

› DOWN TO EARTH MAGAZINE  
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**KOMATSU**





# TO SEE WHY IT'S SO ADVANCED, CLIMB INTO THE COCKPIT.

## ADVANCED AVIATION STYLE "FLY BY WIRE" STEERING SYSTEM OFFERS TOTAL CONTROL.

The D275AX-5 is so advanced, it's cabin is more like the cockpit of a jet aircraft. State-of-the-art cabin mounting and undercarriage design have reduced operator exposure to shock and vibration by almost half. The operator stays cooler, calmer and performs better than ever.



- ▷ Advanced "fly by wire" control system gives the operator greater control and confidence in confined or demanding conditions.
- ▷ Hyper viscous cabin mounting and new K-Bogie suspension give the operator class leading isolation from vibration and noise - 78 dB(A).
- ▷ New HSS (Hydrostatic Steering System) offers smooth, powerful turns that help boost productivity by keeping more material on the blade.
- ▷ Operator's seat and Palm Control Steering Consol rotates 15° for better visibility and comfort whilst ripping.
- ▷ Operator breathes cleaner, cooler air with increased capacity from a larger 7,200 Kcal/hr air conditioning unit.



**Ian Ciiveri**  
**Managing Director**  
 Komatsu Australia Pty Ltd

# KOMATSU COMMENTS

The Australian economy has continued its strong performance through the first half of 2002 and I am pleased to report that Komatsu Australia is currently carrying the largest order bank for new equipment in its history.

Recent sales to Rio Tinto, Wambo Coal Associates, Inco, for their Goro Nickel Project in New Caledonia, and Comalco have all contributed to this result.

In construction sales, the strong acceptance of our new Dash 7 range of hydraulic excavators has exhausted the initial shipments and outstripped expectations.

You will also read in this issue of *Down to Earth*, about the new Dash 5 series wheel loaders.

The previous Dash 3 models (the number 4 stands for death in Japan and is never used – like 13, but worse) have been with us for seven years.

During that time, more than 1200 units have been sold to customers throughout the Australian market.

The Dash 5 series brings new levels of operator comfort, safety, and fuel efficiency, along with improved productivity and reduced noise levels.

With this strong order book, and the new models that will continue to be rolled out over the coming months, we are looking forward to another year of strong growth in Australia.

Effective from January of this year, we have been granted New Caledonia as a sales territory, having been providing product support on the island since May 2001.

Most Australians think of this tropical island as an exotic holiday destination; however, it also holds within its 19,000 square kilometres approximately 30% of the world's known nickel deposits.

The existing mines, such as Société Le Nickel (SLN) and SMT Company, already operate a large number of Komatsu machines.

The new Goro Nickel Project will see this population expand further.

To date, we have established a base in Noumea and begun to appoint a permanent, French-speaking workforce. I am sure you will be reading more about this new territory and the visits of our reluctant staff in the future.

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## CONTRIBUTORS

**Editor**  
 [Wafaa Ghali]

**Copywriter**  
 [Mark Cherrington]  
*Construction Communications*

**Graphic Design & Layout**  
 [Delphine Byrne]  
*Carlton Leong*  
*B2B Marcomms Specialist*

**Printed by**  
 [Halkeas Printing]  
*Chippendale NSW*

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# LATEST KOMATSU DASH 5 LOADERS SET NEW PERFORMANCE STANDARDS



Komatsu Australia has released a new range of wheel loaders claimed to set new standards in fuel efficiency, low noise levels, operator comfort, ease of maintenance and productivity.

The first models in the company's Dash 5 series of wheel loaders are the WA380-5 (140 kW, 18 tonnes, 3.1-4.5 cu m), the WA470-5 (195 kW, 23.2 tonnes, 3.8-6 cu m) and the WA480-5 (202 kW, 25.65 tonnes, 4.2-6.2 cu m).

According to Colin Chamberlain, Komatsu Australia's senior product manager, wheel loaders, the new loaders are being promoted as "Five-star loaders".

"We've given them this title because they create new industry standards in key areas," said Colin.

"These include the largest and most comfortable cabs on the market, lowest noise levels in their class – at a minimum 69 dB(A) in the cab, highest bucket capacity in their class and – for each cubic metre of material moved – as much as 15% lower fuel consumption."

Komatsu's new Dash 5 loaders

represent the first major upgrade of its successful Dash 3 wheel loader range since their release over seven years ago.

"Our Dash 3 wheel loaders have proved very successful for us, gaining an overall market share of 24% in Australia and delivering a total of 1194 wheel loaders in this country over that period. This has helped establish Komatsu as one of the world's leading suppliers of wheel loaders in Australia and around the world," said Colin.

"These new Dash 5 machines are a big step forward and will deliver owners substantial improvements in fuel consumption, operator and machine productivity, with reduced whole-of-life costs."

