



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello to all Readymixers

I can't believe that we're already into November! Where has the year gone?

The Concrete Industry Conference has just been held and on reflection, it was another very successful event. Indeed a number of people came up to me both at the Conference and subsequently to say that the quality of papers was perhaps even higher than ever! The concurrent NZRMCA sessions were extremely well attended and, Ken Ring, weatherman was a hoot. Well done to the organizing committee.

This has been a challenging year for our industry. Outputs have dropped steadily since March 2008 and figures for the twelve months to

June 2009 were down some 18.5%. However, we are now officially out of recession and there are some signs of improvement. I am reasonably confident that the out-look will start to improve over the coming months.

And in these challenging times we need to ensure our voice is heard. We underpin \$7 billion of output throughout the economy and have a terrific product. That is why we continue to support the various initiatives of CCANZ.

Jeff Burgess, ably supported by a small working group has produced a driver induction training DVD. I am pleased to announce that this was launched at Conference and was extremely well received. Its a great training tool. There are copies available for members from NZRMCA.

At our recent AGM, a remit was passed to amend the mechanism for poll voting and make it fairer to all members. I am extremely pleased about this because it was raised by the grass-roots, taken up by the Regions, discussed at Council and finally put forward for

vote. Democracy is working within our Organisation and we are listening to our members.

It was with deep sadness that we learned of the sudden passing of Des Krammer. Des had been involved with NZRMCA for many years and we relied on his wise counsel as Councillor and enjoyed his great sense of fun.

This will be my last AGM as president. Over the past two years we have raised the profile of our Association through increased media activity, established a five year strategic plan which is focussing on member support, sustainability, training and education and quality. The aforementioned driver induction DVD is a great example cutting across two of these strategic themes, i.e. member support and training. In terms of quality, Rob Gaimster reminds me that our Plant Audit Scheme is world-class and we should be justifiably proud of it.

I hope therefore, I have contributed in moving the organisation forward.

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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).

## Message from the President continued ....

Council will be presiding over my successor in November and I wish them all the best in taking the organisation onto bigger and better things. I have enjoyed my time as

President and thank my fellow Council members for their dedication and support.

I would like to especially thank Cathy Castle and

Rob Gaimster for their sterling support during my term as president.

I look forward to attending some of the coming regional meetings

as past president.

Regards to all.

**Graham Payne**  
**PRESIDENT**

## AROUND THE REGIONS

### NORTHERN

Northland region next meets on 27 November 2009, at the Comfort Settlers Hotel, Whangarei. The region's newest member, Virgin Concrete, has received a plant audit for concrete, up to 50 MPa

Firth Industries has purchased the Stevenson's Block Plant in Rewa Road Whangarei, and is constructing a new Ready Mix Plant on that site, as well as setting up another plant in Kauri.

Local building consents for September totalled 139, the highest monthly total for ten months. Resource consents rose 14% for the month of August. Some of these

are undoubtedly due to stalled developments now coming on stream with the banks easing financial restraints.

### AUCKLAND

Auckland region also met in September. Alan Gray, Project Director from Fletcher Construction gave a very insightful presentation on the demands of trying to demolish and rebuild a new grandstand in a built up area! This was followed by a tour of the partially completed grandstand.

### CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND

The Central North Island region held its AGM in August at Pikitū Marae,

Putaruru. Adam Leach of CCANZ gave the industry report. Ruthana Begbie gave a fascinating talk on the history of the area. Watch out for Auckland/CNI regions' joint meeting at Golden Bay Cement's Auckland facility on 26 November 2009.

### LOWER NORTH ISLAND

The Lower North Island region has a new Chair. John Stewart of Higgins recently took over the reigns from Cameron Lee. A very successful and well attended regional meeting took place at the RSA in Palmerston North in September. Jim Shaw, J L Shaw Consultancy Limited representing the

Plant Audit Committee gave a great insight into the role of the Committee and the auditors' expectations.



*(John Stewart, new Lower North Island Chair)*

### SOUTH ISLAND

The South Island region met for its AGM in Christchurch in July. Brian Godfrey of Allied Concrete was elected Chair, and Chris Hammett of BU Concrete & BU Contractors was elected Secretary.

