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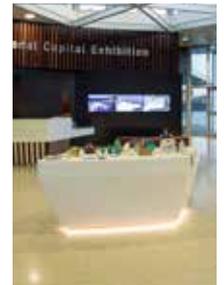
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COVER PHOTO

Regatta Point by Grindstones Australia

Polished concrete specialists Grindstones Australia showcase their work.



EDITOR'S NOTE

An inspirational and impressive human being

Dylan Alcott was the guest speaker at the recent MBA Annual Dinner (p40) and to say he is a motivational speaker is a substantial understatement. He is an extraordinary man, a dual sport champion and three time Paralympic gold medallist who has overcome much at just 26.

Born with a tumour wrapped around his spinal cord and when operated on during the first few weeks of his life, Dylan was left a paraplegic. He spend much of his early life in and out of intensive care and on a few occasions his family and doctors were preparing for the worst.

In his teenage years sport became his focus and he excelled at swimming, wheelchair tennis and wheelchair basketball. At the age of 17 he became the youngest ever gold medal winner for wheelchair basketball.

Dylan works hard, plays hard, likes a beer and has a fantastic sense of humour. He makes Australia proud.



PRESIDENT
GRACIETE FERREIRA

CONSTRUCTION, PARTICIPATION AND THE COMMUNITY

The presentation of awards at our Annual Dinner this month reminded me just how committed the membership of the Master Builders ACT truly is.

Many were moved to tears at the heart-felt acceptance speech of Ian Wilson, from Thurston Flooring, receiving recognition for 50 years of membership. Seeing first hand just how important MBA membership is to local families like the Wilsons adds to my sense of commitment as Master Builders ACT's new President in the Territory, but also a deep sense of responsibility.

It is an honour and a privilege to be elected as the 33rd President of Master Builders ACT, but it is also incredibly scary understanding the MBA's 90 plus year legacy in the ACT and the central role the association plays in the fabric of Canberra's community.

Ian's moving acceptance speech was followed by an even more moving acknowledgment of Andrew Kerec, who received the Master Builders ACT's Build the Community Award for 2016. Andrew's passion is driven in part by his family's first-hand experience of tragedy and disability.

Andrew, a born and bred Canberran, established Renaissance Homes with his father Lud in 1996. Six years ago, a cycling accident left Lud with quadriplegia.

Since then the family has experienced first-hand what it is like to manage with high levels of disability. The experience galvanised Andrew, and more than 80 businesses and teams from across our industry and the LDA, to work hard, dig deep, and deliver a life-changing outcome.

As a result of the auction of the charity houses, \$2.2 million will be donated to the Boundless Children's Playground, Hands Across Canberra and Hartley Life Care – all of which are very active in the disability sector. We think this may be the largest ever single charitable donation in the history of the Territory.

The result is just one of many reminders of the amazing contribution the construction industry makes to our broader community. In what is well known as a public service town, the incredibly important role of the private sector, led by the construction industry in the Territory, can too often be ignored, forgotten or dismissed.

In my term as President I hope to lift the level of understanding of the enormous contribution our sector makes to our great city, and to encourage others to be part of this wonderful organisation.

Our association is unique in the Master Builders federation, powerfully representing the interests of teams right across our industry including civil contractors, commercial and residential builders, sub-contractors, construction industry suppliers and professionals.

The depth of experience in our membership ensures we are uniquely placed to work with government and other sectors to deliver for our community. In the past few years this has meant engaging in practical programs to improve building quality, deliver sensible planning outcomes and to work as a trusted partner with Government in our ambition to make Canberra's construction sites the safest in Australia.

As a former Chair of our sub-contractor and suppliers sector council I have a deep personal commitment to helping ensure fairness and quality across our industry – encouraging head contractors and sub-contractors to build the long-term partnerships that deliver exceptional value for clients. The best of these partnerships are built on trust that is well deserved and generously reciprocated.

As co-owner and leader of a successful Canberra construction business I am also reminded of the obligation we have to ensure the next generation of Canberra builders enjoy a safer, kinder, fairer and more inclusive industry – one in which we would be proud to encourage our children to be part of.

As the first female President of Master Builders in Australia I would also like to inspire other women, of which there are many in our industry, to get involved and to participate in the MBA. From my own experience, I can assure you that you will be welcome, your opinions valued and you will get a lot more out of it than you would ever expect.

I would like to thank my predecessor, Valdis Luks, for leaving behind a tremendous organisation and for steering it through what was undoubtedly one of the toughest periods in its' 90 year history. Like a true captain he weathered the storm with courage, leadership and determination. Thank you Valdis!

The community spirit, sense of common purpose and unity I so thoroughly enjoyed at my first major function as Master Builders President makes me quite certain we will succeed in this and our many other challenges into the future.

Let the journey continue.

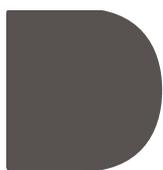


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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KIRK CONINGHAM OAM

INDUSTRY ON TRACK FOR 2017

Canberra's construction industry is finishing 2016 with a flurry and we are looking forward to what's shaping up as a bumper year for our industry in 2017.

As the year rushes to a close it's timely to take a moment to catch our collective breath and take stock of where we are today, and where we want to be tomorrow.

We start from rock solid foundations – as Master Builders we know that every member is committed to excellence in our industry, an example would be our award-winning members, Bellevue Building Projects and Woden Contractors recently winning National Awards for Excellence. From this vantage we connect with teams from government, from other industries and from the broader community with a shared resolve to deliver for our national capital.

I am enormously, and I believe justifiably, proud of what we as a team have achieved in the past 12 months.

First and foremost, through the courageous leadership and tremendous courage from so many Master Builders, our industry is being transformed.

Today we have a global construction company delivering Canberra's largest ever construction project in the heart of the territory largely free from the shameful practices that have made Australia's construction industry the most expensive in the world.

Canberra's light rail delivery team will engage on fair terms with local construction businesses with a view to building quality partnerships based on trust, safety, quality and proven results. Most importantly these teams will be engaged on terms of their choosing. Exorbitant union demands, including hyper-inflated wages and conditions, usually delivered through so called 'jump up' clauses have been banned from this project.

Just as the Territory's construction industry led the fight against union thuggery, now our industry is leading the way with modern large-scale project delivery that truly embraces competition, productivity and real value.

Sub-contractors on the project get to choose their own terms and teams. They get to deliver top quality construction services without paying off the union or being hammered by demands for pay and conditions that are not just anti-competitive but could put smaller players out of business. They will not be forced to employ union delegates or pay for union memberships or make any other type of 'donation'.

Many said it was fanciful to believe such an outcome could be achieved in a Canberra - yet here it is.

We've come from perhaps the worst jurisdiction for IR in Australia to one of the best. Very soon we'll see this reflected as a comparative advantage. I see an immediate future where teams from the Territory will be the first to take advantage of what is definitely a national trend. Governments across the country will soon demand competitive tendering for their projects. Our teams are primed and ahead of the curve.

It is a popular misconception that Master Builders ACT is aligned with the conservative side of politics. Not true. While we might not see 'eye to eye' on everything, we have worked extremely effectively with the Labor/Green Governments since 2001, to deliver for our industry and community. Light rail is an obvious example but the election result also means key programs designed to improve building quality, safety and planning regulations go ahead full steam. That's great news. Our partnership with government is in excellent shape and will continue delivering sound results for years to come.

2017 and the years to follow look encouraging for our industry. We've got a railroad to build, significant work on social housing, major civil projects, big plans at our universities and hospitals, entire residential communities ... no end of private and public clients seeking out the excellence in construction services that is so very well delivered by our local industry.

We've also seen new blood and ideas come into Master Builders ACT with a new President, new board members and a lot of new faces around our crucial sector councils. There's a real buzz and a sense of anticipation of what 2017 and the years beyond hold for Master Builders in our great and growing city.

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DIRECTOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
CAMERON SPENCE

UNFAIR CONTRACT TERMS

Contracts are everywhere – verbal or written, contracts form much of the basis of everyday commercial life. The taxi you take to the airport in return for an exorbitant fee. The parking ticket you take from the machine at the car park. Your job itself is a contract, with your boss, your clients, your employees, the list goes on and on. Someone makes an offer, someone else accepts it – something of value changes hands in consideration for the work or services to be performed, and voila, a contract is formed. Contract law is old. The Latin phrase *Pacta Sunt Servanda* (i.e. agreements are to be kept) is probably still the best basic description of contract law. It is no exaggeration to say that contracts are one of the foundations of any workable society. We must be able to rely upon what people have commercially promised to do, and likewise for the same reason, others must be able to trust that we will do what we have agreed to do. Without contract law, there can be no reliable trade or commerce.

It is for this reason that contracts are binding. Once you sign on the line, the deal is done. It is precisely because of this binding nature that contracts often cause trouble. There is no shortage of people who realise too late that they meant to purchase Product A, but they actually contracted for product B – they should have read the contract more closely. Also, there is no shortage of people who contract in good faith, only to find themselves short changed by an unscrupulous party.

Just ask Paul McCartney. As a young Beatle, Paul (along with John Lennon) didn't realise the difference between Assigning and Licencing. Under their contract with Northern Songs, they assigned (i.e. handed over) the copyright in their songs to a company that they didn't own in full and subsequently lost control of. Years later, the pair found out that they didn't actually own their immensely valuable catalogue of songs. This was all because they didn't read the initial contracts. Imagine that! The legal battles and manoeuvres McCartney has undergone to try and regain ownership of his songs are legendary and still continue today. The US Music Magazine *Billboard* confirmed that on December 15, 2015, McCartney filed a (publisher rights) termination notice on 32 of his songs with the U.S. Copyright Office.

Fast forward to today and there are still plenty of people and businesses left high and dry after entering into contracts with unfair terms. In an attempt to alleviate this situation, the Federal Government has enacted laws around Unfair Contract Terms in the Australian Consumer Law. These laws are specifically designed to protect small businesses from unfair terms in standard form contracts.

What contracts are covered?

The new laws apply to standard form contracts entered into or renewed on or after **12 November 2016**,

A standard form contract is one that has been prepared by one party to the contract and where the other party has little or no opportunity to negotiate the terms – that is, it is offered on a 'take it or leave it' basis.

The new law applies where:

- it is for the supply of goods or services or the sale or grant of an interest in land
- at least one of the parties is a small business (employs less than 20 people, including casual employees employed on a regular and systematic basis)
- The upfront price payable under the contract is no more than \$300 000 or \$1 million if the contract is for more than 12 months.

If a contract is varied on or after 12 November 2016, the law applies to the varied terms.

Types of terms that may be unfair

The laws set out examples of terms that may be unfair, including:

- terms that enable one party (but not another) to avoid or limit their obligations under the contract
- terms that enable one party (but not another) to terminate the contract

- terms that penalise one party (but not another) for breaching or terminating the contract
- terms that enable one party (but not another) to vary the terms of the contract.

Ultimately, only a court or tribunal can decide that a term is unfair.

(NB: terms that set the upfront price payable under the contract are not covered by the law).

Effect of having an unfair contract term

If a court or tribunal finds that a term is 'unfair', the term will be void – this means it is not binding on the parties. The rest of the contract will continue to bind the parties to the extent that it is capable of operating without the unfair term.

Contracts and terms that are not covered

While the new laws cover most standard form contracts and contractual terms, there are a number of exceptions.

