

MONITOR

Official publication of the
Mining and Resource Contractors Safety Training Association

Vale Jim Torlach

The passing of Jim Torlach on the last day of May was a sad day for the Management Committee, staff and members of the Association.

Jim played a key role in the establishment of MARCSTA in the early 1990's. He was committed to the safety and health of workers in the industry. His personal participation and his wisdom were instrumental in maintaining the quality of training programs until his death.

Jim took up the role of State Mining Engineer in the early 1980's at a time when the recommendations of the Robens Committee were beginning to impact on safety and health legislation in Western Australia and on the operations of the then Department of Mines.

He successfully piloted the regulatory authority through a difficult transition.

Jim's premature death is deeply regretted.



Jim Torlach

Mining industry in NSW to pay a safety levy

The NSW Government has introduced a mine safety levy with all mining sectors liable including the extractive industries, all exploration activity and oil and gas extraction.

The levy will fund the implementation of the Wran Mine Safety Review recommendations to further improve mine safety and the safety functions of the Department of Primary Industries in relation to mining, together with the administrative costs of collection.

The levy will bring the mining industry into line with other industries which pay the costs of workplace safety regulation through the WorkCover NSW scheme.

The total amount of the levy will be estimated annually by the Director General of the Department of Primary Industry and calculated on wages data provided by insurers. Collection will happen at the same time as workers' compensation notices are issued.

Interestingly, other factors to be taken into account include the intensity of resources applied to the regulation of safety.

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New National Quality Council established

As part of the changed national training arrangements a new National Training Quality Council (NQC) met for the first time in March 2006. The Council will oversee quality assurance and ensure national consistency in the application of the AQTF standards for the audit and registration of training providers. It has specific decision making powers in relation to the endorsement of training packages and other aspects of quality assurance under the National Skills Framework.

In addition to its coordinating role in vocational and technical education (VTE), the Council will ensure the National Skills Framework – the VTE system's requirements for quality and national consistency in terms of qualifications and the delivery of training - are adhered to.

One important task the Council could undertake would be to produce accurate statistics on the adoption by major industry sectors of training packages and the level of support of those sectors for national qualifications. This would provide some direction for RTO's who have yet to see evidence of industry commitment.

Source: http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/training_skills/policy_issues_reviews/key_issues/nts/vet/nqc.htm

Statistical Report on Notified Fatalities

A Statistical Report on Notified Fatalities for the period July 2004 to December 2004, produced recently by the Office of the Australian Safety and Compensation Council, should be prescribed reading for all media commentators.

While no fatality level is acceptable in any workplace, continual misrepresentation of the level of safety performance in the mining sector by the media inhibits proper scrutiny of other industry sectors whose performance warrants attention.

Number of Notified Fatalities by Industry July 2004 to December 2004

Industry	Number of
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	24
Transport and storage	14
Construction	10
Government administration and defence	7
Personal and other services	6
Mining	4
Manufacturing	2
Electricity, gas and water supply	2
Retail trade	2
Cultural and recreational services	2
Property and business services	2
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	1

The Statistical Report contains additional relevant information such as occupation, age, causation and breakdown agency of injury.

Source: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, Office of the Australian Safety and Compensation Council. Statistical Report Notified Fatalities. July 2004 to December 2004. Canberra: Australian Government,



Concern over drug use in the Eastern Goldfields

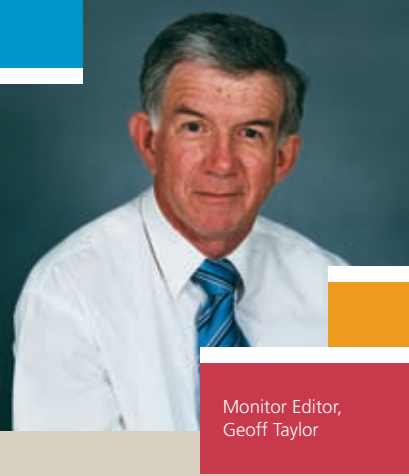
Speaking on the eve of a State Rural Mental Health Conference in Albany, the Clinical Manager of the Kalgoorlie Mental Health Inpatient Service, Jo Owen, expressed serious concern at what has been identified as a major problem in the Eastern Goldfields with illicit amphetamine drug usage.

Ms Owen said that with amphetamines readily available there was a need to break the cycle of drug use not only of amphetamines but also of alcohol. With strict drug testing in the mining industry, people had moved from drugs such as cannabis to amphetamine and alcohol usage.

Ms Owen said that drug use and psychosis could be a "chicken and egg" situation, with people using drugs and possibly developing psychosis or developing symptoms and **then** using illicit drugs.

