

ASSOCIATION OF GEOTECHNICAL
TESTING AUTHORITIES (QLD) INC

NEWSLETTER



**THE ASSOCIATION OF
GEOTECHNICAL TESTING
AUTHORITIES (QLD) INC.**

**PO Box 2127
STRATHPINE QLD 4500
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**AGTA 2001
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The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily shared by all members of the Association of Geotechnical Testing Authorities (Qld) Inc

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Chairman's Report

Welcome to the start of a new financial year. Let's hope this one will start better than the last one finished. There have been mixed stories of the past year, on the whole not good ones for most. With the Association now being assisted with professional management the Committee is now able to spend more time on the issues facing our members. There is no doubt that without our Association speaking out for our industry, many of its members (and non-members) would now be closing their doors. In particular those who carry out site investigation and/or onsite effluent disposal reports. I am not privy to names but there will be action taken against some individuals/organisations who carry out site

classifications without a Licence. I hope they are not members of AGTA as you have been well warned.

We are still seeking a third party accredited body to assess our members for Level 1 Supervision. I will keep you informed on this one.

It is good to see some input coming from the Far North. Beatrice Booth is our new Newsletter editor with a very hard act to follow. Terry Ferguson did an excellent job with past issues and certainly maintained our professional standard. Hard act to follow but I am sure Beatrice is up to the task. Do not forget to encourage non-members to join AGTA. It will benefit you in the long run.

Bye for now, enjoy the Newsletter.

Paul Thompson
Chairman

L & B Booth

85 Sydney Street, Bayview Heights
Cairns, Queensland, 4868

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Email: boothie@cairns.net.au

This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organisation. It might include the purpose of the organisation, its mission, founding date and brief history. You should also include a brief list of the types of projects, services or programs your organisation offers, the geographical area covered (for example, southern U.S. or Latin American markets), and a profile of the type of clients or members you serve.

It would also be useful to include your telephone number for readers who want more information about your organisation.

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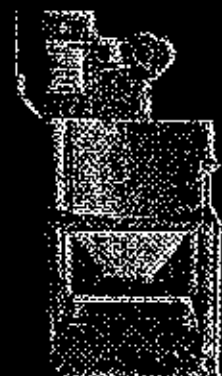
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Editorial

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR none this issue. PLEASE FILL THIS EMPTY SPACE BY EMAILING, FAXING OR WRITING TO ME SOON. (YOU HAVE TILL MID-OCTOBER, LOTS OF TIME).

The more things change.. Welcome to a new financial year, A new publishing company (consequently a new editor, yours truly) and a new newsletter. Change is continuous for business today, and the pace of change is growing. The aims of the Association, however, have not changed in that the Committee is determined to increase the amount of recognition by Government and associated entities in our field of expertise. Now that the Association is using professional management in its day to day operations, and the Committee has more free time to work on the important issues facing members, we expect the membership numbers to increase in leaps and bounds.

Never forget that a successful Committee needs successful members who continue to take an interest in and promote their Association. You can help your Committee by taking out the membership application in the magazine TODAY and faxing it to an associate (look through your address book); a service provider, (look through your creditors file); a client (look through your debtors file). Phone a member you haven't met and say hello, as from little acorns great oaks grow.

You will notice that the structure of the Newsletter has altered somewhat. We value your feedback, so if you have any suggestions or recommendations please let us know. You can also nominate how we can best communicate with you; by mail, fax or email. Send through these details or queries to Beatrice

Booth, at minnie@cairns.net.au. Please also email, phone or fax me with any interesting sites you may come across whilst browsing so we can publish them for all members to view.

Although some of us are still trying to adjust to a new tax system and a slow economy, the overall outlook in Queensland business is one of strong optimism. The State Government launched its Fair Go for Queensland plan in December. This encourages business to look locally when purchasing and capitalise on a host of productivity and cost benefits. The Federal Government has kick-started the construction business with an increase to \$14,000 of its new homeowners' grant, and in April we welcomed the third official interest rate cut of half a percent. 1 July 2001 also sees a cut in taxation for Companies from 34% to 30%.

