

Welcome to the second issue of Down To Earth. Thank you to those people who gave us feedback on our first issue. It was very much appreciated, and we were pleased the response was so positive.

The Christmas break is now behind us and we are looking forward to an exciting year at Erosion Control Co Ltd. With the winter shut down in mind, we have built two new machines increasing our strawmulching capacity by 40%, which we

hope will ensure an increasingly "on-demand" service for our customers during a crucial time of year.

Also, our branch in Hamilton will be opening at the beginning of March which will benefit customers there by offering a quicker, more efficient service. Clinton Clark is managing the base. He has lived in, and around, Hamilton for most of his life and has good local knowledge of the area.

Another exciting area of change for the company is that both the Hamilton and Auckland branches of Erosion Control Co Ltd

are moving into residential hydroseeding as well as commercial hydroseeding. We have historically had a lot of enquiries for hydroseeding from residential homeowners but, until now, we have passed the work on to our smaller competitors.

Thank you to everyone who supported us in 2006 and we wish you all a prosperous New Year. If you have any comments about this newsletter, your feedback would be very welcome...

Lynda Baldwin and Roy Timperley



EXTREME HYDROSEEDING

PERRY AGGREGATES QUARRY, NGARUWAHIA

Three abseilers dangled hundreds of metres above the quarry floor as they sprayed hydroseeding mulch onto the 80 metre long slip that had developed on the quarry face. The hydroseeding mulch was used as a soil stabilization tool to prevent further slipping, by revegetating the damaged area.

Because of the steep face of the metal quarry, there were access problems that prevented hydroseeding trucks from getting close to the area that needed attention. Therefore traditional methods of applying the hydroseeding mulch were un-usable. With the help of New Zealand Industrial Abseilers Ltd, Erosion Control devised a system of hoses and pumps that allowed the abseiling team to successfully spray the landslip.

The unique application technique proved very cost effective and efficient. The hydroseeding mulch had started to grow grass within 10 days.

Suspended hundreds of metres above the quarry floor, abseilers apply a liberal amount of hydroseeding mulch to the quarry face.

ARC Erosion and Sediment control rule-change update

The ARC are still going through the submissions they received regarding the rule changes to the TP90. They believe it will now be the end of February before they are able to advise the industry of what those changes will be. So at this stage the regulations within the current TP90 are the regulations we must adhere to.

The new version should be available on-line at www.arc.govt.nz soon after the completion date. We will keep you posted.

Strawmulching on your site

What is strawmulching?

Strawmulching involves the application of a protective layer of hay or straw onto the soil surface.

Strawmulching can be used as a form of sediment control to prevent silt from washing off open ground into waterways. It can also be used to conserve moisture, control weeds, prevent soil crusting, reduce dust, promote the establishment of desirable vegetation and protect seeds from bird predation.

It is used anywhere there is open ground, where the instant protection of the soil surface is desired. Seed is sometimes included with the hay to enhance plant establishment.

Small areas can be spread by hand, but on large areas mechanically application is the most practical and time efficient method.

Generally the mulch is settled in place by the first rainfall, but it can be anchored into place by crimping it into the soil with discs, or by spraying tackifiers with the mulch. Neither of these options are very often used.

Current TP90 regulations require it to be spread at 6000kg/ha.

How can it be useful on your site?

During the winter months (30th April through October) the three main uses of strawmulching are for silt control, to help grass germinate in cooler conditions and to meet ARC requirements for winter shut down on earthwork sites.

During the summer months strawmulching is used to help maintain moisture which aids quicker seed germination and protects the young grass plants. It is also used to reduce dust.

How it works.

Silt control: When it rains, the water run-off from open ground carries silt (a mixture of earth and water) into the waterways. This silt damages the waterways and the creatures that live there.

Strawmulching provides a natural protection for the ground that prevents the majority of the silt from getting into the waterways. Tests have shown strawmulching can reduce silt runoff by over 80%.

Grass germination: During winter, due to cooler ground temperatures, grass



germination would be too slow to establish effective ground cover. Strawmulching provides an immediate cover to open ground while protecting the seeds and young plants from the elements. This allows them to germinate and grow.

In summer strawmulching conserves moisture and

therefore aids quicker grass seed germination. It also protects the young plants from the drying effects of the summer environment.

Dust reduction: A layer of straw on open ground can reduce dust during the summer months.

HAMILTON DIVISION

OPENING MARCH

For the convenience of our customers we are opening a Hamilton division of Erosion Control. We have previously worked from our base in Silverdale but now with machinery and personnel on site in Hamilton we believe we can offer a more efficient service to our clients in the Hamilton/Rotorua/Bay of Plenty area.

Clinton Clark will be operating the division.

Phone **07-838-0959** or mobile **0274-567-7734**



DOWN TO EARTH



MORE 'WEATHER BOMBS' PREDICTED IN NEW ZEALAND

Climate changes mean there is a likelihood of increased numbers of 'weather bombs' according to agricultural minister Jim Anderton at the Soil and Society 2006 Conference in Rotorua.

What is a weather bomb?

A weather bomb is a climatic condition which causes gale force winds and intense rain. They usually result in major flooding and wind damage.

What causes a weather bomb?