#### Key features of the new Komatsu Dash 5 loaders include:

- ▶ increased operator comfort, through a larger, more comfortable SpaceCab, providing lower vibration and as much as 70% lower noise levels
- ▶ the latest designs in ergonomic control, with short-stroke hydraulic levers and the option

- of joystick-type steering control
- ▶ large torque converter with automatic transmission, incorporating mode control for three automatic modes or manual shifting
- ▶ lowest fuel consumption in their class for cubic metres of material shifted
- ▶ new low-emission electronically controlled Komatsu engines, featuring a "common rail" fuel injection system that meets all forthcoming emission requirements, while at the same time delivering greatly reduced fuel consumption, improved performance and very high torque levels
- ▶ two-stage hydraulic system for faster response in high-speed loading applications, or more power in tough digging and climbing
- ▶ highest bucket capacities and tipping loads in their class, combined with the ability to work equally effectively in face digging and rehandling applications
- ▶ greatly simplified maintenance requirements, including on-board monitoring and diagnostics, plus ground-level access for all daily maintenance and drain points

In developing its new Dash 5 loader range, Komatsu has focused strongly on operator comfort – in common with all new releases across its entire product range.

The cab on all three loaders is larger than any other in this class of machine, and is 25% larger than the preceding models.

Interior noise levels reach a minimum of only 69 dB(A) – substantially lower than equivalent-sized standard-spec loaders and on a par now with that achieved by the automotive industry.

Power for both the WA470-5 and WA480-5 comes from the new Komatsu SAA6D125E-3 turbocharged diesel. It's rated at 195 kW for the WA470-5 and at 202 kW for the WA480-5.

On the WA380-5, the engine is a Komatsu SAAD114E-2 engine, rated at 140 kW.

These engines meet all latest emission requirements, achieved by the use of a "common rail" fuel injection system which delivers lower emission and engine noise levels combined with higher output and very high torque levels.

This process also results in very high torque characteristics, giving the engine plenty of pulling power at low revs and when under load.

Compared with the previous Dash 3 range, fuel consumption on these new Dash 5 loaders has been reduced by around 15% on the two larger machines, and by as much as 40% on the WA380-5.

In terms of fuel consumption per metre of material moved, the Komatsu Dash 5 loaders are up to 20% more fuel efficient than other loaders in their class, across all applications.

In-built design features, combined with a sophisticated on-board monitoring system



ensure that Komatsu's Dash 5 loaders are extremely easy to maintain.

Komatsu's EMMS (Equipment Management Monitoring System) constantly monitors key machine variables, and immediately alerts

the operator of any malfunctions or potential problems.

For daily inspections, all inspection points and drain points have been mounted at ground level, eliminating the need for the operator or

maintenance personnel to climb up on the machine – which can be a potential safety issue.

In applications producing high levels of dust or light debris (such as landscaping or garden supplies), the radiator fan can

be switched to reverse operation from the cabin, quickly clearing the radiator area and minimising the risk of engine overheating.

*For further information, please contact Colin Chamberlain, ph (02) 9795 8251 or e-mail loaders@komatsu.com.au.*

## KOMATSU PC75R-2 "THE BEST EXCAVATOR I'VE OPERATED"

Melbourne-based owner-operator George Heinink finds his two-year-old Komatsu PC75R-2 excavator to be the best one he's ever operated.

George is currently using the machine on a 12-month contract installing wire rope safety barriers on a 30 km section of Melbourne's Western Ring Road between the Princes Highway junction and the Hume Highway.

It is part of a project to widen the Ring Road and install safety lanes, under a contract for VicRoads by contractor Cut & Fill Pty Ltd.

The job involves drilling approximately 300 holes per kilometre, using a Digga PD7 auger drive unit and augers, as well as digging ag drains along the length of project.

George is boring the holes for the end anchors, which are 750 mm in diameter and 2.5 m deep, and barrier sleeves, which are 300 mm in diameter and 500 mm deep.

He started on the project in August 2001, and expects to finish around September-October this year.

George has been in the earthmoving and construction business for around 40 years, starting in his native Holland. Since moving to Australia in 1977, he has owned four other makes of excavator, but finds the Komatsu PC75R-2 his best yet.

"It's a very powerful machine for its size, it's got good lifting strength, but is compact enough to get onto small sites," he said.

"It's also very comfortable to sit in, even for eight to 10 hours at



a time. Of course, the air conditioning helps there.

"The cab's very roomy and not cramped, plus it gives me excellent visibility all round, so I

can easily see others working around me.

"I have been especially impressed with the hydraulic system, which allows me to run the auger without any loss of control to the other work equipment."

George has also been very happy with the level of service he's received from Komatsu Australia.

"They've always treated me very well. They've been happy to fix up minor things as part of the service and not to charge for them, which is something I really like.

"Certainly when I come to trade this machine in, I'll be looking to Komatsu again," said George.

In addition to his auger unit, George also runs a hydraulic hammer and a number of buckets off his excavator.

## BIENVENUE LA NOUVELLE CALEDONIE!

Komatsu Australia has taken on distribution of Komatsu products in the French-speaking territory of New Caledonia.

This new territory is being

handled through Komatsu Australia's Queensland region, and is being looked after by Mike Christie, business development manager, New Caledonia.

New premises have been established in Noumea, and a French-speaking workforce is in the process of being appointed.

Despite its primary reputation

as a Pacific tourist destination, New Caledonia is also an important mining region, holding 30% of the world's nickel reserves.

# “LIVE SAMPLING” INTRODUCED FOR KOMATSU OIL ANALYSIS

Komatsu Australia's Condition Monitoring Service has introduced “live sampling” for its KOWA oil analysis service.

