

SAND & STONE

The official magazine of the CMPA

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ISSUE 61

Feb/Mar 2012

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Handover of the Treasury baton

Robin Hocking reports on his long involvement with the CMPA, and introduces the new Treasurer to the members.

IN 1999 I was invited to attend the Inaugural meeting of the CMPA to be held at a service station at Beveridge. That seemed logical, Beveridge being the location of Conundrum Holding's scoria quarry. At approximately 6.00pm, being the starting time for the meeting, Basil Natoli and I were "hooning" up and down the Hume Highway trying to identify a service station where a meeting was about to be held. Mobile phone reception at the time was not good. Eventually it transpired the meeting was about to commence at the corner of Cooper Street. Basil and I arrived just in time. Numbers comprised approximately 15 quarry personnel, sufficiently interested to at least attend and see what might develop. The meeting was very quiet and so was supper – may have been a reflection on the quality of the food.

From memory, the next meeting increased to 25 quarry persons and members were starting to recognise each other. The third meeting was very well attended and noisy, and it had become obvious that members had many interests in common including shared problems and concerns, plus a very serious interest in how their family assets would survive and progress into the future.

Within those first three years of the CMPA, I observed the development of a strong association with members keenly interested in the extractive industry, and the perception of that industry from not only the public's point of view but also from the point of view of Government, the legislators and the then Department of Natural Resources and Environment – currently the DPI.

Out of the small but enthusiastic start in 1999, there have been numerous industry developments encompassing a massive range of interests – and at times probably too many. From the beginning I have been privileged to continue my involvement with the CMPA, and in recent years I have been pleased to contribute in a small way as Treasurer. The time has arrived to hand over that position to John Pititto. John is a very experienced accountant with more than just a passing interest in the quarrying. I am confident that John will do an excellent job as Treasurer and I recommend to all members that they feel free to punish him with questions and requests for advice.

The CMPA has now achieved the recognition it deserves and for which it was established. It's obvious the Victorian membership comprises a large proportion of family operated businesses, some of which are into their third generation. It has become the aim of the CMPA to preserve and secure the assets of its members to the full extent of its capabilities, which rely not only on administration personnel, but also on the members.

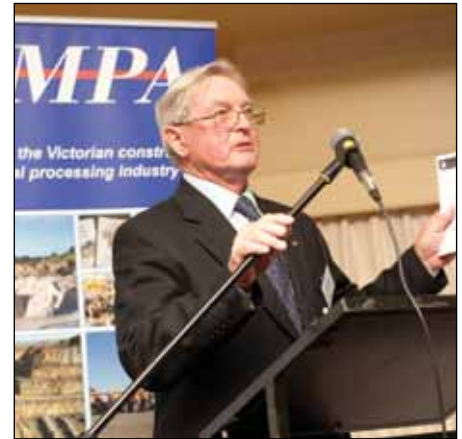
It is a well recognised fact that CMPA members have given tremendous support to their administration, with the result that Governments, of all persuasions, and other peripheral interests are prepared to recognise and sit up and take notice when the CMPA makes a commitment to a particular subject. No one will dispute the difficulty of successfully arguing and introducing change to entrenched Government policies and Departments. From my observations the continuing professional attitude of both CMPA administration staff and the members has produced significant benefits to all players in the industry – large and small.

It's imperative that the CMPA continues with its mandate to assist its members in improving relationships with all professional parties and in particular Government bodies.

There are potentially enormous problems for the industry on the horizon and some of those problems can be addressed by professional and unbiased argument. I refer to the costs and time involved in procuring new Work Authorities, the potential for serious impact on the industry by unrealistic Reclamation Bonds, the cost of compliance including Environmental Effects Statements, and the increasing burden of Municipal rates and Land Tax.

Other matters on the horizon include the procedures for gaining access to valuable stone resources within Crown Land, and education. It's my observation that education within Victoria, for the extractive industry, would be in a very sorry state if it had not been for the enthusiasm of the CMPA and its push for an education system relevant to the industry.

I would like to have it recorded that I have enjoyed my association with the CMPA, have felt it a privilege to be able to contribute as Treasurer, and I look forward to a continuing involvement. ■



AGM & DINNER 2012 RACV CLUB HEALESVILLE

The CMPA AGM & Dinner 2012 at the RACV Club in Healesville is fast approaching, only five months to go. It's very important if you are planning to attend, to book your weekend away early to avoid missing out on a place of your choice. The RACV Club itself has rooms allocated for guests attending the dinner, please call them on 03 5962 4899 to make a booking or refer to the following website for all your accommodation needs in the Healesville area. www.visitarravalley.com.au.

This is the biggest event on the CMPA calendar with sponsorship opportunities still on offer for your business, at present there are 27 Associate Sponsors committed to the event. Arrangements and bookings are currently being made for entertainment for the dinner. Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning activities are also being planned; including a golf event, winery tour, breakfast and a trip to Healesville Sanctuary.

If you haven't already, put this date in your diary please do so now. Further updates to come in the next issue of *Sand & Stone*.

Date: Saturday 25th Aug. 2012

Location: RACV Club - Healesville

Time: 6.00pm for AGM,
6.30pm for Dinner

Cost: CMPA Members \$120

MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

R.L. Blake Pty Ltd

Chris Blake Manager of R.L. Blake Pty Ltd and his daughter Prue report on the history and growth of the business.

R.L. BLAKE PTY LTD is situated in Cobden which is in South West Victoria, 60km west of Colac and 60km east of Warrnambool, in the middle of the dairying industry.

Ronald Lester Blake was born in Cobden on the 20/10/1925 and by age 15 he had brought his first truck which was the start of the R.L Blake enterprise. He started out carting sand loaded by shovel.

Also in his early days he carted 6 foot long lengths of wood to the local Cobden Pioneer Cheese and Butter Factory which was used to fire the boilers to process the milk.

In the mid 50's Ron purchased his first bulldozer an international TD9 bulldozer. This enabled Ron to raise road making material and do earth works on farms.

In the early 1960's the Heytesbury settlement commenced which was a massive project undertaken by the Bolte government. This was a huge development program for roads, dairy sites, dams and dairy tracks (for the cows to walk along) because it was extremely wet conditions for farmers to operate in. Some of the first settlers walked off these farms because the conditions were just too wet to operate a farm.

Ron carted a lot of local red gravel onto farms to allow the farmers to build tracks for the cows to travel on. This became extremely busy period for Ron because as farms developed the need for cow access also increased.

As the settlement progressed along with the rest of the dairying area, new road making materials were required by the Country Roads Board (CRB) and the local

councils. Ron decided to open up a scoria quarry at the foot of Mount Sugarloaf which is located in Camperdown. The site was used for many years until protesters began agitating to close down the quarry. The farmer who owned the Mount Sugarloaf threatened to take the top off the mount so Ron had his operator take the dozer to the top and level a small pad which was only to allow vehicles to turn around on top after driving up the narrow track which wound its way up to the top. This plan sparked a protest which involved the local media, Melbourne media (ABC), and the local community. The protesters thought Ron was going to carry out the owners threat to knock the top off so that it would no longer be a perfect scoria cone so protesters laid down in front of his machine. The Bolte government purchased the site for the

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MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

National Trust. Because of the protesters Mount Sugarloaf is still there today as one of only seven perfect natural cones in the World. Ron opened another quarry on the east side of Mount Leura on a different farm and this site is still operated today by WA Molan and Sons.

Ron moved out of his Mount Leura quarry to Wiridjil Road where his first main job was to supply the fill for the Weerite railway over pass when he ran his own small crusher. We still operate from this pit today but any processing of the scoria material other than pit run which our D8T produces is done by mobile plant from David Eldridge Pty Ltd to give us 20 and 40mm minus products which the local council uses for road works.

A tuff quarry was opened on land purchased by Ron at Cobrico in 1991 enabling him to keep up with the demand of these softer road making materials for cow tracks. These two quarries help to keep work going for our business without relying on other parties.

The companies truck fleet has grown from Leylands in the 1960's to International Acco single drive trucks in the mid 70's and the Mack truck and trailers of today. These earlier trucks carted 4.5 cubic meters of road making material compared to the 24 cubic metres carted by the Mack trucks and trailers today.

Ron looked after his 10 employees by buying bush land to be developed to keep his employees in jobs in the wetter months of the year. You aren't allowed to clear trees today so other farming works are now carried out during these wet months on our farms. Employees like truck driver John Buckingham have been with the company since 1975. Bev Smith has been doing the books since 1972. Many other employees

stay for a while then go off elsewhere but always seem to return for another go with our company. Currently we employ 15 people.

Ron was and we still are committed to helping out community projects and local sporting groups with construction activities that they need.

Ron was always loyal to other contractors he worked with and always used the same ones. Today we still have a group of contractors that we rely on for completion of jobs.

In 1998 Ron as a sole trader needed to become a company so as to still be eligible for VicRoads work so R.L. Blake Pty Ltd was created.

Chris Blake Ron's nephew has worked full time since 1988 after completing a surveying degree and working for 2 years as a surveyor in Portland. In 2002 more of the day to day running of the business was passed onto Chris. Then in 2004 after Ron suffered a major stroke Chris took on full responsibility. Then as Ron got better he was still actively involved in the business until he passed away one month short of his 81st birthday in 2006.

R. L. Blake Pty have been members of the CMPA since early 2010 and is supportive of the associations efforts to represent the extractive industry and finds the benefits of membership to be invaluable. ■

Pictured on the cover is Chris Blake manager for R.L. Blake Pty Ltd at their Kerr's Pit Ewens Hill quarry site.



60 SECONDS WITH A VOTING MEMBER...

What is your name?

