

SAND & STONE

The official magazine of the CMPA

- REHABILITATION BONDS
- ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS
- DPI STATISTICS
- ACCELERATED BLAST TIMING

ISSUE 53

Oct/Nov 2010

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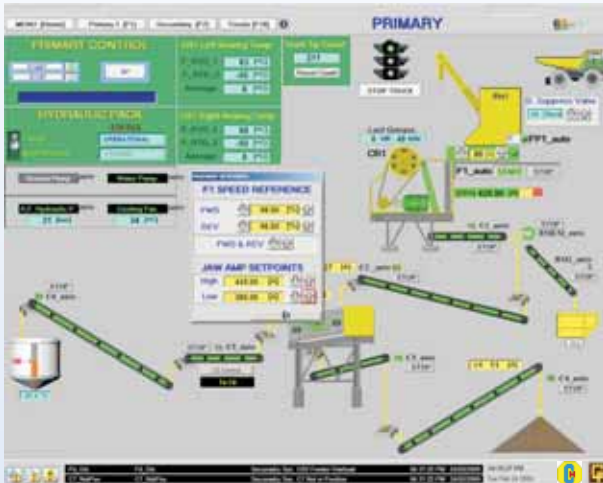
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Bonds a Miasma of Uncertainty

The foundation of the CMPA in 1999 was largely built on the egregious nature of rehabilitation bonds imposed on the industry at the time. However, some 10 years down the track, it seems little has changed.

A recent CMPA submission to the Victorian Competition & Efficiency Commission (available at www.cmpvic.asn.au) highlights the insidious bond position many quarry owners still find themselves in – managing bonds that are set at unfeasibly high levels.

A chasm between a reasonable bond level and actual bonds is driving capital investment from the industry and breaking businesses.

Recent reassessment of bonds for several sites highlights the murkiness of calculation.

A letter to one operation noted 'a recent review of the operation' was the basis for revising the bond from \$480,000 to \$2.9 million – an increase of 504%. And that's not an isolated example. Another small site had a bond set in 2005 at \$12,000 with a recent review by the DPI proposing this be increased some 550% to \$78,000.

Another review at another site proposes a bond increase from \$40,000 to \$116,000, and yet another \$12,000 to \$187,000. There is little doubt the Department's approach will devastate many operations and have a profound impact on those that do survive.

The bond review formula has been found wanting from these examples.

These bond review outcomes are not maintainable and changes must be urgently undertaken. Many of our businesses will have to consider their future in our industry if this does not occur.

What must be at the core of the bond formula is that it is fair, just, and reflective of common sense. It must not restrict entry, force resources to be sterilised or force existing owners to exit the industry.

One of the cases above has resulted in the owner cancelling substantial upgrades to the crushing plant, even though the final bond figure has not yet been agreed to.

We have been reminded ad-nauseam that the process is needed to address the risk a failed Work Authority presents to the Department. To this end, it is worth reviewing the last 20 years of activity by the government to rehabilitate sites in the extractive sector. Only five sites have had funds allocated to

them of the hundred plus Work Authorities that have closed. At those five sites a total of only \$18,000 has been spent. This is to the credit of our industry and all those who work within it and manage it.

It is obvious that there is a risk of failure, and this goes for all things in life. It is only proper that the risk be recognised and managed in a way in which our industry is not damaged.

This concern is highlighted in the fact that over the last decade the value of rehabilitation bonds across the industry increased 184% while inflation increased by 43% by comparison.

In other words, over the last 10 years, we have lifted the bond level from \$22 million to \$65 million and the industry has foregone in excess of \$34 million of interest in this period, not to mention the cost of funding and lost opportunity.

Just expanding the rehabilitation bond levels to cover the perceived risk as reflected in the current bond formula is not the answer.

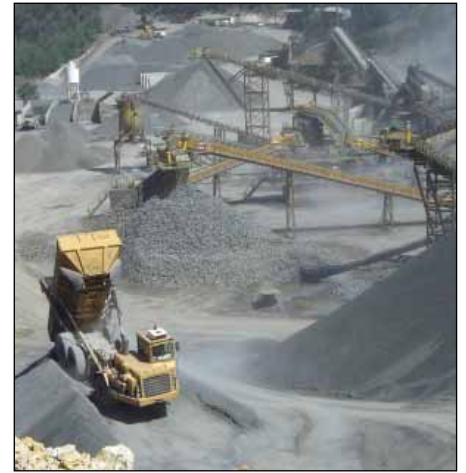
Any existing or recently terminated Work Authority requiring government intervention, would see the bond most likely be insufficient for the works required at any rate - with a shortfall that could be up to ten fold.

We need to also consider addressing the issue of a cataclysmic failure of a Work Authority that results in the owner walking away and no party interested in acquisition. This is an extremely rare event – but it has happened in the past and it will most likely do so again.

These events require all parties involved to take some responsibility as it is foreseeable. Good contact at the Work Authority level would a palatable exit strategy.

To understand the risk, it would also be beneficial for the DPI to advise the industry on what constitutes failure, and the procedures they would put in place leading up to a Work Authority failure in order to achieve the best final outcome.

From a Work Authority holder's perspective, a range of triggers could bring about the demise of our businesses, many of which are outside of the individual's control.



Some of these are not entirely catastrophic as this business would remain saleable. They range from:

- Poor business decisions including lack of working capital (not catastrophic)
- Work Authority owner's death (not catastrophic)
- Handing in of a Work Authority (potentially catastrophic)
- Market failure due to import, competition and changing technologies (catastrophic, but planned exit possible)
- Resource failure due to deteriorating quality or exhaustion (catastrophic, but planned exit possible)
- Resource sterilisation due to encroachment (catastrophic, but planned exit possible)
- Resource sterilisation due to changing legislation (catastrophic, but planned exit possible)
- Removal of rights of access (catastrophic)
- Resources identified as having risks which make it unsuitable to operate (catastrophic)

It is clear to see that a Work Authority failure involves different levels of risk depending on the trigger for that failure.

No two Work Authorities are the same, and as such a 'one formula fits all' Government approach as presently stands, is flawed.

If there has ever been the need for a review of a system that has spiralled out of control, then this is it. The CMPA has been banging the drum for 10 years now, is there any chance anyone will listen? ■



CMPA NEWS

By **CMPA SECRETARIAT**

CMPA Secretariat provides an update of the latest news and happenings. We take this opportunity to wish all Members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

RECENT EVENTS

Secretariat met with Jim Malady from Australian Reliance Pty Ltd to discuss issues surrounding different insurance products in the market.

Garry Cranny and Ron Kerr attended a Skills DMC Meeting via teleconference to discuss continuous improvements to the Quarry Training Package including resource materials and assessment tools.

Adrian Town spent three days in North Western Victoria meeting with existing and potential Members.

Secretariat and Mark Thompson (Associate Chairperson) visited Echuca / Moama sourcing potential venues for the 2011 CMPA AGM & Dinner.

Tim Bird and Basil Natoli attended the DPI Earth Resources Regulation Stakeholders Meeting.

Bruce McClure attended the EPA Forum in Bendigo.

Bruce McClure attended the CCF Forum on Contaminated Soil.

Secretariat in conjunction with Box Hill TAFE and WorkSafe Victoria conducted a Blast Management Workshop in Tullamarine.

Secretariat and Members of the Management Committee attended various DPI Mineral and Extractive Industries Information Days held throughout Victoria.

Basil Natoli, Garry Cranny and Bruce McClure attended the DPI MRSDA Phase 2 Workshop discussing issues surrounding Work Plans, Authorities and Planning requirements.

EPA VIC COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT REVIEW DISCUSSION PAPER

The CMPA has provided comments to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) on their *Victorian Compliance and Enforcement* review discussion paper.

A number of forums were held around Victoria seeking comments from stakeholders and the community.

The EPA is considering a different approach to the way that it currently enforces the regulations that apply in Victoria. The EPA is especially interested in risk management principles particularly when it formulates future compliance requirements. The CMPA has no objection to this approach provided that the EPA regularly discusses issues with industry and visits sites to clarify and advise the relevant businesses on any issue that may arise.

Following on from this the CMPA also considers that a consistent approach in the enforcement of regulations right across Victoria is an important factor that EPA must adopt. It should make no difference where the Industry is located, the same message and treatment of the individual business is paramount

The CMPA also advised the EPA that there is an urgent need to streamline the approvals process for businesses trying to obtain the necessary approvals for establishing new or making variations to an existing site.

