

# New Zealand Ready Mixed Concrete Association Inc.

NZRMCA Newsletter, August 2008

Issue 2/2008



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings Readymixers,

Things are tough at the moment. This year has seen fuel prices rise exponentially. Economists are tipping a decline in construction activity. A strange time therefore to be kicked in the teeth by transport minister Annette King, with the recent outrageous hike in RUC charges. Please be assured we have made our position known to the Minister and the Road Transport Forum. We fully support the position of Tony Friedlander, CEO

of RTF.

On a positive note, we seem to be making progress with the LTSA in the work time and logbook rules. We have explained to the LTSA that they are particularly unsuitable and unworkable in our industry because of the unique shelf-life of our fabulous product. So watch this space.

You will see from this issue that the Higgins Group recently celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It's great to see companies within our industry standing the test of time.

Those of you who have driven passed Stevenson's Penrose Plant on the southern motorway will have noticed the billboard featuring the latest Concrete<sup>3</sup> advertisement on CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration. I know the advertisement is gaining a lot of

attention. It's good that the message that concrete is the sustainable material is getting out there. I'm told by Rob Gaimster that a DVD, which tells concrete's story in a New Zealand context, will be available soon.

On a related matter, I note that the nominations for Concrete<sup>3</sup> sustainability award closed recently. *Wouldn't it be great if it was won by a ready mixer?*

I have started to get around the regions so I hope to see all of you at forthcoming regional meetings.

Finally, Council has launched a five year strategic plan and a summary can be found in this Newsletter.

Best wishes,

**Graham Payne**  
**PRESIDENT**

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## NEWSLETTER

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please let Angelique know at [admin@cca.org.nz](mailto:admin@cca.org.nz).

## GBC SERVICE CENTRE

Work on Golden Bay Cement's (GBC) new Auckland Service Centre at Bledisloe Wharf on the eastern Port is underway. The facility will be the largest cement store in New Zealand. From the

eastern berth of Bledisloe Wharf, GBC's distribution ship and barge will pump cement into a multi-million dollar architecturally designed cement store at the corner of Tooley and

Plumer Streets. The store will be linked to GBC's Auckland distribution centre at nearby Plumer Street. Andrew Moss, GBC general manager said, "This is a wonderful opportunity for us to secure our future on the Auckland waterfront for



the next 35 years and provide a truly world-class distribution centre for our largest market."

## HIGGINS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Higgins Group was founded in 1958 by a hard working Irishman by the name of Dan Higgins.

From those humble beginnings, where Dan and his son Pat focused their business on drainage work for the local Palmerston North City Council, the Higgins Group has grown to be a respected and diverse contracting business.

The 'family of companies' that make up the Higgins Group now include civil contracting, concrete, aggregate, bitumen, road signage and services, and engineering businesses that are spread throughout the North Island. Despite the

growth, Higgins remains a family owned business with its headquarters in Palmerston North.

The Concrete part of the Higgins business rose out of small beginnings in the mid 1970's to service the need of the ever expanding Higgins Contracting enterprise.

"When I joined the Group 25 years ago", says Concrete Division Manager, Rob Green, "we had a handful of Ford D Series trucks with chain drive agi's on the back. How times have changed".

Through the eighties Higgins Concrete was becoming well established

in the Manawatu region and expanded its business with the acquisition of a plant in Feilding to complement the Palmerston North plant.

In the nineties the Higgins Group saw opportunities for ready mixed concrete in Wellington and established a new plant in Ngauranga. Later in 2004 a further plant was established in Porirua.

As well as the four static plants under the Higgins Concrete banner there is a mobile batching plant in the livery that has been used for on-site concrete batching requirements for windfarm developments in the lower North Island.

"Despite our relatively modest size I take a great deal of pride in the people, products, and performance that are the cornerstones of Higgins Concrete", says Rob, "and the catch phrase, 'The Green Team', epitomises Higgins Concrete and the Group as a whole".

Now in its 32<sup>nd</sup> year, Higgins Concrete is looking to the future and the celebration of its own 50 year milestone in 2026.

Congratulations to the Higgins Group on 50 years in business.



## DID YOU KNOW?

A recent study has shown the concrete industry contributes a whopping \$7.44 billion to the New Zealand economy.

The report by the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER), *Cement and Concrete Production: Economic Impact Assessment*, was commissioned by

CCANZ as part of its Concrete<sup>3</sup> initiative. It assessed the economic and social contribution of the concrete industry to New Zealand's sustainable development.

In total, the direct, indirect and induced economic impact of cement and concrete resulted in \$7.44 billion of output throughout the

economy in the year to March 2006. This activity resulted in 24,314 jobs and a value add of \$2.8 billion – about 1.8 percent of New Zealand's GDP in 2006.

CCANZ Project Manager Rob Gaimster says the CCANZ Concrete<sup>3</sup> initiative has so far sought to highlight the inherent sustainable properties of

concrete, such as its durability, fire resistance and thermal mass.

Having assessed our industry's economic impact, we are now in a position to convey all the sustainability benefits associated with the application of concrete," says Gaimster.

## NZRMCA SHOWS IT'S TEETH

The following media release was sent out in response to Transport Minister, Annette King's recent announcement of a significant rise in RUC:

**Media release, July 2**

### **"WE'RE GOBSMACKED" AT SHOCK ROAD USER CHARGE INCREASE, SAY CONCRETE TRUCKING OPERATORS**

*Yesterday's shock announcement to increase road user charges by 7% could be the final straw for several concrete delivery companies, predicts the Ready Mixed Concrete Association (RMCA).*

*Association president Graham Payne says the surprise decision by Transport Minister Annette King has sent shockwaves through an industry already reeling from massive increases in fuel prices and a major downturn in construction activity.*

Visit the NZRMCA Website to see the full release.

