

The Ledger

Voice of the Scaffolding Association Qld Inc.



**SCAFFOLDING
ASSOCIATION
QUEENSLAND
Incorporated**

ISSUE NO. 1

JULY 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Mission Statement

The mission of the Scaffolding Association of Qld Inc is to represent, promote and enhance the scaffold industry in Queensland. Educating its members as well as general industry in matters relating to scaffold products and increasing the level of professionalism in an industry often ignored in the building process. It is the voice of the scaffold industry and represents its membership in dealing with Federal, State and other agencies in developing more effective safety standards and creating a cohesive industry approach to the development of scaffold related standards.

Goals

- To raise the visibility and influence of the industry.
- Promote uniformity in the promotion of scaffold safety.
- Increase public awareness of technological advances in our industry with regard to its products, services and practices.
- To assist our Members in becoming more efficient and profitable in their businesses.
- To promote consistency in scaffolder training and education.
- Promote a professional image of the industry.
- Provide the forum to improve the professional capabilities of Members, their employees and other interested parties by the timely gathering and disseminating technical, financial, safety and management information.
- Improve the working relationship between manufacturers, dealers, users, and other interested parties.
- Promote membership to all individuals and firms which manufacture, sell, rent, lease of use access, scaffolding, and related products and services.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

\$460.00 p.a.

MEETING DATES

General & Management Meetings

General Meetings are held bi-monthly, whilst Management Meetings are held each month.

Members will be advised of date, time and venue of each meeting at least two(2) weeks prior to the meeting date.

Any enquiries should be directed to the Executive Officer on 3408 6468

Copies, Articles, etc., are welcomed and should be forwarded to the following address:

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COMMITTEE

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER:	Mr Tom Lawson	Ph: (07) 3408 6468

Dear Readers ...

The Scaffolding Association of Queensland has been formed since 1994 and currently has a membership of 37 industry associated companies large and small.

These companies are the backbone of our industry and are working towards the continued improvement and updating of our market.

We invite you to join our association in order to enjoy the following FEATURES & BENEFITS.

- ACCESS TO 5000 DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL BUILDERS PLUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
- REGULAR MEETINGS (INFORMATION & UPDATES).
- INDUSTRY CONTACT & BULLETINS
- CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY.
- LOW COST ADVERTISING & PROMOTIONS.
- DISCOUNTS FROM MAJOR SERVICE & PRODUCT SUPPLIERS.
- COMPETITIVE INTER ASSOCIATION CROSS HIRE RATES.
- ONGOING CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
- DISCOUNT INSURANCES
- ALLIANCE MEMBER OF QMBA
- These are some of the benefits that you would enjoy as a member, we are committed to assuring and improving our industry and invite you to contact TOM LAWSON with the view to attending one of our meetings and joining a young, progressive and dynamic Association.

PLEASE CALL TOM ON (07) 3408 6468

ADVERTISING RATES

FULL PAGE	\$100.00 per issue
HALF PAGE	\$50.00 per issue
QUARTER PAGE	\$25.00 per issue

*If a man is called to be a
Scaffolder, he should erect
Scaffolds even as:*

*Michelangelo painted, or
As Beethoven composed music,
or*

As Shakespeare wrote poetry.

*He should erect scaffolds so well
That all the hosts in Heaven and
Earth will pause to say.*

*Here lived a great scaffolder who
Did his job well.*

Ed.

Please note, 'Ledger' will be emailed to members thus avoiding printing and mailing costs at this stage.

Our 13th AGM comes up on August 6, look forward to a good turnout on that day.

Welcome to new members, Ross Wilson from Action Scaffolds and Michael Rouse from Layer Pty Ltd who have just joined us.

Our new Handover Certificates can now be ordered from this office. A book of 50 in triplicate cost \$30.00 plus postage. All companies should use them.

'Ledger' is a new venture and relies entirely on the input of members and advertisers. Please help when you can.

Tom Lawson



Complete the following
for a Quick Quote (fax to: 07 3382 0954)



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Located At

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Years in Business

Annual Turnover

Payments made to Subcontractors

Percentage of work carried out over 10 metres?

Majority Works % Residential

Majority Works % Commercial

Do you hire scaffolding without Labour? yes no

What are your payments in this regard?

Current Insurer

Current Deductible

Insurance Expiry Date

Number of Years Insured

Made any claims over last 5 years? yes no
if yes attach details

Ever Been Declined Insurance? yes no
if yes attach details

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PREDATORY PRICING ...

THE number of cases involving 'predatory pricing' before our courts has increased in recent years. However, the concept, in Australia, is still in its infancy and will be further refined and defined.

Broadly speaking, 'predatory pricing' occurs where the predator temporarily reduces its prices below the level justified by competitive conditions in order to force the prey out of the market or deter rivalrous behaviour.

Once the predator has achieved its purpose, it generally raises its prices above the competitive level. It is essential that predatory pricing be distinguished from competition.

