

THE BRICKLAYER

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magazine 

Official Publication of the Masonry Contractors Australia

VOLUME 5 | SEPTEMBER 2023



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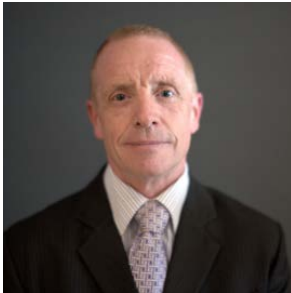
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SUPPORT OUT INDUSTRY**



PRESIDENTS REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2023



As the dust continues to settle and we slide towards the end of 2023, GDP growth is expected to remain restrained, and the economic near-term outlook reflects subdued growth in household consumption as cost-of-living pressures and higher interest

rates bite into disposable income. You would think given the experience of the last few years that we would begin to see some kind of steadiness or a levelling out of pricing, labour, and projects, but with some regained perspective the short-term outlook for the Construction Industry is clouded by elevated levels of uncertainty. With a looming economic recession in major markets thanks to soaring energy prices and those increasing interest rates, prospects for growth will be muted as we ride the year out.

Local Challenges Hindering Progress

Tighter monetary policy and lower household purchasing power will weigh on demand for new building prospects. Tightening by banks with aggressive policy in 2022 has lifted borrowing rates predictably reducing the demand for building and construction work. A large backlog of work that remains however will go some way to alleviate what impact it has on construction work throughout the rest of 2023 and into 2024.

The construction market has rebounded but slowly as the spread of COVID-19 has been brought under control. Our challenge continues to be the ever-increasing labour and supply chain costs, higher inflation, and those waiting times for materials and equipment meaning many organisations are facing significant challenges to deliver their projects successfully at the cost that was calculated when the project went out to tender. Furthermore, the redirection of skills and material to support energy transition projects and new energy network infrastructures are significantly affecting our sector.

Australia's Infrastructure Investment Program

The Federal Government has undertaken an independent review of its \$120 billion 10-year infrastructure pipeline under the Infrastructure Investment Program. In context, a decade ago there were around 150 projects within this pipeline, at present, it is closer to 700.

Fixed Priced Projects

It is inevitable there will be a shift away from fixed priced bricklaying, contracts and procurement, construction, and design-construct contracts. Rather, we will see a greater swing towards incentivised collaborative, cost based and time and materials contracts with limited downside risk. Material cost escalation, labour issues and supply chain disruptions contribute to poor performance, and it is the contractors who are losing out. Around Australia, the pressures facing contractors continue to cause pain, from wage and material cost escalation, supply chain disruption and skilled labour shortages to high profile bankruptcies and productivity rates that have not really changed much over the last 30 years.

Adjustment of Attitude

The Australian Construction Industry is poised for a breakthrough as companies and contractors recalibrate how they partner together to deliver work. Companies will require open communication around project costs, timings, and risks, while contractors will seek relationships with those who understand industry pressures and will help lessen outsized risks. Project delivery teams who understand and jointly confront risks and plan for new challenges will survive and thrive into the next decade.

Impacts for Assessment and Redress

- Appropriate and current delivery and procurement models.
- More sophisticated cost estimation and structure; this is being put back onto the contractor with contracts becoming larger and more complicated therefore potential to overlook or omit less obvious chargeable items.
- Achievable construction schedules: unachievable timelines being tendered.
- Embedded and integrated risk management practices are over demanding.
- Robust risk qualifications are required for both schedule and cost.
- Appropriate and current risk allocation between parties.
- Integrated project controls.



Outlook

Despite some stabilisation of prices, Australia's Construction Industry is expected to shrink overall by 2.6% in this year. The long-term outlook is more positive with the sector forecast to grow at a 3.1% annual rate from 2024 to 2027, due to the governments sustained albeit reduced emphasis on infrastructure development.

Conclusion

Having worked in the Construction Industry for over 30 years, whilst there may be many challenges, obstacles, and continuing unknowns, Australian construction is and remains one of the innovative and successful and most rewarding industries to be a part of.

We should always remember and appreciate that Australia historically has by and large fared well through many global and financial upheavals and has ridden out the negative effects of many an international concern and there is every reason to have the confidence to believe it will continue to do so into the future.

Brendan Coyle
MCA President

Masonry Contractors Australia (MCA) and its Members continue to be a fundamental part of the Construction Industry. Our Team have an ongoing goal to support and contribute to innovative solutions to advance the Bricklaying and Blocklaying Industries for our Members whether they are a Sole Trader or a Tier 1 or 2 Contractor. We cannot thank all our Members and Sponsors enough for their continued support with which the MCA Team will continue to endeavour to surpass the potential of our Members.

Weather House

Weather House is located on a quintessentially compact Northcote block in Melbourne's inner city, a spectacular display of traditional and modern designs coming together to make a considered and flexible home.