Source: Major drug problem in city, Charles Amery, Kalgoorlie Miner, 16 February 2006.





Monitor Editor,
Geoff Taylor

Editorial

It is good to see that in addition to Ian Douglas' research at ECU on the impact of MARCSTA training, Kara Kuppens from Murdoch is researching what influences safe behaviour in mining and construction.

The issue of the factors influencing safety is certainly pertinent in the current boom climate. There is considerable pressure on people with qualifications in health and safety at work. I recently met someone who has completed a small part of a formal safety qualification, and was being asked to do a risk assessment on a \$100m project. It would

be interesting to know how much current induction outside MARCSTA conforms to the performance criteria and delivery standards for the national unit *Work Safely*.

Moving on, I'd like to include a little more of ex WMC manager Ned Williams' speech last year at the Sir Richard Doll celebration, quoted in the last *Monitor*, just to show how far we've come in protecting miners' and other workers' respiratory health.

"During World War II the Defence Department had overriding authority in all areas pertaining to defence including the specification of alloys used in army equipment. I recall a command by the defence personnel to my place of employment to make a special alloy for use in the bearings of motorised gun carriers. The alloy was 95% cadmium and 5% nickel. The alloy had not been manufactured previously. Dissolving nickel with melting point of 1453°C in molten cadmium with a melting point of 350° was a difficult procedure in that the action is very slow unless the temperature is raised to something in excess of 500°C. At this temperature cadmium oxidises readily and the end result was the emission of brown cadmium oxide particulates which contaminated the workspace. The alloy was successfully manufactured but at a cost to atmospheric pollution. My rule of thumb for determining the level of atmospheric exposure was to observe the particles floating in a shaft of sunlight which penetrated through the inevitable holes in the housing structure. Unfortunately it had to be sunny day to make the determination. Crude face-covering gauze filters were supplied with some benefit."

The editor can be contacted at Work Safety and Health Associates Telephone 08 9457 6487 or at wsha@iinet.net.au

And to conclude, a little more on *White Thorn*, Bryce Courtenay's latest novel. You can follow the adventures of Ian de la Rue, an Australian mine safety officer working in Africa. In Chapter 17

he advises a newcomer to mining that the first lesson is "don't be a hero". Perhaps the Beaconsfield mine rescue is the exception.

General Safety Induction Training Program 2006

Review of the content of the General Safety Induction training manual has been completed with additional material included to maintain the comprehensive content of the program.

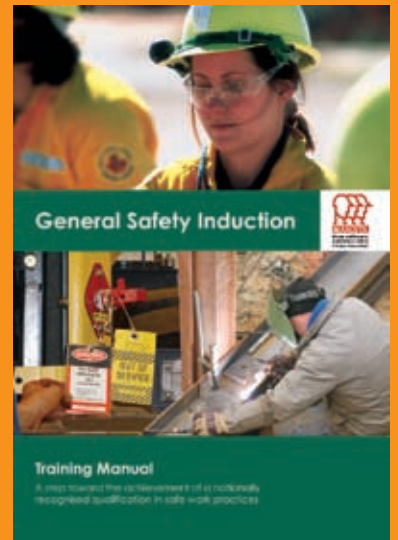
MARCSTA expresses its appreciation for the input provided by a wide range of expert sources including industry safety and health professionals and the regulatory authority.

All candidates for the full day, refresher or FastTrack option are now using the new version.

For employers, completion of the General Safety Induction by their employees ensures the following:

- The general duty of care obligation to provide adequate instruction and training in safety procedures and systems of work before commencing work is met;
- Delivery of training and assessment of candidates is carried out by competent and experienced licensed training providers; and
- Successful candidates can gain a Statement of Attainment, for the core unit of competency "Work Safely" on documenting evidence of practical compliance in the workforce.

MARCSTA's website www.marcsta.com provides candidates with a log book to assist in this regard.



NEARLY 40,000
EMPLOYEES ARE
CURRENT MARCSTA
INDUCTION HOLDERS

Explaining blood pressure

Blood pressure is simply the pressure of the blood as it is traveling through your arteries. Each time your heart beats (on average it beats 60-70 times a minute when at rest) it pumps blood into your arteries. The higher your blood pressure the harder the heart has to work to pump the blood. This can put unwarranted stress on your heart.

There are two types of blood pressure that can be measured.

Systolic pressure is measured just as the heart beats.

Diastolic pressure is measured when the heart is at rest, that is, between beats.

Because there is more pressure just as the heart beats, your systolic pressure is higher than your diastolic pressure. Usually when the two measures are written down or referred to, systolic pressure is given first and diastolic pressure second. So, 120 over 80 means your systolic pressure is 120 and your diastolic pressure is 80.

