

CONCRETE IQ

Concrete IQ is the official newsletter of Master Concreters Australia

ISSUE 1, 2018



MCA SYDNEY GOLF DAY

Members and guests came together on Monday 4th December 2017 for the annual MCA Sydney Golf Day at North Ryde Golf Club. Unlike the previous year where the temperature gauge had broken 30 degrees the day began with rain in various Sydney suburbs. Not to be put off our willing golfers arrived for sign on with the rain clearing for the shot gun start. Our members and guests almost made it around the course before a deluge hit with most teams still to complete one or two holes. Well done to all the teams that braved the elements and made it to the club house in a slightly damp state. Notwithstanding the late downfall an enjoyable round was had by all.

Congratulations to De Martin & Gasparini 2 who took home the MCA Sydney Trophy and our runners up for the second year in a row - VEK Tools.

This year's third placed team was Masters in Building Training. Well done to all the players who took home prizes on the day and thank you to all our members who took time out from their busy schedules to join us for the MCA Sydney Golf Day.

Master Concreters would like to thank our principal sponsor Cbus for anchoring the event. Also a big thanks to the team at AUSREO for keeping the players watered on course and Hanson for sponsoring the post round meal during the prize giving ceremony. We would also like to acknowledge our numerous hole sponsors from the manufacturing, supplier and service sectors, whose support directly contributed to a very enjoyable day.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the annual Sydney Golf Day in 2018.



**MASTER
CONCRETERS**

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**MASTER
CONCRETERS**

CEO'S REPORT

A BUSY YEAR AHEAD

MCA HOTLINE

Our highly experienced members can provide advice on various issues affecting concrete contractors through our MCA Hotline.

Members may contact our Hotline representatives or if it is more convenient, call the office on 1300 884 544 and they will start the ball rolling.

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E: chris@qrc.com.au

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Keith McGinn 0414 742 508
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DISCLAIMER

In preparing the Master Concreters Australia newsletter *Concrete IQ*, the editor uses his best endeavors to ensure that the information contained in the newsletter is true and accurate, but accepts no responsibility and disclaims all liability in respect of errors, omissions, inaccuracies or misstatements contained in the publication.

Welcome to the first edition of the Association's newsletter for 2018. Everyone is extremely busy and feedback from members has indicated that most have hit the ground running. January has raced past and the short month of February will soon be behind us before we know it.

2017 saw us close out the year with our Annual General Meeting. At the meeting Peter Martino former Vice President and Brad Nairn (Manly Concrete) both officially stood down from the board. The President and fellow directors would like to thank Brad and Peter for their support and involvement with the Association and wish them well in their future endeavours. Members and stakeholders would also recall Warwick Dingle stood down from the board following the 2017 Awards and is by all accounts is very much enjoying retirement and a more leisurely lifestyle. The Directors would like to welcome Tom Glasby who replaced Warwick as the Wagners representative and David Jones (Concrete Partners) as a contractor board member. A director's profile of David has been included in this edition. Chris Jones has elected to continue his presidency and we formally welcome Albert Pizzinato (Sydney based director) to the Vice Presidents position.

This edition sees the launch of the Annual Excellence in Industry Awards. Once again this will be held on the first Saturday in June to enable maximum attendance from members and guests from around Australia. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Hilton Hotel Brisbane for our gala event. Nomination forms, registration forms and judging criteria will be emailed directly to our contractor members.

The association has also recently relocated to new offices in Brisbane to a more central location when members will be able to attend training and other activities. Members should note we have also updated our website domain and emails in concert with the relocation.

It is pleasing to see members bringing on new trainees into the Certificate III in

Concreting through our registered training provider partner Masters in Building Training. Reporting has indicated that a major skills shortage is developing through a lack of training investment over the preceding years and strong current activity. Upskilling your staff now will help prepare your company for the future demand. Concreting is one of the main trade groups that is forecasting an increase in the number of skill practitioners being required. Concrete, as a building material, continues to grow in market share as urbanisation continues to bring more people into our cities and the need for concrete related structures is also increasing.

On the 'matters affecting member's front' late last year saw the introduction of legislation in NSW and Queensland in relation to non-conforming building products, specifically the *Building Products (Safety) Act 2017 NSW* and the *Building and Construction Legislation (Non-Conforming Building Products – Chain of Responsibility and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2017 Qld*.