Geoffrey Pillar

Who do you work for?

R.L. Blake Pty Ltd

How many years have you worked for this business?

8 years now and 5 years previously

How many years have you been involved in the Industry?

30 years

What is your role at the company?

Dozer Operator

What does your job involve?

Ripping and digging out soft rock as well as digging dams.

What is the best part of your job?

Working on my own away from other, doing my own thing.



CMPA NEWS

By **CMPA SECRETARIAT**

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

RECENT EVENTS

CMPA met with Jillian Mannix from Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE to discuss documentation for the next training course – Collect Routine Site Samples.

CMPA members were invited to appear before the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee (EDIC) in regard to its *Inquiry into Greenfields Mineral Exploration & project development in Victoria*. A transcript will be made available to the public shortly.

CMPA met with members (and potential members) to discuss development of three resource tools:

1. Conditions of Credit document
2. Hire agreement with cartage contractors – short form
3. Health Assessment Tools

Box Hill Institute of TAFE ran the Conduct Crushing Operations at Northern Quarries in Epping as well as Worksafely and Conduct Local Risk at the DPI offices in Bendigo.

Bruce McClure and Adrian Town ventured to the western districts of Victoria visiting members and potential members quarry sites.

CMPA attended the latest *Earth Resources Tripartite Safety Forum* conducted by Worksafe Victoria aiming to “Improve health and safety performance in Victoria’s earth resources industries.”

The first CMPA Management Committee for the year was held.

Bruce McClure & Tony Tamburro met with Midstate Credit Management Services regards developing a Credit Application and Terms document.

CMPA 2012 AGM & DINNER

Sponsorship for the 2012 AGM & Dinner at the RACV Club in Healesville is well and truly opened. All Associates were emailed a copy of the Sponsorship Flyer back on the 16th December 2011. At present we have commitment from 27 Associate Members at different sponsorship levels.

Our two main Platinum sponsors this year are: Atlas Copco Construction Mining Australia and Victoria Construction Equipment Pty Ltd.

There are still spots available, but they may not last long!

CIVIL CONSTRUCTION ALLIANCE

A Civil Construction Alliance (CCA) meeting of which the CMPA is a member was held early in March 2012.

Russell Northe MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business in the Victorian State Government was the guest speaker. The three main messages that Russell stressed during the meeting was that the State Government was serious about reducing red tape for businesses, that there was the potential for considerable improvement in the Procurement and Purchasing policies for the State and that there are Grants and assistance available for small business through Business Victoria for various activities. Russell did agree to have further discussions with CCA members on ways of reducing red tape that is a major problem for the extractive industry in Victoria at present.

Other speakers at the meeting included Ken Mathers CEO Linking Melbourne Authority and Craig Lapsley Fire Services Commissioner.

Ken Mathers discussed in detail the planning that is occurring with the proposed East West road link from the existing East Link to the Western Ring Road near Deer Park.

Craig Lapsley discussed changes that are taking place in the control and operation of the three organisations responsible for fire services in Victoria these being the CFA, DSE and MFB.

MEMBER VISITS BY SECRETARIAT

In February 2012 Bruce McClure General Manager and Management Committee member Adrian Town visited member sites over a two day period in the Colac, Warrnambool, Coleraine and Moorie areas. They also visited a number of potential member sites as well, with one site signing up and making a membership payment. A further report on the latest visit is found on page 15 of this magazine.

Thank you to all the members recently visited by Bruce and Adrian for taking the time to show them around your site and providing them with valuable information.

SITE SAMPLING AND PREPARATION OF SAMPLES FOR TESTING COURSES

The CMPA has been working with the Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFT (TAFT) to develop courses for Collect Routine Site Samples (MSL 952001A Certificate III in Laboratory Skills) and Conduct Laboratory Based Acceptance Tests For Construction Materials (MSL 973010A Diploma of Laboratory Technology level). Not only does each of these courses meet the requirements for a unit of competency in the Certificate III in Surface Extractive Operations but also are suitable for CMPA extractive industry members to use at their own sites.

An initial Collect Routine Site Samples course was run and following a good debrief from people who participated in that course further improvement have been made to the training documents. VicRoads has been involved with the documents and have provided considerable input. A meeting will be held shortly with VicRoads to get a final tick of approval for the Collect Routine Site Samples course.

The Conduct Laboratory Based Acceptance Tests for Construction Materials documentation is being prepared at present and will be shortly sent to VicRoads and others for comments.

WORKSAFE VICTORIA EARTH RESOURCES TRIPARTITE SAFETY FORUM

The first tri-monthly meeting of the WorkSafe Victoria Earth Resources Tripartite Safety Forum (ERTS) was held late in February 2012.

The State Government is still continuing with the Supplementary Impact Statement that is looking at the impact of the proposed Federal model Work Health and Safety laws recently enacted federally and in some States. At this stage there is no indication as to when a decision will be made on what "Harmonised Regulations" the Victorian State Government will agree to.

The Guidelines for Electrical Safety in Quarries which was released in 2002 needs updating. There have been discussions with Energy Safe Victoria regarding a document upgrade. The document is considered essential for the industry and will be updated through industry sources as soon as possible.

WorkSafe Victoria (WSV) is looking at possible ways of improving the way information is released relating to incidents on sites. Other State jurisdictions methods are being examined.

A Safety Alert has been released for working in oxygen deficient atmospheres. This is mainly an issue for the mining sector but quarry sites need to be aware of the issues particularly when they have workmen working in environments that require a good ventilation flow of air through the area.

WSV commented on proposed internal changes to the department structure. One of the proposals is that the Extractive Industries area which currently operates under the Construction and Utilities Division be moved to the Earth Resources area (which already includes mining) in the Hazard Management Division. A number of stakeholders had been briefed on the proposed changes but the most disappointing aspect of these proposals is that none of the associates that represent the extractive industries had been involved in any briefing on the proposals. The WSV promised to rectify this situation and brief the extractive industries associations as a matter of urgency.

From the 1 July 2011 to 31 January 2012 there has been a total of 136 visits to extractive industries sites by WSV inspectors. Of these 51 improvement notices, 15 prohibition notices, 3 dangerous goods notices and 7 voluntary compliance notices were issued.

MEETING WITH SENIOR ADVISOR TO MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND RESOURCES

Early in March 2012 the CMPA met with Sarah Leslie Senior Advisor, Energy and Resources Office of the Hon. Michael O'Brien MP, Minister for Energy and Resources. This meeting was organised so that Sarah could be updated on concerns that the CMPA has with the recent *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act Review Phase 2* carried out by the DPI especially the Phase 2 position papers presented and discussed at meetings and by submissions from stakeholders such as the CMPA. Sarah gave an indication of the current status of the review in particular the Phase 2 policy papers and the fact that the Minister is giving these documents serious scrutiny is welcome news. The meeting also discussed a number of other issues that are impacting on the extractive industries. The meeting was very productive and both have agreed to meet again.

DEVELOPMENT OF GENERIC CREDIT APPLICATION FORM

The CMPA is working with members to develop a generic Credit Application and Terms & Conditions document that can be used by all members for the benefit of their businesses.

A number of members have documents recently developed and in use. These are being looked at to see if they can be adopted to form the basis of a document suitable for all members to use with only minor alterations and/or additions to a couple of the actual forms.

A draft document should be available by late April 2012.

MEETING WITH SENIOR OFFICERS OF WORKSAFE

Late in February 2012 Bruce McClure and Ron Kerr of the CMPA met with Lisa Sturzenegger General Manager Operations Health and Safety Division and Jarrod Edwards Director Hazard Management Division WorkSafe to discuss the proposed internal changes to the department structure. WorkSafe are now well aware that they did not involve the extractive industries in the discussions on the possible structure and stated that steps have been taken to ensure that this does not occur again when comment is sort from Stakeholders.

SITE VISIT, WORKSHOP AND GENERAL MEETING

The CMPA is planning a site visit to a quarry site in the Wyndham Vale area followed by a workshop at a local venue that will cover recent changes to guidelines for explosive use, issues relating to use of contactor trucks (including a new CMPA document "Hire Agreement for Cartage Contractors") and changes to OH&S regulations both State and Federal.

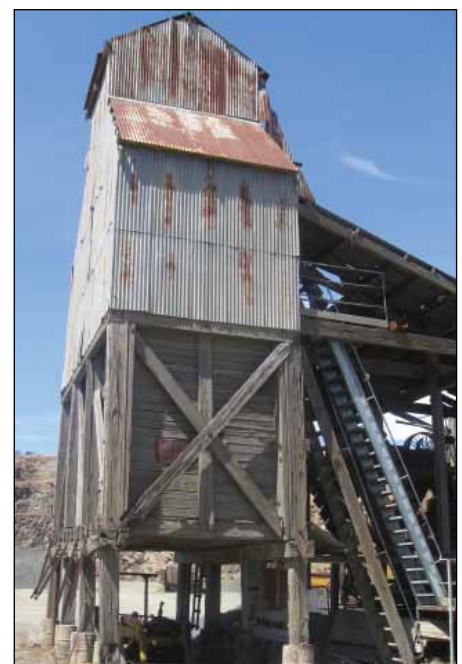
The workshops will be followed by a general meeting at which all members present will be updated on the important events that are currently affecting the extractive industry. The final event for the day will be a dinner at a local venue.

The exact details of the site visit and workshops are still under negotiation but all members will be advised of the actual activities well before the day proposed in late May 2012.

Where: Starting at a quarry site in the Wyndham Vale area.

When: The proposed date is Wednesday 30 May 2012

Further details will be sent to all members shortly.



