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Editor Alan Bartlett
The views expressed by contributors
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A note from the Chairman Paul Coker



As I write this I note that we are halfway through the year. What happened to the time between the Annual Meeting and now. I was pleased with the response at the A.G.M. and even more pleased that a full Executive is in place. My thanks to those who have taken on the various roles on the Executive and I look forward to your input. **Materials Testing Conference** The Committee has been meeting in con-

junction with the Executive and have taken time to come to terms with what is required. The name of the conference will be the "Australian Conference for Construction Materials Testing". The theme will be "Engaging The Future". Topics covered will be: Technical Governance Knowledge and Sharing Construction Materials Testing – The Next Generation Technology and innovation

Unfortunately, the conference has been postponed until March 2011 due to financial requirements. I can report that the venue has been booked and we are now committed to making this event something that will take our industry forward. If you think that you may be able to assist, please contact a

member of the executive.

A Youth Forum in 2010 was proposed at the A.G.M. The means of developing this event is being considered. We hope to tell you more about this at the next Members Forum.

There is much to do in our already busy schedule, but by continuing to work together I'm sure that we will be able to attain the goals we have set ourselves.

As we approach the halfway point of the year, I ask that you consider ways to improve our industry through your Association.

PAUL COKER
CHAIRMAN

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National CMT Conference 2011

AGTA (Association of Geotechnical Testing Authorities), the body that represents the Construction Materials Testing industry in Queensland has announced that it will be holding a national conference to be held in March / April 2011.

The theme of the conference will be ENGAGING THE FUTURE with four workshop topics: technical governance, CMT—the next generation, knowledge & sharing, and technology & innovation.

AGTA hopes that the younger generation of practitioners will be attracted to the conference that will focus on the future of their industry. To this end there will be a Youth Forum held later this year to canvas their opinions and ideas etc for inclusion as a part of the Conference.

AGTA will be calling soon for papers to be presented at the conference and for expressions of interest from members of the industry prepared to assist in its organisation. We will also be calling for sponsorships to defray the cost of organization so that attendance is made more affordable for all.

It is four years since VCMLA held the inaugural national CMT conference in Melbourne, and those who attended will remember what a great success that was. Building on that experience AGTA is hoping for attendance from all states and territories to make the second conference in 2011 even more successful.

For further information, for expressions of support or interest in being involved in Youth Forum please contact the Secretary, Alan Bartlett on (07) 3277 5490 or email alan@abconsulting.edu.au. We will be publishing updates on date, venue and other details in the AGTA newsletter.





CMT 2011

Engaging the Future

Planning for AGTA's initial conference (and the second national CMT conference) is well under way. We have had several meetings and the following details have been agreed upon:

Dates - 27 to 29th October 2010

Venue – Sebel and Citigate, corner Roma and Ann Streets, Brisbane

Organisational support from Technical Training Support, the training arm of MRD

Themes of the Conference

Technical Governance

CMT – the next Generation

Knowledge Sharing

Technology and Innovation

We will be asking members and interested parties for:

Papers relevant to the themes and CMT in General

Sponsorship to defray the cost to individual members and organisations

Trade displays of interest to members

Bright ideas from members on how to make this the best conference ever

Support from members by your attendance and encouraging non-members to attend

Encouragement for junior staff to attend.

It's your conference – let's make it happen

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CETANZ Conference 2010

The Civil Engineering Testing Association New Zealand (CETANZ) is once again holding its bi-annual conference in September, to discuss issues and share knowledge that is topical in our industry. Members of the committee are from a diverse range of testing organisations, aiming to develop yet another successful event.

The theme for the 2010 event will be "Careering Ahead...", following the issues identified of the need for career paths and qualifications in our industry.

This conference will provide an excellent opportunity for everyone associated with the New Zealand Civil Testing profession to learn about the latest technologies being used and the most recent developments in civil engineering, as well as gaining new insights from the experiences of other civil engineering professionals.

CETANZ's association with IPENZ has provided them with insight into how they, as an industry, have lacked a forum for professional and technical development. Their conference will provide you with technical, professional and networking opportunities. Their sponsorship from key industry businesses will also provide participants with news from their suppliers designed to share the latest developments available both here and overseas.

CETANZ will provide a diverse range of papers using the conference theme of "Careering Ahead" to look to the future.

There will be a range of speakers attending the conference who will talk about their areas of specialist interest outlining how their findings may affect you and your business

Important Dates:

1 April:

Online Registration Opens

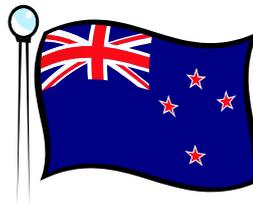
30 June:

Call for papers close

23 August:

Close of early registration

See Website for any further information



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PERSON IN PROFILE

1. Name & current status.

Greg Broad — Trainer and Assessor for Alan Bartlett Consulting

2. How did you get involved in the industry?

I started as a cadet Lab Technician with the Queensland Irrigation and Water Supply Laboratory straight from high school.