On Page 5 we have printed a copy of a letter written to the Building Services Association (Queensland) regarding their intention to introduce a new Licence Class, that of Hydraulic Services Design and On-site Wastewater Disposal. The Chairman voices the grave concerns of our members over their exclusion from obtaining this Licence Class. As the Association understands it, the BSA proposes to license only qualified hydraulic designers. (Diploma of Engineering, Construction Hydraulics, CN0171 TAFE). Please assist the Committee to take this matter further by contacting the Chairman or one of the Committee members shown on page 1 of the Newsletter. Tell them how you feel about the proposal by the BSA.

In closing, I am sure that all members would like to join me in thanking former editor Terry Ferguson for his invaluable input into the magazine in the past and wishing him continued success in the future.

Beatrice Booth
Editor

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Hall of Fame

Charles Augustin de Coulomb (1736-1806)

The Grandfather of Soil Mechanics

Coulomb was born on 14 June 1736 in Angoulême, France and died 23 Aug 1806 in Paris, France.

He made significant contributions to Civil engineering (structures, hydraulics, and geotechnical), natural sciences and physics (mechanics, electricity and magnetism).

He addressed the Academy of Science (Paris) in 1773 presenting a modest essay on the application of the rules of maxima and minima to certain statics problems relevant to architecture. This essay, printed three years later by the Academy, is the earliest published soil mechanics theory; it started the active and passive pressure concepts.

The friction concept was known (newly invented) at the time, and Coulomb added the cohesion term to it. Though he didn't write the shear strength equation, as we know it today, he used it almost the same way.

He served as the Engineer of the King in Paris and helped the design and construction of many

He served as the Engineer of the King in Paris and helped the design and construction of many structures - this is what has led to his involvement with soils



structures - this is what has led to his involvement with soils. He needed a theory for the calculation of lateral earth pressures on retaining walls, so he derived one himself. He used the newly invented calculus in the work - it indeed involves a complex differentiation operation. But for this application he was awarded by being admitted to the Academy of Science.

Coulomb also wrote on structural analysis; the fracture of beams, the fracture of columns, the thrust of arches. He

also has a paper on the way sap circulates inside a tree - believe it or not.



OPEN LETTER FROM AGTA TO QUEENSLAND BUILDING SERVICES AUTHORITY

27 June 2001

Executive Manager Licensing
Building Services Authority
PMB 84
Coorparoo DC, QLD 4151.

Dear Sir/Madam:

**SUBJECT: LICENSING HYDRAULIC SERVICES DESIGN & ON-SITE
WASTEWATER DISPOSAL.**

It has come to the attention of the Association that the BSA is in the process of introducing a license class for contractors Hydraulic Services Design.

Members of the Association have grave concerns over the scope of work and technical qualification requirements of this license class.

The purpose of this letter is to directly express these concerns to the Executive Manager Licensing and to ensure the BSA is fully informed on the position of a large body of practitioners who undertake On-site Domestic Sewerage Facility Design and Site/Soil Evaluation.

It is understood the BSA wishes to license qualified hydraulic designers to undertake on-site sewerage facility design and to exclude others who lack this qualification.

AGTA believes the technical qualification requirement of a Diploma of Engineering Construction Hydraulics (CN0171 - TAFE) will restrict the license to a very narrow band of qualified practitioners who currently undertake On-site Sewerage Facility Design. There are many experts in the industry who have appropriate qualifications or extensive practical experience other than that nominated by the BSA License.

Whilst it may be the BSA's intent to introduce a measure of control to the on-site sewerage design process it should not be to the detriment of the majority of practitioners in the industry.

AS1547-2000 On-site domestic wastewater management Section 3.3.5 suggests Designers may include professional engineers, soil scientists, drainage contractors or plumbers with appropriate training and experience in design and installation practice.

AS1547-2000 Section 3.5.4 and The Interim Code of Practice for On-Site Sewerage Facilities Section 4.7 suggests Site evaluators/soil assessors may include appropriately trained soil scientists, geotechnical engineers, civil and environmental engineers, land surveyors or other experienced people who undertake land-capability evaluations.