Further information regards the above will be reported in future issues of Sand & Stone

2010/11 ASSOCIATES REFERENCE MANUAL

The 2010/11 Associates Reference Manual is finally complete and will be in the mail to you shortly. The manual is slightly larger than last year due to an increase in Associate Members, up from 82 to 89.

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

QUARRY VISITS TO NORTH WEST VICTORIA

The Secretariat's Development Manager Adrian Town recently spent a few days in the North West of Victoria visiting current voting Members and meeting with potential Members. Quarry visits are a great way to not only say hello and put faces to names but to obtain valuable information on how the CMPA is travelling and how we can better help your business to grow.

The three days involved site visits of nine Members and six potential Members.

It was great to hear that all Voting Members were very appreciative of what the CMPA does for its Members. The CMPA's attitude towards education, safety and compliance are a major plus and draw card towards attracting membership. The CMPA's involvement with the RSPT and Truck Rally were well supported.

Thank you to all the Members and potential Members recently visited by Adrian for taking the time to show him around your site and providing him with valuable information.

VISIT TO MEMBERS SITES BY EARTH RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

On the 10 November 2010 Dr Mike Hollitt the Executive Director of Earth Resources Development Division visited two Member sites, Northern Quarries at Cooper Street and Galli Quarries at Kilmore, accompanied by Tim Bird CMPA Chairperson and Bruce McClure CMPA General Manager.

Mike had discussions with a number of CMPA Members at both sites and showed considerable interest in the comments from those present. With his strong minerals industry background he has an excellent understanding of the need for a strong, viable and profitable Extractives Industry in Victoria.

A detailed article on Mike's visit will be in the next issue of *Sand & Stone*.

URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY REVIEW

The CMPA has provided comments to the Growth Areas Authority (GAA) on their review of the *Urban Growth Boundary*. The CMPA previously commented on the *Urban Growth Boundary* review in July 2009 but further comments were sort from GAA following State Government changes to the boundary since then. The three areas of concern that the CMPA discussed in its submission were:

Strategic assessment of Extractive Industry Interest areas (EIAs)

Urban development is proposed to occur through large tracts of EIAs in the west around Rockbank, in the north around Donnybrook and Beveridge, and in the east near Clyde. The CMPA is highly concerned that these interest areas may be reduced as a result of this review.

Unsustainable future in the Melbourne Growth area of quarry products

Future work authority sites identified and currently located within the UGB will not be sufficient to cater for the required quarry products needed in the UGB by 2030. The CMPA maintains that this leads to the need for future resources of quarry products to be identified and the land reserved for this use. There is no evidence that industry or the State is preparing for a future where there will be shortage of materials in the UGB.

Based on the predicted population increase in Melbourne from 2011 to 2036 of 1,452,609 people, a total of approximately 14.5 million additional tonnes of quarry products, will be required over that period. Based on current usage and projected population growth it is estimated that approximately 1.3 billion tonnes of quarry products will be required by Melbourne community over the next 26 years (to 2036).

The use of buffer zones

For some work authority sites it may not be possible for any development or activity to occur within the buffer zones, for others it will be possible for certain activities to take place working in conjunction with the quarry. The CMPA has commented that provided there are strict guidelines and clear and agreed demarcation of responsibilities in place that such activities should not be ruled out.

Further information will be reported in future issues of the Sand & Stone.

CCF - FORUM ON CONTAMINATED SOIL

The CMPA was recently represented at a Contaminated Soil workshop run by the Civil Contractors Federation (CCF) in conjunction with the EPA.

The topics covered at the forum included:

- EPA emerging trends, what's new?
- Understanding environmental site assessments.
- Managing remediation projects & OHS.
- Current soil treatments and emerging technologies.
- Pre contract roles and responsibilities for the contractor and client.
- Disposal of contaminated soil to landfill.
- Spotswood remediation project and other practical examples.

If any Member would like to obtain a copy of any of the papers prepared for each of the above topics please contact the Secretariat and a copy will be sent out to you.

One area of interest to Members may be the Draft *Clean Fill Soil Guideline* discussion paper prepared by the CCF. Some of our Members do allow clean fill from outside sources onto their sites and this document will be of interest.

A copy has been sent to a number of Members seeking their comments on the document.

Please contact the Secretariat if you would like a copy of the Draft CCF discussion paper.

HELP REQUIRED

Do you know someone who is a good writer with a little bit of spare time who needs some extra cash? The CMPA still requires someone with an understanding of how quarries operate to assist with the writing of the next series of Reference Manuals. In particular we are looking at:

- How to Conduct Blending & Mixing Operations
- How to Conduct Sand Operations
- Service and Maintenance of Screens, Crushers, Conveyors, Bins and Hoppers

This would be a great part time job for a university student and a great opportunity to learn more about the industry.

Please contact the Secretariat if you are interested in the role, phone 5781 0655.

AGM & DINNER 2011 – ECHUCA / MOAMA

The CMPA AGM & Dinner goes into regional Victoria in 2011. Associate Chairperson, Mark Thompson and Secretariat's Administration Officer Gavin Moreira recently visited five potential venues in Echuca / Moama. The visits involved obtaining quotes, tours of the venues and rooms and looking for qualities that will make our event a success and impress CMPA Members and their guests.

A report and photos were provided to the CMPA Management Committee who decided on the Moama Bowling Club as the venue for next year.

A fun and exciting time is being planned for Echuca / Moama including additional activities to be held across the weekend for Members to get involved. Activities could include team events such as Go Karts, Paintball and Golf; or other leisurely activities such as paddle steamer cruises, winery visits or food and wine trails.

The Secretariat welcomes your ideas and suggestions for things to do on the weekend.

At present, event details are:

Date: Saturday 27th August 2011

Time: 5.00pm AGM
6.30pm Annual Dinner

Venue: Moama Bowling Club
6 Shaw Street, Moama

Please book the date into your diary now as Echuca / Moama is a very popular tourist destination, look out for further information in future issues of *Sand & Stone*.



The Effects of Accelerated Blast Timing on Primary Crusher Throughput

Quarries worldwide have experienced benefits using electronic initiation systems with improved and novel initiation sequencing. Uni tronic™ Electronic Detonator Trial at E.B.Mawson & Sons Pty Ltd – Lake Cooper, reported by FRANK SANTORO and REZA GHAEMI of Orca Quarry Services Victoria.

VICTORIAN regional quarry company and CMPA Member, E.B.Mawson & Sons Pty Ltd and leading supplier Orca Quarry Services, recently trialed an electronic initiation system using accelerated timing at Lake Cooper quarry, which delivered significant crusher throughput increase and a reduction in crusher blockages.

The aim of the trial was to determine if fragmentation and production improvements could be achieved in the quarry that had been affected by oversize in the dolerite muck-pile.

In early 2010, a 45,000 tonne trial blast was divided into two sections and fired at the same time, the first section initiated by Uni tronic™ electronic detonators and the second by a conventional non-electric initiation system (Exel™).

Both sections had crusher data and visual differences recorded while the excavation process was completed separately to record production data and allow analysis of primary crusher throughput.

The outcome included improved rock fragmentation achieved from accelerated initiation timing using Uni tronic™ detonators. Primary crusher throughput was 18.5 percent higher and crusher blockages were reduced by 32 percent compared to the Exel™ section.

Both the quarry manager and supervisor reckoned the trial delivered notable and measureable gains when compared to standard non-electric blasting.

Orca Quarry Services' 'Rock on Ground' program includes design and mark out of the blast, supply of initiating systems, mixing and loading of bulk products, tying up and firing the shot.

BLAST DESIGN

The blast was designed using three rows and divided into two approximately equal sections using the blast parameters listed below:

Blasthole Diameter (mm)	89
Blasthole Angle - Front row (degrees)	25
Blasthole Angle - Back row (degrees)	15
Bench Height (m)	15
Front Row Burden (m)	2.8
Burden (m)	2.8
Spacing (m)	3.0
Sub-drill (m)	0.8
Stemming (m)	2.2
Pattern	Staggered
Powder Factor (kg/m ³)	0.86

Table 1: Shows the results of a blast parameter analysis of both sections of the trial blast.