Originally constructed in the early 1900s, the renovations completed on the Victorian house have created a bespoke home for a young, nature-loving family. Mihaly Slocombe Architects worked closely with the homeowners of Weather House to transform the previously tired cottage using Adbri Masonry's Ivory Brick as a distinctive feature in the renovation. Complementing the neutrality of the concrete brick walls is a unique brick pattern that ascends toward the ceiling in intriguing bands, naturally drawing the eye upward. Architecturally, the double-height brick chimney has been used as a device to tie together the ground-floor spaces with the first floor above.

Adbri Masonry's brick range is designed to meet the demands of residential, multi-residential and commercial construction with a brick solution for every application. All products within the Adbri brick range are Australian made masonry, they're practical, durable, and built to stand the test of time.



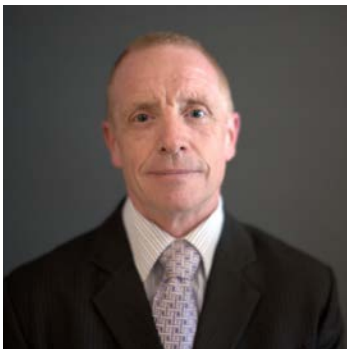
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AUSTRALIAN MADE MASONRY QUALITY CONCRETE PRODUCTS BUILT TO LAST.



BOARD MEMBERS & EXECUTIVE STAFF OF MASONRY CONTRACTORS AUSTRALIA

Masonry Contractors Australia (MCA) is a voluntary run/operated Association by Company Directors (of their private companies) to assist Bricklayers/Contractors and the Masonry Industry.



BRENDAN COYLE **PRESIDENT**

Construction Manager - Walsos Bricklaying (NSW) Pty Ltd

Brendan has more than 30 years experience in the Masonry Industry. He has worked as a bricklayer in Ireland, England, New Zealand and across Australia. With more than 20 years' Senior Management experience, being employed by two Australian major brick manufacturers for approximately 15 years. Brendan also has Masters in Business (MBA).



TIM MURPHY **EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

Director – Fugen Holdings NSW Pty Ltd

Tim and his brother Dan established Fugen (Bricklaying) in 1984, which Tim and Dan still operate today. Tim was a founding member of the MCA, under the leadership of 'Jock' Cameron (and John White). Tim is proud to still be involved with the MCA and the Masonry Industry.



CON ZARAFETAS **EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

Executive Director – Conrina Masonry Pty Ltd

Con Zarafetas, founder of the Conrina Group, has been involved in the Masonry Industry for more than 30 years. His love for the industry manifests in his commitment in promoting the positive aspects that masonry delivers, through his involvement with the MCA. Con, an experienced Director, demonstrates an ability to grow organisations to be both financially and ethically sustainable, rewarding all stakeholders in the process. Con has a Graduate Diploma of Management from Macquarie University and is currently completing his Master of Business (MBA) at MGSM.



MARK FORBES

EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Area Manager – Mid North Coast & New England NSW –
CSR Masonry & Insulation – Bradford, Monier, PGH

Mark has dedicated over 30 years to the building industry. One of Mark's goals is to encourage and motivate more youth to acquire an apprenticeship so we can see our industry continue to grow into the future. Mark has a strategic plan to educate builders about the Masonry Contractors Australia (MCA) with commitment to drive growth and innovation within the construction sector.



JASON FURNESS

EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Managing Director & CEO TEXO Australasia

Jason has over 30 years' experience as a mechanical engineer with a strong background from the automotive, steel, and whitegoods sector. He brings a strong background in process engineering and Quality Assurance from senior technical roles and General Management positions within Holden, Smorgon Steel, and Electrolux. Jason also has an MBA specialising in technology management.



TRACEY VAN BREUGEL

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Master Builders Association of NSW &
Secretariat to Masonry Contractors Australia

Tracey has been employed by the Master Builders Association of NSW (MBA NSW) for eight years working Tuesdays – Fridays 8:30am – 5:00pm. She administrates for three Industry Sectors: Masonry Contractors Australia (MCA), Metal Roofing and Cladding Association of Australia (MRCAA) and Livable Housing Australia (LHA).





You are invited to
**THE EXCELLENCE IN
BRICK & BLOCKLAYING
AWARDS & DINNER 2023**

VENUE: Dockside, Cockle Bay Rooms 1 & 2 and Quay Room 2, Balcony Level, Cockle Bay Wharf, Darling Park

COST: \$175 PER PERSON +GST

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: CHRIS RADBURN

DATE: FRIDAY 10 NOV 2023

TIME: 6:30pm Pre-Dinner Drinks & Canapes

7:00pm Dinner Commences, Drinks will be served until 11:30pm

Purchase Standard Spirits & Mixers at the Bar

**DINNER TICKETS TO BE PURCHASED NO LATER
THAN FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER 2023**

PARKING: Wilson Parking – Closes 1.00am, Darling Park Car Parking - 201 Sussex Street, Sydney

