sands.



60 SECONDS WITH A VOTING MEMBER...

What is your name? Malcolm McClure
Who do you work for? I'm now retired but I started AP & MJ McClure Cartage Contractors in 1953 which later became Malcolm McClure Pty Ltd.

How many years have you been involved in the Industry? 46 years. I started in the business in 1949 working with my father Henry McClure in cartage contracting.

What is your role at the company? I was the company owner & business partner with my wife Phyllis.

What does your job involve? I ran all aspects of the business with my wife until our sons were able to take up management roles within the company.

What is the best part of your job? Watching a family business grow and develop.



CMPA NEWS

By CMPA SECRETARIAT

CMPA Secretariat provides an update of the latest news and happenings.

RECENT EVENTS

CMPA Associates Committee meeting was held at William Adams.

Gavin Moreira and Tej Panesar (TSP Group of Companies) visited the RACV Club, Healesville which is the proposed venue for the CMPA 2012 AGM and Dinner.

CMPA Management Committee meeting was held in Kilmore.

Bruce McClure attended a meeting with DPI regarding the Phase 1 components of the *Minerals Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 (MRSDA)* review.

CMPA members attended a peak Bodies Focus Group organised by Pricewaterhouse Coopers and a workshop organised by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria regarding a review of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

CMPA met with Adam Gordon (Orica), Chris Terry (Box Hill TAFE) and Doug Wyatt (Worksafe) regarding changes to the Shotfirers Renewal Course.

CMPA attended a meeting with DPI regarding Phase 2 of the *MRSDA* review to discuss the Lead Agency.

Gavin Moreira and Sean Kinder met with Noel Pickering (Box Hill TAFE) to discuss the updates to the *Work Safely Reference Manual*.

CMPA and Frank Santoro (Orica) met with WorkSafe Victoria to discuss possible changes to explosives guidelines and the proposed requirements for the blast management plans needed at quarry sites.

CHANGES IN MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AT DPI

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has announced changes in the management structure in the Earth Resources area of DPI.

Dr Mike Hollitt, Executive Director of DPI Earth Resources has taken up a strategic projects role within the Policy and Strategy Group of the Earth Resources Division in DPI as at 7 November 2011. DPI has indicated that in his new role Mike will be continuing important work on a number of earth resources projects.

As a consequence of the change, Doug Sceney has been appointed as acting Executive Director Earth Resources Development Division until further decisions are made about an appointment to that role. Andrew Radojkovic will be acting as Director Earth Resources Regulation Division until 28 November 2011 after which time further arrangements for that role will have been resolved and implemented.

A number of CMPA members have expressed concern at the recent changes and their impact on the industry. The Secretariat will be discussing the impact of these changes on the extractive industries with other industry associations.

WEBSITE UPDATE

The CMPA website holds a wealth of information on your Association. It has recently been updated with the latest information on:

- Annual Dinner DVD presentation,
- benefits of membership,
- the associate suppliers,
- details of the available reference manuals and safety checklists,
- back copies of *Sand & Stone* magazine,
- copies of all the CMPA submissions to Government representing members,
- latest training and events.

The CMPA is your association, make the most of your membership and use the available services.

DPI LEAD AGENCY ROLE

A recommendation of the *MRSDA* Review Phase 2 has been that DPI takes a lead agency approach. Although the policy papers from Phase 2 have not yet been released, the DPI has an internal group working on this lead agency role. The CMPA recently attended a meeting where the current status of the lead agency role was explained. The lead agency role is not currently recognised in legislation.

DPI is suggesting this role will provide clarity on facilitation services provided and is looking at a project management based approach. It is considering a scaled approach to facilitation and a process where clear information is available from a single point.

DPI is suggesting the system will promote efficient government decision making and is looking at web based application.

DPI also sees this role as a way of advocating for industry interests. The concept of a lead agency role will only work if it is supported with skilled staff (i.e. DSE, EPA, AAV, water, planning etc) which presently is not the case.

The CMPA is supportive of a Lead Agency role performed by government enabling the central management of Extractive Industry Work Authorities. This role involves leadership with objectives covering:

- A strong stand in encouraging the presence of multiple material supply options across markets;
- Identifying and strengthening the protection of future stone resources;
- Placing a monetary value for extractive reserves (i.e. accounting of native vegetation)
- Coordinating and tracking the EIWA process to its conclusion within committed timelines.
- Supports the essential nature of the extractive industries to the Victorian economy.

WORKSAFE VICTORIA'S EARTH RESOURCES

TRIPARTITE SAFETY FORUM

The Earth Resources Tripartite Safety Forum is run by WorkSafe Victoria (WSV) as a means of consulting more effectively with stakeholder organisations on occupational health and safety matters within the earth resources industries.

At the last meeting a number of subjects were discussed, including:

National Harmonised Health and Safety Laws

WSV stated that the State Government supports harmonisation but is concerned about the impact of the new regulations on costs and benefits to Victorian businesses. They were particularly critical of the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) process carried out by the Federal Government. The State believes that the RIS did not provide the state with accurate costs and other impost on businesses in Victoria. The State Government has engaged Price Waterhouse Coopers to do a study into costs of introducing harmonisation into Victoria. No firm dates as to when harmonisation may be introduced in Victoria (possibly 1 July 2012 or 1 Jan 2013). The Federal Government has indicated that it intends to press ahead with the harmonisation changes in January 2012 but two states Victoria and Western Australia have indicated that they will not join with the Commonwealth at present. WSV advised that once harmonisation regulations are passed into law in Victoria there would be a transition period but there are no details on how long at this stage.

WorkSafe Review of Fatigue Management in Mines Sector

A report was tabled by WSV on a review that they had carried out of fatigue management in the mines sector. The outcome of the report is that WSV does not propose to modify the oversight focus prioritisation for fatigue which will remain in the Earth resources three year strategy 2011-2014 as a hazard type.

WorkSafe's expectation is that fatigue management matters are negotiated between individual site workers including Health Safety Representative's and management relative to accepted industry standards. Should consultation not take place or a dispute arise the expectation is that the dispute resolution processes are engaged.

GROWTH CORRIDOR PLANS FOR MELBOURNE

The Growth Areas Authority has announced that the draft Growth Corridor Plans (GCPs) are now available for public comment following the consideration of a number of submissions that were received in November 2010 including one from the CMPA.

The GCPs set out the strategic plan for the future development of Melbourne's growth corridors over the next 20 to 30 years. They apply to all land brought into the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) in 2010, as well as some undeveloped land in the former UGB.

The CMPA in its November submission expressed three key concerns:

1. That the urban development is scheduled to occur through large tracts of Extractive Industry Interest Areas (EIIAs) and that consequently the EIIAs may be reduced as a result of this review.
2. That the future work authority sites identified and currently located within the UGB will not be sufficient to cater for the required quarry products needed in the UGB by 2030. This leads to the need for future resources of quarry products to be identified and the land reserved for this use.
3. The use of buffer zones. Although for some Work Authority sites it may not be possible for any development or activity to occur within the buffer zones, for others it may be possible subject to strict guidelines and the placement of compatible industries.

A second round of public consultation has now commenced and comment is sort on the draft GCPs proposed. The CMPA will review the draft CGCs and decide if a further submission is required.

2011/12 ASSOCIATES REFERENCE MANUAL

The 2011/12 Associates Reference Manual is finally complete and will be in the mail to you shortly. The manual is slightly larger than last year due to an increase in Associate Members taking up advertising and deciding upon taking out colour logos to brighten up their pages and stand out from the crowd.

Thank you to the twenty eight members who have taken out ads your support is greatly appreciated. Remember to Support the Suppliers who support you.

HEALESVILLE THE PLACE TO BE IN 2012!

The CMPA AGM & Dinner in 2012 heads to the Yarra Valley. On recommendations from members, a site visit to the RACV Club – Healesville was made. The visit involved a tour of the venue including the function rooms, bars, restaurants, accommodation, day spa suites and the picturesque golf course. A drive through the town was also made to get a feel for other events that could be held for members across the weekend.

Another successfully fun and exciting time is being planned for Healesville including additional activities for members to get involved. Breakfast, wine tours, visit to Healesville Sanctuary and the Annual CMPA Golf Event are just a few ideas being passed around.

The Secretariat welcomes your ideas and suggestions for things to do during the dinner and on the weekend. Event details at present are as follows:

Date: Saturday 25th August 2012

Time: 6.30pm AGM & Dinner

Venue: RACV Club - Healesville
Yarra Glen Rd, Healesville

Please book the date into your diary now as Healesville is a very popular destination. Look out for further information in future issues of *Sand & Stone*.



Aboriginal Heritage Act

BRUCE MCCLURE, CMPA General Manager reports on the review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* commenced operation on 28 May 2007. The original intent of the regulations was to provide for the effective protection and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria by, amongst other things, specifying the circumstances in which a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) is required, prescribing standards for the preparation of CHMPs, and prescribing a range of fees.