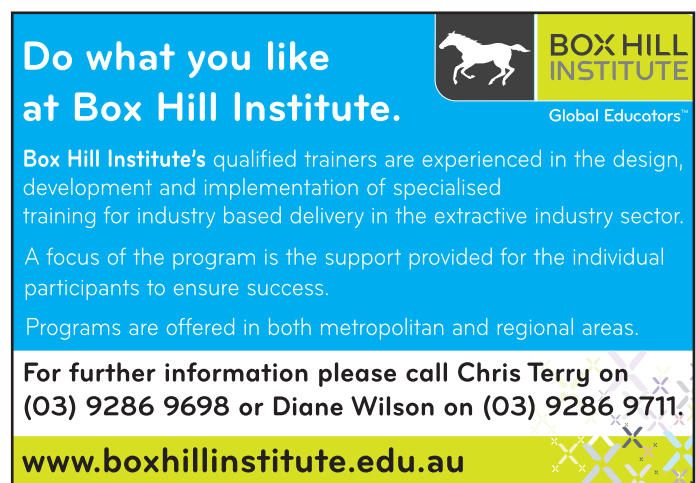
Section	Average Bench Height (m)	Average Burden (m)	Average Spacing (m)	Average Powder Factor (Kg/m ³)	Powder Factor Variation From Design (%)
Design	15.00	2.8	3.00	0.86	
Uni tronic™	14.35	2.71	2.86	0.94	+ 9.30
Exel™	14.66	2.78	2.90	0.92	+ 6.98
Total Blast	14.50	2.75	2.88	0.93	+ 8.14



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All down lines and surface delays used for the non-electric section are listed below. The electronic section used an accelerated initiation sequence delivered by Uni tronic™ programmable detonators, designed to promote additional rock fracture.

Control Row Delay (ms)	17
Echelon Delay (ms)	42
Bottom In-hole Delay (ms)	400
Top In-hole Delay (ms)	425

BLAST RESULTS

Following the initial post blast inspection, a transition zone from the Exel™ initiated section to Uni tronic™ initiated section was evident. Refer to Figure 1.

All production data (truck loading, crusher throughput and blockages) was recorded. There was no specific effort made to record oversize production from this shot, however rock breaker visits are recorded as a number of subsequent Uni tronic™ shots have been fired and excavated for comparative purposes.

ACTUAL BLAST PARAMETERS

To ensure any difference in blast results from either section of the blast can be attributed solely to the Uni tronic™ initiation system, an analysis of the actual blast parameters was conducted. This ensures any bias due to blast parameters would be highlighted and considered during evaluation.

The shot comprised of 122 blast holes, the Uni tronic™ section consisted of 62 blast holes and the Exel™ section 60 blast holes.

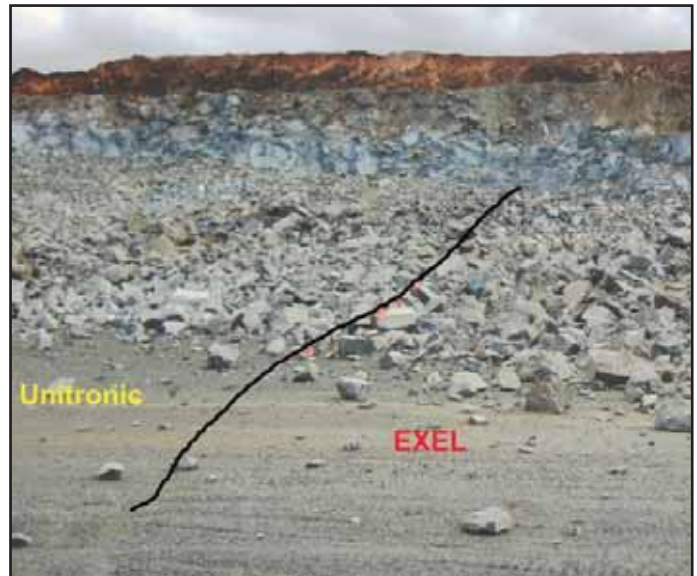


Figure 1: Transition zone between the electronic and non-electric sections of the blast

Table 1 shows the results of a blast parameter analysis for both sections of the trial blast.

After reviewing each section of the trial blast, it was found an additional 2.1 percent of bulk explosives was loaded into the Uni tronic™ section.

– Continued on page 10









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PRODUCTION DATA

Crusher Throughput

The total tonnes crushed by the primary crusher along with total operating hours were recorded each day. As the quarry needed to produce different material from different areas of the pit each day, it was not possible to concentrate just on production from the trial area alone. This meant data recorded was only for the timeframe when the quarry was working in the trial site. Referring to Figure 2, an improvement in the back of muck pile is evident.



Figure 2: Post blast image of rock-pile

An average crusher throughput of 191 tph was calculated from the Exel™ section of the blast and 234 tph from the Uni tronic™ end - equating to an 18.3 percent improvement in primary crusher throughput.

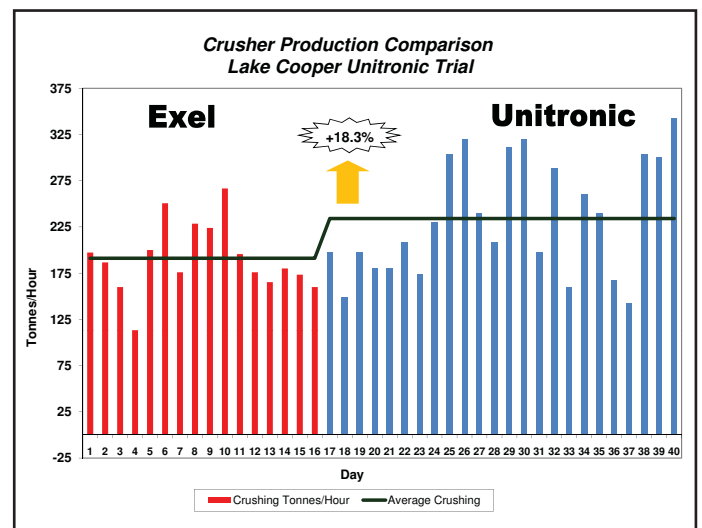
Crusher Blockages

Data also captured the number of blockages per day and production lost time per blockage.

Figure 4 is a graphical analysis of raw data captured during production of the total trial blast area.

The (total blast) average time required to recover a blockage in the primary crusher was approximately 12 minutes.

Figure 3: Primary Crusher throughput comparison



Considering standardisation, per 1,000 tonnes of production, it was calculated that production lost time due to blockages was reduced from 3.66 blockages/1,000 tonnes in the Exel™ section, to 2.47 blockages/1,000 tonnes in the Uni tronic™ section of the trial blast.

Converting this to availability of plant, it means that 44 minutes/1,000 tonnes was lost recovering blockages compared to only 29 minutes/1,000 tonnes lost crushing the electronically blasted portion of the blast. This equates to a savings in lost crushing time of 32.5 percent.

With an overall average blockage recovery time of 12 minutes, the primary crusher operator also made mention that there were fewer blockages from the Uni tronic™ component of the blast and that they were notably easier to recover.

From the actual operator data, it was found that the time taken to recover a blockage from the Exel™ section of the blast was almost twice that of a Uni tronic™ blockage.

Over the course of five full Uni tronic™ blasts fired at the Lake Cooper quarry using accelerated initiation, it was observed that the remnant oversize material encountered contained greater fracturing making both blockage recovery and on-bench oversize management much easier and faster.

Figure 4: Primary crusher blockages comparison

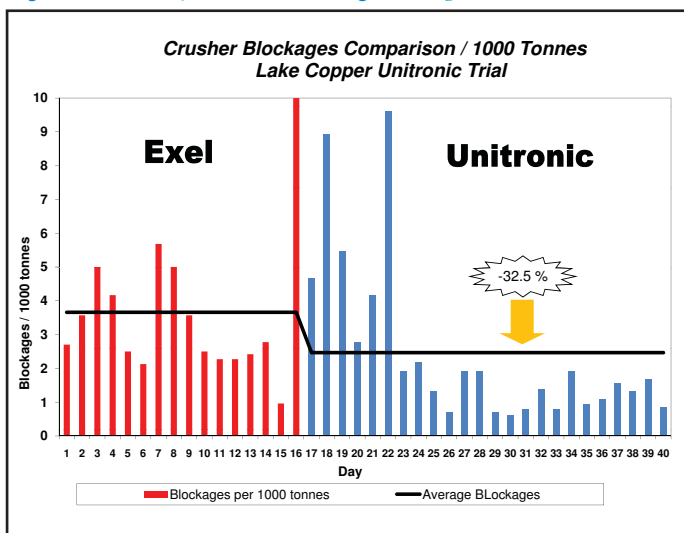


Figure 4 shows two significant peaks captured during the early excavation of the Uni tronic™ blasted material – this is the oversize encountered from the top section of the Uni tronic™ blast, associated with the stemming zone and some heavy burdens in this area.

