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Optimised Core plasterboards continue to exceed the performance requirements of Australian Standard AS2588.

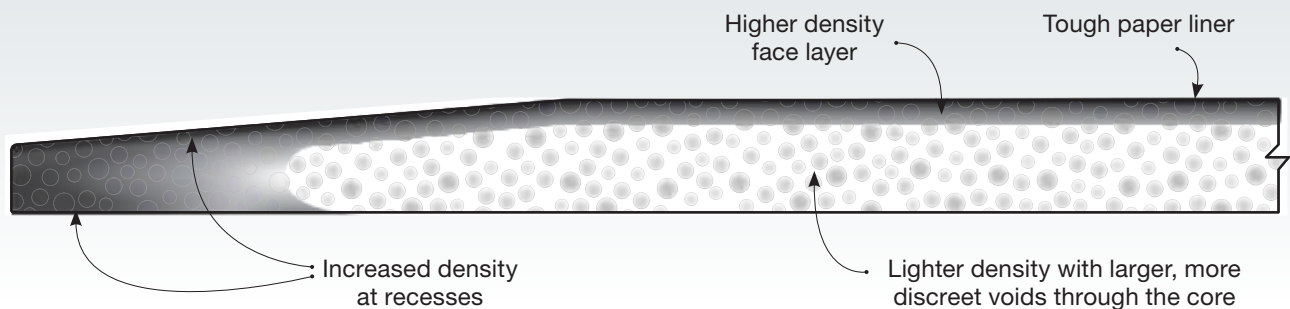
Stronger, thicker face paper is also included to assist with bending strength and helping to ensure a crisper score and snap. The end result is a stronger, lighter plasterboard with better manoeuvrability, lifting and handling.



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Gyprock Plus™ is the latest plasterboard to benefit from Optimised Core technology and thicker face paper, delivering substantial performance and handling benefits compared to the previous standard 10mm plasterboard it replaces:

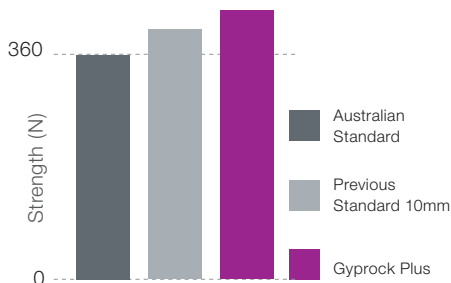
- **Stronger** – more robust with better breaking strength for improved handling and installed performance
- **Lighter** – easier to lift for better sheet manoeuvrability and improved flex
- **Significantly improved score and snap** – for crisp edges and cleaner cuts



Key Features

Stronger

Gyprock Plus provides 7.5% greater machine-direction breaking strength than the previous standard 10mm plasterboard, with improved production consistency.



Testing performed at the CSR National Research Centre – a NATA accredited test facility.

Lighter

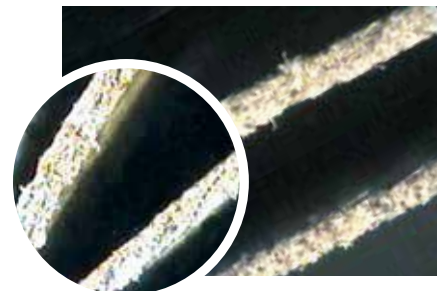
While the strength has been improved, the weight of Gyprock Plus has been optimised, making it easier to lift, carry and install.

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Wow what a busy year we've had. They say time flies when you're having fun, so this last year must have been a real cracker because it's absolutely flown by. It really doesn't seem that long ago I was sitting down to write the last end-of-year column. I can't believe the big red fat man will be paying a visit once again (and no I don't mean the guy from the ATO). 2015's been a big one again; building approvals are still up on last year despite a slight fall in August, even though there was a good improvement in detached housing approvals, which means we should all have a shed load of work in the coming months and into 2016.

With the summer break fast approaching, ok I know the traditional three-week break is a thing of the past with many of us lucky to get a week off in-between due to the amount of work at the moment, and when we do have some downtime it's usually spent sorting out all the outstanding paperwork we seem have these days. But the upside of this is when we do get a few days off we want to kick back and maximise it, so why not check

out all the latest products inside from tools and machinery to other boys toys. We also take the Triumph 800XRx Tiger out for a spin, so check out the feature for our take on this new Trumpy.

Also in this issue we get up close and personal with WorkSafe Victoria. We all know safety at the jobsite is a huge concern and if we get hurt we often don't get paid, so it's up to all of us to be proactive and on the ball when it comes to having a safe worksite and helping to prevent injuries at work.

In this edition's Tradies Best Mate we kick back with a German Spitz dog called Bear and his owner Paul Mitton.

Matt Page also has a blast testing some very impressive tools currently on the market and we showcase some of the latest and greatest in demo tools and construction lasers.

If this wasn't enough we have also jammed in our regular features with Business and Finance, The Perfect Work Vehicle, Innovative Products, 20 Questions, Tradie Wellbeing and Eye On The Industry.

We also have a great subs prize on offer this edition where you can win the Metabo Powermaxx BS Quick Pro with quick chuck, right angle attachment, 2Ah and 4Ah batteries, charger and case. It's the lightweight, compact and powerful solution to your cordless drill driver needs and you can win it right here by subscribing to the mag.

Well, until next year folks. We wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year from the whole team here at *BCM For Tradies*. I hope you can all make the most of any time off you get and crack open a cold one from all of us.

Cheers,
Kurt Quambusch
Publisher **BCM**

MAGAZINE DEADLINES

Jan/Feb 2016 Deadline Nov 20, 2015
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CONTRIBUTORS



Matt Page

Matt is working full-time as an electrician building Sydney's waterfront mansions. At the moment Matt is also working part-time on his own renovation projects after hours and with a builder on weekends. He is also a drummer in a Sydney band called Sundayze who hit the studio last year to record their first album.



Dr. Sarah MacNeil

Dr. Sarah MacNeil (Chiropractor) is an avid horse show jumper who focuses on the health of the spine and nervous system to help lead families toward a higher level of health. Originally from Canada, Sarah moved to Sydney and now calls this beautiful country home. She completed her seven-year chiropractic education in Canada, the wellness certification program through the International Chiropractic Association and is in the process of completing the chiropractic pediatric diploma through the International Chiropractic Pediatric Association. She is the principal chiropractor at Chiropractic Central in Lane Cove where she inspires an eat, move and think well philosophy to inspire and challenge the team and everyone in our community to a higher level of health and life.

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As Managing Director of Cube Consulting Group, Matthew coaches, mentors and presents to thousands of business owners annually. He shares invaluable knowledge on how to grow a business that delivers desired profit and lifestyle. To make positive change today, email matt@cubeconsultinggroup.com.au or visit www.cubeconsultinggroup.com.au. Get excited about your business.



Jake D. Frost

Jake D. Frost was the Editor of National Action Sports title Slam for almost a decade, before becoming an Online Producer for the reality television show *Big Brother*. He now contributes to various digital and print publications around the world. Frosty, as he's known to his friends (which is now you), proudly brings his insightful writing style to the pages of BCM For Tradies.

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Lose paperwork Save time MAKE MONEY

In the last edition we discussed the frustrations a lot of business owners face with feeling like they're stuck on the hamster wheel, which is all about spinning on the spot, but going nowhere. For many business owners the first step to getting off the hamster wheel and gaining control of their business is often through cleaning up their administration and paperwork.

This month, I speak with Managing Director of TradiePad, Clinton Cowin, who is an expert in streamlining administration for tradies. So how can you, the business owner, save time and save money by simply losing the paperwork?

WHERE DO YOU START TO FIND TIME AND SAVE MONEY?

The most important point to get right is selecting the right business operating platform to be used in transferring manual paper into an automated system. This is used to manage client records, job/project information and scheduling and staff collaboration. There's a huge range of job and project management solutions out there that all look similar on the outside, but vary widely inside. Making the wrong decision here can cost you considerable time before you discover you've gone down the wrong track, so don't rush the decision.

HOW DO YOU MANAGE ACCOUNTING INFORMATION?

Financial (accounting) software manages the incoming and outgoing financial data and tells you if you're making any money. Having the business operating platform and the financial software components talking to each other is super-important to help eliminate any inefficient double entry of data. In regards to the financial software, integration is the key. Make sure the business operating platform that you're looking for integrates with the financial software. Look at invoicing integration along with purchasing integration. Being able to log a cost/bill against a job and have it automatically

"I have some paperwork to catch up on. If I'm not back in two days, organise a search and rescue team!"



appear in your financial software saves massive amounts of data entry time and reduces manual data entry errors.

WHERE DO THE HUNDREDS OF APPS NOW AVAILABLE FIT IN?

Finding one business operating platform that can do it all is very rare, so be prepared to use some other smaller apps to build yourself the tailored solution to exactly fit your needs. Things like form builders, photo editing, report creation and plan management can be worked into the solution to achieve exactly what you're looking for.

HOW IMPORTANT IS SETTING UP THE SYSTEM RIGHT THE FIRST TIME?

Spending time and money on initial training is a valuable investment that will fast track your journey to embracing the technology; ultimately saving time and increasing profit. If you're busy running the business, don't fool yourself into thinking you'll find the time to learn it by yourself, because it just won't happen. Having a third-party provide some structured training makes you commit to the cause and can also help your staff manage the change a little easier. Don't make it harder than it needs to be. We all know how frustrating technology can be if you don't know what you're doing. The very nature

KEY THINGS TO CONSIDER:

Keep it simple – Bells and whistles are great, but sometimes it's not worth the time it takes to use them for the overall value they provide. Don't get sucked in by gimmicky features.

Accessibility/functionality from the field – Do you need someone in the office running this thing or can you stay on the tools and run it from the road? It's a very serious and important decision.

Scalability – Are you able to upgrade the system when your business grows in sales and employees?

Ask an expert.

of cloud-based solutions means they are constantly evolving, which means keeping on top of the new features, functionality and options can be a full-time job.

Matthew Jones is the Managing Director of Cube Consulting Group and he coaches, mentors and presents to thousands of business owners annually on how to grow a business that delivers desired profit and lifestyle. To make a positive change today, email matt@cubeconsultinggroup.com.au or visit www.cubeconsultinggroup.com.au BCM

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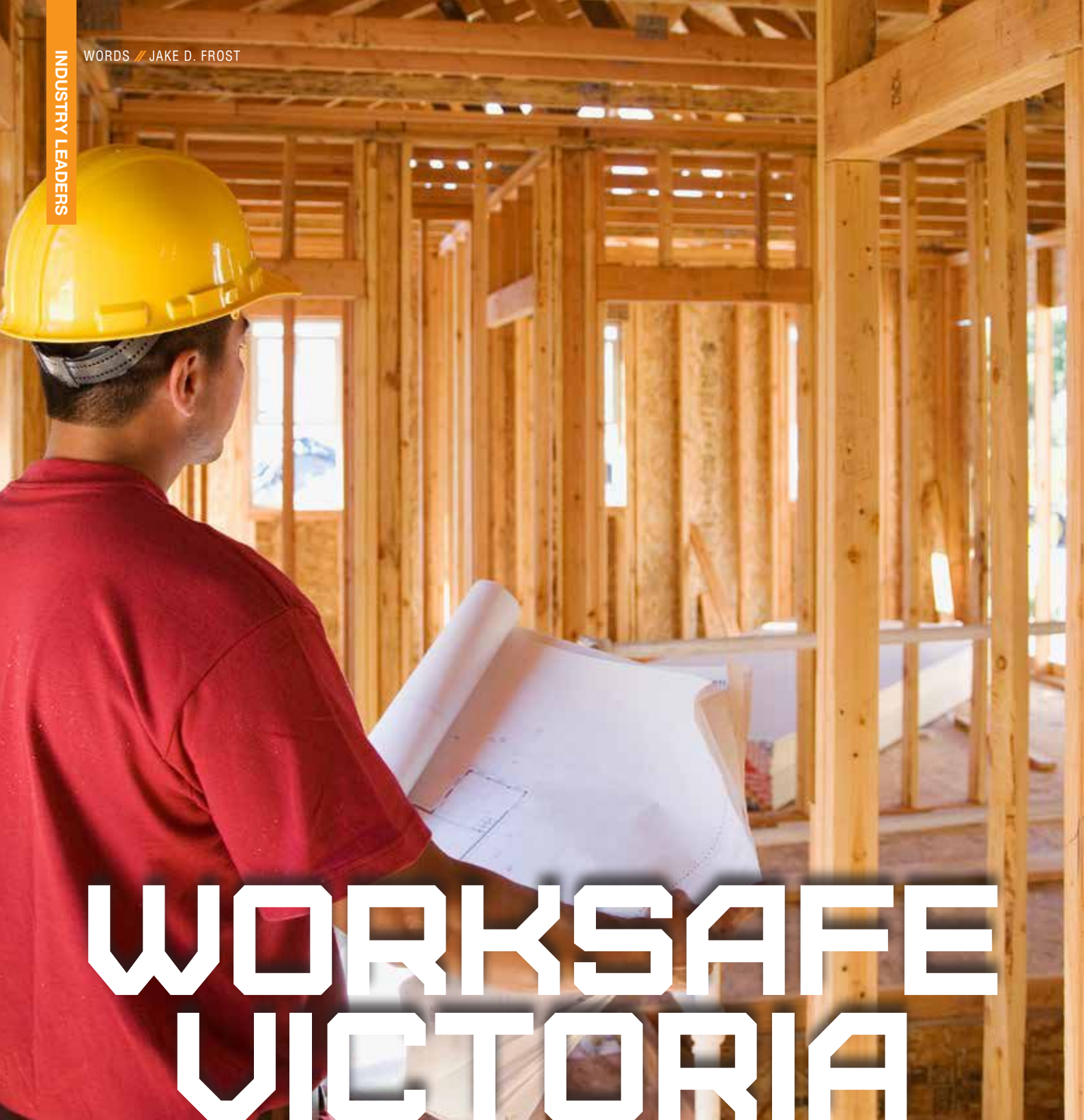
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WORKSAFE VICTORIA

WARNING FROM THE WISE

It's a dangerous game we play. From tweaked backs and hammered thumbs all the way to the occasional and inconceivable fatality, safety is a major concern within the construction industry. Down in the state of Victoria they are making real progress in the prevention of injuries and deaths on building sites, thanks to the proactive governing body, WorkSafe.



