

Australasian Chapter

Newsletter



Presidents Report

I've just got back from the IECA conference in 'Vegas. Thirty-eight hours flying over a seven-day period is just about enough for the time being. What a massive event: 2200 delegates from all over the world including South America, Italy, South Africa, China, Hong Kong, India, Thailand, Canada, New Zealand, Malaysia, Switzerland and Australia. Now, more than ever, IECA is truly an international organisation.

The International Development Committee headed up by Doug Wimble, previous IECA (Australasia) President, is working hard to develop and support chapters in China, South America and South Africa. The South American chapter will be an amalgamation of the Spanish speaking countries in that region. These guys are totally committed and are well down the track to organising their second annual conference.

Doug and I had an opportunity to represent our region at a roundtable forum on worldwide erosion and sediment control issues. It was great to see politics put aside to allow a frank and meaningful discussion of erosion and sediment control issues. As expected, some issues were regionally specific, but by and large erosion and sediment control issues are the same worldwide: the loss of technical expertise and educational opportunities from government, and the failure of regulatory bodies to enforce environmental legislation.

So how is IECA (Australasia) addressing these issues? IECA is the focal point for erosion and sediment control professionals in our region. The products and services directory on the web site provides contact details for erosion and sediment control professionals throughout Australasia. We

have an active educational role running conferences, short courses and field days throughout our region. In fact our chapter picked up an award at the 'Vegas conference for educational outreach. This year we will be lobbying federal and state government to get erosion and sediment control back on the environmental agenda, although the recent drought and fires throughout Australia has probably done this for us. The massive wind erosion and subsequent dust storms resulting from the long drought has received plenty of media coverage. When the drought finally does break, the resultant erosion, sedimentation and water quality issues will give our regulators and natural resource managers heaps to think about. It will be interesting to see how they tackle the problem.

Last newsletter I gave you a few hints and tips about bonded fibre matrix hydro-mulches. Since then I have undertaken research into the different types of glues or tackifiers used in these products and now have a better understanding of their respective applications. I have presented this information for you plus some typical specifications on page 4. I hope you find it useful.

Feel free to contact us for advice on any erosion and sediment control issue or product. The best way to do this is via our website at www.austieca.com.au.

Michael Frankcombe,
President, IECA (Australasia)

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Paul Arnold was the winner of the free membership award*
- *2003 Conference to be held in Auckland, NZ, 14 - 16 May*
- *ACE Seminar Speakers notes available on CD for \$20 plus GST & Postage*
- *Australasian Chapter wins award*

Communication and Linkages for Aquatic Resource Management. May 14 - 16, 2003

It is now time to book your spot at the 10th IECA (Australasia) Conference, which is in collaboration with the 3rd South Pacific Conference on Stormwater and Aquatic Resource Protection.

There will be over 70 papers including

keynote speakers from Australia, New Zealand, and the USA.

For more information contact:

IECA (Australasia): Ph: +61 2 4677 0901 or 1800 354 322 (within Australia), Email: admin@austieca.com.au or

water@nzwwa.org.nz, or visit the following web sites: www.austieca.com.au or www.nzwwa.org.nz.

IECA (Australasia) Strategic Plan 2001-2004 - Part 2

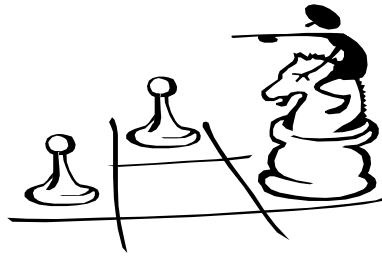
In our last Newsletter the Chapter's Mission Statement and Objectives were outlined. This edition of the Newsletter will expand on the first five objectives and comment on their status.

Objective 1: Be able to employ an executive secretary.

This was a major priority for the Chapter and funding for the position was secured for 12 months. The position created is now known as the Communications Officer and was filled by Sandra Lanz in August 2002.

Objective 2: Organise five, one day seminars per year.

The Chapter aims to identify a range of seminar topics at the start of each year and determines the approximate delivery date. We aim for a three month lead for each seminar, to ensure enough time to organise speakers, venue and advertising.



The Events Committee is in the process of identifying topics for 2003. The proposed locations for 2003 will be far north Queensland, SE Queensland, Coffs Harbour area of NSW, South Coast of NSW, and Melbourne. Once this information is finalised all members will be informed.

Objective 3: Establish national erosion and sediment control training criteria.

The purpose of this objective is to

provide a standardised training product. To facilitate seminar organisation a task checklist needs to be developed.

A Draft IECA Training Policy has been developed and now needs to be finalised.

