

“Register of Approved Asphalt Suppliers”

In meeting the Alliance goals of improved performance of flexible pavements, this project seeks to deliver “improved performance from specialist suppliers” of asphalt.

Major progress has been achieved on the development of the register at a meeting of affected parties in November 2003. Some concerns as to the details on education, plant requirements and the need for consistent field level assessment will be addressed through a trial process.

Significant consultation has occurred and arrangements are in hand to conduct the trial of the new system throughout 2003 on Main Roads projects in most Districts.

The trial is to focus on the intended performance assessment processes and will evaluate the criteria and the limits to be applied in the final system.

Agreement by AAPA and Main Roads to conduct this trial on actual projects outside the provisions of contract specifications and the current terms of the asphalt supplier registration is evidence of the benefits available from Strategic Alliance.

It is anticipated that the Capability & Delivery Division will utilise the opportunity to consider the need for an Asphalt Contractor category in Main Roads Major Works contracts.



Trevor Parminter and Barry Rule discussing the new Register

Education

The current AAPA / Main Roads involvement in education is at three levels. Tertiary / post graduate education in pavement engineering can be addressed through the AAPA/Austrroads Center for Pavement Engineering Education. Interesting options have arisen with its linkage to Latrobe University which will allow for a wider range of management options.

The on-going career development in pavement technology is offered through the seminar and training course series well used and well known in Queensland. The 15 plus topics are expanded each year and the possibility of providing a Seal Design Qualification is being considered.

The work place level, Competency Based Training is the focus. AAPA has an approved Certification at Level IV and has numbers of competencies for work in the sealing and flexible paving disciplines. The integration of these into career paths and existing training is being reviewed.

AAPA Pavement Training & Advisory Centre Tentative Training Course Program – 2003

DATE	COURSE
*19/02/03	CIRCLY Workshop
25/03/03	Selection of Pavement Surfacing
26/03/03	Sprayed Sealing Design
27/03/03	Sprayed Sealing Field Procedures
*16-17/04/03	Flexible Pavement Construction
27/05/03	Asphalt Placement & Compaction
28/05/03	Asphalt Specification
29/05/03	Modern Asphalt Technology
26/07/03	Working Safely with Bitumen
05/08/03	Pavement Maintenance Practices
06/08/03	Roadside Maintenance Practices
07/08/03	Pavement Maintenance Rehabilitation & Asset Management
26-28/08/03	Bituminous Surfacing Principles & Practice
23/09/03	PMB's and Bitumen Emulsions
24/09/03	Sprayed Sealing Field Procedures
30/09/03	Pavement Maintenance Practices (Mackay)
01/10/03	Roadside Maintenance Practices (Mackay)
*05-06/11/03	Pavement Wearing Surfaces

* Courses presented in conjunction with CPEE

Edited by: Katrina Schmitke, Allan Bell.
Layout/design by: Katrina Schmitke, Rob Vos, Allan Bell.
Thanks for contributions to: Allan Bell, Ron Gordon, Steve Mole, Marissa Nicolls, Trevor Parminter, John Patane, Ian Reeves, Rob Vos.

Christmas Message

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Alliance Directors

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[www.aapa.asn.au/
docs/
queensland.html](http://www.aapa.asn.au/docs/queensland.html)

The Strategic Alliance is important for the future of both Main Roads and AAPA Membership. Improved performance from our roads and business prosperity for our specialist suppliers and contractors are not mutually exclusive outcomes in a competitive contracting environment. Working together over the last year or so has been a particularly rewarding experience. As Chairman of the alliance board – a role which will rotate to AAPA in 2003, I have seen a significant shift in understanding of issues among all parties. This has allowed considerable cooperative progress to be made in improving the stone mastic asphalt Specification and the review of the registration system for asphalt manufacturers and contractors. “Lifting the bar” in both areas presents some significant challenges for Main Roads and AAPA membership but I feel certain that the robust relationships created through the Alliance will accelerate implementation of changes agreed.

The significant challenge for the Alliance revolves around seeking better outcomes from constrained resources – both \$’s and people with the right skills, knowledge and experience and getting a better balance between price and quality driven behaviours on projects.

Recognising opportunities to innovate in surfacing technology, contract documentation and arrangements, process control, manufacture, placement, education and training will continue to be key to the success of the Alliance.

I will take this opportunity to thank my fellow board members, the alliance managers, the numerous people involved from both Main Roads (PMG, District and Regional) and the AAPA community for their considerable support and goodwill shown during the year. I wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable Christmas and holiday period, and a prosperous 2003.

Ron Gordon

Ron Gordon
**Chairman of AAPA / DMR
Strategic Alliance Board**
Group Manager Road System & Engineering - Main Roads Department



Alliance Board Chair for 2002
Ron Gordon

Did the AAPA Study Team beat England?

By Marissa Nicolls

Unfortunately there was no time for cricket on the recent AAPA Study Tour to Europe. Amongst the 15 delegates from across Australia, Marissa Nicolls of DMR was asked to focus on stone mastic asphalt with a view to helping refine the product in Australia.