COLLATERAL DAMAGE

The regulatory the cuts that slowly kill

A government inquiry into greenfields mineral exploration and project development in Victoria has been given a compelling insight into the multiple threats facing the quarrying industry. TOM MCKENNY reports

CALLED to present to the all party parliamentary committee, CMPA representatives, Ron Kerr, Bruce McClure, John Mawson and Basil Natoli, detailed the burgeoning demand for quarry materials and the myriad of threats that are locking up resources, stymie greenfield development and site expansion.

Of most concern is the lack of government resolve to secure future stone and sand reserves, forcing the industry further away from markets.

Mr McClure told the inquiry aggregate was already being carted from as far afield as Bendigo to Melbourne and that transport costs were rising. "It is adding anywhere between 15 to 20 per cent at the moment but as it gets worse as we run out of more materials we estimate that it could end up being higher than a 35 to 40 per cent cost increase because of lack of materials that you can source directly. The further you have to cart it the more expensive it becomes."

Urban development and poor planning had seen reserves that should have been set aside for future development sterilised or taken up for residential or commercial development.

Mr Kerr said unless government determined to secure resource reserves, or issue or extend work authorities companies would be forced to look further afield for resources.

Mr Natoli explained the 1972 scenario with the Mines Department (under the *Extractive Industries Act*) being proactive in identifying and protecting resources. "That work probably stopped in the mid-1990s. There is no longer a role within DPI to either identify and protect resources or to even keep an inventory of the current resources available to the community.

"They were wanting to save costs," he said.

The precipitous position of the industry was highlighted. Geelong was almost out of stone in 2003 and special deputations were needed to the then Minister of Planning to extend a quarry. "... the extension application for that quarry had to go through an EES and an EPBC process and it is still not resolved," Mr Natoli explained.

"They have a minor extension to get themselves a short term supply which has just about run out now and they are still trying to get the finalisation of this EES process and also the federal process as well."

Committee member Inga Peulich (Lib) wondered why resource security planning had been halted. Mr Natoli said he believed it was a result of the earlier Mines Department work being so effective, but that "people forget that at 10 tonne per head per year if Melbourne goes to five million people it will be 50 million tonnes a year and that is an awful lot of material."

The pressures and costs associated with obtaining a work authority were highlighted by the delegation.

Mr Kerr said the industry was strangled by red tape. "In the last 10 years the sector has been buried by a plethora of new and advanced legislation requirements that make entry into the game just about impossible. So you have a dying industry from the point of view of lack of access to resource ... but you have also got this other side of not having an identified resource.

"Then you put in all the overlays - by the time you place your overlay of 100 to 200 meters off a watercourse then the AAV on top of that which is another 200 metres, plus all your roads and plus your 500 metres on all housing plus 500 metres on all areas which has titled, say national parks, you are suddenly left with a block about the size of a 10 cent coin."

The chairman, Neale Burgess (Lib) considered whether the industry had suffered "collateral damage from governments trying to protect other things."

Mr Mawson said the collateral damage was the result of urban growth pressures. "The urban sprawl has advanced at such a rate that it has overtaken any areas around the periphery that may contain viable resources and that should have been set aside.

"I think the thing to remember is that what we need at one point and what we need to set aside now in terms of area is bigger than what it was 20 years ago before we had so many other overlays and buffers zones required."

Mr Kerr said it was not only resource security impacting the future of the industry, but marketplace entry that was "being eliminated".

"The right of access is being removed ... and a small family business would be thinking 'why are only those with a couple of million dollars able to do that?'"

Martin Foley (Lab) questioned whether rural areas were also feeling similar pressures to the urban areas, particularly urban growth and expansion.

Mr Natoli said the key impacts on rural operations was native vegetation framework and the *Cultural Heritage Act*, "they would be two of the biggest killers that are very much adding to the cost and the time of getting the approvals through."

The inquiry chair, questioned whether the CMPA had considered mechanisms for addressing the issues facing the industry.

Mr McClure said the CMPA was seeking "balanced regulation".

"We all realise we have our regulations but at the moment they are simply not balanced. We believe that really needs to be addressed. The other thing I want to touch on is that with work authority proposals there has been an 87 per cent decline in these applications since 1979."

Mr Mawson added that Work Authorities were subject to multiple impacts and "might be knocked back by any one of the referral departments. That could be local government, it could be DPI, it could be DSE ... if you trip on anything you are out the door and then the whole legal thing opens up if you have the nerve and resources."

Ms Peulich questioned whether post-quarrying impacts, namely landfills would stymie councils allowing developments.

Mr Kerr responded by suggesting the economic value of a quarry was also often overlooked, while Mr Natoli said landfills were an obvious result of our lifestyle choices.

"I think [there is] a clearly limited understanding of the returns that come back into the community from quarries. I would suggest a

500,000 tonne quarry would probably have a wages bill in excess of \$1.5 million without all the indirects of drilling, welding and transport.

"There is a lot of activity ... that is bringing revenue back into the state, whether it is PAYE or other forms of taxation at state and federal level."

Mr Natoli said councils once insisted on obtaining the landfill rights to exhausted quarries.

"That was commonsense; that saved the community – the ratepayers – money, and some of the councils made squillions of dollars out of it.

"If a proper protection buffers is put around the extractive resource in the first place there is no reason why you cannot have both. To me that is fundamental to ... long term planning for the use of these resources because it is a win-win situation."

"A large number of inner city reserves and parklands are filled quarries. They are current assets for the community. If you look far enough ahead and do the planning and the protection for it, then everyone can win in that process. But if you get greedy and people subdivide and put house up against the boundary you will end up with conflict these days."

The CMPA delegation took the opportunity to reiterate the major issues causing the industry grief and also detailed impacts including native vegetation prescriptions and crown land rehabilitation bond requirements in comparison to private land bonds and cultural heritage assessments.

Mr Natoli said CHMP had been mooted by the department to cost up to \$5000 when first instigated but now cost up to \$100,000 if an artefact was found – or, as often is the case, only fragments of artefacts.

"In Western Australia those fragments are not classified as artefacts, whereas we have developed an industry in finding useless bits of stuff and doing massive reports on almost nothing."

Mr Kerr suggested costs mooted by government when legislation such as CHMP was introduced should be assessed and redressed if they are found to be having completely different economic impacts later.

"When regulators put things forward they are putting them forward with rose coloured glasses to get their policies forward, I am saying that we need to look at the evidence at say, 'the cost we originally said doesn't stack up with the cost that is actually happening', I do not think that is an unreasonable outcome."

Mr Natoli said the native vegetation process for example, was never before Parliament, and was adopted policy. "The whole concept behind the process is an ideology; it is not science," he said. Money is being spent in tying up the Trust for Nature blocks and covenants on many thousands of hectares across the state being set aside as reserves which is tying up valuable commodities.

Native vegetation reduction is a fact, Mr Natoli said, "but we have a population of how many million people and we have to provide food and resources for them and land to live on.

"When the framework first came out the concept was to return Victoria to 1850s vegetation coverage which to me is absurd."

Mr Kerr added that the vegetation had been assigned a value by the state but not the possible stone or sand reserves they tied up. "From the point of view of an environmental footprint to push the material an extra 100 kilometres to the market, or to remove a tree, it seems to me that that if we have to play this game, the field should be level and there should be an identified value for the rock as well."

In noting that the inquiry had chosen to have a question and answer discussion instead of formally hearing the CMPA's submission, the inquiry requested a copy of the CMPA document.

In concluding and summarising proceedings, Mr Kerr said "regulators and policy should be in the same world but it seems one is always stronger than the other. We have to as a state have a clear understanding of what we want. Do we want future access for resource? Do we want a resource there for future generations and are we willing to look out past 20 or 30 years?"

Mr McClure said the lack of understanding of planners was of concern. Recent urban growth corridor plans did not contain any quarries. "I think the problem is there is no understanding within the community and local government area and among the planners and even within government departments of the need for viable product close to the market."

Mr Mawson said the challenge was across all government departments. "So many are involved in this process you can find that the level of knowledge in any particular one is inadequate and they can almost work for conflicting purposes while everyone is trying to achieve the common good.

"We have to find that balanced regulation in the middle ground which will require that departments work proactively and together come up with the right access to resources."

Mr Mawson said Victoria had taken a step backward by incorporating extractive industries with mining. "The impact on the environment, the size and the scale of the impact on road traffic and all the local government issues are quite different.

"Following the model elsewhere in the country which has bought the extractive industries under the Mines Act, and developing the Mineral Resources Sustainability Act has actually been a negative step.

"We need to have a head department; one that is responsible to coordinate the whole thing and ensure that the other departments ... are fully informed and aware of the issues." ■

A full copy of the CMPA submission and transcript of the Inquiry can be found at: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/edic>



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Why Are Extractive Industries Forgotten by the Controlling Department?

BRUCE MCCLURE CMPA's General Manager reports on lack of direction from the industries controlling government body.

ON the 30 January 2012 four members of the CMPA attended a Parliamentary Inquiry into greenfields mineral exploration and project development in Victoria which was set up by the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee from the Victorian Parliament.

A copy of the CMPA presentation to the Committee and a copy of the transcript of the inquiry session when the CMPA members were present are contained on the Parliamentary Website through the following link, <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/edic>. One of the terms of reference set up by Parliament was for the committee to examine Victoria's mineral endowment across a portfolio of commodities (including energy earth resources and extractives products).

