



Australasian Chapter

Newsletter

IECA (Australasia) Presidents Report.

Michael Frankcombe



You may recall last Newsletter that I provided a technical tip on erosion control mats. In that technical tip I provided a list of IECA member product suppliers that provide erosion control mats. One of our members correctly pointed out to me that it was inappropriate

to list product suppliers in an "independent" newsletter as there may be some commercial disadvantage to other suppliers inadvertently not listed. I couldn't agree more. The reason that I listed the suppliers in this case was so that our members knew where to get the product, not to provide a commercial advantage to a number of our members.

I have always proclaimed the need for independent, transparent technical advice when it comes to erosion and sediment control and I was a little disturbed that one of our members interpreted my technical tip as potentially providing a bias towards a number of product suppliers. We are fortunate enough to have a number of ethical product suppliers in our Australian industry however it doesn't matter how ethical our suppliers are a hydro-mulching company is always going to recommend its products over a rolled erosion products company and visa versa. It is commercial reality and in a highly competitive industry to be expected.

You may ask – "how do I get unbiased erosion and sediment control advice?" The reality is that there aren't that many good consultants out there. A number of the really good consultants have

recently left or are about to leave the industry for various reasons. The technical/extension function of many of the useful government agencies with this type of experience has been dramatically wound down if not non-existent (remember the days in NSW and Qld when you could get free erosion and sediment control advice from soil conservation extension officers). My advice to you is to seek advice from a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC).

CPESC is a program that was developed in the USA to provide a benchmark for erosion and sediment control professionals. In the USA it is an independent corporation (CPESC Inc.). In our region CPESC is administered by IECA Australasia via a sub-committee. CPESC applicants must have the necessary relevant erosion and sediment control experience, pass a two stage examination process and submit four independent referee reports testifying to their experience prior to being accepted into the program. They must abide by a Code of Ethics and every three years submit evidence to CPESC Inc that they have undertaken the necessary professional development to maintain their certification.

There is a list of current Australasian CPESC's on our web site. I cannot promise you that every CPESC on our list will be able to give you the advice you need but they have met a minimum standard, have made the effort to stay on top of their game and must comply with a Code of Ethics. It is certainly a good starting point.

Michael Frankcombe
IECA (Australasia) President.

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Emerald Members



International erosion control Conference

NZIHT and the IECA would like to announce this important conference to be held at the Plymouth International Hotel, New Plymouth, on 18 - 20 November, 2007.

Topics to be covered include, but are not limited to :

- Stream bank repair
- Compost utilisation
- Coastal erosion
- Slope stabilisation
- Farm erosion
- Bio-engineering
- Chemical dosing systems
- Revegetation of heavily disturbed areas
- Establishing plants with no soil
- Slip causes and prevention.

Policy, technical and visionary papers are now being called. contact Jo Hoskin at jo@nzih.co.nz for a copy of the Call for Papers.

international
erosion control
conference

18-20 NOVEMBER 2007
Plymouth International Hotel
New Plymouth
New Zealand

International Erosion Control Association (Australasia)
new zealand nz:ht institute of highway technology

PROTECTING THE ASSET - PROTECTING THE FUTURE
FOR DETAILS CONTACT THE EVENT TEAM: p. 06 759 7065 e. jo@nzih.co.nz

Australian Publication Honoured in the USA

An Australian handbook has earned the 2007 *Environmental Achievement Award* from the International Erosion Control Association (IECA). The award was presented during formal ceremonies at the annual IECA conference in Reno, Nevada on 13 February 2007. The recipient was the lead author, Rick Morse, Director and Principal Environmental Scientist with Morse McVey & Associates Pty Ltd, Picton, New South Wales.

“Maintenance of the standards set in the handbook is an enormous step forward in environmental protection. This is especially the case for rivers, lakes and estuaries, the recipients of most sediment pollution from developing lands. Apart from obvious environmental and aesthetic gains, implementation of the handbook is expected to save tens of millions of dollars each year across NSW, particularly in state and local government “clean up” expenditure that can now be redirected into other areas.” Morse says.

The handbook, *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction* (Vol. 1, 4th edition), is also known locally as the *Blue Book*. It is managed and published by the NSW government development corporation, Landcom, and has been adopted by the NSW government for use on construction and other land development sites.

“The text offers a unique, site-specific approach for controlling soil erosion and sediment pollution on lands disturbed by construction activities. It features many ideas that make the process of soil conservation on construction sites much more objective and measurable, while simplifying the assessment process and improving the effectiveness of the techniques and procedures.” Morse says.

