

# DOWN TO EARTH



ISSUE NO 005

**W**elcome to our first newsletter for 2008. We hope you all had a relaxing Christmas and wish you prosperity for the coming year. Erosion Control closed down as usual for a few weeks over the holiday period but Auckland, Hamilton and Whangarei bases were all back in work mode by the 7th January.

Roy himself has been longer getting back to work due to a fall off the children's motorbike that landed him in hospital. However, Matt, Mark, Owen and the rest of the team all stepped, effortlessly and efficiently, into the void and business continued as usual.

The coming year is promising to be an exciting one for Erosion Control. Our bases at Whangarei and Hamilton are both up and running successfully under the leadership of Franco and Clinton, respectively.

Lawn Creations, our residential lawn specialist division, is moving from strength to strength under the guidance of Barrie. We have also added 3 more hydroseeders to our fleet over the last 4 months, which we believe will help us continue to improve our efficiency.

Our newsletter has been running for a year now and we thank you for all the positive feedback we have received. Our aim for these newsletters is to provide information and articles that are useful to the people who use our services. We hope that over the next year we can continue to offer you valuable insights about what is happening in the industry. Therefore if you have any comments or suggestions about this newsletter or its contents please contact us.

Wishing you all the best for the coming year.

Roy Timperley and Lynda Baldwin

## HYDROSEEDING ON HIGH



HYDROSEEDING ON THE NORTHERN GATEWAY, OREWA TO PUHOI MOTORWAY BY-PASS

Dangling in a basket high above the ground Erosion Control team members sprayed hydroseeding mulch onto the steep bank bordering the soon to be opened Orewa to Puhoi motorway. Liquid Soil™ was used to establish the vegetation on the embankment when the earthworks were complete. Because of the height and steepness of the bank, traditional hydroseeding methods were not practical. By using the human basket, all areas of the bank could be accessed and successfully hydroseeded.

## CHANGES TO ARC EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL RULES

ARC has revised specifications for mulching, stabilisation of entrance ways, silt fences and super silt fences and rock check dams. The new specifications were introduced this month and they apply for all new installations. Details of the amended specifications and drawings can be viewed on the Auckland Regional Council website [www.arc.govt.nz/environment/sediment-and-erosion](http://www.arc.govt.nz/environment/sediment-and-erosion)

### Silt fences

The amended TP90 requires all new silt fences to have a height of 600mm above ground and 200mm below ground and a return fabric of 200mm upslope. Super silt fences are required to be 300mm below the ground.

### Mulching

The amount has remained at 6,000kg per ha but they have added ... "such that the coverage is consistent or no bare soil is visible through the mulch layer".

### Entrance ways

The definition has changed slightly to "A stabilised pad of aggregate on a woven geotextile base..."

Aggregate range has changed to 50-150mm washed aggregate and thickness of aggregate has changed to 150mm minimum or 1.5 x aggregate size.

### Forestry industry

The ARC have also given the forestry industry its own erosion and sediment control guideline – TP223.



Opie Contractors Ltd. is a dynamic family owned business based in Silverdale.

The roading contracting business began over 30 years ago when Opie Giddy had the foresight to be the first to introduce machine layed kerb into the area. From there the company has grown and evolved into the business they are today. They now employ over 20 staff, own a large variety of machines and equipment, and specialise in both roading and sub divisions. Opie's two sons, Joel and Rick now manage the day to day running of the business, although Opie remains on hand to share his experience and expertise.

Joel and Rick believe the main secret to the company's success is their experienced and loyal staff, some of whom have been with Opie for over an amazing 25 years. The high staff retention, Joel suggests, is a result of the company not expanding too much and therefore being able to preserve good inter-personal relationships with their staff. When talking about the company's success Joel and Rick also believe the Rodney District Council deserve a mention as the majority of Opie Contractors' work comes from the council and they share a very good working relationship.

Opie Contractors Ltd. consistently strive to maintain a very high standard of work.

For the company, meeting their own exacting standards is the most challenging part of any project. Opie Contractors is always implementing new ARC and Council requirements to ensure all work is completed to a high complying standard. They are also currently in the process of being qualified to undertake physical works for Transit New Zealand and have recently become ISO 9001 registered, which is an extremely high Quality Management System for a company their size.

Most of the company's work is done in the Rodney and

North Shore area. They are currently working on the Silverdale North Development which has been a major project and has so far lasted 2 and a half years. The company feels it has an edge when it comes to tendering for work as they can do 95% of the work with in-house skills and specialist machines, which also allows them to finish projects before time.

Erosion Control has been involved with Opie since the early days when both businesses started over 30 years ago.



## Erosion Control Christmas fishing trip



Thank you to all who joined us on our Christmas fishing trip. We hope it was a memorable adventure for you. The biggest fish reeled in was an awesome 5.5Kg snapper, but there were also several 3.5Kg snapper caught. In the tradition of all good New Zealand fishermen, many of the fish caught were returned to the sea to swim another day. Thanks also to Charter Connection Auckland and Bream Bay Charters Whangarei.





# DOWN TO EARTH



## EROSION CONTROL CONSULTING – GROUND BREAKING SOLUTIONS



ECCL CONSULTING'S INNOVATIVE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF BEAUTIFYING A 100M RETAINING WALL ON A RESIDENTIAL DRIVEWAY.