A number of important points have come from this inquiry. You would think that when an inquiry involving the future of Victorian Infrastructure Projects is in progress, that issues like the future supply of extractive industry products to the Melbourne metropolitan and within regional areas would be of concern. The extractive industry is vital for the future growth of Melbourne particularly as a major portion of the typical suburban house is made from a extractive industry supplied product, whether it be the concrete slab, the brick walls, the plaster sheeting, the clay or concrete roofing tiles, the glass in the windows. Future commercial buildings, schools buildings, shopping centres and all associated infrastructure such as roads, supply of water, sewerage they all

require the use of an extractive industry product. The CMPA and other associations have conducted studies that show Melbourne and some regional areas are running out of extractive industry products especially sand and stone in the Melbourne area. This is not because there is no product available in the ground but because of much of the current planning and in some instances restrictive environmental requirements for Melbourne is excluding the possibility of many potential sites being available in the future. This will if allowed to occur, result in major cost increases in the respective infrastructure projects due to increased transport costs, major congestion and environmental issues due to a massive increase in truck movements to provide the products.

Given the above state of play for the extractive industry in the Melbourne Metropolitan area, why is it that the department that looks after the extractive industry in Victoria, the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), did not mention the extractive industry in its presentation to the enquiry on Victorian Infrastructure Projects. A copy of the DPI presentation and inquiry transcript which is also on the Parliamentary Website is quite clear on this point.

Part of the thrust of the inquiry was greenfields site exploration. However, greenfields site exploration is not solely restricted to mining. Mining is an important component of the Victorian economy we do not deny that. However statistics supplied by DPI show that the extractive industry is as big if not bigger

than the mining industry based on tonnage figures if you exclude the production of coal in Victoria (68.8 million tonnes) which is mainly used for power generation. In 2009-2010 approximately 0.96 million tonnes were produced in the mining sector (this amount excludes coal and 7.5 tonnes of gold) and produced a value of \$502.5 million (excluding the revenue raised from coal but including the revenue raised from gold of \$300.1 million). In the same period a total of 46.1 million tonnes of extractive products were produced and generated a sales value of \$652.7 million.

Why is it the case then that the extractive industries seem to be treated differently when it comes to the discussion of needs, improvements etc for the industry. The CMPA has been advising both politicians and government departments for a number of years about the state of the extractive industry and the areas of concern that will have repercussions on the financial future of this state. The CMPA has always been very proactive in this area. We have never denied the need for strong planning legislation and balanced regulations. We have supported initiatives that we see are beneficial for all and in the majority of instances where the CMPA has had a concern we have also offered possible solutions.

It is time for the extractive industry to be afforded the same treatment and respect that other industries enjoy in Victoria. This state simply cannot progress without us. ■

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SANDVIK CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

Adrian Wise, Marking Manager of Sandvik reports on their 150 year anniversary.

JANUARY 31, 2012 marked 150 years to the day since Göran Fredrik Göransson's new company was formed in Sandviken, Sweden. At that time, Sandvik was first in the world to use the Bessemer process, which would revolutionize steel manufacturing. The company quickly became one of the world's leaders in its industry.

For 150 years, Sandvik has successfully operated and evolved by continuously being innovative and identifying new opportunities in the markets and through various shifts in technology. With the talent, experience and commitment of 50,000 employees across the globe, we now cast our gaze to the future and continue our journey.

On 31 January, Sandvik sites across the world celebrated the 150th anniversary. Various events have been arranged by all of Sandvik's companies worldwide to take place during the anniversary year. Meet Sandvik has been published in 14 languages and a book presenting the company's successful development will be released in March. A



Strip Steel for Conveyors in 1902

website has been set-up to provide information about Sandvik's 150 year journey: www.sandvik.com/150. A selection of images from Sandvik's history can be downloaded at <http://mediabase.sandvik.com> under the heading Sandvik Group/History, including an anniversary logotype.

In Australia, Sandvik was established in 1961, and in 2011 celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Since then it has established a strong presence in this country, including the supply, service and support of a wide range of products for the mining and construction industries.

In addition, it is a significant supplier of Sandvik-branded Australian-designed and manufactured equipment for the mining and related sectors. ■



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SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICT VISIT

ADRIAN TOWN reports on a recent trip in February 2012 to visit current and potential members in South West Victoria.

BRUCE McClure (General Manager CMPA) and Adrian Town (Management Committee member) visited members and prospective members, in the south western district of Victoria on the 21st and 22nd of February 2012.

This was the first of a number of field trips planned to cover as many districts as possible during the course of the year. The field trips are designed to allow members to discuss first hand issues that they may have with current operations, development or planning and what options or assistance the CMPA can provide.

We are able bring members up to date on what the Association is currently working on, such as issues affecting our industry, what we are doing about them, submissions to Government, Industry meetings with government and other bodies. The latest range of CMPA publications are displayed including training manuals, developed by the CMPA in conjunction with members including, Work Safely Reference Manual, Conduct Crushing, Conduct Screening and Conduct Screening and Crushing, (these manuals are also used by industry Training providers), check lists for plant and machines and other publications such as issue resolution pads, managers' report book etc.

We also use this opportunity to call on non-members to discuss the advantages of becoming a member of the CMPA. It was pleasing to see all the extractive operations called on during this visit were busy. The following operations were visited:

Frank R. Russell Pty Ltd: Located outside of Colac and managed by Mark Russell. This is a basalt quarry producing crushed rock through a fixed crushing plant.

B M & VJ Gent: Scoria pit at Camperdown managed by Bruce Gent. His company has now become a member of the CMPA. The pit has been in operation for many years producing ripped and screened products.

Cobden Lime: Produces agricultural lime at a site located at Cobden and managed by David Germano. This company is a member of the CMPA. This is a large operation. The material is ripped and then delivered to a special purpose designed crushing plant capable of handling the difficulties associated with the production of fine crushed lime and its storage. The plant was designed and built by David using his long experience in plant design within the crushing industry.

The Germano Family have a long association with the industry with quarries in Mount Waverly, Montrose and then moving to Colac to take up Riordans Quarries. This business was sold to Ready mix some years ago, with David then starting a plant design supply operation but the call of quarrying was too great, so he ended up going back into Quarrying, developing the green fields Cobden lime operation.

R L Blake Pty Ltd: Managed by Chris Blake, this operation has a number of pits (tuff and scoria) in the Cobden area. A member of the CMPA.

Timboon Lime: Managed by Leon Nelis, this operation produces agricultural lime through the use of mobile plant.

Gilleear Agriculture Lime: Located near Warrnambool and Quarry Manager is Gary Bell. This is a large Quarry operation producing both agricultural lime and crushed rock. Raw material is ripped and depending on the product required the material is processed through either fixed or track plant.

Douglas Addinsall Scoria Supplies: Located at Macarthur, Quarry Manager is Doug Addinsall. This scoria pit has been in operation for many years producing a unique black scoria by ripping and screening. The product is highly sort after by the landscaping industry.

Moree Quarries: Member of the CMPA, Quarry Manager is Bob Ferguson. This is a large quarry operation producing both aggregates and crushed rock. Material is columnar basalt that when blasted produces a consistent top size reducing any blockages in the primary jaw. As the material is low in abrasion it is suitable for impact crushing. The tertiary crusher in this plant is a VSI producing a very acceptable shaped aggregate. Due to the quality of the products, material is delivered as far away as Mount Gambier supplementing the sister operation at Mount Shank. Bob assisted the CMPA in developing a new Shotfirer's Book and Magazine Management Safety Checklist. Whilst we were on site we were able to deliver the first of these new books and check lists.

Rigby Bros & Co Colerain: Jayson Rigby showed us around the operation. The material crushed is a quarry blasted Trachyte with secondary and tertiary crushing carried out by impacting. The product is used as aggregate and crushed rock. This quarry has been in operation for many years and is now into the third generation of the Rigby family. ■



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Reducing the Cost of Ownership & Extending Electric Motor Life

Tired of losing valuable production time due to motor failure?

Did you know that?

- quarry work can reduce average motor life expectancy by up to a factor of 10:1;
- most motor failure is due to moisture ingress & failure of the insulation system;
- for every rise of 10°C, the insulation life of a motor is halved;
- if you can't rest your hand on the motor casing (approximately 50°C) then it is running too hot; and
- Vacuum Pressure Impregnation (VPI) can significantly reduce motor failure.

JOHN TREIMANIS, BEAK Electrical Pty Ltd's Business Development Manager, provides an insight on getting the best out of your electric motors.

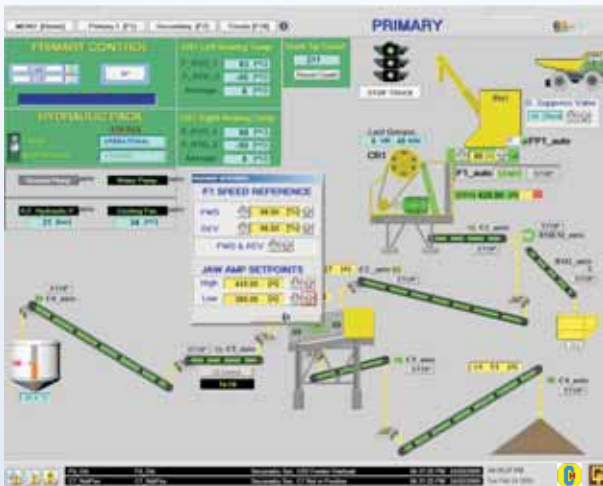
THE harsh operating environment of the extractive industry severely shortens the life of electric motors but, by being aware of the impact of the environment on motors and custom modifying them prior to installation, you can significantly extend the motor life, improve efficiency and reduce time lost through motor breakdowns. However, to be fully effective, upgrades should always be undertaken by a reputable, authorised, motor service repairer.

Selecting a local business may be geographically convenient but won't necessarily give you the quickest response time or best quality outcome. A good example of this is that a gold mining company in Egypt recently had an urgent requirement to repair 2 x 500kw poles. BEAK Electrical in Melbourne, Australia won the job as it offered the fastest turn-around time, despite being 12,500 km away.

