



Four new project homes that will showcase the very latest thinking in environmentally friendly building designs and products are nearing completion.

Australian Living, a sustainable building management and consultancy firm, is currently building four homes that will demonstrate just how sustainable residences of the future can be.

Located on one large block in Rose Bay, NSW, each home has a different owner who has chosen their own architect. As part of the project known as The Eco-Challenge, Australian Living has been helping the owners and architects to create homes that go well beyond current government requirements around sustainability.

"We define a sustainable home as one that minimises the energy requirements to operate the home by not relying on traditional energy sources and one that has minimal impact on our environment.

The combination of smart design, thermal comfort technology and the use of eco-friendly products can allow homeowners to not only reduce their eco-footprint but also to save money in reducing energy and water costs," says Cameron Rosen, Director of Australian Living.

The company has researched sustainable building products and services, and is bringing together a team of suppliers—including CSR—to assist them in designing and delivering sustainable homes.

"We are aware that many people claim that their building products are 'green', but we are conducting research to find out how sustainable these products and services really are," says Cameron.

"We follow the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA), Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA) and ISO rating systems to help us make these decisions. Where a product doesn't fall under these guidelines, we investigate the manufacturer, how they produce their products, and how much recycled content their products contain."

Study has been conducted around thermal mass and insulation to ensure that each room in the homes is thermally stable. "Each house will only use about 20 megajoules of energy per square metre to heat and cool it

over a whole year, whereas a regular BASIX-committed house uses about 132 megajoules," says Cameron. "In fact, one of the four homes has scored the equivalent of eight-stars for thermal comfort."

Once the required thermal comfort performance was achieved, Australian Living was then able to address infrastructure. "Once you have a building that essentially warms and cools itself, then it becomes

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Turning the corner

As the Australian economy continues to strengthen after its close shave with the global financial crisis, there is good news ahead for most parts of the building sector, writes HIA Chief Economist, Harley Dale.

World economic output fell by over two per cent in 2009, a very savage outcome however you choose to slice and dice it. Economic output contracted last year in the United States, the United Kingdom, the Europe, Japan, New Zealand, and the list goes on. For Australia's trading partners as a whole, economic output fell by nearly one per cent in 2009.

But importantly for Australia, economic output in East Asia (excluding Japan) actually grew in 2009, helped enormously by growth of over nine per cent in China and over six per cent in India.

Stronger growth

The economic outlook for Australia continues to improve. The annual rate of growth for the Australian economy was 2.7 per cent in the December 2009 quarter, compared to an average of less than one per cent over the previous four quarters. The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) is forecasting Australia to grow at an average rate of two per cent in 2009/10 and 3.5 per cent in 2010/11 and 2011/12.

There have now been five official interest rate hikes in Australia since September last year, taking the Official Cash Rate (OCR) to 4.25 per cent and discounted variable mortgage rates to around 6.5 per cent.

The news on interest rates is unfortunately going to get considerably worse as the economy continues to strengthen through the remainder of 2010. The RBA is likely to lift the OCR to at least 4.75 per cent by the end of this year.

The labour market is continuing to gather strength and the unemployment rate peaked in mid 2009 at 5.8 per cent.

Over the six months to February 2010 there was a monthly average of 32,000 jobs created and a continually improving labour market is a tick in the box for the housing industry in 2010.

Approvals recover

Total seasonally adjusted building approvals increased by 13 per cent in both the December 2009 quarter and in the three month period to January 2010.

Over the six months to January 2010 approvals were up by 22 per cent. In the single month of January 2010 approvals eased by 0.7 per cent. The annual level of approvals in January 2010 was 168,540, compared to 181,272 in December 2009 and 172,320 in November 2009.

While recognising that there is considerable volatility in these annual levels, overall they represent the highest seen since late 2007 and the December 2009 level was the highest monthly annualised level since mid 2004.

The strong recovery (from a relatively low base) has taken longer than is ideal given bottlenecks in the local government approvals process, but overall the up-cycle in building approvals supports our forecast for a healthy lift in new home starts over 2009/10.

Housing starts leap

After a strong start to the year, HIA's New Home Sales series, based on a survey of Australia's 100 largest builders, fell in February 2010. This is a disappointing result that, along with some other leading housing indicators, raises questions over the sustainability of Australia's new

home building recovery.