Figure 5 illustrates the side, or excavation profile of the Uni tronic™ section, showing improved and more uniform fragmentation in the body of the blast and also highlights the oversize material coming from the top portion or stemming area of the blast.

BENEFITS TO QUARRY PRODUCTION

Primary Crusher throughput increased

Uni tronic™ blasting using accelerated initiation timing has shown a notable improvement in the primary crushing process with throughput increased 18.3 percent, from 191 tph to 234 tph.

This result was further calculated to show accelerated electronic timing delivered an additional 28,372 tonnes of primary crusher throughput with no additional operating days compared to a typical non-electric system. This means that the time taken to crush or process 100,000 tonnes from a standard non-electric blast, would deliver 128,372 tonnes processed from an electronically fired blast in the equivalent time. This equates to a 28.3 percent improvement in overall primary crusher throughput.



Figure 5: Side profile of the Uni tronic™ blasted rock pile

Oversize Rock reduced

The use of Uni tronic™ blasting with accelerated timing also saw a reduction in the use of rock breakers.

Baseline data captured in 2009 calculated a value of 2.09 rock-breaker hours per 1,000 tonnes of product throughput, while 2010 data recording 1.43 rock-breaker hours per 1,000 tonnes of product throughput. This equates to an overall reduction of 31.6 percent in rock-breaker hours during the electronic trial period.

Anecdotal Comments

The benefits to quarry productivity are not just limited to the analysis of production data. This direct comparative trial is a first at Lake Cooper Quarry and targeted the key area of primary crusher production.

Both the Quarry Manager, Adrian Bull and Supervisor, Maurice Kerrins, also offered comments regarding additional benefits noted from the Uni tronic™ trial.

Loading efficiency in the electronic blast section was improved with use of a second dump truck to haul oversize eliminated, leading to savings in fuel and operating costs.

There was a reduction in expenditure of ground engaging tools, wear parts and crusher maintenance. Quantifying this particular benefit accurately is always a challenge and can only occur over longer periods of time. Uni tronic™ electronic blasting at Lake Cooper commenced mid 2009 and to date approximately 158,000 tonnes of material has been blasted using this technology, which is generally applied to the harder areas of the quarry.

And finally, quarry staff noted an improvement in floor control during excavation of the blasted rock pile.

CONCLUSION

The result of this trial has identified significant benefits by using the latest blasting technologies.

This site is not only seeing a productivity improvement, but most importantly a financial benefit.

New blasting technology can be applied to many sites, with key elements being capturing data, recording outcomes and completing accurate analyses. This is the only way to determine if the application of new technology delivers benefits to your site. ■

Note: A full version of the technical results of the Uni tronic™ trial is available by contacting your local Orica representative.

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ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

Representatives of Engineers Without Borders visit CMPA offices, reports FRANK SANTORO of Orica Quarry Services Victoria.

ON the 29th July 2010 three representatives of Engineers Without Borders (EWB), Phil Clark, Madeleine Jenkins and Kristen Wood visited the CMPA offices in Kilmore. This visit was to assist EWB representatives develop a basic understanding of how a typical quarry operates in Australia.

EWB has planned to send two representatives to India to work with an organisation know as Santulan, as part of a program to improve the living and working standards of stone / quarry workers and their families around the town of Pune. One engineer will work in the area of Occupational Health and Safety and the second engineer in the area of Community Water Supply.

Engineers Without Borders Australia works in partnership with developing communities both within Australia and overseas, assisting them to gain access to the knowledge, resources and appropriate technologies they need to improve their livelihoods.



Children from the town of Pune, India

EWB focus on developing the capacity of the local technical sector through small scale, grassroots engineering programs to ensure that innovative, appropriate and sustainable solutions to issues that impede development are locally generated and driven. EWB believe it is essential to work in partnership with local communities and complimentary

development organizations, to achieve environmentally sustainable, socially responsible and economically viable solutions.

Some common issues facing the communities EWB work with include access to drinking water, sanitation, energy, basic infrastructure, waste systems, Information Communication Technology and engineering education.

The CMPA supplied manuals, systems, standards and other literature at no cost and also provided an open forum answering questions relating to quarry operations.

Following the CMPA visit, EWBs next appointment was a site tour of Northern Quarries – Epping. Northern Quarries representative escorted the visitors around site and explained in detail each facet of quarrying at Epping. All EWB visitors had a thoroughly enjoyable day and thanked the CMPA and Northern Quarries for all their support and assistance in their endeavors. ■

More information about Engineers Without Borders is on their website www.ewb.org.au

Crushing Plant on Quarry Site in Pune, India



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JOHN MAWSON, Managing Director of E.B.Mawson & Sons Pty Ltd reports on the history and growth of the business (as per the front cover).

E. B. (Barney) Mawson started contracting with a horse and dray in Northern Victoria in 1912. Barney was an enterprising man, always on the lookout for an opportunity to grow his business but not shy to sell something either. Over the years the Mawson business has included interests in; sawmills, butter factories, charcoal production, tobacco growing, dairy farming and market gardening. The constants throughout however were earthmoving and an ethic of hard work, respect and integrity.

Innovation is another key value at Mawsons. In 1927 Barney sold 12 of his horses and brought a 1 ½ ton Chev truck. Prior to the Second World War Mawsons were using "The latest, new" diesel trucks and hydraulic loaders. In the early 1970's Mawsons were amongst the first earthmovers to use lasers for land leveling in Australia. Today Mawsons work in conjunction with several major industry suppliers refining the latest technologies in blasting, off road tyres, equipment design, software development and concrete admixtures.



Mawson's road building team, Murray Valley Highway 1930

When Barney passed the business on to his three sons (Ken, Bernie & Lloyd) these core values stayed and the focus remained on earthmoving. Barney had however already recognized the importance of having reliable access to affordable, good quality raw materials. The fledgling signs of a vertically integrated construction materials supply business were apparent. And so it was over 60 years ago that Mawsons brought into their first quarries at Mount Hope and then (because there was electricity available) Pyramid Hill.

Ten years later the construction business' need for concrete meant that Mawsons started producing ready-mixed concrete and Besser Blocks. The block plant was soon sold but the concrete business proved to be a great way to increase sales from the quarry and sand pits while better utilizing the ever expanding fleet of trucks, loaders, draglines, bulldozers and scrapers.

Work at this time included road, channel and dam construction with projects including the Big Hill Cutting (south of Bendigo), Dartmouth township, numerous weirs (including Torumbarry), Hume & Buffalo reservoirs, bridges (including Cobram, Echuca rail & Robinvale), flyovers along the Hume freeway, water treatment plants, railway upgrades, schools, hospitals and the now popular slab on ground homes.

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By 1995 the size of Mawsons' operations had grown considerably and the families decided to split the business in two; Mawson Constructions Pty Ltd would continue to operate the earthmoving business and farms around Shepparton, owned and operated by Lloyd Mawson's family, while the Cohuna farms and Concrete and Quarrying business would continue trading as E. B. Mawson & Sons Pty Ltd. and be owned and operated by Ken and Bernie's families. During the next ten years most of the farming interests were sold off as the third generation focused on growing their respective Earthmoving and Concrete and Quarrying businesses. By now the sales from the concrete and quarry divisions were almost equal.



Cletrac crawler with hydraulic/cable loader loading 1937 Ford Truck

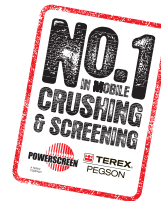
In 1997 Ken Mawson's family share of E. B. Mawson & Sons Pty Ltd was sold to Adelaide Brighton Ltd., Bernie's family retain their interest. Mawsons is now a 50/50 joint venture, still managed from the Cohuna head office. Mawsons operate over 30 sites plus a fleet of mobile gear supplying concrete and quarry products throughout Northern Victoria and Southern NSW. Today the Mawson concrete and quarry business employs over 200 people.



Atkinson 3 yard agitator at Kerang 1964

Mawsons were founding members of the CMPA. Managing director, John Mawson is on the CMPA Management Committee and believes that the Association has a critical role to play in educating industry operators and liaising with government. CMPA training plays an important role in developing Mawsons' staff and helping to ensure that Mawsons' plants operate safely and efficiently.