Although a relatively new name to the extractive industry, BEAK Electrical Pty Ltd, located in Keysborough Victoria, is ISO 9001:2008 accredited and has well established facilities to provide the complete range of modifications and services for all major electric motor manufacturers including CMG, TECO, WEG, Toshiba, SEW and ABB.

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Dip & Bake Application Estimated 24% penetration of varnish

PROTECTION FROM THE ENVIRONMENT

Purchasing a motor with a higher IP rating will provide better protection from moisture ingress. Shielding the motor with a cover such as a sunshield or coal shield (as shown), will also greatly improve motor life by preventing build up of dirt between cooling fins and generally improving ventilation to stop the motor from running hot.

Warm motors in a cold environment will also produce surface moisture once the temperature drops below dew point. Fitting an anti-condensation heater that provides background heat will eliminate moisture ingress to overcome this problem. Installing thermistors in the windings will also enhance motor protection and eliminate the chances of overheating.

VACUUM PRESSURE IMPREGNATION (VPI)

Specialised services offered by BEAK Electrical include Vacuum Pressure Impregnation (VPI). VPI is the most cost effective treatment to extend motor life as it minimises moisture entering the winding and allows it to run cooler thus giving it thermal stability.

During normal operation, electric motors are subject to failure of the insulation system due to thermal, mechanical, voltage and environmental stresses that combine to reduce their service life.

The traditional solution to provide both a mechanical bond and strength is to apply varnish to electrical group windings in coils. The application of varnish also retards the degradation, enhances the level of rewind quality and improves the performance of electric motors.

Varnish can be applied either by a dip and bake method or by the Vacuum Pressure Impregnation (VPI) process.

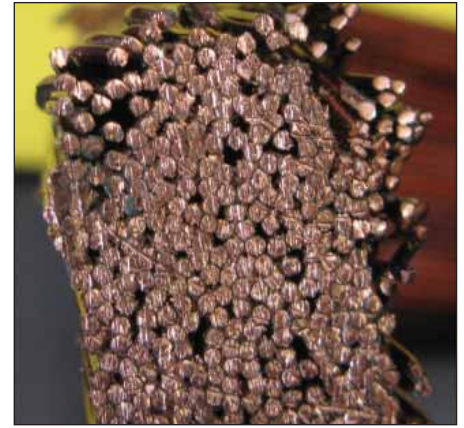
Solvent varnishes lose 50% to 70% of volume during baking and leave voids and air pockets in the windings which results in a weak sponge-like structure.



Shielded motor with a sun or coal shield

By comparison, VPI eliminates the dead air spaces that create hot spots within the motor winding coils as it provides a 100% solid mass structure with the greatest mechanical strength. The result is a cooler running motor due to superior heat dissipation and the highest level of protection from the environment.

The above photographs compare the results of applying varnish to identical coils of electric wires by the two alternative methods.



Vacuum Pressure Impregnation (VPI) Estimated 88% penetration of varnish

A motor winding that has undergone VPI is also virtually impervious to oil, moisture, and chemical contaminants.

SUMMARY

Observing the following few basic rules will ensure that you get the best out of your electric motors and minimise production downtime which in turn improves the return on investment (bottom line):

- Always purchase a reputable brand motor that is designed for your specific requirements;
- Make sure that the motor is suitably modified and adapted to suit the environment;
- Have your motors maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations; and
- Always use a reputable, reliable and qualified electric motor repairer. ■

For further information contact John Treimanis, Business Development Manager
BEAK Electrical Pty Ltd. Ph: 03 9701 5540.



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Decreased Downtime, Increased Productivity & Increased Safety

PAUL TIMONEY, Sales & Marketing Manager for Indeco Australia Pty Ltd reports on the benefits of its Secondary Breaking Boom Systems

THE J H Cuthbertson quarry at Jindivick has grown from humble beginnings a quarter of a century ago to a sizeable local business employing five full time employees and a fleet of machinery providing the district with both crushed rock and fill. The 450 acre property was originally logged to clear the land for the construction of the family dairy farm and subsequently the quarry was established to provide crushed rock for their farms laneways.

The two main products manufactured at the quarry are crushed Hornfels for driveways and bases and Mudstone which, because of its soft texture, is perfect for the dairy laneways as it is easy on the cows hooves.

According to John Persico the Quarry Supervisor, "We are flat out at the moment!", so any obstructions in the process must be dealt with quickly, efficiently and most of all safely. After seeing an advertisement in an industry magazine, John only made one phone call, to Indeco, to get the answers he needed.

Indeco's Secondary Breaking Boom Systems are designed to keep your plant running at maximum productivity. Mounted over the mouth of your crusher, a heavy duty Indeco boom system puts an end to downtime associated with oversized materials slowing up your operation. Indeco's hydraulic arms are heavy duty and built to last for years in even the most difficult of conditions. Each unit is custom designed for your crushing plant, giving the flexibility to ensure that your investment provides the maximum return. Aimed at eliminating the conventional and hazardous methods of manually unblocking feeders and removing oversized stone from primary crushers, the Indeco system not only eliminates these dangers, but also significantly increases productivity and production.

After consultation with J H Cuthbertson, Indeco designed, manufactured and installed the hydraulic power pack, arm assembly, and whisper quiet HP 200 breaker. The unit can be operated from either the mounting point of the arm which gives an unrestricted view of the obstruction or by mobile radio control which allows the operator the option to choose the vantage point, including in



The Indeco HP 200 makes light work of a large obstruction

front of the monitors in the operating cabin allowing the quarry to work in any climatic condition.

"The unit has stopped so much down time" John said. "The hand held hammer, to be operated safely, tied up two workers to complete the job that the Indeco does with one. Instead of taking two men half to three quarters of an hour, it now takes one man ten minutes. There is a potential to save one to two hours down time a day". Now that's impressive!

Indeco was founded in 1976, with the aim of becoming a leading brand in the global demolition sector. In 1980, after a long phase of experimentation, the company completed their first range of breakers and launched the entire HB series onto the market.

A partnership agreement then led to the creation in 1993 of Indeco Australia, which in the space of just a couple of years became one of the nation's leading brands. With nearly 20 years of servicing the

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The remote control affords unhindered views of any blockage

Australian market, Indeco Australia is one of the longest established and most recognised manufacturers.

While many brands have come and gone over the years, Indeco has entrenched itself as one of the country's most reputable brands.

In 2003, the Indeco product portfolio grew to include the range of fixed and rotating pulverizers. Indeco Pulverisers provide an innovative design providing better grip which make them easier to handle. The unique shape leads to greater efficiency when demolishing and reduces both working times and stress transmitted to the excavator.

Another key step in improving technology led to the launch in 2004 of the new High Performance HP breaker series. The innovations brought in with this new series vary according to the different classes of breaker, and included a new design, the use of new materials and a reduction in noise emissions.

Indeco's aim is to keep our entire product range working at maximum uptime, offering proactive support as well as quick response to any machine in need of repair. The professional competency which Indeco technicians bring to their job and the guaranteed availability of spare parts enables Indeco to offer after-sales service that is both rapid and capable of resolving any type of problem.

Through leading edge technology, Indeco is proud to boast a full range of genuine parts. Backed by a comprehensive warehouse of inventory, you can be sure that when you have a call for Indeco Parts, you will receive a 100% guarantee and commitment from the best in the industry. Our Australian warehouses are electronically linked and have an overnight transfer facility between them. All Indeco products are backed by a comprehensive warehouse of genuine parts and accessories for our full range of product - from enhancements to new products to repairs for older machines. ■

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Reducing Electricity Costs at Quarries

For many quarries electricity is a major operating cost. Crushers, screeners and other plant and equipment consume significant amounts of electricity. Short of shutting down its operations, the quarry operator appears to have little control over the cost. Recently however several innovative quarries have taken advantage of a new way of purchasing electricity and reduced the energy component of their electricity bill by 20% to 40%. PROGRESSIVE GREEN PTY LTD reports.



THE TRADITIONAL APPROACH

Most quarries purchase electricity from an energy retailer via a standard retail contract. In order to supply electricity to the quarry the retailer purchases electricity from the national wholesale spot market at the prevailing wholesale rate and then passes it onto the customer at retail contract rates. The spot market can vary between -\$1/kWh to \$12.50/kWh depending on various issues such as constraints on the grid. Most of the time though, prices are substantially lower than retail contract rates. No retailer wants to be paying high spot market rates so to avoid exposure to high spot prices the retailer puts in place a hedge, often paying a premium to a financial institution or generator to insure against high prices on the wholesale market. The hedging costs are expensive and the extra costs are simply passed on to customers through their contracted retail energy rate.

THE OPPORTUNITY

David Evans, the General Manager at Progressive Green a licensed electricity retailer comments: "The wholesale price can and does vary constantly but extremes are rare. For the majority of the time the price on the spot market is much lower than the fixed contract rates offered by retailers. Generally the spot market price sits around 2c/kWh to 4c/kWh for most of the time". Evans: "So a customer who is able to avoid

the few periods when the prices are high (during so called "pool events") has the opportunity to access inexpensive electricity most of the time and achieve significant savings – potentially as high as 20% to 40%".

Purchasing direct from the wholesale electricity market is not for everyone – however – there are customers who can manage their electricity load during pool events – e.g. by turning equipment off (shedding load) or switching to back-up generator. At first glance this may seem onerous but history shows that the frequency of pool events above 30c/kWh is rare. An analysis of the last 7 years shows that the majority of pool events are less than 2hrs in duration and events longer than 2hrs are rare. During 2010 there were 11 pool events in Victoria that required load shedding for a total combined duration of 23 hours over the entire year, mainly between 3pm and 7pm on hot summer days. Furthermore the events are usually forecast ahead of time by the market, usually with 12-24 hours' notice.

