



Australasian Chapter

Newsletter

2003 Roundup

What a year! The IECA (Australasia) has been very busy this year with conferences, seminars, workshops, newsletters, developing linkages with other organisations and the list goes on.

The Newsletter will have been published 3 times in 2003 and is now self funding thanks to our sponsors. The feedback has been very positive and we plan to have a series of articles in 2004 dealing with the environmental laws in each state, and extracts from the "New Blue Book" which will be published shortly. I would like to thank Rick and Marijke Morse for editing and proof reading all newsletters.

2003 has seen a great deal of activity in the area of seminars. We began in Melbourne in February with a seminar dealing with New Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines being developed for Victoria. Our next seminar was in October in collaboration with the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand and the Environmental Engineering Society. This was held in Brisbane. The topic for discussion was Current Practice vs Best Practice. Rick Morse (CPESC & IECA (Australasia) Director) was the key note speaker and was well received. Feedback from this forum indicates that it would be valuable to run these courses elsewhere. We then moved down to Tasmania where two short courses were run, one on Revegetation and the other on E&SC BMP's. Tony King presented both these courses, again both were well attended and feedback indicates Tasmanians would like to see more of these courses run. Then back up to NSW where we took the seminar out to the country, Coffs Harbour. The guest speaker Warren Hornsey talked about coastal erosion issues.

IECA (Australasia) was again invited to participate in CivEnEx at Homebush in Sydney. The

IPWEA held a series of seminars during CivEnEx which Michael Frankcombe our Chapter President was invited to speak.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped organise the seminars and made them a great success: Bill Leggatt and the Vic sub Chapter for the Melbourne ACE seminar, Bill Gardyne for the Brisbane seminar, Tim Duckett and Tony King for Tasmania, and Brendan Swifte and Doug Wimble for Coffs Harbour.

The Chapter conference in May 2003 was held in Auckland, NZ. The conference was organized in collaboration with NZWWA and was a great success. This shows what we can do when we work with other associations and organisations. Thanks to Rick Morse and Graeme Ridley who were on the organising committee.

Next year is shaping up to be even busier. We already have plans for 2 seminars, the ISCO conference scheduled for July is shaping up to be a fantastic event. It is time to revisit the Chapter Strategic Plan and create a vision for the next 5 years. That is just for starters.

Lastly I would like to thank our Board of Directors for their efforts over the last 12 months, Marijke Morse for managing the financial side of the Association, and to Laraine Duncan our Office Administrator who only joined us this year and is doing a great job in keeping members details up to date.

I wish you and your families a very safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Sandra Lanz
Communications Officer

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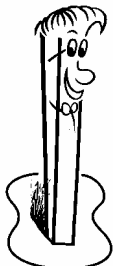
IECA (AUSTRALASIA) AGM

THURSDAY 8 JULY 2004.

BRISBANE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, BRISBANE.

The Chapter AGM has been re-scheduled from 30 January 2004 and will now be held on Thursday 8 July 2004, during the ISCO Conference.

This Newsletter has been sponsored by:



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Tasmanian Short Courses

by Tim Duckett

Two IECA short courses were presented by Tony King in Southern Tasmania on the 17th and 18th of November. The courses presented were

1 - *Selection and Construction of E&SC Measures for Construction Sites*

2 - *Planning and Implementing a Revegetation programme for Erosion Control*

Construction industry, local and state government and private organisations were well represented with 24 attendees for the E&SC measure for construction sites and 22 for the revegetation programme presentation. These presentations were very well regarded by the attendees.

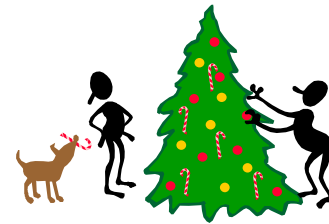
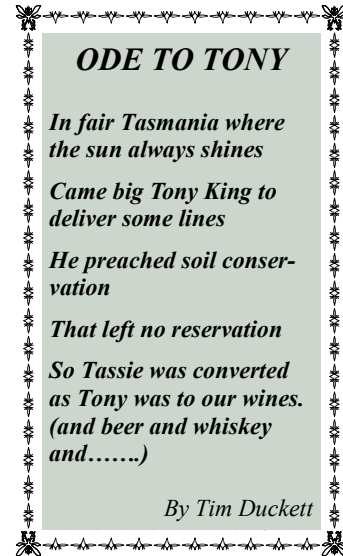
As specific and effective soil conservation legislation is lacking in Tasmania there is little incentive in the construction industry to implement best practice erosion and sediment control. Pressure



Tony King
(CPESC)

to improve performance is now coming through greater public interest in environment particularly in Tasmania, and local government is beginning to become more aware and proactive in the protection of our soil resource and our water quality. Awareness is growing within the State for the need to meet best practice erosion and sediment control standards during construction and development as the State is moving through a period of increased land development. Tasmania has been discovered by the rest of Australia!

