



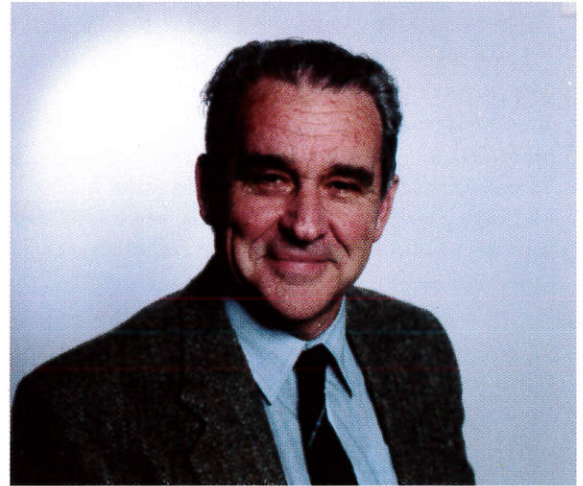
VOLUME 3  
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AUGUST 99

# MARCSTA Monitor

Official Publication of the Mining and Resource Contractors Safety Training Association

## F irst CEO for MARCSTA

Pat Gilroy, former deputy CEO of the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of WA (Inc.) has joined MARCSTA as CEO. Pat joins us with almost twenty years of involvement in the OHS and training disciplines. Pat says his move to MARCSTA will allow him to focus exclusively on what he perceives to be the catalyst for taking the WA (and Australian) mining industry to world leadership – effective training.



*Pat Gilroy, MARCSTA CEO*

He wants to further the initiatives developed by MARCSTA which have a marked effect on safety and health standards across the industry. To do this he will work closely with the Chamber of Minerals and Energy, the Department of Minerals and Energy and with other organisations and educational institutions. Pat aims to achieve the highest obtainable safety and health standards for the mining workforce.

### Advantages of MARCSTA Training

- All training providers undergo rigorous assessment and have an industry background
- Recognition of MARCSTA training at different sites cuts induction costs for the principal and the contractor
- Nationally recognised competency-based training reviewed by multidisciplinary training specialists
- Induction training is reassessed every two years
- Recognised certification issued to successful candidates
- Choice of certified trainers
- Low cost
- Available at a wide choice of locations both on and off site

42% of those working in the Australian mining industry (37,500 people) have undergone a MARCSTA induction since 1996. 70% of sites recognise MARCSTA training.

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*MARCSTA is a not for profit association.*

*All proceeds are reinvested into the industry for future development of safety and training.*

# Editorial

In late May I attended an IFAP seminar presented by Dr E. Scott Geller of Virginia Tech. on The Psychology of Safety. Dr. Geller described how to involve employees in achieving a total safety culture. He looked at three domains, the person, the environment, and behaviour.

The person involves knowledge, skills, abilities, intelligence, motives and personality.

The environment includes the familiar equipment, tools, machines, physical conditions and engineering. Behaviour involves complying, coaching, recognising, communicating, and demonstrating active care. Dr Geller was obviously impressed with a concept new to him in our OHS law which is well-known here – the duty of care.

He described how internal and external aspects of people play a part in the success of a safety process. Internal states and traits are person-based, and are partly related to education. Cognitive science can give us clues about these states and traits and perception surveys can be used to measure them. External behaviours are influenced by training, can be studied with behavioural science, and measured with behavioural audits. (Job performance sampling is one method of doing this). As industry in Australia is firmly committed to competency-based training which tries as far as possible to assess observable behaviours, Dr. Geller's ideas are important. He gave four steps for improvement. Define, observe, intervene, test. Yes, DO IT. Intervention is the area of key interest to MARCSTA, because this is where training is a key tool. Dr. Geller further developed his theme in what was an entertaining and informative seminar.