So provided you are kept informed about upcoming pool events ahead of time and are able to modify your production schedule to avoid consumption during pool events then you can reap the benefits of lower electricity rates. For quarries often this means stockpiling a little extra ahead of time or modifying operation hours and running the plant earlier in the day.

A NEW APPROACH TO ELECTRICITY PURCHASING

David Evans again: "Progressive Green has recognized the opportunity to save customers money on their electricity bills by providing direct access to the wholesale market via its Managed Wholesale Pool Purchasing product. We offer a unique end-to-end management solution that includes a comprehensive notification and load management system".

"The solution keeps sites informed of market price events so that they know when to manage their load. In addition there is a unique communication and control device that signals the right time to shed load and or the best time to use load (low prices) - an essential element for purchasing from the wholesale market".

Brian Calovic, Quarry Manager at Conundrum Holdings Pty Ltd's Stawell Quarry site (pictured above), commented: "We recently started using Progressive Green's wholesale pool purchasing and have been very happy with the results so far. Pool purchasing is giving us savings over 40% compared to contract rates that are being paid elsewhere".

For more information please contact Progressive Green on 1300 08 06 08 or by emailing info@progressivegreen.com.au

New Blasting Checklists – Are you compliant?

GAVIN MOREIRA, Administration Officer of the CMPA provides an overview of the recently developed blasting checklists.

THE CMPA has recently developed two new blasting checklists – Shotfirer's Book and Magazine Management Safety Checklist which are now available to purchase at a cost of \$25 for Members and \$45 for Non-members. The need for new documentation came about as a result of the removal of health and safety obligations, particularly the management of explosives within extractive industry sites, from the Department of Primary Industries in 2005.

As a consequence of this change explosive record books are no longer being printed at the government printers. Numerous members had contacted the CMPA for information as to where to obtain these books, with some parties photocopying the old books.

Furthermore there had been significant changes to the way explosives were being managed at extractive industry sites; for instance:

- how they are delivered to sites,
- many operators engaging contractors to undertake rock-on-ground contracts,
- operators undertaking parts of the drill and blast program, subcontracting sections out, or
- sites undertaking the delivery of explosives without magazines onsite.

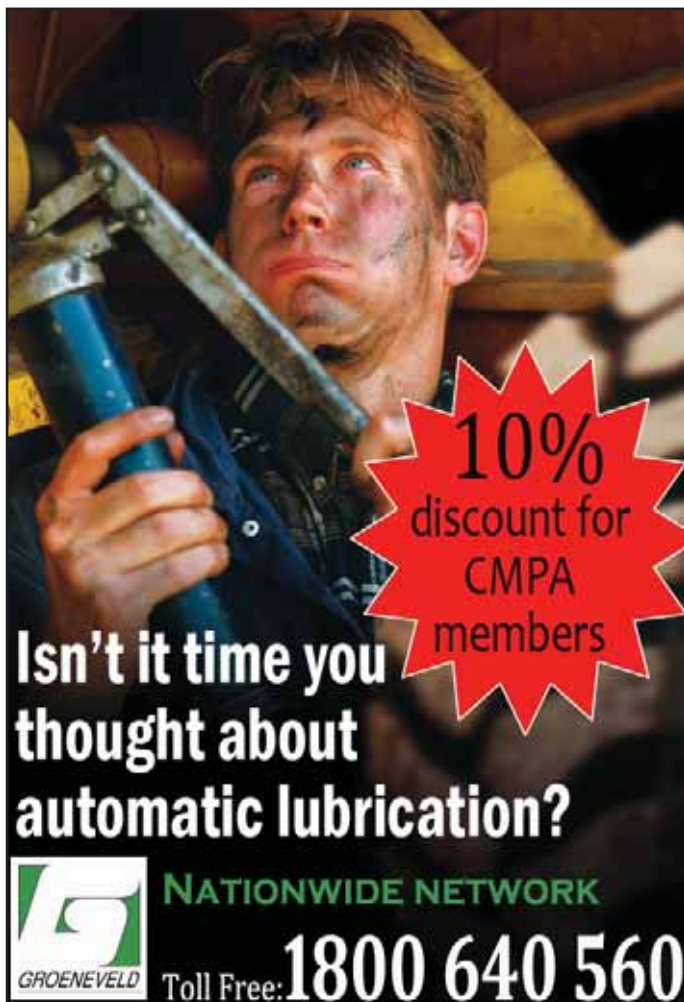
The wider community has also become more conscious of the importance of tracking and management of explosives records as a result of terrorist attacks.

With Blast Management Plans (BMPs) being enshrined in Dangerous Goods legislation in 2011 and required at all quarry sites, it was apparent that detailed evidence was required to underpin regulatory obligations.

These two publications are the first two tools designed to assist in meeting these obligations and to ensure compliance with the *Dangerous Goods Explosives 2000 Regulations* and *AS2187.1 – 1998 Appendix J*.

The development of the books has taken close to two years to complete, starting back in March 2010 with a small group of members. Thank you to Bob Ferguson, Moree Quarries for bringing this issue to the attention of the CMPA all those years ago.

In October 2010 the CMPA held a Blast Management Workshop where over a thousand years of industry experience was present to provide their input and expertise. Several meetings later with members and WorkSafe Victoria have culminated in two finished products.



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Blast at Allstone Quarry

The new Shotfirer's Book was developed to ensure that all blasting details were recorded and reports on the blast collated in accordance with AS2187.2: *Explosives – Storage and use. Part 2: Use of explosives*. The book was also designed to ensure checklists were being completed by Shotfirer's prior to the blast and that there was compliance with the sites Blast Management Plan (BMP).

The second new book Magazine Management Safety Checklist (also comprises an Explosive Stock Record section) was developed to ensure members are complying with changes to the *Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations 2011* which came into effect in June last year. The magazine needs to be kept in a good and safe working order as well as hold the licensed amount of explosives and comply with AS2187.1-1998 Appendix J. Part two of the book is made up of Explosive Stock Record sheets, which allows the quarry manager to keep an ongoing record of quantities of detonators and explosives within the magazine.

The CMPA strives to educate industry participants with the development of resources in an attempt to increase the overall safety of the industry.

The obligation lies with the owners and directors of companies to ensure that employees have a safe working environment which is not a risk to their health. The incident below highlights the need for such resources:

A Tasmanian quarry worker narrowly escaped with his life earlier this month after a blast was detonated in close proximity to his vehicle.

The sub-contractor was on-site at the quarry to undertake drilling operations, but hadn't been signed onto the pre-blast checklist.

The explosives company that had been employed to conduct the blasting had loaded the drill holes, with the shotfirer unwinding the bellwire to a point 150m from the blast site.

Workers then worked through the checklist, gave the all clear and sounded the blast siren. After a final visual check and a last radio communication, the shotfirer detonated the blast. Unknown to him, however, the drilling sub-contractor had returned to the drill rig, only 20-30m from the blast site. Incredibly, he was unharmed.

According to the Workplace Standards Tasmania, the incident occurred because of a number of oversights. Primarily, the driller had not been signed into the quarry entry point, partly because traffic management plans and exclusion zones were inadequate. Likewise, the shotfirer commenced the blast preparation procedure before ensuring all personnel were outside the exclusion zone.

Problematically, it was the explosives company that communicated the "all clear" and "OK to proceed", not the quarry as required. While the sub-contractor was lucky to survive the incident this time, had things gone differently, the company could have been liable for three years' imprisonment and a \$780,000 fine, along with the tragic consequences of a loss of life. ■

To order a Shotfirer's Book or Magazine Safety Checklist contact the CMPA on Phone: 1300 267 222 or Email: enquiries@cmpavic.asn.au

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Extractive Industry support materials updated

SEAN KINDER, Documentation Officer CMPA reports on his updating of the CMPA Reference Manuals and the future extractive industries support materials to be developed.

IN the Oct/Nov 2011 issue of *Sand & Stone* I reported on the updated versions of the Work Safely and Cut, Weld and Bend reference manuals. More recently the CMPA has completed some surgery and modernising of the more field specific Extractive Industries support material.

These reference manuals include the fundamental units of Certificate II being Conduct Crushing Operations, Conduct Screening and Conveying Operations and Certificate III Combined Crushing and Screening. After visiting various trade shows in bulk handling materials and communicating with various suppliers of crushing, screening and conveying, some new products surfaced and have been researched and added, particularly specific to automation on sites.

The purpose of these reference manuals is to give workers a general introduction in the different components of crushing, screening and conveying in the extractive industries, their operation and some basic troubleshooting techniques.

The introductory chapter of each manual has been made consistent with the addition of sections on:

- The hierarchy of control, a procedure used to lower the risks of a hazard.
- Environmental incidents and correct disposal techniques – dealing with spillage and uncontrolled emissions (dusts, contaminated water, oils and other chemicals)

- Guarding and the use of cable ties
- A detailed list of the hazards associated when employee work, when still affected by drugs and alcohol.

CONDUCT CRUSHING OPERATION

With the Conduct Crushing Operation reference manual the most important addition is a section on the Mangasafe jaw and cone crusher liner lifting tool; a newer product developed by Crushing Equipment, designed to safely lift liners without the use of welding lugs. Although this task should only be performed by trained workers, it is important for the knowledge to be given to others, of the tool's existence. This task will be explained in a future reference manual: Certificate III: Service and Maintain Crushers.

