



# Welcome!

by Carl Morandy, Managing Director

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Ausrocks team for another great year in 2017, as well as our valued clients who always keep us on our toes. At this time of year it is worthwhile reflecting on all the challenges we have overcome throughout the year, and to look forward to another busy year ahead in 2018. A lot has been achieved for our clients and for ourselves, we achieved the milestone of 200 projects and 1000 invoices since we started Ausrocks back in 2010. We also moved office location to Geebung in May and established a fleet of drones (we now have 2). Emily has joined the team to manage payroll, accounts and office administration as well as the unwieldy task of keeping us all in line.

In my opinion the quarry industry has been recovering from last year's lull and it feels like the momentum is steady a lot of effort spent on exploring for new quarry resources around QLD. The main hurdle slowing down progress is the unnecessary green tape handed out for new and existing quarry and mining projects by the QLD Government. Ausrocks is working to cut through this green tape often requiring the assistance of solicitors who specialise in environmental law.

Ausrocks has also been teaming up with Associate Geologist's Brice Mutton, Cameron Alexander and John Siemon to complete a variety of exciting projects.

This year marks the first time a member of the original Ausrocks team has departed with Adebayo planning to spend more time with his Family Business. We wish Adebayo all the best with his endeavors and thank him for his dedication and service over the years.

Ausrocks has maintained our commitment to training the next generation of industry professionals with Shilpa Selvaraj working with us from the University of Queensland. Ausrocks has also continued to support the Australasian Tunneling Society and the Institute of Quarrying Australia through Young Member Network through event organization and participation in seminars and the annual conference.

I think we are all looking forward to the Christmas break and I hope everyone takes the opportunity to spend quality time with family, stay safe and have a Merry Christmas!

Please note our office shuts Friday 22/12/17 and we re-open Monday 08/01/18.

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# 15th Annual Quarrying Safety and Health Seminar

by Carl Morandy & Nick Virisheff

The day-long seminar took place on the 16th of June and was opened by QLD member for Stafford Dr. Anthony Lynham, minister for State Development and Department of Natural Resources and Mines. He noted that whilst the states operators are generally performing quite well on safety, the recent report from the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee "Black Lung White Lies" has highlighted a need to focus on respirable dust and particularly for the quarrying industry respirable crystalline silica. The government has just released its Respirable Crystalline Silica guidance material, which Chief Inspector of Mines Phil Goode presented in further detail, and Dale Brown explains its implications in his column "Guideline for Management of Respirable Crystalline Silica in Queensland Mineral Mines & Quarries" in this newsletter. The minister also pointed to a new upcoming policy of deep exploration (>300m) in the Mt Isa province as currently worked resources there are nearing depletion.

Psychology of risk was addressed by the next speaker, David Whitefield, getting into the ideas of what safety actually means, how safety information overload may just distract workers from what they are meant to be doing, as well as why telling someone to do something does not always work.

Once again, mental health and the effects of drug use was a major topic, with advanced care paramedic and trauma councilor Paul Spinks giving an idea of what perils and traumas paramedics face each day. He recounted his own mental downward spiral and noted that he came out of that when he started to realise that his own mental health should be the most important thing in his life, as only then if that was ok would he be able to positively affect the other important aspects of his life.

Holcim's national aggregates manager David Smith then presented how Holcim had transformed their safety culture Australia-wide. He detailed how the old system was neglecting its people on all levels, and how the implementation of a new culture of



leadership, worker recognition and accountability has moved the company towards its zero-harm goal.

SEQ Regional Inspector Lionel Smith updated us on the proposed changes to the QLD Mining and Quarrying Safety Act, with respect to training and competencies for SSE's. This includes new training modules such as occupational hygiene, as well as three proposed classes of SSE/Manager/Supervisor certification; <5 employees, >5 to <20 employees and >20 employees.