AGTA believes restricting the technical qualification for a license to a Diploma of Engineering - Construction Hydraulics is not the intent of AS1547-2000 nor that of the Interim Code of Practice for On-Site Sewerage Facilities and therefore it may be seen as a restriction of our members' rights to practice within the framework of Standards Australia and the Interim Code of Practice for On-Site Sewerage Facilities.

Appropriate training, as typically specified in Local Authority Policy Documents, is the satisfactory completion of CNQ12 -TAFE site assessment and Design Course for on-site sewerage facilities. This training has already been undertaken by a large portion of our members at considerable expense.

Members and practitioners alike are particularly concerned about potential significant losses in trade/business due to the restrictive nature of the technical qualification criteria.

The Association would like to enter into a consultation process with the BSA to revise the Scope of Work and Technical Qualification criteria of this license.

On behalf of AGTA

Sincerely,

Paul Thomson
AGTA Chairman

Proposed Calendar of Events AGTA 2001

DATE	EVENT	COMMENT
24 January	Committee Meeting	Changeover/strategic Planning
21 February	Committee Meeting	Strategic Planning
20 March	Newsletter No. 1	Cover AGM, New Committee
21 March	Committee Meeting	Committee Meeting General Meeting Topic
18 April	Committee Meeting	Final Planning for General Meeting
01 May	General Meeting	Topic to be Decided
16 May	Committee Meeting	Activities Review
20 June	Committee Meeting	Activities Review
17 July	Newsletter No. 2	Cover General Meetings/Activities
18 July	Committee Meeting	General Meeting Topic
15 August	Committee Meeting	Final Planning for General Meeting
29 August	General Meeting	Role of the Geo. Testing Auth. in Urban Dev.
19 September	Committee Meeting	Activities Review
17 October	Committee Meeting	Activities Review/AGM
20 November	Newsletter No. 3	Cover General Meeting & AGM
21 November	Committee Meeting	Final Planning for AGM
05 December	AGM	Social Event/Elections

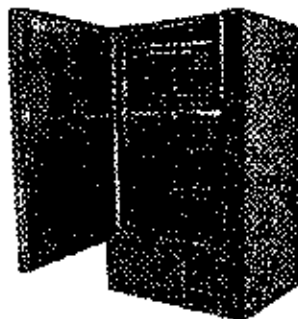
Notes:

1. Unless altered/approved by the Chairman, the above dates will remain fixed.
2. Committee meeting date is based on 3rd Wednesday of each month.
3. Please advise the Chairman in advance if any meeting dates are unsuitable.
4. Committee meeting will proceed regardless of individual absenteeism provided a quorum is present.

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Industry News

AUSTRALIA

New Dwellings Down

Total dwelling commencements in Australia will fall in the current financial year to the lowest level since the deep recession of 1982/83, say the latest forecasts from BIS Shrapnel.

The firm's Building Industry Prospects forecasts 113,200 dwelling commencements in the year to June 30, a decrease of 34 percent, the largest annual percentage decline since 1974/5.

Company tax rate has been reduced from 34% to 30%.

From 22 May 2001 GST registered businesses are entitled to full input tax credits for motor vehicles, including trucks. This should reduce the cost of motor vehicles by approximately 9.1% compared to prices before 1 July 2000.

The Financial Institutions Duty of 0.06% on every deposit to any type of bank account (including business cheque accounts, credit cards and mortgage payments) has been removed from 1 July 2001.

Businesses throughout Australia need all of the financial relief offered by government, though a drop in the interest rate by the Reserve Bank may be needed to assist growth as we are still struggling to recover from the effects of the National Competition Policy (and subsequent privatisation of some Government Agencies) introduction of the GST (including pre-spending on housing), the expense of the Olympic Games and skyrocketing petrol prices. These events were compounded by a downturn in world economics. The ACTU Wage Claim grants are higher than business can currently afford, therefore business will continue to reduce permanent staff as this is the only choice available at this time.

Until the effect of the steady current improvement in the European economy impacts on Australia, economists predict that businesses here will continue in "safe" mode. (Employment of part-time and casual workers, and either little or no investment in capital equipment items.)