## YOUR NZRMCA COUNCIL 2009/2010

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Graham Payne	<b>COUNCILLOR:</b>	Bary Williams
<b>VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	Jeff Burgess	<b>CHAIR, NORTHERN:</b>	Maurie Hooper
<b>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:</b>	Rob Green	<b>CHAIR, AUCKLAND:</b>	Graham Collie
<b>FINANCIAL:</b>	Bob Officer	<b>CHAIR, SOUTH ISLAND:</b>	Brian Godfrey
<b>COUNCILLOR:</b>	David Peterson	<b>CHAIR, LOWER NTH ISLAND:</b>	John Stewart
<b>COUNCILLOR:</b>	Jon Hambling	<b>TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:</b>	David Barnard

## SOUTH ISLAND REGION – Green shoots?

Without wanting to sound a pessimist this question must be in the back of a lot of people's minds. After contacting all the concrete producers and associated companies in the South Island it would appear there is nothing newsworthy to report.

One could only assume those green shoots are still to appear. However that said some of those larger infrastructure pro-

jects are at the least providing some small respite.

The Christchurch Airport terminal project for example has concrete supplied by three different ready mix companies in the Canterbury district. Perhaps it will be a case of a little more nurturing and some warmer weather.

Change however is inevitable, we wish bon

chance to Jon Hambling, from Firth and past region Chairman who is leaving these fair shores for a lightly warmer Tauranga and a warm welcome to Slave Tomav concrete manager for Christchurch Ready-mix.

The next meeting of the South Island Region of the NZRMCA will be held on the 10 November 2009 in the boardroom of the HWR Richardson Truck Museum (the

entrance being off Anglem Street, Invercargill). In case anyone had missed Invercargill is the home of the MIGHTY STAGS current holders of the Ranfurly Shield. Following the meeting a private tour of the Richardson Truck Museum has been organised.

**Brian Godfrey**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Because of concrete's light color, concrete reflects from 33 to 50 percent more light than asphalt. By using more heat-reflecting concrete instead of asphalt, officials in Atlanta, USA *lowered their average city temperature by six degrees!*

## FOR THE DIARY - IMPORTANT DATES

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

MEETING	DATE	VENUE	CONTACT	EMAIL ADDRESS
Northern Region	27 November 2009	2.00 p.m., The Comfort Settlers Hotel, Hatea Drive, Whangarei	Bob Bruce	robruce@xtra.co.nz
Auckland Region	26 November 2009 (Joint Regional Meeting)	3.00 p.m., GBC Facility, Tooley Street, Auckland	Don McPike	mcpike.don@nz.sika.com
Central North Island Region	26 November 2009 (Joint Regional Meeting)	3.00 p.m., GBC Facility, Tooley Street, Auckland	Greg Heaslip	heaslip.greg@nz.sika.com
Lower North Island Region	4 December 2009	Napier, venue to be advised	Graeme Ransom	ransom.graeme@nz.sika.com
South Island Region	10 November 2009	4.30 p.m., HWR Richardson Group Boardroom, Corner of Tay Street and Anglem Street, Invercargill	Chris Hammett	hammett.chris@nz.sika.com
National Technical Committee	11 November 2009	10.00 a.m., CCANZ offices, Wellington	David Barnard	godivadh@actrix.co.nz
National Council Meeting	18 November 2009	9.30 a.m., CCANZ offices, Wellington	Cathy Castle	cathy@cca.org.nz

## OBITUARY: DES KRAMMER



It was with deep sadness that we learned of the sudden passing of Des Kramer.

Des, along with his wife Carolyn was the owner and operator of Concrete and Metals Limited, based in Motueka, a business he took over from his father Mick Kramer.

An astute businessman and very proud family man, Des was responsible for developing and expanding the business into the successful ready mixed concrete, quarrying and contracting operation it is today.

With a keen interest in the plant audit scheme and a passion for the

training of young people, Des served on the NZRMCA at Council level for many years. He was particularly active on training and represented our interests in developing the Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation's new National Certificate in Concrete Production.

A larger than life character, Des will long be remembered for his forthright, no nonsense approach to both business and life in general.

An avid rugby man, a player in his younger days and later a successful coach and club supporter, Des was never one to hold back with willing

advice for referees and players alike.

Along with his business colleagues, he made many trips overseas in support of the All Blacks.

