

CONCRETE IQ

Concrete IQ is the official newsletter of the Master Concreters Association of Queensland

MARCH 2013



**MASTER
CONCRETTERS**
ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

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**MASTER
CONCRETTERS**
ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

MASTER CONCRETTERS REFRESHES ITS BRAND

Following a review of the organisations profile and operations in late 2012, the decision was taken to refresh the association's brand in order to further raise the awareness of the association and the work it performed. Feedback had indicated that the previous logo was not easily recognisable and did not project the role and function of the organisation. The new branding has been designed to provide instant recognition by construction industry stakeholders and members of

the wider community about who we are and what we do. Our brand now clearly articulates who we are – Master Concreters. The new brand not only provides greater industry and public awareness but raises the profile of our members who receive considerable benefit for their contracting companies. Over the coming months Master Concreters will be showcasing the brand throughout the state.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Concrete contracting, unlike other mainstream industries, confronts unique challenges on a regular basis. The nature of the product we deal with and the conditions it's placed under create their own problems but when you consider the bottom line bandits like industrial relations, licencing, statutory or government regulations, workplace health and safety compliance, environmental issues, skilled labour shortages, not to mention the contractual and payment minefield, these all provide our risk managers with nightmares from time to time.

While experience and search engines can provide the antidote it has become apparent that our levels of knowledge, methods of gathering information, marketing abilities, training regimes, communication skills, links to government, and industrial relations know how, have all become more relevant and the more informed you are in these subjects the more protected your profits can be.

At Master Concreters Queensland, we have identified these specific needs and have developed an association that can provide many of these pathways to success for concrete contracting businesses whether they are corporations, sole traders or start-ups. Initiatives such as our 'Advisory Service' which gives members access to some of our industry leaders, or our Casual Labour Pool to ease your skilled labour shortages from time to time, are both examples of the many services available to members and prospective members. Our links to government and the influence we can exert are strengthening with increased membership.

Along with the serious stuff, Master Concreters will continue to provide the social outlets for members and supplier members to get together, whether it is at our annual golf day, Holcim 2013 Awards Night, Annual Leaders of Industry Conference or a Friday afternoon gathering at our new offices, all members will be encouraged to participate.

2013 is proving to be a significant year of change for Master Concreters with our new brand now appearing on trucks and 'T' shirts all over Queensland. A revised fee structure with a much lower entry level cost, with direct debit facilities, enables prospective members the opportunity to be part of this association from as little \$375 + GST per year or \$7.00 a week.

Master Concreters hopes to see the prospects for increased volumes of concrete in both the residential and commercial construction sectors improve significantly in 2013 and further into 2013-2014, which has been evidenced to some extent by the bounce in hits recorded on our ever popular "Find a Master Concreter" service on our website.

For all those *thinking concrete*? Visit our website or drop into our new offices at Brendale.

Thinking concrete?
MASTER CONCRETTERS

Paul Curran,
President, Master Concreters Queensland



**MASTER
CONCRETTERS**
ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

PRESIDENT

Paul Curran

VICE PRESIDENT & TREASURER

Greg Bess

CEO

David Lingard

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Bayside Footings

Bess Concrete

Danley Construction Products Pty Ltd

Tessman Concreting Services Pty Ltd

Wagners Pty Ltd

Manly Concrete Pty Ltd

QR Concrete Pty Ltd

DISCLAIMER

In preparing the MCQ 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 mis-statements contained in the publication.

WE'VE MOVED

Members are reminded that Master Concreters Queensland has moved to our new offices at 2/193 South Pine Road, Brendale. Members are encouraged to stop by to catch up with all the latest developments in the association.

We will be holding informal gatherings throughout the year for members to network and discuss various issues affecting our industry, which will all be done over an ale, coffee or coke.



THE PERILS OF WATER BLASTING

Water blasting concrete surfaces can cause real problems. Relatively inexpensive high-pressure power washing units are commonly available. Some of those units can deliver water at pressures well in excess of 6,000 psi! Moreover, it is not just high-pressure water that's the problem. The water exits the nozzle at both a high pressure and a high velocity. The resulting momentum is great enough to dislodge not only dirt and debris but also to create flakes, popouts, and even concrete spalls. Good quality concrete will also experience accelerated wear from high-pressure power washing.