Total private new home sales fell by 5.2 per cent in February 2010 following a 9.5 per cent rise in January. Detached house sales fell by 4.7 per cent after a 10.1 per cent increase in January. Multi-unit sales fell by 9.4 per cent following two consecutive rises.

Total new home sales were up by one per cent over the three months to February, a level 10 per cent higher than for the three to February 2009.

Looking through the monthly bumps and grinds, new home sales are flat-lining when they really need to be on a clear upward trajectory. However, we still have a positive outlook where new home building not only grows in 2009/10, but also over the subsequent two years.

Renovations rise

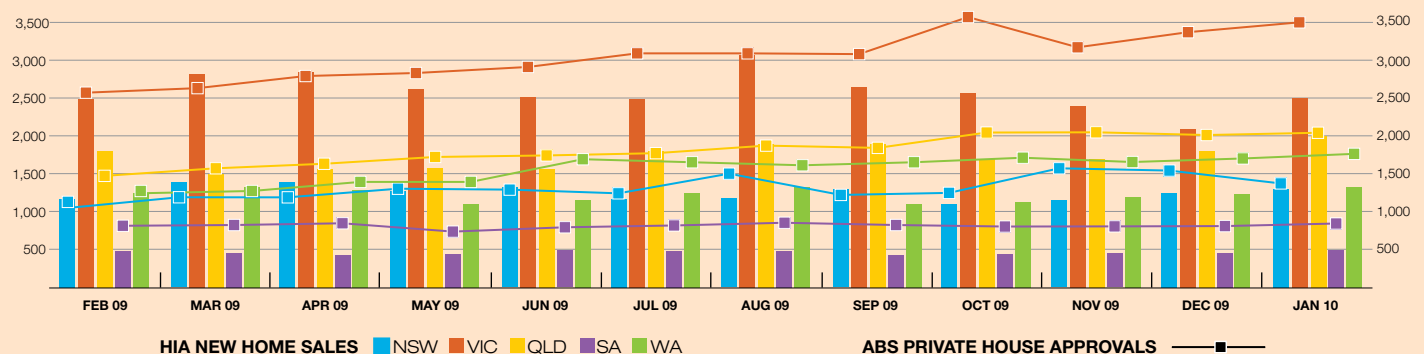
Total investment in renovations increased in both the September and December 2009 quarters. Clearly the renovations sector is in recovery mode after falling over 2008/09.

Total investment in renovations increased by 13 per cent in the September 2009 quarter and by a further seven per cent in the December 2009 quarter.

The annual worth of renovations was \$31.5 billion in the December 2009 quarter, the first increase in a year. Rising confidence driven by increasing existing home values and improved labour market conditions is driving a renovations recovery and we expect this trend to continue.

There is possibly also a recovery underway in major alterations and additions, in particular those projects worth over \$10,000 per job. ■

Private house sales



Campaign means business

A new advertising campaign promoting Gyprock™ products, systems and support, will generate extra work for wall and ceiling contractors.

CSR Gyprock has launched a new commercial campaign to promote the specialist products and great back-up support that the company offers.

While the campaign is aimed primarily at specifiers and builders, it is intended to create additional work for Gyprock™ plastering contractors.

When more specifiers, architects and builders nominate Gyprock™ products and systems at the design stage of new projects, that generates extra work for our plastering contractors, says Rob Ferrari, CSR Gyprock Commercial Marketing Manager.

“Specifiers choosing new Gyprock™ products means increasing primary demand for Gyprock™ contractors. By telling specifiers about our products and systems—backed by CSR’s innovation and support—we are creating new work for our wall and ceiling contractors,” he says.

The campaign has in part come about in response to requests from plasterers.

“Contractors are always telling us that if we manufacture a new product, such as EC08™, then we need to get out and tell the market about it. It becomes too difficult once another product has been specified to change that decision, no matter how much better an alternative product is.

“As a result of this campaign more Gyprock™ products will be specified in building plans. We are doing more work, and our contractors will get the benefit,” says Rob.

Moreover, because of increasing early involvement in projects, members of the Gyprock™ Commercial Team will be able to recommend contractors to builders, also creating more work. “The campaign encourages building designers to interact with Gyprock™ staff in the early stages of a project’s design. This will give us a better inside understanding of a job—as well as close connections with the specifiers and builders—so we’ll not only be able to recommend the most appropriate Gyprock™ products, but also a great plastering contractor to install them.”

The national campaign will run throughout 2010 and into the start of 2011. It will combine advertising in industry magazines with direct mail-outs and architectural presentations.

