

DOWN TO EARTH



ISSUE NO 003

Welcome to issue number three of our quarterly newsletters. Thank you once again for all of the feedback we have had on our earlier newsletters. I am pleased that you are finding them informative and interesting. With winter-close-down mostly behind us, the majority of earthwork sites will be delighted with the mild beginning we have had to winter. Long may it last.

At Erosion Control Co Ltd we have continued with our drive to improve the services we offer to our clients.

With this in mind we have taken on board a new sales manager, Jonathan Tomsett, who has a degree in Environmental Science. He is already proving to be an asset to the company and a valuable source of information to our clients.

Another exciting area of change for the company is the opening of our new residential lawn division called "Lawn Creations". This division specializes in hydroseeding domestic, and sub-division, lawns. We have opened

this division in response to the many enquiries we have received from homeowners requiring hydroseeding on their properties.

Thank you for your support over the last three, busy, months. If you have any comments about this newsletter, your feedback is very welcome.

Roy Timperley and Lynda Baldwin



SLOPE STABILIZATION

Restoration of landslides and unstable slopes can provide significant challenges. Clinton Clark and his team from the Hamilton base of Erosion Control Co Ltd used Erosion Blanket, Geogrid and Hydroseeding to stabilize this 300 sq metre bank on Oropi George road in Tauranga.

The top 100 metres of the bank is a near vertical slope. Stapling the Geogrid onto this area of the bank was the most challenging aspect of the job, according to owner-operator Clinton. He and his team overcame this by using abseiling equipment which meant the work could be completed, not only efficiently, but also safely.



Lawn Creations: A new division of Erosion Control Co Ltd

Due to demand for our hydroseeding services on residential lawns, Erosion Control Co Ltd have started a new division called "Lawn Creations" that specialises in domestic lawns. With a small purpose built hydroseeding unit mounted on a small truck, we are able to hydroseed effectively around most subdivisions and building sites.



ARC Erosion and Sediment control rule-change update

The ARC have still not finalised the changes to the TP90. So, at this stage, the regulations within the current TP90 are still the regulations we must adhere to. According to ARC consultant, Mike Dunphy, the ARC want the changes to be up and running by October 2007. The new version should be available on-line at www.arc.govt.nz soon after the completion date. We will continue to follow up on these changes and keep you informed about when they come into force and the implications to our industry.

Hibiscus Contractors – One of Silverdale's finest

Still operating from the base in Silverdale where the company was formed 27 years ago, Hibiscus Contractors is one of the area's most successful privately owned companies.

Lead by owner and director Linden Bawden, the company has been Head Contractor in the development of some of the North Island's most extensive projects, including the Pauanui Waterways Development in the popular Coromandel holiday spot, and the Gulf Harbour Development at Whangaparaoa, north of Auckland. They were also the main contractor on the construction of the Gulf Harbour Golf Course,

which was the venue for the prestigious World Cup of Golf in 1998. Right now they have jobs on the go from the Far North all of the way down to Hamilton, and two of Linden's sons have taken on important roles within the ever growing business.

Linden believes that the secret of the company's success is, first and foremost having a passion for what you do. "I've been contracting since I left school", he explains. "I've thrived on this sort of work". He also says that "having a great team is equally important, people who always work hard and want to do a good job. The excellent work they do ensures that we get invited back".

He says that the biggest challenge the company has

faced to date has been the construction of the Gulf Harbour development in Whangaparaoa many years ago. "We were first approached about the job almost 25 years ago and it was the biggest contract we had ever taken on", says Linden, "we undertook a huge amount of work and then it all stopped when the original developers went through some hard times". After a few years new developers took control of the project and luckily, Hibiscus Contractors retained the job and work began once again developing the area's canal ways. "We had to hunt for staff all over again" he says, and luckily some of the guys were available from the first time around... our staff went from thirty to well over a hundred almost overnight". These days



the staff levels are back down to thirty-something, with sub contractors pulled in if and when they are needed.

One of those many sub-contractors is Erosion Control, whom Linden has had a fantastic relationship with for

many years now. "They have always been a great company to deal with and, like us, strive to do the best possible job," he says, and with the companies only a street away from each other, the two are old neighbours as well as friends.



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HOW WILL CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON YOUR SITE

HEB Smithbridge had up to 3 metres of water covering some parts of their earthworks site during the Northland flood on the 30th March 2007.



What the experts say about climate change

New Zealand will increasingly be hit by heavy rainfall causing flooding, landslides and erosion according to the report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The report predicts a significant increase in rainfall in most parts of New Zealand except for the east of the North Island and the north of the South Island. It claims that New Zealand is already experiencing impacts from recent climate change.

What do these climate changes mean on your site

Because there will almost certainly be a rise in rainfall, flooding and erosion, local authorities are likely to become increasingly strict about the erosion and sediment control measures that they expect developers and contractors to implement.