Of course, WorkSafe Victoria isn't just about regulating health and safety within the construction industry, it covers all workplaces and businesses across the entire spectrum. It also does more than just police all the issues at hand. "In broad terms," explained Dermot Moody, WorkSafe's Construction Program Manager, "it strives to prevent workplace injuries occurring, enforces Victoria's occupational health and safety laws, provides reasonably priced workplace

injury insurance for employers, helps injured workers back into the workforce, and manages the workers' compensation scheme by ensuring the prompt and efficient delivery of appropriate services."

Building trades are inherently hazardous. There can be traps around every corner of the job, and unfortunately some are deadly. "The construction industry is a high risk industry and injuries per hours worked are higher than in most other industries," confirmed Dermot. "Fatalities are also far too common. So it is vital that WorkSafe promotes and reinforces to every employer and employee the need for safety on every construction site. The fact that fatalities in the construction sector have been declining over time is proof that our strategies are working. But there is still more that can be done."

On a construction site there are several hazards to look out for. You have your clumsy, everyday, non-life-threatening accidents such as slips and trips, plus those evil sprains and strains from lifting heavy or awkward equipment incorrectly. Did you know "manual handling injuries alone make up more than 30 per cent of all injury claims in the construction industry"? That's a lot of backache and pain that could be easily avoided.

Then, on the more serious end of the scale, there are the catastrophes that happen less often, but, as Mr Moody ominously warned, "When they do, they have the potential to cause serious injury or death." He went on to list some examples: "Falls from heights, being struck by mobile plant, electrocution, being hit by falling objects, trenching collapses and structural collapses have all been responsible for many injuries and fatalities. Many of these tasks are considered High Risk Construction Work and require a Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) to be completed and the risks controlled before they can be undertaken."

Safety checks should be a natural part of everyday duties for anyone on any sized construction site. You have a responsibility to take care of your own safety, as well as of those in and around your work area. Obviously everyone needs to be inducted, follow the site rules and always wear the recommended protective equipment at all times. Contractors should also fix safety hazards when they are observed or immediately report them to a supervisor, plus maintain a tidy work area by cleaning as they go. Unfortunately, statistics reveal not everyone uses these commonsense practices.

"WorkSafe receives reports of 20 to 30 health and safety incidents every week



on construction sites around Victoria," Dermot revealed. "While most employers do the right thing, we know there are many sites where poor work practices continue to take place and it's only by chance that workers haven't suffered an injury."

The organisation uses many different channels to communicate with workers in the construction industry. WorkSafe inspectors visit construction sites around 200 times per week in Victoria, providing health and safety advice and guidance materials. WorkSafe also works with several other industry employer organisations and unions to address emerging issues, develop new campaigns and to help spread their all-important messages.

As with most businesses in this digital age, WorkSafe's most informative outlet is through its website. This online hub is especially useful if you're a newcomer to the game. "If you are starting out in the construction sector as an employer, WorkSafe's 'Small Business' webpage provides details regarding all of the basics and even offers free health and safety consultations to small businesses," advised the Program Manager. "WorkSafe's 'Construction Industry' and 'Back to Basics' webpages are great sources of information and provide a number of checklists and guidance documents to assist those in the industry. For a great overview of the most common injuries for specific construction trades, WorkSafe's 'Injury Hotspots' tool can be really useful too."

For regular updates on construction-related topics you can also subscribe to WorkSafe's e-newsletter. And as the nation's leading go-to organisation for all

CHECKLIST

As well as providing and maintaining a safe work environment by law, employers should regularly consult with their employees, as their workers' expertise can make a significant contribution to improving workplace health and safety. Here are some great quickfire steps to reduce risks on the jobsite:

Planning - Plan out the job before work starts. Consult with contractors, establish the site, schedule work and deliveries, and prepare the site before each new trade starts work. For projects worth more than \$350,000 the builder also needs to prepare a health and safety coordination plan.

Supervision - Builders and principal contractors should supervise their subcontractors, and subcontractors should train and supervise their employees, especially young workers and apprentices. Builders should also ensure that contractors have SWMS in place for all high risk construction work and that they are following them.

Maintenance - Ensure the site is well planned and tidy, walkways are clear, and storage areas are well organised. Trades should also be encouraged to clean as they go and to leave the site in a tidy state for the following trades.

Correct tools - Ensure the right tools for the job are being used and personal protective equipment (PPE) are selected, maintained and worn on your sites.



health and safety matters, if you can't find what you are looking for online, WorkSafe's 'Advisory Service' is a simple phone call away on 1800 136 089.

So what should you do in the event of an untimely work accident? "Builders and principal contractors who manage or control a site are required by law to notify WorkSafe of incidents – or near misses – involving health and safety or dangerous goods," Dermot Moody gladly answered. "WorkSafe must be notified immediately by calling 132 360 and then in writing within 48 hours using a WorkSafe incident reporting form. WorkSafe's website provides advice on what incidents to report and how to report them. Additionally, employers must maintain a register of any work-related injuries. The 'Register of Injuries' can be a diary, exercise book or electronic file where all the information is recorded. Again, WorkSafe provides an example of an injury register template on their website."



It might not be the most glamorous part of the job, but health and safety are paramount in the construction industry. While WorkSafe Victoria is leading the charge, it's up to all of us to take action

and claim responsibility. Keep vigil and take care so you can, as the WorkSafe motto says: "Return home safe every day".

Discover all you need to know at worksafe.vic.gov.au BCM

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So while all Renault light commercial vehicles come well equipped with universally appreciated features such as safety devices, air conditioning, and many have GPS and reversing cameras, there are many more specific features that can be added to your vehicle to suit your exact needs.

There are Renault Genuine Accessories sourced from the factory, as well as a range of accessories sourced locally, all available from your Renault dealer.

The latest in this range is a genuine factory tray that fits both Single and Dual Cab Master light trucks. It measures 3.6m x 2.1m and has a structural steel frame for strength, with folding and removable 400mm x 20mm alloy drop sides. There's a timber deck enhanced with a non-slip resin coating, as well as eight tie-down rings, each rated to 80kg. The aluminium cab header board with built-in ladder rack is rated to 400kg. Other handy features include a retractable rear step and moulded mudguards and steel cyclist-protection bars running down each side. The tray is available from \$3999 (Manufacturer's Recommended List Price).

One of the key benefits of sourcing your accessories from the Renault Genuine Accessories range is that you can be sure they will fit perfectly, are up to the job long-term, and if an item such as a towbar is damaged, there is just one point of contact for repair or replacement.

"Although the majority of the range of Renault Genuine Accessories are sourced from the factory and covered under the vehicle warranty, the Renault Australia parts team goes to great lengths to develop and source products locally," says Jean-Marc Julien, Renault Australia's National Parts Manager.

"We do this not only to comply with Australian standards, but also to ensure key products – such as towbars, roof

bars, cargo barriers and roof racks – are readily available.

"For example, for the all-new Trafic, the cargo barrier, pillar handles, towbar, rear steps, roof racks and roof bars are all available in locally sourced options.

"If you've ever had trouble reaching the roof of your vehicle to load and unload cargo, the Horizontal Ladder Rotator is one of the best accessories on the market to make this process an ergonomic and safe experience.

"So whether you want to add style, safety, functionality or simply need to better tailor your new LCV for your business, our Renault Genuine Accessories have you covered."

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IVECO DAILY BUILT FOR TRADE

Iveco's recently-launched Daily cab chassis range provides operators with superior power, strength, comfort and payload, making it the perfect tradie or contractor's truck for those who have outgrown their ute.

A tough C-section steel chassis allows easy fitment of a wide range of bodies, including tray, tipper and service-style bodies, making the new Daily extremely versatile. And when combined with the range's 2.4t payload*, 3.5t braked towing capacity and choice of powerful engines, the trip to the work site's never been easier.

The top of the range 3-litre, twin turbo diesel engine provides market-leading power and torque of 150kW (205hp) and 470Nm, ensuring there's plenty of grunt on tap to easily handle heavy loads of materials and equipment.

The trucks are available in a choice of smooth-shifting 6-speed manual or new 8-speed full automatic transmission. The automatic is an industry-leading transmission offering superfast gear changes (200 milliseconds), providing seamless power delivery.

To assist in reducing fuel consumption, the Hi-Matic features both 'Eco' and 'Power' modes. When Eco is selected,

the transmission changes gears at lower rpm, while Power mode holds the vehicle in each gear for longer for even crisper acceleration should you need it.

All Iveco Daily cab chassis feature an abundance of safety equipment so there's never been a comfier or safer truck to get into after a hard day's slog. Standard features include disc brakes all round with ABS, four airbags and electronic brake force distribution.

All models adopt new low level fog lamps with cornering function. The cornering function automatically activates the fog lamps on bends casting light into the direction the driver is steering. Even more safety equipment is available at additional cost.

The Daily's range of safety equipment is far greater than what's available in its light duty cab-over truck competitors, and ride, comfort and handling is also far superior. By their very nature, cab over trucks have the driver seat located over the front wheels; this positioning telegraphs, bumps and uneven road services directly under them, resulting in a potentially jolting ride, especially when the vehicle is unladen.

On the inside the Daily offers a sophisticated and car-like interior. An increased windscreen height has resulted in improved visibility while the dashboard has been completely redesigned with emphasis on intuitive placement of all dials and controls. A lower seating position compared to the previous model



also makes it much easier to get in and out of.

Extra comfort for the driver and front passenger comes courtesy of mechanically-suspended seats with multiple adjustments – the new range also offers the option of heated driver and passenger seats with three degrees of freedom.

The vehicles' 4-speaker audio system features FM/AM tuner; CD/mp3 player; USB drive via USB input on the dashboard, AUX input; Bluetooth connectivity and radio and phone controls on the steering wheel. The unit also features an integrated 4x20W amplifier.

If the trade requires a dual cab instead, there are several to choose from in the Daily range, with enough seating to comfortably transport a work crew of six plus the driver. And if a fully enclosed body is needed, there is a wide selection of Daily vans on offer.

The vans boast all the great benefits of the cab chassis range and are available with volume payloads of up to 19.6m³. Choose from three engines, two transmissions, many payload and volume ratings, different wheelbases, single or dual rear wheels and three roof heights. Whatever the trade, there'll likely be a Daily model to suit your needs.

**Varies depending on body fitted. BCM*



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In designing the new Paslode Impulse IM90Ci, we believe the professional builder deserves to have it all. With 105 joules, we set out to give you class leading power, to tackle even the hardwood framing applications with ease. What you may not expect is the level of technology and design, like Start & Go technology, a fuel and battery gauge, quick charge long-life lithium battery and a well-balanced weight distribution, positioning the centre of gravity at the trigger. This makes IM90Ci more comfortable to use, allowing you to get more done. Combined with Paslode's renowned quality and reliability, there is no compromise.

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

At times there can be almost as much ingenuity, creativity and complexity in demolishing a structure than there is in building it. In this day and age with everything in the building industry constructed so robustly, and with recycling and environmental factors to consider, demolition isn't just a smashing game, it's a science that requires some serious apparatus.

Now we're not talking about explosive devices sparking controlled implosions, nor wrecking-ball cranes, bulldozers or other big machinery, we're here to get closer to the action with smaller handheld tools.

Despite being compact, portable and solo operated, these devices can certainly pack a punch. They're your everyday tools on steroids and are able to cut through, knock down and pulverise the toughest surfaces.

Razing any type of structure can be a dangerous job with many obvious hazards. So in the sweet symphony of demolition, it's important to use the right instrument. You never bring a knife to a gunfight, and you certainly don't pull out tweezers on a demo site.

It's time to deconstruct some of the more common teardown tools you need to get your manly hands on. With concrete being by far the most used construction material in the world. Here are three ways to chomp through 'crete...

BREAKERS

Lighter and more convenient yet almost as powerful as your traditional pneumatic jackhammer, electric breakers are made to ... well ... break things. They're basically giant hammer-and-chisel machineguns. The breaker uses powerful and continuous force to pound the bit into any hard surface, fracturing and shattering the localised area. We're talking about the capacity to demolish up to 300kg of concrete in half an hour. As you can imagine, with such a rigorous role to play the breaker needs to be built sturdy. Withstanding dirty, dusty, violent conditions, they are designed to spend hours on end repetitively smashing away at pure rock. Modern demolition breakers are well balanced, carrying minimum weight and low vibration levels to make the job less tiring and more comfortable.



ROTARY HAMMERS

It's every handyman's dream – a drill that also hammers through even the toughest masonry and concrete surfaces. In a rotary hammer a cylinder of air is compressed by a piston, which in turn beats the rotating drill bit. It's like getting punched and roundhouse kicked at the same time, over and over again. Rotary hammers are preferable because of their superior strength and shock-absorbing qualities, although a drill driver with a hammer-drill setting can do a similar job in less intense circumstances.

CONCRETE SAW

Handheld, petrol-powered masonry saws (not to be confused with the more industrial, road-ripping, trolley-pushing contraptions) can be used for cutting through brick, tiles and other solid

materials, including, you guessed it, concrete. The machine itself is a beast, but it's the monster's teeth that make its bite so sharp. The mainstream diamond blade can cut through the most stubborn surfaces. There are a large variety of these blades, all with different features depending on the conditions in which the saw needs to perform. As well as now powering up to four-stroke models, a common addition to these heavy-duty slicing devices is a hose connection for wet cutting. If used improperly without adequate water some blades may break or the steel core below the segment may wear. And just as bad, with concrete being so hard and abrasive, dry sawing can produce particles that are dangerous to breathe in. Keeping the active area wet not only cools down the blade, it controls nasty dust and debris.

FATIGUE-FREE CHISELLING

Bosch Blue Demolition Hammer GSH 9 VC Professional is perfect for continuous horizontal chiselling.

Demolition day usually involves a lot of blood, sweat and tears, but with Bosch Blue's GSH 9 VC Professional Demolition Hammer you can now experience fatigue-free chiselling.

Driven by a 1500W motor and weighing only 8.5kg, Bosch Blue's Demolition Hammer has the perfect power-to-weight ratio to eliminate the strain on professional tradies who tackle the toughest of tasks.

