

2017 Conference – Innovative, Informative and Entertaining

The New Zealand Master Concrete Placers Association (NZMCPA) held its 2017 Conference and AGM at the recently refurbished Sudima Hotel near Christchurch Airport over 25-26 August.

As has become customary, the event was shared with the New Zealand Concrete Sawing & Drilling Association (NZCSDA).

Selecting a South Island venue for the event was a calculated risk by the Conference Organising Committee, but one that clearly paid dividends if the positive feedback from attendees is an indication.



Chair of the Committee, Martin Black, believes that the success of the Conference demonstrates that members gain tremendous benefit from coming together to receive technical and business information, as well as to network and socialise.

"The practical and social programmes struck a perfect balance this year, with a range of fantastic speakers covering health and safety, drug-free work environments and training opportunities, all against the fascinating back-drop of a city in mid-rebuild."

Martin is quick to acknowledge the support offered by sponsors. "The generosity shown by our commercial partners is very much appreciated. Without their backing Association events would not be as successful as they are," says Martin.

"The overall sense of good-will that the Conference generated amongst all the members is a clear demonstration the Association is in good health, and ready to launch into the next phase of its existence over the coming 12-months."

"2018 will be a watershed year for this Association as we look to re-brand and broaden our focus across all aspects of concrete contracting."



Conference attendees got to see first-hand the progress being made to rebuild Christchurch



Day 1

President Brad Robertson got proceedings underway with a concrete placing inspired warm-up routine, after which speakers Evgeny Zakharov [WorkSafe], John Galliven [Drug Detection Agency] and Dene Cook [Firth Industries] gave presentations. The day continued with the NZMCPA AGM, at which new Board Members Brett Armitage [Absolute Driveways Ltd], Scott McBreen [Polished Concrete Ltd] and Glen Jones [Aardvark Concrete Ltd] were welcomed. The debate - *Technology is Wasted in the Concrete Industry* - concluded the first day, with celebrity convenor Jim Hopkins helping to make for a memorable evening.



Jim Hopkins

Day 2

The second day began with a presentation from Angela Lewes [BCITO], while the NZCSDA held their AGM. This was followed by a visit to the Youngman Richardson Christchurch yard, at which product demonstrations were conducted by Permacolour and Ramset Reid. Attendees then enjoyed a coach tour of the CBD conducted by Dene Cook, with assistance from Kerry Rosewarne. The Conference wound-up with the Awards evening held at the International Antarctic Centre, with highlights including a Hagglund ride, Bill Peck [Firth Industries] being "un-masked" as The Rubber Ruler and Angus McMillan Concrete taking home the top honour for the Napier Skate Park.



Permacolour prepare to demonstrate an interesting product



Ramset Reid showcase their range of slab systems



See following pages for Awards summary.



2017 NZMCPA Awards



Guests arrive at the International Antarctic Centre for the 2017 NZMCPA Awards





Reinvention of Napier's Marineland as 'Bay Skate' Secures Top Concrete Placing Honour

ANGUS MCMILLAN CONCRETE LTD WAS PRESENTED WITH THE ALLIED CONCRETE SUPREME AWARD AT THE 2017 NZ MASTER CONCRETE PLACERS AWARDS FOR ITS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO NAPIER'S NEW SKATE PARK.

The award, presented at the NZ Master Concrete Placers Association Conference held in Christchurch recently, acknowledged that this high-profile project in the art deco capital of the world, generated much interest during its construction.