The report of the Royal Commission on the Esso Longford gas explosion and fire confirmed a suspicion on my part. The popular press has focussed on the findings about lack of appropriate training, and as a background to that, gaps in the procedures on which to base training. Esso switched from supervisor-based training to CBT in 1993, but crucial competencies relating to the causes of the fire were apparently overlooked. But equally important, for a process industry, was the lack of a HAZOP on gas plant (GP) No.1. Mention of this lack was deleted in the final version of Esso's internal report. A HAZOP was budgeted for in 1995, and in the next two years, yet it never took place. GP 1 was built in 1969, at a time when HAZOPs were stated not to be common practice.

A periodic risk assessment of GP1 was deferred in 1997 by Esso's board of directors. It was the practice to throw away about 70% of GP 1 process charts so that review by engineers of trend analysis was not possible. The engineering group had been located cheek by jowl onsite with the process staff, but was moved to Melbourne six years earlier. Esso's high level safety management system referred to management of change, but was unclear about the scope of risk assessment associated with it. Structural change in supervisor roles occurred in the period 1993-7, and the effect of these on level of operator knowledge, training programs, communication systems and operating procedures might have needed more examination.

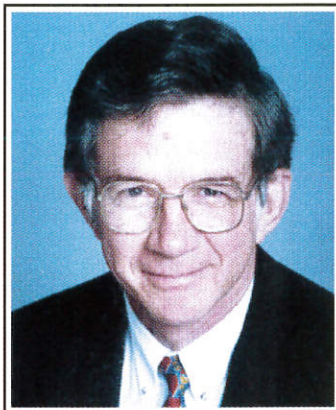
The report contains important lessons for all who are interested in better safety management. Interestingly, it notes that Western Australia is the only state to have given legal effect to the national standard for major hazard facilities. (Facts and opinions on the Longford incident in this issue are based on the report of the Royal Commission).

In the last issue I mentioned two WA universities involved in research in mining safety. I would like to add UWA, which through the Australian Centre for Geomechanics (see Conferences) is also actively involved in an aspect of mining safety research. - Geoff Taylor

## Letter to the Editor...

I noticed in Vol 2 Issue 1 of the *Monitor* your discussion on environmental management for non environmentalists. Is general environmental management going to become part of MARCSTA inductions? It is great to see environmental problems getting more coverage.

Paul Weber, Contract Environmental Geologist, KCGM. (Environmental management is already one Learning Outcome in the induction – ed.)



# MARCSTA TRAINING REVIEW

On 21<sup>st</sup> May seventeen providers met for a general review of MARCSTA training issues at the Conference Centre at Technology Park, Bentley. Continuous improvement is a hallmark of MARCSTA training and this was no exception. Discussion included what's working and what's not, covering the concepts and framework of the training courses. Layout of materials was discussed and responsibility for improvements is being undertaken by a team led by Joe Maglizza. Ways to better adapt the refresher course to client needs were covered, and there was vigorous discussion on methods of assessment, particularly in the light of literacy requirements. Attendees were given an advance briefing on possible future directions for MARCSTA by Pat Gilroy, who has now taken up his post as MARCSTA's new (and first) CEO.



Clockwise from front: Dave Fitzgerald, Ashley Gilbert, John Lemon, Dave Watkins, Joe Duyvestyn, Rennie Sterle, Shane Salt, Peter McDonnell, Jeff Mathews, Chris Costley, Anna Verteramo.



Clockwise from back: Joe Maglizza, Mark Rhodes, Dave Warner, Tom Bateman, Peter Dowding, David Collins, David Fitzgerald, Ashley Gilbert, John Lemon, Dave Watkins. (Not shown Amanda Youngman)

## Eastern Goldfields High School Program

Gary Sharpe from Barmingo presented MARCSTA induction courses on behalf of TRACMIN to students at the Eastern Goldfields Senior High School. Mark Thompson, the program coordinator for career and vocational education, complimented Gary on his presentation of the course in a non-confrontational, humorous and professional manner. He remarked that it was a pleasure to meet a man high on principles and values who backs these with real life application. He noted Gary's impeccable organisation.