Featuring a clever anti-vibration system, which includes a vibration damped main and side handle, along with an optimised hammer mechanism, Bosch Blue's Demolition Hammer delivers continuous horizontal chiselling at a high material removal rate with less vibration.

The GSH 9 VC Professional Demolition Hammer, designed by the finest in German engineering, sets new standards for efficient and powerful chiselling.

Featuring robust metal components and an impact mechanism, which has been specially designed and tested for chiselling a variety of materials – Bosch Blue's Demolition Hammer is set to go the distance.

Featuring the Vario-Lock system for comfortable and continuous use, the GSH 9 VC Professional Demolition Hammer locks into 12 different positions to ensure an optimum working angle between the wall and chisel in any work situation.

Suitable for masonry, stone, tile and concrete materials, the Demolition Hammer also includes an ergonomically designed SDS-max toolholder that ensures optimum power transfer and positioning for comfortable, continuous



working, while the electronic power booster maintains the tool's speed and power output against the most demanding jobs.

Available in leading hardware stores from \$1099, get your hands on a Bosch Blue GSH 9 VC Professional Demolition Hammer and say hello to fatigue-free chiselling.

For more information check out www.bosch-pt.com.au/professional

CONCENTRATED POWER

The Metabo MHE 96 Chisel Hammer is the right choice for large-scale restoration work.

The MHE 96 is ideal for chiselling out frames, paving, walled sections or fence posts in concrete, stone, brick or asphalt. It has many special features that allow this tool to be very flexible to the user's demands.

A thumb wheel for selecting speed makes it possible to change the impact rate to one more suitable for the job in hand. In addition to the anti-vibration system in the rear handle (MVT), the side handle can be fixed into three different

positions to help ensure correct working posture as well as low working vibration. Metabo MH 96 features:

- 1950 IPM (impacts per minute)
- 27 joules
- LED service lights
- Brush wear indicator
- Constant torque and soft start
- Speed selection dial for number of impacts
- Chisel lockable in 16 positions
- Anti-vibration side handle lockable in three individual positions
- Weight: 11kg

For more information please go to www.metabo.com.au



THE CONTRACTOR'S ALL-ROUNDER

A clean and versatile cutting tool, the Arbortech AS170 has long been a leading name in clean and dry masonry cutting.

From this award-winning power tool manufacturer, comes a new innovation in industrial caulk cutting, making the AS170 a must-have multi-tool for the general contractor.

The ideal power tool for any contractor is one that will have numerous applications and can be easily brought to any jobsite, and the AS170 meets these requirements and more. The Arbortech AS170 utilises two orbital-cutting, independently-moving, solid steel blades; alternating a very powerful extension and retraction action, striking two rows of resharpenable, silver-soldered, tungsten-carbide teeth against the cutting material. It is this unique cutting action that minimises airborne debris and particles, thereby reducing silica exposure, unlike a rotary diamond blade which traps brick



and mortar particles against the disc. The hammer-and-chiselling action of the Arbortech AS170 produces rubble fragments much larger and heavier than a grinding wheel. Combine this with the attachable wet-dry/shop vacuum adaptor and dust boot, and the AS170

becomes one of few acceptable masonry saws capable of being used dry and indoors.

Of all the improvements made to the AS170, the added safety features have been perhaps the most widely received. The dust-inhibiting centrifuge, a device designed to extract and prevent debris from entering inside the tool and damaging the internal mechanism, and the auto-cutoff carbon brushes, designed to automatically interrupt the circuit when the brushes have worn beyond their operational limit, are all



designed to extend the durability and use of the AS170. Even the blades have received the upgrade treatment; from the tungsten-carbide teeth, to the solid steel frame, to the redesigned taper locking blade-bolts, the Arbortech All Saw continues to be reengineered and retooled to showcase its remarkable cutting abilities.

K 970 POWERFUL AND RELIABLE

The new Husqvarna K 970 has a further enhanced power-to-weight ratio and offers optimised performance, combined with a low weight and superior ergonomics.

Husqvarna continues its long tradition of providing users with powerful and reliable power cutters.

"K 970 is already an appreciated product and the new K 970 is improved in a number of details in order to meet our customers' high demands," says Ben Pevreall, National Dealer and Rental Manager for Australia.

One of many improvements is the optimised performance, where a new cylinder design and a new carburetor increase the power cutter's capacity. At the same time, the new cylinder and a new muffler with integrated heat deflector ensure optimal operating temperatures and make the machine less sensitive to variations in climate and fuel.

Ergonomics have also been improved with the new K 970. On the 14-inch (350mm) version of the machine, the new, lighter blade guard made of magnesium gives the cutter better balance and provides stepless guard adjustment. This makes operation and altering cutting positions easier.

The new blade guard includes a reversible blade bushing that allows you to easily switch between blades with different centre holes.

In addition, the 14-inch version has a new wet cutting system in order to make dust control easier. The progressive valve has distinct end positions and

progressive adjustment, which allows you to adjust the exact water volume to avoid an excess of water and slurry.

The low weight together with the optimised performance gives the machine enhanced power-to-weight ratio.

"To sum up, all the new improvements contribute to making the new K 970 one of the most powerful, efficient and reliable machines on the market," says Ben Pevreall.

The new K 970 is equipped with an X-Torq® engine, which, compared to a conventional two-stroke engine, lowers both emissions and fuel consumption. It also has a great startability with air purge and decompression valve.

The new K 970 is ideal for heavier cutting of concrete and stone in alterations, renovations and new construction. It is perfect for cutting smaller holes and adjusting window and door openings, as well as for pipe, asphalt and metal cutting. It is also ideal for cutting of curbstones and pavers in landscaping. **BCM**



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TRIUMPH 800XR_x TIGER

If the XC_x is a serious adventure mutha, the XR_x is the sexy sister. It's tight, light and fast, and you really want to ride it.



It's clearly a Tiger, but geometry and a smaller front wheel make it a sharper-handling package than the XC_s.



There's nothing much left for us to say about this engine. We've been in love with it since we first rode the Tiger 800XC some years ago, and it's still one of our favourites.

There's a huge swathe of riders who build their adventures to include the excitement of hugging tight curves on mountain roads, hammering along little-used country byways and exploring secondary dirt roads. These guys don't go looking for technically challenging trails, savage hillclimbs and tank-deep river crossings, but they need to know their bikes can cope if those things crop up.

For those riders, Triumph has the XR_x. It has a heap of familiar features from the Tiger 800 XC_s, but it's just a little slinkier, a shade more compact, and noticeably more flickable on the road.

It's also extremely comfortable, has killer good looks and is a ton of fun.

The bike is very comfortable for a standing rider, but, as usual, we had to remove the rubber inserts from the footpegs to stop our feet sliding off in the wet. They pull straight out, no tools needed.



THE SAME, BUT DIFFERENT

For anyone who's ridden the Tiger 800 XCs the XR will feel familiar straight away. The same three-cylinder, 800cc motor sits in the same trellis frame, and the tank, seat and instrumentation are all the same spec. The rider modes – Road, Off-road and Rider – are there, and the controls and peripherals are all distinctively Tiger.

But sitting on the bike straight away causes the eyebrows to rise. So many things are so familiar, the things that feel different are all the more surprising, and the first thing is the lower seat height.

We chuckled to ourselves at being so knowledgeable and experienced and everything, and jumped off to flick the seat to its higher position. Except, when we checked, it was already on the 'high'



Braking is superb, front and rear. Attention to aerodynamics makes for a comfortable rider. Note the shaping of the fork protectors, for instance. Touches like the guard being painted to match the tank give the bike a beautiful, polished look.

setting. The seat is a whopping 35mm lower than its XC stablemate.

The same feeling embraced us when the front end felt so light. As we rode a little more we realised it wasn't so much 'light' as 'fast'. The smaller front wheel is obvious – a 19-inch instead of the 21-inch on the XCs – but what's not so easy to see is the wheelbase being a substantial 15mm shorter. The result is a very nimble and fast-handling 800.

Then, the more we rode, the more we found ourselves carrying a surprising amount of mid-corner speed and slamming open the ride-by-wire throttle as the bike railed around to line up the exit. The lean angle was enough to cause a real rush of blood to the groinular area, too.

Hmm...

It's still a Tiger, but it has a few different stripes to the ones we're used to.



LEISURE SEEKERS

What would prompt a rider to choose a bike like this one over the more off-road-oriented XCx?

It didn't take us long to work that out.

This Tiger is for that huge group of tradie riders who live for country pubs, scenic destinations and being able to head for out-of-the-way places without worrying about whether or not the bike will cope with whatever happens on the way. Putting the feet down at the lights or for a yarn at an intersection is easy, and the aerodynamics make for a minimum of buffeting. Another way of looking at it might be to say the XRx will suit tradies who ride for leisure, not challenge.

In that context the XRx is a peach. It's comfortable, very, very rewarding to ride and is still more than ready for the unexpected challenges and obstacles that make for an adventure. The hard panniers – which we normally don't like because

they catch on trees and things – allow for easy and secure luggage transport, and everything about the bike is polished and smooth.

We're grinning quietly to ourselves as we write this, because the XRx has a major-league ace up its sleeve that we haven't mentioned yet.

It's a performer.

GOOD SPORT

We don't normally have much call to talk about on-road performance with adventure bikes. They're all fairly good these days. But we can't stop grinning when we think about how the XRx carves a tight line and powers hard through bitumen turns. It's stable and comfortable in a straight line up to some fairly ridiculous speeds, and that might make a rider think it'd be reluctant in turns, but the opposite is true. The bike feels a little like it falls into corners.

We fell for the ol' 'Open the pannier and have everything fall out' trick. It does make for easy access though, and Triumph has a set of liner bags available.



TRIUMPH 800XR TIGER

Web: www.triumphmotorcycles.com.au

Rec retail: \$16,590 plus ORC

Adventure panniers: \$1046.

Pannier mounting kit: \$455.20

Engine type: Liquid-cooled, 12-valve, DOHC, in-line three-cylinder

Displacement: 800cc

Bore/stroke: 74.05mm x 61.94mm

Rated output: 95PS (70Kw) at 9250rpm

Maximum torque: 79Nm at 7850rpm

System: Multipoint sequential electronic fuel injection

Exhaust: Stainless steel 3-into-1, high-level stainless steel silencer

Gearbox: Six-speed

Final drive: O-ring chain

Clutch: Wet, multi-plate

Oil capacity: 3.7 litres

Starter: Electric

Fuel tank capacity: 19 litres

Transmission: Six-speed

Frame: Tubular steel trellis

Swingarm: Twin-sided, cast aluminium alloy

Front suspension: Showa 43mm upside-down forks, 180mm travel

Rear suspension: Showa monoshock with hydraulically adjustable preload, 170mm travel

Front wheel: 10-spoke 19 x 2.5 inch, cast aluminium alloy

Rear wheel: 10-spoke 17 x 4.25 inch, cast aluminium alloy

Front tyre: 100/90-19

Rear tyre: 150/70 R17

Length: 2215mm

Width (handlebars): 829mm

Height (without mirrors): 1350mm

Seat height: 810mm/830mm (adjustable)

Wheelbase: 1530mm

Brakes front: Twin 308mm floating discs. Nissin twin-piston sliding calipers, switchable ABS

Brakes rear: Single 255mm disc. Nissin single-piston sliding caliper, Switchable ABS

Wet weight: 216kg

Dry weight: 191kg



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We were a little put off by the feeling at first, but once we became used to it we realised the super-smooth motor and equally smooth gearbox could be combined with the sensational braking to actually drive the bike hard through the turn – as opposed to the point-and-shoot method some of the taller bikes prefer. The ‘falling’ feeling means the bike’s starting the turn with no effort from the rider. All that needs to be done is select the line, keep the throttle and brake application smooth, and hoo-aah! Mountain roads are a wet dream.

Seriously, anyone who enjoys a taste of road-bike-type performance is going to go crazy-ape bonkers for the XR.

And the braking! The feel and power at both ends is fantastic, and that, combined with the ride-by-wire throttle, allows for very precise input from the rider.

The other thing the XR offers for the throttle jockies is the same linear feel to the power and torque delivery that make the XC so manageable in tough going. As we were scratching our way through the curves it meant the motor wasn’t in the least intimidating. It felt as though the whole 95hp is there to use. Unlike some sports bikes that frighten the poo out of a rider and leave him scared to use what

the motor offers, this bike encourages a rider to have a red-hot go, and then makes that action seem easy.



The same, easy-to-read instruments and easy-to-use rider modes we liked on other Tigers.

NICE

Once we settled down and began to consider our professional obligations the XR again showed its quality. It’s a real pleasure to ride when sticking to the speed limit, and on the freeway the cruise control is a gift. On secondary and dirt roads – not trails – it made life easy.

We were surprised at how comfortable the standing position is. Riders up to around 180cm are going to sit and stand on the XR in comfort, and that’s a good thing, because while the front end is lively and precise on the road, the payback is that it’s not as steady off road as its sister the XC. A set of more aggressive tyres would make an enormous difference

off-road, but then, of course, some of the cornering precision on the bitumen would be compromised. That’s something each rider will have to decide for themselves.

They’re tubeless tyres, by the way. There’s a lot to like about tubeless, especially how easy it is to chuck a set of plugs in the toolkit instead of levers, tubes and a beadbreaker.

SET AND FORGET

The suspension worked well for us, but there’s no adjustment except preload on the rear. The action was good, especially on ripples and small corrugations, so we were happy. We can’t see the XR being often in situations where it’s going to need suspension tweaking. It’ll cope with just about everything expected of it as it is.

Those who are feisty and outside the ‘average’ weight range will have to have a suspension tuner have a look if they find it a problem, but we were satisfied with the stock set up, even with the 62-litre Adventure panniers fitted. We put tools in one side and a camera bag in the other to approximate the five-kilo payload each pannier is designed for and expected the bike to feel lumpy as a result. The pendulum effect is there, undeniably, but it didn’t create any problems we could find.



It's no different to when we carry those same loads in any type of pannier, except when we stopped for a coffee in town we just left everything on the bike, locked up and secure.

That was an interesting experience for us. We were once again left wondering if we hadn't been missing something. Maybe there's a place for hard panniers after all?