Excluded contracts

- Contracts entered into before 12 November 2016 (unless renewed on or after this date)
- Shipping contracts
- Constitutions of companies, managed investment schemes or other kinds of bodies
- Certain insurance contracts (e.g. car insurance)
- Contracts in sectors exempted by the Minister (no sectors are currently exempt).

Excluded terms

- Terms that define the main subject matter of the contract
- Terms that set the upfront price payable
- Terms that are required or expressly permitted by a law of the Commonwealth, or a State or Territory (e.g. permitted under the Franchising Code or another prescribed industry code).

If you think a term in your contract is unfair

- Ask the other party to remove the term or amend it
- Talk to a lawyer
- Contact your local State or Territory consumer protection agency
- Contact the ACCC.
- Call the Master Builders ACT Industrial Relations team on (02 6175 5921)



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WORK HEALTH & SAFETY ADVISOR
PHILIP EDWARDS

SAFETY AND EMPOWERMENT

Following a serious incident involving an MBA Group Training trainee, I examined the level of safety empowerment workers in the construction industry have to raise workplace health and safety issues with the PCBU or Principal Contractor onsite.

While doing this, Safe Work Australia released a report, “*Perceived Levels of Management Safety Empowerment and Justice among Australian Employers*”. The report summarises findings from the “Perceptions of Work Health and Safety Survey 2012”, in terms of Australian employers’ perceptions of how well they manage work health and safety in their businesses.

This report examined two aspects of safety climate:

- Management safety empowerment—where PCBUs are perceived to empower their workers to influence aspects of their own work health and safety

“PCBUs need to make sure all workers on site are empowered to raise the most basic issues with health and safety on construction sites.”

- Management safety justice—where PCBUs are perceived to deal with health and safety incidents fairly and justly.

Some OHS commentators have described the report as ‘falling short’; however, the report’s findings on Management safety empowerment are of interest. Although the survey covered all Australian industries, the findings can be directly relate to the construction industry.

The report goes in to some depth in describing empowerment as enabling a worker to authoritatively take independent action¹. It is a delegation of power, and suggest it demonstrates a PCBU’s trust in workers’ ability and judgement, and they value workers’ contributions². PCBUs can convey trust by empowering worker; therefore, empowerment would strengthen social exchanges, and in conditions where safety is highly valued by an organisation empowerment would encourage reciprocation and reinforce safety behaviour³.

In the Perceptions of Work Health and Safety Survey perceptions of management safety empowerment behaviours were measured through the following questions on a ‘5-point scale’ ranging from ‘Never’ to ‘Always’⁴:

- PCBUs strive to design systems of work are meaningful and actually work
- PCBUs make sure everyone can influence their safety at work
- PCBUs encourage workers here to participate in decisions which affect their safety
- PCBUs consider workers suggestions regarding safety
- PCBUs strive for everybody here to have high competence concerning safety and risks
- PCBUs ask workers for their opinions before making decisions regarding safety.
- PCBU involves workers in decisions regarding safety

The report highlighted PCBUs generally perceive management safety empowerment was performed frequently in their businesses. With 90% of PCBUs indicating, in terms of consultation, they considers workers’ suggestions regarding safety most of the time or always, and 88% of PCBUs indicating they encouraged workers to participate in decisions which affected safety. The majority of PCBUs also indicated they worked to foster a safe environment by designing useful systems of work (82%) and ensuring workers have a high level of competence regarding safety (89%) most of the time or always⁵.

PCBUs with apprentices, trainees and young workers tended to have higher perceptions of the frequency of management safety empowerment than PCBUs without these workers. Almost all PCBUs indicated either most of the time or always their business strives to design systems which work, workers have a high level of competency regarding safety and risks, makes sure everyone can influence safety in their work, considers workers suggestions regarding safety and encourages workers to participate in decisions that may affect safety⁶.

It has been discussed that empowerment, if utilised positively by a PCBU holds potential as a tool for successful safety management⁷. In a review of ten studies, researchers found empowerment of workers and delegation of safety activities were associated with reduced rates of injury⁸. Conversely in another study, which investigated how empowerment is perceived by workers working in the construction industry, health and safety was perceived by workers as a major barrier to empowerment, due to the strict health and safety rules they were required to follow⁹.

It is concerning that workers in the construction industry perceive health and safety rules as an impediment to empowerment. While they vary from site to site, health and safety rules, reflect the minimum legislative requirements and are expanded based on the incidents affecting the Principal Contractor. And experience suggests workers in the construction industry look for clear 'black and white' rules. So why the lack of feeling of empowerment?

PCBUs need to make sure all workers on site are empowered to raise the most basic issues with health and safety on construction sites. This can be only achieved by continually reminding workers they not only have duty to raise health and safety issues (almost certainly a site rule, as it is legislative requirement), but will be supported and encouraged in doing so. By doing this on construction sites, we will begin to mature the safety culture within our local industry.

¹ Breeding, D.C. (1996). Worker empowerment: A useful tool for effective safety management. Occupational Health and Safety, 65(9), pp 16-17.

² Kines, P., Lappalainen, J., Mikkelsen, K.L., Olsen, E., Pousette, A., Tharaldsen, J., Tómasson, K., & Törner, M. (2011). Nordic Safety Climate Questionnaire (NOSACQ-50): A new tool for diagnosing occupational safety climate. International Journal of Industrial Ergonomics, 41, pp 634-646.

³ ibid

⁴ Safe Work Australia (2016). Perceived levels of management safety empowerment and justice among Australian employers. Canberra: Safe Work Australia, pp 6-9

⁵ ibid

⁶ ibid

⁷ Breeding, D.C. (1996). Worker empowerment: A useful tool for effective safety management. Occupational Health and Safety, 65(9), pp 16-17.

⁸ Shannon, H.S., Mayer, J., Haines, T. (1997). Overview of the relationship between organisation and workplace factors and injury rates. Safety Science, 26(3), pp 201-217.

⁹ Greasley, K., Bryman, A., Dainty, A., Price, A., Soetanto, R., & King, N. (2005). Worker perceptions of empowerment. Worker Relations, 27 (4/5), pp 354-368.



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Image provided by the Land Development Agency

A NEW GOLDEN AGE OF OPPORTUNITY IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

The ACT Government's urban renewal agenda and land release program, coupled with large-scale building at the Australian National University and Canberra University, promise to transform the nation's capital. What opportunities will this bring for the Canberra community and its building industry?

Canberra continues to come of age as a modern, international city.

Northbourne Avenue is being transformed into a contemporary city gateway anchored by light rail and new urban villages. Building activity at our academic institutions gathers pace. Deteriorating public housing is being renewed, while the ACT's newest suburbs continue to expand.

"It's a time of opportunity for the people of Canberra – and for our industry," says Master Builders ACT's Deputy Executive Director Michael Hopkins.

"Whether you have an established business or are wanting to start a career in the construction industry, now is a good time to be in the ACT."

The light rail project is on track, and the Land Development Agency has committed to "urban intensification" along Canberra's main artery. A swathe of public housing and government-owned offices, together with the Dickson Motor Registry building and the tourist visitors' centre, are being sold off for redevelopment as the ACT Government looks to reinvent the entrance to Canberra as a high-density zone fed by trams.

FAST FACTS

In its 2016-2017 budget, the ACT Government outlined the release of:

- 4,550 residential dwelling sites
- 131,404 sqm of community, non-urban land
- 86,219 sqm of mixed-used sites
- 12,811 sqm of commercial land and
- 30,000 sqm of industrial land.

Minister for Urban Renewal Mick Gentleman says urban renewal will remain a focus of investment and attention in 2017 as "we strive to help our city continue to grow in a sustainable way".

"Increasing density around our city centre and transport corridors will improve the vibrancy and sustainability of the city by ensuring people can live close to where they work, play and socialise," he says.

The ACT Government plans to release more sites along Northbourne Avenue, and

Gentleman says "more planning work will be undertaken on options for realigning Parkes Way to facilitate the City to the Lake project".

Local Canberra developer Art Group purchased the first parcel of ACT Government land along the 12km light rail route since the \$780 million project was approved.

Art Group snapped up the 2.9-hectare estate, with a half-kilometre Northbourne frontage south from the corner of Morphet Street for \$40 million in September, and plans a world-class mixed-use precinct.

Brett Smith, the company's Project Director, is currently overseeing this and another planned Northbourne Avenue development, On Forbes, comprising 203 apartments to be released to market early 2017. He says it's an "incredibly exciting time for Canberra" and the work along Northbourne Avenue will create an appropriate gateway to the nation's capital, while providing places that suit the needs of Canberrans in the 21st century.

"Canberra developers are keen to recognise and celebrate the heritage of the area, while also building places that people want and need. The renewal of the corridor is a long-term project, and will adapt to market changes over the next decade," Mr Smith adds.

Building a bright future

Urban renewal is not restricted to Canberra's CBD. The old Canberra Brickworks site in Yarralumla is expected to be up for sale in early 2017, and is likely to provide for 380 new residential dwellings and 16 hectares of mixed use space. Together with the development of the Kingston Arts Precinct and revival of the Red Hill Precinct formerly occupied by ageing public housing flats, Canberra's inner suburbs can expect an urban facelift.

An \$800 million program

Among the projects currently underway at the Australian National University are the \$42 million, five-storey building to house Computer Science and the Mathematical Sciences Institute and the \$56 million, seven-storey Research School of Social Sciences.

A 500-bed student block, with a construction value of \$51 million, will open its doors early next year, and another 800 beds will be ready in a \$100 million accommodation project by 2019.

Three buildings at the ANU College of Law are about to get a facelift, while retrofits of the Coombs Building and RN Robertson Building are beginning to take shape. Together, these refurbishment projects are worth \$87.5 million.

A precinct masterplan is complete for the Research School of Physics & Engineering, with Phase 1 funding approved for \$50 million and construction due to commence in 2017. And the \$200 million redevelopment of Union Court is currently in the design phase, with construction estimated for completion by 2019.

The program also includes planned upgrades to road and carpark surfaces, footpaths and supporting infrastructure as well as the landscape environment.

Meanwhile, the Australian National University (ANU) has a large-scale building program underway and a swag of transformative projects in the pipeline.

"ANU is embarking on its biggest capital works program ever, with approximately \$800 million of committed funding," says Christine Allard, the University's Director in the Facilities and Services Division.



On-track: The light rail project is on track, and the Land Development Agency has committed to "urban intensification" along Canberra's main artery. *Image Canberra Times*

This program of works has already commenced, and is aligned with the University's strategic plan. Ms Allard says ANU aims to provide "a student experience that is appropriate for the national university".

The renewal program addresses the needs of the University community, Allard explains, but is also "a means of inviting and welcoming visitors to the campus and providing facilities and amenities" for everyone.

"Clearly this level of activity will provide significant opportunities to contractors, consultants and suppliers across the Canberra region and potentially broader," she says.

Over in Belconnen, the University of Canberra is focused on building a "campus of the future" – one which reinforces the institution's identity as committed to professional education and applied research.

UC Lodge – the University's latest student accommodation project – will be delivered and operational for the start of the 2017 academic year. Located in the heart of campus, the \$41 million building comprises 496 beds across 352 apartments, providing students with accommodation close to their learning spaces.

In April, the University announced a \$1.7 billion joint venture partnership with CIC Australia, Peet Limited's Canberra-based wholly-owned subsidiary, to develop up to 3,300 apartments and townhouses over a 15-20-year period.