MUSIC: DJ - Musiq Entertainment

DRESS CODE: Lounge Suit / Cocktail Dress

FOR ANY OTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Tracey Van Breugel

ADDRESS: C/- Master Builders Association of NSW,
Private Bag 9, BROADWAY, NSW, 2007

PHONE: 02 9296 6661

EMAIL: tvanbreugel@mbansw.asn.au



PLEASE COMPLETE THE DINNER RESERVATION FORM

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Dietary Requirement: _____

Please Reserve: _____ Tickets

Total Cost: \$ _____ +GST

A TAX INVOICE WILL BE ISSUED UPON RECEIPT OF DINNER RESERVATION FORM TO

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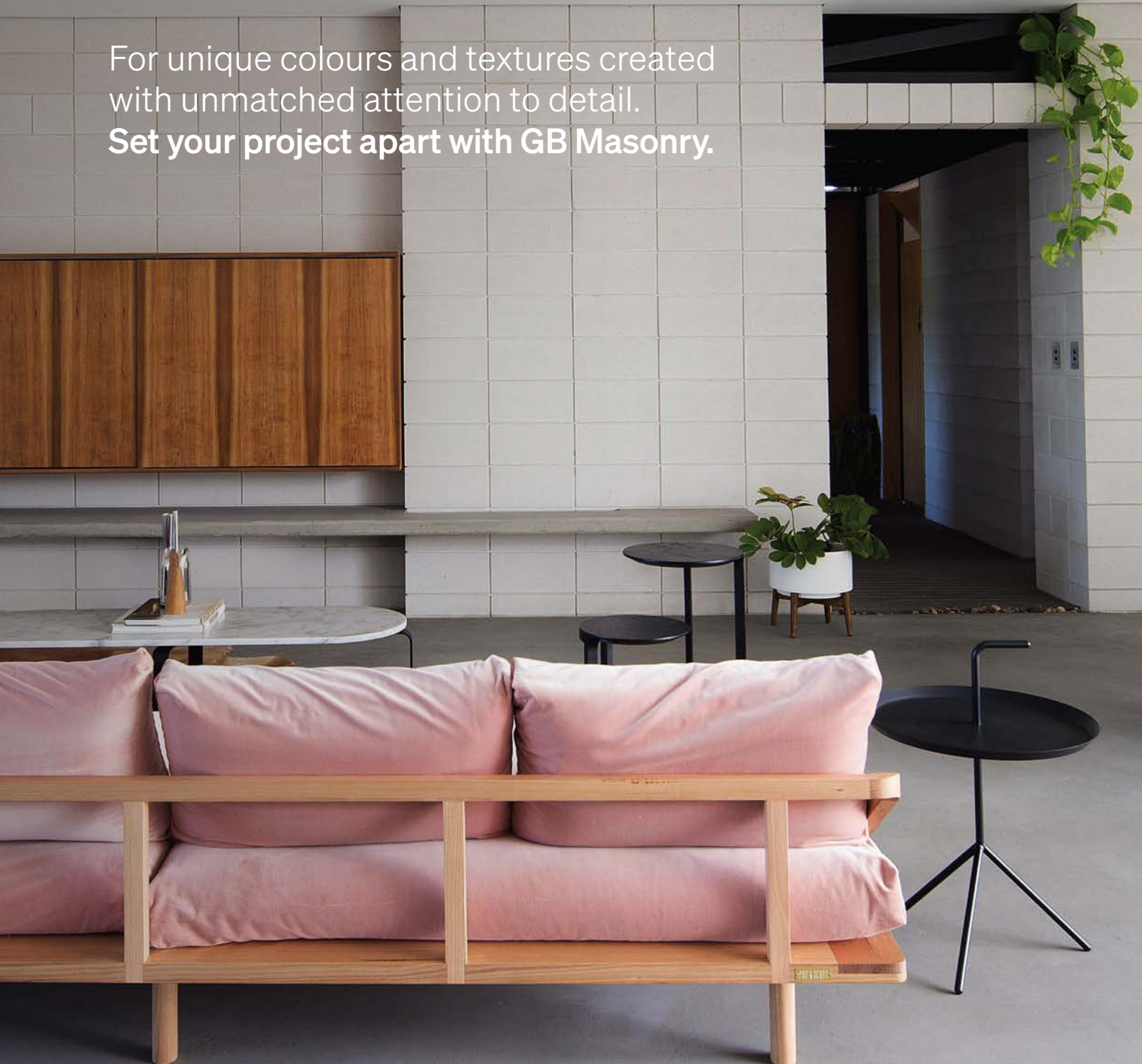
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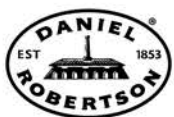


Celebrating 10 Years of Australia's First & Only Certified Carbon Neutral Bricks

Meet Australia's first range of carbon neutral bricks. Our Daniel Robertson range (manufactured out of the Austral Bricks Longford, Tasmania operation) achieved carbon neutral certification by reducing emissions through efficiency improvements and by offsetting any remaining emissions.