Some of the potential consequences of high blood pressure e.g. 160/100 are:

- Stroke;
- Heart disease;
- Kidney disease; and
- Eye disease.

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle – adequate quality sleep, eating the right food at the right time and regular exercise – can prevent high blood pressure.

Where do you fit in the following schedule?

Category	Systolic Pressure	Diastolic Pressure
Normal	less than 120	less than 80
Prehypertension	120–39	80-89
Stage I – High blood pressure	140-59	90-99
Stage II – High blood pressure	160 or higher	100 or higher

Source: Circadian Technologies Inc., "Mr Know-It-All Explains Blood Pressure." Working Nights February (2006): 4.



Common cause of injury in UK workplaces



Recent UK Health Safety Executive (HSE) statistics show pedestrian slipping and tripping to be the most common cause of injury in UK workplaces.

Thirty seven percent of the total of all occupational major injury accidents were caused by slipping and tripping, with broken bones involved in 95% of these accidents.

In addition, slips and trips are often the initiators of accidents, attributed to other causes, such as machinery accidents, scaldings and probably over one third of falls from height.

Source: SafetyNews, UK. 23/11/05

Severe hand eczema of increasing concern

According to an article in the March issue of the Archives of Dermatology, occupational hand eczema (OHE) has become a disease of increasing importance in recent decades because of its serious consequences, such as frequent eruptions and the risk of prolonged sick leave. It also affects quality of life.

A Danish study has attempted to identify predictive risk factors for the disease which could be used by clinicians to guide treatment and to select early risk management strategies.

Source: Archives of Dermatology, March 2006, Journal of the American Medical Association.

New information on diabetes

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released a bulletin presenting the latest available national data on new cases of Type 1 Diabetes in Australia for 2004.

There were 982 new cases in children aged 0-14 years.

There were another 879 cases in people aged 15-39 years.

No significant gender differences were found among children aged 0-14 years.

Among registrants aged 15-39 years there was a significantly higher rate among males, ie. an average adjusted annual rate of 15.9 new cases per 100,000 population for males compared to 8.7 for females.



The Institute says that Diabetes is one of the leading threats to the health of Australians and the rate of new cases is on the increase.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2006. Incidence of Type 1 Diabetes in Australians under 40 years: a snapshot of National Diabetes Register data for 2004. AIHW cat. no. AUS76. Canberra: AIHW.

Failure to provide adequate facilities results in loss of sight

In Victoria an employee using a Dangerous Goods Class 3 flammable liquid suffered severe burns to both eyes – his vision cannot be improved with glasses, he cannot drive, suffers from depression and uses a guide stick.

His employer was convicted and fined A\$25,000. The company had two prior convictions.

The court found the company failed to provide an immediately accessible eye bath area and drench/shower where the victim's eye could be irrigated continuously for a period of 20-30 minutes, as directed by the Material Safety Data Sheet.

Source: SafetyNet Journal #86, OHS Unit of the Victorian Trades Hall Council

The cost of ignoring prohibition notices

In the Norwich Crown Court in the UK, the director of a quarrying company who ignored prohibition notices was fined more than A\$130,000 and given a nine month custodial sentence following a conviction for breach of health and safety legislation.

The prosecution followed a fall from height accident when an employee sustained a major injury while attempting to clear a blockage in a screener.

Source: "Custodial Sentence for Director who Ignored Prohibition Notices." Safety News UK. Safety News. 24 May 2006 <<http://www.safetynews.co.uk>>.

Chronic noise linked to risk of heart attack

Cardiovascular disease is a leading cause of death in developed countries. Smoking, high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol levels, being overweight or obese and lack of exercise increase the odds of developing heart disease.

According to German researchers, exposure to chronic noise on the street and at work can also increase the risk of a heart attack. They claim that chronic noise can increase stress levels which may set off changes in the body that can trigger a heart attack.

Environmental noise from traffic and airplanes raised the chances of having a heart attack by nearly 50% for men and even more for women.

Based on the findings reported in the European Heart Journal, the scientists believe that workplace ear protection levels should be reduced from the current 85 decibels widely used in western European countries to between 65-75 decibels. Sixty decibels is a typical noise level in a large, busy office while 85 decibels is equivalent to road construction equipment, according to the scientists.

The scientists consider that the threshold at which risk occurs and remains constant is around 60 decibels.

Source: Stefan N. Willich, Karl Wegscheider, Martina Stallmann, and Thomas Keil, Noise burden and the risk of myocardial infarction, European Heart Journal Advance Access published on February 1, 2006, DOI 10.1093/eurheartj/ehi658. Eur Heart J 27: 276-282.