CONDUCT SCREENING AND CONVEYING

It has been observed that many newer quarries are being operated with the use of computers and automated technology. This has led to some newer sections added, with details of thermal imaging scanners for idlers, moisture monitors to be installed near dust suppression systems and in co-operation with the pug mills, vibration monitors and conveyor velocity controls to guard against belt slippage.

Other concepts which have been included in the reference manual include identifying possible causes of belt slippage, which can

lead to conveyor belt and/or drive pulley damage and different techniques and systems used to remove tramp metal, as tramp metal may lead to unnecessary wear and damage to capital equipment.

MOVING FORWARD

In 2012, the next group of reference manuals undergoing updating and writing are on the Service and Maintenance of: crushers, screens, conveyors, bins and hoppers. These will look more at specific tasks and a series of checks and inspections which should be conducted on site: daily, weekly, monthly, bi-annually and annually, to ensure the plants are running safely and productively. Over the coming weeks, Bruce McClure and I will also be developing a structural integrity checklist, which can be used to inspect for any wear on the plant structures, including corrosion and joint damage.

Finally, with the completion of the Service and Maintain set of reference manuals, the CMPA will look into developing resource materials in Conduct Blending Plant Operations and Conduct Sand Operations, expected to be completed in early 2013. ■

The CMPA encourages members to take photos of different site problems, repairs and newly operational machinery, which can be used in the training of others.



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Preventing falls from earthmoving equipment

The latest guidance note from Worksafe Victoria, provides advice on preventing falls from earthmoving equipment during on-site inspections, maintenance and repairs.

BACKGROUND

Falls from earthmoving equipment may result in death or serious injury such as fractures, spinal cord injuries, concussions and brain damage. Plant operators and service personnel may be at risk of falls from earthmoving equipment during onsite inspection, maintenance or repairs. These risks must be managed.

A key principle of health and safety is that workers be given the highest level of protection that is reasonably practicable in the circumstances.

WorkSafe considers the most practicable and economical method to protect workers from falls from earthmoving equipment is to have physical fall protection fitted. Where it is not reasonably practicable to have physical fall protection, other control measures must be in place.

IDENTIFYING THE HAZARD

Workers may be at risk of a fall from earthmoving equipment when they perform tasks such as:

- accessing service and inspection points
- refuelling
- scheduled maintenance and cleaning
- unscheduled or breakdown repairs
- removing/replacing vandal proof covers
- carrying items to service points
- adjusting operator controls, roofs, mirrors and seating.

CONTROL MEASURES

Control measures to manage fall risks should follow the hierarchy of control and in many instances a combination of approaches will result in the best solution. Controls should be reviewed regularly and modified, if necessary, to ensure they remain effective.

1. Elimination

Eliminate the risk by working from the ground or a solid construction, for example:

- Relocate gauges and inspection points to locations accessible from the ground.
- Use long handle tools to do cleaning tasks from the ground.
- Use designated 'park-up' areas that allow for safe access during service, maintenance and pre-start checks.
- Select equipment that removes the risk of falls through good design
- Regularly maintain steps to repair damage and remove dirt build-up to reduce the risk of slips, trips and falls.

2. Physical fall protection

If not possible to eliminate the hazard, use physical fall prevention such as:

- integrated guardrails


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Guardrails installed beside the engine bay of an articulated dump truck provide physical fall protection for pre-start checks & servicing

- scaffolding
- elevating work platforms
- fixed work platforms
- specialised service vehicles to provide safe access.

3. Work positioning system

If not reasonably practicable to apply one of the above controls, use a work-positioning system such as a travel restraint system. If considering a work positioning system, you must also provide:

- designated anchor points (15kN capacity)
- a harness and suitable length lanyard (rated fall arrest)
- storage for harness and other equipment
- training for workers
- a detailed Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) for the task (including inspection, set-up and use of the system)
- increased supervision
- procedures for the prompt rescue of a worker in the event of a fall.

Work-positioning systems are not the preferred option for earthmoving equipment

as these controls rely on people to do the right thing when inspecting, servicing or repairing the equipment.

Note: Generally, harness systems must be used in fall restraint mode, not fall arrest mode, as fall heights from earthmoving equipment are too low for the system to arrest a fall.

4. Administrative controls and ladders

Administrative controls and ladders can also be used for some tasks; however these controls are the least effective in controlling the risk of falls. Ladders are not suitable for long duration or high force tasks. Administrative controls must be properly used, reviewed and maintained.

SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENTS (SWMS)

An SWMS must also be developed and followed if the fall height is more than two metres or the task is performed on a construction site and there:

- is movement of powered mobile plant
- is on or adjacent to roadways or railways used by road or rail traffic
- is over or adjacent to water or other liquids, if there is a risk of drowning.

INDUSTRY INITIATIVES

A number of large civil construction projects and larger civil contractors have strict requirements for fall protection on earthmoving equipment, including ensuring:

- only plant with physical fall protection is permitted on-site or the operation of the plant is restricted
- all trafficable surfaces on the plant are to have non-slip surfaces
- tracked vehicles are slewed to the correct orientation to enable safe access/egress to check and service points.



The engine bay of the excavator is fully enclosed by integrated guardrails, enabling safe pre-start checks and maintenance on site

PURCHASING EARTHMOVING EQUIPMENT

When purchasing or hiring earthmoving equipment, consider if workers will be protected from falls during refuelling, servicing, maintenance and repairs.

Most manufacturers now produce earthmoving equipment with guardrail mounting points as standard and provide guardrails as an optional extra. There are also several manufacturers that produce after-market guardrails that can be fitted to existing plant.

Consult operators, service personnel and any health and safety representatives when considering purchases of earthmoving equipment or developing fall prevention solutions. ■

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DPI Update

COLIN THORNTON, Acting General Manager Minerals & Extractive Operations, reports on the DPI Targeted Audit Program & RRAM.

AUDIT PROGRAM

Invasive plants and pest animals are an ongoing problem throughout the Victorian Earth Resources Industry requiring impacted sites to commit resources each year in combating the problems created.

In the second half of 2011 the state-wide targeted audit program partially focused on pest plants and animals. These audits were undertaken as a follow up to a similar program conducted in the second half of 2008. Some audits were conducted in conjunction with officers from the DPI Biosecurity agency, and resulted in visits to 34 quarries and 6 mine sites across the state. The program was complemented by other audits aimed at various issues including hydrocarbon storage and dust management.

Many sites that were identified in the 2008 program as having weed or pest problems have been subject to ongoing inspection by Earth Resources Inspectors and so the sites for the current program were chosen on the basis of further weed issues identified during site inspections, from ERC meetings, and from reports received from the public and from other DPI officers.

The primary focus of the audits was on systems implemented to control pests including documented plans, implemented control measures and treatment programmes and training for staff and contractors. Identification of priority weed species was also addressed.

Under the *Catchment and Land Protection (CaLP) Act 1994* certain plants are declared as noxious weeds in Victoria. Twelve nationally recognised Weeds of National Significance (WONS) species were declared in Victoria as restricted weeds. These weeds are subject to a national control program and the audits identified several of these.

Although the primary responsibility for managing pest plants and animals at a quarry rests with the tenement holder and site manager there is no legal requirement for Victorian land owners or managers to eradicate or control WONS species on their land. However, the removal or sale of soil, sand, gravel or stone containing, or likely to contain any part of these plants or seeds or which comes from land on which they grow is prohibited.

A further number of State Prohibited & Regionally Prohibited Weeds were also identified by the audits. Land owners are required to eradicate State Prohibited Weeds if possible from Victoria and under *Section 70(1)* of the *CaLP Act* the Victorian Government may direct land owners/managers to prevent their growth and spread. In the case of Regionally Prohibited weeds land occupiers must take all reasonable steps to eradicate these weeds on their land.

It was encouraging to note that the level of knowledge regarding Priority Weeds and pest animals on the sample of sites audited had

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increased since 2008 and the proportion of sites with active control measures and treatment programs in place had increased. Almost 70% of sites visited had an adequate knowledge of the Priority Noxious Weeds in their area while over 60% had sought assistance from suitably qualified people in regard to control and treatment programs.

Overall, the most successful sites in managing their pest plants and animal issues have a coordinated approach using integrated weed management controls and involving all affected landholders and establishing a partnership that includes adjacent landholders, local shire/council officers and the community.

The integrated weed management approach to land management combines the use of complementary control methods such as herbicide application, land fallowing and biological control.

The resulting combinations provided the best solutions to weed problems for quarry managers.

RESOURCES RIGHTS ALLOCATION & MANAGEMENT (RRAM)

The current business systems supporting the earth resources are using old and now obsolete technologies which are increasingly difficult to maintain and in some cases no longer supported by technology vendors. RRAM – an initiative being undertaken by the Earth Resources and Fisheries branches of DPI will provide an integrated, secure and maintainable resource allocation and management business and system capability within DPI. It will streamline current business processes and replace outdated and obsolete IT systems, delivering on the following objectives:

- Protect Victoria's fishing resources for future generations

- Attract new, and secure existing, investment in Victoria's earth resources industries
- Support the emergence of new market opportunities including geothermal energy, geosequestration and aquaculture
- Provide increased certainty of access to allocated natural resource rights and improve compliance with allocated rights
- Reduce the administrative burden, and improve operational effectiveness of the regulation functions that support them.

These objectives will be achieved through a comprehensive business and technology change program that will deliver:

- Online application, renewal and transfer of resource access rights (exploration, tenements, licenses and quota units)
- Consolidated resource allocation, stakeholder and asset data repository
- Integrated compliance management, reporting and analysis capability (including advanced spatial analysis & resource tracking)
- Mobile access to systems for field based staff
- Streamlined and consolidated business processes
- Industry and community stakeholder engagement and change programs.

