



Mineral Drilling Association of Australia

Promoting Safety and Professionalism

FEBRUARY 2008 EDITION

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1. THE MINERAL DRILLING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

The Mineral Drilling Association of Australia was formed in 1998 to develop competency standards for the mineral drilling industry. There are currently 24 contractor members employing 2900 employees who collectively operate 380 drilling rigs, predominantly in Australia. The organisation developed its own set of competency standards, runs seminars and conferences, publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, produces operational guides and forms for industry, and strives to provide services and support for its expanding membership base.

We have a vision to represent the Mineral Sector of the Drilling Industry in Australia to promote, and achieve, the highest standards of Safety, Training and Professionalism in our industry.

2. WEBSITE

The MDAA website has recently undergone some major developments. It is now over to you to help us by providing feedback and articles. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

www.mdaa.net.au

Please email mdaa@casm.com.au with anything you feel would benefit fellow members.

3. INAUGURAL MEMBERS' FORUM – INSURANCE: ARE YOU COVERED? – 6 MARCH 2008

The Inaugural Members' Forum will be held on the 6 March 2008 at Citywest Function Centre. This is an opportunity to hear guest speaker Neil Watson from ACI Broking on **Insurance: Are you covered?** and network with fellow members.

The MDAA Board has introduced these Members' Forum for the benefit of members. To ensure they continue please register your attendance by clicking [here](#) to download the registration forum.

MDAA 2008 Calendar of Events			
DATE	ITEM	VENUE	TIME
Tuesday, March 06, 2008	Members' Forum	Citywest Function Centre	6-8pm
6-9 May 2008	Symposium	Geographe Bayview Resort, Busselton	
Tuesday, June 05, 2008	Social Function	Citywest Function Centre	6-8pm
Tuesday, September 04, 2008	Social Function	Citywest Function Centre	6-8pm
Tuesday, November 7, 2008	Annual General Meeting	Citywest Function Centre	
Saturday, December 06, 2008	Annual ADIA/MDAA dinner	Burswood Entertainment Complex	6.30pm to midnight

4. 2008 SYMPOSIUM

Planning for the 2008 Symposium is well underway with the program nearing its final stages ready for marketing in March.

Keynote presenter Glenn Capelli from The True Learning Centre will be joining us as will a range of industry representatives.

Special thanks to our sponsors so far:

- Major Partner Atlas Copco
- BBQ Dinner Partner Offroad Trucks
- Compendium Partner Sandvik
- Lunch Partner x 1 Sandvik
- Tea Break Partner x 1 ACI Insurance Brokers
- Media Partner Gold & Minerals

Partnership opportunities still available include:

- Welcome cocktail reception (\$10,000)
- Happy hour drinks (\$10,000)
- Lunch x 1 (\$6,000)
- Tea break x 2 (\$3,000 each)

For more information about partnership opportunities please click [here](#).

Current booths holders:

- Atlas Copco
- Offroad Trucks
- Sandvik
- ACI Insurance Brokers
- Gold & Minerals
- Airdrill
- Australian Mud Company
- Downhole Surveys/DHS Australia Limited
- Fraste
- 2IC

For more information on becoming a trade exhibitor please click [here](#).

For more information please contact the MDAA office on 9427 0868 or email mdaa@casm.com.au.

5. UPDATE ON RTO

The Mineral Drilling Association of Australia (MDAA) is forming a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), Drill Skill Training Pty Ltd (DrillSkill), to undertake the provision of quality training to the Resources Sector of the Drilling Industry. The RTO is to take under its scope the Drilling Training Package DRT03 as well as any other required units of competency. The intent is to become a "one stop shop" to satisfy the needs of the drilling industry and be acceptable to the mining industry. As we are all aware, many RTOs have provided acceptable assessment for the issue of certification which satisfies a training package. DrillSkill will satisfy the resource industry's requirements by providing quality training that will lead to an up-skilling and increase of professionalism throughout the drilling industry. The key objective of DrillSkill is to provide the Drilling Industry with Training, Assessment Resources and Certification to enable safe and productive work practices. Standardisation of resources and assessment will provide Drilling Companies and Clients with a clear picture of each participant's capabilities and underpinning knowledge.

The development of the training programme will include the base requirement to allow drilling to become a recognised trade in Australia, which the MDAA believes is essential in order to boost self-esteem for those already in the industry, and to provide a more attractive pathway for industry entrants. This professional approach to meeting the needs of industry will promote a more stable workforce and therefore address skills shortage issues and provide more experienced and respected drilling professionals. All material produced by the RTO will be available for other RTOs to use across the country under a licensing agreement.

We believe that this will be a unique opportunity to create a productive alliance, which recognises that theory must be able to be utilised and assessed, in order to endorse the productivity and safety required by industry. We have appointed a Chief Executive Officer, Peter Milne, who is an educational professional. He will be supported by industry trainers. The board of the RTO will consist of well-known industry figures from the MDAA and ADIA who share our ideals to develop this project and who recognise the requirement for transportability of drilling methods across all areas of the drilling industry. Peter will be making contact with members to discuss various issues, including what you, as a member would like to achieve from the RTO.