Proposals for a forthcoming professional development workshop were considered at a meeting of members on 2 June 2006, attended by representatives from the mines inspectorate and invited industry professionals.

The Chairman, Terry Condipodero, requested a one minute silence before discussions commenced in remembrance of the Society's inaugural Chairman, Jim Torlach, who passed away on 31 May.

Agenda topics considered for the workshop were:

The continuing incidence of serious injuries:

- Predictability of all aspects of injury incidence
- The unavailability of reliable workforce taxonomy
- The qualities and accuracy of data provided by industry
- The shortcomings of incident investigation
- The need for a scientifically based approach

The quality of current approaches to noise control and hearing conservation:

- The continuing loss of hearing in industry
- The quality of hearing protection and instruction on how to use it
- Current noise levels and the quality of noise dosimetry
- Emerging technologies in hearing protection devices

Air quality, atmospheric contaminants and dust monitoring.

Ventilation training and skills.

The workshop/seminar will be conducted in the July/August period with attendance limited to maximise registrant participation. Expressions of interest should be emailed to Paula Sinclair pfs@marcsta.com.

ISMSP members

Associate

David Bies
Dale Cocker
Dr Mike Gouws
Professor Peter Lilly
Nick Mabbott
Jason Roberts
Mal Sanders

Professional

Charles Tony Baker
Reuben Barber
Terry Condipodero
Geoff Day
Linda Elezovich
Andrew Extract
Rob Filmer
Lynette Gilbert

Patrick Gilroy AM
Ross Graham
Andrew Johnson
Vicki Jones **CMSP**
Ray Kennedy **CMSP**
Geoff Knight
Taff Langley
Peter Luobikis
Joe Maglizza **CMSP**

Michael McCudden
Brett McIntosh
Vic Roberts
William Roche **CMSP**
Grant Shearwin
Stephen Smith
Noel Wendt
Stephen Woods
Amanda Youngman

Wellness programs

In the USA corporations are scrambling to find more creative approaches to the burgeoning crisis in health care costs.

One strategy has been to offer discounts on health insurance premiums to employees who participate in wellness programs. Additional discounts on premiums are also available to employees' partners who participate.

These initiatives come at a time of shifting some of the cost of health insurance, traditionally born by employers, back to employees.

Attention is now being paid to employee risk factors such as high blood pressure, cholesterol, lack of fitness, bad eating habits and whether people smoke. Extra attention is given to chronic conditions such as diabetes, asthma, obesity and cardio vascular problems.

Source: Case, Brendan M.. "Wellness Programs Getting a Boost from Employers." Dallas Morning News 23 April 2006





Issue 2/2006

Notes for the Shift Worker

Minimising sleep debt

A feature article in Working Nights TM published by Circadian (www.circadian.com), and approved by them for publication, warrants reproduction here in full. The article should be read by everyone working long hours or shift work.

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In this hectic and fast paced world, it can be hard to put aside enough time to get the full amount of sleep our bodies need. But be careful – because just as you can quickly go into financial debt if you don't make regular deposits to your bank account, you can also build up a sleep debt when you don't get the sleep your body needs. Sleeping only six hours when your body needs eight, for example, leaves you with a sleep debt of two hours.

As a shiftworker, it's hard to completely avoid sleep debt. Between the challenge of sleeping during the daytime, commuting, and family and social activities, you're lucky if you're able to get a full eight hours of sleep on workdays.

Just as financial experts recommend keeping a financial debt as low as possible, you should strive to keep your sleep debt as low as possible – which should make you feel healthier and more energetic.

Sleep Debt Consequences

Building up a sleep debt can have serious consequences. It leaves you thinking less clearly, making more little mistakes, and in a bad mood. And it puts you at risk for alertness lapses, poor health, and reduced productivity both on the job and off.

Many people comment on how they feel differently after a day or two of reduced sleep. Perhaps you have noticed that when you accumulate a sleep debt, you come down with more colds and are more likely to feel under the weather. If you have noticed this, it's not your imagination. Many studies have shown that too little sleep affects white blood cell counts, making it harder for your body to fight infection.

A large sleep debt may also put you at risk for weight gain. One study suggests getting sub-optimal sleep decreases levels of growth hormone and another hormone, leptin. Lack of these hormones can lead to carbohydrate craving and higher body fat.

The same study showed that sleep debt affects the body in ways similar to the aging process, increasing levels of cortisol, an excess of which can lead to memory problems. Also, the body's ability to clear glucose was nearly 40% slower than normal in sleep-indebted subjects; inability to process glucose puts you at risk for obesity and hypertension.

