

VALUING EXPERIENCE



This year three of our long-serving staff members (Robin Barker, Ross Craig-Smith and Kevin Mischewski) are commemorating their 40th anniversary of working for Stevenson (refer to page 4). This is something to celebrate and says something about this company.

These Stevenson employees join the esteemed company of our 40-year plus veterans. Graham Hogan (Stevenson Engineering Storeman), began working at our Otahuhu heavy plant workshop 47 years ago in 1963. Robin Bailey (NZ Trucks, South Island, parts workshop), joined 46 years ago in 1964. Colin Stretch (Stevenson Resources Maintenance Engineer) has served 44 years, and Lewis Clotworthy (Stevenson Group Office & Fleet Manager) has been with us for 42 years. We know that to have retained the expertise of these long-serving staff is special and not something to be taken for granted. Their combined knowledge enhances the expertise we have to offer as a group, as well as providing invaluable training and inspiration for our younger staff. Valuing the knowledge shared by our experienced staff and fostering the innovation and energy of our younger employees, particularly

through our support of various apprenticeship schemes, results in a dynamic and productive workplace.

With an eye to the future, we are endeavouring to expand the skills of a wide range of staff from across the business, to raise our capabilities as an organisation, by providing structured in-house training workshops. This has also resulted in the unanticipated benefit of giving around 50 of our staff an opportunity to get to know fellow staff from our geographically scattered businesses. They are gaining a greater appreciation of how the Stevenson Group functions, the connections between our various businesses and how what they do as individuals fits into the bigger picture.

Our *Stevenson Way* articles reflect the varied nature of our projects in recent months. They range from another Australian success with our Matamata-based company Rocktec, to the

provision of aggregates for KiwiRail and special concrete mixes for a major glass factory project.

Stevenson Engineering and Rocktec put an immense amount of effort into their displays at this year's annual IOQNZ Conference. We're confident that these displays contributed to visitors' greater awareness of the breadth of experience, expertise and services we offer the industry.

Ever mindful that any large organisation has a social responsibility to contribute something back to their community, we endeavour to do our best in this area on an ongoing basis. In recent months young people have benefited from our community sponsorship efforts (refer to page 4). They are, after all, our future leaders, as well as our potential future employees.

MARK FRANKLIN Chief Executive, Stevenson Group

Stevenson knows. **Quarries.**

ROCKTEC WINS QUARRY CONTRACT IN BALLARAT

Rocktec has won a significant contract with Boral to provide a replacement production plant at its Dunnstown Quarry in Ballarat, Victoria in Australia.

Project name: **Dunnstown replacement production plant**
Client: **Boral Quarry Country Division, Ballarat, Victoria**
Project value: **\$28 million**
Lead Contractor: **Rocktec**
Project Partners: **Boral, Metso, Astec**
Project Sponsors: **Rick Johnson, CEO Rocktec**

The existing plant at Dunnstown Quarry is over 30 years old and has surpassed its design life.

Rocktec has already begun work on the design phase of the project. It is partnering on the project with Metso (for primary and other crushing) and Astec (for screening and media), to ensure that Boral get a guaranteed outcome with material volumes, significant production flexibility and the potential to upgrade in the future without incurring major costs.

'We selected Rocktec to be the principal contractor on this project because of its proven capacity in both design and production for similar large scale projects in New Zealand and Australia,' says Shane Braddy, Boral General Manager, Vic Country. 'We were looking for a company which could work with our own ideas to incorporate a cutting-edge design solution and an energy-efficient plant. We're confident that Rocktec meets these criteria.'

The new plant has a number of unique and innovative features. It will include an electrically powered mobile primary crushing plant with mobile link conveyors (a first for Australia), as well as a secondary portable overland conveyor (another unique feature) and an integrated secondary and tertiary blending plant including a Pugmill load-out system. There is also the ability to integrate pre-coating systems for asphalt aggregates supplied for road sealing products.



Boral Dunnstown reclaim tunnel and binset structure

The plant is designed to optimise management and minimisation of stockpile options within the quarry as well as reduce production costs and maximise competitive product outputs.