“It’s a fully integrated campaign to generate more work for Gyprock™ customers,” Rob adds. ■



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i To access the full range of Gyprock™ Commercial Solutions online, go to www.gyprock.com.au/commercialsolutions. To get in touch with the Gyprock™ Commercial Solutions Team, call 1800 621 117.

Winning wheels

A CSR customer has won a Holden SV6 Ute for outlining the benefits of CeminSeal™ Wallboard.

Rockhampton-based trade customer John Bryant has yet another reason for believing that CSR’s CeminSeal™ Wallboard is superior to standard fibre cement, after winning a brand new Holden SV6 Ute in a recent Cemintel competition.

John was the lucky winner of the CSR Cemintel promotion which asked customers to explain in under 25 words why CeminSeal™ Wallboard is better than standard fibre cement. John’s winning response said that CeminSeal™ is “far easier” to use, providing better bonding with CSR compounds. The product also gives a higher quality finish, he wrote.

CSR Cemintel received a large volume of entries in the competition, according to General Manager, Drew Spiden. “Contractors

and builders recognise that this product performs better and overcomes issues that used to be significant areas of concern, particularly in wet areas. For example, CeminSeal™ Wallboard is more durable and easier to work with than existing wallboard products. It is also different in that it provides stronger joints, better compound adhesion and paint absorption, and an overall better substrate,” he says.

“The competition entries reaffirmed to us that these important benefits are being delivered—and appreciated. We are of course delighted to be presenting the deserving recipient with such a fantastic prize,” he added.

The Holden Ute was presented to John Bryant on 16 February at the CSR Gyprock



John Bryant with the Holden SV6

Trade Centre on Power Street, Rockhampton.

Aimed at builders and contractors, CeminSeal™ Wallboard is available for both residential and commercial applications. The product is tinted yellow with a distinct face print to ensure easy identification. ■

i For more information contact Cemintel™ on 1300 CEMINTEL™ (1300 236 468) or visit www.cemintel.com.au.

At home with sustainability *Continued from page 1*

energy-consuming items. When you don't need air conditioning, essentially the only power needed is for appliances and lighting. You can then afford the appropriately sized solar PV system to supply energy to operate appliances and lighting. Using such small amounts of energy will obviously save the owners money," says Cameron.

The next step was to look at building products and materials to improve the sustainability of the home by reducing embodied impact. "We specially selected insulation, recycled concrete and treated timbers in line with project goals," he adds.

Gyprock™ on board

When it came to planning the walls and ceilings, Cameron says he looked closely at what was on offer from different building product manufacturers.

Australian Living arranged a meeting with product reps from CSR, influenced by the fact that the company is Australian-owned as well as its reputation as pioneers in the industry.

The decision was made to use Superchek™ because it could be used in a residential context and because of its recycled content.

"We also liked the fact that CSR collects discarded board for reuse," Cameron explains.

Each home uses Superchek™ for all walls

and ceilings, as well as fibre cement and the wet-area board Aquachek™ in the bathrooms.

CSR's Residential Market Segment Manager, Tim Ohlback, says that CSR is pleased to be involved in cutting-edge environmental projects like Eco-Challenge.

"CSR Gyprock products like EC08™ and Superchek™ are important for us because they are the first steps towards making building products that have no negative consequences for the environment. We don't claim that these products will solve climate change, but they are an important part of our investigations into making plasterboard more environmentally safe.

"Australian Living is doing the same thing. Cameron is building homes to see how they can be made more sustainable. He's not saying he has some kind of panacea for environmental problems, but he's developing real-world solutions. That's exactly what we are doing with our product development," Tim adds.

Cost savings

Australian Living was set up in 2008 to develop high-energy-efficient housing, way above current industry standards. The company also aims to promote sustainable building by establishing a template that others can follow.

According to Cameron Rosen, architects

and builders are becoming aware of the importance of considering sustainability when making choices about what materials to use in homes. But there are still certain barriers that prevent people choosing environmentally sound products, he says. These include the time it takes to research the best products, people sticking with what they know, and clients' perception that sustainable products cost more.

"Of course, sustainable building doesn't cost more if you take everything into account," says Cameron. "The key is to balance the scales by understanding what you need and where you can compromise. For example, when designing the structure of the house you have to know where you need thermal mass and when you don't. You might pay where you need thermal mass but make savings by lightening the structure where you don't. Individual sustainable products will probably always seem to cost more when considered in isolation. But when you take into account the overall cost of a sustainable project they end up costing less."