The pannier-mount system on the Triumph is interesting, too. It works on a concealed cable that connects the two cases, and as the bike leans, the panniers have a little lateral movement that lets them lean too. It's tricky to explain, and to be brutally honest, we couldn't feel a big advantage from the set-up.

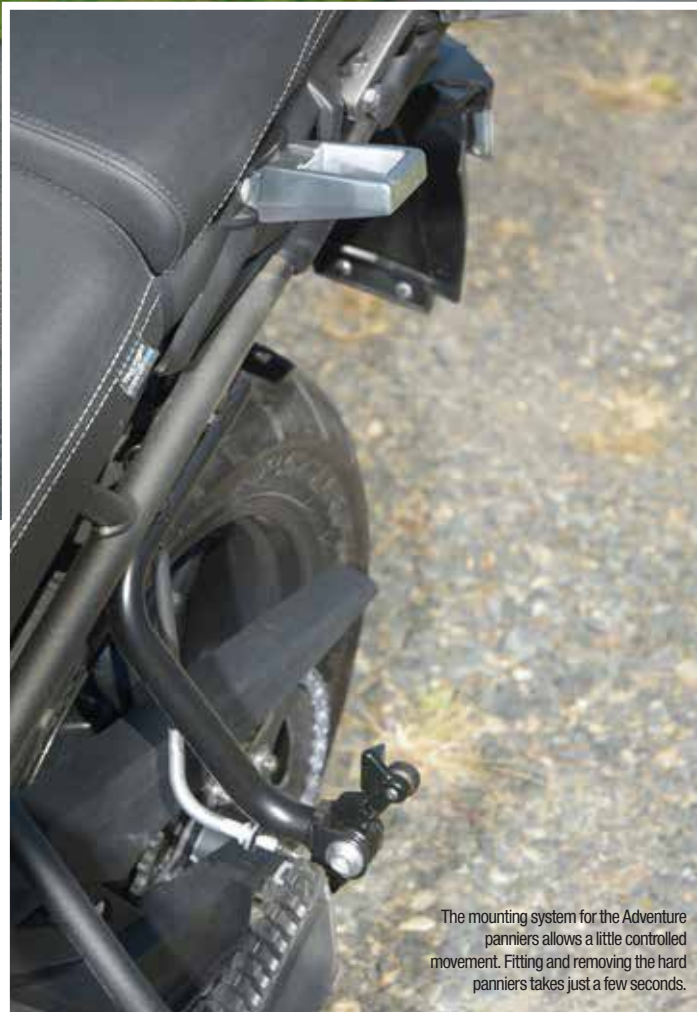
Of course, we don't use hard panniers normally, so we're not good ones to be offering an opinion on the rig.

A SMART CHOICE

There's a lot about Triumph's XRx that's caused us to have a good long think about things. Mostly it's started us thinking about riding for leisure and pleasure instead of survival. There's a world of enjoyment to be had from just being on a great bike and taking in some fabulous countryside. The manufacturers know it, and that's why we have bikes like Kawasaki's Versys, BMW's F700GS, Suzuki's V-stroms and heaps of others. The XRx is a beautiful example of the genre. Its performance on the road is sharp enough to keep any adventure rider grinning, and on the dirt it's still very capable. There's no doubt the 19-inch front wheel has more of a tendency to follow ruts than a 21-inch wheel, and less ground clearance might seem a problem to the hard-core off-riders, but that's the point. This isn't a hard-core off-roader. And if you yourself aren't a hard-core off-roader, the XRx might give more smiles per kilometre than you'd thought possible.

We haven't stopped grinning since we first rode this bike, but we'll get serious again soon.

As soon as we have to give this Tiger back. **BCM**



The mounting system for the Adventure panniers allows a little controlled movement. Fitting and removing the hard panniers takes just a few seconds.



The bike is very comfortable for a standing rider, but, as usual, we had to remove the rubber inserts from the footpegs to stop our feet sliding off in the wet. They pull straight out, no tools needed.

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Gyprock Trade – Berrimah NT



WHAT STORE ARE YOU FROM AND WHAT IS YOUR POSITION?

Rebecca Williams, Gyprock Trade – Berrimah NT, Store Manager. Berrimah is located about 20 minutes from Darwin and our store is conveniently located to service city, suburbs, rural and remote customers.

TELL US ABOUT THE PRODUCTS AND SERVICE OFFERED AT YOUR STORE?

Our warehouse has Gyprock plasterboard in a wide range of sizes, plus specialised products including Fyrchek, Aquachek, Impactchek, EC08 and everything needed from fixing to finishing.

The Berrimah store is conveniently laid out to offer undercover drive-through collection. Delivery can also be arranged and we can pack and strap for barge travel or crane ups. During the wet season most customers request weather wrap and we often customise loads to suit different jobsites and unloading requirements.

The newly upgraded showroom has a wide range of tapes, adhesives, sealants, lubricants, sanding tools and accessories, hand tools, power tools, safety apparel, lifters, trestles and other items handy for anyone working with Gyprock products.

The Berrimah team has more than 30 years of experience in providing advice from product options to installation tips. Our local sales manager Russell Lutzke is also based at the store.

WHY DO YOU THINK TRADIES PREFER GYPROCK PRODUCTS OVER ANY OTHER BRANDS ON THE MARKET IN AUSTRALIA?

The Gyprock brand is well known in the industry for its range, availability, reputable warranty, professional and knowledgeable service and technical backup.

Tradies need products that can be relied upon in our sometimes extreme climate. Gyprock has been used in the Northern Territory for more than 20 years and is a favourite of many local tradies.

DO YOU OFFER SALES, DISCOUNTS AND TRADE ACCOUNTS TO TRADIES?

While visiting our store, shoppers will find many bargains, manager specials and regular catalogue promotions.

We offer a few different account and payment options and can also help with tailored pricing on major infrastructure works, and commercial and residential projects.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WORKING AT GYPROCK?

I really enjoy the people I work with at CSR – I have met some real characters. Tradies in the NT face some tough challenges and it's always rewarding when they turn to our team for help.

DO YOU ONLY CATER TO BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS FOR LARGE JOBS OR TO EVERYONE?

Anyone can shop at Gyprock Trade because its diverse enough to offer the information and product needed to get the job done, from patching a small hole at home, lining the walls of a hospital or looking at options to fancy up a house exterior.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT GYPROCK AND TELL US HOW THE STORE/PRODUCTS/SERVICE HAS CHANGED OVER THAT TIME?

I started working for CSR in August 2014. Since I joined, the team has worked through upgrading our store with new racking and storage, and displays and information stands. The site has been freshened up with modern paintwork and signage, and our range has been extended. We continue to update our products and services as new lines become available.

HOW IS THIS STORE GOING AND DO YOU THINK IT WILL GET BUSIER WITH CONSTRUCTION ON THE RISE IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

The Northern Territory has seen many years of growth in the construction industry. We are coming off a peak building period in the last 12-18 months, and as with all industries, there are highs and lows for both suppliers and contractors. It's rewarding to be part of the construction industry and participate in the growth and future of the Northern Territory.

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The Topcon 2LS Taurus is the perfect laser solution for all your general construction needs at an affordable price.

It's not as feature-packed as your higher end lasers but it's got more than you'll need on general sites with high accuracy. Its greatest asset is it really is a 'hit start and go' laser that has you set up in seconds, which makes every job fast and easy. It is perfect for checking grades and depths or general working levels around the jobsite. With an accuracy of +/-2mm at 20m you'll have no problems getting your levels right first time.

Another great feature of the 2LS Taurus is when the laser is accidentally bumped out of level it will shut off to give you a warning to stop and reset your levels,

which will keep you from going off grade.

I found the detector to be very comfortable in my hand with the moulded finger grips. The dual-sided LCD display was great for seeing your grade from both sides so your head doesn't get in the way of the laser, or if you are holding it out in front of you.

The laser lasts around 60 hours in 20 degrees, which is massive for a laser and is only 2kg with batteries installed. The IP 56 rating means it copes well with rain and dust.

The Topcon Taurus felt robust in design and came in a heavy-duty case to keep your investment safe. Made in Japan by Topcon- you know it will provide you years of value. A great, affordable laser worth every cent!



ARTICLE CRITERIA	BUILDING HAND TOOLS Operator Comments Report	STAR RATING (Out of five)
LEVELLING RANGE	Auto correction range of +/-3 degrees	★★★★★
DESIGN	Great design and simple to use for everyday construction jobs	★★★★★
ERGONOMICS	Detector finger grips – very comfortable to hold	★★★★★
SPEEDS	Laser rotates at 600rpm	★★★★★
BATTERY RUN TIME	Depends on batteries used but around 60 hours	★★★★★
ACCURACY	+/- 2mm at 20m	★★★★★
RECHARGE TIME	N/A	★★★★★
RANGE OF USE	4-300m diameter	★★★★★
EASE OF OPERATION	Very easy to use	★★★★★
PRICE	Around \$1100-\$1200	
ACCESSORIES	Case and double-sided detector with clamp	
OVERALL LIKES	Ip56, good accuracy, easy to use and durable	
OVERALL DISLIKES	Nothing to dislike	

OVERALL STAR RATING

Affordable laser with great accuracy features for its class!



PASLODE IM90Ci LITHIUM ION FRAMING NAILER



Is your wood hard but your nail only making it halfway in? Then cry no more – Paslode's new Impulse® IM90Ci Lithium Ion framing nailer is here to save the day and get your hardwood nailed.

Opening the brand new designed case you will find a sleek orange and black beast with a few features that pop out straight away. You will notice a blue eject button, which will eject your fuel cells from the easy access opening that makes installing and changing your fuel cells much faster. Another great feature is the fuel and battery life indicators, which will let you know when the fuel cells or power is low so you can change it over or have one close when it's time to change. But there is a feature in the circuitry that you may not notice at

first. You have the click-in on/off battery clip as the previous model had, but the new model features Start & Go, which will turn off the battery when the gun is left still. Simply pick up the tool and the tool knows it's in use. This saves you plenty of battery life and eliminates the need to click your battery in and out all day.

The IM90Ci packs some serious punch with the power of a pneumatic tool producing 105 joules of energy, which works very well into hardwood and LVL. You can feel the power from the gun but with very little recoil. This framing gun is powerful! However, with extra power you would think less battery life, yes? Wrong! You will get up to 7500 shots per full charge or even 200 shots of a quick two-minute charge!



The ergonomics of the Paslode are fantastic with a comfortable handle and perfect centre of balance at the trigger point so you'll feel less fatigued after long use. The depth adjuster wheel could not be more conveniently placed giving you very precise depths.

Paslode has done it again – awesome power with great new features!



ARTICLE CRITERIA	BUILDING HAND TOOLS Operator Comments Report	STAR RATING (Out of five)
BALANCE	Well balanced and perfect at trigger point	★★★★★
DESIGN	Excellent design with great new features	★★★★★
ERGONOMICS	Feels great in your hands, especially with its excellent balance	★★★★★
SPEEDS	Fast nailing, loading and charging	★★★★★
BATTERY RUNTIME	Will last all day!	★★★★★
JOULES	105 joules of nail-punching power	★★★★★
RECHARGE TIME	Quick recharge and an extra-fast two-minute quick charge for 200 nails	★★★★★
VIBRATION	Very little recoil for the amount of power	★★★★★
EASE OF OPERATION	Easy to load nails, battery and fuel cells. Easy depth wheel	★★★★★
PRICE	Approximately \$900	
ACCESSORIES	Awesome case, safety glasses, two batteries, charger, optional cleaning kits and nails	
OVERALL LIKES	Start & Go, fuel cell and battery indicator, easy fuel cell eject, huge power, great tip and long lasting	
OVERALL DISLIKES	Nothing to dislike	

OVERALL STAR RATING

Great new features that make it a worthwhile upgrade with plenty of power!



POWERLINE EXTREME A3 ROTARY LASER



The Extreme A3 red rotary laser is a simple-to-use red beam laser with many features to get your jobs done fast.

The Extreme A3's main feature is its high level of accuracy of ± 1 mm at 30m, which is essential on large-scale projects. It has a huge operating range diameter of 800m, which will have you covered.

The Extreme A3 comes standard with wireless remote control and LCD screen that can control the laser from up to 100m

away, which is great for adjusting grades from a distance or concentrating the laser on a single part of the wall. The speed has also been bumped up with the laser spinning at around 1000rpm providing a much better view of the laser line.

The LCD detector and clamp worked well and was easy to adjust with an easy-to-read screen on both sides of the detector. Power is also covered by using either 20-hour life rechargeable batteries or disposables.

The IP65 rating means it's water and dust

resistant so it doesn't mind a bit of grinder dust or rain so it's perfect for outdoor sites.

The Extreme A3 is packed with accessories in the box: LCD detector, remote control, laser target, laser glasses, rechargeable battery pack or alkaline battery pack, battery charger and solid heavy-duty case to keep it all protected.

Super accurate and backed by a massive 10-year warranty, the Extreme A3 rotary laser is a high-end piece of equipment for the serious tradie.



ARTICLE CRITERIA	BUILDING HAND TOOLS Operator Comments Report	STAR RATING (Out of five)
LEVELLING RANGE	+/- 5 degrees/9%	★★★★★
DESIGN	Great design, features and accessories in the box	★★★★★
ERGONOMICS	Easy-to-handle grip and easy-to-handle detector	★★★★★
SPEEDS	Laser rotates at 1000rpm	★★★★★
BATTERY RUN TIME	Approximately 20 hours	★★★★★
ACCURACY	+/- 1mm at 30m	★★★★★
RECHARGE TIME	Fast	★★★★★
RANGE OF USE	800m diameter with detector and 100m with remote control	★★★★★
EASE OF OPERATION	Very easy to use	★★★★★
PRICE	RRP \$1599 including GST	
ACCESSORIES	Hard case, detector, remote control, laser target, laser glasses, battery charger, battery pack and rechargeable battery pack	★★★★★
OVERALL LIKES	Ip64, fast laser, remote control and easy to use	
OVERALL DISLIKES	Nothing to dislike	

OVERALL STAR RATING

For the serious tradie at the higher end of the laser market – awesome unit!