The plant design is also environmentally sensitive, featuring water and waste water treatment plants incorporated into the production plant and separate haul roads and environmental planting standards. CO₂ emissions will be minimised through energy-efficient processes as much as possible.

'We went through a very detailed negotiation process, including a thorough external tender process which identified key partners that we were confident could deliver and guarantee the plant and product outputs we require, as well as minimise the risks normally associated with the installation and commissioning

of this type of plant,' says Boral Dunnstown Project Manager Henry Jung.

The fully automated plant will provide an estimated peak output of 450 tonnes per hour (secondary) and average output of 375 tonnes per hour. 'The operator will be able to control and/or supervise most operations via CCTV or other automated technology. The plant is designed to operate via a lean production system,' says Henry.

'It's been rewarding working with the wider Boral team to negotiate, identify and design the plant to date and we now look forward to ultimately deliver on what will be a leading edge plant for the Australian market,' says Rick Johnson.

The new plant is scheduled to be in operation by June 2011.

Stevenson knows. **Infrastructure.**

GETTING AUCKLAND RAIL ON TRACK

Stevenson Resources has been supplying high quality rail ballast (aggregates) to KiwiRail in the Auckland region for over six years. Stevenson Drury quarry supplies approximately half of the annual ballast requirement for the Auckland Region rail network.



KiwiRail ballast train in action. Left - the rail track is lifted to the correct level as on the right, tines prepare to vibrate and tamp down the ballast rock into position.

REGULAR LABORATORY MONITORING

Stevenson Technical Services & Laboratory provides ongoing testing for ballast supplied by Stevenson Resources to KiwiRail in Auckland, as well as to other quarries and laboratories in the Waikato region requiring ballast testing services. Using the national rail ballast standards developed by Stevenson and ONTRACK, the laboratory carries out tests for grading, cleanness and shape (flatness and elongation) every 2000 m³ and Los Angeles Abrasion tests every 10,000 m³.

ESTABLISHING A BENCHMARK FOR QUALITY

Stevenson technical engineers collaborated with ONTRACK in 2005 to upgrade the technical specifications for rail ballast. This improved the consistency and quality of ballast being produced by all aggregate suppliers, and set a new national standard for ballast supplied to KiwiRail by any quarry.

'Ballast plays a critical role in railway construction to ensure that the rail tracks behave correctly under load and hold their alignment, so supplies of the correct specification and cleanliness are important to KiwiRail,' says KiwiRail's Northern Interface Manager James Brailsford. 'Stevenson supplies us with good quality aggregate to the correct specification. Supply is always fast and efficient - even at short notice for large orders. Stevenson always maintains good communication with our field engineers to ensure that we are kept up-to-speed on the current status of deliveries. Peter and Vanessa from Stevenson's transport division are a pleasure to deal with and always have a can-do attitude.'

HOW THE BALLAST RENEWS RAIL TRACKS

A \$27 million KiwiRail ballast train is used to compact the track ballast under the railway tracks to make them more robust. Previously this was very labour-intensive work undertaken with manual labour. The ballast tamper machine also corrects track rail alignment to ensure rails are level and parallel. This work is part of KiwiRail's track renewal and replacement programme.

RAIL GIVEN A BOOST

In the 2010 Budget the Government committed to investing \$750 million in KiwiRail over three years to support the KiwiRail Turnaround Plan to help increase New Zealand's economic productivity and growth. In recent years considerable ballast material has been consumed during the upgrading of the Auckland metropolitan network.



L-R: Mark Cole and Phillip Stevenson

CLIENT PROFILE

HICK BROS CIVIL

Stevenson aggregates are being utilised by Hick Bros Civil Construction at Stonefields - a 110-hectare new residential development located in a former Winstones basalt quarry at the base of Mt Wellington, eight kilometres from the Auckland CBD.

Once completed, the Stonefields project will provide around 2000 dwellings and accommodate 6500 people. The development will include a mix of terraced houses, large family homes and apartments, as well as five hectares of lake and wetlands, a primary school and a shopping hub.

