

DOWN TO EARTH



ISSUE NO 008

WELCOME TO OUR 8TH NEWSLETTER

It is good to see the economy make some small steps towards recovery from the downturn that caused so much havoc over the last 12 months. House sales have lifted 40% off the low recorded last year and with a growing inflow of new migrants, the demand is growing for housing from the immigration sector, according to Jane Turner at ASB bank.

This is good news for the building and property development industries although economists agree it will be sometime before

this sector will be back in full swing. The government initiative to invest in infrastructure is also a very positive step for the country and interest rates falling to such low levels is another helpful stimulus for growth and recovery.

Over the last 6 months Erosion Control has focused on several research and development projects that we believe will be useful to our clients over the coming years, including a new dust control product and several new silt control solutions. Our thanks to the roading and development companies who have trialled these products with us. Watch this space for more updates and information.

Our newsletter has been running for 2 years now and we are grateful for all the positive feedback we have received. Our aim for these newsletters is to provide interesting information and articles that are useful to the people who use our services. We hope 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.

Roy Timperley and Lynda Baldwin

GREAT GRASS ESTABLISHMENT



Subdivisions



Lawns



Quarries



Golf courses



Road side banks



Slips

Hydroseeding still gives the best grass establishment, whether it is for erosion control, silt control or residential lawns.

NO "HICK-UPS" HERE

Since the early 1970's, the Hick brothers and their team have been a significant force in the civil construction industry, priding themselves on the ability to identify and deliver on their client's key drivers by encouraging a comprehensive team approach, both within its own structure and in conjunction with all other project members.

Over the last 2 seasons Hick Bros Civil, in conjunction with Woods Consultants, have been carrying out construction on the 250 h/a Millwater Estate Development on behalf of WFH Properties. The Millwater Development is located in the 'Silverdale North Area' and is situated between state highway 1 and Red Beach/Orewa. This subdivision to date has involved over 1 million cubic meters of earthworks.

In April 2009 Erosion Control were asked to provide a solution for the grassing and stabilization of an 8,000+ sqm batter. A number of alternative options including standard hydroseeding, topsoiling,

and composting the relatively infertile area, were initially considered. Erosion Control's Liquid Soil®, in conjunction with Straw Mulching, was ultimately chosen as the most cost effective and practical solution. It provided the grassing and stabilization required, while still retaining a quality result for the client.

The Liquid Soil® (applied in early June) provided the additional nutrients required for long term sustainability of the vegetation, whilst Hay Mulching provided instant stabilization, and protected the seed from winter frost thus enabling quicker germination.

Matt Oxborough from Erosion Control confirmed that "In winter, Hay Mulching over seeded areas dramatically accelerates grass establishment. Conversely, in the summer months, the Hay Mulch greatly assists with moisture retention which encourages both germination and growth."

Peter Andrew of Hick Bros described the outcome as "a good example of value added engineering solutions that were certainly put to the test".



Liquid soil 1/6/09



Hay over 1/6/09



8 weeks later 1/8/09

SAVE MONEY ON INSURANCE

We all hope that insurance is a waste of money but we have to have it. The idea is to waste as little as possible while getting the necessary cover. Often just the effort of doing a review of your insurance can lead to you making savings. It costs nothing to approach 3 different insurance companies or brokers and ask for a quote.

4 GOOD REASONS TO REVIEW YOUR INSURANCE

1 You might well save money: Insurance companies, like banks vary in the premiums they charge. You may get a better deal at a different company. Different insurance brokers can also get different rates.

2 You might get more for your money: Your policy may be out of date and there are better policies on the market now that offer you more.

3 Your needs may have changed: Have you sold vehicles or machinery? Have vehicles aged and so they are worth less to insure? Do you still need the same amount of public liability insurance as you did a year ago? etc

4 Because you may not have the cover you think you have. Reviewing your cover means that you have an opportunity to check you have everything covered and there are no nasty surprises when you go to make a claim.

EROSION CONTROL CO AND EXLER TURF LTD



In the interests of providing an improved strawmulching service throughout the region, Erosion Control Co and Exler Turf combined forces this winter to assist each other with many projects. We believe this arrangement was beneficial to the clients of both companies. It provided a greater number of strawmulchers and staff available for any given job, as well as shared management expertise.

Exler Turf and Erosion Control have had a healthy rivalry that has spanned 30 years. In the early days they were the only two strawmulching companies in New Zealand. Exler Turf worked mostly in South Auckland and Erosion Control worked predominantly north of the harbour bridge. Between them they covered the region providing developments, roads, forestry and subdivisions with quality strawmulching.

POSITIVE SAYING

Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there. *Will Rogers*

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PERRY RESOURCES WAINGARO ROAD QUARRY



“SETTING THE BENCHMARK WITH AWARD WINNING SOLUTIONS”

Waikato Quarries Ltd has successfully undertaken a large earthworks and environmental project which provides long term visual screening of the Waingaro Road quarry. The project incorporated a bund that is 200m wide, 200m long and 35m high.

The venture involved stream diversions, permanent and temporary culverts, fish relocation and 350,000m³ of earth moving. Special care was required to protect an environmentally sensitive neighbouring stream and minimise the impact on local residents. Waikato Quarries Ltd chose C&R Developments, who are based in Cambridge, as their preferred contractor through a competitive pricing process and their proven experience largely in bulk quarry earthworks across New Zealand, Australia and Hong Kong.