3. How long have you worked in the industry?

Approximately 39 years and 4 months. Not all of that time spent directly in CMT but all of it doing testing, QC or QA.

4. Have you gained any qualifications in this time?

A Cert in Civil Engineering, part of a Bachelor of Civil Engineering and a range of certificates and short courses.

5. Thoughts on the industry in general – the past and future.

CMT still seems focused on Density and Grading. Technology will reduce the manual part of this work. Training is, was and will be the key to better quality, quantity and pay and profit.

6. What are your hobbies/interests?

Scouting, photography, travel and the list goes on.

7. What was one of the best decisions you have made?

Apart from my family, continuing to try and improve myself by doing/trying new things.

8. What is one of the worst decisions you have made?

Not going to Uni straight from High School or completing my B.E.

9. What do you consider are your strengths?

I tend to get along with most people. I don't like to give in if I am right, (or think so).

10. What do you consider are your weaknesses?

Too easy going. I don't like being wrong and I don't like fools or fascists.

11. What / who inspires you and why?

People who try for the good of all not just themselves. Team players or team leaders.

12. What is the strangest thing that has happened to you while in the industry?

Having to tell supposedly higher qualified/status people what they need to know not what they want to know.

13. What annoys you?

Tailgaters! Users—people who use and abuse others for their own benefit.

14. Where would you like to be in ten years time?

Still walking, talking and travelling.





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- **Specialising in new or existing worker training**
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For sale/wanted/giveaway ads by members who do not deal in the goods in question are published free of charge.

On A Lighter Note....

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“Sports analogies are a powerful way to inspire teamwork, Fred. But next time use football, basketball or baseball—not duck-duck-goose.”

Understanding Your Geotechnical Engineering Report

Your geotechnical engineering report is an interpretive evaluation of the subsurface conditions encountered at the time of the investigations at the locations tested, under the ambient conditions prevailing at the time, for the given project, and probably bears little resemblance to reality.

Should site conditions be found to vary from what you read in our report, it's not our fault, but we would be pleased to carry out site inspections at an exorbitant hourly rate. In some cases, further advice can also be given.

Description and Classification Methods:

Soils are described in accordance with the mood and demeanour of the site supervisor.

Some examples are:

- SOFT: The supervisor got his ute bogged
- LOOSE: The supervisor ate too many prunes for breakfast
- STIFF: The supervisor slept in the gutter last night
- DENSE: The supervisor is a geologist
- HARD: The supervisor hasn't got his mind on the job

Underground Services:

In the event that cables, drains or other services are destroyed during field work, we reserve the right to charge a modest finders fee for accurately locating them for you.

Laboratory Testing:

Laboratory testing of soil and rock samples is carried out for two main reasons: firstly we can charge you more money; and secondly, it is good delaying tactic giving the engineer a plausible excuse for a late report. The laboratory staff attempt to justify the engineers preconceived parameters, however the actual test results are usually discarded.

Engineering Reports:

Our technical reports are written in concise ambiguous gibberish prepared by staff qualified in sociology, animal husbandry, flower arranging and other unrelated professions.

As with all professions, it is necessary to use a certain amount of geo-jargon in order to minimise the number of people who actually understand the report. Some examples are:

SPT: So Prolific Test

A common yet sophisticated soil test whereby a big pointing rod is thumped into the ground with a bloody great hammer.

Atterberg Limits:

A group of tests developed by Professor Atterberg, after reaching his limits of rational, clear thinking.

Liquid Limit:

A test developed by Professor Atterberg after a big night out.

Plastic Limit:

A low budget test developed by Professor Atterberg after his credit card expired.

Standard Compaction:

A crude, but effective method of compacting soil into a mould and trimming ends off the operators fingers.

Modified Compaction:

A more effective method of trimming the ends of the operators fingers.

Sand Replacement Test:

A common method of revenue earning, where we replace 20 cents of sand, with a \$35 fee.

CBR Value:

Complete Bloody Random value used in the design of anything.

Soaked CBR Test:

A means of getting an extra week to finish a report, it has no relation to the CBR value, which is determined before testing.

Remote Sensing:

A technique used by some supervisors to prepare borelogs from the saloon of the nearest pub. Used correctly this method rivals the accuracy of the SPT..

Elastic Modulus:

Stretchy stuff that holds your pants up.

Subgrade Reaction:

The contactors response when he first digs the site up.

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“I always give 110% to my job. 40% on Monday, 30% on Tuesday, 20% on Wednesday, 15% on Thursday, and 5% on Friday.”