The courses were well timed as they were aimed at imparting practical knowledge and awareness particularly for Local Government regulators with little background in erosion and sediment control. The majority of attendee identified a greater need within this state for further education of contractors and designers., an opening for more well structures IECA courses.



Queensland Environmental Law - Best practice guidelines for the control of stormwater pollution from building sites.

The following article has been printed with permission and is an excerpt from the publication "Best practice guidelines for the control of stormwater pollution from building sites". This publication was put together by Brisbane City Council and the Gold Coast City Council.

The *Environment Protection Act 1994*, *Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997* and the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* are important pieces of legislation which control the way in which soil erosion and sediment are dealt with on building and development sites.

Environmental Protection Act 1994

All Queenslanders have a legal duty under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to take all reasonable and practicable measures to minimise or prevent environmental harm. Such harm can be caused if sediment from building sites enters stormwater drains and waterways.

In addition, people who are concerned with the management in a corporation have an additional duty under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to ensure their corporation



complies with the act. This means supervisors need to take reasonable and practicable steps to ensure that the people under their control do not breach environmental laws.

People who become aware of environmental harm in association with their work (e.g. loss of sediment from their site into a water course)

have a legal duty under the *Environment Protection Act 1994* to notify their employer. The employer must then rectify the problem.

Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997

This policy sits under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. The *Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997* provides for specific offences relating to the deposit and / or release of sediment or building wastes to stormwater drains, roadside gutters and Queensland waters e.g. creeks and waterways.

The Integrated Planning Act 1997

The *Integrated Planning Act 1997* is the mechanism for assessing all developments within Queensland. This act establishes the process for integrated planning and development assessment in an ecologically sustainable way. Under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* it is a serious offence to breach development conditions e.g. those dealing with erosion and sediment control or stormwater quality.

Collaborative Erosion & Sediment Control Seminar by Bill Gardyne

The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (South East Queensland Division) recently held its monthly Professional Development seminar in conjunction with the Environmental Engineering Society of Queensland, and the International Erosion Control Association.

The seminar, sponsored by John Holland Constructions and Gold Coast City Council, had the topic, Erosion and Sediment Control - Current Practice VS Best Practice. Slightly controversial in its assumptions, it was designed to stimulate discussion, and raise awareness of the gap which exists in skills and execution of erosion and sediment control in the area.

The format included speakers from local government, design consultants, and construction. This combination was intended to reflect the total ownership of the issue. Disappointment and/or criticism was aimed at the EPA who were invited but failed to provide a presence at the seminar, as it was expected that they would provide a greater lead in this area.

Scott Paten from Brisbane City Council discussed the planning expectations, and Michael Toal of Gold Coast City Council highlighted the implementation expectations

The guest speaker was Rick Morse, a Director of, and the principal environmental scientist, with Morse McVey & Associates Pty. Ltd, a Sydney-based firm specialising in soil and water management. Rick is the principal author of the current NSW government's guidelines "Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction", commonly known as the "Blue Book", a document he, and partner Geoff McVey, are currently updating to embrace



International Erosion Control Association



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current technologies. The "Blue Book" is widely accepted and used throughout eastern Australia as a principal reference document.

Rick presented the design principles that enable one to proceed with a project, knowing it will meet the required discharge criteria. Whilst most of the audience found the calculation procedures a little daunting, it did highlight the level of sophistication that is developing in this field.

Bill Gardyne of Oxbow Consulting, then presented a series of excellent slides demonstrating the breadth of practice currently being demonstrated in SE Qld. These included the worst and the best. The slides demonstrated the great extents that some contractors are willing to go to achieve best practice. It also highlighted that poor implementation doesn't necessarily cost any less than proper practice.

On behalf of Brett Watkins of John Holland Constructions, Bill then presented some of the constraints faced by contractors in achieving best practice. Most notably these were contracts having a non-financial qualifying component requiring expertise in this field which is then not reflected in the schedule of rates. This provides a significant disincentive to the execution of best practices.