High praise indeed for one of our providers. Congratulations Gary.

The executive committee of MARCSTA is considering the extension of the induction program to other relevant high schools as a means of introducing young people to the fundamentals of safe working practices.

## From the desk of the State Mining Engineer...

The past 12 months has seen a marked reduction in fatalities and a sustained improvement in the incidence rate of injuries in the industry.

This trend is a creditable result for the industry and encouraging for the regulatory authority, but it is recognised that there remains no room for complacency.

A study of critical incident reports, and injury data over the past year shows that there are still substantial underlying problems across the industry.

These issues require close attention at all levels, throughout the industry, if serious injuries and fatalities are to be prevented.

Issues of major concern were incidence of fire, (both surface and underground), rockfalls, falls of persons, prevalence of musculo skeletal injuries, and electrical incidents and injuries.

I want to focus here on the hazards of electricity.

Electrical power contacts to persons are regularly reported across the full spread of industry. Whereas some involve voltages defined as extra low in the regulations, (not exceeding 32 volts AC and 115 volts DC), any electrical contact is hazardous.

**Any mains supply power contact is a potential fatality.**

Incident reports frequently refer to a person receiving a "mild" electric shock from a mains supply system, switch, or portable tool. This description reflects a lack of understanding of the risks.

With AC current in particular, fibrillation of the heart can be triggered by relatively low currents, depending on the heart condition and the point of its biological control cycle at which the current is applied.

It is not sufficient to rely on earth leakage protection, (or Residual Current Devices – RCD), to avoid death or injury to personnel.

Electricity constitutes a major hazard, and control of the risk warrants a commensurate level of effort.

Some of the more common incident reports include:

- ◆ Vehicle or mobile plant contact with power lines
- ◆ Water ingress to power supply components, hand tools, control switches etc
- ◆ Electrical supply not properly isolated during maintenance, cleaning etc
- ◆ Digging into buried cables
- ◆ Short circuits
- ◆ Earth faults

In particular, electric shocks are regularly reported in the use of electric welders. There is a widespread but false belief

that the output voltage in electric welding is not potentially fatal. Experience has shown otherwise.

Safe working procedures should be in place and followed for all tasks in every operation, and nowhere is this more important than in dealing with electrical energy. These established procedures should be followed, and incidents or defects reported for immediate rectification.

As part of the ThinkSafe MineSafe campaign a series of posters and brochures were produced by the Mines Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Board (MOSHAB). Two of these deal with electricity and welding. They do not replace site working procedures, but provide guidance on risk management at the operator level. I commend these to your attention, to supplement your site resources.

- Jim Torlach

## MARCSTA Members

**Ausdrill Ltd**  
**Australian Raised Drilling**  
**Barmingo Mining Contractors**  
**BGC Contracting**  
**Boral Contracting**  
**Brambles Ltd**  
**Brandrill Ltd**  
**Charles Hull Contracting**  
**Clough WA**  
**Cook's Construction Ltd**  
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**NS Komatsu**  
**Roche Bros**  
**Skilled Engineering**  
**Thiess Contractors**  
**Total Corrosion Control**  
**Westrac**

**This list is current at the time of going to press but for further information contact the Secretariat on 08-9355 1400, Freecall 1800 678 554 or Fax 08-9355 1499.**



## Who's Who?

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### PROMOTION

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Ashley Gilbert

### ACCREDITATION

Irene Ioannakis

### MARCSTA MONITOR EDITOR

Geoff Taylor

## MARCSTA POSTERS

*Members and providers are encouraged to obtain supplies of these safety posters from the Secretariat. Developed by Bob Halse, the two posters now available feature manual handling and job safety analysis. These posters are one of the ways in which MARCSTA is putting the money it earns back into the industry.*

## Southwest Mining Safety Conference

An exciting and stimulating health and safety conference was run by the OHS Committee of the Southwest Regional Council of the Chamber of Minerals and Energy in early July.