Work on the University of Canberra Public Hospital began in early 2016 and is on schedule for completion in 2018. The 140-bed sub-acute care facility is being constructed on a 4.8-hectare block of land on the corner of Aikman Drive and Ginninderra Drive at a cost of \$139 million. ACT Health is partnering with the University of Canberra to provide a research and teaching facility, which will be part of a wider Health Precinct on campus.

The project is not just a boon for the building sector, but for skills development too. Students and alumni from the Bachelor of Building and Construction Management are working on the project as part of a three-year cadetship program with Multiplex, which is in charge of constructing the hospital.

“Students are helping build the facility from the ground up, gaining valuable on-the-job training while they study,” says the University’s Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Deep Saini.

“We strive to create these sorts of opportunities for students and the University of Canberra Public Hospital cadetship program is a terrific example of this. We couldn’t be more pleased with these outcomes.”

Building the Great Australian Dream

As the fabric of Canberra’s existing suburbs is restitched, Yvette Berry, ACT Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, says the government will continue its significant program of new suburban development in 2017 to further add to the supply of greenfield blocks on the market.

“In Gungahlin, the development of Throsby will reach completion ahead of schedule, civil works will continue on the first dwelling sites for the new suburb of Taylor and an estate development plan will be progressed for additional dwelling sites in Taylor and further growth around the Gungahlin Town Centre,” Ms Berry explains.

“In Molonglo, construction of north Wright and north Coombs will start at the end of the year while planning will continue for the construction of the first stage of Whitlam to start in 2018.

“Works on Denman Prospect, which was sold to Capital Estate Developments, will also continue. Civil works will also start next year for the first release of land in the sustainable Ginninderry development in West Belconnen.”

While this is good news for the construction industry, recent government figures reveal that more than 80 per cent of land release in the last three years has been for units, townhouses and apartments. In comparison, fewer than half the releases between 2007 and 2011 were for medium-density housing.

A hub for health

The University’s Health Precinct is being constructed on the north-western corner of the University campus and will include the University of Canberra Public Hospital, a small private hospital, independent living and aged care facilities, numerous specialist clinics and research enterprises. The University’s aim is to create one of the leading health faculties in Australia.

Negotiations are currently underway for a state-of-the-art cancer care centre, to be constructed by Icon Group, Australia’s fastest growing integrated cancer care provider. A heads of agreement was signed in late 2016.

The University has also signed an agreement with Moran Health Care Group to build an aged care and childcare facility on campus. The project includes a 150-bed aged care facility and a 120-place child care centre. Construction of the project is expected to commence in early to mid-2017.

“Many of our residential builders now find it challenging to deliver an affordable product in Canberra because of the restricted land supply,” says MBA’s Deputy Executive Director Michael Hopkins.

“It’s essential that the land release program meets the needs of Canberra’s demographic and is affordable. It’s no good having a host of tiny, expensive apartments in the city when families still want a free-standing house with a yard. The key is housing choice – and that means rethinking the restrictions on dual occupancies and small townhouses in established suburbs, and the housing mix in new suburbs,” Mr Hopkins says.

Reforms to the Land Development Agency, announced by Chief Minister Andrew Barr in September, have been welcomed by the industry, and Hopkins says it is “long overdue”.

The reforms will see the LDA split into two agencies, one with responsibility for developing new suburbs, and another driving the urban renewal agenda. Asbestos Taskforce chief Andrew Kefford has been appointed to lead what the ACT Government has dubbed “land development governance”.

“We have long campaigned for reform to the LDA, and have called for government to allow more residential development by the private sector. We are encouraged by the promise of reform, but we are more excited about the number of residential projects currently underway by private developers,” Mr Hopkins says. He points to the ongoing work at Googong and Denman Prospect, the launch of Tralee and commencement of Ginninderry, and the redevelopment of CSIRO land, as good examples.

“We are pleased to see more competition in Canberra – and particularly to see more Canberra builders and developers winning bids. All of this building will bring great opportunity, and our message to government is to ensure local businesses benefit.”

“Increasing density around our city centre and transport corridors will improve the vibrancy and sustainability of the city by ensuring people can live close to where they work, play and socialise

– Mick Gentleman, Minister for Urban Renewal

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MAKING THE CANBERRA WE LOVE EVEN BETTER

By ACT Chief Minister **Andrew Barr**

CANBERRA is a vibrant city that's growing quickly. Our population has reached 400,000 and we are growing at more than 5,000 people a year. My government was re-elected to ensure planning for our growing city does not mean we lose the Canberra we love.

Important city-shaping, long-term projects need strong strategic planning, corporate governance and leadership. My government will create a new urban renewal authority to give Canberra well-planned, well-designed and well-constructed places and homes we can be proud of. The new authority will strengthen community consultation processes, including the use of deliberative democracy strategies, so that diverse views are taken into account in major project proposals.

The people of Canberra voted for a positive plan for our city to invest in world class public transport. Light rail is a city-defining project that will change the way Canberrans move around and the way we view our city. The election result cements light rail as an integral part of Canberra's future and construction of

stage one is well underway. Design work on stage two, from Civic to Woden, will start soon and we will sign a contract for construction within this parliamentary term.



Northbourne Ave. Redevelopment: An artists impression of the light rail corridor along Northbourne Avenue.

It's been pleasing to see more than 230 local businesses have registered with the Light Rail Business Link program and many of them are interested in the 75 work packages available.

The redevelopment of Northbourne Avenue through light rail and the Government's Public Housing Renewal Taskforce will create the grand boulevard entrance to the national capital that has been a long-held aspiration. The Taskforce's work to improve outcomes for public housing tenants with more sustainable housing is a key priority for my Government.

As Canberra's construction sector continues to grow, it's important to acknowledge the differences in safety regulations between the ACT and NSW. The ACT Government is actively working with the NSW Government through SafeWork NSW to raise the profile of construction safety and implement a consistent approach to site safety compliance through agreed compliance standards.

The ACT Government has a strong and refreshed Ministerial team (see opposite) that will focus on delivering our progressive economic and social agenda.



The redevelopment of Northbourne Avenue through light rail and the Government's Public Housing Renewal Taskforce will create the grand boulevard entrance to the national capital that has been a long-held aspiration.



Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister

Portfolios: Treasurer, Economic Development, Tourism and Major Events

Construction sector-related priorities:

- Continue to diversify the economy and encourage new investment into wealth creating industries that require the services of the construction sector.



Gordon Ramsay MLA

Portfolios: Regulatory Services, Attorney-General, Arts and Community Events, Veterans and Seniors

Construction sector-related priorities:

- implementation of improvements to regulatory services through the Access Canberra model.



Yvette Berry MLA, Deputy Chief Minister

Portfolios: Housing and Sustainable Development, Education and Early Childhood Development, Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Women, Sport and Recreation

Construction sector-related priorities:

- Oversee land release in new suburban developments and the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce.



Shane Rattenbury MLA

Portfolios: Climate Change and Sustainability, Corrections, Mental Health, Justice and Consumer Affairs

Construction sector-related priorities:

- Review the effectiveness of the Energy Efficiency Ratings Scheme and investigate setting a minimum EER for rental properties.



Meegan Fitzharris MLA

Portfolios: Transport and City Services, Health, Higher Education, Training and Research

Construction sector-related priorities:

- Oversee all road and public transport upgrades, including light rail stage one construction and the design and contract signing of light rail stage two.
- Oversee expansion of The Canberra Hospital and three new nurse-led walk-in health centres.



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

Portfolios: Workplace Safety, Industrial Relations, Community Services and Social inclusion, Disability, Children and Youth, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Multicultural Affairs

Construction sector-related priorities:

- Work closely with stakeholders to improve workplace safety.



Mick Gentleman MLA

Portfolios: Urban Renewal, Planning and Land Management, Environment and Heritage, Police and Emergency Services

Construction sector-related priorities:

- Oversee creation of new urban renewal authority.

“Light rail is a city-defining project that will change the way Canberrans move around and the way we view our city.”

– ACT Chief Minister, Andrew Barr



HIGH RISK WORK LICENCES

A high risk work licence (HRWL) is required for working in a variety of hazardous environments, and for operation of certain types of heavy or hazardous equipment.

The high risk work licensing system presently provides for 29 classes of high risk work, divided into 5 broad categories:

- scaffolding work;
- dogging and rigging work;
- crane and hoist operation;
- forklift operation; and
- pressure equipment operation,

For a full list see the *High risk work licences—Classes of work and qualifications* table on the Master Builders ACT website.

Workers (including apprentices and trainees, and contractors) should hold the appropriate licences or equivalent certificate to operate prescribed items of plant or be under the direct supervision of a person who holds the HRWL class being undertaken if on a logbook, issued by an approved RTO after enrolment.

Licensing requirements for the operation of plant and equipment should be identified and implemented, as per the PCBU's training procedure.

The PCBU should ensure all workers adhere to all legislative and regulatory licensing requirements. The licensing requirements for contractors are to be managed, as per the PCBU's contractor management procedure.

When a worker is to operate plant and equipment that requires licensing in the workplace, they should hold a current licence and a copy of this should be collected by the PCBU, and retained in the training records.

WorkSafe ACT issues national licences to perform high risk work (high risk work licences).

High risk work licences are recognised in all Australian States and Territories.

Workers should be licensed for the class of high risk work before they carry out that type of work, unless the high risk work:

- is training, under the supervision of another worker with a license in that class of high risk work; or
- is carried out by a worker who has achieved competency and

- applied for a licence; or
- involves plant being used solely for the purpose of the manufacture, testing, trialling, installation, commissioning, maintenance, servicing, repair, alteration, demolition or disposal of the plant or moving the plant, and is operated or used without a load except for calibration purposes; or
- involves a crane or hoist being setup or dismantled, and the worker carrying out the work is licensed in rigging; or
- involves a boiler being used for a historical activity.

The training and assessment should be delivered under the supervision of a Registered Training Organisation (RTO); but practical training can occur in the workplace providing a logbook has been provided by an approved RTO.

Only RTO's approved by WorkSafe ACT can deliver training and assessment for high risk work licences in the ACT.

MBA Group Training facilitates competency training for the following high risk licences; working with approved RTO's to provide these training services:

- Licence to erect and dismantle scaffolding [basic level (SB) and intermediate level (SI)], also erect and dismantle restricted height scaffolding;
- Licence to perform dogging (DG);
- Licence to perform rigging [basic level (RB) and intermediate level (RI)];
- Licence to operate a vehicle loading crane (CV);
- Licence to operate a non-slewing mobile crane—greater than 3 tonnes capacity (CN);
- Licence to operate a slewing mobile crane—up to 20 tonnes (C2);
- Licence to operate a slewing mobile crane—up to 60 tonnes (C6);
- Licence to operate a materials hoist (HM);
- Licence to operate a boom-type elevating work platform—boom length 11 metres or more (WV)—also elevating work platform operator's card (operate elevated work platform up to 11 metres); and
- Licence to operate a forklift truck (LF).

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DEAKIN CHARITY HOUSE PROJECT



CHARITY HOUSES TICK ALL THE BOXES

When Canberra's builders, designers and tradies signed up to work on the Deakin Charity House project, they were presented with a run-down 1950s duplex overgrown with ivy and a grand vision to give back to the community.

That vision was a bold one, and the industry was on board from the beginning.

Since then, members of Master Builders ACT have worked around the clock to build two modern, light-filled homes at 63 and 65 Buxton Street in Deakin – and this hard work has paid off.

Auction day rolled around on Saturday 5 November, with a crowd of people gathering to stake their claim on the single-level three-bedroom house and two-storey five-bedroom house next door.

