

MDAA NEWSLETTER

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www.mdaa.net.au

MINERAL DRILLING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

Current Directors -

James Colby - President

Jon Beer

Chris Carter

Wayne Clohessy

Kenneth Macleay

Paul Mander

Gary Searle

Brenton Wallace

Graeme Wallis

Ron Adams - Executive Officer

INFORMATION BOX

Contractor Members	24
Supplier Members	22
Company Members	12
Individual Members	9
Other Members	6
Honorary Life Members	2
Total	75

Contributions

We are happy to publish -

- "Letters to the Editor"
- news of members
- member profiles
- articles of interest
- any other matters that members may feel are of interest or have a potential impact on our industry

You will find in this issue

Notes from the Board

Industry news

Training news

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FROM THE BOARD

There have been a number of changes to the Board make up. Peter Wright resigned the Presidency and resigned as a Director of the MDAA, as he has departed our shores to take up a new position with the Imdex Group, based in Chile.

James Colby has assumed the role of President at least until the elections to be held with the AGM in November / December this year.

Greg Stagbouer has moved to a base in Singapore and he has been replaced on the board by Jon Beer. Gary Searle, who is Contracts Manager for Ausdrill Northwest will, pro tem, fill the vacancy created when Peter Wright departed.



James Colby has been a Director of the MDAA since our inception in 2001, and is principal of Colby Drilling Company. He brings to the Presidency wide experience in drilling and management, and a fresh perspective to training.

James has, for a number of years been a member of the Central TAFE Drilling Industry Training Centre Advisory Board, and was a member of the committee that developed the MDAA competency standards. He has been an outspoken advocate of safety in our industry, with a personal involvement in safety issues.

James also has a focus on what the MDAA should be doing for members and what our future directions should be.

As a direct result of discussions with DoCEP representatives in April, the MDAA Board is keen to move ahead with promoting an improvement in the standard of drilling equipment used by the drilling industry.

DrillSafe has been registered as an MDAA marque, to be used, from the beginning of 2008, to facilitate an annual inspection of all drilling rigs and associated equipment. The scheme allows for a 'green card' to be issued to the owners, on an annual basis, of drilling equipment which conforms to a standard required by the clients of MDAA members. The board fully expects that DrillSafe will be endorsed by government and industry bodies, as has happened with a similar scheme initiated by the crane industry. Details will be available on the new website.

The new MDAA website is in the process of being developed with the aim of providing a central source of information for members, particularly contractor members.

Information on the web site will include –

- “Drillsafe” details
- Legislative requirements for equipment and personnel
- Technical guidelines for drilling
- OH & S recommendations
- Supplier details and developments
- A list of technical advisors for drilling and equipment
- Regular reports on safety issues
- All details on the current site

How big is our voice in industry ?

You may be interested to know that we had almost a 100 % response to a recent survey of our contractor members, and the results were interesting and quite surprising.

The MDAA represents 24 contractors, who between them –

Employ 2,900 people
Operate 380 drill rigs
Run 1,275 vehicles

This represents a very large segment of the available hardware in Australia, and a considerable number of people, even if our member numbers are not great.

Let our voice be heard !

INDUSTRY NEWS

As many people will know, Boart Longyear has been on the acquisition trail for some time and, preparatory to “going public” on the ASX in April, acquired North West Drilling, Drillcorp Western Deephole, Grimwood Davies and KWL Rig Services.

These acquisitions have engendered some changes in management roles, which include –

Duncan McConachy – General Manager WA, Boart Longyear Group

Paul Mander – Surface Coring Manager, Boart Longyear WA

Brenton Wallace – Manager, Iron Ore Operations, Boart Longyear WA

Jon Beer – Manager, Underground Operations, Boart Longyear WA

Kevin Clarke – Manager, Boart Longyear Air Drilling Operations.

