

New Zealand Ready Mixed Concrete Association Inc.

NZRMCA Newsletter, June 2009

Issue 2/2009



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Kia Ora Readymixers

I can't believe it's June already. The New Zealand Super 14 teams failed at the final hurdles but it was good to see the All Blacks squaring the series with France at the Westpac Stadium.

Last year you may remember that we released a media statement to reflect our concern at the unwarranted hike in RUC introduced by the Hon. Annette King the then Minister of Transport. It was particularly pleasing to note that the Road User Charges Review Group's report, released recently, fully vindicated the trucking industry's protest.

On a related matter, I note that the entries for the Concrete³ Sustainability Award open

shortly. Last year the award was won by the readymixed arm of Holcim New Zealand Limited in conjunction with Mainzeal, for Project Century, the building made from recycled glass. *Wouldn't it be great if it was won again by a ready mixer to highlight the excellent contribution to sustainable development made by the ready mixed concrete industry?* Let's make sure the industry is well represented in this important Award.

Whilst on sustainability, I see that the CCANZ short film *Concrete for a Sustainable World* is now available online. I hope you'll post positive feedback for this great film. Visit www.nzrmca.org.nz.

The work of Council moves on efficiently. We are working on a tertiary education strategy to ensure that when the economy bounces back, we can attract school leavers into our industry.

The 2009 Concrete Industry Conference is scheduled to be held at the Rotorua Convention Centre, again this year, an excellent venue offering many attractions. Our sessions last year were particularly vibrant and well attended and I am

convinced this year's event will be a similar success. I understand that we have secured the Hon. Maurice Williamson, Minister for Building and Construction to open the event.

This newsletter also features Allied Concrete's new production facility in Christchurch which is interesting in many ways. The 200m³/hour plant, access to which is over a trout stream, is located within a conservation park and an aquifer recharge area for Christchurch city!

Clearly many of us will have a close eye on the economy. We have included an economic forecast from NZIER in this edition, which predicts the construction GDP will turn positive in 2010 and that by the end of 2010 or early 2011 construction GDP will be growing at a much greater rate than total GDP. This is potentially good news, but the next 12 months will be difficult with ready mixed concrete outputs down 30% in some areas.

Even in this downturn, our regions are still very active and I encourage you to attend the

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from the President

Around the Regions

Allied Views

What about that Economy

For the Diary

700 m³ to the Moon

Truck Protest Vindicated

Did you know?

2009 Concrete³ Award

Concrete for a Sustainable World

New Tauranga Harbour Bridge

2009 NZ Industry Conference

Key Issues

Atlas Concrete Ltd

NEWSLETTER

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please let Angelique know at admin@cca.org.nz.

regional events which are listed in this newsletter.

Keep Well

**Graham Payne
PRESIDENT**

AROUND THE REGIONS

Auckland

Auckland Region held its latest meeting on 16 June at Stevenson's Group Head Office in Penrose.

Rob Gaimster gave a comprehensive industry report and Graham Collie discussed the Takapuna Grammar Centre covered in this newsletter. Look out for the forthcoming AGM.

Central North Island

The Central North Island

Region held an excellent meeting on 11 June with a presentation from Martin Braine from BECA and Paul Gurran from Fletcher Construction on the Tauranga Harbour Bridge and Link Project.

The project is also featured in this newsletter. Jeff Burgess gave the industry report.

Lower North Island

The Lower North Island Region held its latest meeting on 18 June and

featured a great visit to the West Wind Wind Farm, followed by dinner on the Sweet Georgia on Wellington harbour.

Rob Gaimster gave the industry report.

Northern

The Northern Region met at the Kamo Bowling Club on Friday, 29 May.

Maurie Hooper gave his Chairman's report and Bary Williams gave the industry report.

Tony Davies-Calley gave an interesting view of his business life and vision for the lower port area of Whangarei.

South Island

The South Island Region met in May at Nelson. Jon Hambling gave the industry report.

Their next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 16 July 2009.

ALLIED VIEWS - CHRISTCHURCH NORTH

Shona Richardson and Lady Dianna Isaac have officially opened the newest concrete plant in the South Island. This simple gesture has signalled the successful completion of five years of planning for this project.

This new production facility is unique in many ways. Located in a conservation park, access is over a trout stream, neighbours include a wildlife park and the site is located within an aquifer recharge area for Christchurch city.

Significant investment has been made in new methods of minimising water use and the site is designed to collect all pH contaminated water from wash down for recycling.

With a production capacity of 200 m³ per hour careful planning on traffic flow and site layout has been crucial to the safe and efficient operation of the 35 truck fleet.



The final landscape planting and development of green areas further underlines Allied's responsibility towards the environment and erase the image of old technology concrete production facilities

It also means the end of an era with the closing of the Ashby Concrete (35 years) and RMC Concrete (25 years) plants.

The relocated staff are enjoying the new facility and have taken up the challenge of ensuring that the plant and the environment remain in a pristine condition.