However, there exists another problem that is not so obvious and requires a little bit more thought. Concrete is both porous and permeable. It is porous because it contains millions of microscopic and submicroscopic voids. Entrained air voids are just one example of the voids within concrete. As concrete hydrates, the water-filled pore space between cement particles will fill up with hydration products thereby decreasing the permeability of the concrete. For good quality concrete, that process takes a matter of days or weeks. For poor quality concrete, that process may never occur. Therefore, what happens at the microscopic level and what we see at the macroscopic level are directly related: the permeability has a huge impact on what happens to concrete that's power washed. Especially because the pores close to the surface (or lack thereof) are the ones that have the greatest exposure to everything that harms the concrete and provide the greatest protection.



“ Good quality concrete will also experience accelerated wear from high-pressure power washing. ”

High quality concrete with a low water to cement ratio (less than 0.45) typically has few capillary pores and is essentially impermeable. Moderate quality concrete with higher water to cement ratios (greater than 0.45) contains a much larger fraction of capillary pores. Close to the surface, this type of pore structure will actually soak up some surface water; similar to a sponge. Power washing will only accelerate this absorption. Poor quality concrete contains many relatively large connected pores that typically allow water to slowly travel through the surface layer and into the concrete, like a sieve.

Therefore, power washing creates two potential problems. The first is the aggressive nature of the high pressure and high velocity. We are artificially eroding and abrading the concrete surface. Quite literally we are adding 'wear and tear' that is just not necessary. The second problem is that we may actually fill up pores that are meant to be empty. Since those pores are right at the surface, where we need the best durability, we can be creating a real problem. Not only can saturated surface pores expand as the water freezes, but also they can aid in getting chlorides and other harmful chemicals closer to reinforcing steel. In fact, annual power washing can start a devastating vicious cycle.

What's the answer? Most people know that an automatic car wash (or power washer) will put added wear and tear on their car's exterior finish. A hand wash will remove the same amount of dirt without damaging the finish. Concrete surfaces follow the same logic. Gentle brushing, mild cleaners, and low pressure can combine to keep a concrete surface looking and performing as it should.

Article provided by Portland Cement Association.

BUSINESS ADVANTAGES WITH MASTER CONCRETES MEMBERSHIP

It should come as no surprise to our members that Master Concreters Queensland receives substantial traffic on our website. A large proportion of this is traffic is directed towards finding a professional concrete contractor. The member companies that advertise through the rotating banners on the homepage receive a substantial lift in their company profile. All our members have their details listed on the 'Find a Master Concreter' directory, which provides a substantial marketing advantage for their respective companies. Being a member of Master Concreters sets our members apart from other concrete contractors. Principal contractors and the wider public are looking for contractors who belong to an industry trade association. It provides them with confidence that they will be engaging a professional contractor that is supported by an industry body. Master Concreter members are encouraged to maximise their company profile and exposure through the association's logo and branding.

FIND A CONCRETER


Search our directory for a concreter who can perform your job today.


Select a Location --

☐ Home Owner / Domestic
☐ Commercial
☐ Manufacturer / Supplier

Search

PLATINUM SPONSOR

 CEMENT CONCRETE & AGGREGATES AUSTRALIA

 McGinn CONCRETE





MASTER CONCRETTERS WELCOMES...

CABOOLTURE CONCRETORS WAREHOUSE

Caboolture Concretors Warehouse has been specialising in the supply of all reinforcement and resurfacing materials to the northern suburbs since 1985.

CCW prides itself on supplying quality steel and colour products to ensure that the final result will not be compromised. Offering a full delivery service that caters to all South-East Queensland on a daily basis, CCW has its own delivery trucks and trailers as well as organised drops through a preferred supplier. CCW also provides a full scheduling and estimating service to take-off plans that can be submitted via PDF format or dropped into store.

For more information call (07) 5495 3866 or visit: www.cabcon.com.au



CEO'S REPORT

It seems a very short time ago since our last newsletter went out and the association has been powering ahead on a number of fronts. In November we held our Annual General Meeting and elected our Board of Directors in accordance with the constitution. Chris Jones stood down as President and has passed the mantle to Paul Curran, Managing Director CITICRETE. Chris has elected to remain as a Director and is still firmly committed to the association. Jim McCormack of Bayside Footings and Slabs also stood down from the Board and we thank Jim for his valued involvement during his time as a Director.

In December a review of the association was carried out and in early January members were surveyed to identify what additional services could be provided and how we could better support our members. We are working on a series of initiatives which will be rolled out in 2013.