### Thinksafe Minesafe - a MOSHAB Initiative

Launched by the Minister for Mines, the Hon. Norman Moore, this involves publicity and posters featuring Glen Jakovich, and the Safety SAM concept. Posters and the first set in a series of specific safety brochures have been sent to all minesites. A further series directed towards the underground section will be produced to coincide with the launch by the Minister of the underground mining training materials at the Kalgoorlie Occupational Health and Safety Conference on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September. (see conferences p. 6)

### Australian Mining Industry Safety Culture Survey

This survey covered over 7000 employees in all mining sectors and states. It was carried out in early 1999 by SafeMAP for the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA), with electronic equipment to directly record answers to verbal questions. Paula Matthewson of the MCA and Rawden Hill of SafeMAP brought out a clear message from the survey. The message is that all levels of employees surveyed in the Western Australia mining industry were significantly more positive about safety than employees in other states.

### Fatigue Management Code for Commercial Vehicle Drivers

Presented by Lance Poore and Laurence Hartley, this Code is of major importance to mining. For example it asks receivers and despatchers of goods to keep drivers in mind by being ready to load and unload. It asks people running truck queues to avoid constantly moving drivers snatching a nap. It suggests that to unreasonably demand drivers be on time or lose the next job may affect driver safety. The Code is approved under the OHS Act and was prepared by a tripartite group under the Department of Transport. The Code states that because of the extra safeguards built in twelve days in a row, of fourteen total hours driving, is acceptable, even though this exceeds eastern states limits.

### Management and Supervision on Minesites

The importance of management and frontline supervision was emphasised by the unveiling by Judy Pettitt (of Judy Pettitt and Associates) of the FMI (frontline management initiative). This is a competency-based system and is supported by the Chamber of Minerals and Energy's new draft *Guidance Note on Applicable Training*.

### CBT Based Underground Miner Training

Peter Dyer-Smith of ByrneCut Mining presented the results of work by a group in Kalgoorlie. Companies agreed to pool materials to reduce costs. It has resulted in a nationally recognised Certificate II/III and will commence in September. Contractors played a major role in the development of the training package.

### Southwest Regional Council Youth Driver Training Scheme

The Chamber of Minerals and Energy has joined forces with a number of organisations in the Southwest to run this scheme. It is based at a number of high schools in the area, and targets a leading cause of death in young



*Peter Dyer-Smith, Judy Pettitt & Tony Aveling at the C of M&E SW Conference.*

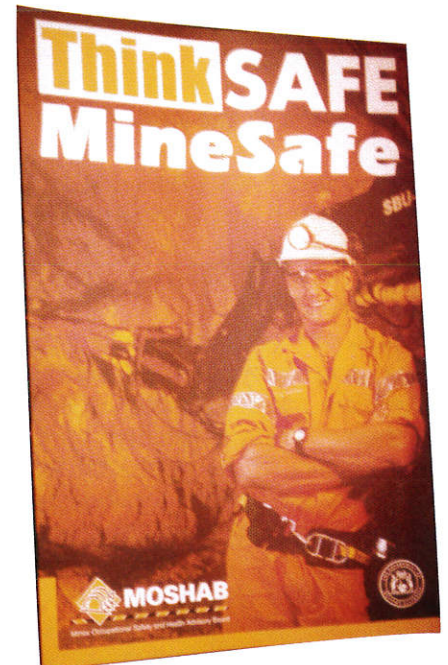
people. The program is directed at Year 11 students and has attracted considerable interest.

### Mine Worker Health Surveillance

Information accumulated by the DME was presented by Dr. Bryan Galton-Fenzi, Mines Occupational Physician. This resulted from a requirement for workers' health surveillance in the Mine Safety and Inspection Act and is now producing a resource which will allow prioritisation of health concerns. The second round survey is just around the corner. This will allow a comparison with the baseline data and an opportunity to identify any major problem.