HOT DEVIL SUPER CYCLONE TORCH KIT





The Hot Devil Super Cyclone is a great little gas torch head that easily connects to your trade map, map pro or pro gas bottles. The trigger handle is comfortable and you feel as if you have a lot of control as soon as you hold it.

Lighting the torch is simple, just turn on the gas, hold the trigger and away you go – it really is that simple and effortless. For longer usage where holding the trigger might become tiresome, an easily located trigger lock button will hold the trigger down, which will even allow you to work hands free from the torch.

The super cyclone flame is strong and almost spins like a cyclone, which is great for brazing, soldering or large heavy-duty heat shrinks. The heat transfer from the trade map is super-fast and efficient and quickly gets your jobs done in a convenient little package!

Testing tools for *BCM For Tradies* means I've used many different Hot Devil torch heads now and I have to say I have a new favourite. This tool is super easy to set up and ignite, and very comfortable to hold. It uses handy replacement Hot Devil gas cylinders found at countless suppliers or hardware stores with great trigger heads and torch heads.

Hot Devil's products are trusted companions in my ute for many of my daily jobs. **BCM**





20 QUESTIONS...

...with

AARON COWIE

SEASIDE BUILDING & DESIGN



Aaron and Bella



1 WHAT'S YOUR TRADE?

Carpentry originally, but then I furthered my studies and got my Builders Licence, and I'm now currently studying building design.

2 HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DOING IT?

Including my apprenticeship I've been a carpenter for 14 years and a builder for four years.

3 WHY DID YOU CHOOSE BUILDING?

I've always had a pretty strong interest in working with my hands and carpentry fit the bill perfectly. My old man also guided me into it.

4 DID YOU COP ANY FIRST-YEAR APPRENTICE INITIATIONS?

Haha the company I first worked for was on the larger side and had a few apprentices start the same year. Unfortunately one of them copped 20 or so stitches up his back due to an initiation, so from that point on the company had a zero-tolerance policy for first-year shenanigans – I luckily dodged a bullet.

5 WHAT WAS THE TOUGHEST PART OF YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

Probably the travel. Growing up in the northern suburbs of Wollongong and travelling to Sydney was pretty tough... the pay was pretty shocking as well.

6 WAS IT A RELIEF WHEN YOUR TIME WAS UP?

Not so much a relief; more happy that I made it and saw it through.

7 WHAT ROLE DID YOU JUMP INTO ONCE IT WAS DONE?

I hung around with the current company, then moved to Canada on a work visa and worked as a chippy over there for almost two years.

8 DID YOU FEEL LIKE YOU GOT A LITTLE MORE RESPECT AROUND THE SITE WHEN YOU GOT YOUR TRADE?

Not at all haha.

9 WHAT SITE ARE YOU ON NOW?

I have three jobs running at the moment and they're all in the northern suburbs of Wollongong.

10 WHAT KIND OF SITE DO YOU MOSTLY WORK ON? COMMERCIAL, RESI?

All residential.

11 HOW BIG A PART DOES HAVING THE RIGHT TOOLS FOR THE JOB PLAY FOR YOU?

A massive part. It also helps to know how to use them!

12 WHAT HOURS DO YOU WORK?

It varies from around 60 to 70 hours a week when you include office and site work.

13 HOW MANY BLOKES DO YOU HAVE WORKING FOR YOU?
Seven full-timers including myself.

14 WHAT'S THE WORST PART OF YOUR JOB?
Paperwork and chasing invoices.

15 WHAT'S THE FUNNIEST THING YOU'VE SEEN ON SITE?
The funniest thing I've seen on site shouldn't be mentioned... this is a respectable magazine!

16 WHAT'S THE SCARIEST THING?
I've seen a few blokes lose body parts like fingers and palms.

17 IF YOU COULD HAVE PICKED ANY OTHER TRADE, WHAT WOULD IT HAVE BEEN?
Probably plumbing or electrical.

18 WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?
Lately I don't have a lot of that, but when I do I love spending time with my kids and wife, surfing, and having a sneaky beer with the boys.

19 WHAT ARE YOUR LONG-TERM PLANS WORK-WISE?
I'm pretty happy where we are at the moment, but there is always room for improvement. Long-term it would be good to see my son take over the company.

20 IF YOU HAD TO START YOUR TIME AGAIN, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY?
I probably would have paid more attention when I first started. **BCM**



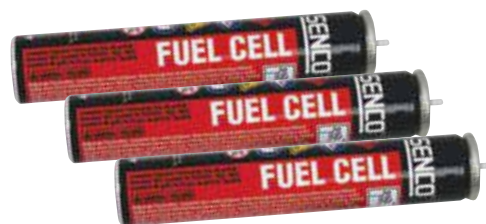
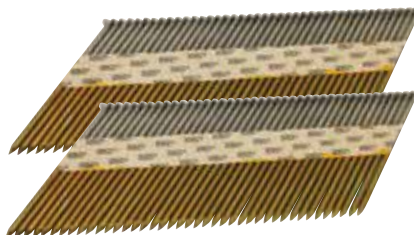
If you're a tradie and would like *BCM For Tradies* to ask you 20 questions, send an email to michelle@maynemedias.com.au and we'll be in touch.

NEW Senco Gas Nail Packs



Two metering valves per fuel cell
(suits old and new model Gas Framing Guns)

- Suitable for **Senco** and other gas framing guns
- Available in **50, 75 & 90mm** in **Bright** and **HDG**
- **3,000 nails** and **3 fuel cells**
- **2 x metering valves per cell**
(6 in total per carton) to suit old and new model gas framing guns



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www.aircofasteners.com.au

MAJOR LASER

When the Apollo astronauts landed on the moon they planted some reflectors on the surface. A laser beam was then sent from Earth so they could record the time it took for the beam to be reflected back, thusly determining the distance between the Earth and Moon with high accuracy. It was around this time in the late '60s that similar laser technology began being used in the building industry.

While your average construction site might not be quite as expansive as the space between planets, builders these days do have access to some incredible laser devices, and they are becoming a more common tool for the experienced tradesman.

Like its lunar predecessor, construction lasers are extremely accurate, timesaving tools. Casting an unbendable, direct, consistent and precise light between points, the laser level has revolutionised worksites by being able to project a level-line around an entire room, regardless of whether the surface it's projecting to is completely flat. The pinpoint technology allows you to single-handedly level numerous surfaces in one room forming a central point over a significant distance.

Used for levelling, plumbing, machine control, excavation work, landscaping, swimming pool construction, measuring elevation, measuring distance (not to

the moon), alignment, site-prep grading, construction stakeout, concrete levelling, home building and various other site tasks, modern laser levels are rugged, durable, user-friendly, professional-grade tools that are a must for your arsenal.

As with most tools the trick with lasers is finding the right one for the job. Various breeds and brands have different specifications, range readings and output results. You need to consider what type of environment you'll be working in and exactly what role your laser needs to play on site. Are you doing interior or exterior work, do you want self-levelling auto functions or manual inputs, what type of light conditions are you working in, and so on.

Just keep a level head about what laser is best suited for you and you'll have a friend for life.

ROTARY LASERS

This unit can produce a 360-degree level laser line around a workspace. It's great for all types of work like site grading, pouring concrete, installing chair rails and fences, laying out foundations for building construction, installing drop-ceilings, and more. Some models are for inside use only, while some will handle the outdoors as well. Of course, if you plan to use a rotary laser that is made for exterior work you will also need a laser detector.

PLUMB LASERS

Also known as dot lasers, a plumb laser produces a solid dot on the wall or work surface and is normally used when you want to plumb or level something but do not need a laser line produced. They're a modern twist on the traditional string and lump of metal plumb bob. It's simple and precise and does the trick for decking, post and brickwork alignment.

LINE LASERS

These small, handheld units – also known as line generators – are used primarily for interior work in solitary areas, such as on a single wall or ceiling. They're able to project a combination of single and crosshair lines in multiple directions and are perfect for common alignment fittings like fans and lights.

PIPE LASERS

These nifty lasers are built for the most demanding underground trenching work. Producing a single beam, the self-levelling pipe laser is designed for plumbing and drainage applications and helps to keep pipelines straight and at the required gradient.

TUNNEL LASERS

This is the Big Daddy of the construction laser family. Designed specifically for underground use in mines, tunnel lasers provide alignment and clear beam vision for up to 800m. Not quite to the moon, but impressive nonetheless.



FEATURE-PACKED ROTARY LASER

Powerline A3 Special Edition: choosing the right rotary laser level has never been so transparent.

The Powerline A3 Special Edition from one of Australia's leading laser tool companies, Spot-on, is an advanced motorised rotary laser level with a red laser beam that is feature-packed and easy to operate.

It has an innovative red transparent body design that is unique to Spot-on, and is incorporated into the laser level, laser detector and remote control.

The Powerline A3 Special Edition rotary laser can operate in both horizontal and vertical levelling positions. At the press of a button the advanced electronic sensors calculate and adjust through the precise motors to the level position.

The laser level can manually create slopes/grades in either single or dual-axis modes and can be completely set up by one person through the use of the supplied remote control.

The Powerline A3 Special Edition rotary laser level includes a rechargeable battery pack, which allows operational costs to remain low for day-to-day use by eliminating the need to constantly purchase alkaline batteries.

With a precisely calibrated accuracy of $\pm 1.5\text{mm} @ 30\text{m}$, it is one of the most highly accurate rotary laser levels available in the Australian market.

The Powerline A3 Special Edition rotary laser level comes with an unbeaten six-year warranty, class-leading 24-hour customer support, and two free calibrations per year for the life of the warranty for added peace of mind at no additional cost.



It is available throughout Australia from tool retailers large and small with a suggested retail price of \$1395 including GST.

For more information on this product or any other product from Spot-on, please visit www.spoton.com.au or call 1300 658 338.

BUILT FOR AUSTRALIAN CONDITIONS

If you are in search of a robust laser level that can handle any condition then the BMI Nautilus IPX7 Laser Level meets all your precision measuring needs.

The BMI Nautilus IPX7 is one of the strongest construction lasers on the market, and completely shock protected and weatherproof.

The Nautilus Laser is IPX7 rated making it 100 per cent waterproof and dustproof durable in any condition, surviving being submerged up to 1m depth in water. Class II for the highest accuracy and safe by means of ESP (Electronic Safety Program) ensuring mistake-free operation and automatic shut-off in case of being bumped or moved.

It's a visual horizontal class II laser with a range of 500m with receiver; rechargeable NI-MH batteries that last up to 70 hours; comes with carry case, charger, receiver and staff mounting bracket; and complete with a three-year warranty!

BMI – Bavarian Measuring Instruments has been manufacturing lasers since

1993 making the range even stronger to accommodate for Australia's rugged environment, adding a special electronic module in protective housing that can be calibrated in minutes. Set it up, switch it on and begin!

Visit www.promac.com.au for your nearest dealer, phone 1800 773 267 or email promac@promac.com.au



MEET TOPCON RL-H4C'S LITTLE BROTHER!

The 2LS Taurus is an automatic self-levelling construction laser ideal for horizontal tasks in site preparation, earthworks, concreting and site set-out applications.

Topcon's leading laser levelling technology is now available in a rugged, value-for-money package with the 2LS Taurus. Complete with a dual-sided LCD laser receiver, the Taurus covers a large working area and is built tough to withstand jobsite conditions.

From checking grades and excavations to setting forms for concrete and general building tasks, the Taurus makes every levelling task faster and more efficient.

The Taurus also includes an auto-height alert feature that shuts the unit off if the laser is out of level, minimising human error and ensuring you're always working on grade.

With a 300m working range you can work throughout most sites with a single

setup, plus the 60-hour battery life will keep up with the demands of the job. The Taurus is accurate to 2mm at a range of 20m to meet the tightest tolerances on site.

Unlike cheaper lasers that are imported from China and shipped onto the end user, all Taurus lasers are manufactured in Japan by Topcon and undergo rigorous testing and calibration in Australia before being sold. Plus, you have the support of calibration and repair services nationwide to keep your laser working in optimum condition.

For a great all-round construction laser that will get the job done accurately and that's superb value for money, look no further than the 2LS Taurus!

For more information, visit www.topconlaser.com.au or call 1300 96 LASER to find your nearest reseller.



PRECISION MEASURING

Precision measuring is easy with Bosch Blue's new safe and secure Rotation Laser: GRL 500 HV Receiver and Remote in one.

To combat the rise in worksite tool theft, Bosch Blue has introduced the GRL 500 HV Professional Rotation Laser and LR 50 Professional Remote Control Receiver with anti-theft protection – a first of its kind.

Offering Aussie tradies peace of mind, Bosch Blue's new theft protection technology is designed to keep thieves at bay. The GRL 500 HV's inbuilt acceleration sensor detects when the Rotation Laser is being moved during operation (when not connected to the LR 50 Remote Control Receiver), and automatically activates an alarm and LED indicator to alert the user.



Being the most unique Rotation Laser in its class, the GRL 500 HV provides users with automatic calibration reminders for time, temperature and shock levels. Each Rotation Laser and Remote Control Receiver is also equipped with an integrated Li-Ion battery that simultaneously charge together in no time at all – only 20 minutes of charging allows for four hours working time, with only three hours of charging required to reach 100 per cent battery life.

Working with supreme precision has never been easier as the Rotation Laser boasts a $\pm 0.05\text{mm/m}$ level accuracy horizontally and a $\pm 0.10\text{mm/m}$ level accuracy vertically. In addition to this, a high working range of 500m (diameter), a self-levelling range of 6 degrees (10 per cent), and a rotation speed of 600rpm gives the Rotation Laser unrivalled accuracy and versatility. Bosch's new Rotation Laser also features a robust metal protective cage that ensures 1m drop protection in any professional trade environment.



Enhancing measuring effectiveness the GRL 500 HV Rotation Laser and LR 50 Professional Remote Control Receiver will allow trade professionals to determine and check precise line and slope measurements, enhancing precision and productivity on the job.

Available at leading trade dealers from Q1 2016 from \$1999 RRP, get your hands on Bosch Blue's GRL 500 HV Laser Measure and LR 50 Professional Remote Control Receiver and say hello to unrivalled protection and precision.

For more information check out www.bosch-pt.com.au/professional



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MEASURING REVOLUTION

Imex Group International is a class leader in measuring and levelling equipment for the construction and trade industry.