The Eco-Challenge homes are scheduled to be finished by the end of July this year. ■

i To find out more about CSR's range of sustainable building products, call 1300 306 556. More information about Australian Living is available from www.australianliving.info/

Rondo expands Top Hat range

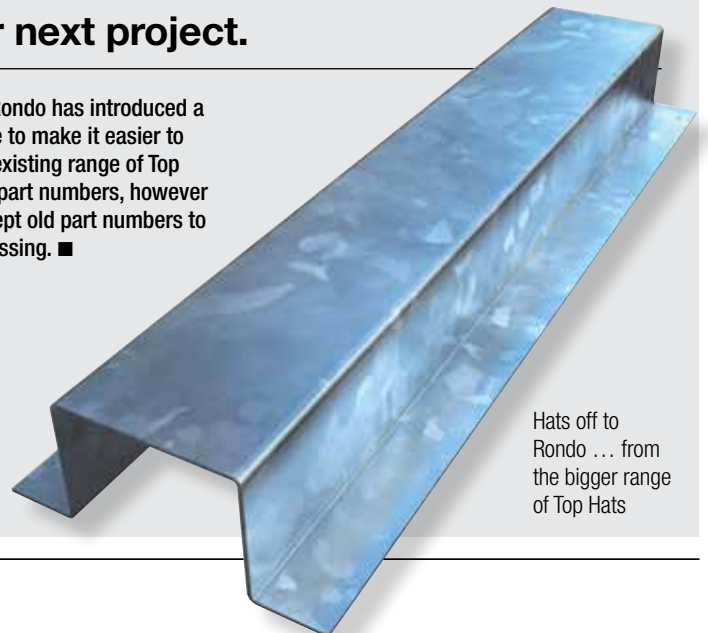
RONDO®

An increased number of Top Hat sizes means that Rondo will be better able to meet the requirements of your next project.

Due to market demand for steel top hats suitable for a variety of applications, Rondo has significantly increased its range of standard, off-the-shelf profiles.

Through extensive market research, Rondo has identified 22 Top Hats that will meet a wider range of customer requirements, consisting of 11 different sizes in both 0.75bmt and 1.15bmt. Additional sizes can be made to order, although lead times and minimum order quantities may apply.

In extending the range, Rondo has introduced a new part number sequence to make it easier to identify each Top Hat. The existing range of Top Hats will also take on new part numbers, however Rondo will continue to accept old part numbers to ensure smooth order processing. ■



Hats off to Rondo ... from the bigger range of Top Hats

i For more information on Rondo's new range of Top Hats, including an expanded range of Span Tables to suit the new profiles, visit www.rondo.com.au, or contact one of our Technical Representatives at your state Rondo Sales Office on 1300 36 7663.

Building on CSR's legacy

CSR's new head office is a monument to the company's commitment to innovation and sustainability.

As one of Australia's leading suppliers of building solutions, CSR did not have to go far to get state-of-the-art ideas when it came to designing its new headquarters.

Committed to both building innovation and sustainable living, CSR embarked on an ambitious project with Stockland to make its head office a monument to environmentally sustainable, modern design and to CSR's expertise.

The new Trinita 3 Building, situated in Stockland's North Ryde office campus, is a remarkable six-storey, 9000 square metre building (CSR occupies 6700 sqm) that has brought together 360 CSR staff from multiple CSR operations in one location. It has transformed company culture, business efficiency, staff comfort, and set a higher benchmark for corporate responsibility and environmental sustainability.

"A major move like this presented the unique opportunity to bring together all our brands, with each of their innovative features and unique contributions, and apply them to create one outstanding building that says as much about our brands and products as it does about our company culture and values," said Andrew MacKenzie, CSR General Manager Property.

Even before the first stone was turned, the project has been a collaboration between CSR and three primary parties: property owners Stockland, Architects Morris Bray and builders Baulderstone.

"The intention was to create a bright, comfortable and pleasing space that took advantage of natural light and encouraged a collaborative culture among the staff working across different brands," says Architect Cameron Martin of Morris Bray.

From the outside of the CSR Trinita Building, one is immediately struck by the blue-toned glass which creates the external ambience of the building.

"We used Viridian's EVantage SuperBlue™ with a vertical glaze to create a unique and distinctive visual appearance within the office campus, but also to harness the good light transmission this glass offers to reduce need for artificial lighting within the building," says Anthony Gunther, Viridian Architectural Manager.