We use local biofuels, in the form of waste sawdust products, to fire our kiln in Tasmania. This simple switch has led to the reduction of approximately over 70,000 tonnes of carbon emissions since 2013.

This achievement is assessed and certified by Climate Active Australia. A monumental effort that involved just about every part of our business – and we couldn't be prouder of the result.





CONCRETE, MORTAR & RENDER

VOLUME BATCHING TABLE

APPLICATION	CEMENT	SAND	AGGREGATE	20kg BAGS OF CEMENT PER m ³
CONCRETE Improved water tightness High strength	1	1.5	3	17
	1	2	3	16
	1	3	3	13
MORTAR General purpose Improved workability	1	4	-	15
	1	6	+1 Hydrated Lime	8
RENDER	1	3	-	20

- ✓ Always use clean drinking water in precise quantity specified
- ✓ Always use an accurate volume measure like a bucket or gauge box
- ✗ Excess mixing water can ruin good concrete, mortar and render

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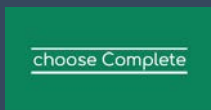
We have moved

At the end of May 2023 we finally said goodbye after 10 years, to our old premises at Annangrove. On 5th June 2023, we proudly opened the doors of our spacious new warehouse & offices at Riverstone NSW.

The new Complete Lintels Building Supplies warehouse is equipped with overhead cranes to efficiently load stock of our galvanised & concrete lintels ranges, and also our brick, grey block & brick accessories selections.

Our new offices are modern & provide a conducive space for all of our staff to be inspired and to provide the best possible service to our customers.

So feel free to drop in, chat to our staff about our entire product range & observe our exciting new facilities. We love working here & we can't wait to customise your needs for your building project!



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PROJECT CASE STUDY: BREEZE BLOCKS

Leviat's Ancon Windposts and reinforcement systems ensure design and structural integrity.



IT'S A BREEZE – Ensuring a breeze block façade remains a design feature.

Kangaroo Point and Shoreline Queens Beach, QLD

Contemporary new designs, sizes and colours have brought breeze blocks back into fashion, and the appeal isn't only pleasing to the eye. The shading, ventilation, light and privacy aspects brought by breeze blocks combine with a decreased carbon footprint to offer sustainability values that can make a real difference to environmental certifications.

Unsurprisingly, architects, builders and clients alike have started specifying breeze blocks for a growing range of indoor and outdoor applications, but last-minute engineering compromises their visual appeal.

Leviat's Ancon Windposts and reinforcement systems ensure design and structural integrity. Two high-profile developments in Queensland, Kangaroo Point and Shoreline Queens Beach, recently installed them, showcasing their efficiency and ease of installation.

Requirements

Kangaroo Point was a pilot project that involved a 12-storey residential tower where Brickworks Ltd's Breeze Blocks represented a key facade feature. When the masonry contractor contacted Leviat, Breeze Blocks had been detailed in the structural drawings, but the client wasn't happy with the large, conspicuous steel frameworks supporting them. The brief was to develop a solution that could keep the main fixings to the structure hidden from sight whilst providing tolerance and flexibility.

Approach

Based on existing Leviat designs, a solution was developed in close cooperation with the client and masonry contractor to ensure a perfect fit at Kangaroo Point. But the finished system was so robust and versatile it soon went into production for another prestigious development, Shoreline Queens Beach and other projects in the Inner Northern Suburbs of Brisbane, for which the design was further developed and customised.

"The Leviat team were so receptive, flexible and innovative in helping create a solution that best worked for us, and we were grateful for the amount of adjustment that the system provided on site."

- IRP Masonry



All these project-custom applications build on two key components:

Ancon WP4 Windposts

Ancon WP4 Windposts are customised to job requirements and allow for invisible installation between blockwork. They fit within the wall and can vary in thickness depending on load-bearing capacity. The SNS Wall Ties transfer loads from the blockwork to the post through vertical slots.

Ancon AMR & AMR-X Bed Joint Reinforcement

This ladder-type reinforcement system, made of 304 or 316 stainless steel, offers superior corrosion resistance and cost benefits. Leviat's AMR-X version enhances construction speed and build quality, with masonry reinforcement directly laid on the masonry. Specially shaped cross wires lift the reinforcement up, ensuring complete embedding in mortar.

Combining these two systems enabled the masonry contractors to create slimline breeze-block walls entirely in keeping with the architectural vision – and without compromising on structural integrity.

Outcome

The final results at Kangaroo Point were so successful that Brickworks Ltd. has created a design guide for the strengthening of architectural breeze block walls using these Leviat products.

Cathy Inglis of Brickworks commented, "Leviat's products tick all the boxes, both structurally and aesthetically – and the installation process is very efficient. When working with Breeze Blocks, they are a great solution."