A grand sum of \$3.025 million was raised from the sale of the two properties – with more than \$2.2 million of that distributed to three local Canberra charities supporting people with disabilities.

THE CHARITIES

Boundless, an all abilities playground on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin near the National Carillon will use their share for further development of the playground.

– a giant slide and a sensory garden, as well as additional seating and shade, and some other play elements,” she says.

Hands Across Canberra, raises funds for more than 150 small ‘people-based’ charities across the Canberra region.

“The generous spirit of all the contributors in Canberra’s building community will allow Boundless to finish the construction of the playground and complete two final modules – a giant slide and a sensory garden, as well as additional seating and shade, and some other play elements,” Jodie Robinson, Boundless

Boundless Canberra’s board member Jodie Robinson says she was “astounded” with the size of the donation, which will support the delivery of Stage Two of the park.

Peter Gordon, the charity’s chief executive officer, says his job is to “encourage Canberrans to give locally”.

“The generous spirit of all the contributors in Canberra’s building community will allow Boundless to finish the construction of the playground and complete two final modules

“This money will transform Hands Across Canberra. It will change the philanthropic landscape and have a profound effect on the community. It’s nothing short of amazing.”



Above: On Saturday 5 November, Peter Blackshaw Manuka auctioned 63 and 65 Buxton St Deakin with the combined sale of the homes totalling \$3,025,000.00

And **Hartley Lifecare** will use its donation towards rebuilding and refurbishing properties for people with physical and complex disabilities.

“Many of our facilities are getting old and tired. This money will assist us to upgrade these houses and provide the people we support with a best practice facility and a beautiful home to live in,” says CEO Eric Thauvette.

“We are incredibly grateful to the entire team behind the Deakin Charity House project – it’s such an outstanding achievement.”

The Land Development Agency contributed the two adjoining separate title infill blocks in Deakin, and the project has been a real bricks-and-mortar demonstration of the local construction industry’s commitment to the Canberra community. Minister for Planning and Land Management Mick Gentleman says the money raised “will be of great use to these three wonderful local charities in their work helping the Canberra community”.

Master Builders ACT’s director of commercial operations David Leitch says that the sale price has exceeded all expectations.

“Our industry is responsible for building the places where Canberrans live, work and play, and we’re absolutely committed to giving back to our community;” he says.



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Above: Shannon and Paul Craft at their new home in Deakin.

“We’ve had more than 80 project partners donate their time and talent to make this project a success – and are now proud to make one of the single largest charitable donations in our city’s history.”

Reflecting the ethos of the charities they are supporting, the houses at 63 and 65 Buxton Street in Deakin have been built with accessibility and adaptability in mind.

Both were designed by AMC Architecture with landscaping designs by Harris Hobbs Landscapes. Aside from all the ‘bells and whistles’ buyers now expect – including designer kitchens and luxurious bathrooms – both have achieved certification from Livable Housing Australia. “Designing two very different dwelling types side by side was an exciting opportunity to meet the needs of very different future owners while contributing positively to the streetscape character of Buxton Street” says Alastair MacCallum the design architect.

“When the homes were sold and the magnitude of the donation became apparent I was overcome by a sense of pride and appreciation for our team of employees, consultants, contractors and suppliers,” Andrew says, adding that his request for project contributions were “humbling and didn’t just exceed expectations but smashed them”. Andrew Kerec, Renaissance Homes

A livable home is designed and built to meet the changing needs of occupants over their lifetime.

63 Buxton Street was recognised with Silver level certification from Livable Housing Australia for a range of accessible features. These include safe and step free access to the home from the street entrance, generous doorways and corridors that enable comfortable movement between spaces, accessible bathrooms with reinforced walls to support the safe installation of grab rails at a later date, and a hobless shower recess.

Next door at 65 Buxton Street, a Gold level certification provides extra generosity in the dimensions of bathrooms, hallways and doors, and introduces additional accessibility elements in the kitchen and bathrooms.

“Livable features like these make sense, as they can support people as their needs change over time – whether that’s families with

young children, baby boomers who want to stay in their homes for longer, people who sustain a temporary injury of people with disabilities and their families,” Mr Leitch explains.

Renaissance Homes has been the project’s principal partner, and for director Andrew Kerec, the project has been a deeply personal one.



Above: Tim Wilson from CRT Building Products and Andrew Kerec from Renaissance Homes at the project site during construction.

A born and bred Canberran, Andrew established Renaissance Homes with his father, Lud in 1996. Six years ago, Lud was involved in a bicycle accident that left him with quadriplegia.

Andrew says his family learnt first-hand the challenges faced by people with high levels of disability – and that he was determined to help other Canberra families in similar positions.



Above: Part of the team behind the successful project, celebrating accordingly with some bubbly after the auction.



Sold: The successful bidders for 63 Buxton St Deakin, celebrate in front of the sold sign.



COMMITTED TO CANBERRA

Proud contributors of innovative design services to a range of community projects within the Canberra Region and, through the **Deakin Charity Houses** project, supporters of Boundless Children's Playground, Hands Across Canberra and Hartley Life Care.



Deakin Charity Houses



Canberra & Region Visitors Centre



Project Independence, Latham



Monash Day Club, Monash Green

“When the homes were sold and the magnitude of the donation became apparent I was overcome by a sense of pride and appreciation for our team of employees, consultants, contractors and suppliers,” he says, adding that his request for project contributions were “humbling and didn’t just exceed expectations but smashed them”.

Kerec says the group of people involved in this project “have shown how new directions, reasons and positives can be found – even from my dad’s accident and subsequent quadriplegia. And for that my family and our company are indescribably thankful.”

The Deakin Charity House project has ticked all the boxes: easy living for the new residents, much-needed money to help Canberra charities support people in need, and a local industry that can stand back proudly and say “we did that”.

A MESSAGE FROM ANDREW KEREK, RENAISSANCE BUILDING AND DESIGN

We asked Andrew to comment on some of the amazing contributions that Master Builder members, his subcontractors and suppliers made to the Deakin Charity House Project. It’s fair to say that the help from these people were the difference between a great outcome and a sensational outcome.

Andrew told us.....

I often think back to a quote that Tim Wilson, the owner of CRT Building Products, made earlier this year; “As this project is close to Andrew’s heart, it’s close to ours too....we want to support the

people that support us”

Tim has summed up the quite overwhelming and humbling support that all of our suppliers, contractors and consultants so generously contributed in response to our story, our reasons and our request for assistance to the Charity Home Project goals.

With a collective total contribution of approximately half a million dollars to the overall donation, these highly valued, local, longstanding and loyal businesses showed the heart and soul of an industry that I am so very proud to be a part of.

I was asked to contribute 500-600 words about the type of support received but I would need ten times that - every business approached, whether large or small, made a contribution.

A maximum contribution target of 50% of normal labour and / or material costs was requested. The following businesses provided services, materials and / or labour completely free of charge and are worthy of special mention;

- **Certified Building Solutions**
- **Sellick Consultants**
- **Canberra Hire**
- **Lupo Concrete Pumping**
- **CRT Building Products**
- **Canberra Sand and Gravel**
- **Capital Doorworks**
- **Undercut Concrete Cutting**
- **Regency Knight Window Furnishings**
- **Prestige Scaffold**

Team effort: From the LDA to the MBA, member contractors to the project’s media partners, the success of the Deakin Charity House Project can be shared by all involved.





- **Moraschi Roofing**
- **Kitchen Link**
- **Ern Smith Building Supplies**
- **Professional Plaster Linings**
- **AAC Environmental**
- **Atlas Windows**

Collectively, the above local businesses were responsible for approximately \$300,000.00 of the \$500,000.00 contribution and deserve our applause and support – as do all the businesses recognised elsewhere that were responsible for the remaining \$200,000.00.

On a personal note, I don't think anyone will ever be able to fully appreciate the sense of relevance, pride and value that this project has bestowed upon my dad – so priceless when you are trying to come to terms with Quadriplegia. Indeed, my parents' story and their courage was a primary driving force behind the success of this project.

I simply cannot express my appreciation enough to the Master Builders ACT, Land Development Agency and all of the many businesses that contributed to a project that has culminated in such an astonishing donation to three extremely deserving local charities. Thank you all so much.

Andrew Kerec



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Kitchen Link
Land Development Agency
LD & PJ Constructions
Leader Graphics
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Mastaflow Plumbing Service
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LYSAGHT

SOMETIMES A HEART OF GOLD NEEDS A LITTLE STEEL

When the 2016 Charity House Project raised a record amount of over \$2.2million for local charities, it showed the heart of gold that beats in the Canberra community. Lysaght was pleased to donate the steel roofing for the properties and proud to partner with the many generous businesses that joined together to help make the project such a success; not only building homes, but building a brighter future for those in need.

www.lysaght.com





KIDS ASSIST GRADUATION

2016 Kids Assist Graduation Breakfast celebrates 15 years of graduating classes.

Since 2001 MBA Group Training has been working with local government schools to produce a program designed to take Year 10 students and put them into a practical and theoretical based training and work experience program. The aim of the program is to provide a structural workplace environment teaching students valuable skills and introducing them to the workforce.

This year saw 19 students from 10 schools graduate at a breakfast ceremony held at the new Residential Building at the University of Canberra, a PBS Building site, at which the majority of the students completed placement. **Jackson West** was awarded the Most Outstanding Student Award, presented by Karen Etheridge from the OZHelp Foundation. **Joshua McMurray** (pictured above with Warren Ahrens) from Queanbeyan High School earned a PBS apprenticeship opportunity for next year.

Jackson West, Jake Schneiders and Blake Ruffy-Welsh have all been accepted into MBA Group Training as full-time apprentices.

Thank you to PBS and all participating subcontractors for their contributions over the past 15 years.

Thank you to all the schools who participated in the program this year:

- Amaroo School
- Belconnen High School
- Calwell High School
- Caroline Chisholm School
- Karabar High School
- Kingsford Smith School
- Melba Copland Secondary School
- Melrose High School
- Queanbeyan High School
- Telopea Park School



PBS BUILDING



Congratulations to all our students.

- Kane Armstrong
- Jesse Bertram
- Matthew Casey
- Oskar Crick
- Bryce Dillon
- Jordan Hassall
- Tarek Hijazi
- Owen Langshaw
- Brandyn Lees
- Brock McCormack
- Joshua McMurray
- Brock Naylor
- Tristan Riordan
- Blake Ruffy-Welsh
- Jye Russell
- Jake Schneiders
- Kyle Taylor-Jones
- Jackson West
- Caleb Wharton



TARGETED TRAINING FOR SUPERVISORS, SITE MANAGERS AND FOREMEN

By **Rod Mitton**, Chair, MBA Group Training Advisory Committee

Traditionally new construction site supervisors were identified as future leaders within a construction company with their skills and knowledge developed through mentoring directly by a Senior Foreman or Project Manager. With the changing nature of how site supervisors are now engaged, often there is no direct or indirect training or mentoring offered. This can be detrimental to the development of the person as well as putting themselves and the people working under their control at risk both physically and financially.

At this time, there is no requirement for specific training or gaining qualification as a site supervisor. However, this may become mandatory in the ACT at a future time. Master Builders ACT members have raised this as an issue and as a response a course has been specifically developed by MBA Group Training to 'bridge the gap' between transitioning from being a tradesperson to a site supervisor to help overcome this problem.