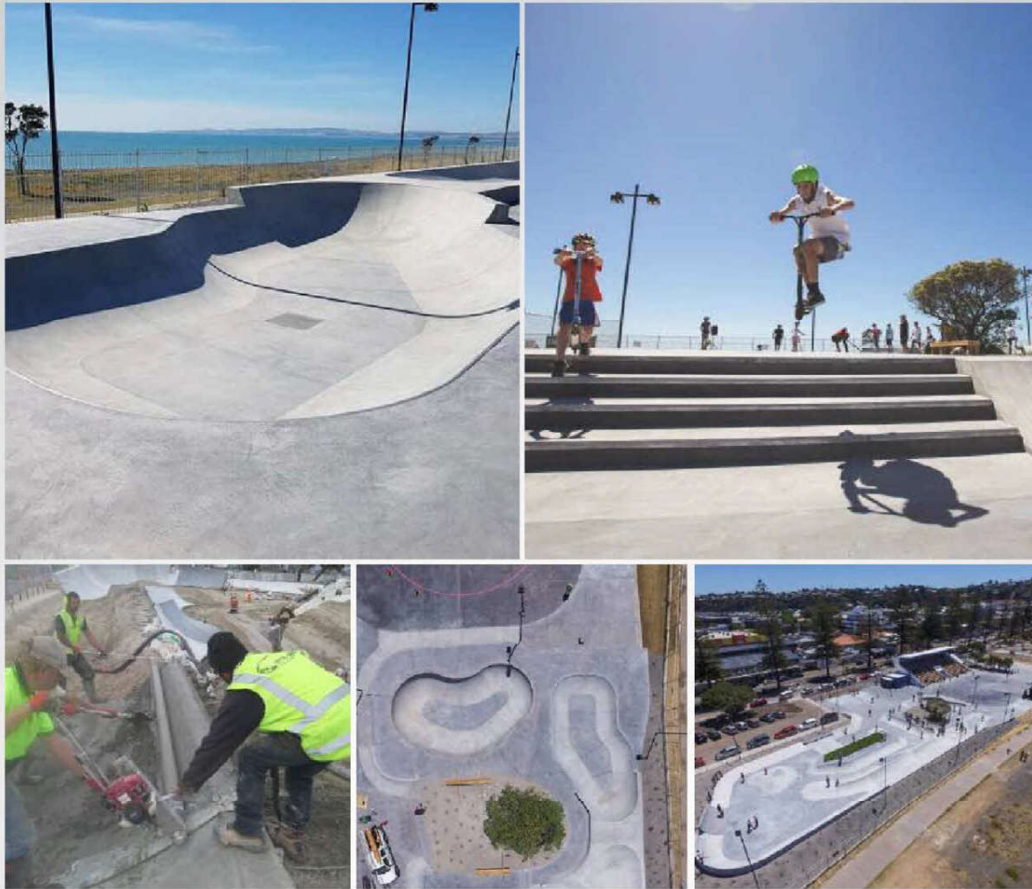
Replacing Marineland on Napier's Parade, Angus McMillan Concrete Ltd's involvement with the project covered the skate plaza and other flatwork, this included the roller derby area in front of the original stand.

Built on top of 1,200 cubic metres of pumice, placed on the shore sand, the skate park complex includes many unusual forms, such as the Volcano and Triple Moguls, along with the Flow and Pool Bowls. Each posed unique concrete placing and finishing challenges that were met with requisite skill and expertise.



Brad Robertson, NZMCPA President, presents Carol and Angus McMillan of Angus McMillan Concrete Ltd with the Allied Concrete Supreme Award for Napier Skate Park





Working as part of a close-knit team, Angus McMillan Concrete Ltd delivered its major component of the project on time and within budget.

The judges appreciated the innovative approach required to re-invent the familiar. Although Angus McMillan Concrete Ltd has experience in skate park construction, the demands of this project called for them to 'think outside the box'.

For instance, the 2.1m radius ditch starts at a 0.8m depth, which falls to 1.3m along its 20m length. This meant every section had to be the same length but with a slightly different radius to allow for a gradual slope along its entire length.

Transforming a well-known and much loved, but derelict site, into an amazing community asset, all while under intense local scrutiny, is a huge accomplishment.

This project ticked all the boxes in terms of achieving supreme status in 2017, and stands as testament to the important role played by the concrete placer in realising a built environment that meets the needs of all stakeholders.

On their way to the Supreme Award the Angus McMillan Concrete Ltd team also took home the **Firth Industries Most Innovative Award** for the Napier Skate Park, as well as the **Holcim (New Zealand) Ltd Environmental / Sustainability Award** for the Havelock North Skate Park.



Dene Cook of Firth Industries Presents Carol and Angus McMillan of Angus McMillan Concrete Ltd with the Firth Industries Most Innovative Award for Napier Skate Park