With live sampling, oil is extracted dynamically as it flows through the system. In this state, the oil is carrying the contaminants in a more uniform manner which enables more accurate test results and more accurate diagnosis.

Live sampling involves fitting a valve (available through Komatsu Australia at less than \$10 apiece) to each component that has a pressurised system (that is, a pump flow system); for example, engine, transmission, hydraulic system, etc.

Traditionally, oil samples are taken by inserting a tube in a component and drawing off a small sample, while the machine is shut down.

According to John Hardy, Komatsu Australia's national condition monitoring manager, this method can result in samples that are not completely accurate.

“By contrast, live sampling provides a more accurate picture of the make up of the oil in the system and any contaminants it may contain, resulting in much better data integrity.

“It's also much safer, because the person taking the sample does not have to clamber all over the machine; the valves can be fitted in accessible locations.”

Live sample valves can be fitted to all models of Komatsu – and non-Komatsu – equipment, either by Komatsu technicians or by a customer's own maintenance people.

## TASMANIA'S AGFEST DRAWS IN THE CROWDS

Over 100,000 people visited AGFEST, the largest agricultural show in Tasmania, which is organised by the Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania, and this year was held on May 3-5.

These young adult volunteers co-ordinate and administer the gatekeeping, crowd control and direct traffic.

Major earthmoving, truck and agricultural companies display their equipment during the festival, which attracts not only Tasmanians but also visitors from interstate.

Komatsu Australia's Tasmanian branch used AGFEST 2002 to launch the new Dash 7 excavator range and skidsteer

loaders onto the Tasmanian market.

Also on display was the Dash 7 specially painted by legendary artist Pro Hart, which was auctioned in Sydney earlier this year, raising \$90,000 for the Beacon Foundation.

Beacon is a not-for-profit organisation, dedicated in developing innovative and effective solutions for keeping school leavers off the dole, and in meaningful work.

“The Pro Hart-painted Dash 7 was a major attraction at the show; the outback themes painted on the excavator captured the interest of visitors,” said Richard Locke,



*From left - Barry Arnold, rental manager Tasmania, Leigh Bygrave, service supervisor Hobart, Peter Killey, regional manager southern region.*

product support manager for Tasmania.

“We also got plenty of interest in our new skidsteer loaders, which were particularly praised for their joystick controls,” said Richard.

Tasmania's first PC200-7 excavator, which was on display at AGFEST, went to Kelly's Contracting.

Another machine attracting plenty of interest on the stand

was a PC228US-3 extensively modified for the forest logging operation.

“This machine received an excellent reception from both existing and potential logging customers,” said Richard.

“In fact, it was immediately commissioned after the show by K.C. & K.N. Hall Pty Ltd.”

# MAJOR QUARRY PACKAGE SALE TO NSW RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION

Komatsu Australia recently delivered a package of quarry loaders and dump trucks to the NSW Rail Infrastructure Corporation's (RIC) Bombo Quarry, south of Wollongong.

The package consisted of a WA700-3 wheel loader, a WA600-3 wheel loader and three HD465-5 60 tonne capacity Quarry Pack dump trucks.

RIC's Bombo Quarry, which dates back to the 1920s, supplies crushed rock ballast for the NSW rail network, and is the state's biggest supplier of quarry material to the rail industry.

At full capacity, the quarry has an annual throughput of around one million tonnes; for the 2002/2003 financial year, it is targeting an output of 850,000 tonnes.

The WA700-3, which is fitted with a KVX ground engaging tool (GET) system, is being used

for loading blasted material into the HD465-5 trucks, while the WA600-3 is used as a sales loader and for loading rail ballast into road trucks.

As part of the same package, Komatsu Australia also supplied two additional WA600-3 loaders to the RIC's Martins Creek Quarry west of Maitland in the Hunter Valley. They were replacing two Komatsu WA600-1 loaders in use at the quarry.

One of the new WA600-3s is fitted with KVX teeth for face loading applications, while the other is kitted out with Hensley straight-edge GET for stockpile handling.

Also going to Martins Creek were two HD465-3 dump trucks and one HD325-3 truck previously at Bombo, and which have been replaced by the new Komatsu machines.

The WA700-3 face loading machine at Bombo is replacing a face shovel formerly used for this purpose.

According to Peter Watts, manager of the Bombo Quarry, the RIC's experience with the older Komatsu machines – some of which had up to 25,000 hours on them – was a key factor in the decision to purchase the new Komatsu machines.

Attending the handover on behalf of the RIC was chief executive officer John Cowling and general manager, commercial Karl Mociak. Matt Brown, MP, member for Kiama and representing the NSW Minister for Transport, accepted the machines on behalf of the RIC.

Komatsu Australia representatives included Jim Playsted, general manager, sales and marketing, Ian MacCowan, central region general manager.



*Jim Playsted at the handover of the RIC machines with John Cowling, chief executive officer.*

## KOMATSU HANDS OVER SEVEN DOZERS TO BULGA COAL

At a ceremony in mid May, representatives of Komatsu Australia marked the delivery of seven D774A-3 dozers to Bulga Coal in the Upper Hunter Valley.