### DME Auditing Program (MODAMS)

Simon Ridge from DME presented the new and highly promising approach to the auditing of safety management systems by the DME. This highlighted the



*One of the Thinksafe Minesafe Posters.*

future directions being taken by the inspectorate. The program could include the eventual licensing of third party auditors to carry out the audits, as the WorkSafe system does.

### Maintaining Safety Culture During a Major Expansion

Richard Jordinson from Western Metals and Jacqueline Hagan from Cumberland Consulting Group described the successful approach to opening up the Pillara mine without losing the valuable improvement in safety culture built up in the existing three mines. The values-based approach to employment has enormous potential for the industry.

Other papers dealt with *Machinery Trends*, with some new initiatives described by Neil Vaughan of Caterpillar (Westrac), *Retaining the Older Worker* by Ken Hay of Alcoa, *Shiftwork* by Jim Huemmer, *Drug and Alcohol Program Introduction* by David Todd of BHP, and *LTIFR versus Positive Performance Indicators* by David Blyth of IFAP.

There was a record attendance (270) at the regional conference. The program will be repeated (with some changes) at the WMC Conference Centre in Kalgoorlie on 16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> September. With many of the MARCSTA member companies operating in the Eastern Goldfields a large attendance is expected. The conference will include an exhibition of products and services and interested exhibitors are advised to register promptly. New training initiatives will feature prominently on the program. Contact p.sinclair @mineralswa.asn.au



# THIESS CONTRACTORS

Thiess is one of Australia's largest multi-disciplined mining, engineering and construction companies. Established in 1933, Thiess today boasts a range of specialist expertise in mine operation and management, process and civil engineering, building construction and environmental services.

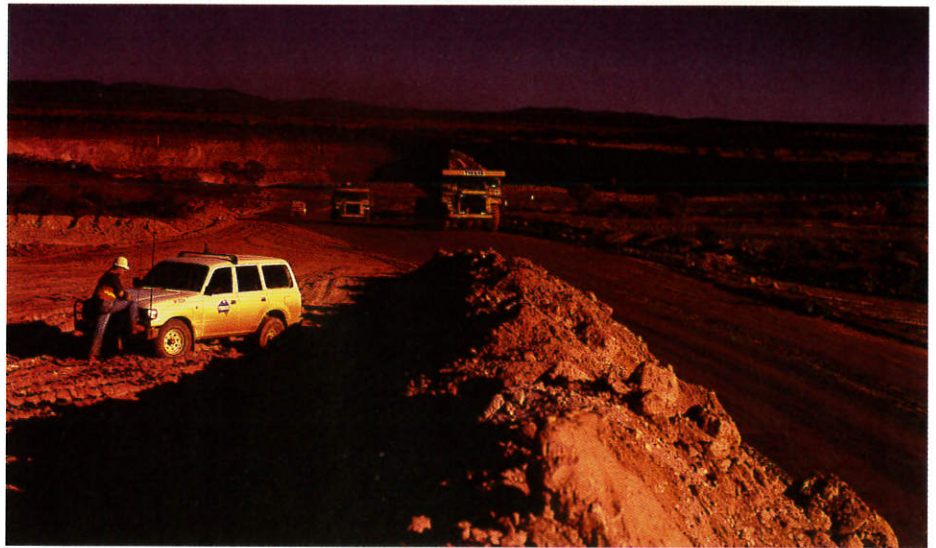
With such a broad skill base, Thiess is forging a new role for contractors in the mining industry by offering a total contract mining service. Incorporating all these skills, Thiess offers its clients a total mining service which ranges from mine design, through to construction and finally operation and management.

Integral to the development of the Australian resources industry, Thiess today continues its industry-leading role by constantly developing new and innovative work practices. Among these is Thiess' partnering approach to business.

