



We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

This is the 4th and final issue of our Newsletter for the 2007 year. Thank you for all the awesome feedback we have had to this publication. We hope it has been informative and interesting for you.

2008 is looking like an exciting year for Erosion Control. With a permanent base opening in Whangarei and a new base

opening in Christchurch, we are hoping to offer our clients an increasingly convenient service. The Auckland base has also increased its hydroseeding capacity by building two new hydroseeding machines, which we envisage will shorten response times for those requiring our services.

Within our landscaping division we also have exciting growth happening. The Auckland division of "Lawn Creations", has moved from hydroseeding lawns, to now offering a full landscaping package. Andreas Oswald, a landscape gardener from Germany, has recently joined our team and offers a

European flair to our New Zealand gardens. Barry Watson, a New Zealand trained Landscaper, has also bought a huge amount of local knowledge and expertise to the team.

Meanwhile the Hamilton base of Erosion Control has expanded to also include a "Lawn Creation" division, which is specialising in residential and sub-division lawns.

Thank you all for your support over the last year and we wish you a prosperous and happy 2008.

....Roy Timperley and Lynda Baldwin

DUST SUPPRESSION ON YOUR SITE

Summer is coming and summer means dust on construction sites.

During the dry summer months many construction sites have to close due to the dust that is a problem for the surrounding houses and residents. If the dust can be controlled, or minimised, the sub-divisions can often stay open longer.

A dust suppression option that is frequently used, as a

short term fix, is spraying water on the ground using a water truck. Small amounts more often, works better than large amounts less frequently. Depending on the weather the effectiveness of this method can vary between 30 minutes and 12 hours. If the water is extracted from a local river or lake then the Regional Council will need to be contacted.

A long term solution for the dust problem is to establish grass on the area. This can be

done by conventional tractor grassing. It is not an immediate solution, however, as it takes time for the grass to grow. In the middle of summer, if there is little rain and warm winds, the grass will be slow to establish. The area that is planted with grass seed can be covered with strawmulching to help protect the plants as they grow. The strawmulch not only offers the plants protection from the



DUST SUPPRESSION AT AUCKLAND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

sprayed on the ground. Erosion Control Co Ltd have developed a product that works by forming a crust on the top of the soil that prevents dust. As long as there is no vehicle movement

over the area, the dust suppression will continue to work by bonding with the top layer of the soil. This product is environmentally friendly and requires no resource consent to be applied.

sun, but it will also help retain moisture. This has the added benefit of offering immediate dust suppression to the effected areas. A quicker alternative is to use a specially designed dust suppression product that is

over the area, the dust suppression will continue to work by bonding with the top layer of the soil. This product is environmentally friendly and requires no resource consent to be applied.

ARC Erosion and Sediment control rule change up-date

When this newsletter went to print we were still waiting for final details of the changes to the TP90 that the ARC have been deliberating on. We do know that the covering required for strawmulching has remained the same at 6000kg per h/a and that there will be design changes required with silt fences. Apart from that we believe the only changes will be to flocculation ponds and rules for the construction of bunds. We will keep you posted.

TUNNEL VISION

While working on the Orewa to Puhoi motorway extension the Erosion Control Team had the honour of being the first strawmulcher to use the twin tunnels that go under Johnstone's Hill. The twin

tunnels form part of the 7.5km extension that will by-pass Orewa and the existing State Highway 1 route, which contains many winding, narrow sections of road. Both tunnels are 345 metres long, 12 metres wide and 9

metres high. When they are in operation, each tunnel will be able to carry two vehicle lanes, a hard shoulder and an emergency pathway.

The new motorway, which is mostly 4 lanes, is expected to improve travel times and provide better access to Northland. This will benefit both business and tourism.



Hydroseed lawn versus roll-out lawn, on your sub-division

Wherever there is property development there are eventually lawns. These lawns may be grassed by the sub-division contractors or by the residents that eventually buy the sections.

Traditionally most of these lawns have been grassed using the direct seeding method which involves sprinkling the grass seed onto the prepared topsoil. Although it is cheap, this kind of grassing has mixed results. The lawn can end up sparse and patchy, particularly if not fertilized correctly.

