

# SAFETY : first

# 09

2011

## Q'land Branch Has the Muscle



Australia branch QEST Manager Jason Durbidge struts his stuff during the Queensland Body Building Champs.



### There must be something in the water in Queensland.

Treescape Australia can claim some big wins of late. Strongman Allan Kliese won the Australian raw bench press title – lifting 250kg, the previous record was 240kg. His next goal more than 300kg. Meanwhile Australia branch QEST manager Jason Durbidge has won the 2011 Queensland Body Building Championships. He reckons the win makes all the hard yards he had to put in to get there worthwhile. He did say that one of the best prizes he received was a cake, which he demolished in no time.



Strongman Allan Kliese lifts 250kg for the Australian raw bench press title

## Visit to Matakoho/Limestone Island

**Motu Matakoho, also known as Limestone Island, is a 37ha (100 acre) island just off the suburb of Onerahi in the upper reaches of Whangarei Harbour, Northland.**

The island was used as a lime works and became a major industry employing 270 people at its peak. It was later purchased by the Northland Harbour Board and grazed with dry stock for decades before being gifted to Whangarei Council for reforestation. The first planting began in 1989.

Matakoho now operates as a kiwi crèche. Young chicks are brought over to the island from the mainland to be grown on until they are 1000grms. At this weight they can fight off a stoat but they are still vulnerable to larger animals like dogs.

The Treescape crew at Whangarei was asked to remove dangerous trees around the ranger's house and near paths. Charlie the kiwi showed up while the crew were on the job and was never far from the action. He is a year and half old and weighs 1600grms and is now big enough to be transferred to the mainland. All 12 birds on the island have transmitters on their legs allowing the rangers to check their location every morning and ensure they are not harmed.



The Whangarei crew with Charlie

## SAFETY + QUALITY AWARDS

The **Safety + Quality Awards** encourage all of us at Treescape to think and act safely and to take pride in the quality of our work. Nominations are made each month by Area Managers, Project Managers and Training Officers.

Darryl Marsden is CA's nomination for October. He has been with us for just over a year and has settled in very well. Darryl drives our large eight wheeler truck and trailer, clocking up many miles and hours around the country. He has his truck in a good state and maintains it well. Business manager Chris Sheffield says he is grateful to Darryl for his frequent Saturdays spent in the yard washing many items of plant, "not just his own."

Wayne Palmer from CA has been nominated for his excellent work (both practical and paper work) on the Transpower project. He is part of a three-crew team staying in Cambridge and working on some large and challenging sites.

Whangarei-based Roger Lyall has shown exceptional leadership skills and has adapted well to Treescape life working on the Whangarei

Council contract. Roger and crew have not had any serious incidents in the past six months and have had many compliments from the council representatives regarding their exceptional quality of work.

Mark Rowley leads by example and has established himself as a great foreman, working in the private sector. Mark can always be relied upon to complete challenging jobs without incident or complaint. Customers absolutely adore Mark and he always seems to con them out of a cup of tea and scones. Mark has recently been asked to cover for James while he is away on leave. With all his knowledge and experience Mark is often the point of call when experience is required in difficult situations.

In Queensland, David Pyke (Fish) has been put forward for a nomination from the Metro South crew. He has stepped into the role of a



Wayne Palmer



David Pyke



Mark Rowley

Scoper and is doing it very well with no trouble transitioning into the new role and taking on the added responsibility.

Jason Forno and Mathew Knight have been put forward from the South Coast crew for the good work they have been doing out there. We have had some very positive feedback from customers about this crew.

Lee Merrit gets an award for his work on the Auckland City contract. Lee has shown exceptional leadership skills and can always be relied upon to consistently achieve and exceed production targets. Lee



Jason Forno



Phil Warin

has been carrying out powerline clearance for two and a half years on the Auckland Council Contract without any major incidents. Lee keeps his gear well maintained and crew motivated to do the best they can.

The Wellington award goes to Phil Warin. Phil operates the over-centre EPV as foreman on the Wellington Electricity contract. For the past three months the crew has been working out the back of Wellington clearing a notoriously bad feeder, the roads can get very narrow and require a good deal of concentration to get the large EPV into sites. Although a few speedy motorists have attempted to push him off the road Phil has kept his calm and continues to be vigilant when heading into the Makara back blocks to clear the lines. As well as safe driving Phil's dedication to run a compliant and well set up site has resulted in excellent results when being audited by the client.