'We've worked on the project for seven years from the start, when the old quarry was owned by Landco,' says Mark Cole, Hick Bros Civil CEO. He is also a partner in the company together with Wayne and Steve Hick. 'Hick Bros has been responsible for the earthworks and infrastructure features at Stonefields - all of the roading, drainage, retaining walls and network service. There have been numerous challenges on the project linked to the excavation of basalt rock from the base of the old quarry. In order to complete the construction work we had to come up with solutions to keep the ground water levels down.'

Stevenson has supplied around 100,000 m³ of aggregate for the Stonefields project, as well as aggregate for many other Hick Bros Civil projects.

Hick Bros will complete its work on the final stage six of the Stonefields project by mid-November, enabling the remainder of the housing development work to take place.

Other current projects for Hick Bros Civil include the almost completed 28-turbine wind park for Meridian Energy on the Wharaurua Plateau, near Te Uku, seven kilometres east of Raglan. The company is also about to commence earthworks for Fulton Hogan on the Te Rapa bypass just north of Hamilton.

SYNERGY IN COMPANY PHILOSOPHIES

Based in Silverdale, Hick Bros has 200 employees spread from Warkworth through to Waikato, Taupo, Christchurch and Oamaru. Hick Bros is a key client for Stevenson Resources, which has supplied aggregates to the company for many years. Like Stevenson, Hick Bros Civil is a family-founded and owned business and it embraces similar philosophies.

'These include doing the job properly the first time,' says Mark. 'There are many similarities in the way that business is transacted between the Stevenson Group and Hick Bros and the values that underpin both companies. We consider Stevenson an important partner in the growth of our business. The company is our major preferred aggregate supplier. Stevenson's service is excellent, the quality of its aggregates is very good and the company has a reliable transport fleet.'

Stevenson knows. **Quarries.**

SUPPORTING THE QUARRY INDUSTRY

Stevenson had a very visible presence at this year's IOQ (Institute of Quarries) annual conference in Napier, which featured exhibition displays by both Stevenson Engineering and Rocktec.



L-R: David Young (GM) and Jason Cancare, Stevenson Engineering

Stevenson Engineering adopted a high-tech approach, with an interactive table-top the size of a 62" flat screen television. Visitors were enthralled by the technical wizardry of the display, which was developed by Auckland's &Some. Placing a brochure onto the table activated the content, which spilled out as both videos and still images.

'The table provided a bridge between the physical brochure and the digital table-top,' says Maya McNicoll from &Some. 'It responded to whatever was placed on it, in this instance a brochure, or a piece of metalwork which could be rolled across the table. If you can't imagine it, think of Tom Cruise's interactive screens in Minority Report or a giant iPhone.'



Les Ward

SPONSORSHIP INITIATIVE

Rocktec sponsored the inaugural Rocktec Innovation Award at the annual IOQNZ conference in Napier in July. The company will sponsor the same award at the IQA conference at the Gold Coast in October.

The Rocktec Travel Award for Innovation offers an annual award of \$5,000 for excellence and innovation by a person working in the quarrying industry whose company is a member of the IQA or IOQNZ. The award has been established to assist the recipient to further their knowledge of the quarrying industry. The recipient will use the travel award to view operations, optimisation, automation, plant design and services and maintenance that are innovative or being used to improve quarry efficiencies, production or operations practices. These new ideas and discoveries will then be shared within their own business and the industry.

Rocktec Technical Sales Representative Les Ward was awarded the prestigious R D Hassed Memorial Award for the most outstanding contribution to the NZ Quarry Institute for 2010 at the IOQ conference. Les has been a member of the NZ Institute Executive Board for the past four years, as well as secretary for the Waikato Bay of Plenty branch for the past six years.

Project name: **Stonefields**
Developer: **Todd Property**
Housing Construction: **Fletcher Residential**
Civil Contractor: **Hick Bros Civil**



L-R: Kevin Mischewski and Brent Atkinson, Stevenson Concrete

Stevenson knows. **Concrete.**

TRANSPARENT COMPLIANCE

The construction of new facilities for Penrose glass manufacturer O-I New Zealand (formerly ACI Glass Packaging) required Stevenson Concrete to create special mixes and to regularly pour concrete in the middle of the night in a physically challenging environment, under tight time constraints.