The Imex brand is one of the fastest growing brands globally with laserEDGE technology equipment in the distinctive Imex green.

With a comprehensive range of line and dot lasers, rotating lasers, pipe lasers, laser distance measurers, spirit and digital levels, measuring wheels, tape measures, stud finders and other ancillary measuring equipment, there is a measuring and levelling device to suit every professional tradie.

Imex equipment is sold through leading

and reputable tool and hardware stores, with stockists in every main centre throughout the country and representatives in major capital cities.

A website storefinder provides locations of all stockists.

THE NEXT LEGEND BEGINS

The all new LX22 crossliner in a number of variations has just been released. This new professional entry level line laser with plumb spot incorporates the latest high technology superbright laser diode with a robust and versatile magnetic base bracket. The LX22 is set to become the leader in its field with outdoor mode and slope mode setting.



Also just released is a new range of high accuracy stud finders and tilers square lasers.

For more information contact 1800 669 100 or www.imexlasers.com.au

TRULY A RUGGED BEAST

It is well-known that Leica produces high-quality laser products, and the Rugby 620 is definitely one of them.

As a part of this confidence Leica is always on the hunt for opportunities to test and trial its products, the Rugby 620 included.

The *BCM for Tradies Tool Test* is one such test and their resident tradie's impressions are listed below:

"Right out of the box, it feels durable for work-site conditions and the handle assists with easy set-up. The Rugby 620 is a horizontal self-levelling laser and manual slope-grader that will get your many construction-site jobs done with efficiency and ease!" *BCM for Tradies Tool Tester* said.

"The laser is IP67 rated, so those rainy and dusty days on site won't stop this beast from performing at its best. It has a high accuracy of +/- 1.5mm at 30m and a massive range of 600m! This Rugby is also a class 2 visible beam laser, rather than a class 3, so is potentially a safer laser to use on site.

"The Rugby 620 is paired with the Rod Eye 140, which is a professional-grade receiver with some great features of its own.

"It has a small laser icon that will let the user know if the laser is low on batteries. This is great if you're wondering where that laser beam is when the batteries are flat! The Rugby 620 also comes equipped with a beam finder, anti-strobe protection and also an out-of-beam display, which will indicate which direction, then raise or lower the receiver to find the laser beam again. The RE140 also offers three band-width settings for greater flexibility, which include fine, medium and course.

"The Leica Rugby 620 comes in a robust case and safely houses your



investment. These are great, well-built and well-designed lasers so if you are in the market for one, go and test one out! You won't be disappointed!"

The attached star rating ran as part of the *BCM for Tradies Tool Test* conducted earlier in 2015.

The Leica Rugby 620 – truly a rugged beast. **BCM**

OVERALL STAR RATING

Very well-crafted laser!
Excellent design and
simple to use!



Leica Rugby 620

One of the most popular laser levels in Australia for 2015!

Leica
Geosystems

Simple and reliable – no mistakes possible

- Concrete forming, pad placement and framework levelling; setting foundations and footings has never been more efficient
- Slope matching up to 10% in single axis



Special Package Offers!

Mention this advert to receive these special package prices.



Rugby 620 Package with RodEye 140 Receiver & Bracket (with alkaline batteries). LG6005983.

Special package price \$1,370*
Normally \$1,526*



Rugby 620 Package with RodEye 140 Receiver & Bracket (with Li ion batteries). LG6005984.

Special package price \$1,595*
Normally \$1,840*



Rugby 620 Package with RodEye 160 Digital Receiver & Bracket (with Li ion batteries). LG6005986.

Special package price \$1,705*
Normally \$1,958*

*Including GST. ^The above Packages include an Aluminium tripod and 3m E staff with cover. MYX219342 & 519104WC. Offer Expires 31 December 2015

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Beat the Price Rise Trade Sale

\$3.7 million of sheds to clear at below wholesale prices to ABN Holders.

Now Buildings is a family owned and run Australian business, supplying Australian-made sheds constructed of 100 per cent BlueScope steel.

The company currently has \$3.7 million of stock to clear at below wholesale prices in its just-released 'Beat The Price Rise Trade Sale'.

National Wholesale Manager Trevor Walker said the grade of steel is the most important item in shed construction. The BlueScope branded steel used by Now Buildings has a tensile strength of 450 to 500 mega Pascals (MPa), as opposed to imported steel, which may be as low as 100MPa, usually averaging 250MPa. Some local shed suppliers use imported steel in an effort to reduce cost, but the quality of the steel does not compare favourably to steel manufactured in Australia.

BlueScope's manager of its Lysaght branded roll-formed steel building products is Serhat Pakyuz who said the decision to buy 'Australian made' came down to "product performance in the long term".

"Australian sheds must contend with harsh conditions, so it's important the product you decide on will withstand any climate, including the paint," Serhat said.

All materials in Now Buildings' Australian-made sheds are backed by Bluescope Steel's warranties of up to 25 years. All shed stock comes with full site specific engineering, extensive plans and construction support. Sheds may be collected from one of Now Buildings' many depots around the country, or delivery is also available in most areas.

As Australia's leading wholesale shed company, Now Buildings guarantees



that they will provide all customers with exceptional service throughout the whole process.

If you are an ABN holder and would like to take advantage of the below wholesale prices in the 'Beat the Price Rise Trade Sale' call Now Buildings on 1300 559 668.

Flying with batteries?

If batteries are mishandled, mislabelled, dropped, or carried incorrectly, they can have serious consequences not just for your personal safety, but also for aviation safety.

Batteries are everywhere. They power most of the portable electronic devices (PEDs) that we use and are growing in popularity due to the high energy that they can store.

Typically the batteries that power your phone, laptop and camera are all under the 100 watt-hour (Wh) rating and for these there is only one restriction: if the battery is a spare – that is, the battery is by itself and not contained in equipment – it must be in your carry-on baggage only.

At no point is a spare battery – regardless of size – allowed in checked luggage. If you want to carry more powerful batteries over the 100Wh category, the rules are a bit stricter.

LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES (100–160WH RATING)

More powerful batteries, like the ones found in industrial equipment and power tools between 100 and 160Wh, require approval from the airline before flying.

Again, if the battery is installed in a device, it can be carried in either checked or carry-on baggage. However, if the battery is a spare, it must be in your carry-on baggage only.

There is also a quantity limit of two spare batteries per person. These batteries must only be packed in carry-on luggage and should have their terminals individually protected to minimise the risk of contact with other metal objects in your luggage.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR BATTERY FROM SHORT CIRCUITS

Short-circuiting batteries have been responsible for numerous fires on board aircraft, so it's important that all spare batteries have their terminals protected properly.

You can do this by keeping batteries in original retail packaging, insulating the battery terminals by taping over exposed terminals and placing each battery in a separate plastic bag or protective pouch.

BATTERY HEALTH

With the growing use of PEDs in everyday life, it's not uncommon for these devices – and the batteries powering them – to become damaged.

Whether they're dropped, smashed, overheated or mistreated in other ways, batteries can become unstable and have been known to ignite fires due to



mistreatment. Batteries show clear signs of being unhealthy. Such signs include bulging, discolouration, squashed/deformed, spilt case and leaking fluid. If your battery displays any of these characteristics, it's probably time to dispose of it correctly and purchase a replacement from an authorised retailer.

It's also a good idea not to travel with your batteries fully charged. Keeping charge levels at 40 to 70 per cent will ensure the particles that store energy will be in their most stable state during travel, minimising the risk of thermal runaway and subsequent fire.

Batteries do not last forever and it's important to continually monitor the health of your battery. Continual dischargers, over-charges and quick-charges will eventually reduce the battery's overall capacity and health.

For more information, visit www.casa.gov.au/batterysafety

Professional finish



Get the finest finishes and smoothest surfaces with Bosch Blue's new GBR 15 CA Professional Concrete Grinder.

Specially designed to power through large jobs, tradies can expect a professional finish on every project, every time with Bosch Blue.

Providing tradies with outstanding grinding performance when restoring large and uneven surfaces, the new GBR 15 CA Concrete Grinder is the ideal tool for preparing uneven walls, weather-beaten surfaces or removing adhesive residues during prep work.

Extending tool lifetime, the four-stage dust labyrinth prevents abrasive concrete dust from entering the tool's gearbox and motor, protecting the tool from dust build-up that destroys the motor.

With increasing focus on health and safety in Australia, Bosch Blue's innovative Click & Clean system effectively extracts dust from the work environment by allowing tradies to attach a vacuum nozzle directly to the tool – protecting them from the harmful effects of concrete dust and ensuring a healthier work zone.

Built with tradies' comfort in mind and weighing in at just 2.6kg, the Concrete Grinder's compact design ensures masonry workers, painters, electricians and plasterers alike have a high power, low fatigue tool that they can use day-in, day-out.

Available in leading hardware stores from \$599, ensure a powerful, dust-free performance with Bosch Blue's GBR 15 CA Professional Concrete Grinder.

For more information check out
www.bosch-pt.com.au/professional



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Timber connector solutions

Simpson Strong-Tie has launched a new timber connector line in Australia.

The most important aspect of building with timber is the strength of the connection between the timber members and fasteners, yet this connection has always had limited holding capacity. In 1956, Simpson Strong-Tie founder Barclay Simpson developed the first timber connector to address this need. Since that time, connectors have become a standard construction practice, and Simpson Strong-Tie has earned a reputation as the leading brand of engineered and field-tested timber connector solutions.

Barclay believed that timber connectors could be used to build homes and structures to resist high-wind events and other natural disasters. For 60 years, Simpson Strong-Tie has led the industry in developing and engineering innovative and economical connector, fastener and anchor solutions. When used as a system, these products connect a structure's roof, floors and foundation together to create a continuous load path. Simpson Strong-Tie has an extensive line of hurricane tie connectors, floor straps and sill plate anchors that give designers and builders safe, reliable and economical solutions to build homes and structures that are more resilient to high winds and earthquakes.

With manufacturing facilities in the U.S. and Europe, Simpson Strong-Tie has the largest variety of timber connectors available worldwide. The company has now launched a line of connector products in Australia.



The range of Simpson Strong-Tie timber connectors available is unique. The connectors are designed for specific applications without the need to adapt the metal plate to suit a connection.

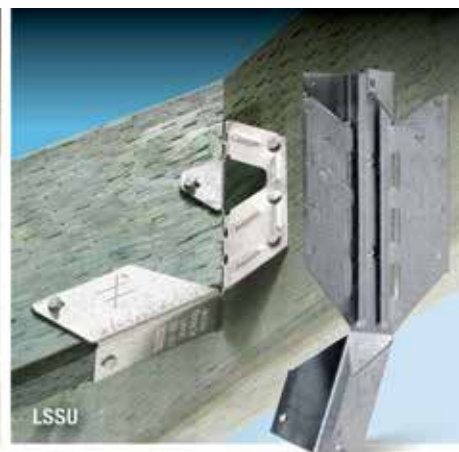
Three innovative products being introduced to Australia as part of this new product line include the Simpson Strong-Tie® CPTZ Concealed Post Tie for post support, IUC Concealed Flange Hanger and the LSSU Adjustable Light Slopeable / Skewable U Hanger.

The CPTZ provides a structurally solid post base that allows the beauty of the natural timber to remain visible, unlike galvanised metal brackets. The CPTZ retains the required 25mm standoff and is available in 90mm x 90mm, 125mm x 125mm, and 200mm x 200mm post sizes. These connectors are aesthetically

pleasing while providing structural integrity.

The IUC and LSSU joist hanger address challenges for using a joist hangers at the end of a header or for concealing the flanges of the joist hanger. The LSSU attaches joists or rafters to headers, sloped up or down. The IUC joist hanger with internal flanges enables the joist to be placed at the end of a ledger, beam or post and maintain structural integrity. It is also more noticeably appealing without the flanges being visible.

Simpson Strong-Tie has focused on creating structural products that help people build safer and stronger structures. The company is proud to launch this broad range of timber connectors to provide reliable and economical solutions for builders in Australia.



Online stock solution

Unlike other online electrical wholesalers, eBarn simply acts as a portal between you, the suppliers and a huge range of heavily discounted stock. By using this direct method costs are massively reduced with the middleman essentially cut out. eBarn is committed to revolutionising the electrical industry and providing an online solution for major electrical suppliers and contractors alike. It has been designed by leading electrical wholesale experts and not only provides auction service, but also the option to 'buy now' on all its items. eBarn is a site that allows you to bid, buy and browse a huge selection of reduced stock from the world's biggest and best electrical suppliers. Simply register at www.ebarn.com.au and a whole world of clearance savings will be open to you and your business.

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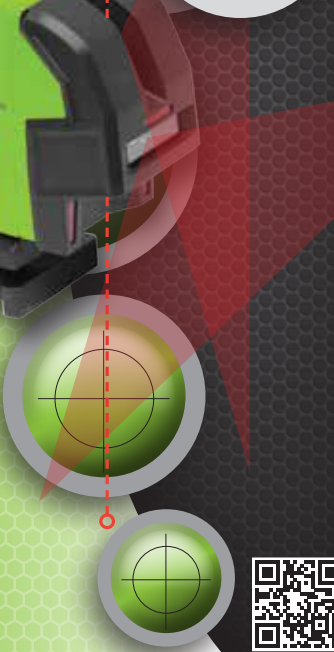
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The RE 60: one for all

The RE 60 electrical tool from RIDGID® features the unique QuickChange System™, allowing quick and easy switching between interchangeable heads for cutting, crimping and punching.

Whether you're cutting wire, crimping lugs or punching boxes, the RE 60 helps to maximise productivity and efficiency on the jobsite.



BENEFITS

- Cut wire, crimp lugs and punch boxes with just one tool via RIDGID's unique QuickChange System™
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- 3-in-1 tool saves valuable cargo space and comes in a single, easy-to-carry case
- In-line design for easy, one-handed operation even in tight spots
- 360-degree head rotation increases manoeuvrability
- Industry-leading service interval maximises uptime on the job site

SPECIFICATIONS

- 60kN hydraulic force output to cut copper cable up to 50mm O.D., crimp Cu/Alu lugs up to 300mm² and punch round holes up to 4 inches (116mm)
- Automatic ram retraction when cutting and crimping
- Rubber over moulded grips for superior comfort and control
- Bright white LED workspace illumination light



- On/Off button for disabling tool when changing heads or transporting
- Nylon straps for greater tool security
- Approximate cycle time: 5 seconds
- Service interval: 32,000 cycles

For more information on the RE 60 from RIDGID®, phone 1800 743 443 or visit www.ridgid.com.au

Next generation technology

SENCO FUSION technology, which powers its range of cordless fix-out brad nailers, is now in its second generation and aims at maximising jobsite performance and portability.

