

# CHANGES AT THE DOUGLAS GROUP HELM

**O**n the 1st of July 2009, Michael Nash and Geoff McIntosh were elected as new Managing Director and Company Chairman. They replaced Terry Wiesner and Michael Thom who stepped down after over 10 years at the helm.

Michael Nash



Michael Nash joined DP in 1993 after spending 12 years with the Geotechnical Engineering Office and Environment Protection Agency of the Hong Kong Government. Mike became DP's Manager of Environmental Services in

1994 and became a Principal of DP in 1995. Mike was appointed a Director of the Douglas Group in 1998 and was Sydney Branch Manager from 2003 - 2006.

Geoff McIntosh



Geoff McIntosh is a qualified Civil and Geotechnical Engineer who began his 29 year career at the Electricity Commission of NSW. Geoff joined DP's Sydney office in 1988 before being appointed Manager of the Central Coast office in 1989. In 1995 he took over responsibility for the South Coast

Region (managing DP's Campbelltown, Wollongong and Canberra branches). He was appointed Principal in 1997 and to the Board of Directors in 2001.

Outgoing Chairman, Michael Thom, remarked that "Michael and Geoff have great technical expertise and a sharp business sense that will allow for strong leadership and guidance for the company in the years ahead."

Former Managing Director, Terry Wiesner, added "I am confident that DP will continue to do well under the stewardship of Mike and Geoff, and that all DP staff will continue to provide strong support for the new management team."

Terry and Michael will focus their attention on their consulting roles and continue to participate on the board of directors.

## NEW SYDNEY BRANCH MANAGER

Geoff Young



Geoff Young has been appointed Sydney Branch Manager, taking over from Bob Lumsdaine who will concentrate on major project consultancy.

Geoff Young, a Principal Geotechnical Engineer, joined DP in 1994. His experience in geotechnical engineering is wide ranging having worked for many years in the Sydney region. He has also carried out projects in most states of Australia and worked internationally for nearly two years in the UK. ☐

## NEW WOLLONGONG BRANCH MANAGER



After almost 10 years as Darwin Branch Manager, Konrad Schultz, was earlier this year appointed as DP's Wollongong office manager.

Konrad joined Douglas Partners in 1994 as a geotechnical engineer and worked in several offices around the country which enabled him to acquire a wealth of knowledge related to differing ground conditions and geotechnical issues. Konrad's main

interests centre on the analyses and design of foundations, slope stability, earthworks, retaining walls, and pipeline alignments.

## NEW DARWIN BRANCH MANAGER



Andrew Gane was appointed as new Darwin office branch manager replacing Konrad Schultz (see adjacent). Andrew began his career with DP in 2001, working in DP's Newcastle office before spending some time in UK undertaking contract work.

He rejoined DP in 2005 and currently offers over 8 years of geotechnical experience earned on large scale, complex civil, and structural engineering

projects. Experienced in a variety of geotechnical conditions, Andrew is well placed to take responsibility for DP's Darwin branch. ☐

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## DARWIN WATERFRONT PRECINCT

Once home of the Larrakia people, the place Europeans first waded ashore and the first piece of Australian soil bombed during World War 2, now the Waterfront Precinct redevelopment is becoming a new Darwin landmark.

Located adjacent to the city escarpment and the WW2 oil storage tunnels the Darwin Waterfront precinct incorporates the former industrial areas of Stokes Hill and Fort Hill Wharf.

The redevelopment of the 25 ha harbourside site incorporates a range of community infrastructure and private development that is expected to expand Darwin's reputation for business, tourism and recreation opportunities.

Since 2004, DP has contributed consulting services and provided geotechnical advice on the following parts of the redevelopment:

- The Darwin Convention Centre (Sitzler Laing O'Rourke JV)
- The Wave Lagoon (original investigation for McMahon Contractors Pty Ltd, construction by Sitzler Pty Ltd)
- The Smith Street Pedestrian Bridge (McMahon Contractors Pty Ltd)
- The Medina Hotel (Toga Group)
- Multi-storey car park (Hindmarsh Pty Ltd)
- Residential and Mixed Use - Stages 1 and 2 (Toga Group)

In addition to providing consulting



Convention and Exhibition Centre lights up the night skies in Darwin

input, DP has also offered construction services by providing laboratory and earthworks quality control testing to many of the developers.