The second issue he raised was that of staff expertise. It was acknowledged that erosion and sediment control is a skilled area, and on smaller jobs his company's policy was to employ specialised contractors to install and maintain these structures.

Overall the afternoon was a great success and it is proposed to run it again in the future.

Water Restrictions - Where do we go from here?

Reprinted with permission from Spraygrass Landscapes Newsletter, Clippings.

With water restrictions now in place the question is should we attempt to sow if it is not practical or economically possible to water the sown grass? The answer is yes! In the process of hydromulching the wood fibre used in the operation serves as a moisture retention aid and during application the grass seed is buried by the force of the spray process. This is assuming there has been some cultivation or the area has been top-soiled prior to the application.

Consequently, in the approach to broad hectare hydromulching it was never intended that the hydromulched area be watered, the approach has always been to wait on nature since the seed is protected and also awaiting the advent of rain to get the

germination under way. Of course there will be a situation during a prolonged period of dry weather that



some seed will be lost. To this end, it is important to increase the seeding rate so that seed failure is not so obvious.

In the more extreme periods, bitumen

straw mulching would be the preferred approach since it affords greater moisture retention and protection of the seed from wind storm damage than does hydromulching.

An Invitation

This is your Newsletter so feel free to make any contributions that would be of interest to other Chapter members.

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Presidents Technical Tip - Erosion Control Blankets & Mats. Michael Frankcombe CPESC.



from wood fibre, wool, jute, cotton waste and coconut fibre.

Jute erosion control blankets are not as durable as coconut fibre or coir blankets. Jute blankets have a more

Description:

A rolled mat or blanket made from jute, coconut fibre, wool, nylon, polypropylene and polyamide that is placed on the soil surface to protect it from raindrop impacts and low velocity sheet and concentrated flows.

Application:

Erosion control blankets are used on embankments and other sheet flow environments to protect the soil from raindrop splash and promote vegetation. Blankets are generally temporary measures and are designed to biodegrade. Typically these products are made

dense weave and are therefore more appropriate for weed suppression and tree planting applications, where as coir blankets have a more open weave and are more appropriate for grass establishment.

Some erosion control blankets have a nylon mesh incorporated into the blanket to provide strength. This nylon mesh can trap animals, particularly snakes, lizards and birds and are therefore not recommended for use unless the mesh side is placed on the ground.

Erosion control mats are designed to be used in concentrated flow environments and are therefore made from more durable materials such as coconut fibre, nylon, polypropylene and polyamide. Two dimensional erosion control mats protect the soil surface from shear stress of moving water. Three dimensional erosion control mats combine with grass roots and stems to reinforce the soil surface.

Jute and coconut fibre mesh mats have been used in concentrated flow applications for many years. When anchored by a cold anionic bitumen emulsion they are particularly effective in road side table drains.

The following table provides a simple application guide to common erosion control blankets and mats:

Product	Application
Wool or cotton waste blankets	Short term raindrop splash protection on batters, temporary weed suppression
Wood shaving or straw blankets	Short term raindrop splash protection on batters, grass establishment
Jute blankets	Short to medium term raindrop splash protection on batters, weed suppression, tree planting
Coir blankets	Medium to long term raindrop splash protection on batters, grass establishment
Jute mesh and bitumen	Concentrated flows – medium term protection
Coir mesh and bitumen	Concentrated flows – long term protection
Polypropylene mat eg American Green P300	Concentrated flow – shear stress protection, permanent installation – non biodegradable
Polyamide 3 dimensional soil reinforcing mat eg Makmat, Enka-mat	Concentrated flow – soil reinforcement, permanent installation – non biodegradable

Coming Events

“EC 04” 35th annual conference and expo of the IECA. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, 16-20 February, 2004. Information: www.ieca.org

Enviro 04 Convention and Exhibition, 28 March - 1 April 2004, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Information: www.enviroaust.net

ISCO 2004, 13th International Soil Conservation Organisation Conference, 4 - 9 July, 2004, Brisbane, www.isco2004.org,

Co-hosted by IECA(Australasia) and ASSSI.

25th Annual SWS International meeting in Seattle, WA, 18 - 23 July, 2003

International conference on ECO-ENGINEERING: “the use of vegetation to improve slope stability”. To be held in Thessaloniki, Greece, September 13 - 17, 2004. email: eco-conf@lrbb2.pierroton.inra.fr, URL: www.ecoslopes.com



IECA (Australasia) would like to wish all our members a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.