

Australasian Chapter

Newsletter

IECA (Australasia) Presidents Report.

Michael Frankcombe



Conference:

Its nearly conference time again. Once again we're running our annual conference with the New Zealand Institute of Highway Technology (NZIHT). This time we're in Auckland at the Waipuna Hotel and Conference centre.

This conference builds on the previous two events with an expanded short course program and excellent technical speakers including John McCullah as our key note speaker. You may know John from the Dirt Time DVD series and the USA cable Dirt Time TV show. John is a guru of natural channel design and stream rehabilitation. I've seen John present numerous times in the USA and always come away very impressed. I'm really looking forward to seeing what he plans to share with us in New Zealand in June.

Environmental Excellence Awards:

We'll also be having our Environmental Excellence Award presentations at the conference dinner. This year we received three nominations in the new product category and nine nominations in the major product category which is a new record for IECA.

The conference kicks off Sunday 21 June with a welcome reception and finishes Wednesday 24 June with the short courses.

Unfortunately the current global financial crisis has bitten hard in our industry as well and registrations are very poor considering the conference is less than a month away. Please get behind this event as it is the only erosion and sediment control conference in our region. Airfares to New Zealand are dirt cheap at the moment and the conference is excellent value for money particularly when you compare it with other environmental conferences in our region. It will be a terrible shame to have to walk away from this event but unless registrations improve in the next two weeks it is a very real possibility.

Victorian Bushfires:

The human tragedy of the Victorian bushfires is still in the forefront of our minds. While the human suffering is incomprehensible and has had extensive media focus there's an obvious severe environmental impact that has received little media attention. With the massive loss of vegetation the scale of soil erosion and subsequent water pollution potential is huge.

Government agencies in the USA are well geared up for responding to these massive bush fire events although I think their response is driven more by the fear of rich land owners suing for landslide impacts on their homes and less so environmental harm and water pollution. Unfortunately the Victorian Government has been caught short and simply does not have the technical expertise and capability to treat erosion and subsequent sedimentation on such a large scale. While there's a fair bit of bad news in all of this the good news is that the Victorian IECA members led by Bill Leggatt has been in communication with the key agencies and have offered their services. They've also got very good radio and television media coverage with Don Bourke and A Current Affair. The guys have given advice to many landholders, they have attended various seminars and will represent IECA at a Bushfire Expo to be held in Whittlesea on 23 May 2009. Well done guys.

IECA will leverage off the hard work done by Bill Leggatt, Peter Higgins, Graeme Christie, and Glen Casey to get relevant Government agencies in touch with the appropriate technical resources.

That's about it for now – hopefully we'll catch up in Auckland.

Michael Frankcombe
IECA (Australasia) President.

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Best Practice Erosion & Sediment Control

Book 1 – Chapters

November 2008



Emerald Members



For more information or to register go to:
www.nziht.co.nz



Finalists will be announced June 2009

Australian-made system addresses shoreline protection problem - Geofabrics Australasia Pty Ltd.

Located approximately 200 kilometres south of Perth, the Busselton beach is a popular holiday destination and a premier seaside and coastal playground in an area that includes the Margaret River wine region.

Due to the deterioration of existing timber groynes extensive work needed to be undertaken in order to protect the foreshore promenade from storm damage. The foreshore is approximately 3.5 kilometres in length and required a solution that provided community access to the beach area, weed management, re-vegetation and the provision of facilities along the foreshore reserve.



The ELCOROCK® shoreline protection system from Geofabrics Australasia Pty Ltd (Geofabrics) is being applied to address the coastal foreshore erosion and management.

The project involves the construction of three ELCOROCK® sand-filled geotextile container groynes. This

system was developed in Australia over the past 20-years to answer the growing need for environmentally friendly marine, coastal and estuarine solutions. The system is comprised of extremely robust geotextile containers designed to be filled with sand (or similar material) to form a stable, durable coastal structure.

IECA Faculty Members

IECA Faculty is a team of instructors who are well versed in the many facets of erosion, sediment, stormwater and the controls required to protect receiving waters from potential pollutants associated with these concerns.