Steve Shine – Regional Manager, Training, Boart Longyear WA

TRAINING NEWS

The course “Drill Management for Non Drillers” which is run by David Stevens for Central TAFE continues to be popular having been run four times this year with some 36 people having attended. Three of the courses were run in Perth and the fourth at site.

The critiques filled out by attendees at the end of the course have consistently indicated a very high level of satisfaction.

A précis of the course contents is as follows –

Section 1 Introduction and Definitions

An introduction to the course and definitions of risk used.

Section 2 Drilling Techniques

To discuss a selection of drilling techniques available, to better understand what can be achieved with each technique.

- Cable tool drilling
- Auger drilling
 - solid flight augers
 - hollow stem augers
 - short flight (plate) augers Not in depth
 - bucket augers
- Rotary Air Blast (RAB) drilling and open hole rotary
 - Description of rigs and operating techniques
 - Description of sampling procedures
- Reverse circulation rotary drilling
 - Description of rigs and operating techniques
 - Description of sampling procedures
 - Basics of circulation requirements
- Top hole hammers
 - Description of rigs and operating techniques
 - Shortcomings of sample produced
- Reverse Circulation Drilling
 - Basics of RC drilling
- Air core drilling
 - Description of rigs and operating techniques
 - Sample produced

- DTHH drilling
 - Open Hole –
 - Description of equipment and operations

Reverse Circulation –
Description of equipment and operations

Face Sampling Hammers –
Description of equipment and operations
Discussion of advantages

This section also includes a discussion of air requirements and up hole velocities with comment on the associated hazards.

- Diamond drilling
 - Basics – conventional / wireline / impregnated bits
 - Drill hole deviation
 - Drill hole deflection
 - Drill hole surveying
 - Drill hole deflection

Section 3 - Drilling Hazards

Based on MDAA “Guidelines for Safe Operations in the Drilling Industry in WA”

- Introduction
- Definitions
- Systems approach
- Drilling hazards and controls
- Rod handling
- Moving parts
- Transmission parts
- Parts involved in the drilling process
- High pressures
- U/g specific

Section 4 - Planning and Implementing a Drilling Programme

To discuss the selection of an appropriate drilling method, type and size of drill rig, selection of contractor and the contents of a useable drilling contract.

- Factors to be considered
- Selecting a contractor
- Drilling contracts
- Assessing tenders
- Tender documents
- Daily report sheets

Section 5 - The REAL Cost of Drilling

To achieve some understanding of the real cost of drilling, to better appreciate the factors involved and to provide a basis for a value judgement of quoted contractor rates

- Fixed costs
- Variable costs
- Utilisation
- Effects of high capital investment

Section 6 – Managing Safety, Health & Other Responsibilities

To develop an awareness of the responsibilities of the delegated representative of the Principal Employer for the management of Health, Safety and other requirements at a drill site.

- Introduction
- Essential elements
- Responsibilities of Principal Employer
- Training
- Fatigue and low morale
- Housekeeping
- PPE
- Safety checks

Section 7 – Drill Rig Inspections

- Discussion on rig inspections and forms
- Practical (dependent on availability of rig)

Section 8 - Discussion and Evaluation

Total Time 12 hours plus travel to rig for inspection

TRAINEESHIP INITIATIVE WITH CENTRAL TAFE

Member companies of the MDAA and Central TAFE have been investigating the implementation of traineeships for the Mineral Drilling Industry at Certificate II level for Driller's Offsider.

To date, consultations between some of the member companies and Central TAFE have been fruitful and some of the milestones achieved are –

- Listing, by Central TAFE, of the Certificate II in Mineral Exploration Drilling as a traineeship.
- Acceptance by the Industry of a standard template for learning resources and assessment tools.
- Issue, by Central TAFE, of a 'Request for Quote' for production of learning resources and assessment tools.
- TV broadcasts promoting 'Drilling' as a career and highlighting the shortages that exist for skilled employees.
- An information night held at Central TAFE to promote both the Central TAFE course and the traineeships. This was attended by over 100 people and interest was very encouraging for the drilling industry.