## AGM

The NZRMCA AGM will be held on 2 October at 11.00 a.m.

A notice will be sent out shortly.

## Plant Audit Scheme Awards

The award winners will be announced in the December Newsletter.

## CONFERENCE – IT'S ALL SORTED

**Date:** 2-4<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

**Venue:** Rotorua Convention Centre.

**Format:** New Zealand Concrete Industry Conference.

**NZRMCA Sessions:** Three Separate Sessions.

**NZRMCA Awards:**

- Technical Excellence - *for projects which demanded innovative technical solutions.*
- Extra Distance Award - *for projects whose success was determined by uncompromising commitment to customer satisfaction.*
- Annual Plant Audit Committee Supreme Award - *awarded by the Plant Audit Committee. No application is necessary for this award.*
- Best Conference Exhibitor.

**Separate Award:** CCANZ Sponsored Concrete<sup>3</sup> Sustainability Award.

**Site Visit:** Microsilica New Zealand and Tauranga Harbour Link.

## FOR THE DIARY

- New Zealand Concrete Industry Conference, Rotorua, 2-4 October 2008

**NZRMCA REGIONAL MEETINGS** (check local notices for precise times)

REGION	DATE	VENUE
Northland	Friday, 28 November 2008	Whangarei.
Central North Island	Friday, 21 November 2008	Whitianga Hotel.
Southern North Island	AGM – Thursday, 18 September 2008	New Plymouth.
South Island	To be advised.	To be advised.

## FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

### South North Island.

Chris Munn gave a very interesting and informative slide show on his sailing trip to Antarctica. He kept the audience riveted for an hour. Thanks to Chris for his presentation.

The **South Island** AGM was held at the Commodore Hotel,

Memorial Avenue Christchurch on Thursday, 7 August 2008. Jon Hambling and Ian Drew were re-elected as chair and secretary respectively. Neville Austin and Cameron Grieg gave a report on the Concrete Placers Conference. There was a good turnout with about 70 people.

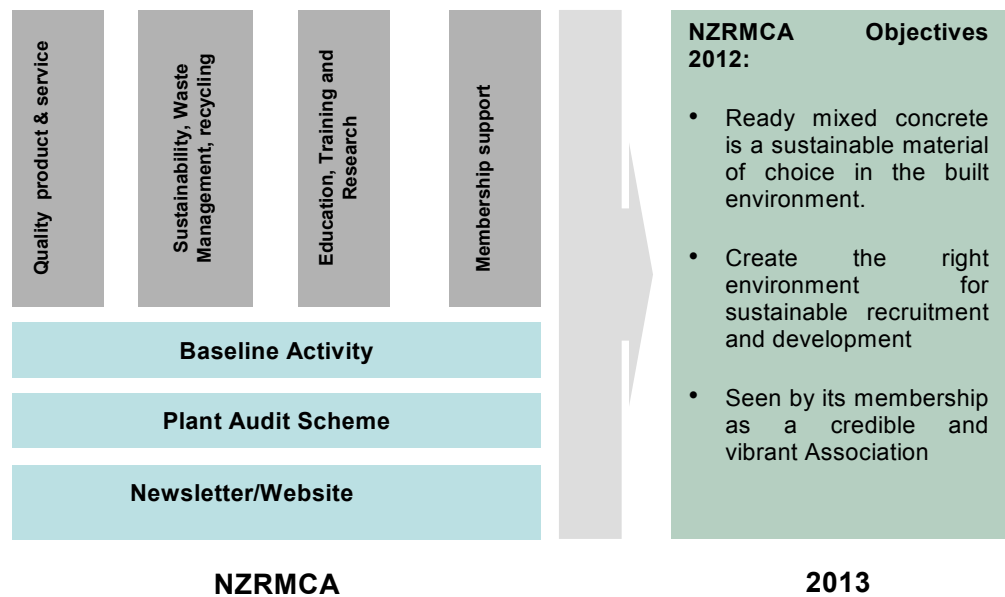
The **Northland** AGM was held in Whangarei on 24 July. Marty Black gave a presentation on the New Zealand Concrete Pumping Association. Maurie Hooper and Bob Bruce were re-elected again!

The **Central North Island** met on 14 August. Guest Speaker, John

Fenwick Operations Manager of Microsilica New Zealand gave a great presentation on its 14 year history, current operations and the future of Microsilica in concrete. Jeff Burgess and Mark Lourie were re-elected as chair and secretary respectively.

## NZRMCA LAUNCHES FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY

Council has launched a five-year strategic plan to shape its activities over coming years. The figure shown represents the relationship between the baseline activities of the NZRMCA, supporting four core strategic themes of quality, sustainability, membership support and training and education. These in turn support three core objectives in this five year strategic framework.



## Concrete<sup>3</sup> HITS THE SCREEN

As part of its ongoing Concrete<sup>3</sup> communications initiative, CCANZ has commissioned the production of a short film, *Concrete for a Sustainable World*. Shot at various locations throughout the country, the film demonstrates concrete's contribution to New Zealand's sustainable development by highlighting efficiencies and innovations in the manufacture of concrete, along with concrete's inherent properties in a range of applications.

Over the past 12 months, the Concrete<sup>3</sup> message has gained a great deal of traction throughout the construction industry. Upon completion, *Concrete for a Sustainable World* will be uploaded in sections to the Concrete<sup>3</sup> website ([www.sustainableconcrete.org.nz](http://www.sustainableconcrete.org.nz)), and will also be made available on DVD through the September issue of CCANZ's *Concrete* magazine. Look out for it.

# Concrete<sup>3</sup>