Des had a vast array of close friends made through business, sport and just through being a gregarious and likeable man.

It was fitting to see such a huge turnout at the ceremony to celebrate Des' all too short but full and exciting life.

To Carolyn and family we offer our sincere condolences.

**Bary Williams**  
**Golden Bay Cement**

## OBITUARY: TRACEY LEES MCKENZIE

29 January 1920 to 17 October 2009

With the passing of Tracey McKenzie, on Saturday, 17 October 2009 at Whangarei, it brought to my mind the inaugural meeting of the Northern Region of The

New Zealand Ready Mixed Concrete Association on 12 August 1978.

At that time Tracey was involved in quarries and contracting, and as well

operating two ready mix plants, one at Onerahi and one at Parua Bay. I was his Onerahi Plant Manager and attended the first regional meeting as did Maurie Hooper,

our current Chairperson.

Our condolences to Tracey's family and friends.

**Bob Bruce**

## JUST IN .....TOP AWARD FOR ROB GREEN

We have just received notification that past president, Rob Green has passed the Institute of Concrete Technology's Advanced Diploma in Concrete Technology (ACT).

ACT examiner, and previous president of the Institute of Concrete Technology, Rob Gaimster said "The ACT is the most advanced course in concrete technology around the

world and allows Rob to join the prestigious London-based Institute. To put Rob's achievement into perspective, the pass rate is around 50% and only a handful of people in New Zealand

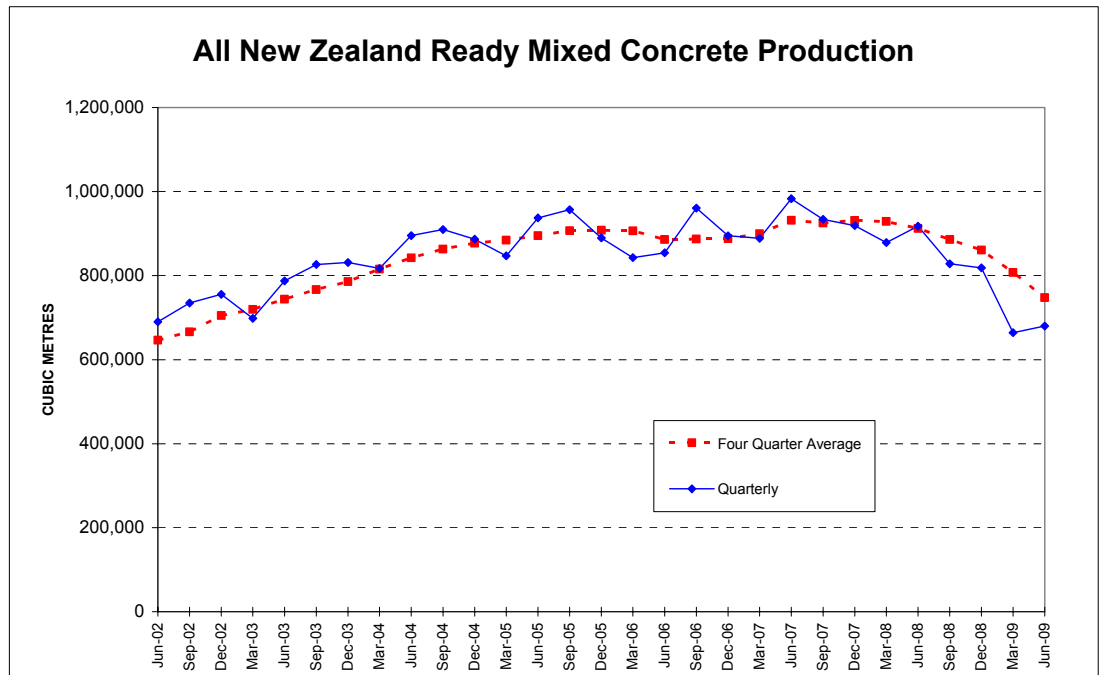
have gained the qualification."

Well done Rob!

## READY MIX OUTPUTS

Ready Mixed Production up to, and including, June 2009 can be seen in the chart.

The figures were collated by statistics New Zealand and the effect of the current economic downturn can clearly be seen.



## ALLIED CONCRETE AND FULTON HOGAN *Team up on the East Taupo Arterial Route*

The ETA or Eastern Taupo Arterial route is a new highway that bypasses Taupo crossing over the Waikato river and geothermal steam fields.