CSR also decided to register for a Green Star Office Interiors rating aiming for a 5 Star Green rating, which provided a great opportunity to work with the interior design team on making the building environmentally friendly.

Rob Ferrari, CSR Commercial Segment Manager, completed the GSAP course and

joined the Green Star design team to assist with things like choice of materials.

Colliers were engaged for the interior design of the Trinita building. The brief included the requirement for the interior design to meet Green Star standards and integration of a range of CSR products. The essence of comfort and efficiency was noticeably built into every detail.

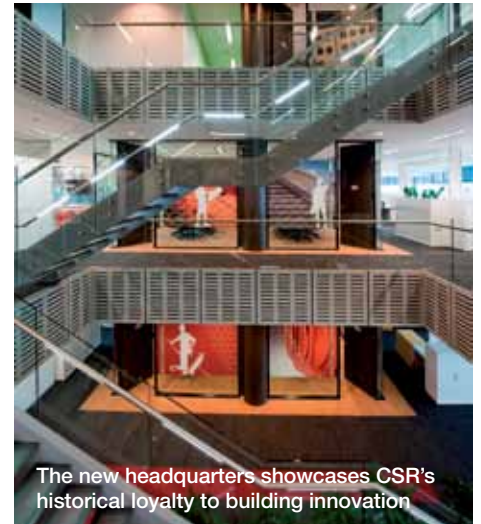
The most conspicuous of design elements

"This space allowed for collaboration as well as an adequate level of acoustic privacy ..."

to affect company culture and business, efficiencies is the open plan layout for all staff including those at executive and CEO levels, which allows for easy flow of staff between teams and businesses, and encourages collaboration.

The use of glass for the staircase creates a decorative and harmonious feature that welcomes people to move easily between floors and diminishes the need for a lift thus improving energy efficiency and encouraging a healthier workplace.

The crowning glory to the stairwell is the application of Cemintel's new BareStone 9mm compressed fibre cement lining panels, with 50 customised, perforated units



The new headquarters showcases CSR's historical loyalty to building innovation

with an acoustic back feature to provide a striking design treatment.

Acoustic Consultant Victor Fattoretto of Acoustic Logic Consultancy says: "It was important this space allowed for collaboration as well as an adequate level of acoustic privacy, and the design of each desk space, special break-out rooms, over 20 meeting rooms of varying sizes and the large communal kitchen areas on each floor all incorporated the choice of acoustically superior building materials."

CSR staff moved into the Trinita 3 building in January 2010. ■

Brand building

CSR's new head office is truly an example of the company's leading brands working together.

CSR's building material brands cover the full range of construction applications, including Viridian Glass, Bradford™ Insulation, Gyprock™ Plasterboard, Cemintel™ Fibre Cement, Fricker Ceiling Systems, Hebel Aerated Concrete, PGH Brick & Pavers and Rockcore, and Alturi Panel Systems.

Providing the backdrop to the new CSR headquarters is 5000 metres of Gyprock™ EC08 plasterboard, a fire-grade board with high-acoustic properties and the added benefit of being the first Australian-made plasterboard to be certified by Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA).

Bradford Insulation specified 2800 metres of 75mm, 14 kg partition batts throughout the partition walls to further improve the acoustics of the building, though the solid R1.8 value of these batts has also contributed to improving the building's

energy efficiency and level of comfort.

Hebel, the only lightweight masonry product approved by GECA and quicker to install than traditional masonry products, is fastened to the Rondo wall grid and when attached to the Gyprock™ EC08 provides the complete acoustic and environmentally sustainable solution that also meets and exceeds BCA fire grade regulations.

Cemintel™ Fibre Cement Systems, with their new water blocking technology, have been used in bathrooms and shower areas and, complemented by Hebel, provides the best acoustic option for wet zones.

Fricker, known as a leading supplier of suspended ceilings to premium commercial developments, supplied top of the range systems for the building. Its premium Fricker 611 tile was used throughout with specialist areas such as the boardrooms. ■

Yes we can

Striving to never say no to customers has proven a winning strategy for successful construction material company, Network Building Supplies.

Business is booming for Network Building Supplies (NBS).

The thriving building material supplier has relocated three times since it began operating in 2006. Each time it moved to larger premises in order to accommodate more stock and a larger range of items.