Matthew Knight



Lee Merrit

## Think Before You Cut

**Before any work commences it's important to ensure that all hazards have been identified and controlled. During a recent felling operation of a tree less than 400mm in diameter, the tree fell on the cutter's leg causing a serious injury.**

The direct cause of the incident was lack of time spent assessing the tree felling procedure. The tree was small so the operator took

it for granted and consequently failed to undertake a proper hazard assessment. The root cause of the incident is that the cutter made an improper cut.

Treat all jobs with caution and do full hazard assessments no matter how small or routine the job appears. All tree felling must follow company procedures as outlined Group Operational Standard SQE 804.052 Tree work-Tree Felling

## Zach Fell Provides Outstanding Assignment

Kumeu-based trainee arborist Zach Fell has gained the highest mark ever recorded for a student on the course with his assignment on tree health. This is an excellent result and it's encouraging to see just how much effort our employees are putting into their work, well done Zach.

# Trees Taken Off Sensitive Site

**Treescape has been working on one of the largest transmission projects to be undertaken in New Zealand in more than 50 years.**

The job involves installing 186kms of 400 kV overhead transmission lines and towers all the way from Whakamaru near Taupo, to a new switching station in South Auckland

Business Manger Chris Sheffield had to provide Transpower with procedures and a site-specific safety plan that would enable the removal of group of pines close to the new towers and adjacent to an old pa site that could not be dam-

aged. Many of the trees had to be lifted by helicopter with Skyworks providing the usual professional service. Dion Wright was the project manager, Ross McIntyre the dog man and the climbers were Dave Harrison, Jeremy Keith, Jody Waaka and Rodney Jardine. Just as important were the ground crew that included Linsay Pilcher, Wayne Palmer, Daryl Marsden, Mark Weatherall and David Reid. HSSQ manager for the Northern Grid Alliance, Steve Notman, audited the site and said the work was very professional. Congratulations to everyone that was involved with this project.



Pines close to new transmission lines were chopped out

# Climbers Pushed to New Heights

**It's been a busy few months for our competitive tree climbers. After a long break, NZAA scheduled three regional competitions in Christchurch, Hamilton and Wellington within one month, peaking on Labour Weekend with the National Tree Climbing Competition (NTCC) in Queen Elizabeth Park in Masterton.**

Each year there are four regional tree-climbing competitions in New Zealand. The top five to eight climbers from each region qualify to compete in the NTCC and the winners of NTCC represent New Zealand at the international TCC.

This year we were fortunate to have a good number of Treescape employees at each regional competition and we always had some of them in the top five. It was pleasant to see new faces at the comps, Nathan and Zach (currently working on WCC contract) competed at the competition in Hamilton. They both have done very well and

hopefully we will see them next year in Auckland.

Four of our guys qualified in Auckland for this year's NTCC in Masterton (Tony Bennett, Shaun Hardmann, Jawand Ngau Chun and David Stejskal). The NTCC started with the gear check. All gear passed without any problems and we were ready to compete. Three events were scheduled for Saturday – Work Climb, Aerial Rescue and Throwline and the two remaining ones (Footlock and Speedclimb) for Sunday.

The Work Climb was set in a large elm. It was a tricky climb requiring a lot of attention. Times were averaging around four minutes. The Throwline event was set in 45m tall redwood and although it looked easy to get some of the targets, many of us struggled to get any at all. Aerial Rescue, set in amazing spreading oak, was very challenging. The casualty was hanging approximately 8m above the ground on a single line. Many competitors were not able to bring

the “dummy” down within the five minute time limit.

The Sunday Speed Climb and Footlock were completed quickly in the morning and the qualifiers for the Masters Challenge were announced. Jawand ended up fourth in preliminaries and qualified for the Masters Challenge. David came sixth, just missing to get to the Masters by a few points. Shaun came eighth and Tony twentieth. Top five climbers are qualified for the Asia-Pacific TCC scheduled for next year in Hong Kong.