Members should note the Queensland Act has amended the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 (Qld)* by establishing a chain of responsibility which places various duties on supply chain participants at all stages of construction. In Qld's case, this not only includes importers or manufacturers but also includes designers, and *installers*. The NSW Act provides enforcement powers to the Fair Trading Secretary. In the main the responsibility rectify issues with products is placed with the building owner.

Our in house legal team have provided an article with more detail on both Acts and I encourage you to review this information.

In summary, it will be a busy year ahead and the board and I look forward to representing our member's interests and to improve our contracting conditions. This is no small task and I encourage members to contact the office to provide feedback on issues affecting them.

David Lingard
CEO, Master Concreters Australia

DAVID JONES

MANAGING DIRECTOR,
CONCRETE PARTNERS
PTY LTD

David is the Managing Director of Concrete Partners Pty Ltd, which specialises in industrial, commercial and civil concrete construction, and incorporates Laser Screed Hire and Sports Construction Group under its banner.

David began his concreting career 27 years ago in Toowoomba. Being taught by his father-in-law (a true tradesman) he has worked in all areas of concreting. David has always been passionate about delivering a quality product to a professional standard.

Much of David's career has been spent working in various locations, stretching from far north-west Queensland to southern New South Wales. With the motto of 'Never Say No' when it comes to traveling away or the type or size of project (you never know when the industry will slow down). As a result David has always been kept busy with repeat clients.

One highlight in David's career was his move to New Zealand in order to help a multi-national company set-up "from scratch" and establish itself within the New Zealand market. This process gave David a passion for business



establishment and development, and marketing.

Concrete Partners has been a new venture for David, formed by joining forces with Tim Kruger, with a vision for longevity in the industry. David has always had an interest in technology and how it can be combined with good manpower to help produce the best result for a client, which led to Concrete Partners investing in Laser Screed technology. Through Laser Screed Hire, the smaller concreter is given the opportunity to hire and use laser screed technology and Ride on Troweling machines without the capital outlay.

David believes the concrete industry is the good foundation of the building industry which unfortunately is not recognised as such, due to the stereotypical negative tag often placed upon it. He considers it an honour to be a Director of Master Concreters Association, where he has met others who also wish to raise the profile of the concrete industry by overcoming obstacles that have failed to give recognition to the industry, where it is deserved.

**CONCRETE
PARTNERS**

**SPORTS
CONSTRUCTION
GROUP**

**LASER
SCREED HIRE**



VALE GREGORY MAHONEY

It is with great sadness that we note the recent passing of Greg Mahoney, well known by many in the Concreting and Concrete Saw Cutting and Drilling Industry. Greg was the Managing Director and founder of Condrill Services operating from the Gold Coast. Greg was a great supporter of the association and our thoughts are with Jenny and the Mahoney family at this time.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS



ARE YOU ENGAGING CONTRACTORS OR EMPLOYING WORKERS?

It is timely to remind Members (and our wider reading audience) of the requirement to report ABN's to the Australian Tax Office when subcontractors are being engaged by their business. It shouldn't come as a surprise that the ATO is focusing on the building and construction industry in relation to businesses that claim to engage independent contractors, when in fact these workers fit the description of an employee.

In general terms an employee; receives payment of wages/salary, has set working hours, leave entitlements and is paid the superannuation guarantee. Whereas a contractor; provides all or most of the materials and equipment to complete the work, provide services to other businesses, is able to accept or refuse work and is able to delegate work to others.

The ATO has developed an online decision tool for the building and construction industry to provide guidance on the status of a worker. This can be found at <https://www.ato.gov.au/Calculators-and-tools/Employee-or-contractor>.

Business owners who report workers as contractors can receive significant financial penalties from the ATO. This can include restitution payments of the superannuation guarantee and PAYG withholding payments over more than one financial year.

Companies should ensure they keep appropriate records including contract agreements that detail the actions of the contractor. These agreements can be used to substantiate the employment relationship, should the situation arise.



BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION LEGISLATION (NON-CONFORMING BUILDING PRODUCTS – CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY AND OTHER MATTERS) AMENDMENT ACT 2017

Late last year the *Building and Construction Legislation (Non-Conforming Building Products – Chain of Responsibility and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2017 (the Act)* commenced in Queensland. The Act amends the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991* (Qld) by establishing a chain of responsibility which places various duties on supply chain participants at all stages of construction.

What is a non-conforming building product?