The latest move, to Daisy Street, Revesby (NSW), saw NBS setting up in a new warehouse with a surface area covering an enormous 3500 square metres! And the company is still looking for more opportunities to expand.

NBS is a one-stop shop, selling an extensive range of CSR building products as well as importing a range of items from overseas.

A key part of NBS's impressive growth was becoming a Gyprock™ Internal Lining Specialist (ILS), according to General Manager, Tony Rouady. "Coming on board as a Gyprock™ ILS has meant that we can offer our customers the full gamut of CSR building products and accessories, including specialty products. As well as Gyprock™ plasterboard, this includes CSR lines such as Cemintel, Bradford, Hebel and Alutri aluminium composite panels."

In addition, NBS keeps large stocks of Rondo Metal Components, Aluminium Partition Products, Adhesives and Sealants and its own brand of fasteners 'Redpoint Fasteners'.

"We like having the endorsement and back-up of the CSR brand," Tony says. "It adds to our business's credibility and to the strength of our reputation. We also appreciate the opportunity to network with other ILSs around the country."

A friendly firm

Owned by a small group of private shareholders who are also a good group of friends, NBS has a reputation as a friendly company.

"We strive to be easy to deal with, giving customers what they want efficiently without the hassle," explains Tony.

"We go out of our way to source materials that our customers need, even if we don't normally stock it. Our aim is to never say no to a customer. And one of our particular points of difference is meeting urgent requests and deliveries."

He says that although the company has a fairly young team of staff, many have been working in the game for years.

"We strive to be not only easy to work with, but also friendly," Tony adds.

Beyond its high standard of service, NBS sets itself apart by offering an extremely large product range comprising the best materials around.

"We understand the CSR products are top quality and we don't under-sell them. We retain our customers by offering the best service and support available."

As part of the company's commitment to the community, NBS sponsors six local football and league teams, as well as donating to local charities. ■



Bigger and better ... the Revesby warehouse has a floor space covering 3500 square metres

Specialists meet contractors' needs

Thanks to a new CSR initiative, more building suppliers will stock the full range of Gyprock™ plasterboard and accessories.

CSR Gyprock has embarked on a program to identify key plasterboard distributors across the country to create a comprehensive network of top Gyprock™ suppliers. Each outlet selected will erect signage that designates them a Gyprock™-approved Internal Lining Specialist.

CSR Gyprock approved Internal Lining Specialists are the one-stop shop for all a contractor's plasterboard needs.

Each outlet stocks the complete range of Gyprock™ plasterboard products, systems, tools and accessories. With fully trained staff to provide expert advice and an array of technical and product information, Gyprock™ approved Internal Lining Specialists will help to ensure that the job is done right first time, every time.

Clear Gyprock™ branding at each approved Internal Lining Specialist lets customers know

that any Gyprock™ products purchased are supported by the company's quality guarantee. ■

"We like having the endorsement and back-up of the CSR brand."

Gyprock™ puts a lid on VOCs

CSR Gyprock is taking steps to help customers reduce harmful emissions on their building projects.

Awareness is increasing about the impact that Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) can have on indoor air pollution and how this can affect human health. This has direct implications for the construction industry, and CSR Gyprock is on the forefront of helping its customers, including plastering contractors, to reduce potentially dangerous chemical emissions when using building materials.

VOCs are carbon-based compounds which readily evaporate into the atmosphere at room temperature. They can emit harmful gases, often have an odour, and are present in many common products. Common contributors include hard surface and carpet flooring materials, paints, adhesives and sealants, insulations, vinyl wall coverings, ceiling tiles, fireproofing materials, and textile furnishings.

The Green Building Council of Australia's (GBCA) Green Star Rating Tools encourages product suppliers, designers and specifiers to use low VOC emitting materials. The level of VOC content of a product can affect Green Star credits.

Gyprock™ is committed to producing more

Gyprock™ has also uploaded VOC certificates to its website...

environmentally sustainable products to support the green building market. The company has engaged risk management consultants CETEC to test its range of compounds and adhesives for levels of VOCs. Gyprock™ has also uploaded

VOC certificates to its website which give VOC levels for each of its relevant products.

This information may be required if using Gyprock™ products on a Green Star project.