Objective 4: Maintain and increase the IECA (Australasia) relevance / services to members.

This will be done by increasing networking opportunities for members through the website, conferences, training days etc.

Objective 5: Establish Australian CPESC and have it recognised as a prerequisite nationally.

The Fundamentals, and Agricultural Lands exams have been finalised and approved by the USA Examinations Committee.

Directors Workshop.

The inaugural director's workshop was held on 30 Jan 2003 before the AGM. The purpose of the workshop was to work through the Marketing Plan for the Chapter. The Marketing Plan details what the Chapter has done for members since its inception in 1994, how, where and by whom these services have been provided. The plan also includes a SWOT analyses. From this exercise a number of issues were identified that led to our marketing objectives.

To meet the marketing objectives, nine

action programs have been developed. These are:

- Newsletter
- Short courses, Field days, Seminars, Conferences
- Website
- Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC)
- Product and Services Directory
- Funding sources
- Membership growth
- Development of standards
- Recognition by government as a leader in Erosion and Sediment control.

We have also formed four committees that include; the Newsletter Committee, the Events Committee, the CPESC Committee, and the Standards Committee.

At present each committee is made up of 2-3 Directors with the help of the Communications Officer. However, there is an open invitation to all members to join any of the above mentioned committees.

It is planned to have a Directors workshop each year to maintain the focus of the Association.



The IECA (Australasia) Board of Directors hard at work.

Starting in the LH corner - Doug Wimble, Graeme Ridley (Vice President), Chris Phillips, Neil Boland, Sandra Lanz (Communications Officer), Bill Leggatt, Rick Morse, Michael Frankcombe (President), missing - Bill Gardyne, Brendan Swifte (Secretary)

Australasian Chapter Wins Award

Partners for Excellence is an awards program that encourages chapters to work together with IECA for the benefit of the erosion and sediment control profession.

There are three sections to the program: Chapter Management, Education and Outreach, and Membership Development Services.

At the end of each year all Chapters fill in a points sheet.

The Australasian Chapter won the Education / Outreach section. Michael Frankcombe (IECA Australasia, President) received the award for the Chapter at the Annual conference in Las Vegas.

ACE Expo Seminar

Friday 21st February, 2003 saw the first of this year's IECA (Australasia) seminars.

The seminar was held with the ACE Expo at Melbourne Show Grounds, Flemington. The day was a huge success with over 80 people attending.

The speakers included:

David Pullen, EPA Yarra Region, Victoria spoke on Victorian regulations, an overview of relevant legislation, compliance, enforcement, planning issues and case studies.

Ian Stephenson, Phil Alviano and Rachel Pearce, City of Casey, Victoria. The presentation discussed the Victorian local government regulatory programs directed at the construction industry that have recently been developed by the EPA, and Melbourne Water in partnership with several local governments.

Michael Frankcombe, Department of Main Roads Queensland and the President of IECA (Australasia) gave an overview of practices for erosion and sediment control, and the range of products and techniques available for common erosion problems including case studies.

The day was sponsored by Aquaseeding, Treemax, BWD Hydraulic Seeding, Geofabrics, State Plant Hire and IECA (Australasia). The IECA (Australasia) also sponsored a stand at the ACE Expo that promoted the Association to the attendees. The stand was well attended and created increased awareness of the Association to earthmovers, contractors, local government, consultants including several New Zealand delegates.

Speakers notes may be obtained on CD from IECA (Australasia) for a cost of \$20.00, plus GST and Postage



IECA (Australasia) display at the ACE Expo, Melbourne, February 2003. "Manning" the display are Alistair Ripper, Treemax, and Sandra Lanz, Communications Officer, IECA (Australasia).

Products and Services Directory

Are you aware of our Chapter Products and Services Directory? It can be found on our website: www.austieca.com.au.

As a member you are automatically listed in as many categories as you want free of charge. This is a basic listing with your name only. If people want to find your contact information they need to look you up in our members directory.

You do have the option of having your details listed along with your name and

even links to your website.

For all details on listing options within the Products and Services Directory please visit our website.

Please check your listing in the Products and Services Directory to ensure you are listed in the correct categories. There are over forty.

Lucky Draw Winner

IECA (Australasia) would like to congratulate Paul Arnold from Pacson's Quarries, Pty Ltd, Mittagong, NSW on winning the lucky draw for 12 months free membership.

Paul was eligible for the draw because he made sure his 2003 membership renewal was received by IECA (Australasia) by Jan 17th, 2003.

When Paul was informed of his win he very generously donated the membership money to the Association.