Thiess' in-depth knowledge and understanding of its clients' visions underpins its success. This partnering approach of working closely with



*Burton Coal Mine - Queensland*



*Harmony Gold Mine, WA.*

clients to develop the most mutually beneficial solutions is fundamental to the successful undertaking of projects – no matter how large or complex.

Thiess' value adding services are further enhanced through Thiess' ongoing development of its people. With over 6000 staff based in over 150 locations throughout Australia, the Asia-Pacific, New Zealand and South America, Thiess has a strong commitment to training and formal safety management systems.

At Thiess, safety is viewed as a fundamental value and is therefore managed as an asset of the company's business. Thiess' occupational health and safety management program not only protects employees and the community, but controls cost and increases productivity. Through the total management of this program, Thiess has developed one of the safest, most productive mining work cultures in Australia, with a target for all operations to achieve zero incidents.

Results in the past two years have reinforced Thiess' world class safety management performance. After

becoming the first coal mine in the world to receive the NOSA four-star rating after its first audit, the Thiess-operated South Walker Creek mine became the first Australian coal mine to achieve a five-star rating – the highest grading awarded by NOSA. Another Thiess-operated project – Mt Owen Mine – recently became the second coal mine in Australia to achieve a five-star rating.

With an intrinsic culture to work safely and innovatively, Thiess pushes boundaries and exceeds benchmarks everyday continually striving to better deliver clients' projects and visions.

## NEW CONTAM

A new Contam airborne contaminant sampling system is being introduced on schedule. Mr Ray Smith is coordinating the project and Mr Colin Bishop from WorkSafe WA is assisting with computer modelling.

The revised system will ensure the ALARA principle (as low as reasonably achievable) is in place throughout the industry. This reflects the increasing emphasis by the industry on minimisation of worker exposure to airborne contaminants

## ▲ NEW PUBLICATIONS

▲ *Thinksafe Minesafe* safety brochures, available from MOSHAB, 9222 3092.

▲ *Draft Code of Practice on Applicable Training* for frontline management.

▲ Available from the Chamber of Minerals and Energy 9325 2955.

▲ *Case Studies in Applicable Training* These five case studies are also available from the Chamber of Minerals and Energy.

▲ *Code of Practice on Fatigue Management for Commercial Vehicle Drivers.*

▲ Available from the Department of Transport 9320 9320.

▲ *Draft Code of Practice on Working Alone.* Available from WorkSafe WA 9327 8777.

▲ *Guidelines for Writing Work Method Statements in Plain English*, with proforma on disc. This incorporates JSA. Contact Workcover NSW on 1800 658 134.

▲ *Underground Training Newsletter* from the Chamber of Minerals and Energy.

▲ Issue No. 3 describes the new underground training resource manuals.

▲ *Generic OHS Workbooks* These provide practical activities for assessment of the

▲ OHS component of the Advanced Diploma, Diploma and Certificate IV of

▲ Management, Certificate IV in First Line Management and Certificate III in Work

▲ Team Leadership, available from Training Publications 9227 3360,

▲ fax 9227 3298.

## CLEAR PROCEDURES

Good training and good results in job performance sampling are based on clear procedures. Penny Hawe and her colleagues (*Evaluating Health Promotion*) suggest using the SMOG index to assess readability of material. Here's how:

- Select three ten sentence sections of the text if possible.
- Circle all words with three or more syllables, even words which are repeated. Count the number circled.
- If you have a 30 sentence sample go to the next step. If not divide the number of words circled by the number of sentences and multiply that figure by 30.
- Find the nearest perfect square to your number. For 23 say, this would be 25. Take the square root. For 25 this is 5.

Add 3 to your answer. This gives the SMOG grade, that is the estimated reading level a reader will need. For instance, a reading age of 12 requires a SMOG level of 12, and that is the best for wide readability of OHS material in the workplace.