The good news about sleep debt is that you do not need to repay it on a minute-by-minute basis. Although one good night's sleep usually isn't enough to pay off a large sleep debt, two straight nights of extra-long sleep are generally enough to clear your account.

A few tips for managing sleep debt:

Assess your daily sleep need. Start by identifying how much sleep you need to feel you're at your best. You can do this by seeing how long you sleep when you're well-rested, such as on a weeklong vacation. Most people need at least 7.5 hours of sleep every 24 hours.

Manage your account well. Once you know your recommended daily sleep allowance, keep a running tally in your mind of your account's status. When you're approaching a stretch of night shifts, it helps to make deposits of long sleep in the days beforehand. Once you start working, set realistic but attainable goals. For example, avoid letting your sleep debt grow by more than one hour a day, or more than four or five hours in a workweek.

Use strategic naps. Naps are a vital tool for minimizing sleep debt. If you only sleep from 8:30 am to 1 pm after work, make sure you set aside time for a nap before returning to work. A lot of shiftworkers find it very energizing to take a nap before working the night shift.

Self-evaluate. Despite your best efforts, at times you may build up a sleep debt. Until you can catch up, exercise extreme caution on the job and during your commute.

Source: Working Nights, April 2006. Circadian Technologies Inc.



Clinics and sleep-aid prescriptions on the rise

The number of sleep centres in the United States has nearly tripled in the past decade, and the prescriptions for sleep aids have increased by 60% since 2000, says IMS Health, a research tracking company. In all, 42 million prescriptions to aid sleep were filled last year.

Experts say more people are suffering from sleep problems these days, partly from increased stress and health issues, including obesity. The Institute of Medicine in a recent report called lack of sleep a public health problem.

As many as 70 million Americans suffer chronic sleep disorders that increase their risk of hypertension, diabetes, depression, heart attack and stroke.

A 2005 study by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine claimed that annual costs associated with lost productivity, missed days and medical bills, because of insomnia could reach US\$7 billion.

Source: The Columbus Dispatch, 1/5/06

Blue light improves alertness

According to a new study published by researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, shortwave light, which appears blue, immediately improves alertness and performance.

The researchers compared the effects of blue and green light on volunteers during the night. Subjects exposed to blue light rated themselves as less sleepy, had quicker reaction times and had fewer lapses of attention than those exposed to green light.

While scientists caution that more research is needed, they are hopeful that these results could help workers who need to sustain alertness for long period of time and at night. They also caution that if misused, blue lights can cause damage to the eye.

Source: Cajochen, Christian, Mirjam Münch, Szymon Koblak, Kurt Krauchi, Roland Steiner, Peter Oelhafen, Selim Orguc I, and Anna Wirz-Justice. "High Sensitivity of Human Melatonin, Alertness, Thermoregulation, and Heart Rate to Short Wavelength Light." The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism 90(2005): 1311-1316.

Sleep loss feeds appetite

New research in the USA, reported in two recent studies, concludes that sleep loss brings about physiological changes in the hormonal signals that promote hunger and perhaps obesity.

The evidence continues to mount that if you are sleep deprived there is a human tendency to eat more but Emmanuel Mignot, senior researcher at Stanford University's Howard Hughes Medical Institute considers sleep loss to be just one of the factors in weight control. The focus on sleep loss, however, is providing strong indicators of which way future investigation should proceed.

Source: WebMD Medical News, 3/1/06

Transport industry should insist on safe driving schedules

In the Shepperton County Court, Victoria, a Canberra transport company was convicted and fined A\$130,000 after a crash near Cobram killed four people in 2001.

The truck driver concerned was jailed in 2002 and is due for release in 2009.

In handing down his sentence the judge said the driver had traveled about 1195 kms in the 24 hours before the crash and had no sleep during that period. The truck he was driving had serious problems with the brakes and tyres.

WorkSafe Victoria Executive Director, John Merritt, said the case should send a clear message to the transport industry that driving hours and maintenance should be a high priority.

Source: WorkCover Victoria Release 24/3/06

Lack of sleep and hypertension

In a study of more than 4,800 men and women, those who got five hours of sleep a night or less were about 60% more likely to develop hypertension than those who slept six to eight hours. The study consisted of people aged between 32 and 59 and controlled for many variables, including depression, alcohol consumption, smoking and obesity.

Long sleepers, nine or more hours, were no less likely to have high blood pressure than those who slept six to eight hours. Lack of sleep may also increase the effect of other hypertension risk factors, such as obesity.

Source: Business Insider, (N Bakalar "Research Ties Lack of Sleep to Risk for Hypertension", The New York Times, 18/4/06).