General Manager for Boral's QLD quarries, Russel Wilson, detailed how the Petrie Quarry has implemented a series of strict dust control measures over the last 4+ years due to the presence of 'actinolite' in their resource, a particularly harmful mineral in the same category as asbestos. Control measures implemented included: sealing the employee carpark, fogging systems in plant, increased water cart & pump capacity, replacing brooms with hepa-filtered vacuums, reducing site speed limits, introducing positive air systems in plant areas and HME, introducing positive air respirators (PAPR), new dirty room/clean room changerooms, cone droppers for feed bins, wetting down stemming aggregate, overhead spray at wheel wash, and the "Bat Booth" which is a high pressure both for removing dust from workers clothing. A significant investment has been made in these measures, with the cost spread over the 4+ years of implementation.



## PAPR

Use of a powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) is one way of combating the threat of respirable crystalline silica dust.



## Fogging Systems

Mobile fog cannons such as this one above is a sight that may become more common in Queensland quarries after the launch of the governments RSC guideline.



## IQA Conference 2017

by Dale Brown, Nick Virisheff and Carl Morandy

The Institute of Quarrying Conference was held in Toowoomba from the 4th to 6th of October and after soon to be found out Kiwi Barnaby Joyce gave us an

The conference then changed pace and shifted into the realm of industry innovation with presentations by Komatsu, Weir Minerals, Caterpillar, Hitachi/Bell, Atlas Copco, Orica, Michelin, Metso Minerals and Montabert. Highlights for us were the potential of the new Bell B60 single axle artic, and the improved capabilities of Metso's cone crushers.

This was followed by a presentation of the year in review of the Women in Quarrying (WIQ) section of the IQA. Really encouraging to see as many female faces in the industry as they found through Australia, and hopefully more women see the industry as their future with endeavors through the IQA like the WIQ.

James Rowe and Steve Seal then gave us a case study of an operator in South Australia where a change in attitude and direction regarding community engagement was crucial to gain approval for a quarry extension.

Darren Toth then gave us a rundown of the importance of testing vibrating screens regularly to ensure efficiency is high and premature wearing of screen media is low.

To finish off the three days, the IQA's youth representatives Ben and Aaron gave a presentation on engaging youth in the quarrying industry utilizing the many social media tools available today. Emphasis was given to the industry's grit and resilience in tough times, driven through passion for people and community, and how this can be a driving force for the future.

It was a great three days up in T-bah and we all took a lot from it. Nick actually took a lot more home than he bargained for as he parked under the wrong tree and got a car covered in bird droppings for his troubles.

(allegedly) drunken rant, and key note speaker Pauline Hanson admitted she knew nothing of the industry but didn't want a quarry near her house, there were some great and informative presentations. The day kicked off with the mayor of Toowoomba Paul Antonio who opened the ceremony which lead into Dr Luke Van Der Laan who looked at the future innovations in quarrying and the changing of personnel roles as technology increases. Lincoln Eldridge's then spoke regarding the behaviors of safety. He highlighted a number of companies that had zero harm policies which lead to multiple fatalities eventually and the onus is to put it back on people themselves. We broke for lunch and caught up with some familiar faces.

After lunch Craig Byers highlighted to ongoing need for dust management and gave details regarding the impending legislation of Respirable Crystalline Silica. The following third feed of the day, we rolled into our seats again to hear Christopher Jones from SLR giving a presentation of Environmental Compliance in quarries then a comprehensive inland rail talk from Nick McCormack.

After an eventful evening at the Komatsu Gala Dinner, the conference reconvened on the last day and we were regaled with stories of years gone past by some of the legends of the industry in Fred Reid, Henry Wagner, Rodney O'Neil and Bruce Neumann. Topics ranged from the change in work methods over the years, to why success happened for them personally in business and the quarrying industry, and who stole what from who back in the day.