International Erosion Control Association
(Australasia)

Floor 1 NAB Building
Cnr Argyle and Menangle Streets
Picton NSW 2571
PO Box 33
Picton NSW 2571

Phone: +61 2 4677 0901
1800 355 322
Fax: +61 2 4677 0902
1800 353 227

Email: admin@austieca.com.au



International Erosion Control Association

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

2003 IECA (Australasia) Board and Committee Members.

Michael Frankcombe

President and Chair CPESC committee.
mfrankcombe@austieca.com.au

Graeme Ridley

Vice President and 2003 NZ conference
organising committee.
gridley@austieca.com.au

Brendan Swifte

Secretary, bswifte@austieca.com.au

Neil Boland

Education committee.
nboland@austieca.com.au

Bill Gardyne

Director, bgardyne@austieca.com.au

Bill Leggatt

Director and IECA website developer.
bleggatt@austieca.com.au

Rick Morse

Director, CPESC committee, NZ
conference organising committee.
rmorse@austieca.com.au

Chris Phillips

Director, cphillips@austieca.com.au

Doug Wimble

Director and Chairman, Education
committee. dwimble@austieca.com.au

Marijke Morse

Treasurer, mmorse@austieca.com.au

Presidents Technical Tip - Update on Bonded Fibre Matrix Hydro-mulches. Michael Frankcombe CPESC.

Last newsletter I discussed Bonded Fibre Matrix (BFM) hydromulches and more specifically, the types of glues or binders that should be used with BFM's. Some new information on binders has come to hand as a result of some field experiences over the summer wet season (Far North Queensland) and discussions I had with binder manufacturers and distributors in Vegas last month.

To recap, a BFM is a form of hydromulch that has additional organic matter and a nonre-wettable binder. To be considered a BFM, the mix should have at least 3500 kg of organic matter (at 10 - 15% maximum moisture content) and at least 60 kg/ha binder.

The recent wet season proved to me that the cross-linked guar glues are re-wettable. That is, once they have been applied and rain occurs, the guar can become soluble again. This means that the BFM can dislodge or slump on steep batters. The advantage of the guar is that they allow better coverage of the BFM slurry when being applied to the soil surface.

The problem with the guar binders can be overcome by adding equal quantities of a copolymer PVA binder to the BFM mix. The copolymer PVA once set, forms a crust and will not re-wet. It is important not to add too much copolymer PVA as the crust can

prevent the germinating plants punching through the BFM.

Typically I use a 5000 - 6000kg/ha 75% cane toppings and 25% recycled paper BFM with 120kg/ha of cross-linked guar and 120kg/ha copolymer PVA binders. Once set, this BFM mix will handle very

Last week I inspected a 5000kg/ha paper BFM weed blanket that was applied with 600 kg/ha of co-polymer PVA binder. This BFM has been in place for over four years and still is offering good soil surface protection.

IECA are developing speci-



Close up photo of a recently applied cane and paper BFM. Note the 100% soil surface coverage of the BFM.

high intensity rainfall events. This mix would be considered excessive for Sydney or Melbourne. In these environments, I would use 4000kg/ha of wood fibre and 40kg/ha of guar and 40 kg/ha co-polymer PVA. On flat slopes even less binder is needed.

I also use BFM's as a spray on weed blanket. It is generally cheaper than a rolled erosion control blanket, easier to install and will last longer.

cations for hydromulches, BFM's and straw mulches for the east coast of Australia. This will be available on our web site in a few months. In the mean time, feel free to contact me if you have any questions on BFM's or any other erosion and sediment control issues for that matter.

Coming Events

ACMER Water Quality Work-

shop. Water Quality issues in Final Voids, Salt Lakes and Ephemeral Streams to be held in Perth WA, 12-13 May 2003. Information and registration visit www.acmer.com.au/training/attachments/PerthWaterQualityBrochure.pdf. Email: acmer@uq.edu.au.

Australian Society of Soil Sci-

ence Inc - Darling Downs field trip Friday May 16, 2003. Contact Andrew Biggs email drew.biggs@nrm.qld.gov.au

CivEnEx 2003, 4-5 June, Sydney Showground, Homebush Bay, NSW. Tel. 02 9716 7391, Fax. 02

9798 5889, URL: www.civenex.com, Email: info@civenex.com

Society of Wetland Scientists, 24th Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Orleans, LA USA, June 8-13, 2003. "Wetland Stewardship: Changing Landscapes and Interdisciplinary Challenges." URL: www.sws.org/neworleans

First call for papers for an 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.

An Invitation

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

E m a i l t o :
slanz@ieca.com.au