



Quality matters

A newsletter for Gusher employees & subcontractors

No 24 – December 2009

Merry Christmas

It's that time of the year

The final newsletter for the year! We are all starting to wind down and think of the Christmas festivities ahead. Mick and Janice would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2010.



Mick and Janice Malady.

Janice and Mick would also like to express their sincere thanks for everyone's support with the passing of Peta this year.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in 2010 and hope you have a safe Christmas break.

Gusher will be closing over Christmas from December 23 to January 8, 2010.



Cyclones

The Top End is naturally prone to tropical cyclone events with some two to three cyclones affecting the region between November and April each year.

The cyclone season officially starts in November and goes through to the end of April, but they can happen outside this period.

Cyclone preparedness is not just something that is isolated to work.

Like Gusher's emergency preparedness procedure and plan, everyone needs to plan where to shelter this cyclone season.

For information on cyclone shelters and what to take along give the local Emergency Services a call on 8985 8930 or log onto the web page.

Santa (and others) beware



Enough to chill the heart of Santa's bravest little elf – Gusher's Brett Povey in his festive ho-ho-ho gear. But would Worksafe accept it as adequate head protection?

White Card training

Well finally the Northern Territory has fallen in with the other Australian states.

On the October 31 the Northern Territory adopted the Code of Practice for the Construction Industry. The Code of Practice details the requirements of what OHS topics are to be covered in the required six hours training.

It's not mandatory yet, but with national OHS laws on the agenda it's only a matter of time.

NT Worksafe has said that everyone must comply with its Regulation 43 – and the easiest way to do so is to complete the White Card training.

There are a number of options available with registered training organisations in Darwin being approved to deliver the training.

An alternative at a cheaper cost and smaller time frame is to complete the course online.

There are a number of courses available in other states or see details below for Blue Dog.



BLUE DOG TRAINING
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Queensland
Training
AWARDS
2009
State
Winner

WINNER

With Blue Dog's online training:

- The course can be completed at any time – no need to take time off or perhaps lose wages to do a face-to-face course.
- Only pay for the course *after* you have completed it
- Statement of Attainments, which are proof you have done the course, are provided immediately when Blue Dog receives the paperwork.
- No manuals or documents to read – all of the course material is delivered using video / movies".
- Existing knowledge is recognised – if you know the answer to the question just answer the question straight away – there is no need to be taught what you already know.

Queensland, Tasmanian or Western Australia?

- It is a national card, although each state issues the cards. It does not matter, your card is recognised in the Territory and across Australia

- If you are a resident of Queensland or work in there, do the Queensland course.
- If you are a resident of Tasmania then you can do the Tasmanian course.
- Most others working in the Territory have been doing the Western Australian course.

The Queensland card is \$80 and the Western Australian and Tasmanian cards are \$90.



Keep power costs down in the wet

For every degree colder and air-conditioner is set, add 10 per cent to the power bill.

Running an aircon between 24 and 27 and using a fan as well reduces the humidity, cools the air and uses less power than one flat out on a lower temperature setting.

Other ideas to keep cool this buildup and keep your air-conditioner running more effectively:

Keep your air conditioner filters clean

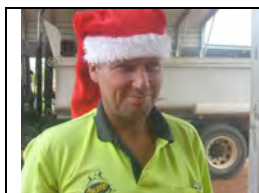
Try running your air-conditioners on timers and limit the time they're actually on and using power. Using it for a few hours less here and there probably won't affect your comfort, but will reduce your power bill.

Always choose the most efficient model air conditioner for your application. Efficiency varies enormously between units and models. On units up to 7.5kW there is an energy-rating label to help you choose the most efficient model.

Shade your air conditioner. Shading will keep the heat of the unit down and allows it to run more efficiently.

In general, be mindful and respect that air conditioners are big power users and could add hundreds of dollars to your power bill.

For more information call 1800 245 092 or log on to www.powerwater.com.au



Bah humbug from Mark Halfpenny or does he have something else on his mind? See the end of this newsletter for the answer

Swine flu (H1N1)

There is now a free vaccine available for everyone in the community.

This vaccine assists the body in fighting off the virus and its also thought to help if the virus mutates into another form.

All doctors have more information and can provide advice and answers to any questions.

Legislative changes

There are more big changes coming to the way the construction industry does business. The proposed national Occupational Health and Safety laws have already brought some of the changes such as the White Card training requirements.

There will be more changes as the states and territories work towards one common piece of legislation.

The Chamber of Commerce has been running a series of information seminars and workshops to help understand the obligations under the new Fair Work Act 2009 (effective July 2009).

A key feature of the Act is the start of Modern Awards and the National Employment Standards from January 1, 2010.

This date will be here very shortly and bring new industrial awards and minimum standard of employment requirements, so there will be a domino affect on other areas of the industry.

For instance, compliance with the National Code and Guidelines for the Construction Industry is a condition of tender that Gusher – and all subcontractors – need to meet.

The changes mean everyone needs to check and redo their assessments to ensure they meet the code.

One possible solution is to contact the Chamber of Commerce. For a fee, it will assist those subbies who are not chamber members.

Contact 89 838100 or email wr@chambernt.com.au to discuss what can be done to assist.



But wait, there's more!



*Mark Halfpenny and the boy team – all four of them.
There's also two girls to make up the team of six.*

Mark and Rene welcome into the world another little Halfpenny, Ethan.

According to his proud parents, Ethan is just as cute as his five brothers and sisters.

Mark is bragging how he already is sleeping through the night.

Another site manager in the making



Col and Margaret are proud grandparents to the newest little Cotterill, Aidan.

It seems the young bloke already is taking after Col and shouting orders at the top of his lungs.

And also like his grandfather, Aiden was in a such a hurry to come into the world that Col didn't make it down south for the birth.