This new legislation substantially changed the management and protection of Aboriginal heritage in Victoria. Under the new Act (2006), the State has sole responsibility for its Aboriginal cultural heritage, whereas previously it was a combination of State and Federal legislation. The ultimate responsibility for issuing permission to disturb Aboriginal archaeological sites is the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Controls are no longer based on a Memorandum of Understanding and/or an archaeological report, but now through a CHMP required by the Aboriginal Heritage Act.

The Minister for Aboriginal affairs the Hon Jeanette Powell MP announced in September 2011 that a review of the 2006 act is to be carried out. It is a requirement of the act that a review has to be carried out by May 2012 to determine its efficacy and efficiency.

The CMPA wants to make it quite clear that the association infers no disrespect to the recognition of the country's heritage, and in particular aboriginal heritage. That has never been or will be an issue.

The CMPA has been publically stating for a considerable time that there are many serious issues that are becoming evident from the application of the 2006 regulations. It is one area that many of our members who are attempting to expand current sites, change or commence operations in a greenfields site are continually expressing considerable frustration and concerns with especially the time being taken to complete surveys, the considerable cost and the complete lack of predictability of results.

As part of the review a focus group and workshop have been conducted for or run by Aboriginal affairs Victoria to ascertain stakeholder concerns and issues with the current act. The CMPA was represented at both of these meetings and presented the concerns of members with the current act.

The CMPA has consistently stated its concerns, its member's frustration with the current act in numerous submissions to state government departments and parliamentary inquiries. The following is a summary of the CMPA's comments:

Balanced regulatory approach

- i. The Association infers no disrespect to the recognition of the country's heritage, and in particular aboriginal heritage.
- ii. A balanced approach to regulation of this important aspect of the State's culture will see respect for all parties.
- iii. It is not a sustainable argument that bestowing respect for earlier generations at the expense of future generations is a balanced regulatory approach.

Issues for the industry with cultural heritage

- i. Exceedingly High Compliance Costs
 - a. Requirements under the *AH Act* are exceedingly demanding, time-consuming to obtain, and the results are difficult to predict. Prior to this Act the typical cost for a cultural heritage assessment was in the range of \$3,000 to \$15,000. Since the Act the typical range is from \$40,000 to in excess of \$200,000 often with substantial future salvage costs to be incurred once development commences.
 - b. Case studies in *CMPA Unsustainable Future Report (UFR)* illustrate that the requirements add considerable cost for land use proponents where costs of compliance for the same site altered from \$5,600 under the former legislation to \$40,000 under the *AH Act* within only two years!
 - c. The initial costs of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria investigations were estimated by the Allen Consulting Group in their Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) to average \$4,250 for a desktop study (The Allen Consulting Group, 2007, Aboriginal heritage regulations 2007 regulatory impact statement).
 - d. In the same RIS, a complex study was predicted to cost from \$12,000 to \$100,000 (weighted average of \$31,575 - Allen Group). The average cost of a complex study within the UFR in 2009 was \$120,000. A complex study today involves estimated expenditure by a potential greenfield extractive developer of \$200,000 to \$300,000 plus! The demands have involved costs rising by more than 100% in 2 years!
 - e. Some of the areas where a compulsory CHMP is required include all dune sand deposits which have been a long utilised and a valuable construction material resource in this state. The cost of a CHMP (\$100,000 to \$300,000 plus) in the case of small regional businesses would make these resources unviable.
- ii. Unrealistically Long Resolution of Applications
 - a. Timely resolution to the approval process is not occurring under the existing regulations.
 - b. While the *AH Act* requires a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) to respond to an application for a permit within 30 days (s39) there are no timeframes around which applicants can expect a resolution of their request.
 - c. The Act is equally deficient with respect to CHMPs.
 - d. The upshot is that applicants are now waiting between 1.5 to 2 years for these matters to be finalised!
 - e. This in turn is causing excessive delays and large extra holding costs in progressing through the planning permit process.
 - f. Finally, there is no dispute resolution process available to proponents when they disagree with a decision made by a RAP apart from VCAT.

- iii. Unpredictability in the Assessment
 - a. Assessment of cultural heritage is not scientifically based and can be simply based on the 'feelings' of members of the local aboriginal community. We have examples of artefacts that after further investigation are shown to be from far more recent (European) activities.
 - b. The assessment process covers an excessively broad scope of potential artefacts compared with legislation in other states.
 - c. This unpredictability and subjective nature of the assessment process makes the purchase (or lease) of land for extractive operations a black hole for a proponent's risk capital that can quickly exhaust investment interest.
- iv. Property Devaluation
 - a. In cases where artefacts are found, the proposed use of the land for extractive resources is no longer possible resulting in a serious devaluation of the land's value
 - b. Furthermore, all information sourced by the proponent at their own considerable expense is required to be provided at no cost in full to the government
- v. Costs associated with cultural heritage legislation should be compensable
 - a. The regulatory demands of the cultural heritage legislation impose significant risks for landowners, and ownership no longer assigns rights to the landowner but shares these rights with potential claimants under the legislation.
 - b. In view of the impact of the cultural heritage requirements it is proposed that compensation clauses be inserted in the legislation so that a landowner can be compensated for monies spent in complying with the legislation merely to be able to conduct business for which the land was purchased. In these cases compensation should be set at the highest value use of the land.

These unjustified and unreasonable costs and delays clearly cannot be sustained and are only serving as a complete disincentive to investment in the State.

- i. The high cost and uncertainty of this process has forced the abandonment or curtailment of a number of extractive industry applications since the inception of this Act. This represents a hidden cost in lost opportunities and the extra cost incurred on reliance on more distant and expensive alternate supply sources.

There should be a survey of the incomes of the RAP's and all heritage consultants involved before and after the 2006 Act and Regulations. There should also be a review of the significance of the cultural heritage value of the discoveries resulting from the CHMP process to allow this Review of the costs and benefits of this Act to be soundly based.

In future there should be mandatory reporting of the cost and time taken for the preparation and approval of CHMP's and includes an estimate of future costs to meet salvage requirements. This would allow a realistic assessment of the cost/benefits of the Act to be undertaken in the future.

Adoption of the West Australian model where artefact scatters are not registered as sites would help reduce the costs of this process.

The use of Geological Survey Mapping to define areas of cultural heritage sensitivity needs to be reviewed as this mapping is often incorrect and the categories or classifications given may not relate to potential sensitive areas.

Consideration should be given in extractive sites to the fact that the soil material that might contain cultural material is often only temporarily displaced and then reinstated in the course of the extractive operations. ■

The CMPA has been consistent in its comments regarding the current Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and will be making a submission to the review of the 2006 Act.



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DPI'S GEOTECHNICAL GUIDELINE

BRUCE MCCLURE, CMPA General Manager provides an update on the Geotechnical Guideline being worked on by DPI.

THE Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is working on a *Geotechnical Guideline* which will be available to assist the extractive and mining industries in Victoria.

DPI is responsible for licensing quarries and mines in Victoria with a focus on public safety, the environment, and infrastructure. Victorian legislation requires that quarries and mines are operated, rehabilitated and closed in such a manner that they are safe, stable and in accordance with community expectations. DPI states that the intent of the guideline is to provide applicants seeking an extractive industry work authority or a mining licence with requirements of Victorian legislation applicable to slope stability. It is proposed that the document will be supplemented by the National Mine Safety Framework (NMSF) *Codes of Practice on Ground Control in Open Pit and Underground Mines* for sound geotechnical engineering practices for ground stability management. These *Codes of Practice on Ground Control in Open Pit and Underground Mines* (still in draft form) aim to provide practical guidance on how to ensure safety by taking adequate consideration of all ground control aspects relevant to the design, construction, operation and abandonment of quarries or mines.

It is proposed that this guideline will be specific to DPI's legislative requirements and therefore would not include any obligations which may be set out in other legislation.

The CMPA made a submission to DPI on the draft *Geotechnical Guideline* that was sent out to all stakeholders for comment. General comment was sort from a number of CMPA members on the draft guideline

and this information formed the basis of our submission to DPI. Shown below are a number of comments on the draft guideline provided by members that were sent to the DPI. These comments have been shown as they indicate the questions that members who run quarries have regarding the draft documentation. The CMPA also sent in comments marked up on a copy of the actual document itself. These comments indicated clarity concerns and gave advice on some areas of content in the document itself where the CMPA members thought some content was not correct.

The comments from all stakeholders and the Technical Review Board (TRB) have been considered. DPI is planning a rewrite of the document partly in response to industry comments but also due to the TRB comments and some major concerns they appear to have with the current draft. As part of this rewrite DPI are planning to introduce a new concept for all quarries and mines called the "Zone of Influence". No other details are available at present apart from the mention of the concept. DPI intends to release the revised draft document around Christmas this year but the CMPA did remind DPI that the industry closes down for a number of weeks over the Christmas period so it will be virtually impossible for associations to obtain comments from members during this period. The DPI aims to have the *Geotechnical Guideline* finalised by the end of February 2012.