FUSION technology eliminates the drawbacks associated with traditional gas and battery-powered nailers, including fuel cell replacement costs, servicing, tool weight and "ramp-up" times.

With FUSION technology now in its second generation and becoming bigger and stronger than ever before, the technology has advanced once again. The "GEN II" produced tools have all been modified with new 1.5AMP batteries and charger, offering 50 per cent greater battery life (interchangeable with SENCO DURASPIN screw tools), new PCB housing, new PCB switch, new nose for durability and a driver upgrade to reduce jams. All upgrades offer cutting-edge performance.

SENCO FUSION tools have the power and utility of a pneumatic tool whilst being totally cordless. The drive power

is held in the self-contained 130psi charged air-cylinder that still after driving 250,000 shots only loses 3-5 per cent power output. Over 250,000 shots the tool operator has the potential to save up to \$3500 in fuel cells which would normally be needed to operate other traditional gas tools. Eliminating lubrication



requirements, the FUSION range also eliminates fuel cells, compressors and air hoses making it the most convenient nailer on the market.

FUSION technology tools are available in four different models to cover all fit-out applications; Contact your local dealer now. FN65DA drives DA Series Brads, FN65RHS drives C Series Brads, FN65RHA drives RH Angled Brads and FN55AX drives C1 Series Brads.

Cordless cuts

The new Cordless Circular Saw System from Festool is mobile, versatile and efficient.

Festool is expanding its current 18-volt cordless range with a new circular saw system, which affords quick and easy mains-independent timber work. As well as the high-performance battery pack, a balanced weight distribution and use of the new FSK trimming rail contribute to the mobility of the device. The brushless EC-TEC motor in combination with the 18-volt lithium-ion battery pack offers maximum sawing power and quick working progress.

All in all it's a uniquely versatile circular saw system for universal application – particularly for cutting rafters and beams, trimming work, shelving, rip cutting, eaves, and plunge cut applications. The quick-release fastener allows the portable circular saw and trimming rail to be connected and uncoupled quickly. The trimming rail has a stop system, which enables repeatable angled cuts of 0-60 degrees in both directions. The new cordless portable circular saw is particularly versatile because it also fits on the tried-and-tested Festool

guide rail. Thanks to the combination of the depth adjuster, which can be easily adjusted in millimetre increments, and the additional plunge function, plunge cuts to a pre-set cutting depth can be made easily, conveniently and splinter free. In typical fashion, Festool has paid considerable attention to ergonomics when developing the new HKC 55.

Robust but lightweight magnesium castings contribute to its low weight. Furthermore, a well-balanced centre of gravity ensures effortless operation during mobile applications on the construction site. For maximum cutting performance and high cut quality, Festool offers three new saw blades, specially adapted to the HKC 55.

The new cordless portable circular saw is available as an attractive starter set with battery packs and charger. For workshops that already work with the Festool cordless range, we recommend the basic version with the basic tool enclosed in a Systainer.



This allows the use of pre-existing battery packs and chargers.

It goes without saying that all services included in the unique 'Service all-inclusive' package will also be available for the HKC 55 – this also applies to chargers and battery packs bought separately.

For further information about the new saw system, visit www.festool.com.au



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Further information, including financial statements will only be released once a confidentiality agreement has been signed.

SYDNEY
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and Garages

Contact: Corey Cook 0467 070 839

\$ POA

Trouble-free finishing

The Master Finish 34" Trowel Machine is reliable and built to last.

Concrete finishing is every tradies worst nightmare! It takes forever to do by hand and trowel machines often break down or are difficult to have serviced and repaired. Luckily A.G Pulie manufacturer Master Finish concrete tools and equipment, which are specially built for Australian conditions.

The 34" Finishing Trowel machine is driven by a Honda GX200 and fitted with combination blades, meaning the user can float and finish the concrete with one machine without needing to change blades. It is powered by a reliable Honda 4 stroke engine, so it is trouble-free and simple to find parts and arrange servicing. This trowel machine features a heavy-duty gear box and base assembly to ensure longevity.

- Sealed base – Robust sealed base and tilting mechanism minimises maintenance costs
- Balance – Low centre of gravity ensures stability and balance for better finishing, reduced operator fatigue and backache

- Adjustable handles – Wide handles with adjustable height ensure operator comfort and ease of control
- Safety – Runaway prevention switch, plus vee belt, clutch guard and blade guard
- Heavy duty – Durable finish for quick clean-up and lasting good looks
- Fingertip blade tilting mechanism control
- Ease of control with blade tilt, throttle and cut-out switch mounted on handlebar stem
- Site handling – Crane hook is standard
- Also available in 40"

To learn more about the HS Series Trowel machines or for any other information please visit www.agpulie.com.au



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TIMBER HINTS AND TIPS

Ian Schulz is one of the 'tech guys' at Lucas Mill who has a long history with and love of wood, which he gets fairly passionate about. Read on for Ian's timber hints and tips.

When it comes to using timber around your house there aren't many things it can't be used for. I have even seen it used for a bath and wash basin in the bathroom.

It pays to know what species you have because some are better suited to outdoor and in ground use than others. This doesn't mean the other species you have are no good, it just means they are better suited for internal use.

Local knowledge is a useful tool for species identification; otherwise the books by Leon Costermans are also quite helpful. Once you know the species, *Wood in Australia* by Keith R. Bootle is an informative book, which will give you the wood properties and uses for most of the commonly used species in Australia.

The moisture content is another consideration that needs to be made. If it is going to be used outside the moisture content is not as important as if it is going to be used internally. As a guide, you need to rack timber out to dry for at least one year for every 25mm of thickness.

It wasn't that long ago that all the hardwood framing in a house was put up green, straight off the saw and then given six months to settle before fitting out. If using hardwood timber for framing or decking, six or more months of air drying will make fitting out a lot easier.



Rebuilding after the Kinglake bushfires in 2009.

To meet building regulations, timber used for structural purposes needs to meet all relevant Australian Standards. This is not difficult to achieve with a number of training providers throughout Australia, like Timber Training Creswick, offering courses in timber grading as well as portable sawmilling and drying. When selecting logs for milling:

- Try and keep the logs straight – When a long log has a kink or bend it should be cut to shorter lengths at the bend, which makes it easier to cut straight timber and reduces the amount of pieces with heart in them
- Try and keep knots and limbs within 300-600mm from the end – If you have to dock to meet grade requirements, you may be able to use it as a shorter length for something else

Hardwoods in particular have growth stresses to help them stay upright when

growing. As the tree matures it no longer requires the growth stresses and will relax them. Growth stresses cause the timber to bend off the intended straight line when sawn.

There are a number of things you can do to reduce the movement during sawing. One rule to remember is if you double the length, you quadruple the movement. Therefore, use your small diameter logs for short lengths (2.4-3.6m) because this will reduce movement during sawing. Keep your large diameter logs and logs with a pipe (hollow) up the middle of them for long lengths; a log with a pipe in it will not move around much.

Cutting the timber for your own home will no doubt leave you feeling exhausted at the end of the day, but the feeling of satisfaction you will get every time you see and feel the finished work will always outlast that tired feeling.

Happy milling!

LUCAS MILL

The circular swing-blade portable sawmill has a circular saw blade that swings from horizontal to vertical, can be set up over the log on the ground in most terrains, and provides a cost-effective way of producing timber for all your owner builder needs.

For more information call (03) 5728 7283 or visit www.lucasmill.com

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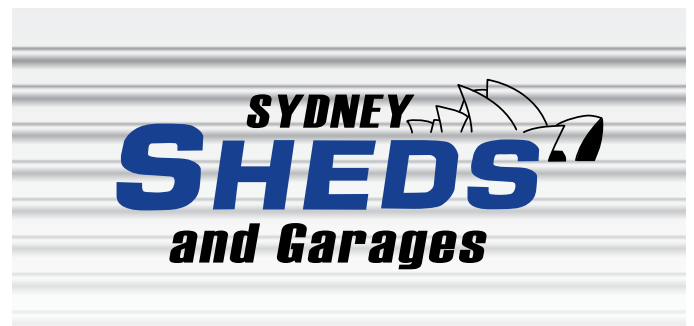
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POOL AND SPA REGULATIONS

Pools, spas and safety barriers must meet Australian Standards.

As summer approaches the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) is reminding building practitioners of their obligations when building, installing or renovating a swimming pool, spa or safety barriers.

In Victoria construction and installation of swimming pools, spas and safety barriers are subject to strict requirements under the Building Regulations 2006, which details mandatory requirements to meet the Australian Standard. VBA Director of Technical and Regulation Jarrod Edwards said that by ensuring work complies with the building regulations, practitioners can play a vital role in improving safety outcomes around pools and spas.

"Non-compliance can increase the risk of drowning and lead to prosecution by the VBA," Mr Edwards said. "Builders who engage in the construction of a pool or spa and associated safety barriers must be across the standards. Part of the VBA's role as the building and plumbing regulator is to increase awareness among practitioners and consumers of the regulations and the need for compliance."



This includes providing information on the installation of swimming pools, spas and barriers, such as Practice Note PN-05-2014-Swimming pools, spas and safety."

A person building or installing a swimming pool or spa must be registered as either a Domestic Builder-Unlimited (DB-U) or a Domestic Builder-Limited Swimming Pools (DB-L S). A Domestic Builder-Limited Gates (DB-L G) can complete works relating to the installation of inground or aboveground pools or spas, including paving and fencing.

Swimming pool and spa regulations in Victoria include requirements that:

- A building permit, issued by a registered building surveyor, must be obtained to construct a pool or spa and the associated safety barriers

- A registered builder must be engaged under a written domestic building contract to carry out building work in excess of \$5000 (including labour and materials)
 - All swimming pools and spas more than 300mm (30cm) deep must have a safety barrier that meets the Australian Standard. This rule also applies to inflatable or relocatable pools and spas
 - During construction it is the builder's responsibility to provide a temporary barrier. Once construction is complete it becomes the property owner's responsibility to ensure their pool is safe, and that a compliant temporary barrier remains in place until a permanent, compliant barrier is installed
 - Safety barriers must not be installed near structures that children can use to climb to access the swimming pool or spa
- Mr Edwards said compliance with the regulations in relation to swimming pools, spas and safety barriers is essential to protect and save lives.

For more information on swimming pools and spas refer to the VBA's information sheet about swimming pools, spas and their safety barriers or visit, www.vba.vic.gov.au

BUILDING APPROVALS

Building approvals remain high despite fall in August.

The latest building approvals for August 2015 saw approvals for dwellings fall by 6.9 per cent seasonally adjusted.

"The roller coaster ride for high rise apartment units continued but there was an encouraging lift in detached house approvals, according to the latest figures for August 2015," Peter Jones, Chief Economist of Master Builders said.

"Approvals for major unit developments, particularly in Sydney and Melbourne continue to dominate approvals data, but increasing volatility may signal the approaching peak of the cycle for high rise apartments."

Whilst residential builders are enjoying a long-awaited cyclical upturn, structural issues remain," Peter Jones said.

"Supply side bottlenecks and inefficiencies in making available an adequate supply of serviced land must be addressed if Australia's housing



affordability problem is to be solved particularly for first home buyers.

"Master Builders has long called for the implementation of a national affordability

agenda across federal, state and local government and welcomes the recent call by Treasurer Scott Morrison for national leadership of this process."



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MASTER BUILDERS WELCOMES PM TURNBULL

Master Builders Australia congratulates the Honourable Malcolm Turnbull MP on his election as Leader of the Liberal Party and as Prime Minister of Australia.



Master Builders looks to Prime Minister Turnbull and his government for renewed and reinvigorated energy in driving the implementation of a vision to meet the challenges and opportunities facing the building and construction industry and the nation," Wilhelm Harnisch, CEO of Master Builders Australia said.

"We welcome Prime Minister Turnbull's strong commitment to a stronger and more targeted focus on the economy and productivity. Master Builders looks forward to working with the Prime Minister and his ministerial team to advance the Government's policies to achieve this, including restoring the

powers of the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC).

"Strengthening business and consumer confidence through a realistic plan for growing the economy, improving productivity and reducing the structural Budget deficit at the same time are essential for the commercial and residential building sectors.

"Without strong confidence business will not invest in new buildings and home buyers will be hesitant in buying new homes.

"Advancing policies to support the industry to train more young people through an industry-driven apprenticeship process is another priority. We need young people to become our leaders for

tomorrow and to do that nationally we need at least 30,000 new entrants a year to meet that skills challenge.

"Tax reform must also be a priority to ensure we are globally competitive and overseas investors continue to see Australia in a positive light.

"Corporate and personal income tax need to be reduced for investment to continue and for the economy to grow.

"What the community does not need is an overall lift in the tax burden. Increasing the costs of the family home, particularly for first home buyers, is detrimental and will add to housing affordability pressures, as would the removal of negative gearing on investment properties."

ANTI-BUSINESS TACTICS EXPOSED

Master Builders welcomes the positive conclusion to an economically damaging industrial dispute.

The CFMEU should be condemned for the industrial bastardry that has forced an Australian business to take legal action to defend its right to lawfully conduct its business,” CEO of Master Builders Australia Wilhelm Harnisch said.

“The community deserves better from the CFMEU and its outrageous and unlawful black banning of Boral profoundly reinforces the need for a regulator with powers to intervene early in such circumstances to prevent the rule of law being flouted.

“It is vital to remember that only the deep pockets of Boral, the leadership of CEO Mike Kane and the determination of Boral’s Board to stand up the CFMEU’s thuggery, have allowed this settlement to occur. Thousands of other building contractors remain vulnerable to the CFMEU’s unconscionable tactic of threatening to shut down businesses in order to impose its will.

“The dispute has taken a long time to resolve but the ACCC’s action based on



the secondary boycotting provisions of the law is still on foot. There are therefore further legal processes underway.