The Act provides broad definitions for 'building product' and 'non-conforming building product'. **A building product** is any material or other thing associated with, or that could be associated with, a building. A building product is **a non-conforming building product** for an intended use if:

- (a) it is not, or will not, be safe;
- (b) it does not, or will not, comply with the relevant regulatory provisions; or
- (c) the product does not perform, or is not capable of performing, for the use to the standard it is represented to perform.

Who does the Act apply to?

The Act applies to individuals or corporations who are **persons in the chain of responsibility**. To fall within

the chain of responsibility the person must design, manufacture, import or supply a building product and know, or be reasonably expected to know, that the product is likely to be associated with a building. A person also falls within the chain of responsibility if they install a building product into a building in connection with relevant work.

How does the Act affect installers and suppliers of concrete?

Concrete falls under the definition of a building product. Any person who supplies or installs concrete in connection with building work will fall within the chain of responsibility for a building product. Thus, the duties and requirements of the Act are enlivened. It is an offence under the Act if a person who has a prescribed duty, fails to comply with that duty.

Know your duties

The Act creates a 'primary duty' for each person in the chain of responsibility. Each person must, so far as reasonably practicable, ensure that the product is not a non-conforming building product for an intended use.

Each person along the supply chain, ending with the building owner, must be provided with information about the suitability and use of a building product. A person in the chain of responsibility must not state that a building product

complies with regulations if it knows, or ought to reasonably know, it is untrue. The Act also places on the executive officer of a company the duty to exercise due diligence to ensure the company complies with its duties under the Act. Any supplier of concrete or other aggregates, for example, is under a duty to provide to the person to whom the supply is being made information about the suitability and use of the concrete or aggregate.

If a person becomes aware, or reasonably suspects, that a building product is a non-conforming building product that person has a duty to give the QBCC notice of the matter. Notice must be given within two days and be in the approved form. Further, notice must be given to the QBCC within two days where a person becomes aware of or suspects a notifiable incident. A notifiable incident means the death or serious injury of a person or an incident that exposes a person to a risk of serious injury or illness.

The Act also gives the minister the power to make an order directed to a responsible person that requires a stated building product to be recalled from use. A responsible person is a person who designed, manufactured, imported or supplied the product, or, if the product has been associated with a building, the person who installed the product. Each responsible person is liable for any cost incurred in complying with the order. A person has a duty to comply with requirements of a recall order of any State that applies to the person. A person also must not supply or install a building, a building product that is the subject of a recall order of any State.

Position in New South Wales

On 18 December 2017, the *Building Products (Safety) Act 2017* commenced in New South Wales. Similarly to the Queensland legislation, where a building product poses a safety risk, extensive investigative and enforcement powers are given to the Fair Trading Secretary. The Secretary may prohibit a product's use, issue an affected building notice for a particular building and issue a general warning about a class of buildings that may be affected buildings. A person contravenes a building product use ban by causing a prohibited product to be used in a building, or by representing a building product is suitable for use

in a building where such a use would contravene a building product use ban. Unlike the Queensland legislation however, the New South Wales legislation does not place requirements on the supply chain to rectify safety issues with products, rather the responsibility is placed on the building owner. However, suppliers and manufacturers who contravene a building product use ban by installing a certain product or representing a products suitability for a certain use, can still be held liable and will face penalties under the legislation.

The legislation being introduced by the States essentially opens up the supply chain to increased accountability and new disciplinary action for non-conforming or unsafe products. Given the State-based nature of this legislation, it is important to become familiar with the obligations imposed on members of the supply chain particularly where you are operating in multiple jurisdictions.

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THOMSON GEER

LAWYERS

Thomson Geer is a large Australian commercial law firm with offices in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

In conjunction with Master Concreters Australia, we are offering all members complimentary access to the Thomson Geer Help Desk. This service enables you to access specialist legal advice from experienced practitioners at no cost to you and with the convenience of a phone call, so that you can make timely and considered decisions for the benefit of your business.

For more information on the Help Desk, please contact:

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P: +61 2 8248 5810

PLASTIC SHRINKAGE CRACKING

February is traditionally the hottest month of the year. Not surprisingly it is important we note the effects of increased humidity and windy conditions which accelerates the drying out of concrete after it has been placed.

With the combination of these effects, plastic shrinkage cracking becomes an issue for the concrete placer.

What are Plastic Shrinkage Cracks?

These are cracks that start to form before the concrete has set (ie is still 'plastic'), but which may not become evident until the next day. The cracks may form a random pattern or be roughly parallel to each other. They are typically 300mm to 600mm long and up to 3mm wide (tapering very quickly over their depth).

