

## LANCE HOLMES AWARD - 2001

### An account of my time spent with the Gold Coast City Council Northern Construction Division Mick Newall – Devonport City Council

With help from Col Rush who is the Area Co-ordinator for the Northern Construction division based at Beenleigh, I arranged my trip northwards for the week starting 20<sup>th</sup> May 2002.

During the week spent with Col I was able to join in with all the daily operations both with Col and his Forman in the field, giving me the opportunity to see from both the planning and operational side of Cols teams.

Col is personally responsible for around a ten million dollar budget and has four Construction teams to organise so for Col to pick up and drop me back to the unit each day was a big ask but was a great help. Time was spent observing Cols technique for estimating projects and programming projects for start times, meeting with the Forman looking at cost controls, progress reports and team issues. Cols area covers from Southport to above Beenleigh some 30km and around 30km inland so much of the week was spent visiting various projects either ongoing or completed. This afforded me a valuable opportunity to look over street scaping projects that are constantly happening around the Gold Coast area.

With my own Council about to embark on CBD upgrades of its own it was great to see and have the opportunity to ask about the different technique used and bring back to the Devonport City Council a valuable experience.

On Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2002 I was asked to attend a field trip with members of the Queensland Municipal Works officers Ass.

The bus trip was to drive down to NSW about a 30 minute trip and look at construction works on the new section of the Pacific Highway from Chinderah to Yelgun, some 28.5 km long. The contract value of this massive project is \$272 million and has a construction time of around 3 years.

The enormity of the project was overwhelming because of techniques used, some of which included the placement of concrete pavement for the entire length of the project, which used up some 600,000 M2 in the Sub base and base pavements.

Also worthwhile were the very large tunnels with the one at Cudgen Rd being 135m long with a curved alignment and 4 lanes widened for stopping sight distance. Included in this project is a sign of the changing initiatives in Fauna care, with the construction of 4 massive Fauna arch structures with 2 overpass and 2 underpasses.

I felt this field day to be the highlight of my Northern trip because of my opportunity to mix and share lunch at Kingscliff with Works officers from around Southern Queensland.

When first thinking about putting my name forward for the Lance Holmes Award I thought it would be great to go somewhere and gain experience to benefit my own Council but after going through the process and been given the chance brought about by the Lance Holmes Award and the TAMS association, with Sponsors such as William Adams I have realised the enormous value the opportunity has given me personally.

Having recently been promoted to the position as Construction Manager for the Devonport City Council, I found that it was of enormous personal value to be able to benchmark myself and my performance against other personal working for similar organisations but thousands of km apart.

I would like to thank both TAMS and William Adams for making the Lance Holmes Awards a reality and helping someone such as myself both personally and professionally, who would not usually have had the opportunity.

Mick Newall  
Construction Manager  
Devonport City Council