In summary with documents like this *Geotechnical Guideline* all extractive industry members will have a valuable guide, a tool to enable them to plan for future activities on their sites with some confidence. There will always remain the need to consult with

specialists on specific issues but information that this guideline will provide will be of significant assistance.

CMPA COMMENTS:

- The guideline covers a number of areas already addressed in the Work Authority and/or Work Plan. It is important that such duplications are removed whenever possible to avoid disputes between proponent and the DPI inspectors.
- The guideline will become an unofficial requirement when reviewing applications and variations, and may result in the further sterilisation of available resources making some sites unviable to no value to the state.
- Applying the guideline to its letter will result in highly complicated pit designs once the applicant takes into account conditions being placed upon them by referral authorities including but not limited to DSE, CMAs, AAV, local council or VCAT. There is no clarification provided as to how to prioritise the guidelines if Work Authority or Work Plan conditions contradict the guidelines.
- The guidelines do not cover a sufficiently broad range of issues which impact upon slope stability and pit design. At present only geological and hydrogeological conditions are discussed in detail, however matters such as the method of extraction, climate, blasting or not blasting (very important consideration), type of equipment used and any outside influences all impact upon slope stability.
- Although reasonable in principle, the Ground Control Management Plans (GCMP'S) need to be tested by the DPI

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at a number of operations to ensure that implementation is straightforward and there is not unreasonable duplication between it and the Work Authority. Testing would also provide the DPI's inspectors an appreciation of the time it would take a site to develop and implement such a plan.

- The GCMP requires considerable data collection and analysis which is a new obligation for many smaller operations, and direction to assistance on this area needs to be provided.
- The guideline implies the Work Authority holder or their quarry manager will need to consult with an external expert at considerable cost concerning the ever-changing geological conditions on the site, and questions how this will tie in with explosives obligations especially if there were an incident as a result.
- The ongoing assessment and review of the site's compliance hasn't been discussed in suitable depth, which is of concern as resources very seldom remain consistent throughout their life. For instance, what consultation obligations would exist once the site is in operation and how frequently should the GCMP be revisited?

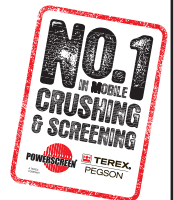


Geotechnical Slip

- The guideline documents acceptable designs for risk category 2 sites, but does not identify if this also applies to other categories. Furthermore, there are differences between this table and other similar tables published by the DPI in relation to rehabilitation bonds. It is essential that such contradictions are eliminated, and that such changes do not result in additional rehabilitation liabilities upon existing sites.
- The guideline shows a figure outlining the DPI's minimum crest and bench detail requirements for rehabilitation

and site closure. In it, it specifies a chainmesh security fence with 3 barbs as being the requirement for boundary fencing. Has this removed the option of an agricultural stock proof fence?

- Throughout the guideline, there are several terms and concepts (i.e. GCMP, stability management procedures) which are new particularly to the extractive industry and as such should have more clarification either by way of a glossary or examples. ■



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Monitoring your Electricity Supply

JAMES LANGLANDS, Concrete Plant Manager from Conundrum Holdings reports on the importance of owners and quarry managers monitoring their electricity supply.

As operators of fixed plant and equipment on various production sites, we are all aware that at some point in time the items used for processing product will involve the use of electricity - especially electric motors. Some plants rely totally on a generator on-site for power supply, others involve the use of electricity supplied by a provider from the grid and some involve a combination of both.

While it is important to monitor the electricity supply quality from a generator to avoid things like spikes and bad supply quality, those of us who use grid supplied electricity should now be thinking about monitoring a few extra things such as 'Power Factors' so that we are utilising the available power properly and not inadvertently breaching a contract with electricity suppliers. For users of large amounts of electricity in their production it is more cost effective to have an arrangement with a service provider called a 'Supply Contract' that sets out certain rules that both parties need to follow in order to have access to the wholesale electricity pool - (as opposed to paying a normal commercial power bill).

SUPPLY CONTRACT

When entering into a supply contract we need to understand that the provider will require information from us for many things, such as:

- How much maximum load the plant draws and for what periods of time it will use this?
- Where is the most power used in the system and how many electric motors contribute to this - the latter causing 'Power Factor' issues?

WHAT IS A 'POWER FACTOR'?

Well in basic terms, whenever electric motors and other 'Inductive' loads such as welders and large scale fluorescent lighting are used they all create inductive loads on the supply system. The nature of inductive loads requires a magnetic field to operate, and thus causes a circumstance where the current in the electricity falls out-of-phase with the voltage - sometimes known as 'Lag'. What this does is cause a situation of inefficiency within the supply system and therefore puts extra load on the supply - for example, if our power requirement by basic calculation is 500Kw and large inductive loads are present, then the electricity company may need to supply say 520KVA to the point of supply on your site just to keep up. This in-inefficiency is known as 'Power Factor' and occurs wherever there are large inductive loads present.

POWER SUPPLIERS

Suppliers of power have long battled this issue, as it means that they have to actually supply more power to your site than is actually needed due to the power factor being inefficient - it also means that their infrastructure needs to be bigger in order to cope. An electrical system that is 100% efficient has a power factor of 1.0 (known as Unity) and a system that is say 80% efficient has a power correction factor of 0.8 and so on. The Electrical Supply Regulations stipulate that private enterprise must maintain high power factors, around 0.9 before the supply company will seek compensation or penalties for the inefficiencies caused by your plant - they are paying to have extra power pushed up the line to you that you shouldn't really need.

POWER FACTOR CORRECTION

Power Factor Correction (PFC) should be done on-site as close to the source as possible, by using commercially (available units from several brand names) that are connected into the electrical system that use a series of capacitors/inductors to automatically compensate for power factor inefficiencies. Specialists in electrical installations can help with assessing individual sites' requirements. If this is not done then companies may be left exposed to harsh penalties imposed by the supplier often discovered by notice of a supply contract breach.

EFFICIENT USE OF POWER

Just as importantly it also means that as consumers we are efficiently using the available power and can therefore maximise the use of plant & equipment on-site. By knowing we can efficiently use a calculated and corrected value of power supplied to us we can set real values within the supply contract that should mean we don't fall into a situation where the agreed peak power usage is exceeded - a very costly circumstance. It also means that we have real values to use during negotiation of rates with a supplier.

In new plant design individual PFC units located at the source (motors) can ultimately reduce the associated cable size and infrastructure and thus may reduce the overall capital outlay for the project depending on the size of the application.



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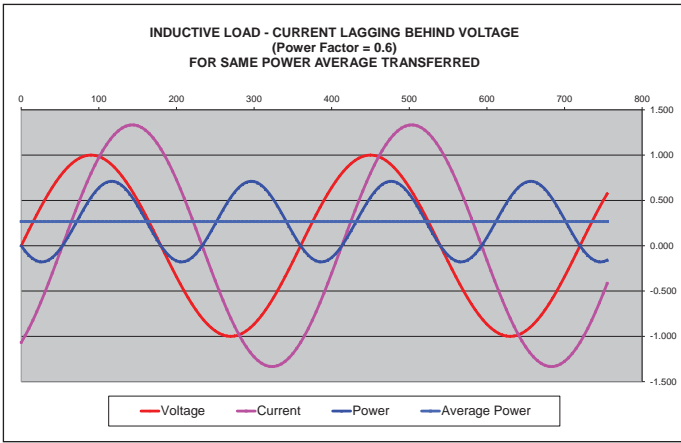
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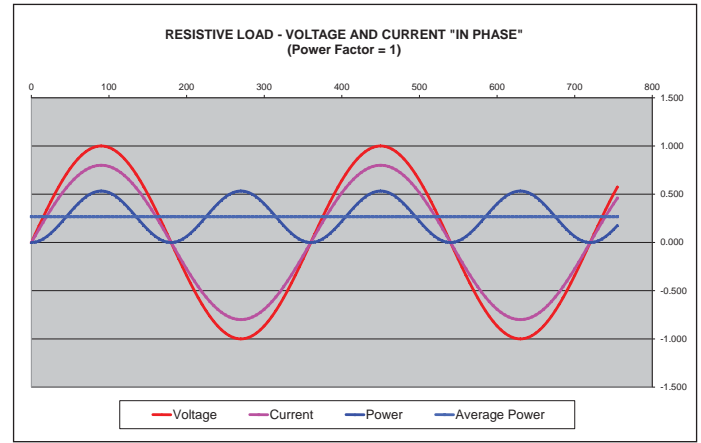
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Inductive Load – The graph above shows how bad Power Factors cause a lag between the voltage and current. Notice that while they are out-of-phase, they are still cycling at the same frequency and thus not directly damaging the motor being driven.