In later years roll-out lawn become a popular alternative to direct seeding. Its popularity was mainly due to the quick grass effect



that roll-out lawn offers. Unfortunately this method of grassing is expensive at \$12-\$20 per square metre (2006 - 2007 prices). It also has a tendency to dry out very quickly and needs a lot of watering if it is going to grow and thrive. The reason for this is that, although the grass is mature, most of the roots have been removed.

Today the trend overseas and in New Zealand, is to

use hydroseeded lawn as a preference to roll-out lawn. There are many reasons why this change is occurring. One major reason is the quality of the finished product. When established the hydroseeded lawn usually looks lush and thicker than roll-out lawn, which is possibly due to the fertilizers and the seed mix that are used in the hydromulch. Furthermore hydroseeded lawn does not

dry out as much as roll-out lawn, consequently it requires less watering and care.

Another big advantage with hydroseeded lawn is that you get the type of grass seed that is best suited for the area's use, position and soil type. For instance, a very shady area that gets little light would benefit from a different grass seed to an area that is in full sunshine.

A further reason for the change from using roll-out lawn to using hydroseeded lawn is the price. Hydroseeded lawn is about quarter of the price of roll-out lawn, therefore making it much more cost effective.

The only disadvantage with hydroseeded lawn, compared to roll-out lawn, is that it

can take 3 weeks for hydroseeded lawn to look green and grassy. In the depth of winter it can take longer as the seed is slower to germinate in the cold weather. Roll-out lawn, on the other hand, is grass as soon as it is laid.

So if you are on a tight time schedule, or it is the middle of winter when there is plenty of natural moisture, then roll-out lawn is possibly the best option. If, on the other hand, you can wait 3 or so weeks for the grass to grow then hydroseeded lawn is more cost effective, possibly produces a better finish and requires less care.

Erosion Control Co Ltd can supply both hydroseeded lawn and roll-out lawn.

Whangarei Division: opening November

For the convenience of our Northland customers, Erosion Control is opening a Whangarei branch. Erosion Control has always serviced the Northland area from our base in Silverdale but now with machinery and personnel on site in Whangarei we believe we can offer a more efficient service to our clients.

Phone 09 438 5434

A POSITIVE SAYING...

COLIN POWELL:

There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.

-  HYDROSEEDING
-  DUST SUPPRESSION
-  STRAWMULCHING
-  NATIVE PLANTING
-  LIQUID SOIL
-  LAWN ESTABLISHMENT

DOWN TO EARTH



LA NIÑA

In our first issue a year ago we addressed the likely occurrence of an El Nino weather pattern affecting New Zealand. Indeed a weak El Nino did eventuate and its effects were marked by drier conditions in the North East and wetter conditions in the South West. The event was mild and in reality passed without consequence, its interest being mainly to the scientific community. A year later we find ourselves in the reverse situation looking at the almost certain establishment of a La Niña pattern. In simple terms take the effects of El Nino and reverse them. Warmer wetter conditions in the North East and drier cooler conditions in the South

West. A reduction in South Westerlies and an increase in North Easterlies.

NIWA have identified that weak La Niña conditions have developed in the equatorial Pacific and this is likely to bring above average temperatures for the late spring (October – December) period for most of the country. According to the centre's seasonal climate outlook there is only a 10-20% chance of cool (below average) conditions over the country.

La Niña conditions typically mean weaker than normal westerly winds across the country with more winds from the east and north east. These usually bring above average temperatures, with above normal rainfall in the north east of the country, and below

normal rainfall in parts of the South Island.

Drier than normal conditions are likely in many South Island areas with only a 10-20% chance of above normal rainfall, soil moisture and river flows. That picture reverses in the north and east of the North Island, where the 3 month rainfall and soil moisture outlook is normal or above normal, with only a 20% chance of below normal rainfall and soil moisture.

The prevailing westerly winds, which can be particularly strong during the late spring, are likely to be weaker and less frequent than normal for the three months as a whole, with easterly winds at times.

The higher the average rainfall and predominance of North easterly winds will require a good deal of vigilance on behalf of the contracting industry. Regional authorities and councils are likely to take a dim view of operators not prepared

with an erosion management plan. We'll be making resource available to enable us to supply a rapid response service to our client base.