Leviat
A CRH COMPANY

<https://www.leviat.com/>



Brick and Block Careers. Supporting the Industry's Future and Next Generation



Brick and Block Careers sponsored the WorldSkills Australia National Competition in Melbourne, with Ethan Everett from Illawarra NSW winning the Gold Medal, Hamid Amini from Brisbane QLD winning the Silver Medal, and Marc Colarusso from Melbourne East VIC winning the Bronze Medal.

A pre-competition get-together was held for key stakeholders, judges, competitors, employers, manufacturers, and the industry. The company also sponsored the 20-minute Gun Trowel Speed Challenge, which was also won by Ethan Everett from Illawarra TAFE NSW.

National Skills Week 2023 was launched in Canberra. The week aims to highlight the talents, skills, career pathways, and value of apprentices and trainees across Australia.

As Silver Sponsors, Brick and Block Careers CEO Michael Morrissey and National Manager Tony Bishop were part of the National Skills Week launch held in Canberra on 10 August 2023.

National Skills Week is an initiative led by SkillsOne, in collaboration with the government and stakeholders. The aim is to achieve exceptional outcomes and gain extensive media coverage.

At Brick and Block Careers, we aim to empower young Australians and job seekers by offering them a chance to pursue a fulfilling career in brick and blocklaying, starting with an apprenticeship. We are committed to providing ample employment opportunities to help them achieve their aspirations and lead a successful life.



Are you thinking about hiring an apprentice?

Brick and Block Careers can connect apprentices with employers looking to hire an apprentice.

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ASBESTOS

AWARENESS BRIEFING



DANGER ASBESTOS



BACKGROUND

Uncontrolled cutting, grinding or drilling of products or materials containing crystalline silica can generate hazardous levels of airborne dust. Breathing in this dust, usually over several years, leads to serious and fatal lung disease such as silicosis.

COURSE AIMS

Silicosis can kill, but exposure to silica dust is preventable. SafeWork NSW is spreading this message by educating workers and the public about the risks of exposure.

COURSE TOPICS

Eliminate or Substitute the Risk
Isolate the Hazard
Engineering Controls
Administrative Controls
Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Anyone who works with manufactured stone, concrete, bricks or rock.

COURSE LOCATION

MBA Office - 52 Parramatta Road, Forest Lodge 2037
Parking is not available at MBA Office for the duration of the course.

DATE AND TIMES

Please indicate your preference on the Registration Form provided.

COURSE COST

Masonry Contractors Australia (MCA) Company Rate:
Up to 10 employees - **\$500 +GST**
Up to 15 employees - **\$750 +GST**
Up to 20 employees - **\$1,000 +GST**

REGISTRATION DETAILS

To register your attendance for this course please complete the form in the link below and email it back to the MBA Safety Department using the details at the bottom of the form.

Please note that a confirmation email will be sent to you with full details.

COVID-19

Attendees who are unwell with cold/flu symptoms or have not received both doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine may not attend. Attendees must show a current COVID-19 vaccination certificate when requested.

**Download Registration
form below** ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

CLICK HERE

FURTHER INFORMATION

Master Builders Safety Department
(02) 8586 3523
safety@mbansw.asn.au



IMPORTANT INFORMATION CRYSTALLINE SILICA

Members would be aware that the issue of the dangers of silica have been recently highlighted in the media. The Association has been advising members for some time about the recommended control of silica and what the regulators also say.

Members are advised of the following information in relation to working with crystalline silica and products that contain crystalline silica.

SOURCES OF EXPOSURE

Materials and products containing crystalline silica include shale, sandstone, concrete, bricks and manufactured stone. Workers can come in contact with crystalline silica during excavation or tunnelling, through rock containing quartz such as shale or sandstone. A health hazard is created when the very fine particles of crystalline silica can be inhaled. The size fraction of airborne dust that can reach the lungs where air exchange takes place is known as the 'respirable fraction'.

Significant levels of airborne dust are most likely to occur when materials or products in the workplace are cut, sanded, drilled, or during any other activities which create fine dust. Exposures in workplaces can also occur through dry sweeping or using compressed air (rather than wet cleaning or using a Class M or H vacuum) and re-suspension of settled dust from clothing or fabric materials.

LABELLING AND SAFETY DATA SHEETS

Manufacturers and importers need to label their products if they contain 0.1% or more respirable crystalline and provide a current Safety Data Sheet (SDS) (**clauses 329, 330 and 335 WHS Regulation 2017**). Suppliers must ensure these products are correctly labelled when supplied to workplaces and provide an SDS (**clauses 338 and 339**).

A person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) must also obtain a copy of the SDS and make it readily accessible to workers involved in using, handling or storing hazardous materials at the workplace (**cl 344**).

HEALTH MONITORING

PCBU's are required to provide health monitoring to workers if there is a significant risk to the worker's health because of exposure to crystalline silica. (**cl 368**)

Crystalline silica is listed in **Schedule 14 of the WHS Regulation 2017** which outlines the health monitoring requirements.