DP's new Darwin branch manager, Andrew Gane commented, "the site is challenging, partly because of its history and previous uses which include a power station, wharf and port facilities, industrial and petrochemical works".

Andrew provided further insight into the complex ground conditions noting that "most of the Darwin Waterfront area was originally an inter tidal marine area inundated periodically by tides up to 8 m. Filling has historically been placed over soft marine mud, in places more than 9m thick, not ideal conditions for heavy structures".

He added that "the underlying bed-rock also presents some challenges, being sub-vertically bedded, generally low strength with very hard quartz gravel

bands. This, coupled with the proximity of nearby buildings, and the presence of Navy facilities warranted a careful approach to geotechnical investigations".

The overall value of Waterfront works will be in excess of \$1 billion and is targeted for completion around 2020. The development relies on a partnership between the Northern Territory Government, private sector developers, consultants and financiers. Completion will provide a centre-piece for Australia's most Northerly Capital City. ☐

*DP Contact(s):*

*Andrew Gane (08) 8947 4400  
Konrad Schultz (02) 4271 1836*

*Clients: McMahon Contractors Pty Ltd, TOGA Group, Laing O'Rourke, Sitzler Pty Ltd, Hindmarsh Pty Ltd and the Northern Territory Government.*



## ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT

**T**he new Royal Children's Hospital is the largest hospital redevelopment in Victoria and is expected to have a major impact on the quality of health services provided to children.

The hospital, currently under construction, is immediately west of the existing facility on Flemington Road in Parkville, and is expected to be finished in 2011. Upon completion it will have the capacity to treat more patients and house state-of-the-art research and education facilities.

The work by Douglas Partners (DP) is associated with one of the largest bulk excavations of Melbourne Mudstone since the Queen Victoria project in the CBD. The overall site is 4 hectares, with a 1.5 km perimeter, and includes multi-level basements up to 17 m below surface.

At the request of Bovis Lend Lease, DP carried out a review of the geotechnical conditions and potential risks in relation to the excavation, ground retention system and foundations,

for the detailed design stage and project costing purposes.

DP also classified the natural materials for re-use and reviewed proposed rock excavation methods to minimise the effects of ground vibration on sensitive laboratory equipment in nearby hospital research facilities.

In addition to geotechnical and geological analyses, DP assessed the contamination status of the excavated materials for re-use on site and off-site applications, and undertook groundwater investigations for basement drainage design and the requirements for construction dewatering.

DP's previous experience on the Queen Victoria project was acknowledged as having put DP in good stead to overcome the challenges and to enable safe, buildable and economic design and construction solutions to be developed. ☐

*Contact: Michael Broise (03) 9428 1831*

*Client: Bovis Lend Lease*

### PLANNING FOR THE DISPOSAL OF SOIL

Construction projects often necessitate the removal and disposal of soil from on-site excavations. The process of planning for soil removal involves a number of important considerations including: environmental regulations, legal obligations, OH&S issues and cost. Successful developments should incorporate these considerations early in the planning process.

On 1 July 2009, the Environment Protection Authority of Victoria released the Industrial Waste Resource Guidelines to replace all existing Prescribed Waste Disposal regulations. This change enforces legislation that promotes sustainable development by treating all waste as a potential resource. The EPA advises that

contaminated soil should only be sent to landfill when all other options have been exhausted and requires the person moving such soils to adhere to strict environmental guidelines.

On a recent project in Melbourne Docklands, Douglas Partners (DP) used a combination of health risk assessments and modified construction planning to help reduce the cost of soil disposal by over half a million dollars. In this project DP reviewed a number of existing assessment reports and was able to provide options to minimise the volume of spoil disposal to landfill. DP also provided options to conduct the necessary testing and risk evaluation to facilitate the successful on site management and cost effective disposal of soil from

the site which was environmentally unsuitable to remain in place.