The Permacolour Decorative Award

Concrete-It Ltd for Counsel Terrace Patio & Path in Mt Albert, Auckland

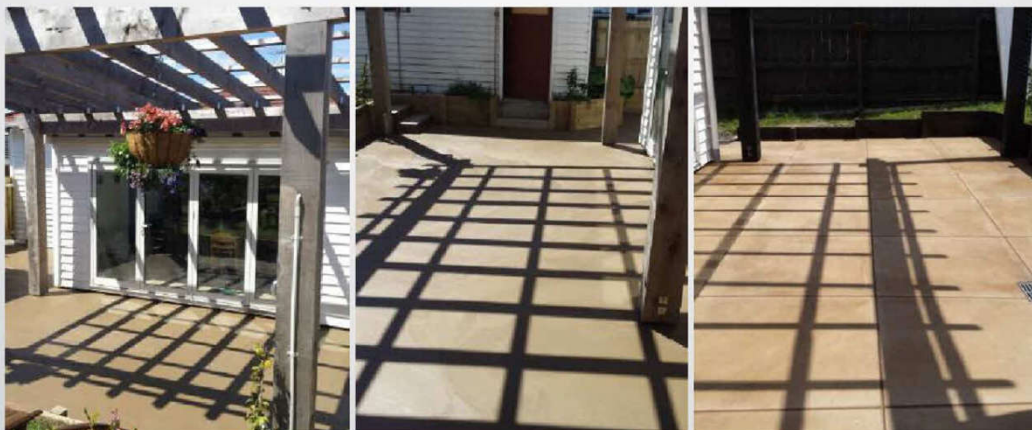
This interesting project on a tight site involved excavation, re-metal and compaction, along with adjustments to the weatherboards, including installation of a flashing, to meet code.

Ensuring a consistent finish with the cappuccino oxide was challenging, particularly as there are areas in full sun and complete shade. Expansion and decorative cuts were well positioned and clean. The area was finished off with the rolled and broomed application of a sealer, brown oxide grout, acid wash and a final sealer.

From a decorative perspective, the judges appreciated the smooth depth of colour in a busy space, as well as the well-proportioned decorative cuts. The outcome is a striking finish that complements the white weatherboard exterior, helps open-up the now attractive outside area, and adds tremendous value to the overall property.



Bill Peck (aka The Rubber Ruler) presents Ben Brooks of Concrete-It Ltd with the Permacolour Best Decorative Award for Counsel Terrace Patio & Path in Mt Albert, Auckland





Holcim (New Zealand) Ltd Environmental/Sustainability Award

Angus McMillan Concrete Ltd for the Havelock North Skate Park

Usually a symbol of “urban cool” amongst the younger generation, this skate park feels right at home in the village green of Havelock North, a leafy Hawkes Bay suburb.

Boasting intuitive concrete design and construction, the skate park walls are laid back at a 30 degree angle off vertical. These were all sprayed and screeded off temporary guides, all have a 20mm radius top edge and are trowelled to a polished finish.

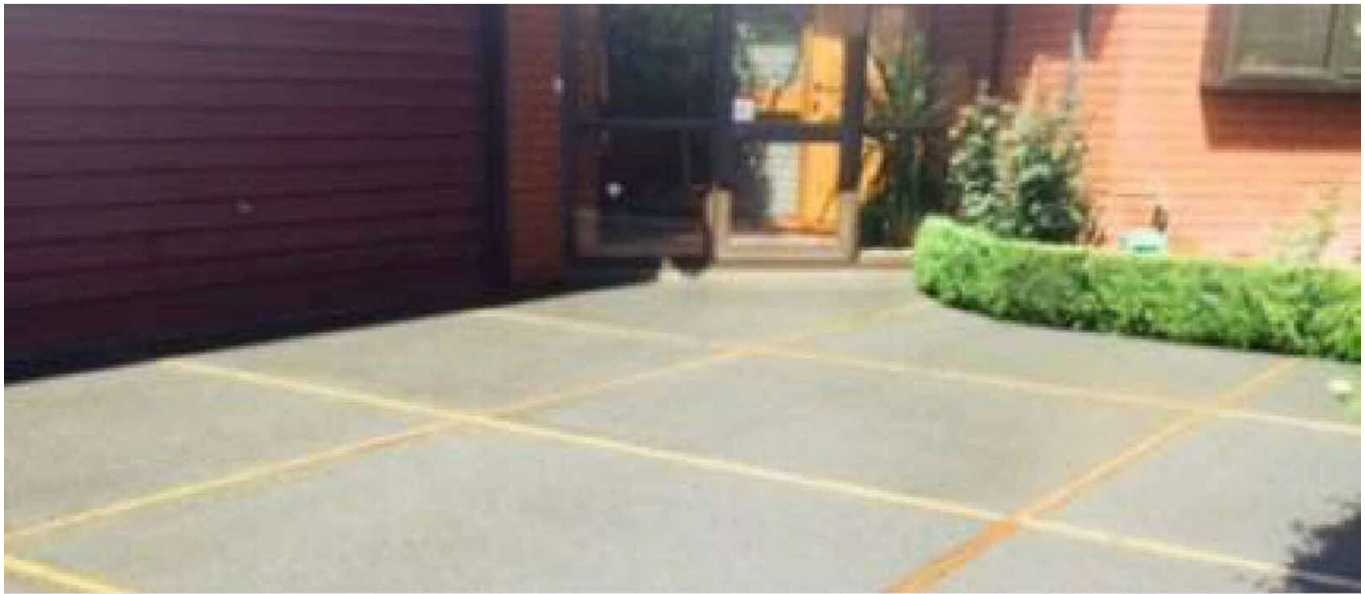
Large Linton rocks were set into the concrete to create variable, but still skate-able features. COR-TEN pre-rusted steel also features throughout. This created many challenges when pouring concrete, as the rust stain would wash off and contaminate the finish.