Driver behaviour, distraction and crash factors

Driver inattention is the leading factor in most crashes and rear crashes, according to a research report released in April by the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute. Nearly 80% of crashes and 60% of near-crashes involved some form of driver inattention within three seconds before the event.

Primary causes of driver inattention are distracting activities such as cell phone usage and drowsiness.

The research illustrates the potentially dire consequences that can occur while driving distracted or drowsy and underlines the dangers of those working long hours or shift workers driving home at the end of a shift and falling asleep at the wheel.

Source: EurekAlert, 20/4/06

Judges courting ill-health

The Supreme Court of Victoria has employed external consultants to interview judges and their staff for an occupational health and safety risk assessment audit.

A senior judge claims judges were working up to 80 hours per week which was unsustainable and unsafe as well as irreconcilable with the Crown's obligation to provide a safe working environment for judges. It also imposes great costs on judges and their families.

Source: The Age, 29/3/06

Unpaid overtime league table (UK)

The UK Trades Union Congress (TUC) reports that senior managers have overtaken teachers to leap to the top of the 2006 unpaid overtime league table published by the TUC.

The league table, which is derived from the official 60,000 strong Labour Force Survey, shows that managerial and professional staff dominate the top places with less senior staff in IT, law, accounting and finance likely to put in almost one extra day of unpaid work a week.

Source: Trades Union Congress 27/3/06

The cost of sleep disorders in Australia



The overall cost of sleep disorders in Australia in 2004 (population: 20.1 million) was US\$7494 million. This comprised direct health costs of US\$146 million for sleep disorders and US\$313 million for associated conditions, US\$1956 million for work-related injuries associated with sleep disorders (net of health costs), US\$808 million for private motor vehicle accidents (net of health costs), US\$1201 million for other productivity losses, US\$100 million for the real costs associated with raising alternative taxation revenue, and US\$2970 million for the net cost of suffering.

The direct and indirect cost of sleep disorders is high. The total financial costs (independent of the cost of suffering) of US\$4524 million represents 0.8% of Australian gross domestic product. The cost of suffering of US\$2970 million is 1.4% of the total burden of disease in Australia.

Source: Hillman, David. R., Anita Scott Murphy, Lynne Pezzullo, The Economic Cost of Sleep Disorders, Sleep Journal, Vol 29, Issue 03, p 299-305

Melatonin supplements in doubt

Long touted as a natural way to aid insomnia and jet lag, melatonin supplements may not be as beneficial as once thought. Researchers at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, found no evidence that melatonin alleviates inadequate sleep resulting from jet lag or shiftwork, or that it treats secondary sleep disorders, which are linked to medical, neurological or substance misuse.

Past research on melatonin supplements has shown modest sleep gains for people who don't have long-term sleep disorders. Melatonin is a hormone released by the pineal gland that helps regulate the sleep-wake cycle.

Source: Working Nights, March 2006, Circadian Technologies Inc.



news and views

INFORMATION ON GENERAL NEWS AND VIEWS
WITHIN THE MINING INDUSTRY,
BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL.

In a six page article in *Mining Technology*, December 2005, Professor Jim Galvin of UNSW comments on the **enforcement of OHS legislation in mining**, and argues that as improvements in LTI and fatalities have plateaued, the focus should be on balancing punishment with reward. He argues that prosecutions based on the absolute liability of management in NSW for creating risks do not correlate with the improvements, while the risk management approach does, and the \$20m spent on court cases could be channeled into mine safety, and achievement of enforceable undertakings. He says the present legal philosophy in NSW is deterring younger people from taking on statutory roles, and reducing the flow of best practice information to e.g. mirmgate because it provides fuel for prosecutors.

The article does contain some inaccuracies in regard to mining OHS legislation elsewhere in Australia.

Australian Journal of Mining, November-December 2005 notes that Australia has the **lowest political risk** for mining. There is also an article on Professor David Boger, winner of the 2005 PM's Science Prize, whose work on fluid mechanics may eliminate many **tailings dams**. It also mentions Xstrata's take-up of **the integrated communication cap lamp** from Mine Site Technologies. There are also features on access control, gears motors and drives, and maintenance, and an article on the CRCM, UQ **dragline duty meter** designed to monitor fatigue and damage, cut maintenance and improve productivity.