The *Blue Book* is part of a package that includes a small waterproof handbook of standard drawings for use in the field. Other parts of the package are a pamphlet describ-

ing a model plan for controlling soil erosion and sediment pollution during the construction of a single dwelling, and a CD. The CD contains a digital copy of the guidelines, aids for designing sediment basins and information for use by local consent authorities.

“Unlike other erosion and sediment control guidelines, the *Blue Book* can be used to achieve environmental protection up to a nominated design storm event. And here, environmental protection ensures that stormwater discharges contain less than 50 milligrams per litre of suspended solids. That’s pretty clean water by anyone’s standards. A sample calibrated to 50 milligrams per litre in a beer glass looks little different to tap water in clarity. Achieving this level of protection probably means that most non agricultural land disturbance activities in high rainfall areas with distinct wet seasons will be prohibited in those wet seasons. In some situations, however, the activities could still be permitted if special procedures outlined in the handbook are implemented.” says Morse.

This is the 16th year of the annual IECA *Awards of Environmental Excellence* program and the *Environmental Achievement Award* is the Association’s premier award. It is given to an outstanding program or project that demonstrates excellence in natural resource conservation and environmental protection through effective erosion and sediment control policies, practices or public education. Clearly, the *Blue Book* is a worthy recipient.



Rick Morse receiving the Award from IECA President Doug Wimble.

Congratulations.

IECA Australasia would like to congratulate Rick Morse, one of the Chapters Founding Members on winning the IECA Environmental Achievement Award 2007.

APPLICATION TO JOIN.

Complete this form or a photocopy and send or fax to:

IECA (Aust)
PO Box 33
Picton, NSW, 2571
Australia

Fax: 1800 353 227 within Aust.
Or +61 2 4677 0902
Or send an email to
admin@austieca.com.au

And we will forward an application form and details.
I wish to join as:
STUDENT/RETIRED
INDIVIDUAL
CORPORATE
EMERALD

Please forward information to me:

Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

FOUNDATION MEMBERS:

MACCAFERRI



EPA secures convictions against Australian Aquaculture and director.

*EPA Media Statement, Queensland Government Environmental Protection Agency.
28 November 2006*

The Environmental Protection Agency has secured fines totaling \$90,000 against a Cairns aquaculture company and its director for contravention of an environmental protection order.

Australian Aquaculture Co Pty Ltd and director Peter Marchesin were today convicted and fined \$45,000 each in the Cairns Magistrates Court. The company was also ordered to pay the EPA's legal and investigation costs of about \$12,000.

The court found Australian Aquaculture Co Pty Ltd guilty of three charges of contravention of an environmental protection order (EPO) and Peter Marchesin guilty of six charges of contravention of an EPO. The defendants did not appear in court to defend the charges.

EPA Northern Region Director of Environment Rob Lawrence said the EPA issued the EPO to the company and Mr Marchesin on 2 June 2005 requiring works to be conducted at the Australian Aquaculture facility at Speewah to prevent erosion and sediment runoff.

“The order was issued after EPA inspections of the facility found sediment runoff from the site had entered a waterway on an adjacent property.

“We also found significant erosion damage to the pond and dam walls at the facility and a stormwater pipe on-site full of sediment.

“No action was taken to comply with the order.”

The court also made an order requiring Australian Aquaculture Co Pty Ltd and Peter Marchesin to commission a consultant to prepare a rehabilitation plan for the site and to carry out rehabilitation works within recommended timeframes

A New Standard in Erosion Control

IECA Australasia recently supported 3 seminars hosted by Compost Australia in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. Like a snow ball the event just kept getting bigger and bigger with close to 100 delegates in Brisbane.

The seminars explored alternative erosion control methods used in the USA and how they can be used in Australia. The seminars also covered the latest research on compost used for erosion and sediment control as well as specifications the compost must meet to comply with new “fit-for purpose” certification.

The day was chaired by Angus Johnston who is the National Project Manager - Recycled Organics with the Waste Management Association of Australia. Mark Jackson from NSW DEC Presented the results of research evaluating the performance of compost blankets compared to conventional methods under NSW conditions. Case studies from NSW, Victoria and Queensland were presented illustrating the various applications of composted materials for erosion and sediment control.



A Division of the WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA



The audience also had the great privilege of hearing from Jack Hoek and Jason Giles from the USA. Jack spoke about the suitability of composted materials for erosion and sediment control, as well as application technologies and why it works.

Jason illustrated to the audience specific case studies where the technology has been used in the US. He also discussed specifications of erosion control using recycled organics.

If you would like more information on any of the topics covered in the seminar please visit the following website(s).

- www.compostaustralia.com.au
- www.environment.nsw.gov.au/education/spd_org_recycledorganics.htm
- www.rexius.com

How do I get more out of IECA Australasia?