Other important things to monitor in relation to power supply are the quality of incoming power – so that you are getting exactly what you are paying for and know that if there is a blackout, whether the issue is on-site or not. For those with a Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) controlled plant it is also possible to monitor and log the on-site usage of power within the plant, track the history of this and collect the data so that trends can be ascertained by specialists. Analysis of this data can then be used to determine peak usage figures, times and durations so that through the PLC load shedding can occur where possible again to avoid breaching a supply contract or in some circumstances




Resistive Load – The graph above illustrates what happens to AC electricity supply flow without Power Factor influence.

(depending on your supply contract) save money by not using power during a peak usage period.


Some supply contracts can even forecast peak usage “Events” in advance that production planning times can be managed around to avoid paying a higher usage rate while the Event takes place.

It is worth giving the time to consider having the mains electricity on your site monitored by a qualified person and look at what options are available to you. At the very least, your site’s power factor should be looked at and if deemed appropriate have a correction unit installed so that you are not in breach of the regulations. ■




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Use of Recycled Materials for Road Works

BRUCE MCCLURE, CMPA General Manager reports on the use of recycled materials for road works.

OVER the last few years a number of CMPA members have become increasingly involved in the production of recycled materials for use in road building.

While Victoria has considerable sources of quality rock, accessibility to many of these sources is becoming more difficult due to factors such as planning issues, environment concerns (vegetation, native fauna) and the increasing urban spread of the Melbourne metropolitan area.

The establishment of new metropolitan based hard rock quarries or extensions to existing quarries are either very costly, take a very long time to obtain or as we are seeing occurring more frequently, simply not politically acceptable.



Stockpile of concrete building products

With the above pressures on supply in Melbourne the use of recycled materials is being more and more acceptable. VicRoads specifications now allow the use of a range of recycled products supplied by sources accredited by VicRoads in accordance with VicRoads Code of Practice for Source Rock Investigations to be utilised in road pavements.



Stockpile of old concrete kerbing

Recycled products allowed include water, surface spills; crushed concrete, reclaimed asphalt pavement crumbed rubber and crushed brick, tiles, glass and white wares.

It needs to be noted that only materials from a VicRoads accredited source can be used for VicRoads works.

VicRoads has put out a Technical Note number 107 which deals with the use of recycled materials for road construction. The Technical Note discusses in some detail two of the most commonly used recycled materials namely, crushed concrete and Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP). It also discusses pavement applications and registration of mix designs.

Also in this note is a table named Guidance Matrix for Road Construction Materials. The table sets out various criteria that apply for the use of recycled materials as an alternative material for an actual crushed rock product and also specifies permissible percentages of recycled materials that can be used as supplementary materials.

For example for Unbound Granular pavements and for a 20 mm Class 2 crushed rock supply, a 20 mm Class 2 crushed concrete product can be utilised provided that the material is being used on a road with a design traffic load of less than 3 X 10⁶ equivalent standard axles.

This Technical Note is a welcome addition to the supply of materials for road construction. It gives CMPA members who either use their own plant on site to produce recycled products or bring in mobile plant to crush products stored on their own sites, some certainty on what is required. It also sets standards that can be adopted by municipalities and other government departments on their projects. ■



Stockpile of Recycled Asphalt Pavement

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Changes to the use of Explosives

BRUCE MCCLURE, CMPA General Manager provides an update to changes to the use of explosives in the extractives industry.

WORKSAFE Victoria (WSV) has implemented over the last twelve months a number of changes to the use of explosives in the extractives industry.

The major change was with the adoption of the *Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations 2011* which came into effect from the 26th June 2011. It should be noted that there is a twelve month transition period where any activity that is carried out complying with the *Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations 2000* will remain lawful for twelve months after the new regulations come into effect.

One aspect of the use of explosives that has changed is that blast management plans are now mandatory rather than just recommended for all people with a licence to use blast explosives.

To help all users of explosives two guidance notes have been released by WSV. These are 'blast management plans' and 'safe distances when using explosives'.

Some of the content in the 'safe distances when using explosives' guidance note has resulted in considerable concern from a number of CMPA members with considerable experience in the use of explosives. It is believed by these members that the information contained on this guideline could lead to serious injury to people

and damage to property if used without the caution gained by experience and an understanding of all the factors that need to be considered when planning your blast. The main concern is with the stemming lengths shown for various blast hole diameters and evacuation distances. If simply applied as shown on the guidance note without consideration of a number of factors, this could have serious consequences.

The issue was highlighted to WSV at the CMPA Blast Management Workshop held on 21st October 2010 where participants had over 1040 years of combined experience in using explosives.

Members of the CMPA met recently with officers from WorkSafe where the 'safe distances when using explosives' guideline and other issues were discussed. The WorkSafe officers have agreed to revisit this guideline.

Another concern raised at the meeting with the 'safe distance when using explosives' guidance note was that CMPA members felt that the notes did not provide enough information within the general blasting area, that is, roadwork's, subdivisions, pipelines to name but a few. One of the CMPA members present at the meeting stated that he will send information to WSV that can be used as part of the guidelines.

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"Building quality relationships with clients"

The CMPA has been working with members and WSV for the last few months to produce a 'Magazine management safety checklist' and a 'Shotfirers blast management book'.

These documents are close to finalisation and it is proposed to send twenty or so copies out to members for them to trial. The WSV were impressed by the documents and see great merit with them. There will be further work done by the CMPA to see what needs to be incorporated in existing documentation or new documentation developed to cover the mandatory need for a blast management plan.

A couple of other topics discussed at the meeting with WSV Officers included treatment of misfires and the mandatory five year renewal of the shotfirers licence. Further comments on these issues and those discussed above will be provided in future additions of *Sand & Stone* when comments are received back from WSV on CMPA concerns expressed at this meeting.

The meeting with the Officers from WorkSafe Victoria and CMPA members was most informative and shows good cooperation between the Department and the CMPA. It is intended that future meetings will be held with WorkSafe to achieve documentation and outcomes that are beneficial for all parties involved. ■

Sequence of photos to the right capture before, during and after a blast at Allstone Quarries, Newbridge

Many thanks to CMPA members who provided comments on the guidelines especially Frank Santoro from Orica Australia and Ron Kerr from Conundrum Holdings Pty Ltd.



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DRAFT MODEL WORK HEALTH & SAFETY REGULATIONS FROM SAFE WORK AUSTRALIA

BRUCE MCCLURE, CMPA General Manager reports on the draft Model Work Health and Safety Regulations to Safe Work Australia.

IN September this year the CMPA made a submission to Safe Work Australia on the proposed draft model work health and safety regulations and code of practice – mining. Our submission was quite detailed and made a number of pertinent points that showed quite conclusively the impact on our members.

At the outset it's important to make the point that the CMPA considers work place health and safety is of fundamental importance to extractive operations. The fact that many of our members operate family owned businesses means that safety of all people working in their quarries is of particular importance. The safety record of our industry in Victoria is very good and improving. However, any injury is one too many and regarded as a failure by the industry.

The comments in this response aim to provide Safe Work Australia with information about one of the industries that the proposed Model Regulations will apply to and impact on – the extractive industry in Victoria. The response will also provide a brief outline of the industry specific regulation of our industry, a discussion about harmonisation and the RIS process and finally it will provide comments about specific regulations contained in the draft Model.

In the CMPA submission the following specific points were stated:

1. The structure of the extractive industry in Victoria is characterised by a large number of small, family-owned and operated businesses, a large number of medium sized businesses and a very small number of large businesses;
2. The extractive industry in Victoria, like extractive operations in other States, is subject to specific industry legislation.
3. No new regulatory imposts should be introduced unless it can be demonstrably shown that workplace safety is deteriorating. Supporting this position, it is recommended that any harmonisation be undertaken on the principle that it will not impose any additional regulatory requirements on businesses.
4. It is of considerable concern that the draft Model Regulations have been given in-principle endorsement by the Ministerial Council without assessment of the costs and benefits and impacts for industry. This is blind policy development and has no regard for the drivers of the economy.
5. The proposed Model Regulations apply a one-size-fits-all approach to mining and extractive sectors resulting in management systems not being proportional to the risks in the workplace. The regulation of these two industries should be separate.
6. The draft Model Regulations lack coherence and duplicate existing industry-specific regulations over the extractive industry in Victoria. For these controls the industry should therefore be exempt from the Model Regulations.
7. Many of the new requirements, such as the WHS management system, the Principal Mining Hazard Management Plan, emergency management and mine survey, may impose unwarranted cost impositions for small and medium extractive businesses for no apparent benefit.
8. It should be noted that in Victoria the extractive industry sits within the Construction and Utilities Program WorkSafe Victoria whereas the mining industry sits within the Hazard Management Program WorkSafe Victoria.
9. Harmonisation is a useful initiative for the Australian economy but the benefits accrue mainly to businesses that operate across State borders not for most small to medium sized extractive operations.
10. The planned introduction of the Model Regulations 1 January 2012 is unworkable. Introduction should be undertaken with Federally-funded education of the new arrangements, a Code of Practice for small quarries, along with funding for the costs of compliance with any new requirements. The CMPA is prepared to assist with the development of the education system, the Code and assessing the compliance costs.
11. A major flaw in the proposals for introduction of the Model Regulations is the lack of any assessment of the cost implications for the industry, the enforcement regime and funding model anticipated and the associated costs for Governments.