Pictured on the cover of Sand & Stone in front of the screening plant at Pyramid Hill are (L-R); Bill Thomson, Adam Howard, Jock Beevers, Alan Walsh & John Mawson



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VCEC – Enquiry into Victoria's Regulatory Framework

In October 2010 the CMPA made a submission to the VCEC on the need for major changes to Victoria's regulatory framework.
BRUCE MCCLURE, CMPA's General Manager reports.

IN July 2010 the Victorian Treasurer directed the Victorian and Efficiency Commission (VCEC) to inquire into Victoria's regulatory framework. The purpose of this enquiry as stated by the State Government is "to improve regulation in Victoria by identifying areas where the cost of regulation should be reduced as a matter of priority and ways of improving the institutional framework that drives ongoing regulatory reform".

The CMPA has made a submission to VCEC and highlighted a number of real concerns that Members had concerning government regulation.

Over many years the CMPA has provided comments, analysis and submissions to various regulators in response to proposals for new or expanded controls. Most have gone unheeded. The effort and cost of this work by the Association therefore is questionable when taken in a direct sense. However, the relentless imposition of costs by regulators demands that the Association maintain the interest. The Association's Members will not go down without a fight!

The plea by the Association is for balanced regulation. Balance in the quest of increasing social and environmental needs with the need of industry to be able to confidently risk its capital and ingenuity in the pursuit of profit-making ventures in a fiercely competitive environment.

The Inquiry's Terms of Reference are very broad. There is an element of desperation in their scope that seems to call for new ideas or slogans or gimmicks to address regulatory creep and to make the State more competitive. The CMPA believes there are no new solutions. It has all been said before.

The Government has regulatory gate-keeping arrangements in place although they must be improved. **Regulatory balance is the key and is the answer.** This is not rocket science but demands grit and determination in the face of newly created regulatory demands from eminent, articulate and often convincing people, generally funded from the public's purse.

It is too easy for Governments to go with the populist tide of emotive and plausible arguments presented by these good-willed people. Government must be about facing off these challenges in the knowledge that balanced regulation will provide long term sustainability for all the State's communities.

This submission responded to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference by referencing data provided in the Association's earlier comprehensive report, *An Unsustainable Future - The Prohibitive Costs of Securing Access to Construction Material Resources in Victoria*, which showed in considerable detail the costs of entry into the industry.

The submission also gave an update on the ten case studies used in that report and provided an analysis of the impact of the spiralling levels of rehabilitation bonds on the industry. These levels have been the cause of collapse of some extractive operations already and the cessation of several major new extractive developments – both of which have economic and regional impacts.

In the CMPA submission a total of 39 essential points were made under the four sections shown below.

- **Regulation that is necessarily burdensome, complex, redundant or duplicative.**
- **Regulation that should be reformed/reduced as a priority**
- **Improving institutionalised frameworks**
- **Framework for achieving the largest net reduction in red tape**

The CMPA will review the draft report outlining recommendations for consultative purposes once it becomes available. Only time will tell if the inquiry leads to realistic and beneficial changes in VICTORIA'S regulatory framework. ■

If you would like to read a copy of the CMPA's VCEC submission, it can be downloaded from the Members only area of the CMPA website www.cmpavic.asn.au.



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JOINT VENTURE PAVES SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

A new Australian porphyry stone quarry is delivering more than royalties for traditional owners in far north Queensland.

LOCATED near Dimbulah, one and half hours inland from Cairns, Featherstone Quarries development has come about as a result of an innovative joint venture arrangement.

Traditional owner, lease holder and Bar Barrum Indigenous elder Tom Congo, was well aware of the value and potential of the high quality porphyry stone in the site in the Atherton Tablelands but did not have the expertise to extract and market the resource.

After contacting Keith Davies of Jarby's Logistics, a local indigenous training and mentoring business, it wasn't long before contact was made with Andrea Tomaselli of Melbourne based stone merchant and stonemasons Italian Porphyry.

With a long history of involvement in the stone industry in both Italy and Australia and notable architectural landscaping work such as the Lygon Street piazza, Andrea and colleague, John Cook, quickly recognised the opportunity.



Site Photo – Featherstone Quarry

Tom Congo, Robert Turpin, Andrea Tomaselli, Keith Davies (L-R)



After a year of various site visits and negotiations a joint venture company was formed between the groups to ensure the exciting new paving and landscaping product made it to market and that the traditional owners would benefit.

"They came to us for some information and advice about production and logistics and marketing of Australian porphyry and after a few visits to the site we could see the potential," Mr Tomaselli said.

"It is a great opportunity for indigenous people to not only quarry the stone and share in the income but also because it means employment and training," he said.

"It's much more meaningful and more constructive for the traditional owners to be involved in a joint venture and be involved in extraction and the processing and the logistics than it is to simply accept money from royalties.

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“We’re very excited about the opportunities this porphyry presents and we’re looking forward to the unique opportunity this joint venture brings in marketing the stone,” Mr Tomaselli said.

Available in various shades from earthy ochre and reds to green blue hues, the local stone is predicted to make an impact in the market as production volumes increase.

“There’s already a lot of interest locally and in places like Townsville for civic projects and we will be marketing this stone as widely as we can as we go,” Mr Tomaselli said.

“People looking to use stone in paving and landscaping look at a lot of different aspects including colour and texture in what is often a very personal choice. The Featherstone porphyry will give them another option, and importantly, an Australian option,” he said.

The joint venture is already paying dividends for Tom Congoo, his family and young local indigenous people. “Our joint venture is currently providing on-site training for 15 local indigenous employees and is supported by the Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE,” Mr Tomaselli said.

Additionally to the direct employment and skills training, Featherstone Quarries also delivers an economic benefit to the local economy through the purchase of services and supplies, but it is the intangibles that really deliver according to Mr Tomaselli.

“The workers end up with skills they didn’t have before in using loaders and guillotines and saws in the extraction and in managing logistics and service,” Mr Tomaselli said. “The venture delivers great dignity to people – money is one thing but that’s not as powerful as meaningful employment.”



Local workers at Featherstone Quarry

“We don’t need Government entitlements,” Tom Congoo said. “It is important that our people have pride in their work and earn their living from their land.”

Mr Tomaselli said quarry operations began in early July and expected that Featherstone Quarries porphyry will be available throughout Australia in increasing volumes over coming months.

Porphyry is a high glass (silica) content volcanic stone structured in parallel slabs and is highly regarded as a non slip oil resistant paving product for exterior use. Mr Tomaselli said it is harder wearing than bluestone or granite and has been used for centuries for walling, paving and roads in cobblestone and mosaic tiles. ■

For further information contact Andrea Tomaselli from Italian Porphyry on Phone: 03 5964 7778.



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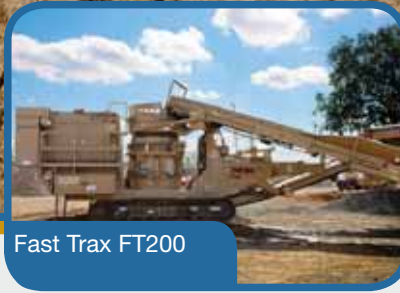
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CMPA'S NEW GENERAL MANAGER

As announced in the last issue of *Sand & Stone*, the CMPA is pleased to announce the appointment of Bruce McClure to the position of General Manager.

MR McClure has significant career experience as a civil engineer both with VicRoads and also with the family company, Bendigo based earthmoving contractor, McClure Earthmoving. Much of his career has been spent in project management and often as team leader.

His career experience with VicRoads / CRB saw Bruce working across much of the state in planning, design and project management roles. Bruce said his management skills combined with understanding of the sand and stone industry segment would stand him in good stead for the CMPA general manager's position.

"I've been involved with VicRoads which is essentially a large, multi-disciplinary service based organisation for several decades and this combined with my drive and team leadership capability should pay dividends for the CMPA membership.

"The CMPA has a significant role to play now as it did when first founded a decade ago. I've watched and participated where possible as the Association has fought to secure independent quarry operators recognition, rights and future.

"The Association has achieved so much in the past decade yet there is still so much to do.

"As an industry we have a vital role to play in the community and we must continue to pressure the government and various regulatory departments to not only understand the industry's role but work to secure its future.



"There is seemingly an ongoing battle with regulators who are seeking to impose more and more costs and controls on the industry without due consideration for the impact of those costs and controls.

"The CMPA has a vital role to play in achieving a balanced regulatory outcome in the first instance and that means addressing issues like the current cost and time needed to achieve approvals for access to materials and the imposition of unreasonable rehabilitation bond levels," Mr McClure said.