Three of the dozers are working in the washery, pushing up coal stockpiles, while the other four

are being used in pit dozing operations around the dragline, in key-cut operations and in high-wall work.

In purchasing the seven Komatsu dozers, Bulga Coal traded in four dozers in the same class of another make.

At the handover ceremony, Ian MacCowan, Komatsu Australia's general manager, central region, presented Lindsay Richardson, Bulga Coal's operations manager, with a ceremonial Japanese pottery bowl to mark the occasion.

"This is a very important occasion for us, as it represents one of the single orders for D475A-3 dozers in Australia," Ian said.

*Komatsu Australia and Bulga Coal representatives in front of the three D475A-3 coal washery dozers.*





# PRO HART-PAINTED EXCAVATOR RAISES BEACON PROFILE

The Pro Hart-painted Komatsu PC200-7 excavator has been doing the rounds of Australia over the past few months, helping raise the profile – and funds – for the Beacon Foundation.

As reported in the previous edition of *Down to Earth* the

unique excavator was auctioned at a special event in Sydney in February, raising \$90,000 towards the Beacon Foundation.

Beacon is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to developing effective and innovative solutions to youth unemployment.

Shortly after its Sydney debut, the excavator headed for Queensland's Gold Coast, where it was a centrepiece at the Civil Contractors Federation's annual combined Brisbane/Gold Coast meeting at the Nara Resort.

Then in early May, it headed for Tasmania, where it formed an integral part of Komatsu Australia's stand at AGFEST (see separate article in this edition).

Following AGFEST, the Pro Hart machine was straight off to Adelaide for South Australia's Volunteer's Day, where Premier Mike Rann paid tribute to the state's volunteers – and gave a mention of the excavator and its role in raising awareness of youth unemployment problems, and solutions.



*The machine at SA's Volunteers Day celebration.*

Next stop was Perth, where in early July it was involved in the Western Australian launch of the Komatsu Dash 7 excavator range and Komatsu Dash 5 wheel loader series.

Over the next few months, it will continue its travels around Australia before going "home" to its owner, successful bidder Gavin Markwell, of the Townsville-based plant hirer and demolition contractor Markwell Group.



*The Pro Hart-painted Komatsu PC200-7 on display at Tasmania's Agfest.*

## DAVE STUART TAKES ON UTILITY GROUP ROLE



*Dave Stuart, utility group manager.*

Dave Stuart was appointed Komatsu Australia's utility group manager in November 2001.

Dave, who has been with Komatsu Australia since October 1999, has previously held positions as Central Region utility manager, and Sydney branch manager.

His involvement in the construction industry began when he enlisted in the Corps of Army Engineers in 1979, and

he has remained in the industry ever since.

Dave sees his appointment as utility group manager as an exciting challenge.

"This year Komatsu is introducing a large number of new utility products, including the new Komatsu skidsteer loaders and our utility range of wheel loaders," he says.

"As the utility area is a relatively new segment for Komatsu,

there are a number of initiatives that we need to focus on and further develop."

**According to Dave, these include:**

- brand recognition
- market share and a sustainable customer base
- product support services
- customer relationship and information management.

Dave can be contacted via e-mail at [dstuart@komatsu.com.au](mailto:dstuart@komatsu.com.au).



# OWNERS, OPERATORS LOVE THEIR DASH 7 EXCAVATORS

*[Australia's first buyers of Dash 7 excavators have been unanimous in their praise of these innovative new excavators – as have their operators.]*

We spoke to three owners and their operators shortly after the sale of the first Dash 7 machines in Australia, and their response was overwhelmingly positive. This article includes excerpts from these owner and operator comments, which can be read in full on our website at [www.komatsu.com.au](http://www.komatsu.com.au).

And don't forget to keep watching the website for more application stories – not only on our Dash 7 excavators, but also on our new Dash 5 wheel loaders and our new skidsteer range.

## Queensland



Australia's first Komatsu Dash 7 excavator, a Komatsu PC220-7, was delivered to Gold Coast contractor Corfield Civil on March 12.

Company principal Alan Corfield described the machine as "a lovely bit of gear" that was delivering substantially lower

fuel consumption and higher productivity than his four existing PC220-6 excavators.

Operator Charlie Lebrese said the new Dash 7 excavator was the best machine he'd ever been in, and in terms of comfort, ease of operation and digging power was "just an awesome machine".

## NSW



Sydney-based plant hirer and contractor Level Earthworks has been similarly impressed with its new PC200-7 excavator.

Company principal Peter Male said the new PC200-7 offered significant improvements in comfort, productivity and noise levels.

"I've done a bit of operating in it, and it's a very comfortable machine," he said.

"It's got lots more cab space, so you can stretch out a little more, the seat is very comfortable, the noise levels are a lot less and the climate control is very effective.

"Talking to the operator about it, we reckon productivity is in the order of 15-20% better than the previous model.

"It works at a faster speed and has more digging power," said Peter.

Operator Colin Uprichard is equally pleased with the machine.

"This new machine is a big improvement over the previous models. It's a lot more agile than the older 20 tonner; in fact it feels more like a 13 tonner in terms of its responsiveness and quickness," said Colin.

## Victoria



Goulburn Valley contractor Croxfords Excavations bought its new PC200-7 on the promise of greatly improved fuel consumption, but has found substantial productivity, performance, comfort and ease of maintenance benefits.