Candidates who undertake the course will be trained in four modules with the first being in the identification and management of risk on construction sites. MBA Group Training believe that this first topic is of particular importance as often inexperienced supervisors are not skilled in the formal process of identifying and managing risks. Also, pre-qualification requirements and regulatory authorities are placing considerable scrutiny on our industry and this will require our site supervisors to be conversant with these requirements.

There are four modules identified for the OSCM training:

In **Module 1**: Gain the skills and knowledge required to use a generic approach to identify hazards and to assess and control occupational health and safety risks;

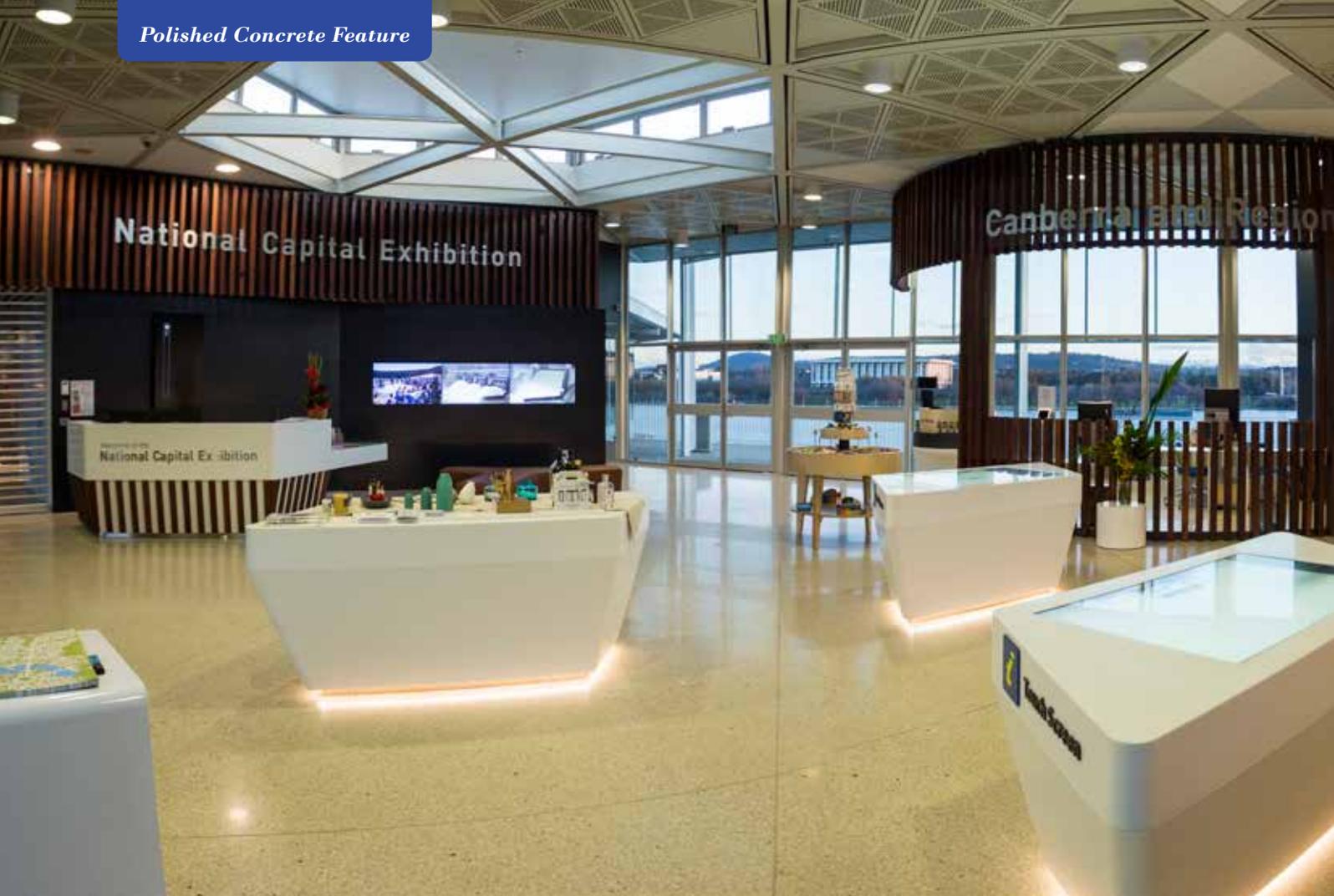
- Access sources of information and data to identify hazards
- Analyse the work environment to identify hazards
- Assess risk associated with hazards
- Control risk associated with hazards
- Maintain hazard identification and risk control processes
- Monitor and review risk management processes

For further information please contact MBA Group Training on 02 6175 5900 or email wtengstrom@mba.org.au.

Rod Mitton is the Chair of the MBA Group Training Advisory Committee, a Director of Manteena and their ACT/NSW Operations Manager.



MASTER BUILDERS
GROUP TRAINING
RTO 88163



CANBERRA'S PREMIER CONCRETE GRINDING AND POLISHING SPECIALISTS

Grindstones Australia - proudly supplying Canberra and NSW with high quality polished concrete for over 16 years.

With extensive experience in the construction industry and a wealth of combined knowledge in floor preparation and ceramic tiling, proprietors Allan and Brendan share their passion for crafting premium concrete floors within the ACT.

Proprietors Allan and Brendan have been involved in the construction industry since their late teens, both pursuing trades as ceramic tilers. After joining forces in the early nineties, Allan and Brendan began a successful tiling business, AB Tiling, completing many high-end projects and picking up several awards for excellence along the way.

Long-time collaborators and pioneers of the local concrete flooring industry, Allan and Brendan lead a dedicated team of like-minded individuals to produce high quality,

low maintenance and durable polished concrete flooring options. Over the years the Grindstones team has steadily expanded, bringing the next generation into the fold to assist in delivering innovative and sustainable solutions with a sense of family pride.

Since transitioning from a highly successful ceramic tiling partnership, Allan and Brendan have invested countless hours into researching best-practice methods both in Australia and abroad and have perfected the process of polishing concrete and floor preparation.

Working together with some of Canberra's most reputable building companies, Grindstones has enthusiastically grasped the opportunity to craft showpiece floors that take pride of place in local attractions

including the National Arboretum, National Museum, National Exhibition Centre, Australian War Memorial, Canberra Outlet Centre, Westfield Belconnen, Casey Shopping Centre, Clonakilla Winery and multiple award winning residential projects.

With a proven track record in consistently delivering high quality polished concrete flooring – on time, Grindstones has established itself as the go-to company when quality of finish is paramount. Grindstones are also aware that many projects are budget driven and are more than happy to tailor solutions to suit the client's needs, taste and budget.

“WORKING TOGETHER WITH SOME OF CANBERRA’S MOST REPUTABLE BUILDING COMPANIES, GRINDSTONES HAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY GRASPED THE OPPORTUNITY TO CRAFT SHOWPIECE FLOORS THAT TAKE PRIDE OF PLACE IN LOCAL ATTRACTIONS.”



QUALITY OF FINISH

Clockwise from main: Regatta Point, The National Arboretum, The Australian War Memorial, Twister Floor Stripping Machine, Westfield Belconnen, Regatta Point, The National Arboretum.

SERVICES GRINDSTONES PROVIDE INCLUDE:

CONCRETE REFURBISHMENT

A multi-purpose and practical procedure - concrete grinding can be utilised in the repair of rain damaged concrete and is also highly effective in the removal of residual paint, coatings and adhesives.

PREMIUM QUALITY POLISHED CONCRETE

The unique Grindstones polishing process provides a desired finish anywhere from non-slip, to a sparkling glass-like sheen. Grindstones applies a range of aggregates and oxides to the initial concrete pour to provide a myriad of finishes, limited only by the client’s imagination.

FLOOR STRIPPING

Efficient removal of fixtures adhered to concrete slabs, including: ceramic tile, vinyl tile, sheet vinyl, parquetry, timber, bonded carpets, waterproofing membranes and thermoplastics.

ANTI-CORROSIVE COATINGS AND CONCRETE SEALING

Supply and installation of epoxy coatings and polyurethane coatings and supply and installation of concrete sealers, including for driveways and carparks.

In addition, Grindstones offer concrete supply and installation, including decorative polished concrete mixes.

Keeping abreast of rapidly evolving industry standards and commercial trends, Grindstones deliver superior, cost-effective, concrete solutions via the application of cutting edge technology combined with old-fashioned work ethic and traditional craftsmanship. Any job undertaken by the Grindstones team is a job well and truly done.

Living and applying their trade in Canberra for decades, Grindstones ensure that each and every contract results in the production of an attractive, functional and sustainable showpiece that positively contributes to the fabric of the local community. With both Allan and Brendan’s sons joining them in the family trade, the future of Grindstones in the Capital Territory is looking bright.

Grindstones Australia – delivering cutting edge flooring solutions with a classical touch to the ACT and surrounds.

CONTACT GRINDSTONES AUSTRALIA:

Allan: 0407 456 355
Brendan: 0415 749 200

Email: info@grindstones.com.au
www.grindstonesaustralia.com





SEALING AND PROTECTING POLISHED CONCRETE

As polished concrete, being part of a larger decorative concrete market, becomes more and more of a trending feature in residential and commercial structures it is important to give consideration to the serviceability of this construction medium. Polished and burnished concrete substrates provide a home or building owner the opportunity to have a truly unique design feature in their structure. With the incorporation of coloured oxides, selected stones, imbedded features (e.g. shells, coins, metals, logos) and a range of specialist finishing techniques concrete floors are becoming the must have point of difference in today's design.

For all of its unique design features and beauty, the serviceability and durability of concrete flooring is often neglected or misunderstood. There is an array of finishing options available in the marketplace for sealing, protecting and enhancing the look of your concrete floor. It is important to match your vision with the practical service life and functionality of the floor you create.

The main sealing systems used in the market include penetrate sealers (typically made up of silanes, siloxanes, silicates, and silicones), polyurethane coatings, epoxy coating and acrylic coatings. Each of these technologies offers different advantages and disadvantage. Then for each technology you will find varying cost and quality for each style of sealer.

Some areas for consideration include:

- Desired finished: Matt, gloss, colour enhanced, natural, wet look, high gloss.
- Slip rating: What does the Australian Standard require for you specific area?
- Cleaning: Chemicals, steam, high pressure, or requirements of a low VOC cleaning regime.
- Durability: Is this concrete in the entry foyer of a 30 story building or a residential bathroom.

- Green rating or site conditions: Can solvent based system be used on site during installation?
- The environment the floor is exposed too: UV, weather, pedestrian, vehicular.
- Surface preparation: What substrates can the system bond to or penetrate into?

An example would be epoxy coatings which are hard wearing and offer a high degree of chemical resistance, but they are also prone to discolouring (yellowing) when exposed UV. With polished concrete often featuring in sun filled living rooms and foyers the exposure to UV can in fact ruin the desired look of the floor. In an area like this a polyurethane system may be more applicable.

Slip rating is an important consideration with polished concrete floors. Again, many areas in which the concrete is utilised will see high levels of pedestrian traffic.

This can be a slip concern especially in a public entry or where people potentially enter from wet weather. Most penetrative sealers will have little to no effect on the slip rating achieved with the final finish of on the concrete. On the other side acrylics, polyurethanes and epoxies are film forming on the concrete substrate. A specialist fine aggregates can be included to reduce slip, but in many cases the coating itself can increase slipperiness.

It is important to discuss and review the suitability of each system with your polished concrete contractor and material supplier to ensure you are working with the right system for your specific project vision and needs.