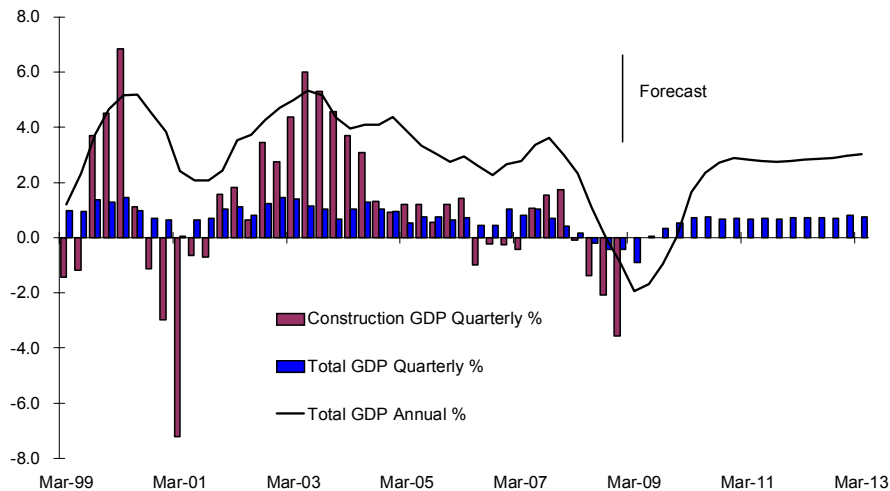
WHAT ABOUT THAT ECONOMY

“An economic forecaster is like a cross-eyed javelin thrower: they don't win many accuracy contests, but they keep the crowd's attention.”

GDP and concrete use

Figure 1 shows the quarterly change in construction Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the quarterly and annual change in total GDP.

Figure 1 Total GDP and construction GDP
Quarterly and annual percent change



Source: Statistics New Zealand and NZIER

As can be seen in the chart, construction GDP fluctuates considerably more than total GDP. The quarterly change in construction GDP ranges from 6.0% to -7.2%, while the quarterly change in total GDP ranges from 2.7% to -0.9% over the same period. A down-turn in the economy is generally felt more keenly in the construction sector, as are up-turns. Judging by the experiences of past cycles and the forecast of positive total GDP growth from early 2010, we would expect to see construction GDP shrink further in 2009 and turn positive in 2010. By the end of 2010 or early 2011 construction GDP will be growing at a much greater rate than total GDP.

FOR THE DIARY - IMPORTANT DATES

- New Zealand Concrete Industry Conference, Rotorua, 8-10 October 2009
- New Zealand Master Concrete Placers' Association Conference, Wellington, 24-25 July 2009.
- NZRMCA Council Meeting, 19 August 2009.

NZRMCA REGIONAL MEETINGS (check local notices for precise times)

REGION	DATE	VENUE
Northern	(AGM) Friday, 18 September 2009	To be confirmed
Auckland	(AGM) Thursday, 10 September 2009 (TBC)	To be confirmed
Central North Island	(AGM) Thursday, 13 August 2009	Putaruru
Lower North Island	(AGM) Thursday, 17 September 2009	Wanganui – To be confirmed
South Island	(AGM) Thursday, 16 July 2009	Copthorne Hotel, Christchurch

700 m³ TO THE MOON

Well that's what it felt like for the Firth team at Stockton. Firth Industries is working with Brightwater Engineering to build a new coal handling and processing plant in New Zealand's biggest open cast coal mine at Stockton on the West Coast.

The Stockton coal mine is 40 minutes north of Westport and about 1000 m above sea level. It "enjoys" an interesting micro climate, essentially **macro** levels of rainfall/snow/wind/sub-zero temperatures.

The project team at Brightwater Engineering required us to provide a single continuous pour of some 700 m³, for the base of the main processing plant from our on site batching plant. This plant was established two months ago and has been audited. It is a simple reliable Goughs plant with a capacity of approximately 35 m³ per hour.

Significant planning was required for the pour, since no interruptions of supply would have been acceptable, consequently spare equipment, from compressors to bearings from motors to pumps were available for immediate replacement (as it happens none were needed). All the aggregate was stored at the plant, only cement was brought onto the site during the pour itself. Key consideration was given to the safety and welfare of all involved on the project, Solid Energy, Brightwater Engineering, IMB Ltd, and Firth were all involved in developing a safety plan for the day and seeing that it was implemented.

The main requirement was to man the plant with our most experienced and versatile staff available. We had Drivers, Sales Reps, Area Managers, Supply Managers, Safety Managers, Engineers, Regional Managers all working together on two



shifts to batch, drive, operate loaders and cook the sausages. The pour took 22 hours, and supply was uninterrupted despite extremely unpleasant weather throughout the night.

This pour is likely to be the biggest single pour ever undertaken on the West Coast, and will be remembered by all involved for many years to come (despite the rain).