Final development of RRAM is well advanced and initial staff training is taking place. It is anticipated that the system which will provide a framework for the issuing and management of all tenements will be rolled out internally in the second quarter of the year. RRAM is being designed to allow direct interaction with tenement holders, although external access to the system will be progressively introduced to allow initial bedding down of the new processes. ■

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VLPA Update

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

ACID SOILS FIELD DAYS

A further field day entitled, "Reducing soil acidification through lime and nutrient best practice" is to be held this time in Koroit on Tuesday 3rd April 2012.

VLPA is once again working with the organizing body WestVic Dairy through Project Manager Jeff Lawes of WestVic Dairy. The field component is to be held at Xavier and Kirsty Parkinson's property in Terka Road, Koroit. Look for the signs in Spencer Road. Lunch and presentations will be held at the Kirkstall Hall.

The event will be free to attend but people should register with WestVic Dairy on 03 5592 2477 to ensure adequate catering arrangements can be made. VLPA members are invited to bring lime samples to display at the field day. It is best to advise Jeff Lawes in advance on 0418 717 552 should you intend to display a sample.

MURRAY-DARLING BASIN PLAN

The MDBA is currently conducting a series of consultation forums throughout the Basin to outline progress of the Plan. VLPA recently attended a consultation meeting in Swan Hill. Redrafting and changes to MDBA Board have taken place following considerable angst on the part of farming communities in late 2010 to the Guide plan. In essence, the priority at that stage was 4k gigalitres to be taken from farms for the environment. Hence loss of markets for our product with handing back of water rights and loss of cropping and pasture.

Since then several Parliamentary inquiries and changes of government in Victoria and NSW have led to a more balanced approach between environmental, economic and social considerations for a Basin plan. More scientific investigation of the system, less environmental flows and more productive delivery of water to farms are now planned. These measures are pretty much what VLPA and NAA supported in submissions to the parliamentary inquiries.

We will be emphasizing such measures in a submission to the MDBA which is accepting submissions on the Plan until mid April 2012. Hopefully a Plan once eventually accepted by Federal Parliament will lead to a strong future for agriculture in the Basin, which now produces around 40% of Australia's food production.

REGULATORY ISSUES

New Mining and Extractive Act (MRSDA)

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has advised that the revised *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act* has come into place from 1 February 2012. It's accompanied by consolidation of regulations. All license holders are being circulated with details of the new arrangements. License holders are urged to ring their local DPI tenement officer should they have any queries.

Agricultural & Veterinary Chemicals Legislation

VLPA and NAA have been invited to several consultation and update meetings of this project. It is a joint Commonwealth/States

project aimed at uniform assessment and review of ag. and vet. products. Although it is not intended to incorporate agricultural lime under this regime it is important that being a natural product it does not get drawn into the regime at some later date. We have been assured by staff that the project is not intended to include our product. However the fact that we were invited to consultations means we are on the radar and need to emphasize that we are outside the scope of the proposed regime and have good grounds to remain so. Hence the foregoing will be put forward in a submission to the process during the current consultation period. ■

Further information is available from Peter McCluskey by phoning 0408 496 588.



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The Carbon Tax & Your Business

VECCI's sustainability consultants are providing Carbon Tax Briefings across Victoria to inform about the risks & opportunities..

WITH the Federal Government's "Clean Energy Future" package coming into force on 1 July 2012, it's crucial that employers are prepared for the impacts the new carbon tax legislation will have on their business operations.

Small and medium-sized businesses are reporting a lack of clarity around the new laws, particularly as they relate to their own costs and profitability. However, more than two thirds (69%) of SMEs believe the carbon tax will impact their business financially. They're right. The carbon tax can't be ignored. In order to survive, compete and grow in a carbon-constrained economy, understanding the carbon tax is essential.

Dealing with the commercial implications of the carbon tax is at the core of the carbon tax and your business - risks and opportunities, VECCI's state-wide briefing series, which will cover:

- An introduction and overview of the Government's "Clean Energy Future" package.
- A breakdown of the carbon tax.
- How to survive and prosper in a carbon constrained economy.
- Strategies to assist SMEs address issues with the new tax.
- What is a low carbon economy?
- The impacts to your business.
- The risks and opportunities for your business.

DATE	LOCATION	DATE	LOCATION
12/04/12	Shepparton	4/05/12	Dandenong
12/04/12	Albury Wodonga	8/05/12	East Geelong
13/04/12	Traralgon	9/05/12	Nunawading
18/04/12	Ballarat	11/05/12	East Melbourne
18/04/12	Horsham	15/05/12	Preston
19/04/12	Warrnambool	16/05/12	Mildura
2/05/12	Bendigo	23/05/12	East Melbourne
2/05/12	Bendigo	24/05/12	East Melbourne

- Government assistance, initiatives and grants.
- What your business needs to look out for from 1 July.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Business owners, directors, senior managers, CEO's, CFO's, accountants/finance, office, operations and facilities management.

Can't make it to the briefings or need assistance ASAP? VECCI's Sustainability consultants can undertake workplace visits to help you deal with issues quickly and effectively. ■

For more information or to register, visit www.vecci.org.au or call 03 8662 5333

With the introduction of the Carbon Tax in July 2012, CMPA members are starting to request information on what the possible impact on their businesses will be. The Secretariat is seeking actual information and details on the introduction of this tax and will pass this onto all members as soon as possible



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LAWRIE HURLEY, State Manager for Roylances provides an insight into the family owned business.

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Roylance's is a dynamic group that has prospered by being responsive to the needs of our customers. We have built client relationships based on trust, honesty and the ability to produce positive results.

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What is the best part of your job?

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Vermeer Levelling the Hunter

CRAIG BATTEN, National Manager Mining Services at Vermeer reports on the excavation of the new Hunter Expressway.

A Vermeer Terrain Leveller is assisting with rock excavation on the \$1.7 billion Hunter Expressway project that will cut travel times between Newcastle and Branxton by half an hour, and relieve congestion by taking up to 30,000 vehicles a day off the New England Highway. Completion is expected at the end of 2013 and the work has been let in two contracts:

- Eastern Section (F3 to Kurri Kurri), undertaken by the Hunter Expressway Alliance (Roads and Maritime Services, Thiess Pty Ltd, Parsons Brinckerhoff and Hyder Consulting), and
- Western Section (Kurri Kurri to Branxton), undertaken by Abigroup Contractors Pty Ltd under a design and construct contract.

The Vermeer T1255 Terrain Leveller is working on the Eastern Section, with its owner Trenching Systems Australia (TSA) being initially hired to excavate Cut 13.

The rock in the cut is slightly weathered massive sandstone with some bands of conglomerate, and hardness is 30-40 MPa. There are few defects. The shallow depth of the cut (less than 3 metres) ruled out blasting, while the rock was too hard for ripping. The production rate of around 40 -60 m³/hr is comparable to production rates expected of blasting and ripping in this type of rock, and the Terrain Leveller has fitted seamlessly into the earthworks programme.

The cut rock is taken directly to fill locations where it is used as upper zone (300mm depth) base material immediately beneath the designed pavement. The excavated material is watered before it is picked up and transported, to control the moisture level.

There was some experimentation in the method of pick-up and transport until a Caterpillar 615 elevating scraper was settled on as the best means of keeping the work area tidy and removing material at a constant rate. A feature of the Vermeer Terrain Leveller is its ability to cut to close tolerances, with the ability to alter the depth of cut as well as the angle of the drum. This makes it an ideal machine to use with 3D GPS control. The ability to vary the depth of the cut provides some control over the size of material produced, with deeper cuts producing smaller material. As a result of its performance in Cut 13, a decision has been made to extend the use of the Terrain Leveller to base excavation in Cut



Vermeer T1255 Terrain Leveller working on the Eastern Section

16. This cut has inter-bedded sandstones, siltstones and mudstones, with the rock being slightly weathered and having strength varying between 20 MPa and 50 MPa. There are more defects than in Cut 13, with these typically occurring every 100-300 mm. This is a deeper cut than Cut 16 and blasting will be used, with the Terrain Leveller used to excavate to within 30 mm of the design level. TSA is responsible for set-up and operation of the Terrain Leveller. The main adjustments required were a slower drum speed to better match the rock, and tweaks to the dust extraction system to increase its effectiveness. However the Terrain Leveller was basically productive from when it was put to work. Use of consumables is modest: around five picks are changed each day.

David Wheatley, Senior Project Engineer – Earthworks for the Hunter Expressway Alliance, believes that the biggest current limiting factor to wider use of Terrain Levelers in civil projects is their availability in the hands of subcontractors. Subject to availability, Wheatley said, “I would look at using this piece of plant in all cuttings as an option, especially at the base.”

Apart from applications in trimming to level and undertaking shallow cuts, Wheatley adds, “The Terrain Leveller could be the most productive way of mining a cut of any depth for other reasons, such as distance to sensitive receivers. Vibration and noise restrictions

at these receivers may require the use of a Terrain Leveller over traditional methods of drill and blast or rock hammering.”

Vermeer Sales & Service’ National Manager Mining Services Craig Batten believes that the supply issue is improving, stating, “Trenching Systems Australia has taken delivery of a second Terrain Leveller, which is a huge endorsement of their performance and their future.

“We have fielded other inquiries, and are confident that the size of the contracting fleet will increase. We also feel that the new T1655 (nearly twice the size of the T1255) has applications in civil construction as well as mining, and this could change the economics of using a Terrain Leveller significantly”. ■

For further information please contact Craig Batten - National Manager Mining Services
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To book, please contact Diane Wilson at Box Hill Institute of TAFE by phoning 03 9286 9711.

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.



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