For more information contact
CE Construction Solutions.
www.ceind.com.au

NOT ALL SEALERS ARE CREATED EQUAL
 Understanding the environment, design ascetic and function of the floor is essential in selecting the right concrete sealer



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GEOSTONE™ POLISHED CONCRETE FLOORING BY HOLCIM

Bring the outdoors in.

Ever walked on a marble floor in bare feet? This is what a Geostone polished floor can feel like underfoot. Pure luxury. But that's only half the story. Polished concrete can add a range of practical benefits to your next building project that your clients will love, including easy cleaning, lower maintenance, hypoallergenic and high thermal mass. Best of all, it will hold its natural beauty for years to come.

By fusing the integrity of concrete with the uniqueness of Australian stone, Geostone polished is the perfect solution for creating a contemporary yet classic internal finish that will help your customers reconnect with the earth. Polished concrete is designed specifically for indoor living areas around the home, and as such it's perfect for installation in the living room, dining room and even the kitchen.

Designers and homeowners alike are increasingly recognizing the importance of flooring materials for both their aesthetic and performance qualities. Geostone brand ambassador Peter Colquhoun,

resident architect on the television series *Better Homes & Gardens*, believes the interconnection of floor surfaces is one the easiest ways to achieve a seamless, more spacious look and feel to any home. 'Architects generally start by trying to work out how spaces interconnect because our eyes are constantly referring to our feet and the surface over which we are moving,' he says.

'Good design speaks to more than just the eye - it speaks to the heart and natural surfaces do this best. The floor plan and how that works is always the key and the success or failure of any design hinges on getting this right. The floor is what connects and defines everything - it is constantly looked at and connected with. How it feels and reflects light sets up the whole impression of a space.'

Holcim Australia is investing in the decorative concrete category with Geostone. Our new and improved range of decorative concrete products is widely available across Australia in a full range that encompasses exposed for durable driveways, pathways and landscaping, honed

for comfort in outdoor entertaining areas from patio to poolside, as well as polished for sheer pleasure underfoot in any internal room.

Holcim Australia provides builders and designers with the support needed to capitalize on this growing category including a range of sales tools and materials that can be used to build your business and help your customers select with confidence. Key materials include; the inspirational product display at the HIA selection centre in Fyshwick. A new website designed to educate, inspire and make selection easier. A suite of materials including a glossy national brochure, range sheets by region, handy hints and tips, a simple best practice guide, fan decks and sample cards.

To experience the power of Geostone in person, visit the new product display at the HIA Home Inspirations Centre, 28 Collie St Fyshwick ACT or call Holcim on 02 6285 5300. For more information, visit www.geostone.com.au



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National Civil/Infrastructure Award – under \$25 million.

Molonglo Link Bridge and Trunk Sewer Project by **Woden Contractors** and **Civil Bridge & Wharf**

TWO WINS AT THE NATIONAL AWARDS

EACH YEAR MASTER BUILDERS AUSTRALIA ACKNOWLEDGES EXCELLENCE IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY THROUGH ITS PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AWARDS.

At the 2016 National Awards presentation dinner held in the Great Hall, Parliament House on Thursday 24 November 2016, two members of Master Builders ACT were received National Awards. Woden Contractors spectacular Molonglo Link Bridge and Trunk Sewer Project won the National Civil/Infrastructure Award – under \$25 million and Bellevue Building were awarded the National Medium Density – over 5 Dwellings for Elevated Canopy Living.

NATIONAL CIVIL/ INFRASTRUCTURE AWARD – UNDER \$25 MILLION

Molonglo Link Bridge and Trunk Sewer Project – Woden Contractors and Civil Bridge & Wharf

Having won ACT awards at both the Master Builders Excellence in Building Awards and the Earth Awards, the

Molonglo Link Bridge and Trunk Sewer Project represents a construction high point in the nearly 60-year history of Woden Contractors. Built in partnership with Civil Bridge & Wharf, the 243 metre long bridge is the longest ever built in the ACT, and at 30 metres above the Molonglo River posed the significant engineering challenges of incrementally launched construction and environmental management in a sensitive area.

The bridge is required to carry a new trunk gravity sewer across the river to link into the existing Tuggeranong main carrier sewer and then to the Lower Molonglo Sewage Treatment Works. The bridge is also to be used for pedestrian and cycleway access plus have the capacity to carry Icon Water maintenance vehicles to 11 tonnes gross mass.

NATIONAL MEDIUM DENSITY – OVER 5 DWELLINGS

Elevated Canopy Living – Bellevue Building & DNA Architects

Elevate is an example of well-considered urban infill development that provides a positive contribution to the Aranda streetscape and an opportunity for people to age in their suburb. Transforming eight small units that were at the end of their

life cycle; 10, three bedroom townhouses sited along the street frontage to maximize northern orientation and to activate the street.

The design utilises the land fall across the site by providing level access from garaging to the read and the essential living spaces stretching towards the street at an elevated position, with secondary spaces located at the lower street level. A unique feature of the townhouses is the customisability of each villa instead of the usual standardised look that most townhouse villas have.



National Medium Density – over 5 Dwellings

Elevated Canopy Living by **Bellevue Building & DNA Architects**

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The **Automatic International Roaming Day Pass** allows you to stay in touch with friends, family and clients while overseas, which means you won't miss important calls and messages. It also lets you avoid using public phones or making expensive international calls from hotels and airports.

This particular day pass is unique to your Master Builders Connect account, as the once-daily fee includes 58 countries, while most travel passes are usually for specific 'zones', often creating bill shock for customers.

Another benefit of the pass is that it is automatically applied as soon as the first 'charging event' happens overseas. This means members are protected without having to call in to add packs before they travel.

Our automatic International Roaming Day Pass provides peace of mind when you take your mobile overseas, along with the convenience of using your own number – just like at home.

For \$10 a day, our International Roaming Day Pass can be used in 58 eligible countries, and when you're in an eligible country gives you an international data allowance of 100MB per day, unlimited voice calls and SMS to standard numbers anywhere in the world.

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RTO 88163

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MBA Group Training board: A special presentation was made during the evening to the board of MBA Group Training.

MASTER BUILDERS ACT ANNUAL DINNER

The 2016 Master Builders Association of the ACT Annual Dinner was held at Hotel Realm. The night was a fantastic celebration of the years achievements. Members and their guests gathered in the Ballroom and shared with each other great memories of 2016 and the years prior. 10 membership anniversaries were recognised with companies sharing their pride of working with Master Builders ACT and the journey their teams have been on.

A special thank you Presentation was also made to the Group Training Board and previous MBA President Valdis Luks.

Executive Director Kirk Coningham OAM spoke about the association and highlighted some of the standout moments from the past year including;

- Trained 189 construction apprentices and provided quality training for more than 6,000 students in Master Builders ACT short courses, Certificate III, IV and Diploma courses
- Worked in partnership with 12 local builders, launched the Master Builders ACT Moncrieff Display Village to showcase innovation in design, sustainability and liveable housing.
- Successfully worked with the ACT Government to finalise the review of the Building Regulatory Review, and implement stage I of those reforms.
- Challenged government on key issues including the MoU between the ACT Government and Unions ACT that gives the construction union a formal role in every government tender.

The night was finished off with the incredible three time Paralympic gold medallist, Dylan Alcott. Dylan took the audience on the journey of his life and the great successes he has had in both wheelchair Basketball and wheelchair tennis.



Thankyou: Outgoing President Valdis Luks with newly elected President Graciete Ferreira



Inspirational: Three time Paralympic gold medallist, Dylan Alcott at the Master Builders ACT annual dinner.



Renaissance Building and Design: The Renaissance team at the Annual Dinner.

BUILD THE COMMUNITY AWARD IS PRESENTED TO RENAISSANCE BUILDING AND DESIGN

An emotional and special moment during the Annual Dinner was when Ross Barrett presented the Build the Community Award to Andrew Kerec from Renaissance Building and Design for his contribution to the Deakin Charity House Project.

The Build the Community Award recognises the outstanding achievements and contribution to the community by a Master Builders member businesses and individuals, giving the Association the opportunity to acknowledge the exceptional good deeds performed by the building and construction industry.

The 'Build the Community' award was first presented in 2010 and the previous winners include; Warren Ahrens, PBS Building, Michael Burgess, George & Michael Tanchevski, Dino Nikias and the Master Builders ACT members that built the Boundless All Abilities Playground.

The award recognised an achievement requiring a commitment of nearly two years, enlisting around 80 organisations to help a project and in the end, an outstanding result that saw the single biggest fundraising community project in Canberra's history.

For the third charity house project the Master Builders and Land Development Agency asked Renaissance Building and Design to partner as the builder and project manager.

For the Deakin Charity House project the extensive work Andrew did, seeking support from his connections, subcontractors, and

suppliers, saved the project hundreds of thousands of dollars. The difference between a great project and an outstanding result. This was a truly wonderful project that will benefit people in our community, in particular people in Canberra with a disability. Proceeds from the sale of the two houses will go to the Boundless Children's Playground, Hartley Life Care and Hands Across Canberra, these recipients were selected as they support people with a disability.

From the demolition, to finishing touches Andrew led the Renaissance team and the supporters, regardless of the wet weather, the hurdles, the juggling of trades in between their paid jobs, with never a cross word or it can't be done. Just a very strong resolve to deliver top quality and save money where ever possible.



Well deserved recognition: Andrew Kerec (right) receives the Build the Community Award from Boundless board member Ross Barrett OAM.

MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

Long standing members of the Master Builders Association of the ACT were awarded recognition certificates at the annual dinner.



Andrew Kerec from Renaissance Building and Design receives the 20 year certificate by John Hailey.



Justin Fahy from ACT Interiors receives the 20 year certificate by John Hailey.



Craig Harrison from Austral Clay Bricks & Pavers receives the 20 year certificate by Bob Winnel.



Nick Zardo from Guideline ACT receives the 25 year certificate by Bob Winnel.



Robert Sly from Munns Sly Moore receives the 25 year certificate by Ross Barrett.



Joe Menghel from Able Landscaping receives the 25 year certificate by Ross Barrett.



Peter Naylor from IQON receives the 30 year certificate by John Haskins.



Geoff Howarth from Blackett Property Group receives the 35 year certificate by John Haskins.



John Bradley from HJ Bradley receives the 45 year certificate by Paul Murphy



Ian Wilson from Thirston Floor Coverings receives the 50 year certificate by Paul Murphy.

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The Master Builders Fidelity Fund was established in 2002 to **protect the interests of both consumers and builders in the ACT.**

For Builders, the Master Builders Fidelity Fund provides financial certainty as money held by the Fund remains in the ACT. It is securely invested and used for the betterment of the ACT builders and consumers and is therefore not subjected to the vagaries of international markets and events.

The Fidelity Fund issues Fidelity Certificates which provide consumer protection for owners of new homes and those making significant changes to homes. The Certificates protect the owner during construction and for up to six years from the date of practical completion.

Master Builders members receive reduced premium rates and we also offer special discounts for volume users of the Fidelity Fund. For more information contact the Master Builders Fidelity Fund.

Go online and find the cover that is right for you.

<http://mba.org.au/consumer-advice/home-warranty-insurance>





ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF DAY IN SUPPORT OF DIABETES NSW & ACT.

Thursday 27 October 2016, Federal Golf Club

THIS YEAR THE 2016 ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF DAY SUPPORTED DIABETES NSW & ACT. DIABETES NSW & ACT IS THE VOICE AND SUPPORT OF PEOPLE IMPACTED BY DIABETES IN CANBERRA AND THE REGION. THEY WORK TO OVERCOME DIABETES IN OUR COMMUNITY BY MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH DIABETES, THEIR FAMILIES AND CARERS.