AAA calls for Federal Roads Corporation

The Australian Automobile Association has called on both the Federal Government and the opposition to commit to establishing a Federal Roads Corporation to plan, fund and manage the National Highway network. AAA has also recommended the establishment of a National Roads Corporation in its Budget submission to the Government.

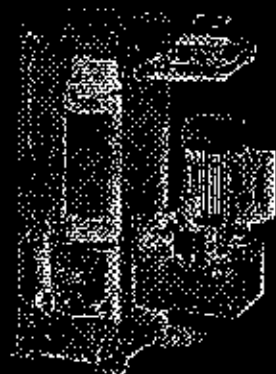
The call follows the release of an ABC Group report on Australia's roads by the Australian Local Government Association. The report reveals that the proportion of Federal Government fuel excise returned to roads in Australia is significantly less than in comparable nations such as New Zealand, France, Britain, Japan and the United States.

AAA Executive Director, Lauchlan McIntosh, said the new report found that eight out of ten people surveyed ranked roads and transport in the top five issues of importance leading up to the election. It also found that

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Industry News

four out of five people want the Government to spend more of the fuel excise it collected on roads. This latest report follows the release of an ANAO report on the management of the National Highway System which found that the system is being managed poorly. In specific terms the report found that the Federal Department of Transport and Regional Services kept no record of pavement age to assist in planning and programming expenditure. And worse, it found there had been no correlation between the performance indicators, the agreed road conditions to be achieved and annual funding provided by the Commonwealth: Mr. Macintosh said.

Editor's Note: Could we have some comments in this on "Letters to The Editor" next issue. Also, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration website at www.fhwa.gov provides endless amounts of information on the current situation in the U.S. They are heading towards toll roads (sound familiar, S.E.Q. readers?)

The latest research and development details are also to be found at that site.

QUEENSLAND

The Queensland Budget Papers state "The Queensland economy is forecast to strengthen in 2001-2002 with gross state product expected to grow by 4%. Total employment in Queensland is forecast to grow by 2%."

The workers compensation premium rate calculation has dropped from 1.58% to 1.55%, however the casual loading rate in Queensland Awards has increased by 2% on 14 May, with further increases of 1% on 2 October 2001 and 2 April 2002.

A.B.S. figures show a loss of 19,300 full-time jobs in Queensland during April which of course is the result of the downturn in industry. As long as this situation continues, the population will continue to defer spending, which of course then prevents industry from growing. Let's hope this

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- **Application for membership** •
- **Change of address** •

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Name of Applicant
(Note 1)

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Testing Authorities (Qld) for

Location of Applicant
(Note 2)

Address _____

Telephone _____ Facsimile _____

Fee
(Note 3)

The application fee of \$ _____ is enclosed being payment for
membership grade

	Member	Affiliate	Associate
Grade 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grade 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

For completion by Grade 1 Membership applicants only

Nominated Representative
(Note 4)

Name _____
Position _____
Residential Address _____

Telephone _____ Facsimile _____

Nominated by

Name _____
Position _____
Signature _____ Date _____

For completion by Grade 2 Membership applicants only

Name of company/organisation _____
Position _____
Address _____

Telephone _____ Facsimile _____

Please pass on to non-members

Notes

1. The name shown on the application form should be either the full name in which the organisation is incorporated or otherwise recognised for a Grade 1 Member, affiliate or associate or the full name of industry individual for a Grade 2 Member, affiliate or associate.
2. For a Grade 2 Member, affiliate or associate, the "situated at" should show the residential address.
3. See Membership Grades and Fees.
4. The nominated representative is the person nominated by the organisation to represent it in all matters affecting the organisation with respect to membership of the Association of Geotechnical Testing Authorities (Qld).