CIM Bulletin, December 2005-January 2006, notes that Inco have won an award from the Ontario Power Authority for tripling the targeted savings in an **energy usage reduction** campaign. It reports on the Canadian Surface Mining Association for Research and Technology, has an article by Haidee Weldon and Heather Ednie on **underground advances**, one on progress with **e-procurement** by Jon Baird, and a review of **e-learning** by Paul Hebert based on work by J.V. Moran. Also Mitri and Saharon report on **de-stress blasting** to control strainbursts in hard rock mining, and there is an article by M.K. Ozfirat and four others on modeling **risk factors for occupational accidents** in Turkish underground coal mines.

AusIMM Bulletin, January-February 2006 has articles by R. Louthean on **fatigue** based on a paper by Nick Mabbott of ARRB Consulting, on Australian **rockfall research** by Dr Y Potvin (55 page report available from Australian Centre for Geomechanics), and on better viewing of **underground remote control vehicles**. Also Monika Sarder writes on worklife balance and atypical working hours involved in FIFO, and F.J. Glisson, D.B. Minchin and A. Roth discuss **rockfall protection in open pit mines**.

conferences and courses

6th International Mining Geology Conference. Darwin 21-23 August 2006.

International Mine Management 2006. Melbourne. 16-18 October 2006.

9th Mill Operators Conference. Fremantle 19- 21 March 2007.

World Gold 2007. Cairns 22-24 October 2007.

Fax: 03 9662 3662. Email: conference@ausimm.com.au



Who's who?

Chief Executive Officer

Patrick Gilroy AM

Chairperson

Joe Maglizza

Rinker Australia Pty Ltd

Vice Chairperson

Ross Graham

Komatsu

Committee of Management

Allaine Coleman

Terry Condipodero

Peter Nicholls

Peter Luobikis

Arlene Roe

Kim Stewart

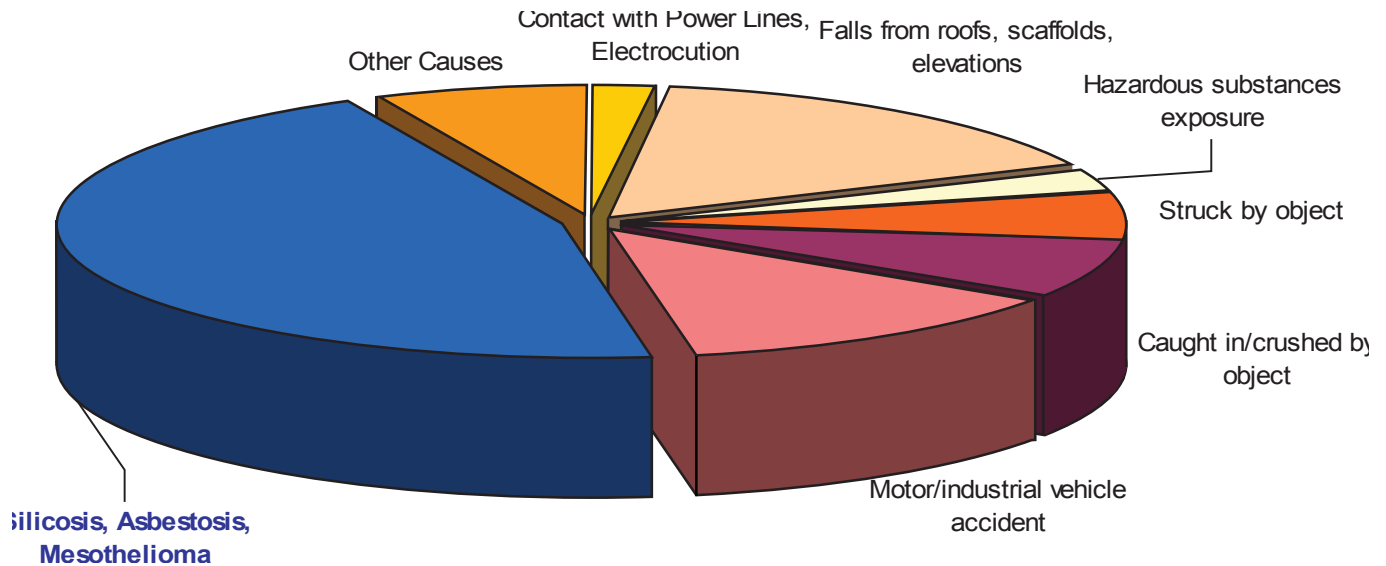
MARCSTA Monitor Editor

Geoff Taylor



Causes of 290 worker fatalities in the British Columbian construction industry (1995-2005)

WorkSafe BC (Vancouver, British Columbia) periodically issue statistical information, in poster format, which graphically illustrates the causes of worker fatalities in the construction industry.