- The decision that Recognition of Prior Learning and Recognition of Current Competencies is important for current workers, so that not everyone needs to go back to 'square one' to gain recognition of past learning and skills.

The traineeships will be of a twelve months duration and the focus will be 'on the job learning', facilitated by the learning resources and mentoring of the trainees by drillers and supervisors. Assessment will occur on the job, by suitably qualified company assessors. Any underpinning skills and knowledge that can't be delivered on the job, will be delivered in a block release scenario.

Details of the block release plan are yet to be finalised, as Central TAFE are in consultation with industry to establish the priorities and needs of the industry.

The traineeships should, we hope, see a flow of suitable workers into the industry, and increase retention rates as career paths are made available for our employees.

RIISC AND THE RATIONALISATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE TRAINING PACKAGES.

As most of you will be aware, RIISC, the governing body for training packages for the Drilling Industry, metalliferous mining, coal, construction, and construction materials, are rationalising training packages to eliminate duplication in the various standards under their control. For instance, Occupational Health and Safety standards in the diverse industries under RIISC would have much in common and would benefit from rationalisation.

The initiative for this to happen has come from DEST, the Federal body controlling training and education. Their goal is to decrease the repetition in numerous units within the training packages and increase the ability to transfer skills and knowledge across the various industries.

The process has begun and to date RIISC have released an overview of how this will happen (refer RIISC website for in depth information). The MDAA companies have some well placed personnel to ensure that the process doesn't detract from the current training package.

The MDAA is represented on the RIISC Rationalisation and Consolidation Committee, the Drilling Sector Standing Committee, and the Drilling Training Package Working Party.

With this representation, we have a close track on the process, and will be able to influence the outcomes of the process to provide a effective training package for the drilling industry.

With thanks to Stuart Baird of Wallis Drilling Pty Ltd.

Central TAFE

There are, currently, 18 students undertaking the 20 week Certificate II (Offsiders) course at Central TAFE under the tutelage of Graham Woodruffe.

At the end of the course, the students should be 'work ready' as the course is a blend of practical training in the Boral Quarry, and underpinning knowledge provided in a classroom environment.

The facility at the quarry includes the surface rig donated by Wallis Drilling Pty Ltd and the LM 30 u/g rig donated by Boart Longyear

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Bob Mulligan (Safety Services WA) advises that he is leaving Australia for greener pastures in Zambia. He will be heading off at the end of August to take up a 2 year contract with a new copper mine over there - just a little place, the mine village will have 5,000 houses!

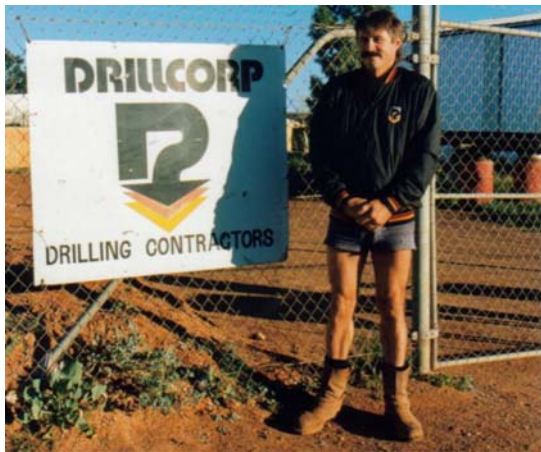
Bob will still be contactable through his email address of bob@safetywa.co.au – stay in touch Bob !

SAD PARTING - OBITUARY

This tribute from Joe Duyvestyn

Murray Gibson R.I.P.

For those that met him, I doubt if you would forget him.



Unfortunately Murray died of Cerebral malaria in Mauritania, Africa in June. I have used extracts from some of the emails here to set the scene.