At this stage the CMPA has had no feedback from Safe Work Australia regarding our submission but we are aware that they did receive it. The association will keep members up to date on the latest Safe Work Australia harmonisation details as soon as we become aware of them. ■



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WorkSafe Blitz on Quarries

ASHLEY BRAKEN, Project Officer, WorkSafe Victoria reports on the safety inspections on Victorian quarries.

WORKSAFE is continuing its program of targeted health and safety inspections of Victorian quarries. A significant number of quarry inspections have already been carried out this financial year, and WorkSafe is on target to complete 450 inspections by year's end. WorkSafe will be issuing improvement and prohibition notices to ensure compliance, so it is important that you get your workplace in order before WorkSafe arrives.

TYPICAL ISSUES

The inspections undertaken so far this financial year have resulted in notices being issued for a wide range of health and safety issues; however, the typical issues that are being identified relate to:

- **Plant (both static and mobile)**

By far the most common health and safety issue in quarries, plant is typically found to pose a risk to workers due to inadequate guarding; inadequate maintenance; damaged/old plant being used past its design life; or poorly secured plant (keys left in ignition etc.).

- **Electrical Equipment**

Electrical equipment was found to pose a risk in several quarry sites due to inadequate testing, inspection and tagging; and due to the fact that electrical cables were running along the ground outside.

- **Provision of Amenities**

Where amenities were found to pose a risk was typically due to inadequate provision of toilets and dining facilities for workers.

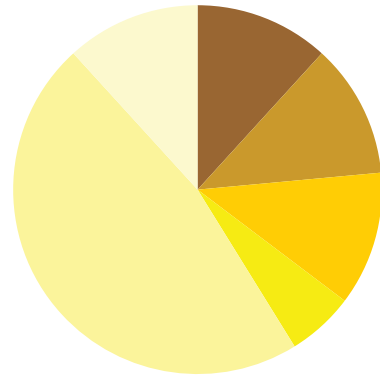
- **Emergency Response Facilities**

Generally emergency response facilities throughout the quarries were found to be adequate, with good emergency response procedures in place. However, where the emergency response facilities were found to be a risk was typically due to inadequate testing and tagging of fire extinguishers, and in one instance, due to the fact that there were no qualified first aiders at the site.

- **Exposure to Asbestos**

Asbestos pipes were observed at several quarry sites during these visits. The pipes were uncovered and susceptible to weathering and potential damage/fragmentation. Workers were not protected or separated from the asbestos pipes.

PROPORTION OF WORKSAFE NOTICES ISSUED FOR QUARRY SITES



- Amenities
- Asbestos
- Electrical Equipment
- Emergency Response Facilities
- Plant - Combined Issues
- Various Other Issues

- **Various Other Issues**

During this period notices were also issued for the following: falls from height; workers exposed to silica dust; manual handling risks; explosives housekeeping and signage issues; hot work issues (lack of welding procedure); and traffic movements/access.

A small number of these matters have been dealt with through voluntary compliance; however, the vast majority resulted in WorkSafe issuing improvement or prohibition notices to ensure compliance. Failure to comply with these notices may result in prosecution and significant fines. A prohibition notice can also result in production delays (e.g. through closure of a piece of plant); however, this can be avoided if the risks are identified and controlled prior to the arrival of WorkSafe.



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REPORTED INCIDENTS

Further to the health and safety risks identified by WorkSafe during inspector visits, there were two quarry related health and safety incidents reported to WorkSafe during this period.

The first related to a worker who had suffered a musculo-skeletal spinal injury while operating a front end loader. The second related to a worker being accidentally hit on the finger with a sledge hammer whilst preparing steel formwork for a concrete pour.

Quarry owners and operators should work proactively to identify and address health and safety risks in their workplaces to provide a safe workplace for their employees and reduce the risk of such injuries.

When requested, WorkSafe can assist employers to identify possible health and safety solutions; however, it is ultimately the responsibility of the employer to control health and safety risks. Employers should also note that your employees usually possess the knowledge and experience necessary to design the most practicable solutions, and should be consulted during development of any health and safety risk control measures.

Get your workplace in order before WorkSafe calls! ■

Further information

WorkSafe Industry Guide – Your health and safety guide to Quarries

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Working in Heat

Heat illness can result from working outdoors in hot weather or working where heat is generated as part of the work. This Guidance Note from WORKSAFE VICTORIA provides practical advice for employers and employees on heat illness, related health and safety problems and actions/measures that can be taken to prevent or minimise the likelihood of heat illness.

Background

Heat illness covers a range of medical conditions that can arise when the body is unable to properly cope with working in heat. These conditions include:

- heat stroke - a life threatening condition that requires immediate first aid and medical attention
- fainting
- heat exhaustion
- heat cramps
- rashes (also called 'prickly heat')
- heat fatigue
- worsening of pre-existing illnesses and conditions.

Signs and symptoms of heat illness include feeling sick, nauseous, dizzy or weak. Clumsiness, collapse and convulsions can also be the result of heat illness. Employees with these signs or symptoms need to seek immediate medical attention. The *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* requires employers to provide and maintain, so far as is reasonably practicable, a working environment for employees that is safe and without risks to health and safety. This applies to any risk to health and safety, including illness from working in heat.

What's the risk of heat illness occurring?

As with any other risk to health and safety, there are several factors employers need to consider when determining if there is a risk of heat illness to employees and ways to protect

them. In assessing and controlling risks, employers must consult with employees likely to be exposed to heat as well as with their health and safety representatives, if any.

Identifying heat illness hazards

Air temperature alone cannot be used to determine whether there is a risk of heat illness. The key risk factors that need to be taken into account are:

- air temperature
- humidity (in the environment or workplaces such as laundries and mines)
- radiant heat (from the sun or other sources such as furnaces and ovens)
- air movement or wind speed
- workload (nature of the work and duration)
- physical fitness of the worker (including acclimatisation and any pre-existing conditions e.g. overweight, heart/circulatory diseases, skin diseases or use of certain medicines)
- clothing (including protective clothing such as overalls, coveralls and suits worn during insecticide spraying).

People who work indoors and sit a lot, such as office employees, are unlikely to suffer heat illness (see 'heat discomfort').

Is there a risk of heat illness?

If there is a concern or uncertainty about heat illness occurring at work, a risk assessment may be needed. Because

life threatening situations may arise and specialised measurements may be needed, the assessment should be carried out by a person competent in heat assessment.

The risk assessment should include an appropriate heat stress index. A commonly used and recognised index is the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT). The WBGT takes into account air temperature, radiant heat, humidity and air movement. Adjustments are also made to take into account such things as physical workload, clothing and work organisation.

If the assessment indicates a risk of heat illness occurring, employers need to put control measures in place. Employees considered at risk due to factors such as pre-existing conditions should be assessed by a doctor.

Preventing heat illness

Engineering type controls are an effective way of preventing or minimising heat illness. Examples include:

- increasing air movement using fans
- installing shade cloth to reduce radiant heat from the sun
- installing shields or barriers to reduce radiant heat from sources eg. furnaces
- removing heated air or steam from hot processes using local exhaust ventilation
- installing air conditioners to reduce air temperature and generate air movement
- locating hot processes away from people
- insulating/enclosing hot processes/plant



- isolating employees from the hot process by locating them in air conditioned rooms.

Risk can be reduced by reducing workload.

Options include:

- rescheduling work so hot tasks are performed during the cooler part of the day
- wearing light clothing that still provides adequate protection
- reducing the time spent doing hot tasks (e.g. job rotation)
- use more employees to complete the job
- providing extra rest breaks in a cool area
- using mechanical aids to reduce physical exertion.

Measures for controlling heat illness include:

- keeping people away from hot processes
- allowing employees to acclimatise
- providing cool drinking water near the work site
- providing PPE such as reflective aprons and face shields for reducing exposure to radiant heat. Outdoor workers should be provided with protection against ultraviolet exposure, such as wide brim hat, loose fitting, collared shirt and long pants, sunglasses and sunscreen.

- providing employees with information, instruction and training on recognising heat-related illness and on first aid. Adequate supervision of employees will also be required

- providing first aid facilities and access to medical help.

If symptoms occur, employees need to rest in a cool, well-ventilated area and drink cool fluids. If symptoms do not reduce quickly, seek medical help. Employers should plan ahead and ensure all the necessary measures for preventing heat illness can be implemented when hot weather is predicted.