Following the review it was identified that our brand, or more simply who we are and what we do, was not being easily recognised in the wider construction industry and by the general public. As can be seen from the front of the newsletter our brand now firmly states who we are; master concreters and master tradesmen. Members are encouraged to leverage off the new brand and not lose sight that they belong to an organisation that sets them apart from non members in the concreting industry.

Further feedback from our review identified that our fee structure was too rigid and did not provide flexibility for contractors from different areas of the industry. This has been amended to enable a clearer pathway into the Master Concreters for all concrete contractors.

On another positive note members would be aware that we have moved and are now located in Brendale. Members are encouraged to visit the office if you are in the vicinity or wish to catch up to discuss the work of the association and the industry in general. We will also be holding informal Friday afternoon gatherings, which will be of a more social nature.

Members would be aware that we are heavily involved with the review of the Certificate III in Concreting. Unfortunately the qualification no longer

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Members are encouraged to leverage off the new brand and not lose sight that they belong to an organisation that sets them apart from non members in the concreting industry.”

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reflects the complete range of trade skills being performed by concreters, nor does it cover the trade specific knowledge relating to the modern products we place and the techniques required to place it. Master Concreters Queensland is working closely with the developers who are carrying out the review work, to ensure the content is reflective of the work performed in today's environment and that tradesmen completing the course understand the technical characteristics of the concrete being supplied in today's market and the range of ancillary products available to ensure the concrete performs to the required specification.

We are on the countdown to the 2013 Excellence Awards. Master Concreters and our awards sponsor Holcim are pleased to advise that this year's venue is the newly refurbished Brisbane City Council Hall. It will be another stellar event and I encourage as many members as possible to get along to the only concrete awards night in Australia that directly acknowledges the work of concrete contractors. Members should also be finalising which projects they will enter and sending in their nomination forms.

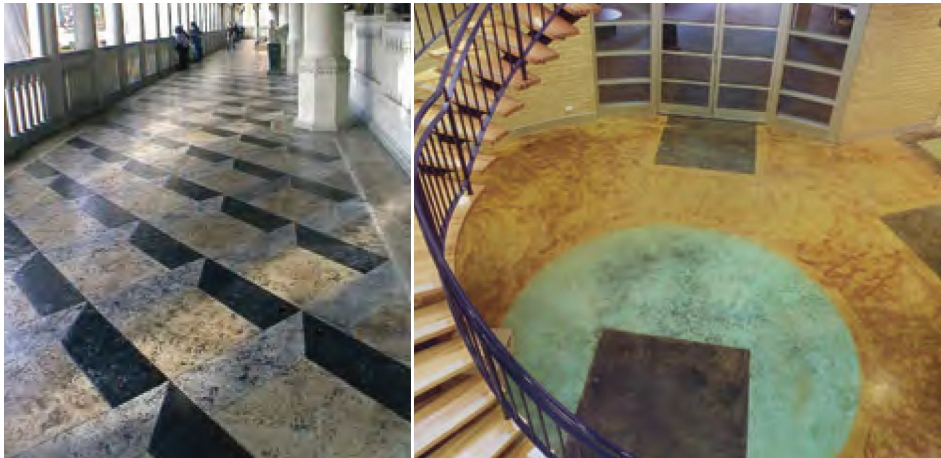
Master Concreters is driving forward in 2013 for what will be another positive year. We will be working with key industry stakeholders as we continue to grow and provide greater services, support and value to all our members.

David Lingard
CEO, Master Concreters Queensland

POLISHED CONCRETE FLOORS

An unlimited range of polished finishes can be provided by a variety of techniques such as steel trowelling, burnishing or honing the surface of the concrete. Colours and patterns can be introduced during construction which can add to the spectrum of decorative options available. With the increase in consumer demand for high quality decorative floors, concrete placers must have a sound knowledge of how to create these stunning visual surfaces as well as an understanding of

the major considerations in achieving the required finish. Cement, Concrete and Aggregates Australia has produced a comprehensive document which provides an overview of a wide range of polished finishes from basic to elaborate. This can be downloaded from www.ccaa.com.au/publications/pdf/Briefing05.pdf. Master Concreters members can also contact our office to obtain a hard copy of the document.



TOLERANCES FOR CONCRETE SURFACES

Tolerances can be defined as the allowable variations from the specified values or performance levels. They are provided to ensure that the finished concrete surface is acceptable for the application and/or the intended function while acknowledging that some degree of variation is inherent in all building work.