## Equipment News

by Alan Robertson

Ausrocks are proud supporters of the Australasian Tunnelling Society (ATS). On 7th December 2017 Christo Vermaak and Ric Boyd of the Komatsu Mining Corporation gave a very interesting talk on the progress of DynaCut technology which basically breaks rock in tension and allows continuous excavation in hard ground where drill and blast is not an option or where the rock is outside the limit of roadheader cutting. Extremely successful trials have been completed underground at Cadia Mine where cutting volumes of 25 cum/hr were achieved as well as surface cutting in high strength sandstone (+80MPa) at Rocktrade's Waterfall Quarry at Helidon. All this with a cutting head of about 300mm diameter.

The speakers indicated that the production of a machine for civil tunnelling use was still a way off with the design of a prime mover, rock gathering system and possible inclusion of an on-board rockbolting system in the final machine.

Alan Robertson sees future use of the DynaCut technology in the commercial development of Underground Space in the Brisbane Tuff and other competent rock types. In some cases, the rock could be crushed to produce an aggregate.



# Town Planning News

by Wendy Wood

The new framework of planning instruments and processes, including the Planning Act 2016, was introduced on 3 July 2017. Most developments are assessed under the Planning Act and subordinate legislation.

The process remains very similar to the Sustainable Planning Act in terms of rules and timeframes.

The basic framework is:

- Planning Act 2016
- Planning Regulation 2017
- State Planning Policy
- Various Regional Plans
- Development Assessment Rules
- Planning Schemes

From a quarry industry perspective, most applications will still be lodged through the local Council with a referral to the State Government. Compliance with Council provisions remains the same as do most of the timeframes. One benefit that we can see at this stage is that it will now be much easier to make a change to an existing approval. Depending on the change, minor changes can be made directly with Council if it is a Council issue and will not require a referral to the State Government referral agency. This means that it will be much easier and quicker to have the change approved.

If you have any questions about the new Planning Act or about submitting a Change Application please contact Wendy.

For Town Planning enquiries, please contact Wendy Wood:

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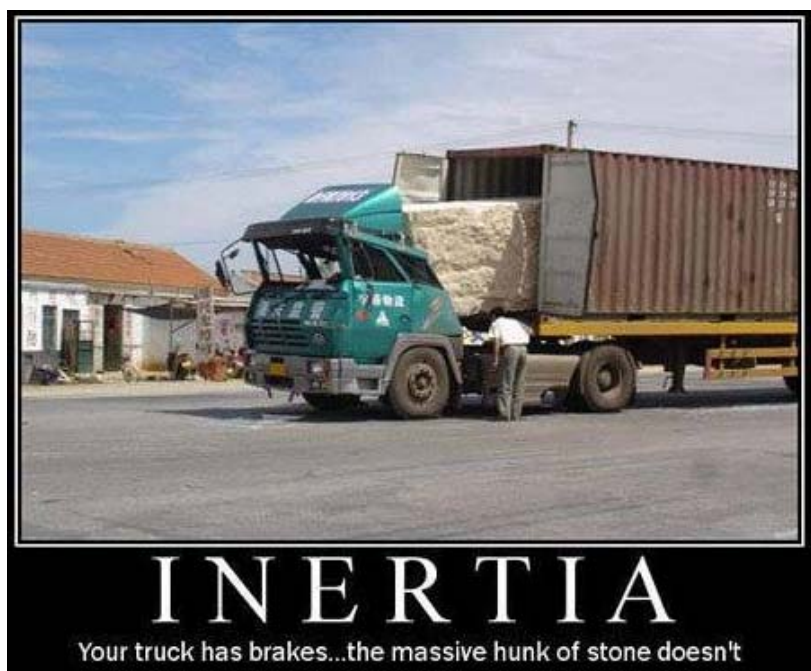
Email: [wendy.wood@ausrocks.com.au](mailto:wendy.wood@ausrocks.com.au)

# Interesting Signs & Safety Procedures



As always, the internet is full of wonder!

If you have seen a funny sign around the place, please take a pic and send them in!



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