6. TRAINEESHIP UPDATE

The training material is currently under development by Central TAFE and the ADITC, with completion expected by the middle of this year.

7. TRANS-TASMAN FALLS PREVENTION IN CONSTRUCTION

31-Jan-2008

OSH Updates a WorkSafe WA newsletter

Hi Cathy

1. [Trans-Tasman falls prevention in construction campaign](#)
2. [WorkSafe advertises for new inspectors](#)

Media statements

Trans-Tasman falls prevention in construction campaign

Issue date: 31 January 2008

Workplace safety and health authorities across Australia and New Zealand are joining forces in February and March to target the prevention of falls in the construction industry.

A total of around 900 inspections will be conducted across Australia and New Zealand, with a minimum of 80 site visits in Perth and WA regional areas.

WorkSafe WA Commissioner Nina Lyhne said today that falls prevention was a priority focus area for Australia's workplace safety authorities because falls were one of the most significant causes of workplace death in the construction industry.

'You don't need to fall far to be killed or seriously injured - in fact, there have

been deaths from falls of less than a couple of metres,' Ms Lyhne said.

'Sadly, an average of two Western Australians die every year as a result of workplace falls, with around 1260 additional injuries, many of them serious and permanent.

'This is the reason that falls from height is one of WorkSafe's operational priority areas and also the reason this national inspection campaign is so important.'

The campaign has two phases - an education phase, which has already been undertaken, and a compliance phase, which will begin next week around the country.

In WA, discussions on the campaign have been held with industry associations such as the Housing Industry Association and Master Builders Association, as well as unions involved in the construction industry with a view to these groups notifying their members of the upcoming campaign and the measures they need to have in place.

'The construction industry should be well aware of its responsibilities with regard to falls prevention, so inspectors will be enforcing the legislative requirements if they come across any unsafe work practices,' Ms Lyhne said.

'Falls are readily preventable, and it need not be difficult or costly to ensure that suitable barriers or fall arrest systems are organised before a tragedy can occur.

'A code of practice on falls has existed in WA for the past 17 years, with the original code being initiated in response to the number of fatalities being recorded in the construction industry at that time.

'The current code - updated in 2004 - provides information on the identification of common fall hazards at all workplaces and the use of fall-arrest equipment and systems, along with chapters on general work practices such as the use of ladders.

'It also has a strong emphasis on promoting safe design principles for buildings to eliminate fall hazards from the outset, in keeping with prevention strategies to eliminate hazards and control risks at the source.'

The Code of Practice on the Prevention of Falls in Workplaces can be downloaded at no cost from WorkSafe's website at www.worksafe.wa.gov.au.

WorkSafe advertises for new inspectors

Issue date: 31 January 2008

WorkSafe is currently advertising for its latest intake of new inspectors, and is encouraging interested candidates to seek further information.

WorkSafe WA Commissioner Nina Lyhne said today the advertising of inspectors' positions always resulted in a good response.

'These positions provide a great opportunity to make a real difference to the occupational safety and health of Western Australians,' Ms Lyhne said.

'Inspectors become part of a team of people who share the same commitment and work towards the same objective - preventing workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths.

'WorkSafe has recently run the 'Come Home Safe' campaign as a reminder that everyone has the right to return home safe and well after work, and

inspectors play an important role in helping to make sure that happens.

'There's always a good response when these positions are advertised, and I encourage anyone with an interest in workplace safety to find out more about what is required to be an inspector, the role an inspector plays and the excellent career opportunities available to inspectors.

'The flexible working arrangements on offer are a big attraction, along with the training, coaching and development programs available to WorkSafe inspectors.

'We're looking for motivated people with relevant industry and occupational safety and health experience in areas like manufacturing, transport and the service industries.'

Seven permanent inspectors' positions are currently available for Perth, plus positions in Bunbury and Albany and a specialist position for an occupational hygienist in Perth.

WorkSafe encourages both genders to apply for inspectors' positions. Applications for the positions close on February 18, and further details can be obtained on the website at www.jobs.wa.gov.au.

'This is a terrific opportunity for people with experience in occupational safety and health and those who have a strong commitment to safety to make a real difference to workplace safety in WA,' Ms Lyhne said.

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8. YOUR 2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Please feel free to make contact with any of the Directors below:

President	James	Colby	Colby Drilling Company	(08) 9455-1687		james.colby@colbydrilling.com.au
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9. WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK

Your feedback is welcome. If you would like to provide feedback or constructive criticism on the MDAA or have information you would like to be included in the newsletter, please forward an email to mdaa@casm.com.au or to President James Colby James.Colby@colbydrilling.com.au

Regards,

Louise Middleton

Secretariat

Mineral Drilling Association of Australia

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