The AAPA tour began with two days of tutorial, and the 9th International Society for Asphalt Pavements Conference for 3 ½ days. Following the conference, the group attended technical discussions and meeting with various industry bodies in Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, France and England. In addition to this, an extension to the tour was arranged by BP Bitumen to include Bavaria and Wales, focusing on SMA manufacture and placement.

Marissa's main observations in relation to European SMA variances from Queensland practices are:

- the Europeans have lower design and insitu air voids;
- they use hydrated lime or limestone in SMA to promote binder adhesion;
- European aggregate is of higher quality;
- the Germans only manufacture SMA in batch plants; and

- the only difference in placement is the gritting of the surface in Germany. Further information regarding Marissa's paper "European experience in the design, manufacture and placement of Stone Mastic Asphalt" can be obtained by contacting Marissa on 0417 640 286. A complete AAPA tour report will be available on the AAPA web site www.aapa.asn.au or the PMG intranet site at PMG/alliance.



Standing (L-R): Andrew Papacostas, Marissa Nicolls, Sean Durkin, David Mangan, Neville Crase, Jim Carr, Ken Wonson, Keith Box, Barry Schmidt, Peter Armstrong, Gerard Gnanaseelan, Andreas Nataatmadja. Kneeling (L-R): Adrian Grbac, Mike Butcher.

Where is SMA going?

Following the presentation of the AAPA tour findings in Brisbane the Alliance SMA reference group met to discuss proposed changes to MRS11.33. This meeting identified the issues to be addressed by the SMA Alliance project team, which is to be led by John Patane. The changes discussed aim to:

- reduce the permeability of the mat by increasing the binder content and reducing both the design and field voids,
- reduce the variability in the mixes obtained by tightening the gradings around the existing target,
- requiring hydrated lime as part of the filler as an anti stripping measure, and
- be quickly implemented.

Once the specification is fine tuned there will be laboratory and field trials supported by Metropolitan District.



Bitumen Sprayer Calibration Facility at Nundah

By John Patane

The Queensland Department of Main Roads site at Nundah has undergone significant changes. The site previously housed the following areas of Main Roads:

- Pavement Testing Services network pavement testing unit managed by Pavements, Materials and Geotechnical Division (PMG);
- Fabrinet, a general engineering workshop; and
- Bitumen Sprayer Calibration Facility (BSCF) managed by Roadtek.

Following a review of Fabrinet, the general engineering workshop was closed on 4 October 2002 and management of the BSCF was transferred to PMG Division.

The BSCF will remain at its present location and current staffing arrangements will remain unchanged with Ashley Lugg continuing the delivery of the calibration service under the supervision of Ian Berghofer. In conjunction with the transfer of the management of BSCF, PMG Division is reviewing the delivery of bitumen sprayer calibration in Queensland. The review includes:

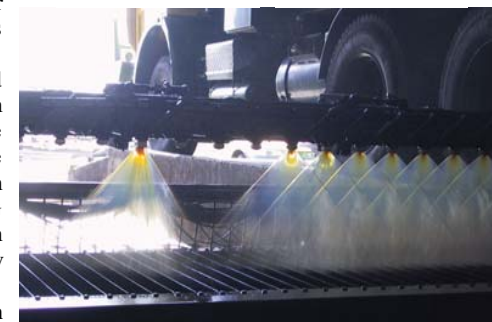
- developing a Main Roads policy for adoption of the national sprayer calibration system;

- investigating the required frequency of calibration to be adopted in Queensland; and
 - identifying the total costs of providing the facility and the required level of charges to industry to ensure the facility recovers its costs.
- The results of the investigation should be available by January 2003 for consultation through the Alliance.

Contact Details:

Ashley Lugg
Bitumen Sprayer
Calibration Officer
Ph: (07) 3866 3120

Ian Berghofer
Bitumen, Asphalt &
Chemical Laboratory
Ph: (07) 3834 3054



Bitumen sprayer during calibration

Recycled Asphalt Pavement Project



Under the guidance of Steve Mole, the Recycled Asphalt Pavement (RAP) project team is reviewing its brief. Useful practical experience has been gained on the use of 10% RAP in trial mixes in Nerang District which could lead to a simple approval system for mixes containing low percentages of recycled asphalt.

The learnings from this trial will be reviewed by the RAP project team along with the following issues:

- The effect of variability of RAP on the mix design and approved processes; and
- The use of the higher percentages of RAP material (>15%) on specific projects where the RAP material is proven to be of consistent composition.

Events

Events planned for early 2003 include the next Alliance Reference Group meeting where progress on current and planned new directions will be reviewed, and the results will be placed on the website.

The ARRB TR / REAAA conference in Cairns in May 2003 offers an opportunity for the Alliance to show its achievements to a wider audience. Details are on: <http://www.arrb.com.au/conf21/21about.htm>