TRUCK PROTEST VINDICATED

NZRMCA was aghast at the hike in RUC charges announced last year by Annette King, Minister of Transport. Road Transport Forum CEO Tony Friedlander said recently:

"The trucking industry's protest last year and our call for an independent review of the Road User Charges system and the Ministry of Transport's Cost Allocation Model have been fully vindicated by the Road User Charges Review Group's report."

DID YOU KNOW?

Everyone knows that all roads lead to Rome, but lesser known is that 5,300 miles roads were built from concrete. From 300 B.C. to 476 A.D. No wonder the Government is considering concrete for its national cycleway.

2009 CONCRETE³ AWARD

Along with the New Zealand Concrete Society (NZCS) Awards - the 2009 Concrete³ Sustainability Award will be presented at the Concrete Industry Conference in Rotorua, 8-10 October.

Building on the success of last year, the 2009 Award is open to entries from the entire building and construction sector that demonstrate sustainability excellence in relation to cement and concrete.

The opening date for entries, criteria and submission process will be outlined in the June issue of *grey matters* and the June issue of *Concrete* magazine.



SHORT FILM - Concrete for a Sustainable World

The Cement & Concrete Association of New Zealand (CCANZ) and Concrete³ have produced a short film that demonstrates how concrete meets the current global imperative of operating in a sustainable manner. By using the medium of film to highlight innovations and efficiencies in concrete's manufacture, along with its attributes in a range of applications, *Concrete for a Sustainable World* seeks to motivate a more informed understanding of concrete's contribution to sustainable building solutions.



Samantha Jukes explores concrete's contribution to sustainable building solutions

The ten-minute film, fronted by Samantha Jukes, offers an insight into the benefits afforded by building with concrete, and will be of interest to architects, engineers, contractors and their clients, as well as anyone involved in the design, construction or operation of buildings and infrastructure. Visit the Concrete³ website (www.sustainableconcrete.org.nz) to watch the film online or request a free copy on DVD.

New Tauranga Harbour Bridge has Touched Down!

The final segment of the NZ Transport Agency's new Harbour Bridge touched down on the Mount side of the harbour at the end of April.

The bridge began its journey on 3 October 2008 and has taken seven months to make its way across Tauranga Harbour before touching down on the Mount causeway.

The final segment launch was carried out over a three-day period. The launching nose, which was attached to the front of the first bridge segment, had to be dismantled so the bridge could land on the Mount abutment.



On Friday, 1 May, Tauranga MP Simon Bridges, Mayor Stuart Crosby and NZ Transport Agency Regional Director Harry Wilson walked across the length of the new bridge, and viewed first-hand this important project milestone – and the large amount of work still required to complete the bridge.

Over the next few months teams will continue working on the bridge to complete the deck and install concrete barriers, drainage and lighting. Before the last segment was launched, work began on dismantling the casting shed – which has housed the bridge mould – in preparation for constructing the bridge abutment.

2009 NEW ZEALAND INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

The Concrete Industry Conference will be held this year at Rotorua Events Centre from 8-10 October. Building and Construction Minister, Maurice Williamson, will be opening the conference and NZTA Chief Executive Officer, Geoff Dangerfield, will be a keynote speaker. NZRMCA again has three vibrant concurrent sessions. It would be great to see you all there.

KEY ISSUES

CCANZ has published its excellent document 'New Zealand Concrete Industry – Position on Public Policy Issues'. The document is intended for Government departments, local government and other stakeholders and discusses issues impacting on our industry at the moment. The title may not be catchy but it is an important document. Order a copy from admin@cca.org.nz.

ATLAS CONCRETE LIMITED and Takapuna Grammar Centre for Business and Enterprise

Students from the Takapuna Grammar Centre for Business & Enterprise were recently provided with an excellent field trip opportunity arising from the initiative of Mr Graham Collie, CEO of Atlas Concrete.

Graham has extended a helping hand to the Takapuna Grammar Centre for Business & Enterprise, which is a new development within secondary business education based at Takapuna Grammar School. The Centre is trying to promote Business Studies as a new NCEA subject within schools and provide experiential learning for its students.

Seventeen year 11 and year 12 students from the Centre went on an overnight trip from Auckland to Whangarei visiting businesses run by Atlas Concrete Ltd, and Golden Bay Cement Ltd.

The students were given an understanding of the Concrete industry through visiting Cement works, Quarries, Readymix Depots and Precast Slab Factories. At each site there were informative talks by Staff and a site tour which fully engaged the students, and showed them the variety of workplaces, skills and qualifications that exist within the concrete industry.

The students were surprised at the variety of concrete types and products, and also discussed the impact of the recession, the need for quality control and the role of product testing, supplier- customer relationships and carbon neutrality for businesses.

While these topics are covered in classroom teaching, the experience of seeing a concrete sample tested to failure and walking through the reclaimer room of a cement plant created a deeper understanding of the concepts involved.

Nick Kearns, HOD Business & Enterprise at Takapuna Grammar School says the trip was a great success and that the students and staff of that Centre for Business & Enterprise are looking forward to more contact with Atlas Concrete Ltd.