The project commenced in December 2009 when Stevenson Concrete was subcontracted by Harbour Construction Ltd to begin supplying special concrete mixes to the project. Three new buildings, cold end storage, furnace and lehr, and a new batch house are being constructed, all of which have used Stevenson Concrete.

‘We did midnight concrete pours regularly over summer,’ says Stevenson Concrete Product Manager Brent Atkinson. ‘We’ve worked very closely with our client Graham Hawkins at Harbour Construction. The results we’ve achieved are the outcome of a tremendous team effort. Harbour is working under huge pressure. When Graham says he needs concrete, we give it to him – whatever the time of the day or night.’

The first ‘heat-up’ was scheduled to take place in early September 2010. Stevenson completed concrete pours to the last of the pavement areas around mid-September.

The pavement mix design was a 50MPa concrete (concrete strength in megapascals) designed to cure to 25MPa in 16 hours.

‘To minimise the effect on the operation of the existing furnace, we were given a maximum 24 hours’ access to feed the plant raw materials over the completed pavement areas,’ says Graham Hawkins, Construction Manager, Harbour Construction. ‘This gave us only eight hours to finalise site preparation and to pour the concrete before curing. Stevenson Concrete’s expert design and excellent service made this possible. I’ve used them on previous projects and will continue to use them. Brent Atkinson gets things sorted quickly for us.’

‘One of the technical challenges faced by Stevenson Concrete was creating a mix design that met the strict Australian 32MPa design requirements,’ says Brent Atkinson. ‘Our consultant Concrete Technologist Michael Khrapko helped us to develop special mixes for the project. These had to achieve a low heat of hydration due to the constraints of the concrete pours, which ranged between 700mm to one metre in depth. Golden Bay fly ash was required for the mix to provide a 25 per cent cement replacement and this proved to be in short supply. Another challenge was achieving a 650 micro strain on a Comfloor (composite steel flooring system). We’ve also been working on a site in which the old glass furnace has continued to operate.’

Health and safety compliance has been stringent on the site, with everyone obliged to wear safety glasses, hard hats, long sleeves, long trousers and gloves, regardless of the season. Potential hazards include broken glass and fine glass dust.

O-I is the only manufacturer of glass bottles and jars in New Zealand, producing around 50,000 bottles/jars per hour.



Graham Hosking, Stevenson TCL After Sales Manager

Stevenson knows. **Transport.**

FANTASTIC SERVICE

For the past two years Stevenson TCL has completed after hours servicing for 20 rubbish/recycle trucks for EnviroWay in the East Tamaki workshop.

‘Their service is fantastic,’ says Mike Savage, Transport Operations Manager at EnviroWay Limited. ‘We’re supplying an essential service to the community and cannot afford any downtime. If any of our rubbish trucks have a major breakdown TCL drops everything to get the truck back on the road as fast as possible. They do all of the scheduled servicing on our trucks at night and prompt us when these are due. They also provide our pre-maintenance checks to confirm that each truck meets COF (Certificate of Fitness) standards. If any minor issue is identified it’s sorted on the spot.’

Stevenson TCL Auckland After Sales Manager Graham Hosking says: ‘We have well-prepared staff who receive regular training and upskilling in the latest technology from both Isuzu and Iveco. One of our mechanics, Paul Everson, was selected as the top Isuzu technician in New Zealand last year. This year Stevenson TCL’s Johan Smit has been selected to represent New Zealand in Japan to compete for the global Isuzu Technician title.’

Stevenson purchased TCL Isuzu, the largest Isuzu truck retail operation in New Zealand, in September 2008. A year later, Stevenson merged its truck garage business into TCL Isuzu, creating one of the largest truck workshops in Auckland. TCL also took over the authorised service work for Iveco.

Isuzu remains New Zealand’s most popular truck brand and the TCL Isuzu franchise is the most successful in the country. TCL Isuzu is the master Isuzu franchise holder in the Auckland, Northland and Bay of Plenty regions, accounting for around 48 per cent of Isuzu truck sales in the New Zealand market.