The Centre says there is about a 50% chance of La Niña conditions persisting through to the end of summer 2007/08. For the coming tropical cyclone season (November 2007 – May 2008) this slightly reduces the risk, of an ex-tropical cycle affecting New Zealand. This year, there is an 80% chance of an ex-tropical cyclone passing within 500 km of the country. Northland and Gisborne are the districts most at risk.

The name La Niña originates from Spanish, meaning "the little girl", analogous to El Niño meaning "the little boy".

There was a strong La Niña episode during 1988-1989. La Niña also formed in 1995, and in 1999-2000. The last La Niña was a minor one, and occurred 2000-2001.

GIDEON
CONTRACTORS LIMITED

– QUALITY IS THE KEY



MURRAYS BAY TO CABELLS BAY
SEWER PIPE LINE AFTER COMPLETION

Gideon Contractors Limited are a company that prides itself on its reputation for producing quality work. Owned and operated by John Giddy, the company specializes in both sub-division work and all facets of road stabilization. John has been involved in the civil engineering industry since leaving school, and with over 40 years experience in the industry it is no surprise that his company is so successful.

Based in Silverdale, Gideon Contractors have completed projects from Paihia to New Plymouth, but the bulk of their work is done in the North shore and Rodney districts. Many of the projects they undertake are awarded by the invited tender process rather than by general tender which, they believe, is due, not only to the excellence of their work and their reputation, but also to the quality of their staff.

It is this quality of staff that has allowed them to take on some unusual contracts. One memorable contract includes the concreting of the sewer line that runs from Murrays Bay, along the beach foreshore, to Campbells Bay in Auckland. The process involved cutting a 700mm deep, by 300mm wide key in the rocks, to secure the concrete that was to cover the sewer line. They then

completely covered the sewer pipes in concrete. The top coat of the concrete was sprayed and shaped to blend into the surrounding cliffs and rock formations. All of the work had to be done at low tide. Today the concrete covering provides the public with an attractive rock-like walkway along the beach, as well as protecting the sewer line.

The company also believes that the high calibre of the clients they work for plays an important role in their success. Cabra Holdings Ltd and Elam Properties Ltd are two companies that they would particularly like to acknowledge. Gideons are currently completing a 200 section sub-division contract for Cabra Holdings Ltd, in Hamilton, that has been an 18 month undertaking.

Like most contracting companies, one of the biggest challenges Gideons face is maintaining a regular flow of work. There is either a feast or a famine. However with staff numbers that have grown from 11 to 25 in the last five years, it is obvious that the company is talented at managing the quiet times of the year.

Erosion Control has been involved with John for many years, straw mulching, hydroseeding and tractor grassing on the company's many projects.

HAMILTON HOME SHOW

The Hamilton base of Erosion Control not only does commercial hydroseeding but also supports a "Lawn Creations" division, which specialises in domestic and subdivision lawns (seen here at the Hamilton Homeshow).



2 WAYS TO SAVE MONEY ON ROAD USER CHARGES

1# REFUNDS FOR NON PUBLIC ROAD USE

Road user charges are payable when the vehicles are on public roads. Road user charges do not apply for vehicles when they are used on private roads, quarries, construction sites or farms. Many earthmoving, transport and construction vehicles spend a good proportion of their time in just these situations.

There are two ways of measuring the kilometres you drive off the public roading system. You can either get the drivers to keep manual records of where they went, or you can get GPS systems installed in the vehicles. If GPS systems are installed in vehicles then the off road mileage that can be claimed back is easily available.

To get the refunds you need to send, either, the original Road User Charge label and a letter, or an RUC- OR form (available from Land Transport NZ agents), to Road User Charges Refunds, PO Box 1047, Palmerston North 4440.

2# LESSEN TRANSACTION FEES

Land Transport NZ charge a fee for each vehicle when you pay for Road User Charges. These fees can be minimised by the method you use for paying them eg:

- Counter sales through a RUC agent (post office, AA etc). : \$9.56 per transaction.
- Phone or fax: \$6.98 per transaction (BP operated ring 0800 800 027 to set up payments).
- RUC cards at select BP shops and truckstops: \$5.06 per transaction, but \$9.50 per year for every 3 vehicles. (BP operated ring 0800 800 027 to set up payments).
- Direct connects (for fleet vehicles only): \$3.38. Need to be doing 40 transactions a month to qualify. (Land transport operated ring 0800 655 644 to set up).



healing the scars of progress



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

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