Diabetes NSW & ACT works proactively to improve the day-to-day lives of people living with diabetes. Diabetes NSW & ACT aims to make things easier by educating carers, employers and the general public. Their mission is a life without the complications of diabetes.

Formed on 27 July 1938, Diabetes NSW & ACT is Australia's largest member-based charity for people living with or at risk of diabetes. They have been supporting people with diabetes, their families, carers and friends, for more than 75 years. Their priority is the people's health and well-being, so they can live their lives well, every step of the way. Their prevention awareness activities contribute to reduce both the development of diabetes and the complications of the disease in those already living with it.

The day started off with a pre-game lunch and hilarious entertainment from Ventriloquist Darren Carr. At 1pm we had a shot gun start with the 4 man Ambrose teams. 1pm. The day was huge success with the Canberra sun shining all day, while the rain stayed away.

Through an on-course raffle and silent auction, **we raised \$10,060**. Again, this year the platinum sponsor was **Asset Construction Hire**. Hunter and his team from Asset make a day like this possible with their continued support and generosity with both their time, and financial commitment.



Freshwater Building Solutions Pty Ltd







HUNDREDS ATTENDED THE SUPER SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS AT THE MONCRIEFF DISPLAY VILLAGE ON 27 NOVEMBER.

The big hit for the day was the appearance of the Block's Scotty Cam (pictured right with Jason Bisa, McDonald Jones ACT General Manager). Scotty is an ambassador for McDonald Jones Homes and spent much of his visit talking to people interested in building their dream home and fans of the Block.

The bidding was fierce for the seven blocks in Moncrieff. The Land Development Agency sold these blocks at public auction. The visitors to the display village saw the 12 new homes on show and the suppliers and manufacturers that feature in the village, plus there was face painting, a sausage sizzle and more community groups on show.



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Professional Development Week: Ricky Stuart spoke to a group of young builders at the event. Pictured here with Archie Tsirimokos from Meyer Vandenberg Lawyers, Aaron Froud and Michael Hopkins from Master Builders ACT.



RAIDERS COACH TALKS TO YOUNG BUILDERS AT MASTER BUILDERS ACT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK.

Ricky Stuart headlined an impressive list of presenters at the second annual Master Builders ACT Professional Development Week - 31 October 2016.

Partnered by **Austbrokers Canberra** and supported by **Meyer Vandenberg** Professional Development Week delivered a broad range of workshops focussed on priority areas for Canberra's construction industry.

Master Builders ACT, Executive Director, Kirk Coningham said these priority areas include targeted improvement on key areas such as waterproofing. "Importantly the program also introduces and updates industry on innovative solutions, including new technology, products and materials," he said.

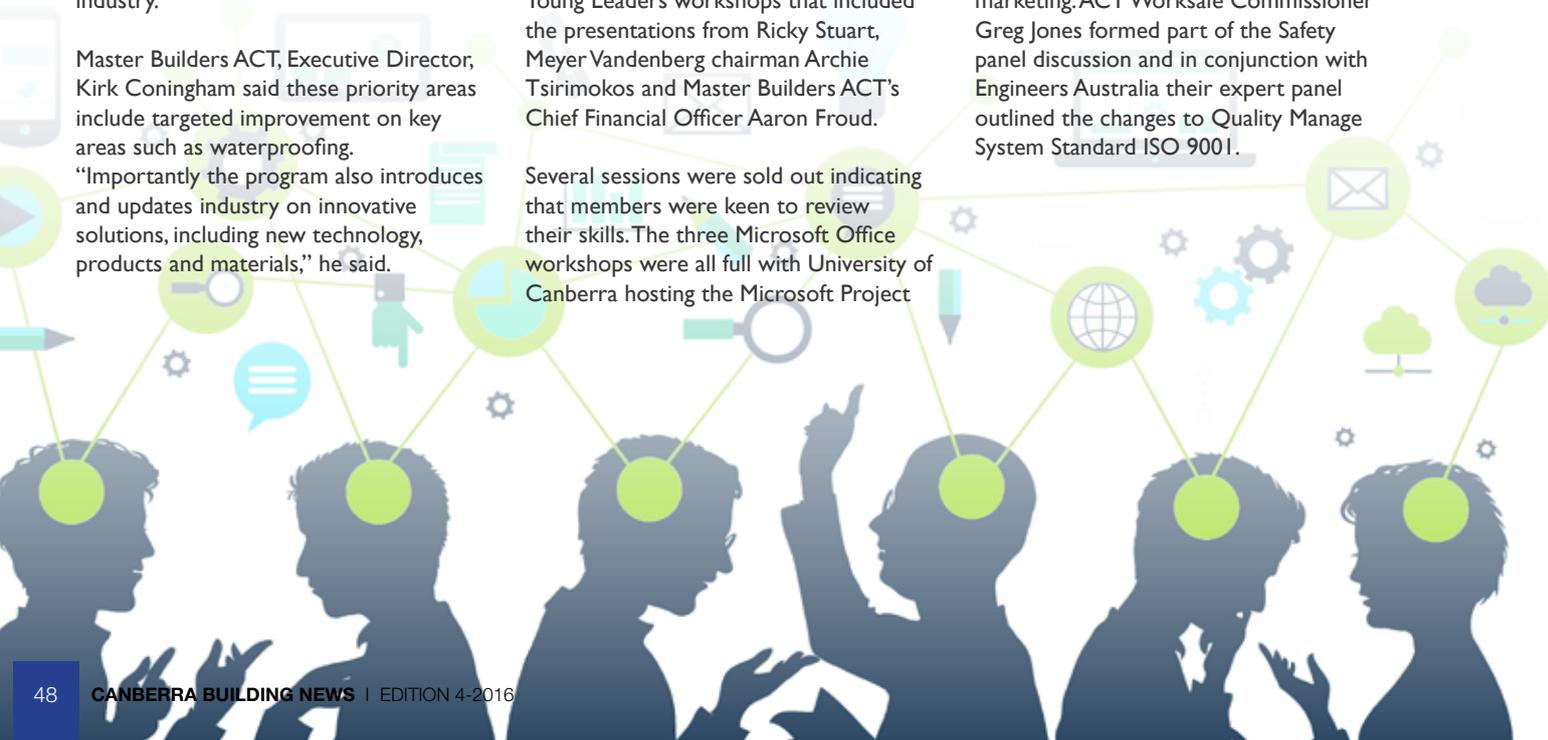
"As is always the case for Master Builders, the focus is on quality - having the best people, including industry leaders like Ricky Stuart, educate and inspire teams that aim to be recognised for excellence in all that they do."

Response to the workshops was very good, starting with 40 of the building industry brightest taking part in the two Young Leaders workshops that included the presentations from Ricky Stuart, Meyer Vandenberg chairman Archie Tsirimokos and Master Builders ACT's Chief Financial Officer Aaron Froud.

Several sessions were sold out indicating that members were keen to review their skills. The three Microsoft Office workshops were all full with University of Canberra hosting the Microsoft Project

session where Judy Glesson showed that there's more to Microsoft Project than Tasks, Gantt charts and Reports. Judy explained how to tailor it to work the way that suits you. How to create sets of data, tables, reports, and views.

Other sessions on offer focus on industrial relations, residential building contracts, waterproofing and online marketing. ACT Worksafe Commissioner Greg Jones formed part of the Safety panel discussion and in conjunction with Engineers Australia their expert panel outlined the changes to Quality Management System Standard ISO 9001.



EXPERTS TO TAKE LEAD ON LEADERSHIP IN SAFETY

A panel of leading industry experts, including the ACT WorkSafe Commissioner, Greg Jones came together on to discuss how business owners and site managers can positively effect workplace safety.

This was the keynote session of Professional Development Week. "In consultation with key stakeholders, leadership in safety has been identified as an area that requires improvement in the construction industry," Master Builders ACT Executive Director, Kirk Coningham explained.

The program centred on what leadership in safety means, how it differentiates from safety management systems, and providing participants with the knowledge, skills and tools to implement.



MEYER VANDENBERG
LAWYERS

The panel members were –

- **Greg Jones** – ACT WorkSafe Commissioner
- **Phil Edwards** – Master Builders ACT
- **Michael Charman** - Workers Compensation Underwriting function for Risk States (GIO)
- **Lisa Dart** – Chair of the ACT Construction Industry Safety Reference Group
- **Mitch Harmer** – Signonsite



Well received: Participation during Professional Development Week was a good indication that MBA ACT members are keen to improve their industry knowledge and skills.



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For Emma: Ricky Stuart started the foundation to create awareness of autism so his daughter Emma would be understood by society.



THE RICKY STUART FOUNDATION

The Ricky Stuart Foundation was originally started as an effort to increase awareness of Autism. Ricky famously tells the story of his daughter Emma and himself in MacDonalds where she was trying to communicate with him on what she wanted to drink. Ricky bought her a chocolate milkshake, she didnt want it and threw it all over the floor. He saw the looks on faces of people who were thinking what a spoilt child, not realising that she had autism. He started the Foundation to create the awareness of autism for people so Emma could have a chance at being understood by society. He has also subsequently never bought Emma a chocolate shake again!.

The Ricky Stuart Foundation has had the opportunity with the support of the ACT Government and many, many generous sponsors and supporters of the community to build our first respite centre. The focus of the Foundation now is to support families who have children with disabilities to be able to have respite for themselves and other family members who may not get the opportunity to spend time together. We know that 80% of families who have a child with a disability end up separated. Our respite house in Chifley is hoping to provide support for all families who are touched by not only autism but any disability and give all families time to rebuild and recharge.



Above: Ricky Stuart, Hilary Martin, Arlarna and Tyrone Barratt and Joy Burch at the respite centre. Photo CityNews



Above: ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr is shown through the respite centre of the Ricky Stuart Foundation.

2016 CANBERRA HOME SHOW PROVES BENEFICIAL FOR MEMBERS.

MASTER BUILDERS ACT WAS AGAIN THIS YEAR THE PRESENTING PARTNER FOR THE 2016 CANBERRA HOME BUILDING CARAVAN TOURISM 4WD AND CAMPING SHOW.

Our involvement included the opportunity for members to be a part of a twenty stand section in the Budawang Pavilion at the show.

Feedback from the members was very good, indicating they benefitted from the exposure at the show and most are planning for 2017.

One of the members participating in this year's show was Office Partners. They promoted the healthy office stand up desks Stand UP!

Living a sedentary lifestyle can be dangerous to your health. The less sitting or lying down you do during the day, the better your chances for living a healthy life. When you are physically active, on the

other hand, your overall energy levels and endurance improve, and your bones maintain strength.

Office Partners, a locally owned and operated company, has been working to help their clients to a more productive and healthier office work space by providing a wide range of ergonomic sit and stand office solutions as well as ergonomic office chairs that best suits each individual user. Pertti Leskinen, Managing Director, is passionate about helping those in office environment to achieve a healthier way of working. "Our goal as a team is to find the best solution for each client, whether it is a sit and stand desk, a better ergonomic chair or other improvements to the individual's workspace".

"Getting a healthier working environment could be one of the best investments anyone could make", he continued. "Call us on 02 6242 0589 to arrange a visit for a personal fitting at our Mitchell showroom".



Stand Up! Pertti Leskinen of Office Partners showcases their stand up desks to visitors to the show.