Full name (to be completed by nominated representative or industry individual)

I declare that I will undertake to abide by the rules and ethics of the Association amended from time to time and also any regulations made by the Executive Committee in accordance with the rules

Signature _____ Date _____

Return to

The Secretary
Association of Geotechnical Testing Authorities (Qld)
PO Box 2127
Strathpine, QLD, 4500
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Proposer	Seconder	Paid	Membership Number
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being current members of the Association propose the above-named as a new member of the Association

**Association of
Geotechnical Testing
Authorities (Qld)**

• Membership Grades and Fees 2000 •

Membership Grade		Fees
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<i>Grade 1</i>	<i>NATA accredited construction materials testing laboratories</i>	<i>\$150</i>
<i>Grade 2</i>	<i>Industry individuals holding current signatory approval or NATA Authorised Representative status</i>	<i>\$50</i>
<i>Affiliate</i>		
<i>Grade 1</i>	<i>Non NATA accredited construction materials testing laboratories</i>	<i>\$140</i>
<i>Grade 2</i>	<i>Industry individuals not holding current signatory approval or NATA Authorised Representative status</i>	<i>\$40</i>
<i>Associate</i>		
<i>Grade 1</i>	<i>Industry associated company, business, partnership, group, department or body</i>	<i>\$100</i>
<i>Grade 2</i>	<i>Industry associated individual</i>	<i>\$25</i>



Association of Geotechnical Testing Authorities (Qld)

**PO Box 2127
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"money-go-round" will soon end, and that some stability will return to both business and the people of Queensland.

SMART TIPS:

From 25 September 2001 all mobile telephone customers can look forward to fully portable mobile numbers. This will remove a significant deterrent for business and consumers to changing mobile service providers, and will increase competitiveness in the market.

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TERRY FERGUSON

Those of you who have been profiled by Terry during his stint as Editor of the Newsletter will be pleased to see that he has been first cab off the rank after his retirement.

Terry has been kind enough to allow us to probe into his life details for this issue. Congratulations on the quality of his Newsletter productions over the years. He has used lots of his spare time to work on making them great reading. It is no mean feat. Best wishes from all members for his future.

Terry was born in 1956 at Warrnambool, Victoria. He spent all of his educational years at Warrnambool where he attended St. Josephs Christian Brothers College.

Terry's introduction to the world of soil testing commenced in 1980 when he worked for Main Roads at both the Cloncurry and Gympie offices.

In 1982 he moved into the private soil testing arena with Coffey and Partners and spent most of his time in site laboratories at Blair Athol, Burdekin Dam, OK Tedi (PNG) and the Jackson Oil Fields in south-west Queensland.

1985 saw Terry take up employment with Soil Surveys & Exploration at Strathpine, during which time he worked on the Turkey Beach Development in Central Queensland and also on the Sunshine Motorway.

Having gained lots of hands-on experience and management know-how by this time he took the big plunge into self-employment in 1993 and formed Civil Quality Assurance (CQA) Pty Ltd with two partners. Terry tells me that this was one of the best decisions of his life so far. Since then, he has completed his Certificate III in Construction Materials Testing. Like so many others, gaining qualifications in construction materials testing after 20 years in the industry has been one of the highlights of his career.

AGTA has been privileged in having Terry as Deputy Secretary for 1998 and 1999, and of course as Newsletter editor from '98 till the first issue this year.

Terry spends his spare time (lots of it now, since he isn't using most of his spare time on the Newsletter) with his family - wife Del and children Liam and Mary. He loves to read and listen to music in his quiet moments, but don't disturb him when the AFL games (Melbourne Club especially) are on TV.

One of his desires is to ensure that industry qualifications become a standard requirement for employment in the construction materials testing industry, and I am sure that many of you will support him in this endeavour.

Terry intends to continue with his strong commitment to AGTA and will continue to work until AGTA becomes a strong and established presence within the construction industry.



Coefficient of Friction Tester

Model Number: C0008

IDM
Instruments

Details: The coefficient of friction is used for fast, accurate and reliable evaluation of the static and kinetic coefficient of friction of materials when sliding over itself or over other substances under specified test conditions.

The C.O.F. Tester uses a stationary sled with a moving plane which yields the coefficient of friction value for the evaluation of treatments and additives designed to alter surface contact friction.