However, the courts have faced considerable difficulty in determining the dividing line that separates these two concepts. Justice Wilcox has stated in the Eastern Express Case that:

...the special difficulty about a case of predatory pricing is that ... the outward manifestations of a decision to engage in predatory pricing is a lowering of prices, an action which, on its face, is pro-competitive. The factor which turns mere price cutting into predatory pricing is the purpose for which it is undertaken. (*Eastern Express Pty Ltd-v-General Newspapers Pty Ltd (1991) ATPR 41-128 at 52895.*)

In Australia, predatory pricing is regulated by section 46 Trade Practices Act 1974 (Cth). Section 46(1) provides:

1. A corporation that has a substantial degree of power in a market shall not take advantage of that power for the purpose of:

(a) eliminating or substantially damaging a competitor of the corporation or of a body corporate that is related to the corporation in that or any other market;

(b) preventing the entry of a person into that or any other market; or

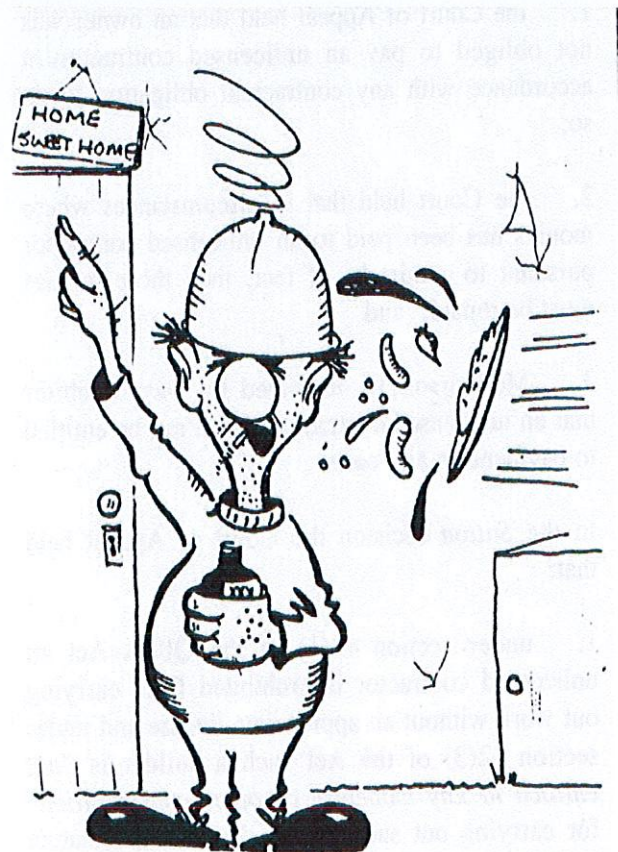
(c) deterring or preventing a person from engaging in competitive conduct in that or any other market.

In bringing an action under s46 the first step is

to define 'the market'. It is in the prey's interest to adopt a narrow interpretation. The prey's must then establish that the predator possesses the requisite degree of market power. The courts will consider a number of factors here including the geographical scope of the market.

Finally, the prey must satisfy the Court that the predator has taken advantage of its market power for one of the three prescribed purposes: s46(a), (b) or (c)

Section 46 has proved to be a notoriously difficult provision to litigate. In particular, applicants have found it difficult to prove that the respondent corporation had the requisite market power to breach s46. Further, much of the conduct which is claimed to breach s46 is capable of an alternative, pro-competitive, interpretation.



WOMAN! WHEN AH SAY AH WANT
MA DINNER - AH WANT IT STRAIGHTAWAY

By Tom Lawrence

Member Profile

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Marlene K Gold - SCAFFLINK

I am married, with three daughters and two grandchildren and have been living on the Gold Coast, Queensland since 1994, having relocated here with my family from Auckland, New Zealand.

Prior to the purchase of Scafflink in 1998 I held a number of managerial positions, the most recent of which was with Skellerup Group, a New Zealand based diversified industrial conglomerate with sales in excess of \$1 billion per year. Prior to this I was Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive for New Zealand Operations of Brierley Investments, and before that was employed by The Rural Banking Group, New Zealand.

Through these positions I developed experience in communication, motivation and addressing practical business issues. My focus with Scafflink has been to improve customer relations, restructure management systems and co-ordinate the ongoing role of subcontractors within the company.

I am very much "hands on" with the running of Scafflink and have a very loyal team of professional and knowledgeable staff.

A New Player in the Scaffolders Liability Market

ACE-IRM Insurance Broking Group have committed to offering a comprehensive liability package to the scaffolding industry. The product was released approximately one year ago and is beginning to find its feet in your industry as its benefits are being realised.

Premium rates have reduced dramatically and anyone not experiencing 25% or more reductions over their 2005/2006 rates should really be shopping around for a better deal. Price is definitely a strong motivating factor, but the scope of cover provided should also be carefully considered.