Whatever your role in our industry, be it a Consultant, Engineer or Contractor, ECCL Consulting is ready to share our extensive knowledge and provide expert advice. Over the last 32 years ECCL has built up a considerable body of experience across all areas of environmental management from silt fencing to the re-establishment of mining sites.

ECCL Consulting provides innovative solutions to the daily challenges of working within the constraints of the Resource Management Act and the complexity of territorial authority interpretations and bylaws (1) by recognising the value of erosion management to the environment and (2) by recognising that land development is essential to the economy.

ECCL Consulting can work with you at all stages of your project from conception through to completion. We manage compliance issues from simple self-monitoring and audit regimes through to complex RMA issues.



Our project managers are experienced, hands-on engineers rather than merely coordinators. As such, they have the knowledge to fully understand the complete scope of your project and direct it from initiation to completion.

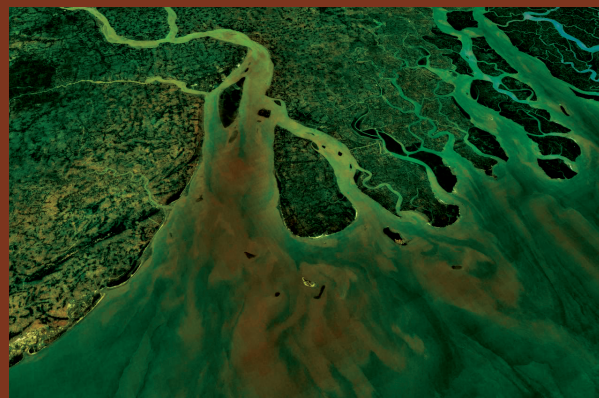
ECCL Consulting is about "planning before and managing during". Good planning and effective management minimises expensive downtime and keeps a project on track, within budget, inside the rules and on time.

ECCL Consulting's innovative solution to the problem of beautifying a 100m retaining wall on a residential driveway.

Liquid Soil™ containing a carefully selected range of native seeds was pumped into the rock wall cavities. The result is sympathetic with the local environment and has provided additional stabilisation to the existing structure.

If you've got a problem to be solved call ECCL Consulting – we're ready to help.

## SEDIMENT IN WATERWAYS EVERY CONTRACTOR'S NIGHTMARE



### SOIL SEDIMENT ENTERING THE WATERWAY

Local councils are increasingly strong on prosecuting contractors for breaches of erosion and sediment control rules.

Fines over the last few years have varied between \$10,000 and \$22,000 (plus clean up costs and court costs), for minor infringements. Steeper fines have been issued for more major infractions. In 2000 a firm was fined \$87,800 for "charges relating to earthworks

and construction activities and in particular the lack of suitable erosion and sediment control measures as required by the conditions of a resource consent". (20/06/00, Judge Whiting, DC Auckland T300600).

The fines have resulted when the judge believed there was a deliberate and knowing neglect of the rules, rather than an accidental erosion or sediment problem.

## HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN?

Erosion Control's Whangarei base has been busy since its opening in November. Franco Meyer the area manager will have met many of you in the last few months.

With his dedication to customer satisfaction and his incredible enthusiasm and energy, Franco is proving to be a valued addition to the team.

His vision is to break away from just doing hydroseeding, strawmulching and tractor grassing and instead, meet with our clients and analyse their individual needs so that he can tailor a specific business package that is exclusive to them.

Contact him on 0274 830 971 or 09 438 5434



## FOUR WAYS TO SAVE MONEY ON TYRES

Vehicle tyres are a huge expense for any contracting type business. The following are four tips that may help lower that cost.

### 1# Cheapest isn't always best.

Compas Tyres in Silverdale (in conjunction with a local contractor) did some research on using cheaper tyres. Their subject vehicle was a Hino 8 wheeler.

They put cheap Chinese tyres (approx \$520 + GST retail) on the Hino and kept a log of how many kilometres it got out of the tyres, (note: I have not included the tyre make for legal reasons). They then switched the tyres to Kumho tyres (approx \$680 + GST retail) and repeated the exercise.

The results were staggering.

Cheap Chinese tyres: 15,000 – 16,000 kilometres wear, on average.

Kumho tyres: 53,000 – 60,000 kilometres wear, on average. So they got about 260% more wear out of the dearer tyres.

### 2# Tyre pressure and wheel alignment can make a big difference to fuel economy.

The softer the tyres are, the greater the friction between the road and the rubber, and the harder your engine will have to work to move your truck. Under-inflated tyres

lower gas mileage by approx 0.4 percent for every pound of dropped pressure in all four tyres. Therefore if you are down by 10 pounds, you are losing approx 4 percent in fuel economy. \$40 for every \$1,000 of fuel.

For 4,6 and 8 wheelers the steering tyres, as a rule of thumb, need 100 psi while rear tyres generally need 90 psi for optimum wear. Check with your local tyre centre for the ideal pressure for your vehicle.

### 3# Duel wheels should always have matching tyres on each set.

If you only put on one new tyre and the other is worn, then the new tyre will have more contact with the road. It will, therefore, wear quickly down to the same level as the older tyre. For that reason you can expect to get about half the mileage out of the new tyre.

### 4# Regular maintenance can save you money.


By reducing the cost of both tyres and downtime while you, or your staff, wait around for a tyre to be repaired.

(\*If you would like to know more about the tyre research or any other tyre information contact Jack at Compas Tyres Silverdale 09427 6002 or 021 2888 349.)







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