"The CMPA has achieved much recognition for the industry and our effort going forward will be to maintain that presence and demand the voice of independent operators be heard."

Mr McClure occupied much of his spare time up until 2006 with a commitment to the Army reserve in which he moved through the ranks over a 30 year career to achieve the level of Lieutenant Colonel.

Mr McClure said the Army Reserve was a fulfilling commitment and he had used his civil engineering skills in the planning and construction of works at defence depots and ranges both in Victoria and interstate.

"I've been involved with many teams in the private sector, the community and the Army Reserve and am always keen to take part and offer leadership as well as being a team player in order to achieve outcomes.

"Importantly from the CMPA's perspective, I have lead small teams on major road and construction projects and completed them on time and within budget and with no variation claims from contractors.

"I like to get the job done as planned," he said.

"It's always difficult to describe yourself but I'd consider myself hardworking, and results orientated. ■



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Elevating Work Platform Overturms

WorkSafe Victoria has put out an Alert that highlights the precautions that need to be taken when working with elevating work platforms on construction sites.

BACKGROUND

In a recent incident, a construction worker died when the boom type elevating work platform (EWP) he was working on rolled down an embankment as it was travelling around the worksite.

The boom lift was elevated at the time of the incident resulting in the worker falling 15 metres.

CONTROL MEASURES

WorkSafe expects any person operating a boom type EWP to:

- inspect the work area where the EWP is to be used. EWPs should not be operated on soft, uneven or sloping ground as it can make the EWP unstable, especially when the basket is raised

- assess the type of EWP to ensure it is appropriate for the site and work being undertaken
- conduct daily checks of the EWP before using it
- check the logbook for the last scheduled service of the EWP and arrange maintenance or replacement of the EWP if needed
- inspect the supplied safety harnesses and their connection points in the buckets

Any issues or defects with the EWP should be reported to the supplier immediately and the EWP removed from use until it has been checked by the supplier.

Workers operating EWPs should be trained and be able to demonstrate safe operation

of the EWP. No worker should operate a EWP unless they are properly trained and supervised. Records of provided training should be kept as verification.

Workers operating a EWP that has a reach height of 11 meters or higher need to hold a licence for high risk work.

A copy of the Alert can be downloaded from the WorkSafe Victoria website at www.worksafevic.gov.au

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Water Tanker Rollover at Haul Road Intersection

The Department of Primary Industry (NSW) Mine Safety Operations Branch, Industry & Investment's latest safety alert looks at safety on haul roads.

INCIDENT

A water tanker failed to negotiate a left hand turn at a 90 degree T-intersection of two haul roads and rolled over to its right through 270 degrees coming to rest on the passenger's side.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The incident occurred at 5.30 pm in clear, dry weather and the haul road was in good condition.

The water tanker driver had six months experience in this task and had completed generic induction and water tanker training. He had completed ten hours of work on his first day shift after a seven day rostered break.

The water tanker comprised a prime mover and a single trailer fitted with a 20,000 litre water tank. It is estimated that the water tank contained 15,000 litres of water at the time of the incident.

The water tanker came to rest on the wrong side of the haul road with the prime mover in the centre of the road and the rear of the trailer in the table drain at the side of the road.

INVESTIGATION

No documented pre start inspection of the water tanker was conducted on the day of the incident.

The water tanker driver was not wearing a seat belt and was extremely fortunate to have suffered only minor injuries in the incident.



Water tanker in the table drain

An independent third party audit of the water tanker failed to identify any mechanical failure that could have contributed to the incident.

The investigation could not determine the actual speed of the water tanker before the incident, but given all of the prevailing circumstances it did conclude that the water tanker was travelling too fast to safely negotiate the intersection and that this was the primary contributing factor to the incident.

No baffles were installed in the water tank and a lateral surge of water when the water tanker was attempting to negotiate the intersection may have contributed to the rollover.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Mines should ensure that pre start inspections specific to the type of mobile plant, and that identify mobile plant safety critical systems, are rigorously carried out by competent operators.

Mines should provide training to ensure operators understand that seatbelts must be worn at all times, and should conduct regular workplace inspections and task observations to ensure compliance by operators.

Mines should review their safe work procedures for transporting loads to; ensure that loads are stable, prevent overloading, and assess the requirement for baffles in tanks used for transporting bulk liquids.

Mines should ensure that haul roads are designed by competent people in accordance with anticipated traffic movements and traffic loading. Safe speed limits should be determined for all haul road situations. Speed limit signs should be clearly visible at all haul road intersections and at other strategic positions where vehicles may converge. Mines should periodically review their haul road design to ensure that it remains appropriate to a changing mine environment.

Mines should provide training to ensure operators understand the speed limits that apply on haul roads, and should conduct regular workplace inspections and task observations to ensure compliance by operators. ■

A copy of the Safety Alert can be downloaded from www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minesafety

Prime mover on the wrong side of the haul road



How to Communicate Workplace Safety Messages

Getting safety training messages to stick can be tricky. Discover the key factors behind successful workplace safety communication and how to implement them. Reported by MARIE-CLAIRE ROSS.

EFFECTIVE communication is vital to get staff and contractors aligned and working towards a positive safety culture.

Yet, just providing training to work safely is not always enough. How we communicate about safety influences whether or not people will accept or reject our safety messages.

The main objective of any safety communication program is to change behaviour. But how does a safety or human resources professional change attitudes towards safety or improve the way people undertake procedures?

The secret to developing highly successful safety communication programs is to use marketing-based tactics.

Key marketing tactics to consider for marketing safety are:

- Plan your safety messages like a mini advertising campaign – Define your target audience and work out the best ways to communicate to them. For example: male workers aged 25 – 55 years tend to prefer a more visual communication style.
- Consistent, clear messaging (includes branding) – Always promote the same standardized safety message and ensure that

all departments are aligned with the message and do not send out conflicting information (eg: safety officer tells people to work safely and cautiously, but production manager pushes for speed).

- The consequences of poor safety - One of the key messages is to get employees to really understand that poor safety behaviour not only puts their own health and safety at risk, but also the safety of co-workers. Let them know what effect this will have on their personal life and their family.
- Multiple message placement - This means you have a consistent safety message or theme and you repeat it in multiple places. It is like the glue that holds the tactics together and is essential in successful advertising.

Most safety training programs fall short when it comes to frequency of message. Yet, there are many simple and cost effective ways to do this.

By getting workers to engage in your safety message in different ways (watching it, hearing it, reading it), supervisors can better ensure that more workers receive the information.

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Consider including a training video that is supplemented with matching posters, email newsletter campaigns, key rings, employee handbooks and toolbox talks.

Treating safety messages as a mini-marketing campaign will provide better safety performance, communication and camaraderie in the workplace. ■

Marie-Claire Ross is a Director at Digicast Productions. If you want to learn more about workplace safety communication download our free report "Seven Communication Tips for Workplace Safety Messages" at www.digicast.com.au.

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Congratulations to Conundrum Holdings and Digicast Productions for winning a GOLD Prize as 'Best use of Video in a Training Program' at the recent LearnX Asia Pacific 2010 E-Learning and Training Awards.

Rob Clarke, founder and event organiser of the LearnX Asia Pacific Conference and Expo announced that the quality of entrants in the LearnX Asia Pacific 2010

E-Learning & Training Awards was superb. "It really is an important time to credit innovation and talent and we are thrilled with the number entering the awards this year," he said.

Other award winners included the likes of AMP, Salvation Army, Australian Red Cross, Westpac, CGU and Commonwealth Bank to name a few.



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VLPA Update

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

THE MRSDA (Act for mines and quarries) is being revised along with regulations with a view to implementation in 2012; along with other kindred associations we are involved in the consultation phase.

One potentially useful proposal is to introduce a Retention Licence (RL) whereby a mineral resource that has been identified but is not yet economic to mine can be reserved for a period via an RL. This could be useful where a resource is identified adjoining current operations.

The Murray Darling Basin proposed plan is a concern to a whole range of agribusiness industries. It currently proposes to cut water for irrigation by around 30% to an area of Australia which the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) says produces 40% of Australia's agricultural output. The MDBA proposes to increase water for

the environment by up to around 40%. This is under the guise of the Water Act 2007 which gives priority to water for the environment ahead of economic and social considerations.

Likely reductions in farming land due to water rights disappearing are a concern both to our industry and for national food security. Hence there is growing feeling in agribusiness circles that the Water Act needs amending to give adequate balance between economic, social and environmental considerations. This matter will require our continued attention along with other kindred bodies as the issue develops.