## Conferences

Eastern Regional Council, Chamber of Minerals and Energy OHS Committee Conference Kalgoorlie 16-17 September 1999. Contact Paula Sinclair. Email: [p.sinclair@mineralswa.asn.au](mailto:p.sinclair@mineralswa.asn.au)

The Australian Centre for Geomechanics at the University of WA runs a series of short seminars throughout the year on safety related topics. For further details contact Gillian Macmillan on 9380 3300, website [www.acg.uwa.edu.au](http://www.acg.uwa.edu.au).

Minesafe 2000. For further details contact the Chamber of Minerals and Energy on 9325 2955.



# ALAN CHESTER



*Alan & Siggy Chester*

Alan is the OH&S Manager at the Beaconsfield Gold Mine, which is just commissioning a new mill and has reopened a mine, previously closed in 1906. The mine is in the centre of the town of Beaconsfield 60 km northwest of Launceston with neighbours adjoining the fenceline.

Alan used to work at the Fisher Training Centre, at WMC's Kambalda Nickel Operations. He initiated the MARCSTA induction program in WMC at Kambalda and established MARCSTA as the minimum requirement for coming onsite. Some 7,500 contractors and WMC staff were inducted in 9 months initially.

Tom Bateman assisted Alan to develop the program that is now being used today.

Alan's wife Siggy is overwhelmed by not having to live in another desert and the green country-side of Tasmania is something to behold. Alan says the touring is incredible. (especially on the new motorbike). Having to travel past the Tamar river, creeks and hills with all sorts of agriculture is now a pleasure when travelling to mining meetings and other mines. There is always something to catch the eye!

Alan has introduced the MARCSTA Surface and Underground inductions to Beaconsfield staff and employees, then outsourced the training via a contract of training to Dale Cocker of Burnie TAFE. He is also an active member on the Tasmanian Minerals Council – OH&S, Code of Practice and Tasmanian Mines Rescue Steering Committees. Over 400 miners and contractors have now been inducted and Alan has regular feedback from these attendees that "we should have had these programs 20 years ago!"

Many contractors are now picking up on MARCSTA inductions as their baseline induction.

The Tasmanian Minerals Council has also opted to accept a number of induction packages besides MARCSTA that meet the stringent requirements. Limiting contractors to one induction is too restrictive considering they come from all states of the mainland. Each mine and minerals processing plant is signatory to these induction standards. MARCSTA is the only organisation with an underground induction that currently meets the criteria.

Competency based training is important to Alan and he believes it assists in setting the standard for mine and mill knowledge, performance and measurement of skills. He has applied these programs to the PNG nationals at Porgera with Placer Pacific (430 employees underground – 26 non-indigenous) and Gunpowder Copper – Adelaide Brighton Cement, a multi skilled site in a remote area where everybody was dependent on each other for all safety, rescue and medical aid. He also assisted in the development of the Queensland TAFE – Vetec Metalliferous Mining Certificates levels 1-3 whilst at Gunpowder and tried to get these accepted nationally but the ITAB's in each state were not yet functioning. He is still working with the Mining ITAB in Tasmania to introduce competency based skills. Competency based training was identified by the Tasmanian Minerals Council as a priority area to include in the Tasmanian Mining Code of Practice.

Alan believes that the development in all industries of proper training which is nationally recognised, is beneficial and adds value to national productivity and the export dollar. Having worked previously with the National Safety Council SA Division as a consultant and trainer, at Bridgestone Australia in Adelaide as the Accident Prevention Officer and with the SA Health Commission; he believes that any training and safety programs are worth the effort to stop injuries and accidents before they happen. Managers and supervisors often forget this.

MARCSTA is excellent for mining in that it is a great starting point for all persons coming onto sites. It sets the standard initially, on which to build an excellent safety or training program.

It will be great to see further courses developed by MARCSTA as they are totally relevant and developed by mining people with a common focus, Alan says. If you are in Tasmania, look up Alan at Beaconsfield, he will be happy to see you and swap ideas.