The Masters Challenge was set in a large elm and it was very entertaining for the crowd to see how the competitors approached their tasks. James Kilpatrick won overall, Ross Kite came second, Jawand third and Drew Bristow took the fourth position.

Another competition season is all over and we can now relax... Well until the next year anyway!



Jawand Ngau Chun



Shaun Hardmann



Tony Bennett

## International Tree Climbing Competition Parramatta 2011

This year's ITCC was held in Parramatta, Australia. It was the first time it has been held outside of the American continent and also the first time held in the winter. Being so close to New Zealand, many Kiwis made their way over to support their competing colleagues.

Preliminary events were held in Parramatta Park and the Masters Challenge in the Prince Alfred Park.

This year's competition was attended by 62 people from 34 different countries. Three climbers were representing New Zealand this year – Scot Forrest, James Kilpatrick and Chrissy Spence. Treescape employee David Stejskal also competed, coming back to tree work after a serious injury. David is a New Zealand resident but was representing the Czech Republic.

Originally the competition was scheduled over two days but due to the bad weather (highest rainfall for 61 years) it was reduced to a one day event. All five preliminary events were built in large gum trees, which were still a little slippery after the rain so it brought some more excitement to the competitors as well as the organizing team.

The ITCC team ran a well organized event and all 62 competitors completed all five events on the day. The results were announced on the Saturday night. Scott Forrest won the male section and Chrissy Spence the female section. That was great news for New Zealanders.



Picture courtesy of Treetools

The men's climb for the Masters Challenge on the Sunday was built in two trees with three targets in one tree and the fourth target in the second tree. All climbers chose different tactics and it was very exciting to watch.

The results were announced almost at the end of the day. The points for men were very close with only two points difference between 1st and 4th place. When Scott Forrest was announced to be the overall winner of this year's International Tree Climbing Competition he couldn't believe how tight the scores were. Chrissy Spence won her third female world title, beating the Aussie girls Jessica Knot and Kiah Martin.

This was the first time in the history of ITCC that both male and female gold medals were won by Kiwis.

## Hybrid Excavators Way of Future

**CA Business Manager Chris Sheffield attended the Komatsu Australasia launch near Sydney where he investigated the new product range, including two Hybrid excavators, the HB 205 and the longer undercarriage HB 215.**

"These machines represent a new theory in hybrid technology where they run two electric motors/generators that can both produce and use the energy created. The first motor is a slim unit sandwiched between the engine (which is a smaller 4 cylinder as opposed to the 6 in the PC series) and the hydraulic pump. The second motor is in the slew ring, replacing the old hydraulic motor and making the slew solely electric.



The first motor generates energy when the engine is idling (700rpm) and if the load is minimal, charges the capacitor. The energy is then stored and used to assist the engine in running the hydraulic pump when load is applied. The second motor generates energy when the machine slews and then comes to a stop. The deceleration of the slew charges the capacitor and then energy is used to power the slew. Obviously, both units charge the same capacitor which can then power either motor.

The result is that the engine spends a lot of time at idle and any additional power is provided by the eclectic motors via the stored energy. This creates an unusually quiet machine that can fool people who are used to using the engine noise as a gauge of how hard the machine is working. The performance of these machines both on paper (measured in KW and hydraulic flow) and in real operation appears to be the same in the limited digging operations that I was able to perform.

I tested the current PC model and the new HB series back-to-back and there was no discernable difference in speed and power, just one was considerably quieter.

The hybrid system does not run any batteries, so is more environmentally friendly than a hybrid car and will not have the high costs associated with regular replacement of the batteries. They also have a reduced carbon discharge that is the equivalent to 20 tons/year (based on 2000hrs of use).

The claimed fuel savings were an impressive 25-41%, however no machines have been tested in our industry which has unique demands on their work cycles, some of which will be conducive to energy saving and others such as stump grinding where we need max power applied constantly and minimal slewing which means that there is no electric energy generated, hence no saving. Where they will really come into their own is in repetitive work such as log handling and chipping/ loading trucks. I see the smaller PC130-size machines benefiting from this technology even more as they are mainly used for this type of work and when you consider the reduced noise in urban environments, it will be a real win. These are due out in the next year or two.

As yet we have no fixed price for these (only a rough indication of a 25% premium over and above the normal machines.