A successful Annual General Meeting and Conference of the VLPA was held at the Waltzing Matilda Hotel/Motel in South Springvale on 16 November 2010. A highlight of the event was a site visit to the

nearby national laboratory of one of the member companies where members were able to inspect state of the art equipment and product testing processes. Further information on the event will be in the next issue of *Sand & Stone*. ■

For further information contact Peter McCluskey 0408 496 588



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Unit Rates for specific rock types?

Every year the Department of Primary Industries publishes an annual statistical review for the previous 12 months. Over the next few editions of the *Sand & Stone* the Secretariat will discuss some of the trends this information highlights. In this edition CMPA General Manager, BRUCE MCCLURE, comments on how unit rates across different rock types fared over the last five years

THE use of statistics is a very important business tool and can provide a valuable insight into our industry. It is important that all Members of the CMPA are aware of the Extractive and Regulation sections from the DPI's annual statistical review and, if possible, examine the data provided to source valuable information. When completing your annual DPI returns it is paramount that you understand the importance of providing accurate information as it can end up underpinning future decision making.

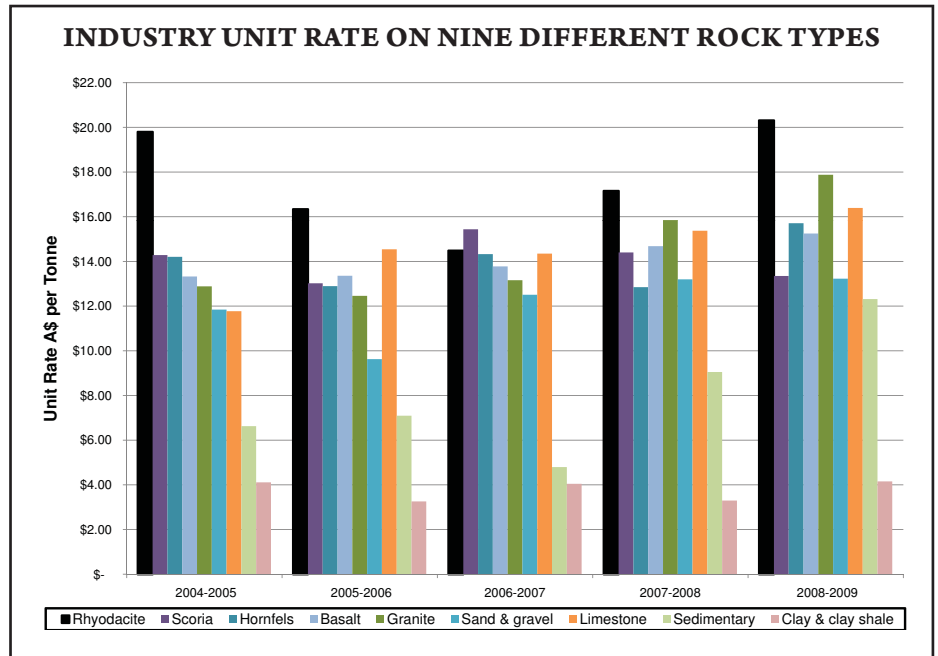
The CMPA has combined data from previous annual reviews going back five years to produce graphs that give a clear indication of trends.

This article concentrates on the period 2004 – 2009. The graph indicates industry unit rates on 9 different rock types.

It should be noted that the rate for each type of product is based on the total sales tonnage for a particular year divided by the total sales value for the same year as provide annually by the industry to the DPI.

The data provided in this graph is accumulated from the whole state and as such cannot reflect site specific issues such as the cost of isolation, rated capacity or the market competition.

It can be noted that during the period detailed there has been a massive increase of business financial compliance requirements including but not limited to bonds, workplan variations and applications



requiring community engagement plans, native vegetation offsets, AAV obligations, not to mention the forthcoming obligation requiring workplans to be endorsed before a planning permit is approved.

It is also a fact that our resources are finite and future access has generally not been secured to allow growth and expansion without significant financial investment.

As reflected in the CMPA's recent submissions to both the VCEC and the DPI, it is not unreasonable to have to invest in excess of \$1 million to have a work authority issued.

If a company is going to remain viable then it needs a unit rate that allows adequate reward of staff to enhance retention, adequately cover all outgoings (including the repair and replacement of capital equipment) facilitates planning for future growth and, last but not least, provides a reasonable return on the investment to the business owner.

There's little indication that the unit price achieved over the past five years allows for any of this. ■

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LIMA SOUTH QUARRY

DPI Update

JOHN MITAS, General Manager Minerals and Extractive Operations reports on the Temporary Loss of Native Vegetation

ONE of the areas that causes most confusion in understanding Victoria's Native Vegetation Management – A Framework for Action (NRE 2002) is what constitutes temporary loss in native vegetation? Put simply, if a landform is being reinstated back to its original, or near to, its form then the loss can be considered temporary and treated accordingly.

DSE's framework rules state that the rarity value of the vegetation is taken into account when calculating offsets for the removal of vegetation. This means that if a type of vegetation is particularly endangered then planting alone will not compensate for its loss and a certain percentage of the replacement must be in the form of protection of another area of the same vegetation.

Where loss is considered temporary, however, the loss can be replaced with 100% revegetation as per the DSE's *Native Vegetation: Revegetation Planting Standards – Guidelines for establishing native vegetation for Net Gain accounting (DSE 2006)*. An example of this might be temporary tracks which will be revegetated once the project has finished.

It is important to note that the removal of medium and large old trees will not count as temporary loss as they cannot be quickly or easily replaced in the short term.

Further information can be found on page 7 of the *Native Vegetation Management Guidelines for the Earth Resources Industries (DPI 2009)*. This provides further references to the various DSE guidelines. ■

The above article is an extract from the August 2010 DPI Newsletter and is available at the following link:

<http://new.dpi.vic.gov.au/earth-resources/whats-new/minerals-and-extractive-operations-newsletter>



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Director's & Officers' Liability Insurance

All Directors and officers can be personally liable for claims made against them for any actual or alleged mismanagement of the company. This is the case whether the company is private or public. Reported by JIM MALADY of Australian Reliance Pty Ltd.

IT is true that one of the most common sources of claims is from shareholders, which is why directors and officers of private companies feel less exposed to claims. There are however several other sources of a claim against a private company:

- New Directors (following change in ownership)
- Creditors
- Liquidators
- Employees
- Regulatory Bodies, in particular Investigations e.g. ASIC Investigation
- Client/customers
- Competitors

In general terms directors and officers may be sued for matters such as:

- Breach of general duty to act honestly, with reasonable care and due diligence
- Breach of fiduciary duty
- Breach of contract
- Breach of statutory duty e.g. EPA and Workcover

Specifically directors and officers may be sued for matters such as:

- Incorrect or misleading statements
- Failure to comply with Continuous Disclosure rules
- Conflicts of interest
- Restrictive trade practices
- Incurring debts with the knowledge that the company is not in a position to repay
- Employment-related actions (wrongful dismissal, discrimination, sexual harassment)

Whilst the likelihood of claim is low, the severity (not to mention the time cost) can be high, especially for a private company. Accordingly, there are a range of cost effective insurance solutions available to protect the directors and officers of private companies.

Here are some real claims examples:

CLAIM 1: Occupational Health and Safety

Insured: Insured is a Pty Ltd Company with 20 employees and annual revenue of \$6.3 million

Scenario: During the construction of a commercial property, an employee was severely injured and left paraplegic when a pile of debris accidentally fell on him. The company was subject to a full Occupational Health and Safety investigation and prosecution.

Outcome: The Company vigorously denied and successfully defended all allegations. Despite their attempt, the Company was fined \$150,000 and incurred \$100,000 in legal costs.

CLAIM 2: Employment Practices Liability – Harassment and Bullying

Insured: Insured is a Pty Ltd Company with 20 employees and annual revenue of \$20 million

Scenario: Claims by two former officers of the company against certain directors and officers for bullying, harassment, abuse and



Site Photo – Galli Quarries

sexual harassment against a former employee. Claims against the entity that it failed to respond to those allegations. Employees claim combined compensation of \$500,000.

Outcome: Matter settled for payment by the company \$200,000 per Claimant. In addition, the company paid \$120,000 in defence costs.

CLAIM 3: EPA Prosecution

Insured: Insured is a Pty Ltd Company with 20 employees and annual revenue of \$5 million

Scenario: The director and company were charged with three offences under the Environment Protection Act. These are indictable offences and each charge carries a potential maximum fine of \$280,000.