In relation to health monitoring, PCBU (**clauses 369 to 378**) duties include :

- Informing workers of the requirements for health monitoring.
- Using a registered medical practitioner with experience in health monitoring.
- Providing details to the medical practitioner.
- Obtaining a copy of the health monitoring report.
- Providing a copy of the health monitoring report to SafeWork NSW if the worker has developed a disease or injury and/or the report contains any recommendations on remedial measures at the workplace.
- Keeping records of health monitoring for 30 years.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION CRYSTALLINE SILICA

Workers exposed to respirable crystalline silica at levels or a frequency not resulting in a significant risk to health, are not required to undergo health monitoring. Workers relying on personal protective equipment (PPE) such as respirators for controlling their exposures below the exposure standard must be included in health monitoring.

CONTROL MEASURES

Where risks to health and safety cannot be eliminated, the hierarchy of controls must be applied in accordance with the WHS Regulation to minimise risk.

For instance:

- Apply water suppression systems to reduce dust generation.
- Use local exhaust ventilation systems to remove dust at the source.
- Ensure such ventilation is correctly placed and operates at effective flow rates.
- Use dust removal systems on tools to reduce dust exposure to mobile workers.
- Isolate areas of the workplace where dust is generated.
- Assess the level of personal exposure among workers performing high risk tasks.
- Ensure regular housekeeping in dusty work areas to prevent the accumulation of dust.
- Provide suitable PPE, including a program to correctly fit, instruct on use and ensure regular maintenance of respiratory protective equipment (RPE).

Clause 184 (0) of the WHS Regulation 2017 prohibits the uncontrolled cutting, polishing, grinding or drilling of manufactured stone products (also known as engineered or composite stone) in fabricating workshops or on site. At least one of the following controls to effectively reduce exposure to the dust must be in place:

- i. A water delivery system that supplies a continuous feed of water over the area being cut to suppress the generation of dust,
- ii. A prescribed extraction system (e.g., class M or H vacuum) that is attached to the tool used for the cutting to capture the dust produced by the cutting,
- iii. A local exhaust ventilation system that captures the dust produced by the cutting and transports the dust to a safe emission point or to a filter or scrubber.

Workers must also be **provided with** and **wear** half face piece respirators as a minimum, that comply with Australian Standard 1716 - Respiratory Protective Devices.

PCBU's must provide suitable information, training, instruction and supervision to workers using, storing and handling hazardous chemicals regarding the nature of the work, risks and the control measures implemented (**cl. 39 and 379**).

PCBU's with duties under the **WHS Regulation 2017** must review and revise control measures, as necessary, to maintain a work environment so far as reasonably practicable, that is without risk to health or safety (**cl 38**).

Other examples of control measures that can be applied to reducing the risks associated if you are working with silica or products that contain silica.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION CRYSTALLINE SILICA

ELIMINATE OR SUBSTITUTE THE RISK

Remove the hazard completely, change the design, replace the hazard with products containing less crystalline silica. For example, replace manufactured stone containing high levels of silica with materials containing no silica or much lower levels of silica.

ISOLATE THE HAZARD

Isolate workplace areas where dust is generated from other workers, enclose processes, or isolate the hazard from anyone exposed to it. For example, with barriers.

ENGINEERING CONTROLS

Use local exhaust ventilation systems to remove dust at the source and ensure such ventilation is correctly placed and operates at effective flow rates.

Use dust capture systems on tools to reduce dust exposure of mobile workers.

Ensure regular housekeeping in work areas to prevent the accumulation of dust and use H or M class vacuums for safe clean up.

DRILLING IN CONSTRUCTION

Construction materials such as sandstone, concrete and bricks can contain up to 90% silica dust. When drilling on these materials, you can generate and breathe in fine crystalline silica dust, which can cause serious illnesses such as silicosis and lung cancer. This helpful video provides advice on planning your job and using the correct safety controls to help protect workers and others from silica dust on site.

If you work with a drill or near those who do, [watch this video.](#)

DEMOLITION AND EXCAVATION

Fine crystalline silica dust can be generated when carrying out demolition and excavation work, which can be harmful to breathe in, and can lead to serious and sometimes fatal illness. Exposure to silica dust when drilling materials can be minimised by using the right tools and protective equipment.

SILICA DUST - CONTROLLED CUTTING OF BRICKS AND CONCRETE USING ON-TOOL CAPTURE

On-tool dust capture is an effective way to eliminate and reduce exposure to silica dust. This video safety alert highlights how to use on-tool dust capture to ensure the safe cutting of materials such as bricks and concrete.

