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For contact details please visit our website at www.agta.org.au

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Editor Dave Gregson

The views expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect AGTA policy

A note from the Chairman Alan Bartlett

May already and I'm still getting used to writing 2012. Your committee is meeting regularly, trying to advance the interests of our members and AGTA industry in general. Partly in response to Paul Fraser's article in the February newsletter we are planning to hold talks with the Footings and Foundations Association on matters raised by Paul and other issues associated with compaction control on residential and light commercial developments. We invite submissions from other members who wish to contribute to the debate.

One of our committee members raised the issue of anomalies in technical specifications for earthworks between local government authorities. Given the results of the recent local government elections which produced the largest turnover of Mayors and Councillors in recent years plus the amalgamation into larger local authorities, it was felt that it might be an opportune time to raise the issue with the Local Government Association (LGA.)

Following the success of our CMTC2011 conference it is timely to remind you that our counterparts in NZ will be hosting their conference in Auckland in August this year. Having attended in 2008 I can strongly recommend attending. Auckland is a great venue and if you wish you can incorporate the conference into an overseas holiday. In recognition of the contribution to our conference by our NZ colleagues the committee voted to sponsor our Newsletter Editor (Dave Gregson) to attend representing AGTA. The sponsorship will not exceed \$2000 and we believe it represents good value. Naturally we will expect a comprehensive report for the newsletter.

We had hoped to have a mid-year industrial visit to the laboratory of one of our corporate members but unfortunately confidentiality issues with one of their clients made this impossible. Instead we are planning a meeting in July with compaction control as the topic accompanied by a complimentary (that means free) meal.

Our immediate past Chairman, Paul Coker couldn't stay away so we allowed him to take on two tasks, reviewing the constitution and other documentation relating to AGTA and a review of our membership structure, especially relating to corporate membership. Thanks Paul.

Jon Nicholson has been doing a lot of work out of town lately but has been able to attend some meetings courtesy of Skype. For those not in the know, Skype is a program that allows us to communicate by voice and video over the Internet – a videoconferencing tool that is very cost-effective. However, at the May meeting he was in a telecoms Bermuda Triangle near Injune. Watch out for aliens out there Jon.

We haven't forgotten the Conference's Youth (ie. Testers who have never done a sand replacement test) Forum and are planning consultation with participants and other interested parties to move the issues forward.

AGTA now has a Facebook presence (AGTA-QLD) and by the time you read this we hope to have the wrinkles ironed out so that you can use it to network with fellow testers. For those who remember a time before nuclear density meters, Facebook is an Internet-based social networking tool that everybody else in the world uses for communicating and wasting time. Naturally we will be monitoring to ensure it is not used for illegal, immoral or generally unsociable purposes."

Alan Bartlett



Editor's Message Dave Gregson Members Profiles

With the first of four newsletters released in February including an interesting article from Paul Fraser, I have heard a lot of talk from the side line. However it appears to fall short of becoming an article form for the newsletter. I openly invite and encourage all members to submit industry based articles covering a vast range of issues. It can only promote healthy discussions within our industry and aid in moving forward into the future.

News From Abroad...



The 3rd biennial CETANZ Conference developed and hosted by Civil Engineering Testing Association New Zealand (CETANZ). The conference will be held from 8-10 August 2012 in Auckland, New Zealand, attracting over 100 delegates from across New Zealand and Australia with technical, science and civil backgrounds.

Our keynote speakers are Steve Killeen, Executive General Manager of Downer Transportation Sector, and Vanessa Stoddart, Group General Manager Technical Operations & People at Air New Zealand.

This year's focus is on the commercial side of the testing industry, understanding the mechanics behind building a thriving and successful business and the increased awareness for technology. During these tough economic times it is important to keep labs operating as efficiently as possible, including the day-to-day operations.

To learn more about this event and to register for it please visit: www.cetanzconference.org.nz.