The judges chose to focus on the project's sustainability features in terms of its integration with the existing village aesthetic. The white, limestone, exposed aggregate concrete found throughout surrounding streets is mirrored in the skate park's details. In addition, it combines well with near-by pool, BBQ and playground areas to create a social hub.



Kerry Rosewarne of Holcim (New Zealand) Ltd presents Angus McMillan of Angus McMillan Concrete Ltd with Holcim (New Zealand) Ltd Environmental/Sustainability Award for the Havelock North Skate Park





CCANZ Residential Award

Absolute Driveways Ltd for Brockhall Lane Driveway in Avonhead, Christchurch

"Something different" was the homeowner's slightly vague brief for this strikingly simple, exposed aggregate driveway, with timber infill, in one of Christchurch's most sought-after suburbs.

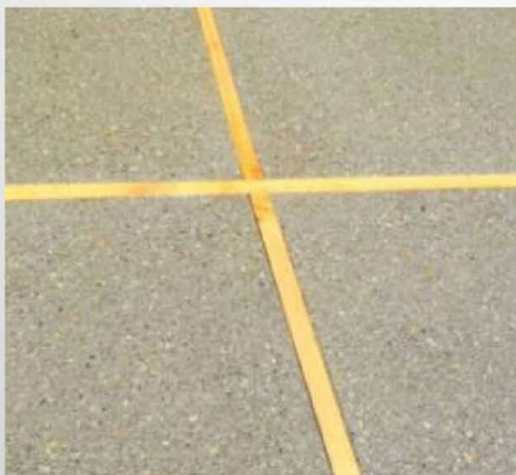
The dark, uniform finish of the concrete, with even aggregate distribution, perfectly sets off the timber's warmth to create a well-proportioned set of squares that draw the eye from any position.

The judges felt that in addition to the unquestionable quality of the finish, the effective use of timber strips to create visual interest matched the angular architecture of this residential property.

By all reports the customer is very pleased.



Bill Peck (aka The Rubber Ruler) presents Brett Armitage of Absolute Concrete Ltd with the CCANZ Residential Award for Brockhall Lane Driveway in Avonhead, Christchurch



2017 NZMCPA Scholarship (BCITO)

Jack Yarrall of Wanganui Concrete Contractors

A new initiative in 2017 was the NZMCPA Scholarship (BCITO), which covers the fee for an association Member's employee to enrol in the BCITO's *National Certificate in Concrete Construction: Placing & Finishing Level 3*.

The inaugural winner of the Scholarship was Jack Yarrall of Wanganui Concrete Contractors Ltd. As part of the prize package, Jack, a promising rugby representative for the Wanganui union, attended the 2017 NZMCPA Conference, gaining value from both the trip to the South Island as well as the Conference content.

The NZMCPA wishes Jack good luck in furthering his career, and will report back to Members on his progress towards completing the National Certificate.



Jack Yarrall, recipient of the 2017 NZMCPA Scholarship (BCITO) and Angela Lewes, Concrete Industry Advocate with the BCITO

Rubber Ruler Revealed

Bill Peck of Firth Industries Un-Masked

Regular contributor to the *On The Level* newsletter, The Rubber Ruler, has remained cloaked in anonymity since inception. However, considering 2017 an appropriate time to 'come-out' and reveal his true identity, Bill Peck, Competency Assessor (Southern) at Firth Industries in Christchurch, exposed his true identity to a collective gasp.

Generously assuming the role of MC at the Awards Evening, Bill [aka Mr Ruler] entertained guests with a retrospective summary of highlights [and low-lights] from his formative years and more recent construction industry career. Featured moments included the impact of the Employment Contracts Act and the rise to prominence of health and safety legislation.

Humorous and poignant in equal measure, Bill emphasised the importance of supporting the younger generation to reach their full potential and the important role the concrete placer plays as the guardian of fresh concrete.

The NZMCPA would like to acknowledge Bill's contribution to the association over the past decade, and wish him all the very best for the future.



Bill Peck, Competency Assessor (Southern) at Firth Industries, was un-masked as The Rubber Ruler

Plans are well underway for the 2018 20th anniversary NZMCPA conference. Keep an eye-out for more details soon.