Related health and safety problems

Apart from heat illness, hot working conditions may either contribute or cause other health/safety problems, for example:

- loss of grip while handling tools, objects and controls due to sweaty hands
- slips, trips or falls due to fainting/fatigue
- errors/mistakes due to heat fatigue
- not following safe work procedures or cutting corners due to fatigue/discomfort
- not using PPE due to discomfort
- burns from hot surfaces/substances.

Heat discomfort

Heat discomfort is what many people feel when it is hot. It is not a medical condition like heat illness and therefore is not considered a risk to health. People who work in office type environments and who do very little physical work are unlikely to be at risk of suffering heat illness. What they experience as a result of higher temperature and increased humidity is likely to be heat discomfort. Heat discomfort can generally be managed by:

- increasing air movement
- providing access to cool water
- wearing suitable light, loose fitting clothing

Thermal comfort is subjective, but generally, conditions considered comfortable for people working indoors and doing light work are:

- air temperature (dry bulb temperature) 23 to 26 deg C
- relative humidity 30 to 60 per cent. ■

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 Email: info@worksafe.vic.gov.au
 Website: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au



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Reviewing CMPA Reference Manuals

SEAN KINDER, CMPA Documentation Officer reviews the CMPA Reference Manuals.

IT has been a big year in education, with SkillsDMC requesting major updates to training materials to coincide with the revised compliance documentation and legislation amendments.

The first of the manuals to be changed have been the Work Safely (containing OHS Policies and Procedures and Conduct Local Risk Control) and Cut, Weld and Bend Manuals (formally known as the Perform Basic Cutting and Welding training manual); with particular assistance from Toby Corbett and Carl Hussell of Quantec Solutions, Tony Corra from AllSteel Processing and Noel Pickering and Chris Terry of Box Hill Institute of TAFE.

Due to some legislation changes and amendments, all manuals are being updated with the latest acts, regulations and Australian Standards, including the *Minerals Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*, which has replaced the *Extractive Industries Development Act 1995*. Manuals with multiple Australian Standards have had informative tables inserted into the Appendices, to be used as referral tools. Glossaries of common words and phrases have been added to aid with the learning of theory and increasing relevant vocabulary.

CUT, WELD AND BEND MATERIALS

Oxy-Acetylene cutting and welding as a process and technique has changed very little in the last decade. However; due to the numbers of hot working incidents, safety is always an issue and therefore there have been some newer sections added to the manual including:

- improved fire safety
- explosions and radiation
- electric shock
- manual handling and
- slips, trips and falls.

These added and improved sections were all included to comply with the recently produced *Metal Welding Safety Guidance Notes*. This has resulted with some sections within the reference manual being re-ordered to improve the clarity and fluency of reading. Most importantly however, is the new task on heating and bending metal using oxy-acetylene welding unit. This detailed task goes through a safe step-by-step procedure on how to bend a flat length of steel correctly.

WORK SAFELY

Working safely is an ongoing priority at the forefront of all industries in Australia. With this in mind, there have been several major changes in the reference manual, including the additions of material such as:

- correct and efficient guarding techniques
- alarm systems
- Materials safety data sheet (MSDS) information and
- a list of some of the types of risks encountered on site.

This is combined with elaborations on consultations, correct cable tie usage as guarding, an improved and a more informative risk matrix, and extra information on quarry faces, due to the recent release of Worksafe Victoria's compliance documentation, *Preventing Falls from Quarry Faces*.

Updated material in the manuals has been researched thoroughly, including visiting quarries and speaking with site managers, reading various journal articles and attending various trade shows such as Safety in Action 2011, Austech and National Manufacturing Week and Asia-Pacific International Mining Exhibition in Sydney, to examine the newer safety and workshop technology.

The next set of Combined Crushing and Screening, Conduct Screening and Conveying Operations and Conduct Crushing Operations reference manuals are currently being finalised and should be ready and reprinted by the beginning of next year.

A Processing Outcomes section is now being included in all new reference manuals (excluding Work Safely). This is used to demonstrate what sorts of outcomes should be expected of the task and this is followed by a generic site and task leaving procedure.

The majority of added and enhanced sections are based on recommendations by quarry operators. ■

If there is any feedback or recommendations for future training manuals, please contact the CMPA Secretariat.



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Collect and Prepare Samples

BRUCE MCCLURE, General Manager of the CMPA reports on the Collect and Prepare Samples course.

OVER the last few years it has become evident from CMPA members requests that the extractive industry required a course that enabled quarry personal to collect product samples on site either for confirmation of the products and/or for further compliance testing.

This is a very important issue for many members who have sites remote from testing laboratories and/or do not have testing facilities on site. To be able to sample products by your own staff and send them to laboratories for processing not only reduces costs but also enhances and improves the supply of product.

The CMPA has been in discussion with a number of providers regarding the provision of a course over a number of years but it has been difficult to find a provider prepared to invest time and resources into an area that is seen by many to have insufficient numbers to justify the effort.

As a consequence of representation by industry and the CMPA, the Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE (BRIT) has developed a "Collect and Prepare Samples" course which will allow sampling to take place at a quarry site for testing at an authorised laboratory either on or off site. The course has been developed with assistance and advice from Vic Roads and from members of the CMPA. Discussions regarding the course have also been held with NATA who had no concerns with the course provided that it meets the requirements of VicRoads.



Group photo of attendees on the Collect & Prepare Samples course



Practical component of the course on site at Allstone Quarry

BRIT is also developing a "Conduct Laboratory Based Acceptance Test on Construction Materials" course that will be available early next year and will be beneficial for all members who have at least a basic testing laboratory facility on site and this course can be used to train and gain qualifications for staff members.

It should be noted that both of the above courses are being developed in a way to ensure that they meet the criteria required for compliance for two units of the Certificate III qualification in Surface Extraction Operations. The courses are therefore part of a career structure for employees.

The first "Collect and Prepare Samples" course was run recently in Bendigo and fourteen personnel attended. As one would expect from a pilot course there were a few teething problems which will

need to be addressed. Feedback from the majority of the people attending the course indicated that they were reasonably happy with it but most also indicated a number of areas where they felt changes were needed.

One interesting aspect that this course has highlighted is the direction that many courses conducted for certificate training are going. There were a number of people who attended the course who had no prior learning or experience and therefore expected to be actually taught how to sample. Conversely, a number of people on the course did have training and experience in sampling and therefore were really only there to receive confirmation and recognition of their prior learning. This raises a real issue for all involved in the extractive and mining industries as one needs to ask who in the future will teach the skills needed to take relevant samples in accordance with the Australia Standard if a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) is only there to certify competence due to prior learning. BRIT is the only educational provider providing any course in Victoria appropriate to site sampling.

Following discussion between the CMPA and BRIT, future courses will be structured so that both site sampling training and laboratory based acceptance testing training plus recognition of prior learning will be catered for. BRIT personnel intend to ensure that they have a greater understanding of the people attending the course and their requirements well before any future course. It may also be the case that there will be precourse study for some who have no prior training but the exact details are yet to be finalised. One comment that was made by most participants is that the course should be run entirely at a quarry site and not in a class room in the town or city with participants only going to an actual site for the practical component of the course. This comment is seen as having considerable merit and will be adopted where possible.

The positive attitude that BRIT has adopted and their intention to incorporate many of the comments from the course participants is excellent and shows that BRIT is responsive to the needs of the industry. The CMPA has been assured that the next course will reflect these comments and the industry will be the better for it. The CMPA intends to remain an active partner in the development of this and other courses that our members need. ■

VLPA Update

PETER MCCLUSKY provides an update on the Victorian Limestone Producers Association.

AGM AND CONFERENCE

The VLPA's AGM and conference was held at the City Memorial Bowls Club Warrnambool Bowling Club on Friday 18th November 2011. A number of important issues on the agenda were the increasing interest from government through the Commonwealth's "Caring for our Country" program filtering through to Catchment Management Authorities and with ultimate benefits available to the lime industry.

Other important topics include the fuel rebate system and how we might be affected under carbon tax legislation, future scenarios for water availability in the important markets for lime in the Murray-Darling Basin, government recommendations for heavy metal testing relating to variations in geology and end use.

More detailed information will be provided in the Dec / Jan issue of *Sand & Stone*.

ACID FIELD DAYS

A further field day was held in the Bass Coast area in late November where VLPA worked with Bass Coast Landcare and DPI to publicise the importance of using lime to combat acidic soils and raise pH in the region.

This followed on from two very successful field days at French Island and Poowong North covering the subjects of soil pH and soil carbon in which VLPA recently worked with Westernport Catchment Landcare Network. ■



Site Photo – Tyrone Quarry



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Festive Season Celebrations

VECCI Manager, ALEXANDRA MARRIOTT reminds us to ensure that the festive season remains a time of cheer.