Options:

- DPS printer with statistical Analysis
- Variable speeds
- Soft wear results & curve output
- Chart recorder x 1'
- Cutting templates x 2

Connections:

- Electrical: 220/240 VAC @ 50 Hz

Dimensions:

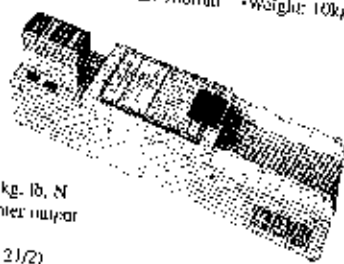
- H: 170mm • W: 160mm
- D: 760mm • Weight: 10kg

Applications:

- Flexible Packaging, foils
- Paper
- Rubber, plastics
- Linoleum
- Metal
- Printing
- Coatings
- Composites

Features:

- Push button read with zero
- Read-out in selectable units kg, lb, N
- RS-232, analog, millitogo printer output
- Speed 150 - 15mm/min
- Sled 63.5 x 63.5 mm (2 1/2 x 2 1/2)
- Sled Weight: 200 - 5g
- Plane: 150 x 300 x 6 mm flat glass
- Standards: ASTM D 1894, ISO 8295



6 Carron Street, Dandenong, Victoria 3175 Australia
Phone: +61 3 9706 7837 Fax: +61 3 9705 7249
Web Site: www.idminstruments.com.au
Email: info@idminstruments.com.au

All sizes and dimensions shown on this data sheet are averages only and may vary due to accuracy of the measuring devices. Products and details shown may change without notice as IDM Instruments reserves the right to make alterations to its product range from time to time.

Current Members

Amanda Macfarlane
APOD Soil Testing
Aus, Will V.
Bartlett, Alan
Battison, Ross Charles
Bit of A Byte Computer Software Co.
Blackburn, Terry
Boral Construction Materials Country (Q)
Border Tech
Bordertech Pimpama Geotech. Eng. Serv.
Bowler Geotechnical Pty Ltd (Browns Plains)
Brineat, Christopher Charles
Brisbane City Council
Bryneres, Gary Peter
Byrne, Kieran
Cairns Engineering Testing Services Pty Ltd
Civil Quality Assurance (Q) Pty Ltd
Civil Tech Pty Ltd
Conran, Carl Ronald
CSE (Aust) Pty Ltd
Coleborn, Danny
Davies, Lloyd R.
Dek, James E.
Edwards, Dennis
Engineering & Construction Lab. Assoc.
Faithfull, Doug
Far North Queensland Testing Pty Ltd
Fletcher, Col
Geo-Investigations Pty Ltd
Gentech (SC) Pty Ltd trading as Soil Surveys Technical Services
Geo-Tech Temp Pty Ltd
Gentest Engineering Services Pty Ltd

GJ Brandon & Associates Pty Ltd
Golder Associates Pty Ltd
Gold Coast City Council
H&M Testing Pty Ltd
Hallett, Mark Andrew
Hicks, Shane Russell
Karreman Group
Kase Enterprises
Kippen, John Maxwell
Lawson, Neale
McCabe, Thomas Patrick
McDonald, Tony
McKenna, Anthony James
Murphy, Peter
Perry, James B.
Qualitest Laboratory Pty Ltd
Queensland Geotechnical Pty Ltd
Railway & Drilling Equipment
Raw Materials Laboratory
Redlands Soil Testing
Roadtest
Ron Richards & Partners Pty Ltd
Sheppard, Graeme
Shimons, John Vincent
Soil Engineering Services
Soiltech Pty Ltd
Soiltest Australia Consulting Engineers P/L
South Qld Soils Pty Ltd
Strata Test Pty Ltd
SunWater - Civil Eng Labs
The Dirt Professionals
Thomas, Noel
Thompson, Paul
Thurley, Christopher
Tiaro Shire Council/SunWater Civil Engineering Laboratories
Ullman & Nolan Geotechnic
Vlatko-Rulo, Stephen
Vimbury Pty Ltd trading as Earthtech Laboratories
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North Queensland Report

Townsville is moving along nicely with fairly consistent performances in both earthworks and roadworks with the upgrade of the Lavarack Army Barracks now almost complete and various subdivisions being constructed. Site investigations carried out in June exceeded those of May.