Given that it is not uncommon for the disposal of filling to cost upwards of \$1300 per cubic metre in Victoria, DP environmental engineer Dean Woods advises "it is prudent to plan for soil disposal early in the project cycle. It is also important to determine what the overall cut and fill balance for the site will be, including the consideration of piling spoil, major bulk excavation or detailed excavations for services. Knowing the proportion of spoil that can be retained on site under suitable capping - based on risk assessment procedures is also helpful". ☐

*Contact: Dean Woods*

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# GEOTECHNICAL SCOPING STUDIES IN PNG

**D**ouglas Partners was awarded a contract for infrastructure scoping studies relating to the Frieda River Mine Project. The studies covered a total of 38 sites that were to be investigated by four senior engineering geologists over a concentrated period of 3 weeks, in the remote headwaters of the Frieda River, West Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea.

Douglas Partners was engaged by SKM, on behalf of Xstrata Frieda River Limited, to investigate various options for the provision of power, water supply, camp sites, port to mine access roads, bridge locations, river depots, a coastal port, airports, pipelines, process plants, tailings dams, and waste rock dumps.

The investigations were concentrated in an area 170km south of the town of Aitape, which is located on the north coast of PNG - a region with few villages, no roads and an annual rainfall of 10 metres. The area is characterised by steep mountains covered in jungle, and cut by numerous streams and rivers. These rivers eventually flow out onto outwash plains of kunai grasslands, or vast sago palm swamps located along the Sepik River. The area is also subject to intense geological and seismic activity with numerous landslides generated by the heavy rainfall.

Each site was initially inspected by helicopter fly-over and then followed with ground inspections that entailed landing on: previously prepared helicopter landing pads, river gravel banks or, natural clearings in the jungle. Access tracks were then cut into the site with locations determined by either GPS or compass and clinometer mapping. Geological/geotechnical data was recorded along the way.

During fieldwork and reporting, Douglas Partners' drew on its extensive experience in Papua New Guinea, including a previous cross-island gas pipeline study, pipeline and drilling pad investigations for oil and gas projects, road construction, design of a 4km long drainage tunnel, and numerous landslide studies.

The information gained from this first phase of investigation at Frieda River has been used to refine various infrastructure and access options which are now being more closely investigated. The second phase has only just begun, with Douglas Partners again continuing to make an important contribution to the project. ☑

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Michael Broise (03) 9428 1831  
Tara Adhikary (07) 3237 8999  
Client: SKM*



## ADDRESS CHANGES FOR GOLD COAST OFFICE

Due to major road and rail upgrades, the Gold Coast City Council advised DP Gold Coast that its street address details would change as of the 1st of July, 2009.

Works associated with the Pacific Motorway, the Varsity Lakes/Reddy Creek Interchange and the new Varsity Lakes Train Station has had the stretch of road from Casua Drive to Coromandel Lane duplicated and renamed Scottsdale Drive.

In accordance with these changes, the new street address for DP Gold Coast is now:

Unit 4, 482 Scottsdale Drive,  
Varsity Lakes QLD 4227.

Changes affect the street number, the street name and the post code - other contact details and location remain unchanged. Clients are asked to update their database or keep a record of this notice in order to avoid confusion. ☑

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## DP CAMPBELLTOWN MOVES

After 15 years of servicing Sydney's South West from Minto, DP's Campbelltown office has re-located to larger, more modern premises at Smeaton Grange (Narellan) - closer to Sydney's high growth area.

DP Campbelltown's new address is:

Unit 5/50 Topham Road  
Smeaton Grange NSW 2567

Tel: (02) 4647 0075

Fax: (02) 4646 1886

From Smeaton Grange DP is well placed to continue serving the regions major residential subdivisions including Oran Park, Harrington Grove and Bingara Gore as well as the new infrastructure related to such developments.

DP is also involved with the regions new industrial developments including Aldi, Prestons and Woolworths, Erskine Park.

Clients are reminded to update their systems in order to contact DP Campbelltown in the future. ☑

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