It was alleged that the driver, employed by the company, drove a petrol tanker (owned by the company) to a petrol station. When maneuvering the tanker to the unloading tanks, the driver collided with a fuel pipe, causing over 3000 litres of petrol to escape from the tanker and on to the ground of the petrol station.

Outcome: Following a three day hearing, the director and company were found liable and were fined \$120,000. Overall defence costs of \$60,000 were incurred over the duration of the investigation and prosecution.

In the next edition of *Sand & Stone* we will provide you with some specific information in regard to the four key items of cover that are essential to ensuring the effectiveness of your Directors & Officers Liability policy. ■

For further information contact Jim Malady 0418 334 685.

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Roma-ncing the Stone

It's the most modern Midas touch story – turning solid rock into gold. Maranoa Regional Council is sitting on a reserve of basalt which will see the south west Queensland shire flourish, following a cutting-edge deal with the nation's leading asphalt technology producer's ASTEC Australia.

IT'S a warm western Wednesday morning, and on the outside, there's nothing particularly pretty about Roma Quarry, 33 kilometres north as the proverbial crow flies, from the centre of town.

But dig a little deeper, literally, and the rock star, or in this case the star rock, lies beneath. Kenny Wafford, of Oregon based KPI-JCI – a sister company of ASTEC Australia which commissioned the \$5 million worth of technology to the quarry – sits in the coveted air-conditioned site office and outlines the statistics in his broad American drawl.

Between 215 and 230 tonnes an hour of aggregate can be crushed on the site courtesy of the ASTEC delivered and assembled six pieces of equipment, which includes:

- JCI F2300 cone crushing plant
- JCI F26203 closed circuit screening plant
- JCI FT5162I track screening plant
- KPI FT2650 jaw crusher
- JCI FT200 cone crushing plant
- KPI radial stacker conveyor

Production on the site, just off the Warrego Highway, has increased significantly from previous hire arrangements which were costing council a hefty \$1 million a year to rent.

Now, the time from when a raw rock extracted from the quarry is placed into the equipment, passes through the screen, into the cone crusher, returns through another screen and is divided into material that can be used, takes less than one minute.

In human terms, in the US alone, America's population of 300 million uses 10 square metres of aggregate in some form, per head, per year.

At Roma Quarry, 230 tonnes produced an hour equates to four road trains of aggregate an hour.

"That's a lot of rock," Wafford says.

In Roma's notoriously hot summers, synthetic oil is used in the bearing machines which keeps the oil at a low temperature, prevents it from breaking down and uses around 64 litres of oil as opposed to 567 litres.



Site Photo – Roma Quarry

The machine also carries a dust control mechanism which allows up to 900 hours of use without cleaning, as well as a water misting system which delivers a thin fog of water on the site, suppressing dust to which workers would otherwise be exposed.

Maranoa Regional Council Operations Director Andrew Byrnes says they aim to re-seal about 60 kilometres of road in the community every year and lay or rehabilitate between 40 and 50 kilometres of road.

"That does ensure a big market for the stone," he says.

"We've spent quite a bit of money on ensuring that we've got the product here to start with.

Byrnes says Roma Quarry was developed in the early 50s by Boral and a private contractor.

But it wasn't until 2006 that council hired crushing equipment, to work the 16 hectare site.

KPI-JCI International Sales co-ordinator Randy Orre, who visited the site in December, says it represents the first project of its kind in Australia for the company.

Properly maintained and serviced, the equipment has a life span of at least 15 to 20 years.

"In general, we feel we've got a more efficient machine, the best quality in terms of design and materials used and processes used to produce the equipment," he says

"We do that better than anyone in the industry. We don't approach the market from a price angle. It is not our desire to go out and be the lowest cost supplier of anything.

"Our market niche is technical advantage, quality and support. We know that customers still value that, particularly in our industry.

Maranoa Quarry Manager Dave Grace says it will take around 12 months to realise the full potential of the new equipment, but early indications is it is working well.

"It is reasonably obvious from what we've already seen that there is going to be more through put, more stone on the ground, and that can only help us," he says.

"They seem to be well-built machines. These are the first in the country. We are more than happy with the support we are getting from ASTEC. They have a real determination to make it work.

"Their professionalism and dedication to getting this gear up and running has been brilliant. They are bending over backwards to make this work for us.

"With this new gear we've got a big potential for growth." ■

For more information contact Tony Barton Astec Sales Manager on 07 3279 1422, 0419 652 942 or tbarton@astecaustrialia.com.au or



Belmont Diesel - Relocated

BRENDAN GELLION, Belmont Diesel General Manager reports on maintenance required for mobile plant.

Belmont Diesel commenced operations in 1992, and until recently operated from a small workshop facility in Belmont, Geelong. In May this year the business moved to a much larger, more modern premises in Nobility St, Moolap.

Services include, in shop powertrain component repairs (i.e. Allison transmissions). Differentials and final drive repairs and parts, hydraulic component repairs and replacements. Importation of specific components, parts and machines per customer requirements. Assistance with machine maintenance issues and problems.

Two commonly overlooked maintenance items on mobile plant are;

- Hydraulic Accumulators
- Air Dryers

HYDRAULIC ACCUMULATORS

The most common types are the neoprene bladder and piston type. Both types are precharged with Dry nitrogen; with precharge pressures being determined by system requirements (refer to Maintenance manuals). The most common uses are in steering and brake systems. When the machine is started the hydraulic pumps fill the accumulators, compressing the nitrogen until system pressure is reached. In the steering system this oil provides two functions,

1. Provides additional oil supply at low engine speeds to maintain system performance
2. In the case of engine failure it also provides emergency steering oil supply

In the braking system it is a similar situation. Accumulators provide an immediate supply of oil for braking applications, as well as emergency braking in case of engine or mechanical failure. In both cases the accumulators are constantly being recharged by the hydraulic system during use. When the vehicle is shut down the stored oil is discharged back into the hydraulic reservoir through dump valves. Lack of routine maintenance can result in poor system performance and little or no emergency reserve. Always refer to the equipment manufacturer's maintenance manuals for correct procedures and safety guidelines when servicing any stored pressure systems.



Belmont Diesel's larger and more modern location in Moolap

AIR DRYERS

Air dryers provide a very important function in the equipment which they are fitted to. Most have a dessicant cartridge inside which removes moisture and contaminants from the system before they can damage components, resulting in expensive repairs and downtime. As with accumulators, always refer to the manufacturer's guidelines for correct maintenance procedures and service intervals.

It has been quite common for people to call with problems which directly relate to lack of maintenance with the above components. Often these are overlooked due to time constraints when services are due, or simply lack of knowledge of their functions. ■

For further information contact Belmont Diesel on Phone: 03 5248 7253.



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TRAINING & EVENTS

BLAST MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The CMPA conducted a Blast Management Workshop in late October 2010 which was well attended by members of the Extractives industry with over 60 attendees with experience in the industry totalling over 1040 years actively participating in the workshops.

The workshops covered the requirements for blast management plans to be operational on sites, the establishment of exclusion zones when using blasting explosives (presentations by Martin Davies and Frank Duggan from WorkSafe) and discussion on four new draft blasting field documents facilitated by Adam Gordan.

It provided an opportunity for those present to network, hear from WorkSafe directly in relation to the two Guidance Notes proposed and to consider the CMPA's proposed worksheets to assist in compliance.

A number of important points have emerged or were expressed during the workshops:

- Concern was expressed by most participants who are involved with blasting at their work sites at the long and frustrating time it takes for Licence renewals.
- There was overwhelming concern expressed by the workshop participants with the proposed stemming charts shown in the WorkSafe guidance notes. It was agreed by WorkSafe that a steering group comprising Industry members and WorkSafe will be set up to ensure the appropriate charts are developed to cover the Extractives Industry.

- Concern was expressed with regards to the source material provided by the CMPA proposed to be used for tracking the use and storage of explosives. It was also agreed that a steering group will be setup to ensure that the most appropriate resource materials for tracking is developed.

The CMPA will provide notes taken at the workshop to all participants and to WorkSafe. Further information on Blast Management will also be available on the CMPA website.

UPCOMING CMPA TRAINING COURSES

There are currently no Workshops or Training planned for the coming months. As we plan for 2011, the Secretariat welcomes your ideas and feedback regarding topics and issues that require future training next year.

CATERPILLAR INSTITUTE (VIC-TAS) TRAINING

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