The position of the concrete element, its function, appearance and the influence of these on the total project would, in many cases, define the appropriate tolerances. On the other hand, tolerances must also be reasonable, ie both achievable and able to be checked in the field using the available techniques and at acceptable cost. The importance of specifying appropriate tolerances becomes apparent when the outcome fails to meet the

original expectations. Some Australian standards specify tolerances for concrete surfaces and it is important to understand their relevance or limitation for particular applications.

Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia has developed a Data Sheet which reviews the tolerance requirements in various codes and standards and provides guidance on appropriate tolerances (particularly for unformed surfaces) and discusses the issues involved in achieving the specified tolerances.

The publication can be downloaded from www.concrete.net.au/publications/pdf/Tolerances.pdf. Master Concreters members can also contact our office to obtain a hard copy of the document.

CONCRETE THE RESPONSIBLE CHOICE

Concrete is, quite literally, the foundation upon which our modern societies and economies are built. Without concrete and its constituent parts – sand, aggregate and cement – we would not have the roads, footpaths, bridges, schools, hospitals, homes and workplaces we take for granted. In fact, a life with concrete is unimaginable. Next to water, it is the most consumed substance on the planet. Worldwide, three tones of concrete are used per person every year.

In Australia the cement, concrete and aggregate industries are worth \$7 billion in revenues to the economy and contribute \$11.7 billion to GDP. They underpin building and construction and are therefore critical to the health of our economy. CCAA has produced the publication 'Concrete the Responsible Choice' which provides information on concrete construction, the environment and sustainability in practice.

For further information go to the following link: www.concrete.net.au/publications/publication_search.php?searchtype=id&id=189

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Q&A's

Question:

I recently bought a business but the vendor refuses to handover control of the Facebook page used by the business. It has a good following so it is an important way for us to get work. What can I do about it?

Answer:

The Standard Contract for the sale of businesses promoted by the REIQ and the Queensland Law Society does not cover this. Your lawyer should have included a Special Condition requiring the vendors to make you an administrator of the Facebook page so you could then remove them and take control yourself.

Question:

One of our female office staff failed to come to work for two days after the Christmas party. She was upset by one of the guys telling what she called sexist jokes at the Christmas party and she was offended. This is ridiculous as they were just rude jokes. I am going to dock her pay for the two days. Is there anything in particular I should do?

Answer:

Don't do it! If you do, you stand a very good chance of ending up being sued for sexual discrimination and/or harassment, could possibly find yourself on the wrong end of a WorkCover Claim and on top of all of that, be sued in Fair Work Australia. To minimise the risk of that happening (and trust me it is a real risk) there are some steps you need to take now. Give us a call.

For further information regarding special conditions in business contracts please contact:

BRISBANE OFFICE

Geoff Matheson – (07) 3223 5901
gmatheson@mckayslaw.com

MACKAY OFFICE

Suzanne Brown – (07) 4963 0820
sbrown@mckayslaw.com

For further information regarding discrimination and harassment in the workplace please contact:

BRISBANE OFFICE

Louise Wessel – (07) 3223 5924
lwessel@mckayslaw.com

MACKAY OFFICE

Cyndel Muscat – (07) 4963 0878 / cmuscat@mckayslaw.com

GOLD COAST OFFICE

Scott McSwan – (07) 5593 0188
smcswan@mckayslaw.com

PRIVACY LAW CHANGES TO HELP BUSINESS WITH CREDIT CHECKS



Changes to the Privacy Act will affect every business and consumer.

One good thing for businesses is that there will be more access to information about people's creditworthiness including whether a person has missed loan or credit card payments.

This will help businesses find out whether a potential customer is a payment risk.

Consumers will also have greater access to and the ability to correct their credit reports. Having something incorrect or outdated on your credit record can severely adversely affect your ability to get credit. So being able to correct errors is a good thing.

Reforms will also alter how personal information is handled, including when it can be used for direct marketing and when it can be sent overseas. The credit reporting provisions have been extensively revised. The amendments will also strengthen and widen the powers of the Privacy Commissioner who will have enhanced powers including to:

- Seek civil penalties where there have been serious breaches of privacy;
- Accept enforceable undertakings; and
- Conduct assessments of privacy performance in both the government and private sectors.

“

There will be more access to information about people's creditworthiness...

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Although the new rules won't come into force until March 2014, government agencies and businesses are being advised to prepare now and seek advice about how the changes will impact them.

For further information or advice in relation to privacy, please contact us.