Weather bombs form from the rapid deepening of a depression, where central pressure goes down by more than 24 hPa (hectoPascals) in 24 hours. These systems occur



when the normal processes for developing depressions intensify. For example, when there are strong contrasts between air masses (cold or warm fronts) and when there's a release of energy when uplifting moist air forms clouds.

The deep and intense nature of 'weather bombs' leads to large areas of gale force winds and intense rain. This type of weather system can rapidly form over or near the North Island about once every two

years, but few go on to develop into full-blown 'weather bombs'.

New Zealand gets the strongest storms when we are between El Niño and La Niña weather patterns. They cause strong winds, high seas and heavy rain.

How could a weather bomb affect you and your site?

The results of a weather bomb can be landslides, flooding, washouts in areas close to roads, trees felled, ponds overflowing, soil washed away, etc.

MetService is responsible for releasing weather warnings in New Zealand. They issue Heavy Rain and other Warnings according to specific criteria; territorial authorities then decide on the basis of this and other information if flood and other warnings are necessary, within their jurisdiction.

Warnings about potential flooding or 'weather bombs' are usually issued less than 24 hours in advance so, unfortunately, there is never much time to secure your site. The precautionary erosion measures that have been established on your site including silt fences, re-vegetation, flocculation ponds etc will then come into their own and hopefully prove their worth.

EL NINO WEAKENING

Atmospheric circulation patterns for January through to March are likely to feature a stronger than normal

westerly or south westerly airflow over the country, with below average mean sea level air pressures over the south or southeast of New Zealand and higher pressures to the north. Air temperatures are

expected to be average in the east of the North Island and average or below average in all other regions. Rainfall is expected to be normal or below normal in all regions except the west of the South Island where possibly above

normal rainfall could be expected. Soil moisture and riverflows are expected to be normal or below normal in many areas except the west and south of the South Island where they are likely to be above normal or normal.



T G Paterson Contracting Limited are a Civil Construction company who are moving from strength to strength within a competitive but expanding New Zealand market.

With a reputation for the excellent quality of their finished work, the Company has grown from small beginnings to become one of the North Shore's larger Civil Construction companies, employing 50 staff and owning over 40 machines. The company was established in 1985, and with 22 years experience behind them, they now work from Hamilton to Kerikeri.

Terry Paterson believes the success of the company is a direct result of, "Hard work, good staff and doing a job well". Warren also believes the quality of the clients they work for has a lot to do with their success and companies such as Universal Homes and The Neil Group, whom they have done a lot of sub division development for, deserve to be acknowledged.

The main bulk of T G Paterson's work involves sub division development, quarries and landfills.

When undertaking any development work there are many challenges including weather, time frames, consents, staff issues and also the complexity of the

plans that contractors have to work from. These plans are a blueprint, specific to each individual development site. As well as general earth reshaping, these plans can include specifications for such things as drainlaying, retaining walls, stone walls, sediment control, gas/power/phone connections, concrete laying, road servicing and many other site-specific requirements. If T G Paterson don't have the skills in-house to complete any of the plan's requirements then they believe in employing people with the necessary specialist skills to get the job done to a high standard.

As a result of their foresight and attention to detail T G Paterson have an enviable record of not getting abatement notices or having their sites shut down due to council regulation infringements. This is great for their customers.

An example of this was a sub division at Ruakaka where Terry Paterson had the foresight to get Erosion Control Co Ltd to do dust suppression on the site, before it was required by council. Due to the dry summer and the wind that followed, this turned out to be advantageous for the site, the surrounding houses, and the customer as well, as the site was able to continue operating.

Saving money on your mobile phone accounts

Vodafone or Telecom?

Mobile phones are an essential but expensive fact of life for most businesses. Leading Edge Communications in Silverdale and Scoot Mobile in Albany have both provided us with a plan that is available for anyone that is in the contracting or transport business and has more than 3 mobile phones.

VODAFONE TRANSPORT MOBILE PLAN

Monthly Access fee per Mobile	\$35.00
Team calling rate	N/A
Other national calls	33c
Text Messages	20c to send, free to receive
Off Peak Minutes	200 FREE MINUTES

All prices are GST exclusive unless noted.

The Company must be a member of either the National Road Carriers Association or the New Zealand Road Transport Association to access this special rate plan.

Contact Paul McIlroy Scoot Mobile Albany on 09 415 1900

TELECOM TRANSPORT TEAM MOBILE PLAN

Monthly Access fee per Mobile	\$34.00
Team calling rate	10c
Other national calls	34c
Text Messages	18c per recipient, free to receive, \$10TXT available
Off Peak Minutes	N/A

All prices are GST exclusive unless noted.

1. The 10c + GST calling rate applies to all peak and off peak national calls from a mobile on the Transport Team Mobile Plan to:

* Any other Telecom mobile or landline in NZ with the same Telecom customer number as the person making the call.

* Up to 10 nominated Telecom mobile or landline numbers for that Telecom Team calling group.

2. Includes Voice message retrieval calls and calls to other mobile and national landlines not included in Team Calling Rate.

3. Send up to 500 national person to person texts for a maximum of \$10 Inc GST per month.

Contact Daniel Southey Leading Edge Communications Silverdale on 09 426 3737

➔ For all your Erosion Control requirements, phone us on **0800 STRAWNOW**

a positive saying...

THEODORE ROOSEVELT: The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint to keep from meddling with them while they do it.