SILICA DUST - CONTROLLED CUTTING OF BRICKS AND CONCRETE USING WATER

Using water to control dust while cutting materials such as brick or concrete is a very effective way to eliminate and reduce exposure to silica dust. This video safety alert highlights [video here how to use water to control dust.](#)



IMPORTANT INFORMATION CRYSTALLINE SILICA

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS

Use safe work procedures, minimise the time workers perform higher exposure tasks, alert workers and visitors to danger, and provide information, training and supervision.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Provide suitable PPE, including a program to correctly fit, instruct on use and ensure regular maintenance of respiratory protective equipment (RPE).

PERCENTAGE OF SILICA IN COMMON BUILDING PRODUCTS

Type	Amount of Silica %
GRANITE	25 to 40
SHALE	22
NATURAL SANDSTONE	67
ENGINEERED STONE	>90
AGGREGATES, MORTAR & CONCRETE	Various

TRAINING COURSES

Master Builders Safety Department run an Asbestos and Silica Awareness Briefing that gives members information about uncontrolled cutting, grinding or drilling of products or materials containing crystalline silica which can generate hazardous levels of airborne dust. Breathing in this dust, usually over several years, leads to serious and fatal lung disease such as silicosis. Silicosis can kill, but exposure to silica dust is preventable.

If you are interested in registering for the Asbestos and Silica Awareness Briefing contact the Master Builders Safety department on safety@mbansw.asn.au or 02 8586 3555. More information about the briefing can be found at following [link](#).

OTHER RESOURCES

<https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/hazards-a-z/hazardous-chemical>

<https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/hazardous-chemicals/crystalline-silica/crystalline-silica-general-fact-sheet>

<https://infostore.saiglobal.com/en-au/Standards/AS-NZS-1715-2009-1092559/>

https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/50084/Preparation-of-safety-data-sheets-for-hazardous-chemicals-COP.pdf

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/workplace-exposure-standards-airborne-contaminants-2022>

Members with questions are encouraged to contact the Master Builders Safety department on safety@mbansw.asn.au or 02 8586 3555.



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Introducing Baines Masonry Blocks' Honed Masonry Blocks, a choice that transcends trends for those seeking an enduring touch in architectural design. Crafted with meticulous attention to detail, these blocks offer a classic and highly finished visual appeal enhancing any projects.

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Honed Blocks expose the beauty of the naturally sourced aggregates, resulting in a subtle, matte-like finish that can either contrast or harmonize with the product's matrix colour, resulting in an understated touch of class. Elevate your architectural design with Baines Masonry Blocks' Honed Masonry Blocks, where sophistication meets timeless craftsmanship.

For more information contact, visit
https://www.bainesmasonry.com.au/coloured_honed_polished_blocks.html

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Regulations put bricklayers in the firing line.

When a well-meaning run to the local hardware store for supplies could have huge consequences, things must change. A certifier or inspector could insist on pulling a wall down thanks to an increased focus on compliance to the building codes and standards. CEO of masonry product and service suppliers MET, Jason Furness, explains how to sidestep those risks.

Bricklayers are at the pointy end of the increased level of inspection and scrutiny designed to ensure that buildings are constructed to the relevant Australian Standards, codes, and other requirements.

The extra scrutiny at each stage of construction means that bricklayers now must take it upon themselves to know all the ins and outs of the regulations. They must ensure that they are receiving the correct documentation from the engineers or other specifiers for a project.

The consequences of being hit with a defect under the new rules can be hefty, with the prospect of major rework being hugely costly for bricklayers, builders, designers, and engineers who are already working on thin margins.

Industry unsure about regulations.

With this increased focus on compliance the often-heard comment "I'll just leave it to the brickie" that has been used by both builders and engineers is disappearing, as it should! Each trade must adjust to increased accountability for not only complying to the codes and standards but having the record keeping and documentation to show that they have complied.

These new approaches need to flow to the details needed on documentation, through to quoting, and onsite job supervision. Guidance is needed for many who are exposed to making unforeseen errors merely because they are doing what they've always done.

The problem lies in quoting and materials selection.

Nowadays diverting from engineered plans by doing something as simple as a popping out to the local hardware store is where the problems arise. Sub-contractors need to demonstrate extra planning in supply chain management to appease their builder and guarantee them the right compliance documentation.

Costly errors are also common in quoting for work that has brick ties unsuitable for the location and type of project. The usage of galvanised ties in R4 zones is the most glaring example and it still occurs!

Support needed to meet new standards.

Suppliers to bricklayers that have stepped up with more comprehensive support to guide bricklayers to meet standards have been welcomed by the industry. MET have seen an influx of bricklayers, builders, and engineers, leaning on our commercially smart sales support staff who can help with the project leg work. They can research engineered plans, help deliver a project quote, and oversee supply chain management.

The full suite of masonry products enables a one-stop-shop approach to managing project supplies that takes care of all the documentation needed for proof of compliance. Site deliveries are also part of what we can do.