“Master Builders calls on the government to implement recommendations of the Harper Review of Competition Policy that penalties for unions be brought into line with those imposed on companies for breaches of competition law, such as secondary boycotts. This is reiterated in Master Builders’ Submission in response to the Draft Report of the Productivity Commission’s review of the workplace relations framework.

“While the ACCC’s ability to intervene is valuable, the CFMEU’s war on Boral

highlights the need for a regulatory body that could have intervened early to prevent a business having to go through a very costly process to merely protect its lawful right to operate.”

This settlement reflects a result that shows the rule of law has been applied. In the Interim Report of the Heydon Royal Commission it was said:

“The defying of the Victorian Supreme Court’s injunctions for nearly two years (by the CFMEU)... will make the Australian legal system an international laughing stock. A new form of ‘sovereign risk’ is emerging – for investors will not invest in countries where their legal rights receive no protection in practice.”

“With the current settlement Master Builders welcomes the fact that this legal risk is directly confronted. This should also confirm for cross bench senators the absolute imperative of passing the Bills to restore the Australian Building and Construction Commission,” Wilhelm Harnisch said.

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TACKLING BUSINESS

One of rugby league's hardest working and most respected players, Sam Perrett, is building a career off the field, literally.

The 30-year-old Kiwi International has established a property development company that buys land, constructs houses and then offers them for sale or investment.

Not only will The Perrett Group safeguard his financial future and that of his wife and three young children, it will help fellow footballers when their playing days end.

Sam, who aims to keep playing top grade rugby league for a few more seasons, has all the tools needed to be an off-field success. Using his downtime away from the game he gained hands on experience as a labourer on construction sites, studied hard to gain his carpentry qualifications and builders licence, and then sought out mentors to set up a business structure for The Perrett Group.

So well respected is Sam that the Bulldogs have confirmed they will offer him a role as a club ambassador when he hangs up his boots. He already

is an ambassador for the Housing Industry Association and the NRL 'Trading Up' program where he mentors apprentice tradies.

The fruits of Sam's labours are evident for all to see, having just completed an impressive family home at Gledswood Hills, a new housing estate near Camden. He bought the land, organised and oversaw the design, gained the development approval and built the four bedroom, two bathroom home.

The Perrett Group is planning to build a display home at Campbelltown where it will showcase its design and construction expertise. The company has already sold two investment properties, completed several construction projects and has multiple development opportunities.

"People will be invited to invest in The Perrett Group and its three divisions," said Sam, who completed several renovations and house additions before embarking on his Gledswood Hills project. "We will



purchase and develop land, then build and sell our homes. Everyone involved will benefit from our profits."

The slogan for The Perrett Group is "Building and improving life", which is what Sam believes will be his legacy.

ASBESTOS AWARENESS

**November is National Asbestos Awareness Month 2015
and Asbestos Awareness Day is Friday November 27.**

There is no known safe level of exposure to asbestos fibres so it's very important to safely manage asbestos-containing materials that can be found in and around homes.

With 1 in 3 Australian homes containing asbestos in some form or another, and with the popularity of home renovation programs rising inspiring an ongoing boom in renovations, now more than ever before, homeowners, renovators, tradies and handymen need to *Get to know Asbestos this November* and visit asbestosawareness.com.au to protect themselves and their families from dangerous asbestos fibres.

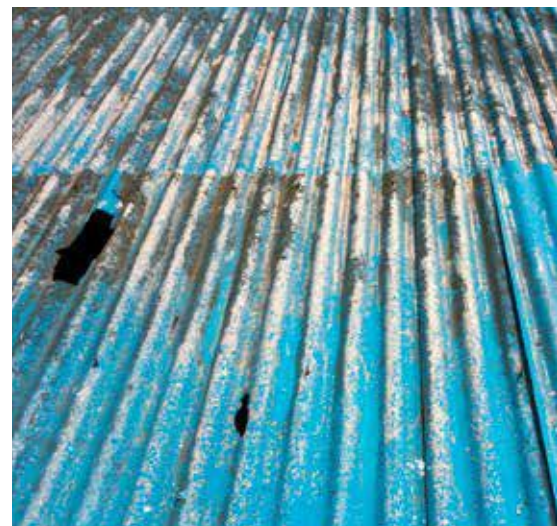
People would be surprised at where they might find the hidden danger of asbestos in a home built or renovated before 1987. It could be anywhere! Under floor coverings such as carpets, linoleum and vinyl tiles; behind wall and floor tiles; in cement floors, internal and external walls, ceilings and ceiling space (insulation), eaves, garages and

roofs; around hot water pipes and fences; and in extensions to homes, garages, outdoor toilets, backyard and farm sheds, chook sheds and even dog kennels.

By visiting asbestosawareness.com.au people will be able to easily search to identify the sorts of products to look for, the locations of where they might be found and learn how to manage it and dispose of it safely.

Does your home contain asbestos? How would you know? Stop playing Renovation Roulette! *Get to know Asbestos this November* by visiting asbestosawareness.com.au and take the 20 Point Safety Check. Learn to identify products that may contain asbestos in your home and property, where it might be found and learn how to manage it and dispose of it safely. It's not worth the risk!

During November Australians are encouraged to host a *Blue Lamington Drive* morning or afternoon tea at home or at work to help raise awareness of



the current dangers of asbestos while raising vital funds for medical research and support services for sufferers of asbestos-related diseases.

Visit www.asbestosawareness.com.au for more information or www.bluelamington.com to register for a Blue Lamington Drive morning or afternoon tea.



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BOHÈME

Construction has commenced on Bohème Apartment towers following \$35 million of off-the-plan apartment sales.

The towers are the centrepiece of Robina Group's \$250 million CityVillage development, which will encompass 500 homes.

Tower One launched in February and sold out all of its 52 apartments for a combined \$30 million.

The quick sellout of the first tower led to the release of Tower Two being brought forward and buyers snapped up 20 per cent of the building's 77 waterside apartments.

Preliminary civil works for the twin-tower project are expected to be completed by the end of this year, with construction on Bohème's seven-storey Tower One to start in early 2016.

Remaining apartments in Tower Two are priced from just \$455,000.

Brisbane-based builder Cullen Group started work on Bohème this week and is using a range of innovative building techniques to fast-track construction in line with buyer demand. Cullen Group has completed more than 40 apartment projects from Lennox Head to Brisbane.

Operations manager Geoff Belford said Bohème Apartments would involve a high degree of technical innovation, including the use of a column structure rather than traditional cement blocks.

"Bohème Apartments are selling fast and people want to move in as soon as possible," he said.

"Concrete structures provide greater efficiency in vertical construction, so it's a good solution for multi-residential projects that need to come out of the ground quickly.

"We anticipate that the entire two tower, 129 unit Bohème development can be completed within 24 months."



Geoff Belford and Hylton Slater on site at Bohème Apartments.

APARTMENTS



Bohème Apartments are the first apartments available in the CityVillage masterplan and will include a unique podium-level residents' retreat featuring a lakeside saltwater pool, barbecue and recreation area, and a street level café.

A full-scale two-bedroom display suite, styled by The Block's Carlene and Michael Duffy, has been built on site to showcase the striking on-trend design and high quality finish of the apartments.

Demand for Bohème has echoed the stellar success of the wider CityVillage community by acquiring more than \$100 million in sales to a broad range of buyers keen to take advantage of the rapid growth underway in Robina.

Robina Group General Manager Hylton Slater said Bohème and CityVillage were drawing interest from a broad range of purchasers who recognised the growth potential opportunities on offer in south-east Queensland.

"Gold Coast City is rapidly expanding with a population predicted to double by 2050," he said.

"Robina is geographically central to Gold Coast City and Bohème is just 250m from Robina Town Centre. Our buyers love the fact that Gold Coast City's top schools and medical facilities are only minutes away.

"Interstate buyers can see a great opportunity of investing in Gold Coast City areas such as Robina because prices here are still affordable compared to Sydney and Melbourne.

"There is currently more than \$1 billion of investment underway in Robina with a new private hospital being announced only last month and many other projects underway.

"Bohème Apartments allow buyers to be a part of Robina's unprecedented growth." **BCM**

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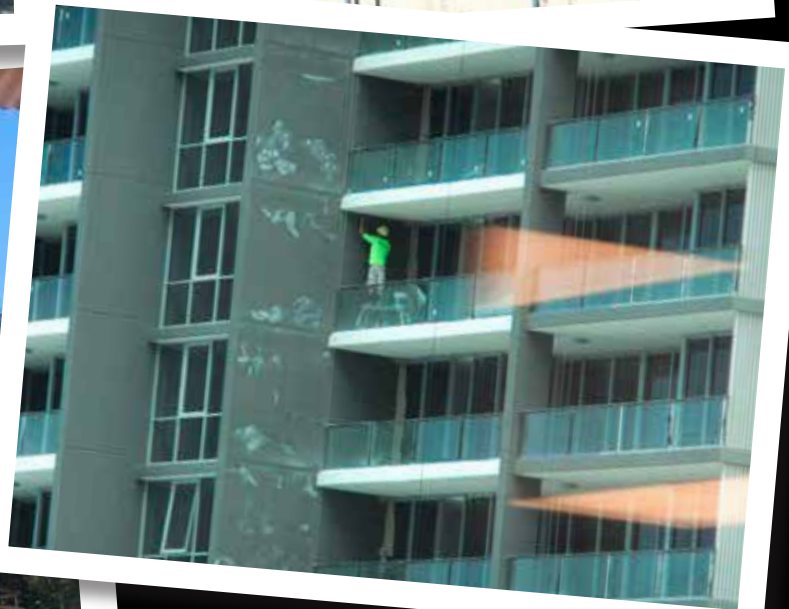
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Testimonial

I love this magazine; I've got every issue since the very first and have kept every one. When the new edition arrives, I go into the shed and read it in the sun. And those weeks when there isn't a new issue, I like to grab a pile of back issues and re-familiarise myself with earlier equipment and industry news, and appreciate how far we've come.

– Peter Berecny, Port Macquarie

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IS YOUR SPINE READY FOR SUMMER?

With summer upon us it is important to remember that as we shake off the winter dust, begin to do more outdoor activities and get back into different sports and fun activities – it is important to prepare our bodies and spines before just jumping in head first and going for gold.

There are important supporting muscles and ligaments around the spine that if we prepare them first before major activity or loading we can decrease the chance of injury and make sure we stay strong. If these stabilisers are being lazy this can cause the spine to become misaligned (known as subluxation), which can cause the body to feel pain and stiffness in certain areas, seize up, repair much slower and decay faster.

To prevent this from happening there are a couple of things you can do to strengthen these stabilisers. As with any exercise you should always consult a professional before proceeding and if you have any discomfort you should stop immediately and speak to your chiropractor.

There are three specific exercises I would recommend for getting these stabilisers strong:

1. **Superman:** With this exercise lie on your stomach with your forehead supported by a towel to relieve any pressure on the neck. Slowly raise your right arm and left leg at the same time off the ground and hold for three deep breaths. Then lower them down and repeat with the left arm and the right leg. It's not about how high you lift the limbs, it's about keeping your whole body still and level as you raise them. Pretend you have a glass of water sitting on your lower back and you don't want to let any of the water spill. Repeat five times.
2. **Posterior bridge:** Lying on your back, bend your knees keeping your feet on the floor. In that position tighten your buttocks. Slowly raise your buttocks off the floor and keep the pelvis level so there is no rotation left or right. Hold for three deep breaths, then slowly lower the buttocks back to the floor. Repeat five times.



3. **Side bridge:** Start on your side and come up onto your elbow so it is on the floor directly below your shoulder. Bend your knees but keep your body in a straight line. Slowly raise your hips off the floor so you are lifting your body up and resting your weight between your arm and your knees. Hold for 10-15 seconds. Build that up to one minute. When you get comfortable with that straighten your legs and come up onto your feet rather than your knees and build up to one minute in that position. Do this exercise on both sides.

If you have concerns about the stability of your spine or would like more information about these exercises and how you can get a stronger spine to be doing the things that you love, contact us at Chiropractic Central – we can give you recommendations and a full spinal checkup to let you be aware of how healthy you are on the inside and give you easy-to-implement strategies to keep you young for life!

*For more info visit
www.chiropracticcentral.com.au
 or call (02)9418 9031. **BCM***

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PAUL & BEAR

HOW DID BEAR GET HIS NAME?

The breeder named him "Patch Work Teddy" Bear.

WHAT BREED IS BEAR?

German Spitz.

HOW OLD IS HE?

Three.

HOW DID YOU FIND HIM?

Through a breeder who was unable to show him anymore after he developed a slight underbite.

HOW DO YOU RATE OBEDIENCE?

Bear does his own thing; he's got a mind of his own. I think he believes he's human.

ANY FUNNY STORIES?

Bear's not the manliest dog to turn up to a building site with so he often gets a lot of laughs. I'm always getting calls while on the road asking what type of dog he is.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT YOUR MATE?

He manages to win everyone's heart; even the toughest of builders. **BCM**



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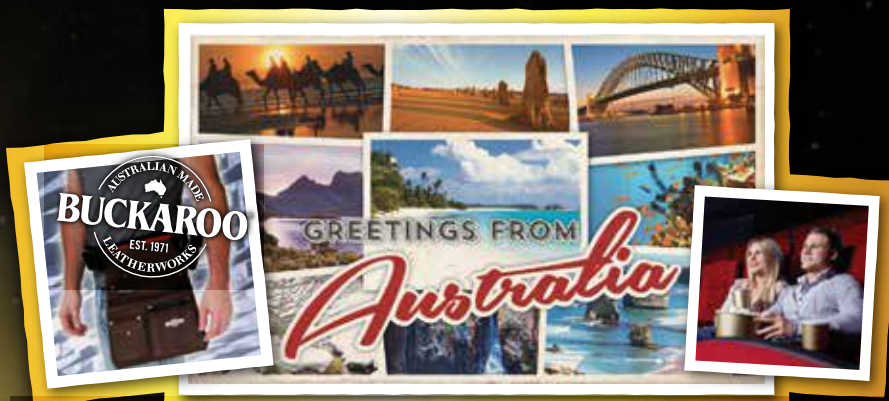


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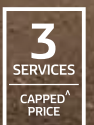
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