With many workplace end of year celebrations kicking off soon, VECCI has developed a guide for employers and employees to ensure what happens at the office party does not come back to haunt them. VECCI Manager – Workplace Relations Policy, Alexandra Marriott, says the work end of year party is generally considered an extension of the workplace and therefore employers’ and employees’ obligations remain, ranging from OHS to Equal Opportunity and compliance.

Ms Marriott says end of year functions or parties are a great way for organisations to celebrate staff achievements and share the joys of the season.

“But the mix of the festive spirit, party atmosphere and consumption of alcohol can lead to questionable behaviour and impaired judgement,” says Ms Marriott.

“Over the years there have been cases of WorkSafe ruling that employers are liable for incidents that happen at or following work functions.

“Employers also need to be wary about issues that may arise under Equal Opportunity legislation such as sexual harassment or offensive behaviour in the form of inappropriate jokes, an ill-thought out Christmas gift or other forms of inappropriate behaviour.

“Employees need to ensure that they avoid liability by taking reasonable steps to prevent such incidents from occurring,” says Ms Marriott.



VECCI suggests the following actions for employers:

- Reiterate workplace policies with staff
- Ensure you are in a position to stop service if necessary and supply low or non-alcoholic beverages.
- Make sure you provide a way for people to get home safely.
- Make sure you serve plenty of food and make sure it’s served according to applicable food safety standards.
- Make sure someone monitors safety hazards at the venue.
- Remind all staff about the standards of behaviour expected and the disciplinary consequences of failing to meet those standards.

VECCI suggest the following actions for employees:

- Keep consumption of alcohol to reasonable and responsible levels

- Familiarise yourself with your workplace policies such harassment or discrimination policy
- Plan ahead as to how you will safely get home
- If any hazards eventuate during the event make sure venue management is informed so something can be done about it

“End of year parties and functions are a fantastic way to celebrate the year’s achievements but it’s important for everyone to remember that they are extension of the workplace and the normal rules remain,” says Ms Marriott. ■

For information about how you can prepare for your workplace’s end of year function, visit: www.vecci.org.au or contact Lizzie Trethewey, VECCI Senior Communications Adviser on 03 8662 5310 / 0423 883 945 / ltrethewey@vecci.org.au

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DPI Update

IAN MCLEOD, Manager Minerals and Extractive Operations, Melbourne District, reports on current projects.

DPI WEBSITE GETS ITS OWN YOUTUBE!

Visitors to the DPI website now have instant access to around one hundred and eighty videos that live in the various sections and sub-sections of the site. Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Energy and Earth Resources are listed in their respective categories, but can be found using a simple search function.

Earth resources videos can be found at:

www.dpi.vic.gov.au/about-us/publications/video-library/earth-resources

EXCISE PORTIONS OF LAND

The Melbourne District has received a number of requests to excise portions of land from work authorities recently. Requests are usually made when the owners of the land wish to develop some of the Work Authority land or adjacent land for construction purposes or land-filling. DPI's current policy requires that areas proposed to be excised are:

- i) *Rehabilitated in accordance with the approved work plan and meet Council's requirements;
- ii) Appropriately fenced to prevent unauthorised access to ongoing quarrying activities; and
- iii) Provided with separate road access.

** Note: Any site (or part of a site) that is proposed to be land-filled with waste materials must be rehabilitated to a safe and stable condition and be covered by an EPA Waste Discharge Licence.*

INFORMATION DAYS

The Earth Resources Regulation Branch recently held five information days throughout Victoria to provide the mining and extractive industries with new policy, regulatory developments and documents released during the past year.

The main legislative change that will impact on the extractive industry sector is the statutory endorsement of work plans which will be introduced on 1 February 2012. This new process was requested by extractive industry operators to streamline the approvals process.

The current process requires DPI to refer work plans to relevant agencies prior to endorsing them as having sufficient technical merit to support a planning permit application. Council planners are then required to conduct referrals, some of which have already been undertaken by DPI. The statutory endorsement of the work plan will significantly improve the process by eliminating the duplication of referrals by Councils.

AUDIT PROGRAM

DPI's six-monthly targeted auditing program is about to resume. A total of ten targeted audits (comprising pest animal, plant and hydrocarbon storage) are planned to be undertaken at extractive industry and mining sites in each of the five districts before the end of December this year.

Consequently, this is a timely reminder to operators to review the status of these matters before the audits are undertaken. In addition, with summer approaching it is recommended that operators ensure that dust suppression methods are checked and are functioning properly.

Information regarding dust suppression is available from:

www.cmpavic.asn.au/downloads/F-PAS-97.pdf



Site Photo – Violet Town Quarry

STAFF NEWS

John Mitas has been managing the Department's response to the ground movement at Morwell which resulted in the temporary closure of the Princes Freeway. The freeway was reopened on 21 September 2011 following an extensive remedial road works program. John resumed his normal duties as General Manager Minerals and Extractive Operations on 30 October 2011 and will continue to manage the Department's involvement with future remedial works at Morwell.

Sian Harris joined the Sustainable Development Unit in August to work in the Environment Management Group. Sian was previously employed by the New South Wales Office of Water at Newcastle.

Lionel Woodford will be commencing work as an Inspector of Mines in the Melbourne District on 5 December 2011. Lionel is currently a Biosecurity Officer with DPI at Ballarat. ■

Symphony Wire the screening surface specialist

JON HOWELL of Symphony Wire provides a report on the screening specialists.

SYMPHONY Wire is a specialist supplier of the full range of screening surfaces. It takes pride in assisting quarry managers and screening plant operators in selection and supply of the most appropriate screen surfaces for their specific screening applications and material deposits.

Symphony Wire draws on its broad technical and screening experience and works closely with producers to solve screening problems and fine tune their screening operation with a major focus on maximising product quality and product throughput (maximum saleable product tonnes on trucks).

IN THE BEGINNING?

Prior to founding the business, Symphony Wire's managing director Marc Howell spent 20 years in the screening and mining

industry. The majority of this time was spent designing screening plants and developing new screen surface innovations as well as improving current screen surface technology. In 1992 Marc started his own business Symphony Wire Pty Ltd. Initially the business focused on the manufacture of standard harp screens (also called piano wires or speed harps) for use in mobile screens.

During the past 19 years Symphony Wire has increased its product range to include all screen surfaces. This has been done so the company is better able to service its customers total screening needs.

In addition to supplying all standard screen surfaces (i.e. wire mesh), Symphony Wire has developed a number of specialty screen surfaces for solving particular screening problems for example sticky wet material and for very high throughput.

WHY SYMPHONY WIRE?

- Symphony Wire is still a small family owned business so you will only be talking to one of the two most experienced people (you won't get lost in the system!)
- We only deal with screening so we know it better than anyone else.
- The people you talk to at Symphony Wire are the principals of the business so they really care about your problems.

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

Patrick Duke from Bellarine Sands spoke recently with Jon Howell regarding their association with Symphony Wire.

1. How long have you been dealing with Symphony Wire?

About 6 years.

The 349D L and 349D L Mass Excavation Excavators offer outstanding performance, excellent control, high stick & bucket forces, impressive lift capacity and a comfortable operator station to increase your productivity and lower your costs.

A wide variety of optional and factory-installed attachments are available to enhance performance and improve job site management.

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William Adams



2. What products do you purchase from Symphony Wire?

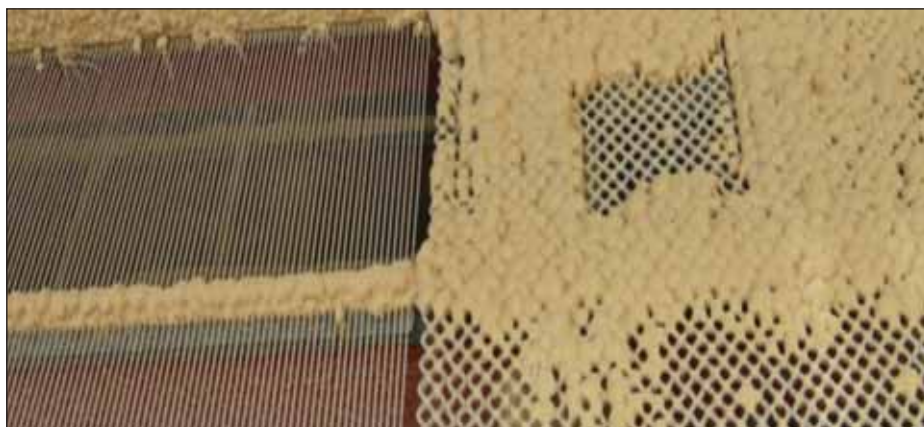
Various sizes and types of harp screens (piano wire screens). They have also supplied a harp screen repair kit and additional spacers/dividers for previously purchased harp screens - to ensure we get maximum life from our screens.

3. What are the benefits for you in dealing with Symphony Wire?

When I ring up I can always get straight to one of the guys who know a lot about screens. They are very helpful, always happy to talk through any problems we have and over the years have saved us a lot of heartache and time and money with screening sand.