To quote Croxfords' managing director, Peter Croxford, "It's a very good design."

"They've really taken into account the operator's needs; the cab's much bigger, a lot quieter and the monitoring system is very easy to understand.

"Throughout the machine, there's a lot of things they've thought of and worked to make better.

"And particularly from the operator's point of view, if he's got to sit in it all day, he needs to be comfortable. Our operators think that it's great," said Peter.

"It has more digging power, and the implements and slew work very quickly and smoothly, so your overall operation's a lot faster.

"That's very important when you're bulking dirt for a living; the faster your machine, the more money you make," he said.

Another major area of improvement mentioned by Peter was on the servicing side.

"All the daily servicing requirements are at your fingertips; everything's at ground level so your operator can check everything faster, without having to climb over the machine.

*Left: Corfield Civil's new PC220-7 working alongside one of its PC220-6 machines.*

*Centre: NSW contractor Level Earthworks' PC200-7 being operated by Colin Uprichard.*

*Right: New owner Peter Croxford taking delivery of his PC200-7 from Komatsu Australia representative Phil Collins*

# ADVANCED KOMATSU DOZER OFFERS HIGHEST COMFORT LEVELS

Komatsu Australia has introduced a new dozer for heavy construction and mining applications featuring one of the most advanced steering and control systems available, and the highest levels of operator comfort.

The 49.85 tonne, 306 kW D275AX-5 dozer is designed for heavy construction, small mining, quarry and landfill applications.



## Features include:

- › advanced aircraft style “fly-by-wire” operator steering control systems
- › hydrostatic steering control system
- › lockup torque converter system
- › new undercarriage design
- › track shoe slip control
- › improved operator comfort

## Advanced operator control system

Advanced operator control systems include Komatsu’s new Palm Command Control Steering (PCCS) system, which is similar to the “fly-by-wire” technology currently used in military and commercial aircraft.

Together, the Palm control system and hydrostatic steering provide the highest levels of operator precision and control

of any dozer on the market, according to Bob Walmsley, Komatsu Australia’s senior product manager, dozers.

“PCCS provides precise and responsive hydraulic control by applying engine power to both the tracks and blade in direct proportion to movement of either control lever,” said Bob.

“The system is instantly responsive, providing minimal lag between direction and speed changes. Gear speed, RPM and shift pattern selection are constantly monitored, providing shockless clutch engagement,

“This gives operators more confidence and control in confined or hazardous applications, such as slope or bench work,” he said.

All dozer steering movements are controlled by a wrist-action lever on the operator’s left, with control movements according to the direction of desired travel.

For example, if the operator wants the dozer to move forward and to the left, he simply moves the Palm control lever forward and to the left.

Transmission gear shifting is made easy with thumb push buttons. As well, the operator has the option to select manual transmission speed operation or preselect shift patterns with automatic downshift function.

## Hydrostatic steering

The D275AX-5’s hydrostatic steering system (HSS) is powered by an independent hydraulic pump that transmits engine power to both tracks

without any interruption to the inside track.

“This system ensures smooth, powerful turns, because the outside track moves faster and the inside slower, helping boost production by keeping more material on the blade,” said Bob.

In addition, the HSS system on the D275AX-5 is equipped with a pivot turn mode switch on the dashboard, which is unique to Komatsu’s hydrostatic steer system.

On the D275AX-5, with the pivot steer switch engaged, or when the dozer reaches the limit of HSS during a turn, the track on the inside of the turn is braked, resulting in a short-radius pivot turn.

## Engine and transmission

The D275AX-5 is powered by a Komatsu SDA6D140E-3 turbocharged, aftercooled engine meeting all Tier II emission requirements, and delivering 306 kW at 2000 rpm.

To increase dozing and ripping efficiency, Komatsu offers the only lockup torque converter system in the dozer’s class.

## Undercarriage

A new K-bogie design undercarriage helps the D275AX-5 hug the terrain for better contact and maximum drawbar pull.

This new design oscillates with two fulcrums, greatly improving vertical travel, while promoting increased undercarriage life due to better control of track chain alignment with track rollers.

“Our new K-bogie design will have a substantial impact on whole-of-machine life, providing lower maintenance costs, longer undercarriage life, reduced impact loadings and improved durability,” said Bob.

“In addition, our track shoe slip control system – which is unique to Komatsu – further extends undercarriage life, particularly in ripping operations.”

This system provides constant control of engine speed during ripping operations, resulting in improved manoeuvrability and reduced operator fatigue, because the operator can focus on ripping operations.

## Improved operator comfort



According to Bob, operator comfort-related features on the D275AX-5 mean it offers the lowest exposure to “whole of body vibration levels” of any crawler dozer in its class.

The cab mounting uses a newly designed cab damper to provide maximum shock and vibration absorption capacity.

A soft spring in the cab damper isolates the cab from the machine body, suppressing vibration and providing a quiet, comfortable operating environment.



► Hyper viscous cab mountings use silicone fluid combined with medium and soft supporting springs to minimise transmission of shock and vibration normally experienced in heavy ripping or travelling over rough ground conditions, or during high-speed travel.