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Awards launch: Members gather for the 2017 Excellence in Building Awards launch. The launch was held at the 2016 Project of the Year winner, the Vibe Hotel at the Canberra Airport.

2017 EXCELLENCE IN BUILDING AWARDS ENTRIES GO ONLINE!

ON WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER, THE LAUNCH OF THE 2017 EXCELLENCE IN BUILDING AWARDS WAS HELD AT THE VIBE CANBERRA AIRPORT.

Members, sponsors and judges gathered in the exquisite hotel lobby for a relaxed evening of drinks and canapés. Following tradition, the launch was held at the 2016 Project of the Year location and guests were able to tour the venue and see the magnificent job done by Construction Control.

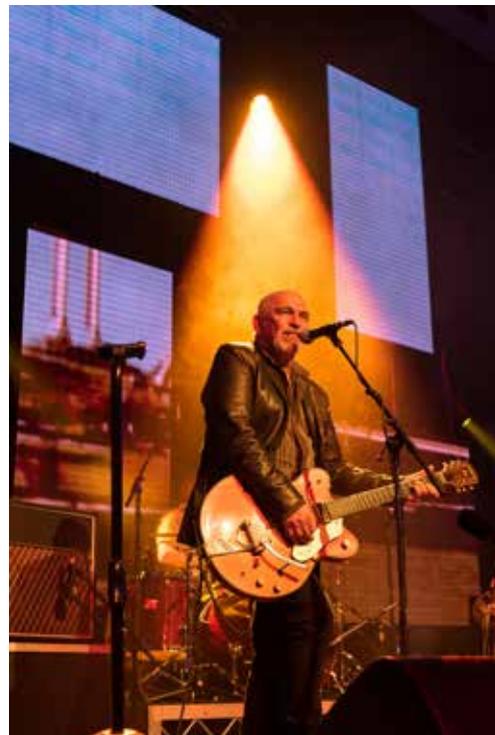
Michael Hopkins, Deputy Executive Director, officially opened the 2017 Excellence in Building Awards with an announcement that the 2017 awards entry forms are going to be online. For the first time, Master Builders

ACT is using an online portal called **AwardsForce** for members to enter the awards. This portal will be open from 1 February 2017 and members will be able to submit all details of their project. Information on how to use the portal will be provided to members at the beginning of next year.

Changes to the WH&S category were also discussed. If you are interested in entering this category and need the project to be judged before the 2017 judging period in April, you can contact either David Leitch or Elissa Campbell and they can arrange for the judges to inspect. The judging period has been extended for this category, to enable members to demonstrate their WH&S plans in action on the project site.

If you are interested in entering the WH&S category and need the project to be judged before the 2017 judging period in April, you can contact either David Leitch or Elissa Campbell on 6175-5900 and they can arrange for the judges to inspect the project.

Below: Joe Camilleri performs at the 2016 Excellence in Building Awards.



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Photo: Minister for Employment,
Senator the Hon. Michaelia Cash

PARLIAMENT DELIVERS PROTECTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MEMBERS OF REGISTERED ORGANISATIONS

The Turnbull Government has delivered on a key election commitment to improve accountability and transparency of registered organisations.

The Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Bill 2014 establishes a new Registered Organisations Commission to oversee unions and employer groups, with strong powers to enforce the law.

It means officials from registered organisations will be subjected to similar standards as company directors under Corporations law, including more thorough reporting and disclosure and, for those who break the law, bigger penalties.

It will mean stronger laws to prevent honest members being ripped off to prevent a recurrence of the numerous scandals that have beset various registered organisations in recent years, such as the HSU, AWU and NUW.

There are 47 unions and 63 employer groups in Australia with annual revenue of \$1.5 billion and assets worth \$2.5 billion.

Minister for Employment Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash said they represent more than two million members, who deserve to know their organisation is acting in their best interests.

“I commend the crossbench Senators who negotiated constructively to deliver good policy in the national interest,” Minister Cash said.

“Sadly, Labor has opposed this legislation every step of the way for the last three years, despite the undeniable evidence that the laws governing registered organisations were desperately in need of reform.”

“Labor even voted against enhanced whistle-blower protections to protect union members who are the subject of mistreatment.”

“Bill Shorten’s Labor Party has again shown that it would rather defend union rorters than protect union members. Mr Shorten’s position on this legislation embodies all that is wrong with the modern Labor Party.”

“It means officials from registered organisations will be subjected to similar standards as company directors under Corporations law, including more thorough reporting and disclosure and, for those who break the law, bigger penalties. ”

– Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Bill 2014

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NATIONAL UPDATE

A SNAPSHOT OF INDUSTRY NEWS
FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

BUILDING INDUSTRY UNDERPINS ECONOMIC GROWTH

Total building work increased by 1.2 per cent to \$26.1 billion in the June quarter – well above the national economic growth rate over the same period - reinforcing the critical role the building and construction industry continues to play in supporting broader economic growth and jobs.

Over the year-to June 2016 the construction sector underpinned 10.3 per cent of GDP growth, and produced 7.7 per cent of GDP. The construction sector has predominantly outperformed broader economic growth over the past two decades, averaging 5 per cent per year, compared to GDP growth of 3.2 per cent per year over the same period.

By State:

- Private housing investment in NSW increased to \$25.3 billion, equal to 5 per cent of domestic demand in 2015/16 – the highest level since 2005/06 - and made the largest private sector contribution to growth at 13.8 per cent over the year-to June 2016
- In Victoria, housing investment jumped 11.2 per cent over the year-to June 2016, taking a share of 6.6 per cent of domestic demand, and accounting for 17.2 per cent of growth.
- Private housing investment in Queensland grew by 14.3 per cent in 2015/16 to \$18.5 billion, accounting for 6 per cent of domestic demand – the highest level since 2010.
- On the other hand, private housing investment in South Australia contracted by 0.5 per cent in 2015/16, to \$4.4 billion - historically a much smaller share of state economic activity - equal to 4.3 per cent of domestic demand in 2015/16
- Private housing investment in Western Australia increased by 1 per cent in 2015/16, a strong result given the ongoing deterioration in residential property prices in Perth, and despite a broader fall in domestic demand across the State
- In Tasmania, private housing investment in 2015/16 was slightly under \$1.3 billion, recording a moderate increase of 0.9 per cent on the year before. But as a share of domestic demand housing investment remains below trend, at 4.3 per cent in 2015/16, compared to an average

of approximately 4.5 per cent recorded since 2009/10

- For the Northern Territory private housing investment fell by 7.7 per cent to \$843 million, but increased as a share of domestic demand to 3.1 per cent due to greater weakness in other parts of the economy. As a share of domestic demand, private housing investment in Tasmania remains below trend, but is showing signs of a recovery since hitting a low point back in 2013

- In the ACT private housing investment increased by 5.7 per cent in 2015/16 to around \$1.5 billion, and accounted for 4.1 per cent of domestic demand.

MASTER BUILDERS AUSTRALIA PARTICIPATES IN NON-CONFORMING BUILDING PRODUCTS WORKSHOP

In early November Max Rafferty (National Manager - Technical Services) represented Master Builders Australia at a workshop to improve understanding of the education and information needs of consumers and the building industry.

The workshop was a direct result of the Senior Officers' Group report; Strategies to address risks related to nonconforming building products, and was aimed at addressing recommendations; 3(c) development of education strategies, and 3(d) a national website to provide a single point of information for consumers and building product supply chain participants.

Master Builders stated that without a documented plan for the other recommendations from the SOG report it is difficult to address the specific education and communication requirements. Without this understanding the website must technically correct to reflect the legal requirements for any particular product to aid Builders to make informed choices when choosing to use products in accordance with a specification or substitution.

It was also suggested that education and website is still focused on the back end of the supply chain, and does not address the issues of the non-conforming building products being produced, imported and sold. As this is the first stages in this process. We look forward to having more information to report in the near future.



AS 3959 CONSTRUCTION IN BUSHFIRE PRONE AREAS

The Australian Standards Working Group for AS 3959 Construction in bushfire prone areas met in November. There were a number of issues raised with the current standard including: the use of fences for fire shielding, protection of subfloor spaces for BAL 12.5 and 19 and documentation of the cross over between AS 3959 and the installation of fire resistant gas meters.

The new standard will also incorporate some style changes to help to clarify the requirements for each Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) which will make it easier to use. Currently the working group is in the final stages of drafting, and expects that the standard will be available for public comment early in 2017.

AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY SKILLS COMMITTEE

The Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) has met and considered two Training Packages and discussed a number of important vocational education and training (VET) policy and programme matters.

The AISC noted the Victorian Government's progress in leading the work of the Ministerial Council on the future reform of training products. The AISC looks forward to continuing to partner with the Senior Skills Officials' Network on this project to ensure advice to Ministers is informed by industry. Master Builders is concerned that this review is occurring without significant input by industry, with government agencies fully leading the review with the NCVET. Advice will be provided to Ministers in November.

On a positive note, the AISC approved for implementation the 'CPC v2 Construction, Plumbing and Services Training Package following receipt of advice from the Construction IRC that, given the significant level of change to the Certificate III in Signs and Graphics and the Certificate III in Shopfitting, these qualifications are not equivalent'.

ASBESTOS - MAKING SURE REGULATORS ARE FOCUSED

Master Builders attended the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency's (ASEA) Building, Construction and Demolition Sectors (BCDS) Committee meeting in October to discuss its ASEA Annual Operational Plan 2016-17. ASEA

say that, considered in tandem with the agency's National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness the plan will ensure there remains a national focus on asbestos issues.

The key goals of the Annual Operational Plan are to:

- Build evidence to inform practical approaches to asbestos management and awareness
- Raise awareness about the risks of asbestos in the built environment
- Contribute to national coordination across all levels of government to minimise asbestos exposure risks
- Monitor and track the incidence of asbestos-related diseases
- Identify future challenges posed by asbestos containing materials (ACMs) in the built environment. Master Builders will continue to have input into the operation of this agency.

This is an important issue to our industry and there is always the risk that the facts become lost in the debate. Regulators, importers, Border Protection and the industry generally all share responsibility to ensure that the risks from asbestos are minimised. Industry must continue to play our part and be proactive in doing what we can to reduce risks from asbestos and work cooperatively with government and regulators. The role of industry and government must be balanced so that we can avoid being subjected to ineffective regulation or other compliance costs and do our part to reduce risk to our industry and the community generally.

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The winner will be advised by SMS on Sunday 2 April 2017 and published in The Canberra Times on Wednesday 5 April 2017. Lottery permit number ACT R 16/00106. This prize is not redeemable for cash. Prize can not be altered in any way. Proudly supplied by our major sponsor, Lexus of Canberra. Car colour white.



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President's Luncheons are one of the Master Builders key activities on the event calendar. The luncheons are hosted by the President of the Master Builders and include a presentation from a prominent Guest of Honour.

The Luncheons provide an intimate forum for 20 guests in a boardroom situation to discuss topical industry issues, under Chatham House Rules. They are a fantastic way to network with key clients and to keep up to date with current activities within the ACT's building and construction industry.

As sponsor of a President's Luncheon you are able to invite your allocation of guests. The remaining 10 places are made up of the Guest of Honour, their advisor, Graciete Ferreira, Master Builders Executive Director Kirk Coningham, Master Builders Deputy Executive Director Michael Hopkins and relevant non-conflicting guests, each of whom are selected by Graciete Ferreira and Kirk Coningham.

**Contact Director Commercial Operations,
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