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MACKAY OFFICE

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McKAYS
Solicitors

2013 MASTER CONCRETES QUEENSLAND EXCELLENCE IN INDUSTRY AWARDS



Master Concreters and our principal awards sponsor Holcim are pleased to advise that this year's awards will be held on Saturday 8th June at the newly refurbished Brisbane City Council Hall. Following on from the success of our riverside event in 2012 this iconic Brisbane landmark

will again provide a magnificent venue for our awards. The awards once again bring together friends, family and industry colleagues to celebrate the achievements of our concrete contractors. Members are reminded to send in their nominations by 5 April 2013.

MCQ HOTLINE

This facility is available to Master Concreters of Queensland members when the inevitable day-to-day technical problems arise.

Board members are available as first point of contact. Their details are:

Chris Jones

0418871380
chris@qrc.com.au

Greg Bess

0411416146
greg@bessconcrete.com

Brad Nairn

0427650004
brad@manlyconcrete.com

Keith McGinn

0414742508
keith@mcginnconcrete.com.au

Feel free to email all board members, or an individual if preferred, or if it is more convenient, call the office on 1300 884 544 and they will start the ball rolling.



**MASTER
CONCRETES**
ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

REGISTERED OFFICE

2/193 South Pine Road,
Brendale Q 4500

Ph: (07) 3205 6675

Email: info@mcaq.com.au

www.mcaq.com.au

NEW MEMBERS TO MCAQ

The President and Directors would like to welcome the following new members to the Association:

- MG Constructions
- Base Concrete
- FRP Constructions
- Caboolture Concretors Warehouse
- Allied Concrete Cutting and Drilling

LAUGHTER, THE BEST MEDICINE

FISHERMEN KILLED

A fisherman's wife blessed her husband with twin sons. They loved the children very much, but couldn't think of what to name their children. After several weeks had passed, the fisherman and his wife noticed a peculiar fact. When left alone, one of the boys would also turn towards the sea, while the other boy would face inland. It didn't matter which way the parents positioned the children, the same child always faced the same direction. "Let's call the boys Towards and Away," suggested the fisherman. His wife agreed, and from that point on, the boys were simply known as Towards and Away.

The years passed and the day came when the aging fisherman said to his sons, "Boys, it is time that you learned how to make a living from the sea." They provisioned their ship, said their goodbyes, and set sail for a three month voyage.

The three months passed quickly for the fisherman's wife, yet the ship had not returned. Three whole years passed before the grieving woman saw a lone man walking towards her house. She recognised him as her husband. "My goodness! What has happened to my darling boys?" she cried.

The ragged fisherman began to tell his story: "We were just barely one whole day out to see when Towards hooked into a great fish. Towards fought long and hard, but the fish was more than his equal. For a whole week they wrestled upon the waves without either of them letting up. Yet eventually the great fish started to win the battle, and Towards was pulled over the side of our ship. He was swallowed whole, and we never saw either of them again."

"Oh dear, that must have been terrible! What a huge fish that must of been!"

"Yes, it was, but you should have seen the one that got Away...."



JOIN
NOW!

GIVE YOUR BUSINESS THAT COMPETITIVE EDGE

Master Concreters provides a range of services and support specifically for concrete contractors. All member companies are advertised through the 'Find a Master Concreter' Directory on the Master Concreters website homepage.

OTHER BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Access to technical information
- Industry helpline for concrete contractors
- Discounted training for members
- Tendersearch documents for Queensland and northern New South Wales
- Newsletters, industry news and information
- Seminars and industry events
- Networking opportunities with other contractors



**MASTER
CONCRETERS**
ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

2/193 South Pine Road,
Brendale Q 4500

Ph: (07) 3205 6675

Email: info@mcaq.com.au

www.mcaq.com.au

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

To join Master Concreters complete the application form below:



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

COMPANY DETAILS

Company Name _____

Contact Person _____

Postal Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Signature _____

Send your completed application form to:

Master Concreters 2/193 South Pine Rd Brendale Q 4500

Or fax to (07) 3265 6422 or scan and email to info@mcaq.com.au

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (please tick main area)

- ☐ Contractor Domestic
\$375 + GST (\$412.50) per annum
- ☐ Contractor Commercial
\$635 + GST (\$698.50) per annum

PAYMENT DETAILS (please tick)

- ☐ Credit Card Number and expiry date:

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Expiry date: ____ / ____

- ☐ Master Concreters to contact me for payment via EFT or Direct Debit

* Members must hold appropriate BSA License for scope of works.



MCQ supports the companies and organisations that support us.

MASTER CONCRETERS