Source: Think Safe - Work Safe, Workers' Compensation Board, British Columbia



new publications

DOCEP WorkSafe:

- *Guidance Note - General Duty of Care (revised)*
- *Code of Practice - Excavations.*

DOCEP Resources Safety:

- *Guidelines - Accident and Incident Reporting, General Duty of Care in WA Mines.*
- *Guideline -Noise Control in Mines plus Mine Safety Matters brochure Noise Management.*
- *Posters - Receiving a PIN or IN, Receiving a Prohibition Notice, Safety Performance in WA Mines 2004-5.*
- *PowerPoint Toolbox Presentations (downloadable) – six on mine safety legislation, one on electrical safety and one on safety performance.*
- *Procedures – Personal Noise Exposure Readings, Completing an AXTAT Report Form, Completing an Occurrence Report form.*

Rhodes, L. (2005). *Two for the Price of One: the Lives of Mining Wives*. Perth, API Network

MARCSTA members

FULL MEMBERS

Ausdrill Ltd
 Australian Raise Drilling
 Barmenco Mining Contractors
 BGC Contracting
 Brambles Ltd
 Cooks Construction Ltd
 Readymix Holdings Pty Ltd
 GRD Minproc

Komatsu Pty Ltd
 Macmahon Pty Ltd
 Roche Mining
 Roche Mining (JR) Pty Ltd
 Skilled Group Ltd
 Thiess Pty Ltd
 Total Corrosion Control
 Westrac Equipment Pty Ltd

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

AVELING
 Mandurah Safety and Training Services
 QFS Australia

This list is current at the time of going to press. For further information contact the Secretariat (08) 9355 1400

92% OF MARCSTA
 INDUCTEES ARE
 MALE WITH THE
 REMAINING 8%
 FEMALE

Training providers *Merryn & Graeme Richards*



Graeme and Merryn Richards, a couple with vast experience and knowledge of the mining and civil industries, operate Richards Mining Services Pty Ltd (RMS), a privately owned Registered Training Organisation specialising in delivering and providing training, assessment, supervision, management recruitment and medical services to the mining and civil industries. Based in Perth, Western Australia, the company has been operational for four years.

Graeme, a Registered Quarry Manager and Merryn, a Registered General Nurse and First Aid Instructor, have over 35 years combined experience in areas such as training, assessing, occupational safety and health, management and supervision.

This knowledge formed the foundation for the development of the company.

Merryn has extensive experience within the areas of underground mining, facilitating injury management, safety and health training and occupational health.

Graeme's involvement in the industry includes extensive consultancy work for a variety of major mining companies in the areas of mine management, productivity evaluation studies and operator training and assessment.

Graeme and Merryn are registered training providers of the MARCSTA Induction, which they currently deliver at their Joondalup premises. They have been running the General Safety Induction for the mining and civil Industry since 2001. Due to the growing amount of demands for the MARCSTA inductions, RMS are now holding up to two classes a week.

Graeme and Merryn provide clients with a one stop quality service shop in a comfortable, friendly environment, which is cost effective and convenient for the customer.

In association with Minara Resources' Murrin Murrin Nickel & Cobalt Operations, RMS is facilitating Dump Truck Training and Process Plant Training Programs. Since starting these programs, RMS have been highly successful in establishing the opportunity for people who have never worked in the mining industry to commence employment working with large mining operations.

RMS will shortly be moving to bigger and better premises due to the significant increase in training demands. The new premises will be equipped with better training facilities meaning more training programs will be run on regular basis. This will open the door to more opportunities for people looking to start a career in the mining industry.

RMS is a unique company providing convenience, cost-effective, professional and quality training for individuals, clients and companies. Whilst most training is conducted at Joondalup, a range of training courses can be supplied on site at the request of the client. All of the nationally recognised services at RMS are conducted by highly qualified, experienced and friendly trainers.



MARCSTA licensed training providers

Mark Adam
Graham Bailey
Ron Baker
Tom Bateman
Carl Berglin
Danny Bogнар
Clive Brindley
Dale Cocker (U) (S)
Jim Dandie
Geoff Day

Peter Dowding
Joe Duyvestyn
Linda Elezovich
Ashley Gilbert
Ross Graham
Gary Green
Ray Hargreaves
Jeffrey Hickin
Ralph Keegan (S)
Rob Lewis

Joe Maglizza
Neil McMeekin
Malcolm McFarland
Katherine Montague
John Preston
Merryn Richards
Jason Roberts
Victor Roberts
Grant Shearwin
Brian Smith

Peter Stoneman
Marcus Taylor
James Titmus
Peter Tynan (U)
Graham Williams
Paul Willoughby
Terry Young

All training providers listed above provide general inductions.

U denotes the underground program. S denotes the extended working hours program.