‘Isuzu is the biggest selling truck brand in New Zealand because of the reliability and durability of its trucks. Iveco is the 5th largest selling truck brand. Both brands lead the way in meeting environmental standards,’ says Graham.

TCL Isuzu’s Auckland operations are centred at Stevenson Engineering’s premises in Lady Ruby Drive in East Tamaki. The Auckland workshop is supported by six authorised service outlets in Auckland and Whangarei, as well as the TCL Isuzu workshop in Mt Maunganui.

NEW FACE AT TCL ISUZU

Chris Shaw joined TCL Isuzu as Sales Manager in April this year. He brings to Stevenson 25 years’ experience working in the UK with Ford, Iveco, MAN, Scania and Mercedes brands. He immigrated to New Zealand four years ago from the UK to work for a Mitsubishi FUSO dealer.

‘I was impressed by Stevenson’s reputation and attracted to Isuzu because it’s been the number one selling truck brand in New Zealand for the past decade,’ says Chris.



Stevenson knows. **People.**

UPSKILLING FRONT-LINE STAFF

Stevenson recently commenced a five-day foundation skills programme called Stepping Up Together for 50 front-line staff from three of its businesses – Engineering, Resources and Concrete. Participants include truck and trailer drivers, ready-mix drivers, mechanics and quarry operators.

‘This is a great opportunity for us to actively engage with our front-line staff, to refresh their skills and give them some new tools to help lift our organisational capabilities,’ says Stevenson HR Manager Geoff White. ‘Stevenson staff all need to be able to communicate confidently with each other and work as part of a team. The programme also includes a wellness component which covers employee health and personal finance skills, as the company recognises that happy and healthy staff make a big difference to productivity.’

‘They will also gain a greater appreciation of the whole Stevenson business, ranging from the quarry and aggregate production to concrete production and servicing of trucks,’ he says.

‘The best part of the course so far is finding out what’s happening throughout the whole company,’ says Kevin Morrison, operator at Stevenson Drury quarry. ‘When we began the training most of us were strangers. After 20 minutes we were all talking. By lunchtime everyone was interacting well. We’re all talking about the course in a positive way, about the exercises we’re doing and the chance to meet others from different departments.’

The Stepping Up Together programme is being offered by Stevenson in association with training providers The Learning Wave.

Stevenson knows. **People.**

120 YEARS OF EXPERTISE

Three of Stevenson's staff are celebrating 40 years with the group. The expertise they have accumulated in the areas of farming, quality assurance and concrete has become a tremendous resource for staff and clients alike and benefited the group as a whole.



A GUT FEEL FOR LAND

ROSS CRAIG-SMITH

'The biggest challenge in my work is to produce a good product – prime beef and lambs that aren't too fat – even if we're coping with drought conditions, as we did over summer.'

Ross is Farm Manager at Stevenson's Drury and Huntly farms. Between them the two operations finish and sell to the local market between 11,000 and 13,000 lambs and 700 beef cattle annually for Lochinver Station.

He joined the company after a period working on various farms mainly in the South Island High Country. His first job was at the Kopuku (now Kopako) opencast coal mine in Maramarua. From there he went to Stevenson Engineering at Otahuhu. This was followed by 11 years in the engineering workshop at Drury servicing the quarry. He then returned to the Kopuku mine for two years. He was Plant Manager for 20 years and worked for Lochinver Station for 15 years from the mid-80s, based in Auckland. Ross also worked for Stevenson's Transport and Mining divisions for five years before being appointed to his current role.

'The greatest change over the past 15 years has been the increased emphasis on health and safety and environmental sustainability.'

'Technology has made farming more efficient, but you still have to have a gut feel for the land and the stock. New species of grass and stock genetics have also impacted on modern farming.'

CELEBRATING A LIFETIME IN CONCRETE

KEVIN MISCHEWSKI

'Advances in technology have brought the biggest changes in the way the concrete industry operates,' says Customer Services Manager Kevin Mischewski. 'Concrete plants are bigger. Commercial concrete production now happens on a much larger scale. Structures, plants and dispatch systems have been computerised. There is now more emphasis on higher performance concrete, particularly in the infrastructure and some commercial sectors.'