The Faculty will consist of instructors from various regions of the world who have the ability, the skill set, and the desire to help educate the industry.

Faculty members are required to meet a minimum set of requirements for acceptance, and they will be required to maintain their education and experience levels. Faculty members should also recognize that this is not a self promoting nor product promoting forum.

IECA Faculty members must meet the following basic requirements in order to qualify for faculty status for the IECA Live training initiative:

- Must be IECA members in good standing
- Must have a minimum of 7 years of experience in Erosion & Sediment Control
- Must demonstrate competency in multiple E&SC disciplines

- Must be proficient in training Core competencies in a minimum of 2 of the 8 Technical Sections of the IECA Educational Program
- Must have a history of effective classroom delivery supported by positive evaluations
- Must be able to travel
- Must have a collection of training material and content for delivery and be willing to share that content for IECA training purposes.
- Must maintain their level of education and field experience to ensure that they can continue to provide the most up to date and relevant information.

If you feel you meet the above qualifications and would like to begin the process of joining the IECA Live faculty, please e-mail education@ieca.org.

Contributions to the Chapter Newsletter.

If you have or know of a case study you feel others in the industry would be interested in, and feel it would be an appropriate item for the Chapter Newsletter. Please forward it to admin@austieca.com.au.

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We're on the web!
www.austieca.com.au

2009 IECA (Australasia) Board and Committee Members.

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Presidents Technical Tip - Amelioration of problem soils, *Michael Frankcombe CPESC.*



Description:

Common problems that impact the erosion potential of a soil include dispersion, sodicity, acidity and low nutrient status.

Application:

Soils must be tested for dispersion, sodicity, acidity and nutrient status before embarking on any erosion and sediment control program as these

factors can dramatically influence the type of Best Management Practices (BMP's) that can be used for erosion and sediment controls.

Treatment Aspects:

Dispersive soils must be removed, buried or treated chemically with calcium sulphate (gypsum). The recommended application rate is 15 to 30 tonnes per hectare as determined by site specific soil testing. Sodic soils are typically dispersive but not all dispersive soils are sodic. Most physical erosion BMP's are ineffective on dispersive soils as they fail to address the chemical imbalance in the soil.

A poor calcium to magnesium ratio can also mimic the effect of soil dispersion increasing the erosion potential of soil. This can be treated with the application of calcium carbonate (lime) and gypsum. Application rates must be determined by soil testing.

Strong soil acidity can lock up nutrients necessary for plant growth and can result in aluminium and magnesium toxicity. Acidity can be treated with the application of lime. Application rates can only be determined by soil testing. Low nutrient status can be treated via the application of fertilisers and other elements. Application rates can only be determined by soil testing.

President's Technical Tips.

Over the last 7 years Michael Frankcombe has written a Technical Tip for each Newsletter. These are a great reference source. The accompanying table lists the topics covered and the Newsletter in which they were printed. Past Newsletters can be found on the Chapter website.

Vol	Issue	Topic
8	#2 - Dec 2002	Bonded Fibre Matrix
9	#1 - April 2003	Update on Bonded Fibre Matrix
9	#2 - July 2003	Sediment Fences
9	#3 - December 2003	Erosion Control Blankets & Mats
10	#1 - April 2004	Sediment Basin
10	#2 - August 2004	Turf & Reinforced Turf
10	#3 - Dec 2004	Rock Filled Wire Baskets
11	#1 - April 2005	Hydro Mulch Tackifiers
11	#2 - Aug 2005	Composted Mulches
12	#1 - April 2006	Dispersive Soils.
12	#2 - Aug 2006	Compost filled filter tubes
12	#3 - Dec 2006	Erosion Mats
13	#1 - April 2007	Check Dams
13	#2 - August 2007	Concrete Lined Channels
14	#2 - July 2008	Construction Exits
14	#3 - December 2008	Clean Water Diversion Drains

As IECA Australasia is an Association with the environment as its focus the Board have decided that the Newsletter will now be circulated to members in electronic format only. If you require a hard copy please contact the Chapter office.