Why not become an active participant on one of our committees.

What are the benefits of volunteering:

- Provides the opportunity to give back to the erosion and sediment control profession.
- Increases your knowledge through networking with other peers.
- Enhances your career by building relationships with new contacts and old friends.
- Enables you to express your values in activities that are meaningful to you.

Below is a listing of our current committees and their purpose. If you would like to be involved with any of these committees please contact the Chapter Office.

Chapter Education / Training Committee.

The aim of the Education Committee is to establish national erosion and sediment control training criteria and to facilitate seminar organisation.

Chapter Events Committee.

The Events Committee is responsible for organising the Annual Conference and setting an Events agenda for each calendar year. It is then the responsibility of the Events Committee to ensure the nominated events are carried out.

Chapter Standards Committee.

The purpose of the standards committee is to initially:

- Investigate the process involved in setting Australian Standards for a product.
- Investigate opportunities for funding and prepare application.

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(Australasia)

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International Erosion Control Association

We're on the web!
www.austieca.com.au

2007 IECA (Australasia) Board and Committee Members.

Michael Frankcombe
President and Chair CPESC committee,
Education committee.

Bill Gardyne
Vice-President, Education committee

John Wood
Secretary

Luke Nichols,
Treasurer

Dale Chaychuk,
Director

Graeme Ridley,
Director,

Rachel Pearce,
Director,

Neil Taylor,
Director,

Grant Witheridge,
Director,

Ian Kiernan, OA, OAM
Patron

Sandra Lanz
Communications Officer,
slanz@austieca.com.au

Moving?

Keep your IECA periodicals coming to you in a timely manner. Update your address and information on the web.



UPDATE or RENEW your IECA membership directly, online at...

www.austieca.com.au

Presidents Technical Tip - Check Dams, Michael Frankcombe CPESC.

Description:

A small temporary weir structure typically constructed rock, gravel or sand filled bags and geo- logs.

Application:

Used as temporary erosion protection and limited coarse sediment retention in concentrated flow environments such as perimeter and table drains by limiting flow velocity. Not to be used in major flow lines or streams.

Design/Construction Aspects:

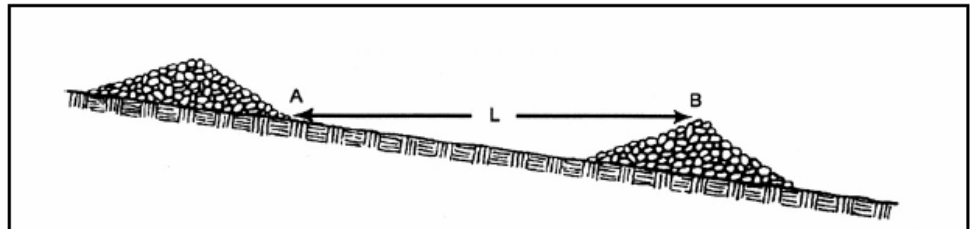
Rock check dams are temporary measures and therefore do not require formal design. IE Aust, 1996 suggest a maximum catchment area of 1 ha.



According to King, 2004, the maximum height of the check dam should be 0.6 – 1m and the centre should be a minimum of 0.15m lower than the outer edge to form a spillway.

Check dams should be installed so that the toe of the upslope check dam is the same level as the crest of the immediate down-slope dam as demonstrated in the following diagram.

Channels or drains that require check dams for temporary erosion protection should ultimately be lined.



Problems:

Erosion around the ends of the dams due to insufficient spillway depth or insufficient wing-wall height/length. Erosion immediately down-slope of the check dam due to insufficient down slope protection. Erosion between check dams due to excessive slope grade and length.

President's Technical Tips.

Over the last 5 years Michael Frankcombe has written a Technical Tip for each Newsletter. These are a great reference source. The accompanying table lists the topics covered and the Newsletter in which they were printed. Past Newsletters can be found on the Chapter website.

Vol	Issue	Topic
8	#2 - Dec 2002	Bonded Fibre Matrix
9	#1 - April 2003	Update on Bonded Fibre Matrix
9	#2 - July 2003	Sediment Fences
9	#3 - December 2003	Erosion Control Blankets & Mats
10	#1 - April 2004	Sediment Basin
10	#2 - August 2004	Turf & Reinforced Turf
10	#3 - Dec 2004	Rock Filled Wire Baskets
11	#1 - April 2005	Hydro Mulch Tackifiers
11	#2 - Aug 2005	Composted Mulches
12	#1 - April 2006	Dispersive Soils.
12	#2 - Aug 2006	Compost filled filter tubes
12	#3 - Dec 2006	Erosion Mats