*"Hi Guys,
I just wanted to make you aware of a recent incident in Mauritania involving the death of a Drillcorp Sahara expat Driller/Foreman from Cerebral Malaria.*

Murray Gibson died on June 28 in Nouakchott after being air evacuated from Zouerate. He apparently contracted Malaria a few weeks earlier, while transporting a rig from Guinea up to northern Mauritania.

I wasn't on site at the time but from what I can gather, "Gibbo", as we knew him, became ill 4-5 days before going to the Zouerate clinic which is operated by local mining company SNIM. He lost consciousness shortly after reaching the clinic and was then evacuated, but died 12 hours later. In the days leading up to his air evacuation, Gibbo tried to shrug off the illness, so to speak, and even worked a few hours a day until being admitted to the clinic.

One of the lessons to be learned from this tragedy is that when you get sick in remote locations it is better to seek medical treatment or testing as soon as possible, in case it is more serious than just a passing "flu" or "virus". In our friend Gibbo's case, we will never know if his life could have been saved, had he gone to the clinic for treatment immediately after becoming ill."

"Murray Gibson, up until three years ago had been a long serving Drillcorp Field Supervisor who had transferred to Drillcorp Sahara when that Company came into being after purchasing the Drillcorp rigs which had been were working in Mauritania.

Murray was a larger than life character, a ball of energy who always pushed himself to the limit and sadly this was the result."

I first met Murray when he came to Drillcorp in the late 80's or early 90's from the Mines Dept. Drilling Division when it shut down.

He had to adjust his ways to company thinking rather than a Government Dept., but he soon convinced those around him that he knew what he was doing. He also established his legend status pretty quickly, with feats too numerous to mention.

However, he appeared to be on a winner after losing his driver's licence for life. A consequence of alcohol and his love of driving. A Judge, in his wisdom, saw fit to give Murray an Extraordinary Licence so he could drive during work hours, 8am to 5 pm.

Murray calmly informed the judge that he worked 12 hour days on the rigs. So the judge modified it to 12 hours. Murray then explained about shift work and that he worked 7 days a week.

Eventually, Murray could drive a Company vehicle 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, anywhere in the State. The bizarre thing was that he did not have to pay for this extraordinary licence!!!!!!

I could probably write a few chapters about Gibbo, as could most people, but my sentiment would be this: - *If ever you were broken down or stuck, or you had down the Hole drilling problems and you saw Murray Gibson turn up, you would be out of trouble in no time. Nothing was irreparable if Muzz could oxy cut his way in and weld his way out.*

There was a fair gathering of the Industry at Karrakatta for his funeral on that Saturday morning in July. I heard there was a blue singlet, stubby shorts and Texan boots in the coffin with him. That's the Gibbo most of us should remember.

At the Eulogy, we learned something new about Murray. It was a funny story that his sister told. Apparently, at about 16 years of age, he and a few of his teenage mates developed a strong liking for GTHO Falcons. They perfected a technique of being able to enter and hotwire the car in about 90 seconds.

They would cruise around town late at night till they found one in a drive way, get in, roll it out of the drive way, and away they would go. But they had respect for the vehicles, and didn't do them any damage. After a time, they would be concerned that the vehicle might be missed, so they would find another one.

Same routine, roll it out the drive and then.....*replace it with the one they just finished with.* They would do this a few times and finish off the night by leaving one back in the original driveway. Can you imagine the mayhem when all these GTHO owners woke up with the wrong car in their drive way.

The story had a finale later in life, when Murray was working away from home and could eventually afford to buy his own GT Falcon. He loved it dearly and spent many hours polishing and cleaning his pride and joy. Unfortunately the car got stolen and was never seen again. Karma????

Keep on Drilling ArmaGibbo. Sadly missed.

Joe Duyvestyn.

P.S. The week after Murray's funeral, another character from the Industry also passed away. Grant Oldham. I will write a few lines about "Sid" in the next newsletter.

While writing this article, I learned that Terry Reay is also in recovery after a bout of Cerebral Malaria. Get well big fella!!