Some councils are also re-assessing infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water mains, flood protection works and

sewerage systems to determine their suitability to cope with climatic change. This will lead to modifications such as bridges on new developments being designed to accommodate higher flood peaks, drainage systems that are devised to cope with increased volumes of flood water, and other similar changes.

Furthermore some coastal areas that have been identified as at-risk from rising sea levels or erosion will be labelled as unsuitable as

building sites. Councils are devising "Development Setbacks" which define how much space should be left between buildings and a shoreline to protect property against possible damage caused by coastal erosion or flooding. This will affect some proposed coastal developments.

Councils will also be pushing for developers and contractors to implement work habits that reduce green house gas emissions, as these emissions are believed to be increasing climatic change. This will go hand in hand with requirements for developers/contractors to plant more trees on their sites to absorb carbon as well as prevent erosion.

PM STOPS BY TO CHECK THAT THE KERIKERI BYPASS IS STILL ON TRACK



Prime Minister Helen Clark recently made a special trip to the site of Kerikeri's new Heritage Bypass, a \$17 million public project which is the biggest in Far North History.

The PM stopped by to plant one of the many kauri trees supplied by Erosion Control, who are taking care of all the native planting on the Bypass site.

The bypass is still due to open in mid - 2008, despite the deluge of rain which hit the Far North only months ago. Heavy rain meant that work on the bypass is now about three weeks behind, but amazingly is still expected to finish on time in June 2008. The extreme rainfall - which came unexpectedly at the end of March - had stripped some of the topsoil off the site, but thankfully left no significant damage.

The Kerikeri Heritage Bypass is a landmark project for the area, and it will see a significant impact on Kerikeri's future, with implications right across the Far North and beyond. The Bypass is designed to divert over 7500 cars a day away from some of New Zealand's oldest surviving buildings, and finally allow for the demolition of the Stone Store Bridge, which has been blamed for recurring flooding in the area.

The local council has budgeted \$17 million for the landmark project, which allows for inflation, contingencies and storm damage. Three quarters of the cost is being met by road funding body Land Transport NZ, whilst the Prim Minister's Cultural and Heritage Committee is picking up the rest of the cost for this important project.

Erosion Control welcomes Jonathan Tomsett to the team

Silverdale's Erosion Control Ltd is pleased to announce the arrival of new Sales Manager Jonathan Tomsett to their ever-growing team.

Originally from the United Kingdom after 8 years living in New Zealand he is proud to call Red Beach and his beloved Hibiscus Coast his true home.

Jonathan holds an Environmental Science degree from the University of the West of England in Bristol, but found himself following a corporate path within Finance and Sales at Fuji Xerox NZ until joining the Erosion Control Team. "The opportunity to apply my skills learnt to date at Erosion Control is exciting," he admits, "Roy and Lynda have some great aspirations for the Company and I am looking forward to what the future holds." He also is looking forward to being an integral

cog in a small company rather than a nameless face in a big corporation. Jonathan sees Erosion Control taking on more and more new business as he applies the competitiveness he acquired working in big business to its specialised field.

Jonathan will be working both on Erosion Control's commercial and industrial business, but already has ideas to offer its Lawn Creations brand that he believes will be a winner in the residential market.

"I can see growth happening across the board for this great little company and I'm so excited to be playing a part in that," he explains. "I wasn't even in the market for a job when I met the company's owners, Roy and Lynda, but after talking to them I just knew that I wanted to take them up on this fantastic opportunity".

SAVING MONEY ON ACC COSTS

In the Civil Construction industry \$1.17 out of every \$100 of payroll goes to ACC premiums. This makes ACC premiums a very expensive part of every business.

ACC have options that can reduce the amount of premiums you pay, although most of us are unaware of what these options are. Also the hassle that is involved with finding out what to do to get the discount is usually allocated to the "too hard" basket. ACC have a scheme for instance, that offers a 10% reduction if you can demonstrate an effective system to manage three key areas of health and safety responsibly, including some industry specific hazards. There is also another scheme that can save you up to 20% on your premiums, if you qualify.



If you have someone in your organization who is good at paperwork and dealing with governmental agencies then you can enquire about these discounts from ACC yourself. Otherwise there are companies in the marketplace such as Darrings Business Solutions Limited who claim they can cut your ACC premiums by 10% - 15%, which is a very worthwhile savings to most organizations. (Darrings guarantee their services and say "no savings - no fees", hence their use as an example in this article.)

These companies provide you with the industry tailored systems needed to apply for the ACC discounts, as well as doing the applications and annual renewals for you.

(Darrings Business Solutions Limited can be contacted at 0274 526 305)

A positive saying...

NAPOLEON HILL

The best job goes to the person who can get it done without passing the buck or coming back with excuses

a perfect lawn everytime
Lawn Creations 0800 NEW LAWN
(0800 639 5296)

healing the scars of progress



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