Cairns is steady with roadworks almost complete on the current stage of the Cooktown road with more to come soon. The East Evelyn MRD Project is well under way with some starting and stopping, the liquid sunshine being the prime factor. (The site office on this job would have to be the best in the world with unrivalled views across verdant green valleys to the sparkling blue of the ocean.) Similar to Mackay, the area is expecting a boost from the increased price of sugar. Tourism numbers are increasing daily with the arrival of all those travellers seeking the perfect weather conditions and magnificent attractions - not the least of which is the beautiful Barrier Reef. The completion of the Cooktown road will increase the range of attractions available which are easily accessible from Cairns.

Building approvals in Cairns City are slightly up over May's figures as more people take up the \$14,000 grant from the Federal Government.

THE PEACE OF A COUNTRY ROAD



*NQ MRD Region
covers in excess of
68,000k*

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT NORTH QUEENSLAND ROADS

The Northern Queensland MRD Region covers in excess of 68,000 square kilometers, approximately from Bowen in the southeast to the Northern Territory border in the west, making it the Department's largest regional geographical area. It comprises some 8,840 kilometers of State-controlled roads, 1,100 kilometers of which are National Highways, for which the Federal Government has funding responsibility. It services over 450,000 people located in Major provincial cities, as well as small rural, isolated and indigenous communities. (Extract from MRD roads implementation program 2000-2-1 to 2004-2005.)

Current Licensing Requirements - Queensland

Queensland Health - Radiation Health

Radiation Safety - Moisture and Density Measurements (Nuclear Density Gauges)

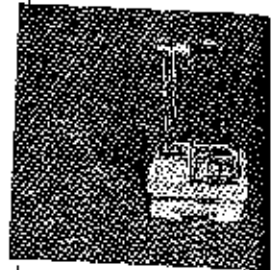
The Radiation Safety Act 1999, the Radiation Safety Regulation 1999 and the Radiation Safety Standards commenced on 1 January 2000. It has provided industry with a more effective system of radiation protection through tighter licensing controls and safety standards, and more stringent requirements over use, transport and disposal of radioactive substances. The following Certificates/Licences are required to be held:

An Accreditation Certificate is issued to individuals who have expert skills, knowledge and experience that are relevant to the applicant's competency to assess whether the radiation source or premises comply with the relevant radiation safety standard (Usually a degree in radiation science is required).

A Possession Licence. (Usually in the Company name) . This must be applied for.

A Radiation Safety Officer Certificate. (Usually the Company's appointed person responsible for the use etc of the gauge. This person reports to the Possession Licensee.

A User's Licence for each user of the gauge.



Nuclear Bits and Pieces

Why do they call that radioactive stuff "Uranium?"

It was all the thing in the 1950's. What with atom bombs tested in the atmosphere, uranium mines promising untold riches and science fiction pictures about giant spiders and ants accidentally created by radioactivity, uranium was really in its element. Contemplating it now can give one a nostalgic, uh, glow. The surprising thing is that even way back then uranium was nothing new. It was discovered in 1789 by Martin Klaproth, a German chemist, who named it after the planet Uranus. Could have been worse, he could have called it Klaprothium.

In fact, 150 years ago people were already practicing radioactive medicine, treating everything from birthmarks to ringworm with uranium. No wonder they're all dead?

*Remember -
AGM 5th
December.
(Social Event)
Elections)*

INTERESTING QUOTES

"A verbal contract isn't worth the paper it's written on." Samuel Goldwyn.

"Money is better than poverty, if only for financial reasons." Woody Allen

"A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory".

"It's your conscience that hurts when all your other parts feel so good."

"A closed mouth gathers no feet."

Current Licensing Reqs. Qld (Cont)

Building Services Authority

All companies providing site classification reports should be in possession of a Site Classifier's Licence from the QBSA. If you have not made application and wish to carry out site classifications in Queensland you should contact the QBSA in your area.