**CONFUSIUS SAY: "MAN WHO RUN BEHIND
CAR GET EXHAUSTED"... "MAN WHO RUN
IN FRONT OF CAR GET TIRED"**

Jon Nicholson made a start within the CMT industry as a "Dirt Doctor" with the TMR Herston Laboratory way back in the mid eighties! Several satisfying activities included roles in quality assurance on major transit upgrades and new transportation infrastructure projects. Branching out to the private sector he then associated himself for a short stint with Brisbane Soil Testing as Lab Supervisor with a vision on training and staff development. Migrating to the "Black Stuff" Jon took up a role as a Lab tester in the Asphalt industry. After learning the ropes Jon's talents were called upon to test asphalt on major projects through out SEQ .



Blowing up mountains and turning big rocks into little rocks took on some interest levels so a furthering career move into the extractive industry gathered some momentum. Having served several years, July 1998 to present as a Senior Materials Technologist (Lab Rat) with a major construction materials supplier various opportunities arose to be connected with a major road building project through out SEQ and currently SWQ .

Offshore projects include the Norfolk Island Runway upgrade in 2006 implementing a NATA testing facility to facilitate the testing of raw materials and finished asphalt products. 2009 Port Moresby PNG working as Acting Technical Manager for Monier Limited maintaining quality assurance of quarried and concrete products , assist in gaining PNGLAS for the main laboratory training of staff .

Jon's company, Kindor Pty Ltd, specialises in Quality Assurance services regarding soils, aggregates, bound and unbound pavement material, sands, concrete, asphalt and training .

Assisting AGTA as a sub-committee member for the CMT11 was a very rewarding experience for Jon along with joining NATA as a technical assessor. His hobbies/interest include spear fishing, kayaking, reading, cycling, swimming, golf, surfing, cooking and good tucker!



Letter to the editor...

Do we want a paperless laboratory?

Whenever a company looks to improve the efficiency of their field work and laboratory testing, the subject of a paperless laboratory is never far away. Previously the idea has been dismissed or parked as a result of either technology requirements or the practical problems of tracking a sample around the laboratory without the usual paper trail.

The introduction of AGS RTA and AGS4 data into Australia is getting a lot of coverage and this format will result in an increasing number of requests for laboratories to be reporting their tests in AGS format.

However, according to Dr Roger Chandler, member of the AGS data management committee in the UK and Managing Director of Keynetix; a leading supplier of Geotechnical Laboratory Management Systems, an increased number of AGS data requests often cause laboratories to review their data management policies and processes.

The key to efficient laboratory data management is to avoid re-entering any data. This includes sample data, scheduling information or test results. When a laboratory relies on a pen and paper approach it is quite common to see systems that require some data to be re-entered 3 or 4 times during the life of the sample. When you add each of these stages up, the data re-entry bill is quite considerable even for a small laboratory.

KeyLAB version 2.1 was launched last month with features that have been added specifically for customers in Australia. The Laboratory Information Management System has a strong following in the UK where its creators; Keynetix heavily promote the two golden rules for data entry – 1) only do it once and 2) get someone else to do it (use AGS for import as well as export).

Dr Roger Chandler, Managing Director of Keynetix presented at the AGTA conference in Brisbane in October 2011 and met with several Laboratory Managers to determine what modifications would be needed by KeyLAB to meet the requirements of the Australian industry. As a result of these meetings and subsequent purchases by two large Australian Laboratory and a large New Zealand Laboratory; Keynetix have implemented 18 major improvements to KeyLAB 2.1, most of which are aimed at assisting laboratories in Australia or laboratories wishing to reduce data re-entry even further.

“Because of the flexible way KeyLAB allows you to implement your existing spreadsheet solutions we have seen a large number of our customer base already reaching the point where they only write the data once and type it once. These customers are now pushing ahead for the final efficiency gain and removing the writing elements of their process.”