“These new cabin mountings, the K-bogie suspension system

and a new and heavy duty seat mean this dozer is the most comfortable and has the least adverse impact on the operator of any in its class,” said Bob.

*For further information on Komatsu dozers, please contact Bob Walmsley on (02) 9795 8240 or e-mail [dozers@komatsu.com.au](mailto:dozers@komatsu.com.au).*



## RAD-ICAL VICTORIAN LAUNCH FOR SKIDSTEER AND DASH 7



Komatsu Australia's Southern Region staged high-profile launches of Komatsu's new skidsteer and Dash 7 excavator range, engaging the services of expert Supercross bike rider Alex McLeod and his Ford RAD (Race Against Drugs) team.

Komatsu Australia's Southern Region staff assisted in the preparation of RAD's new permanent home in Melbourne's Docklands, inside an abandoned and derelict factory.

Around 250 guests were on hand for the skidsteer launch on March 1, featuring some spectacular flying motorbike stunts while the new skiddies were put through their paces.

Then three weeks later, on March 22, a further 250 guests attended the launch of the Dash 7 excavators, with the highlight being Alex jumping over a PC300-7.

In the next edition of *Down to Earth*, we'll bring you the full story of Komatsu Australia's Southern Region sponsorship of RAD, and its involvement in the redevelopment of RAD's new home.

*Alex McLeod soars over a Komatsu PC300-7 at the machine launch in Melbourne.*

# KOMATSU-SPONSORED SWIM CLUB STARS AT NATIONAL CHAMPS



*East Maitland's United Club Swim Team.*

East Maitland's United Swimming Club, which Komatsu Australia's Central Region has sponsored for the past nine years, recently achieved one of its best-ever results at the Australian Age Championships.

At the championships, held at

Homebush in mid April, the NSW Hunter Valley-based club was the top-scoring NSW club – beating much bigger Sydney-based clubs – and came seventh overall.

This was a very pleasing result for the club, considering it has

only 33 registered families and sent a team of 15 to the nationals – around half the number of some larger clubs.

The championships are for swimmers from under 13 to 18, and have very tough entry requirements; only 1% of swimmers make the qualifying times.

United Swimming Club, under coach Bob Lawson, has consistently achieved good results in national, state and country-based swimming events over the past few years.

Komatsu's sponsorship of the

club includes providing clothing and uniforms for all competitors and the coach to wear at major swim meets, as well as helping out with expenses.

According to club committee member Pat Buffier, Komatsu's sponsorship of its clothing gives the team a very professional look.

"At the Age Championships, we received a lot of favourable comment about how recognisable and professional our swimmers looked," she said.

"The club greatly appreciates Komatsu's sponsorship and the assistance it has provided."

# UPGRADED KOMATSU PC3000 MINING SHOVEL HAS INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY



Komatsu Australia has released an upgraded version of its PC3000 mining shovel, including new buckets for the front shovel and backhoe configurations, which result in 7-10% productivity gains.

In addition to the new bucket designs, the PC3000 also

benefits from earlier hydraulic improvements and smoother bucket action, which field trials showed to be considerably more productive.

The increased bucket capacity takes that increased productivity to a higher level.

The improved version of the 250 tonne PC3000 is now specified with a 15 cu m mining backhoe bucket or a 17.4 cu m (1:1 rated) face shovel bucket.

It is capable of loading about 2500 tonnes per hour, typically four-pass loading a 100 US ton (91 tonne) dump truck or six-pass loading a 150 US ton (135 tonne) truck.

According to Komatsu Australia, the PC3000's high productive capacity is complemented with long-term reliability.

Designed into the machine are such features as robust mining undercarriage with large diameter running gear

large contact areas, reduced point loading and detailed hardening to considerably extend wearing time.

Power comes from a single Komatsu SSA12V159, 12 cylinder twin turbocharged and after-cooled diesel, de-rated to 940 kW at 1800 rpm.

A high technology engine management system ensures the engine meets Tier 1 emissions standards.

*For further information on the PC3000, please contact John de Jager on (02) 9795 8222 or e-mail [jdjager@komatsu.com.au](mailto:jdjager@komatsu.com.au).*



# CYRIL GOLDING: QUEENSLAND CONTRACTING LEGEND

*[In this edition of Down To Earth, we bring you the life story of Cyril Golding, who has built up his company over more than 50 years to be one of the leading contractors in Queensland.]*

*This special article has been written by Arthur McNae, who will be familiar to readers as the author of Komatsu: The first 50 years. This is an edited version of Arthur's full-length article, which can be read in full on the Komatsu Australia website at [www.komatsu.com.au](http://www.komatsu.com.au).*

Cyril Golding was born in Gladstone, Queensland in 1920, which was then a small coastal village. Cyril's father had a building business, a fishery cold store and a sawmill.

Cyril had an interrupted schooling, finishing primary school at 14 to work in his father's building business (there being no high school in Gladstone at the time) before returning to high school when one opened in the town. After completing Grades 9 and 10, he started work again for his father – this time in the sawmill.

The lowliest job in the mill was shovelling shavings from under the planer, so that's where Cyril had to start, graduating through several kinds of tasks until he got to bringing the loaded trucks into the mill yard.