Because building materials and furnishings are seen as some of the largest contributors to indoor air pollution, Gyprock™ sees this as an area of priority. Studies conducted overseas showed that 96 percent of the VOCs found in a newly built office building were produced by the materials used to construct and furnish the building. It is estimated that, in Australia, in excess of 80,000 tonnes of VOCs are released into the atmosphere each year. ■

i To get the relevant information you need on CSR Gyprock products, download the correct VOC certificate from www.gyprock.com.au/resources/voc-certificates.aspx, or contact Gyprock on 1300 306 556.

Lasers show their green credentials

Laser specialist 'The Laser Depot' is proud to be partnered with Gyprock™ Trade centres and Internal Lining Specialists, for the supply of laser leveling and laser measurement instruments.

The team at The Laser Depot has recently introduced the Unilevel range of laser leveling equipment to all Gyprock™ Trade outlets Australia-wide.

The Unilevel range of lasers is a complete selection of laser instruments that can be used for all of those leveling and alignment applications that a contractor comes across every day. Leveling ceilings, installing walls, accurate distance measurement at vertical or plumb alignment, and square set out are now all available at the touch of a button.

Unilevel is a name synonymous with lasers that are accurate, tough, weather-proof and,

Green beam technology is relatively new to the laser industry and is far superior to the standard red beam laser...

importantly during these times of economic uncertainty, affordable.

Unilevel lasers are also proud to introduce an industry first. Managing Director Joff Connolly is excited to bring to Australia, through the CSR network, the very first 'rotating laser level' with lithium ion battery technology. In addition, The Laser Depot's Green Beam Lasers make installation of ceiling systems and internal walls so much simpler now that they are both affordable and readily available.

Green beam technology is relatively new to the laser industry and is far superior to the standard red beam laser level for interior fit-out applications, due to the increased visibility of the green beam. In fact green beam laser levels are four times brighter than a red beam laser.

For a plasterer or ceiling fixer, they make life a lot easier and reduce set up and installation time dramatically—and therefore they improve the bottom line.

For all general builders and architects, CSR can also supply a series of products ideal for your trade or profession. General laser levels, laser tape measures and set out line lasers are all available. Just ask your local Gyprock™ Trade outlet for assistance and information. ■



On the level ... LS525G is a green beam laser powered by new lithium ion batteries

Repel water, attract attention!

CSR Cemintel™ has launched a pre-finished panel that provides a fashionable ‘raw cement’ look while keeping water out.



Striking ... the new façade meets design trends while being quick and easy to install

BareStone, a new commercial façade from CSR Cemintel™ is a pre-finished panel that uses 9mm compressed fibre cement and the ExpressWall fixing system. It offers the striking look of raw cement in the context of a watertight system that is quick and easy to install.

Off the back of the successful launch of the CeminSeal family of products, Cemintel™ has launched BareStone, providing yet another groundbreaking product that incorporates CeminSeal waterblocking technology.

A first for Cemintel™, BareStone has been developed to meet recent design trends, providing the ‘raw’ and ‘earthy’ look that many clients and architects are requesting. It offers a natural finish with the assurance of a pre-finished panel.

BareStone was recently specified by Architectus Directors Lindsay and Kerry Clare as the major cladding material for The University of Western Sydney (UWS) Student Housing project.

The Clares say they chose BareStone for its aesthetic qualities, in particular its warm tones and slight variation in colour which give the panels natural look.

“BareStone is a very flexible product for designers to work with as it compliments a variety of colour and material palettes due to its neutral and natural qualities,” Kerry Clare says.

Once BareStone is installed as part of the ExpressWall Installation system incorporating top hats, there is no need for additional trades or processes. A pre-finished panel, Barestone can be installed and left as supplied, or painted if desired.

Environmental responsibility is a design priority for the Clares and BareStone enabled them to create cost-effective



A natural look ... BareStone panels feature warm tones that sit comfortably with the environment

reverse masonry veneer construction where the compressed fibre cement protects the thermal mass walls, making a substantial difference to indoor room temperatures and comfort levels throughout the year.

“Fibre cement products have excellent environmental credentials with minimal environmental impacts, low embodied energy, superior lifespan and freedom from maintenance,” Kerry says.

She adds that BareStone was used on the majority of external walls. “The internal skin of masonry is over-clad with BareStone which shades the masonry in summer and provides an air gap for insulation in winter.”

BareStone has been tested to AS4284 and uses 1.15BMT galvanised top hats and exposed head fasteners S/S or class 3. ■



BareStone is available now. For more information contact CSR Cemintel™ on 1300 236 468 35 or visit www.cemintel.com.au.

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