Interestingly when you analyse the paper and pen stage it will become clear that the problem is caused by the pen and not the paper. It is the writing of data that causes the re-keying of data not the reading of it. To head for a truly paperless laboratory is a difficult and considerably more expensive goal and has a number of complications associated with simple operations like determining what tests a tray of prepared soil is waiting for (usually what the paper on top of it says!) and what test the tins in the oven are for (again with paper a simple case of referring to a written record).

So in order to make your laboratory truly efficient, don't go paperless, go penless!

Organisations in Australia are welcome to contact Keynetix to learn more from their experiences in helping laboratories increase their data management efficiency and the hurdles that need to be overcome. For more information contact Roger Chandler on roger.chandler@keynetix.com or visit www.keynetix.com/keylab.




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CQA operates four NATA accredited laboratories in South-East Queensland. All staff and principals have extensive experience in geotechnical engineering, environmental science and civil construction testing.

Our focus is on the client experience, and the quality of the service and expertise we offer. We deliver prompt innovative and tailored solutions using best practice techniques.

It is our client focused, quality driven approach that lies behind the reason why more and more companies and individuals are seeking CQA to undertake their geotechnical and environmental requirements.

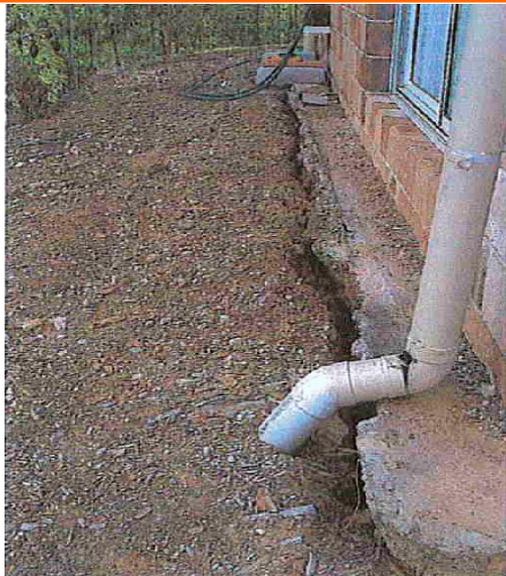
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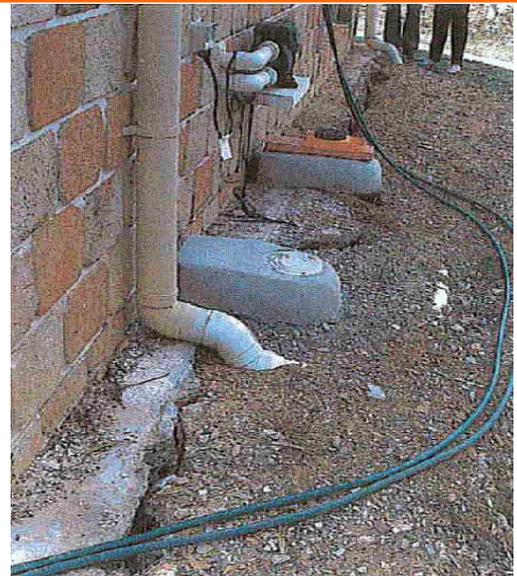
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 *If you would like to share your Company Profile in an upcoming newsletter, please forward all relevant information to the editor at kunda@cqa.com.au.*



Here is a perfect example of a Building Platform gone wrong...





Industry News.....

The Materials Services Branch, Engineering and Technology, is pleased to announce the production of the 120,000th Ergotainer in 2012.

The Ergotainer was developed jointly by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Extractive Industries (QLD) and the Institute of Quarrying to address manual handling practices with construction materials testing facilities. The Ergotainer provides a method to address most, if not all, of the shortcomings of sample bags and other commonly used containers.

The Ergotainer was first produced in 2004. Over the years modifications have been made to reduce "sticking" and improve the durability of the containers. More recently an all white container has been manufactured from high impact polypropylene further increasing the service life of the Ergotainer.