## A big decision

Eventually, one of the log haulers asked Cyril if he would leave his father's mill and work for him in partnership driving the log truck. At 21 this was a big decision, as his father pictured Cyril taking over the sawmill some day.

However, after a full day's thought he decided to leave his father's mill. It was only years later that he was to find out what a shock his decision had been to his father.

On May 1, 1942 Cyril went to the bush for his first load of logs; the next stage in his life was the truck owner offering to sell him his truck: a five ton Ford (which was as big and bold as they got in those times) at a price of £525.

At 22 years old, Cyril did not have the money. However, his savings plus a loan from his girlfriend (whom he later married) made enough for a deposit for the truck and jinker.

That was the first machine Cyril Golding would own and it was the beginning of one of the nicest "self-made man" stories you will ever hear.

Over the next few years, Cyril Golding Logging Contractor built up his business through hard work and taking on the tough, difficult jobs. He increased the size of his fleet, with the addition of more trucks and crawler tractors.

## Moving beyond logging

However, there came a point where Cyril felt as though he had done all there was to do in logging and was aware of the amount of work that was available to a bulldozer in his area.

Farmers were in need of land clearing for crops and of water storage facilities.

Another factor driving the decision to go further afield was Cyril's desire to communicate and negotiate with people. He always enjoyed involvement with other people and this was not happening while he was out in the bush getting logs.

By 1945 there was a plentiful supply of LeTourneau blades and attachments being sold at war surplus auctions.



*Cyril Golding with the first motor scrapers purchased from Komatsu.*

Cyril rigged these up to his tractors, allowing him to handle all types of bulldozer work and give his customers good value for money.

Again, he began building up his land clearing, bulldozing and contracting business, working alongside such industry legends as John Holland, and Cec and Les Thiess (in fact, he once bought a D9 off Mrs Thiess).

Cyril's abilities and his knack for completing a job successfully and on time brought him into contact with the people working on Queensland Alumina Ltd's Gladstone plant. His introduction to the site in 1962 was the beginning of a relationship that still continues today.

One major job early on involved part of the precommissioning work for the plant.

This required a huge dam to hold the red mud that is washed out of the raw product coming in from Weipa.

Golding won the job of building the dam and spent four years doing it. This was a job for scrapers and Cyril bought a

fleet of Cat 631Bs and some D9Gs to push them.

## A change of equipment

A turning point in Cyril's equipment preferences came in 1978 when Goldings were working at Queensland's Mary Kathleen Uranium mine with the D9s and a 988A wheel loader.

Following some machinery problems and unresolved differences with the dealer,

► Cyril began looking for an alternative equipment supplier.

Along came LeTourneau Westinghouse (Australia), the new distributor for Komatsu equipment. Komatsu seemed like a good alternative, so three WS23S scrapers were purchased right away.

Initially, there were problems with product quality, but the Komatsu people handled the situation in a way that was so pleasing to Cyril that their actions paved the way for an eventual buy of 21 of these units.

This was indeed a fortunate association for Komatsu as Cyril Golding continued to become a bigger and bigger force in the earthmoving industry in Queensland, all the while buying more Komatsu machines to

facilitate his company's growth.

Today, Golding Contractors remains an important customer of Komatsu Australia.

In such a supplier/customer relationship, one factor remains constant and that is that people deal with people.

Cyril Golding has been a supporter of the Komatsu product and a great customer to the various organisations who have been Komatsu distributors since soon after the introduction of the product to Australia back in the 1960s.

At the end of 2001, the Golding fleet of Komatsu equipment consisted of: 19 Komatsu scrapers, 23 Komatsu excavators, 32 Komatsu dump trucks, 14 Komatsu crawler dozers, 1 Komatsu

wheel dozer, 6 Komatsu wheel loaders, 1 Komatsu fork lift.

**A major Queensland contractor**

As the Golding/Komatsu relationship goes from strength to strength, so Golding Contractors became more and more a part of the major contracting scene in its home state of Queensland.

The company is now a regular player in the civil construction field as well as a much-respected participant in the mining sector.

This is a remarkable achievement in view of the fact Golding Contractors has become what through the hard work and devotion of one man, who noted that the harder he worked the luckier he got.

At the time of writing this article Cyril is 81 years old and still going to the office every day, and still takes a hands-on part in the running of the business.

It is a pleasure to be in his company and to observe the respect in which he is held by his employees.

The Golding group of companies now list 550 people on the payroll and the contracts in progress range from long term gold mining, to major coal mining operations to phosphate mining and all kinds of developments in between.

Not surprisingly there are many long term employees at Goldings who take great pride in the fact that they work for such a great Australian.

# KOMATSU "TONG-THROWER" DELIVERED TO NZ CONTRACTOR

Komatsu New Zealand has recently delivered a unique, heavily modified PC300LC-6 excavator to a Gisborne logging contractor.

The machine was delivered to Steven Dewes, of Dewes Contractors, who has long had a reputation as one of New Zealand's most innovative logging contractors.

**The modifications are as follows:**

- addition of a purpose-built forestry safety cab, designed to give much better safety, comfort and visibility than traditional cab protective frames
- track frames lengthened, widened and raised for improved stability and ground clearance in shovel

logging work

- recoil spring in the track adjuster boosted, and clipped bar added to the grouser plates to give better traction
- heavy duty guarding added to the track frames and upper body of the machine

In addition, a live heel and full system pressure grapple was attached

The machine also includes a "tong thrower", manufactured by Oregon-based Jewel Manufacturing Inc.