Although often quite small and shallow initially, subsequent movement can cause the cracks to increase in size and seriously impair the concrete's performance.

Why do Plastic Shrinkage Cracks Occur?

During placement, moisture rises to the concrete surface (a process known as bleeding). If this surface water evaporates quicker than it is replaced by further bleeding, the surface layer of the slab dries prematurely and cracks.

The rate of evaporation of the bleed water is determined largely by environmental conditions, with high temperatures being an obvious contributor to rapid evaporation.

However, humidity and wind speed are also major factors; a combination of low humidity and high wind can in fact provide the worst conditions.

CCAA has produced an informative data sheet which identifies site practises to minimise the risks of plastic shrinkage cracking. Go to www.ccaa.net.au to download the datasheet.

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MASTER CONCRETERS



THE BIGGEST MISTAKE MANY BUSINESS OWNERS WILL MAKE IN 2018

With January upon us and an abundance of opportunities ahead as a business owner, it is important to ensure you have clarity on the outcomes you want to achieve this year.

Setting goals and objectives is a great start, however as a business owner, there is one vital piece of the puzzle that could be missing. Unless you use this tool, it is easy for weeks, months, and possibly the whole year to go by without truly having the rubber meet the road.

The Mistake...

You see, the biggest mistake that many business owners will make is... waking up each day and going to work 'in' their business (that is working on their trade/ on the tools/doing the work), without ever taking time to reflect and work 'on' their business. This means stopping to check in and see whether the activities that are consuming their day are actually taking them towards their goals and objectives, or are they just running in circles and replaying the same day and week many times in a row.

The Tool...

The power of reflection.

That is, checking in on your progress for the year. I recommend that as a business owner and leader of your life, you take time at least monthly, or even better weekly, to review your goals and objectives and ask yourself the most important question... "Is the activity and the work that my team and I are involved

in, aligned with the outcomes I want to achieve this year.

Also, do you have a method to measure your progress? A scoreboard to keep track of your progress, or a dashboard with some monthly and weekly measurements, that give you direct feedback on your progress? This scorecard will be your map, keeping you on track to reach your objectives.

How to use it...

1. Set goals, objectives and key measureable outcomes
2. Work on specific activities that progress you towards the items in point number one
3. Schedule time monthly/weekly to check in and ask 'The Question'.
4. Have some measurements and a scoreboard to give you clarity on where you are on your journey for the year
5. Adjust your activities should you feel that progress is not being made.

All the best for a great year ahead. Ensure that this year is one of your best by taking the time to reflect, check in and adjust.

Written by Jon Mailer
CEO and Founder of PROTRADE United



www.protradeunited.com.au



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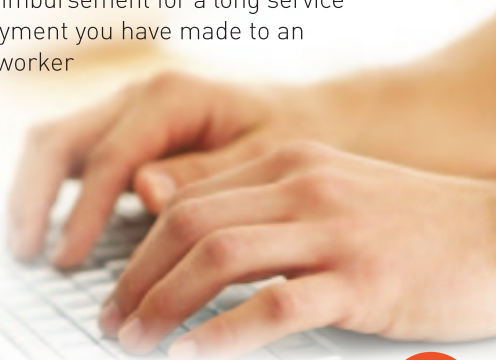
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EXCELLENCE IN INDUSTRY

Awards 2018

Master Concreters Australia invites
members and their guests to the
MCA Excellence in Industry Awards 2018

SATURDAY 2 JUNE

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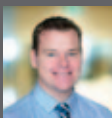


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- Access to technical information
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To join Master Concreters Australia complete the application form below.

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P: (07) 3162 9490

E: info@mca.net.au

www.mca.net.au

Master Concreters Australia is the industry trade association working for and supporting concrete contractors.



APPLICATION FORM

COMPANY DETAILS

Company name: _____

Contact name: _____

Postal address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Send your completed application for to:

Master Concreters Australia, 3/242 New Cleveland Rd, Tingalpa Q 4173

Or scan and email to info@mca.net.au

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (Please tick main area)

☐ Contractor Domestic
\$500 +GST per annum

☐ Contractor Commerical
\$900 +GST per annum

PAYMENT DETAILS (Please tick)

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (Please tick main area)

☐ Credit card number and expiry date

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Expiry date: ____ / ____

☐ Master Concreters Australia to contact me for a payment via EFT or Direct Debit.

*Members must hold appropriate license for scope of works.