Further information and order forms can be obtained from the brochure below and by emailing ergotainer@tmr.qld.gov.au.

(See attached file: 1343 Ergotainer Double-sided Flyer7.pdf)

AGTA General Meeting....

The next AGTA General meeting will be held on the 16th of July 2012. The venue and agenda are yet to be confirmed.

For Sale.....



Jacro 200 Drill Rig

5.5 Meter Aluminium Mast
Deutz 3 Cylinder Diesel Engine
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GOT SOMETHING TO SHARE/SELL?

Did you know you can advertise in the AGTA Newsletter? Visit the AGTA website for more information and prices.

www.agta.org.au



← What do you do when you inherit Level 1 fill from the previous GTA when it looks like this?

The dark coloured material is in fact mulch not soil up to about 1.0m thick...

New Articles are always encouraged....

If you have anything you would like to add, be it a technical article, pictures or just an interesting story - we would love to add it. Please direct all pieces to kunda@cqa.com.au.

Brain Teaser Time....

1. *What is so fragile that when you say it you break it?*
2. *A farmer challenges an engineer, a physicist and a mathematician to fence off the largest amount of area using the least amount of fence. The engineer made his fence in a circle and said it was the most efficient. The physicist made a long line and said that the length was infinite. Then he said that fencing half of the Earth was the best. The mathematician laughed at the others and with his design, beat the others. What did he do?*



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- Unsound Particles
- Crushed Particles
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On A Lighter Note....

A LESSON IN POLITICS

A son asks his father, "What can you tell me about politics? I have to learn about it for school tomorrow."

The father thought some and said, "OK, son, the best way I can describe politics is to use an analogy.

Let's say that I'm a capitalist because I'm the breadwinner.

Your mother will be the government because she controls everything, our maid will be the working class because she works for us, you will be the people because you answer to us, and your baby brother will be the future. Does that help any?"

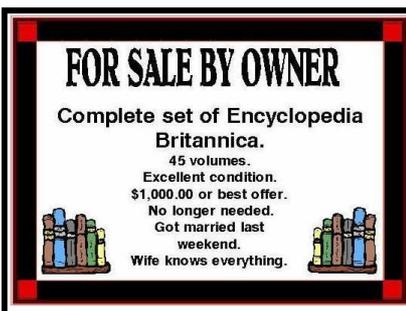
The little boy said, "Well, Dad, I don't know, but I'll think about what you said."

Later that night, after everyone had gone to bed, the little boy was awoken by his baby brother's crying. Upon further investigation, he found a dirty diaper. So, he went down the hall to his parent's bedroom and found his father's side of the bed empty and his mother wouldn't wake up. Then he saw a light on in the guest room down the hall, and when he reached the door, he saw through the crack that his father was in bed with the maid. The son then turned and went back to bed.

The next morning, he said to his father at the breakfast table, "Dad, I think I understand politics much better now."

"Excellent, my boy," he answered, "What have you learned?"

The little boy thought for a minute and said, "I learned that capitalism is screwing the working class, government is sound asleep ignoring the people, and the future's full of crap."



About 3:30 in the morning, a wife wakes up to find she is alone in the bed and she can hear her husband crying uncontrollably. She gets up and starts to look for him. He's not in the bathroom, living room, or in the kitchen. As she passes the laundry room, she hears his faint snuffles coming from the basement. She turns on the light and goes downstairs to find him. Finally, she finds him huddled in the corner, rolled up into a ball, and crying hysterically. She runs over to him and asks why he is crying. He says, "Do you remember when we got married twenty (20) years ago?" She looks at him and says, "yes". He says, "well, a couple of months before, your dad said that I could marry you or go to jail for 20 years." She says, "I already know that. I don't see what the problem is." He says, " don't you see!!! I would have gotten out today!"

Answers to Brain Teasers

1. Silence
2. The mathematician made a small fence around himself and declared that he was on the outside.