Since works started late last year Fulton Hogan and Allied Concrete have strengthened their relationship working together on this challenging project.

This route has required a lot of specialized concrete, a self compacting mix for the columns that support an overpass through the steam field, tremmie mix for the 80 m<sup>3</sup> bridge piles, low shrinkage concrete and a range of high strength mixes. This high spec concrete has been a challenge but with help from our plant engineers Jim Shaw and Peter McDermott together with regional testing technician Dylan Hawkes we have had excellent results.

Willie Houia and the team at Allied Concrete Taupo have done a fantastic job of supplying nearly 4000 m<sup>3</sup> of concrete to Fulton Hogan so far this year and with 1500 m<sup>3</sup> of kerbing still to come along with bridge decks and precast panels the job is far from complete.

**Todd Matchett**  
*Rotorua Taupo Manager, Allied Concrete Limited*



Fulton Hogan

Southern zone – view north



Fulton Hogan

Contact Energy steam field flyover piers



## Consider the Ready Mixed Concrete Truck Driver .....

Their efficient performance is actually indispensable to every building site and new piece of civil or roading infrastructure. They work against the clock, piloting heavy loads on every type of road, through all traffic flows and in all weathers. Their driving skill, general demeanour and attitude leaves a long lasting impression of the company they represent with both customers and the public.

Experienced concrete man Jeff Burgess says training of concrete truck drivers has not always received the attention it deserves.

"Let's face it, often a new driver gets paired off with an existing one to learn what's required. Of course, this may work well, but not if the trainer himself has taken on some bad habits along the way."

Jeff, the general manager of Supacrete Readymix Concrete, Greerton, raised the matter of a training DVD at a National New Zealand Ready Mixed Concrete Association meeting held earlier this year which he is currently vice president. The Association is self-funded and responsible for its own educational materials. Its members, comprising three or so large corporate entities and a

lot of independents, are the leading employers of concrete truck drivers.

Jeff's colleagues agreed that a training DVD would be useful and gave him the job of producing it. It was to be no creation of a slick PR company creation either, rather a resource that would resonate with "the ordinary bloke", condensing all the material required, to a 40 minute length DVD, made in plain language.

"We decided it should be made by concrete industry people, for concrete industry people. That meant planning and writing workable script, which was something I found to be a challenge, as its certainly not my usual line of work."

The technical side of the filming was given to Murray Maunder, of Vision Productions, while Gavin Comber, a sales manager for Bridgeman Concrete, narrates the DVD.

Gavin also has many years experience as a broadcaster and presenter.

"We went to pains to present some fairly important information in a simple and straightforward way. The fact that this project was steered by people passionate about

concrete does, I believe, add to the credibility of the project. The best kind of story is always one told by people who know what they are talking about."

For his part, Jeff threw his net wide to ensure the video would not just be a "Tauranga thing", but truly representative of the industry at large. Word went out and the industry responded. Ten companies sent trucks to Tauranga to help with filming, including Higgins Contractors, Palmerston North; Holcim Concrete, Hamilton; Counties Readymix, Drury and W. Stevenson and Sons, Auckland.

"Having them all here was quite exciting and we got through a tonne of filming with their help," says Jeff.

The production was divided into five segments, comprising:

- Health and safety
- Your truck, how to drive in a safe manner
- The model driver, discusses the drivers role in the concrete experience which includes appearance, behaviour and values.
- Environmental considerations.
- Concrete appreciation.

This educates drivers on the understanding of their product.

"What we have done has encompassed to the best of our ability, all the core practices and themes involved," says Jeff.

"The video aims to persuade drivers that they are not just small cogs in a big machine, rather that what they are doing really is indispensable to the industry they are a part of. We hope that this video will be a valuable tool for businesses to assist the training of their new drivers. It is designed to be part of the employer's education toolbox and a health and safety resource for existing staff.

Its great to give something back to the industry and the pay back is huge. The DVD was released at the New Zealand Concrete Industry Conference and copies are to be circulated to every member of NZRMCA

**Article written by Paul Charman and re-produced with his kind permission**

To get a copy of the DVD, email:

[rob@cca.org.nz](mailto:rob@cca.org.nz)