MET: THE FULL SUITE OF MASONRY BRICK TIES FOR ONE PROJECT of 200+ products, seven product types complete this range:

- Builders' Straps
- Cavity Ties
- Vertical Expansion Joint Ties
- Head Restraint Ties
- Column Expansion Ties
- Cavity Expansion Ties
- Roof Hold Down Straps

MET Masonry Products and Service is a proud sponsor of Masonry Contractors Australia.

For more information about MET Masonry Products and Service, which operate within the TEXO suite of building materials brands, ask for CEO Jason Furness by mentioning this article. 1300 00TEXO (8396) or email sales@texo.com.au or visit <https://metsales.com.au/>



MET: the full suite of Masonry Products and Service

MET: The full suite of masonry products and service

Founded after the Newcastle Earthquake, MET masonry products are stronger and trusted for quality. We have proudly Australian designed, made, and owned expansion ties, certified for the home to the tallest building.

As we offer the full suite of masonry accessories for the construction industry, we make it easier to build correctly, and more affordably. Our service team delivers on site, so you don't need to leave. We meet your build scheduling and timing.

The MET difference is the ability to help ensure that you have a compliant design to be built. We work with you and the project engineers to solve the problems in delivering a build.

Engineers, builders, and bricklayers now need to be sure they're using those products that can prove capability with all the right paperwork. Our sales staff are eager to support each bricklayer to review engineered plans, prepare quotes, and manage the entire supply chain. There is relief when products can meet a strict compliance record regime.

We are part of the TEXO stable of building and construction brands.

metsales.com.au | www.texo.net.au | 1300 00TEXO (8396) or email sales@texo.com.au.



JOIN NOW BECOME A MEMBER

The MCA Premium Program exists to help change the Masonry Industry, for the better. By following our motto, “Masonry Pride, Australia Wide”, the MCA Committee, and all its partners, are striving to achieve the same common goal - to bring masonry back to the forefront of the Australian Construction Industry.

By becoming a partner, you open up a whole world of opportunity for both yourself as an individual and your residential or commercial level company.

HERE'S WHY YOU SHOULD BECOME A MEMBER

- ✔ You'll get access to a large online database packed full of WHS information, SDS, and other information relevant to your time as either an employee of the Masonry trade or the operator of a masonry company.
- ✔ You'll get access to a jobs board to put your own talent up for hire (for individuals) and scout for the best talent available (for contractors).
- ✔ You'll be advertised on our brand new “Partners” page if you're a contractor, which we've created to become the “Yellow Pages” of the Masonry Industry.
- ✔ You'll be able to attend our regular meetings and network with top people within the Industry.
- ✔ Lastly, you'll be a part of a bold movement - we want to bring Masonry back to the forefront of the Construction Industry, and we want to help you achieve your business goals.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP	SILVER MEMBERSHIP	GOLD MEMBERSHIP	PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP
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- Recognition of support throughout the year on Masonry Contractors Stationary.
- Product Endorsement (subject to approval).
- Rotating display of your Sponsorship during the Annual Dinner.
- Company Name in larger print on Framed Awards recognising Sponsorship.
- Recognition of the MCA Annual Dinner supplement in the Master Builders Magazine February/March Edition.
- Placement of Company Logo and 12 months free exposure on the Association's Website.
- 4 Complimentary Tickets to the Annual Dinner.
- 1 Full Page Free Advertising in the Official MCA Publication 'The Bricklayer Magazine', issued twice a year to members.
- Placement of Company Logo on published 'Support Our Industry' Advertisement.
- Guest Speaker at 3 MCA General Meetings (preference).

GOLD SPONSORSHIP

ANNUAL - \$3000 +GST

BENEFITS

- Recognition of support throughout the year on Masonry Contractors Stationary.
- Product Endorsement (subject to approval).
- Rotating display of your Sponsorship during the Annual Dinner.
- Company Name on Framed Awards recognising Sponsorship.
- Recognition of the MCA Annual Dinner supplement in the Master Builders Magazine February/March Edition.
- Placement of Company Logo and 12 months free exposure on the Association's Website.
- 2 Complimentary Tickets to the Annual Dinner.
- 1 Half Page Free Advertising in the Official MCA Publication 'The Bricklayer Magazine', issued twice a year to members.
- Placement of Company Logo on published 'Support Our Industry' Advertisement.
- Guest Speaker at 2 MCA General Meetings.

SILVER SPONSORSHIP

ANNUAL - \$1500 +GST

BENEFITS

- Recognition of support throughout the year on Masonry Contractors Stationary.
- Rotating display of your Sponsorship during the Annual Dinner.
- Company Name on Framed Awards recognising Sponsorship.
- Recognition of the MCA Annual Dinner supplement in the Master Builders Magazine February/March Edition.
- Placement of Company Logo and 12 months free exposure on the Association's Website.
- 1 Complimentary Ticket to the Annual Dinner.
- Third of a Page Free Advertising in the Official MCA Publication 'The Bricklayer Magazine', issued twice a year to members.
- Guest Speaker at 1 MCA General Meeting.

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