4. Would you be happy recommending Symphony Wire to other CMPA members?

Yes, I'd recommend Symphony Wire to other CMPA members. We tried another screen supplier in the past but found their service lacking and you couldn't seem to talk to the same person twice. We prefer dealing with Symphony Wire to ensure we speak to the same people and can get personalised technical service.



Harp screen clearly outperforming a ripple mesh, which is severely blocking up

The people we speak to at Symphony Wire understand the manufacture of our screens as well as the screening process of our sand products. ■

Further information contact Symphony Wire to discuss screening in general or to order screens contact Marc or Jon:

Phone: (02) 49333 148

Fax: (02) 49366 311

Email: jon@symphonywire.com.au

Email: enquiries@symphonywire.com.au



60 SECONDS WITH AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER...

What is your name? Marc Howell

Who do you work for? Symphony Wire

How many years have you worked for this business?

20 years

How many years have you been involved in the Industry?

40 years.

What is your role at the company?

Managing Director

What does your job involve?

Designing a new product, manufacturing it then hearing from the customer how they are benefiting and the problems that have been solved.

What is the best part of your job?

We help solve peoples screening problems by providing technical knowledge and industry experience combined with the correct screen surface.



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A new direction at Galesafe Weighing

ROWENA CAIRNS, Business Manager at Galesafe Weighing, reports on the companies' history, new direction and new products aimed at complementing your business.

GALESAFE Weighing has been servicing the quarrying, cement and concrete industries since the 1980s, when the business was first established as the distributor of Loadrite™ products in Victoria. Galesafe Weighing has also been the Victorian and Tasmanian distributor of Robway products, which are overload prevention and data logging systems for fixed and mobile cranes, and pedestal cranes on offshore oil and gas platforms.

For over 25 years, Galesafe technicians have fitted and serviced Loadrite™ weighing systems in wheel loaders all over Victoria. The Loadrite™ brand has long been known for its market oriented range of weighing equipment, and for its longevity, reliability and accuracy. The first generation of Loadrite systems fitted by Galesafe in the 1980s were known as the Loadrite™ '710', followed through the 1990s and 2000s by the 'LR810', the 'LR910', the 'LR915' and 'LR912', and then more recently the Loadrite™ 'Pro'. These models have all since been replaced by the current range of products for wheel loaders, now referred to as the L-Series, and comprising the Loadrite™ L-2180 (top of the range model), Express, Force and Sprint.

To prove reliability of the product, Galesafe is currently offering a prize for the oldest Loadrite weighing system that we can locate within Victoria (details are below)!

In more recent years, the Loadrite™ brand has expanded beyond wheel loader scales, and now Loadrite™ offer a superior excavator weighing system (X-Series), conveyor belt scales (C-Series), waste collection systems (E-Series), and state of the art reporting tools (IM-Series), which complement the loader scales in the market place. For a given site, we are now able to offer a "one stop shop" for all mobile plant weighing needs, and we can therefore assist our customer's operations in maximising efficiencies when the weighing systems are complemented with data monitoring and reporting tools.

The Galesafe team comprises Manager Jim Cairns, who started with the Company as a Technician in 1998. Jim oversees operations and is the primary sales contact. Jim's wife and Business Manager Rowena Cairns, is office based, and in addition, Galesafe has three technicians, Chris Game, Luke Mckee and Brad Kirwen.



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60 SECONDS WITH AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER...

What is your name? Rowena Cairns

Who do you work for? Galesafe Weighing

How many years have you worked for this business? 3 years

How many years have you been involved in the Industry?

3 years, although the business has been in my family for 28 years now. My husband, Jim, and I have taken over the business my parents (Neville and Gloria Gale) started in 1983.

What is your role at the company?

Business Manager

What does your job involve?

Day to day operations management of Galesafe, typically customer liaison, interaction with suppliers, scheduling, accounting, and overseeing staff.

What is the best part of your job?

Hearing from a happy customer happy with the solution we have provided for them.

The team of technicians are fully trained in the installation, calibration, repair and servicing of all Loadrite systems, and we run a fleet of service vehicles fully stocked with spare parts at all times.

Galesafe Weighing are available whenever we are required, and generally with a rapid response time, to attend to your Loadrite™ system and make repairs or adjustments as required.

We also offer a service program to regularly maintain and service your range of Loadrite systems. A regular service and maintenance schedule (six monthly or annually) can be provided to suit your requirements, ensure your weighing systems are running at their peak, and therefore reduce down time for your business.

Contact us to arrange a service agreement for your site/company.

In addition, contact us if you think you have Victoria's OLDEST Loadrite™ system – and be in the running for a \$50 Coles-Myer voucher! Entries will be accepted until 31st December 2011. We will need the Loadrite™ display model and serial number, and preferably a photo! ■

For further information contact Galesafe Weighing

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Civil Works Action at Victorian Expo

Civil Works Expo 2012 at Lardner Park is more than just a trade show!

THOUSANDS of patrons will attend the three-day event in February, to see and operate the millions of dollars of equipment showcased.

Retaining its position as the premier industry exhibition of its type in Victoria, the Civil Works Expo is specifically tailored for the growing civil construction industry, and incorporates the ever-popular Trucks in Action event.

Civil Works Expo is held from Thursday 16 to Saturday 18 February 2012, at Lardner Park near Warragul, just east of Melbourne. All aspects of equipment and services relevant to the civil construction, quarrying and public works sector, and the associated industries will be on display.

The event is set to transform the rolling green paddocks into a virtual work site, with the most comprehensive range of options being both showcased and demonstrated in one place. For an industry that owns some 40,000 items of plant and equipment, the Expo provides a cost-effective way to demonstrate and compare machinery.

The Expo has a proud tradition of being a pivotal date in the industry calendar. "The Lardner Park Civil Works Expo will be the key Victorian civil construction trade event for 2012," said Mr Cullino, the CEO (Victoria) Civil Contractors.

There are both static and interactive exhibits at the 2012 Civil Works Expo. The popular machinery demonstration area, again sponsored by Saferoads, allows prospective purchasers to "trial before you buy" on a large range of popular machines such as excavators, skid steers & backhoes, within three areas fully enclosed with safety barriers. There are also a number of exhibitors such as Case & Supergroups (with the Kubota brand) where you can trial machines on their individual sites.

The Trucks In Action component of the Expo has its own Pit-Lane at Lardner Park, for the huge array of trucks of all sizes and makes, determined to prove they have the performance to match their shiny duco. The winning format continues today, putting trucks and trucking equipment to the test under typical load and road conditions. Prospective buyers can choose from a range of trucks supplied by leading manufacturers, and join the driver around a 9 km test route.



Aerial photo of the Civil Works Expo at Lardner Park

The 2012 Civil Works Expo is again supported and endorsed by key industry bodies, including the Civil Contractors Federation, Municipal Works Officers Association, Institute of Public Works Engineering, Construction Materials Processors Association and the Road Marking Industry Association of Australia.

Industry seminars and luncheons are popular events during the three-day Expo program. An impressive range of interesting and entertaining seminars & luncheons will take place in the new Lardner Park Exhibition Centre during each day of the event.

Both exhibitors and visitors alike highly regard the Civil Works Expo and recognise the event as a valuable opportunity to assist in making informed purchasing as well as renewing or establishing contacts and sharing industry information. ■

For further information please contact the Civil Works Expo on 03 56 261 373 or www.lardnerpark.com.au

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TRAINING & EVENTS

UPCOMING TRAINING AND COURSES

There are currently no Workshops or Training planned for the coming months. As we plan for bumper 2012, the Secretariat welcomes your ideas and feedback regarding topics and issues that require future training next year.

CMPA AGM & DINNER 2012

Just a reminder to keep this one in your diary:

Date: Saturday 25th August 2012

Location: RACV Club - Healesville

Time: 6.30pm Dinner

Refer to the CMPA website homepage www.cmpavic.asn.au at any stage for an up-to-date list of all upcoming training courses and events and their relevant booking details

SHOT FIRER'S RENEWAL COURSE

Have you received a request from WorkSafe to renew your Shot Firers licence?

If so, you need to attend the next two day Box Hill Institute of TAFE organised renewal course for currently licensed Shot Firers. The first day of the course will be conducted at Box Hill with classroom training on the first morning followed in the afternoon by the written examination for the Use of Blasting Explosives. The second morning will involve a practical assessment on site at a local quarry to ensure attendees are competent to handle explosives and initiate shots.

Date: Tuesday 6th & Wednesday 7th March 2012

Location: Box Hill Institute of TAFE, Whitehorse Road, Box Hill and Northern Quarries, Epping

Time: 8.00am – 4.00pm (Includes Lunch)

Cost: TBA

To book, please contact Diane Wilson at Box Hill Institute of TAFE by phoning 03 9286 9711.



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