Kevin began as a concrete driver, initially out of the Penrose plant. 'I drove for six years and then I took on the role as yardman and tester, advancing to a batcher at the Takanini plant and operating it for several years.'

An office job dealing with the programming and dispatching followed this. 'I became a concrete sales rep and then assistant manager. I managed Stevenson's concrete division from the mid-90s for several years.'

Kevin's current role also involves managing customer relationships and ensuring production quality. He is a key point of contact for the company's concrete sales and dispatch team. Most technical enquires are forwarded to him. He also works closely with the company's contract engineer on all production and quality issues.

He was chair of the Auckland Ready Mixed Association for four years and served 13 years in the New Zealand Ready Mixed Concrete Association, including two and a half years as president.

MID-LIFE CAREER CHANGE

ROBIN BARKER

Mid-career Robin Barker seized an opportunity to transfer the skills he had learned in one job to move into a completely different area within the company.

These days he is Quality Assurance, Project Coordinator and EHS Coordinator for Stevenson Resources quarries and transport division, based at Drury quarry. He is currently involved in implementing an ACC health and safety management system.

In 1970 Robin Barker was taken on by Stevenson as a heavy equipment automotive diesel apprentice at its Otahuhu workshop. There he gained skills in maintaining and overhauling light and heavy mobile plant. After gaining his A-grade certification he transferred to the Drury tractor workshop. By the mid-80s he had become workshop foreman. Following company restructuring after the 1987 sharemarket crash, he became service manager of Stevenson's East Tamaki mechanical workshop.

In the mid-90s he transferred his skills to the area of quality assurance. He became responsible for the implementation of the ISO 9001 quality assurance programme which involved all of Stevenson Engineering's workshop staff and systems. He then implemented the programme at Kaiaua quarry and Gabador yard.

'I enjoy systems. As a mechanic I had learned to be very methodical. Grafting on these new skills felt like a natural progression for me. I had been in a mechanical repair job for 26 years by then. It was time for a change and to learn new skills. You've got to be receptive to taking up challenges otherwise you stagnate.'

IN BRIEF

STEVENSON APPRENTICE ACKNOWLEDGED

Stevenson Engineering apprentice Alex Boles received the IRTENZ Apprentice of the year award at the Institute of Road Transport Engineers NZ conference in July 2010.

The judges were looking for an apprentice who demonstrated ability and skills, self development, as well as a willingness to be a team player and to provide their organisation with service above and beyond the call of duty.

The award acknowledges not only Alex's achievement but also the superb mentoring he received from TCL Isuzu After Sales Manager Graham Hosking.

'Alex began his apprenticeship with Stevenson at the beginning of 2007,' says Graham. 'He has matured from a school leaver into a valued tradesman who will complete the last of his MITO assignments in December. He has been on the 24-hour breakdown van for the past two years.'

PAPAKURA YOUTH AWARD

Stevenson Resources sponsored an award in the Outstanding Leadership category of the second Papakura Youth Awards, which were held in August at the Hawkins Theatre. The awards ceremony was organised by students of Papakura High School and Rosehill College who participated in the Papakura Youth Leadership Forum. The Outstanding Leadership Award includes a trophy and a \$1000 grant towards attendance at an approved training course, was presented by Stevenson Resources General Manager Steve Ellis to Georgia Robinson from ACG Strathallan College.

SCHOOL VISIT TO QUARRY

Stevenson Resources hosted a visit from around 20 intermediate-aged students from Ramarama School at its Drury quarry in July. 'The children were thrilled,' says Stevenson Drury Quarry Manager Shane Toto. 'We showed them around the quarry, explaining the process of how rock is excavated from the ground, crushed, screened and eventually used to make roads. They saw graders, dumptrucks and excavators in action and were amazed at the size of the machines. They were able to make the connection between rock being excavated from a quarry and then processed and transported to use in constructing roads and making concrete.'

The children were also treated to a sausage sizzle at the quarry and each given a gift by Stevenson.

STEVENSON

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