## MARCSTA REGISTERED PROVIDERS

### PRIVATE PROVIDERS

Chris Annesley  
Tony Aveling  
Tom Bateman  
Carl Berglin  
Alan Chester (U)  
Dale Cocker (U)  
David Collins  
Geoff Dodge  
Joe Duyvestyn  
David Fitzgerald  
Helen Fleming  
Ray Hargreaves  
Joe Knight-Smith  
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Bert Lundie  
Michael McCudden  
Sharyn McCulloch  
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Gary Maher  
Jeff Mathews  
Greg North  
Darren Ridley  
Gary Sharpe

TRACMIN  
Aveling and Associates  
TRACMIN  
TRACMIN  
Beaconsfield Joint Venture (Tas)  
Burnie TAFE Inovatrain  
D&S Safety and Training  
Opalrose Nominees Pty Ltd  
Drillcorp  
Prism Business Development  
Goldmark Training Services  
Aveling and Associates  
ITN Central West TAFE  
SOS  
Baseline- New Era  
Baseline New Era  
Century Drilling, Queensland  
IFAP  
McIntyre Mining Services  
TRACMIN  
Safety Paradigms (Aust) Pty Ltd  
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Ashley Gilbert  
Ross Graham  
John Joyce  
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Safety Resolutions  
Kelport Pty Ltd  
Wayval Safety Consultants  
Baseline New Era  
Tassmia Safety & Training Services  
IFAP  
Safety Skill Training  
Management Consulting Services Pty Ltd  
Industrial Safe Pty Ltd  
  
MacMahon Contractors  
JR Engineering Services Pty Ltd  
Newcrest Mining  
Ausdrill Ltd  
NS Komatsu  
Grimwood Davies Pty Ltd  
Total Corrosion Control  
CSR Ltd  
Great Central Mines

*U denotes underground trainer as well. This list is current at the time of going to press but for further information contact Anna Verteramo at the Secretariat on Phone 08-9355 1400, Freecall 1800 678 554 or Fax 08-9355 1499.*

## Workers Compensation Pearson Review Recommendations

Major changes have been proposed to the current compensation system in a recent review by a government appointed panel. Just how many recommendations will be implemented is uncertain, as the Upper House rejected the government's last attempt last year. The current system is in a precarious state with an unavoidable and continuing increase in premiums. Good claims performance has been virtually abandoned in negotiating premiums and some legal practitioners have actively promoted common law actions. So it is essential that common sense prevails and necessary changes are made.

Recommendations from the review which looks at the insurance industry are both appropriate and overdue, but are likely to face stiff opposition in Parliament. The outcome will either show a genuine commitment by the Government to clean up the system, or to apply another short term bandaid to a lesion requiring surgery. There has been a lot of damage to the link between workers' compensation premiums and the resourcing of preventive occupational health and safety initiatives. This link must be restored urgently.

MARCSTA hopes that the commendable recommendations in the review will be actioned.

## VAL LISHMAN HEALTH RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Foundation has been set up to raise funds for and promote health research in the southwest. Val Lishman was the first surgeon to set up practice outside the Perth area. Its focus includes industrial and mine safety. For further information contact

Graham Fisher  
gsfisher@gateway.net.au,  
fax 9795 9218.

## FUNNY STORY

If you have a funny story relating to safety in mining, let the editor know. It needs to be short, and advance safety. Identifying names will be removed.

**News and Views** relevant to any aspect of safety and training for contractors are also always welcome.

## STOP PRESS

CONGRATULATIONS to Anaconda on the opening of the Murrin Murrin mine and nickel/cobalt plant.

## MARCSTA Monitor

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## Substance Abuse Indian Style

Nuri Vittachi in the *Far Eastern Economic Review* tells of an Indian mechanic in Dubai who bet his workmates \$3 he could down a glass of diesel fuel. He won the bet. And died.

The green frogs I've seen swallowed at a diamond mine mess leap to mind as a better chaser!

## Advertising

A limited amount of advertising is invited for the next issue. Please contact the editor.