Hydraulic Services Design & On-Site Wastewater Disposal - (see open letter to QBSA in this issue of the Newsletter, Page 5.) This is NOT a requirement yet. AGTA is opposed to the qualification requirements which are being proposed by QBSA.



Which Government Department was that?

Funny about That

"For every action, there is an equal and opposite Government regulation."

TIPS FOR SELLING TO QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

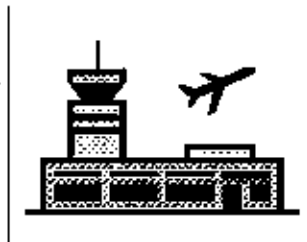
The State Government is one of the largest purchaser of goods and services in Queensland. Their Agencies have various requirements for services from Geotechnical Testing Authorities

If you wish to conduct any building business with Qld Government Agencies, you should register as a Prequalified Supplier. Contact Department of Public Works and Housing for an application form. Once your details are accepted, you will be placed on a "Whole of Government PQC Register." The Department of Public Works and Housing also host "Suppliers Meetings" for persons interested in providing services to the State Government. For more information, telephone the Department on their freecall number at Queensland Purchasing, 1800631991. The Minister is also currently considering conducting sessions where both purchasers from Government and suppliers can meet - hopefully these sessions will be conducted throughout the State.

*Telephone Queensland
Purchasing on freecall
1800631991 if you
wish to do business with
Government*

GOVERNMENT'S AND RED TAPE

A helicopter was flying around above Brisbane when an electrical malfunction disabled all of its electronic navigation and communications equipment. Due to the clouds, the pilot couldn't determine the helicopter's position. The pilot saw a tall building, flew toward it, circled, and held up a handwritten sign that said "WHERE AM I?" in large letters. People on the roof quickly responded to the aircraft, drew a large sign, and held it up. Their sign said "YOU ARE IN A HELICOPTER." The pilot smiled, waved, looked at his map, determined the course to steer to Eagle Farm and landed safely. After they were on the ground, the co-pilot asked the pilot how he had done it. "I knew it had to be Parliament House because they gave me a politically correct but completely useless answer."



Performance of Problem Ground Materials - Shale

U.S.A. - During the prolific construction years of the U.S. Interstate Highway System, many large highway embankment sections were built with shale materials taken from cut sections. In most circumstances, the shales were of a type that appeared to be as hard and durable as rock but when exposed to oxygen and other factors, were subject to large-scale deterioration pressures. Some of them deteriorated so fast that they reverted back to a soft soil that caused the embankments to fail. The Federal Highways researchers developed a research plan. It was the consensus of engineers and researchers that the designer finds degradation and slaking to be the most important shale properties. The final report issued by the FHWA provides guidance on geological investigations, durability classification of shales, design features, and construction procedures unique to compacted shale embankments for highways. Guidance is also given on techniques for evaluating existing shale embankments and remedial treatment methods for distressed shale embankments. Index tests and classification criteria for determining shale durability, techniques for evaluating excavation characteristics, and alternative procedures for excavation, placement, and compaction of shales to achieve adequate stability and minimum settlement are described. The use of drainage measures, selective excavation, and placement of nondurable shales in thin lifts with procedural compaction provisions based on field test pads is emphasized. For more information, visit US Federal Highways Association on www.fhwa.gov

SOIL COMPACTION - SOME INTERESTING FACTS



*Soil Density
moisture content*

Coming Event

AGTA General Meeting:

TOPIC: The role of the Geotechnical Testing Authority in Urban development

FORMAT:

- Pre meeting drinks
- Introduction by AGTA Chairman
- 1st Guest Speaker – Representing Civil Contractors
- 2nd Guest Speaker – Representing Superintendents
- 3rd Guest Speaker – Representing Local Authority
- 4th Guest Speaker – Representing the Quarry Industry
- Discussion/Question Period
- Drinks

VENUE: Institution of Engineers
Hawken Auditorium
447 Upper Edward Street
BRISBANE QLD 4004

DATE: 1st May 2001

TIME 6pm for 6.30pm start

If you are involved in urban development of any type in any capacity, this meeting will be enlightening and thought provoking.

NOT TO BE MISSED