In addition to standard public and products liability our product offers cover by way of the statutory liability inclusion for fines and penalties issued by Government bodies. The cost of defending or paying these fines can be substantial and their frequency is becoming more prevalent.

Worker to worker cover is an important inclusion to any construction based liability program especially where dependant contractors are used. Personal injury to a contractor deemed to be an employee under the Workers compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 would be excluded by most liability contracts under "injury to employees".

In short our liability program stands above the competition and its scope of cover and should be considered as a serious alternative in today's legislative workplace environment.

For more information on this product please contact Andrew Nunn at ACE-IRM on 07 3807 2050 or andrewn@aceirm.com.au

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SCAFFOLDING STANDARDS & REGULATIONS

~~As you know I represent the association on the Australian standards committee which writes and reviews the scaffolding standards which we all work with.~~ Most state regulations call up Australian Standards so what is in the Standard is in fact part of a Workplace Health & Safety regulation.

The Australian Standard AS 1576 part 1 is being reviewed and should be published this year. There are some changes in the new Standard which will affect how we do our work. I have listed below some points which you should be aware of but I suggest you get a copy of the new Standard when it is published so you are aware of any changes that may affect you.

1. A 3 plank wide work platform (760mm wide scaffold) can be rated as heavy duty provided a 2 board hop up is used with the scaffold. This is good news as in the past some inspectors have not allowed 3 plank wide scaffolds for heavy duty application. For demolition work however the scaffold must be a minimum of 5 planks wide regardless of whether hop up brackets are fitted.
2. A work platform must be within 300 mm above or below the level of a floor or balcony. The idea of this is if the scaffold is 224mm off the face of the building and no more than 300mm above or below the floor the diagonal measurement of the gap between the scaffold and the building is not more than 500 mm. This is the allowable gap between handrail and midrail. This should prevent workers falling between the scaffold and the building.
3. The term "heavy duty scaffold" is generally accepted within the industry as meaning that the entire scaffold structure is heavy duty. Heavy duty only refers to the platform loading. In cases especially with the use of multiple decks of boards which, if all were rated as heavy duty, would overload the scaffold. A scaffold may have, as an example, 1 heavy duty platform and 3 medium duty platforms. This means that scaffolds need to be designed to take into account these loads and the scaffolder needs to erect the scaffold as shown on the scaffold drawing. Not all scaffolding is the same. Some manufacturers and suppliers have different leg loadings and capacities for their scaffolding.

~~I will expand on this in future issues.~~

~~Cheers.....Kevin Bell~~ *Kevin Bell*

HANDY TIP.....

If you have a GSM mobile phone, hang on to it. It is the only CDMA system which is being shut down next year. Only if you "go bush" would you want to update to the two new systems 3G or Next G both of which are turning out to be disastrous both in terms of the actual phones and coverage.

We will let you know when a good mobile comes on the market.

brrring brrring brrring



GETTING TO THE TOP SAFELY

Ladders are one of industry's most useful and indispensable tools and yet seem to be one of the most dangerous.

If one looks at the alarming number of injuries caused by ladders each year, it is necessary to take a hard look at the root of the cause and then decide on preventative measures to be taken.

Buyers and users of ladders should insist on the lightest weight possible, size for size, as portability causes some problems in safety programs. To be a safe tool throughout its useful life, ladders should be kept in a good condition to maintain safety margins of strength sufficient for the job.

To ensure the safe use of ladders the following rules regarded as the most important, should be adhered to:

- Inspect ladders for any defects before use. If found defective, they should be repaired or replaced.
- Ladders should be equipped with non-skid devices (safety feet).
- Carry tools used on a ladder in a receptacle or on a tool-holding belt.
- Submit all ladders for regular inspections by the maintenance department.
- Use the correct ladder for the job.
- Do not use ladders horizontally as runways or as scaffolding.
- Never place a ladder in front of a door before ensuring that the door is locked.
- Store ladders in a cool place either lying on their sides or hanging in a horizontal position from several wall brackets. Avoid warping wherever possible.
- Give instruction to new employees on proper use and care of ladders.
- Always avoid bringing the ladder into contact with electricity.
- As paint conceals defects use varnish or two coats of oil instead, to preserve wooden ladders.
- Place the ladder so that its feet are a quarter of its length to the top support from the object it is resting against.
- Unless the ladder is securely tied at the top it should always be held in position by another person whilst in use.
- Wherever possible, it should extend one metre above its support.
- Use both hands when climbing up or down a ladder
- Do not leave ladders lying on wet ground or exposed to weather.
- Only one person at a time should use a ladder.

A person qualified to do the work should check ladders at least every third month (monthly preferably) and record his findings in his register.

By ensuring that your workers know how to use ladders properly, you will help them and your company to get to the top safely. ◆

"He won't serve the 900 years to which he has been sentenced because the system in Northern Ireland allows for up to 50% remission for good behaviour"

Ha! Ha! Ha!