Bulk earthworks commenced in late Feb/March. Because the site is prominently clay there were many environmental challenges. Waikato Quarries Ltd, in conjunction with C & R, had a dedicated sediment control team which was responsible for anticipating and dealing with any environmental issues. Having this team in place has meant that the earth movers were able to achieve up to 9,000m³ per day.

The Waingaro Road Quarry bund project was awarded the “site of the month certificate” by Environment Waikato. The certificate has only been issued 3 times in the last 2 years. It recognises those sites that have achieved a high standard of erosion and sediment control on earthworks, through innovation, commitment

and improving best practice on their sites. When awarding the certificate, Environment Waikato said “For July 2009, it was agreed that the Waingaro Road Quarry Development project should be awarded this certificate, as an acknowledgement of the tremendous compliance level this site has had throughout the duration of this project. We recognise that there has been a lot of input from many parties working together to achieve the overall compliance for this site.”

C&R enlisted Erosion Control Co to do the re vegetation on the site because of their specialized equipment, their extensive experience with quarry environments and a proven track record from over 30 years in operation. Over 50,000m² of steep batter cuts have been revegetated by either hydroseeding, hay mulching with seed and fertilizer, or a combination of the two.

The stabilization of areas occurred at regular intervals, on relatively small areas, directly behind earthworks. This minimized the size of “open areas” at any one time. Mark Oxborough from Erosion Control Hamilton, has provided guidance regarding re vegetation, when required, ensuring optimum all year round results and cost efficiencies for the client.

Both Gary James from C&R and Mark Oxborough attributed regular communication and site meetings as an integral element in the success of the project and the minimizing of environmental impacts. Phil Houben, Waikato Quarries Engineering Manager said “Dedication to erosion control by all parties involved in the project has made it a huge success”. (Phil has been in charge of designing, planning, consents, building the bunds and compliance issues for this site). For more information:

phill.houben@perry.co.nz; www.crdevelopments.co.nz; mark@erosioncontrol.co.nz

PERMANENT OR CASUAL STAFF

There are two ways of employing staff, they can be on a casual or a permanent contract. Casual staff generally cost less to employ as there is no holiday pay, sick leave etc and they are only employed when there is work to do. Permanent staff, on the other hand, are paid all year round, even when work is quiet. Plus they have the added costs of 4 weeks holiday, 5 days sick leave etc.

On the face of it, this would indicate that casual staff are the best employee option for most companies. This is usually however, false economy for many reasons.

For clients, dealing with a company who have permanent staff is very beneficial. They know who to talk to regarding getting a job done, and they can have confidence that an experienced person is doing the work. Also the chances of getting a quality job done are much higher. This is because permanent staff are given more training, they have more experience, they know the clients and their special requirements, and they have a vested interest in doing the job well as they will probably be around to hear the clients feedback on the job.

Casual staff, on the other hand, usually stay with companies for short periods of time. This means they have less training, less experience and they don't know the clients or their special requirements. Furthermore, doing a top quality job is not so important to casual staff as they possibly won't be around if the customer should complain about their workmanship.

Because of these factors, using casual staff can end up being expensive and frustrating for both the company employing them and the companies clients.

At Erosion Control Co we strive to provide a quality service to our clients, and therefore the majority of our staff are permanent, as opposed to many of the other hydroseeding and strawmulching companies in New Zealand.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EROSION CONTROL

Article written by Erosion Control with assistance of Ridley Dunphy Environmental

Erosion and sediment control should be considered whenever land disturbing activities are undertaken and these controls should be in place before any earthworks commence. It must however always be thought of as two separate components, erosion control and sediment control.

Erosion control acts to limit the amount of sediment generated and sediment control acts to remove sediment once mobilised. Both types of controls are critical as part of any land disturbing activity although the emphasis should always be placed on erosion control in the first instance.

Erosion control is based around prevention of erosion and includes controls such as revegetation, contour drains and project staging.

Sediment Control is based around prevention of sediment leaving the site in question. Sediment control is never 100% effective but with effective erosion control can move a long way towards minimising downstream effects of sediment discharge.

Always focus on the prevention of erosion in the first instance. Consider contour drains, slowing velocity of runoff, revegetation and mulching. While sediment

control measures are critical it is only after erosion control has been fully assessed should the site then consider the sediment control options for the site.

Irrespective of the erosion and sediment controls employed, construction activities lead to sediment generation and a subsequent sediment discharge. What we all try to achieve is to minimise this sediment discharge and ensure we protect the downstream values – after all we all want to use these environments and continue to enjoy them for years to come.



Photo courtesy of Auckland Regional Council

COMMERCIAL PLANTING WITH NATIVE NZ PLANTS

Through-out the autumn and winter, Erosion Control has undertaken commercial planting jobs in both Northland and Auckland. The mild weather has been ideal for the native scrubs and flaxes that are commonly used in many of the modern development sites. Although sometimes deemed as boring because of their lack of colour, native plants help maintain a distinctive New Zealand look. They also provide habitats suitable for our native birds and insects. Whether they are planted to protect an area from erosion or they are planted to showcase a development, our sturdy New Zealand native plants can provide a beautiful natural backdrop.



	STRAWMULCHING		NATIVE PLANTING
	DUST SUPPRESSION		LIQUID SOIL
	HYDROSEEDING		LAWN ESTABLISHMENT