This device enables a pair of logging tongs to be cast from the shovel logger, much like a fishing tackle, at distances of up to 100 m.

The tongs are then attached to a log by a ground crew and winched back to the shovel logger with a high-speed hydraulic winch.



The winch is mounted on the back of the main boom, with a secondary high-speed feeding device on the back of the live heel ensuring the rope is fed out

at the correct tension and speed.

This "tong throwing" concept is popular in North America, allowing excavators to reach logs on steep slopes that would otherwise require cable system access.

Steven Dewes has a reputation as a very innovative logger, being the first in New Zealand to

"shovel log" with an excavator and also the first to fit winches to a Komatsu PC400 excavator which he used for cable logging and roller-crushing scrub.



# KOMATSU KIDS CORNER

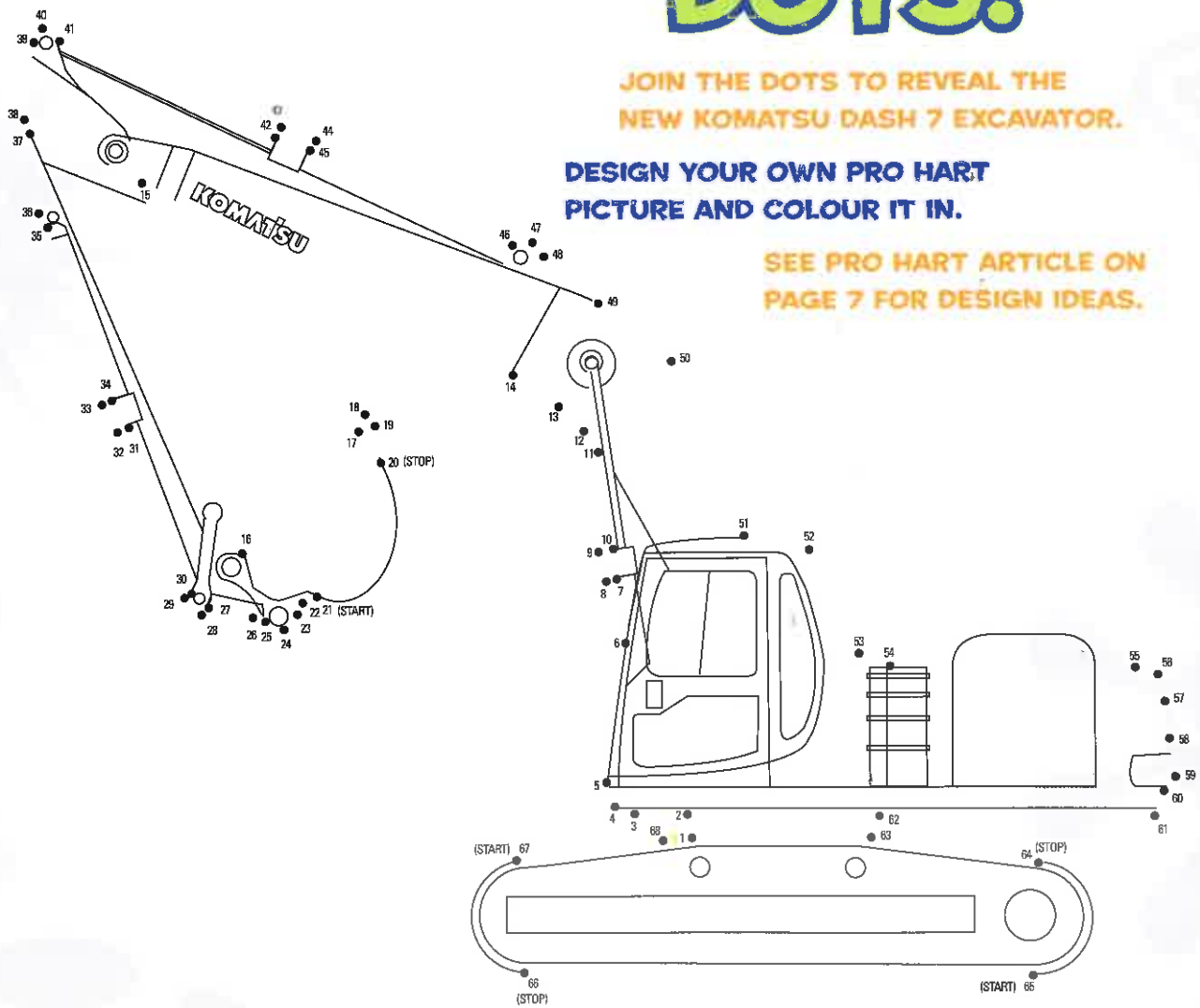


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SEE PRO HART ARTICLE ON PAGE 7 FOR DESIGN IDEAS.



THE 3 LUCKY WINNERS OF LAST ISSUE'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCES COMPETITION HAVE WON A SCALE MODEL OF THE NEW KOMATSU SKID STEER LOADER!

## CONGRATULATIONS!

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