



As I sit here working on the Xmas newsletter and look back on the year, I am very grateful for all that I have. Our hearts go out to the families and team of the Pike River Mine and I guess when something like that happens, you start to appreciate all that we have and our stresses and worries for the year are nothing compared to those families and team affected.

Mike's voice:

Our 2009 finished with a rush when most were looking forward to lazy days at the beach, some of our team including myself were gearing up to start the culvert job for the Waikato DC. This project had some interesting challenges like large stream flows even in December. Imagine the difficulties if this project had gone ahead in winter. We still had a few days with heavy rain but mostly it was smooth sailing.



A quick stop in Hamilton for slope improvement embankment which was pretty impressive with a 20 ton Excavator parked in the gully. We headed back up north and this time stopped at Meremere to install a huge Intake Structure for Environment Waikato.



No rest for some of us and as the rest of our team were back from holidays we headed back up to Pukekohe to complete the Franklin Pump Station Upgrade. Of course projects out of town always have the challenge of long days and unknown countryside. Well, I wonder if I can say that now as we have had quite a bit of work up there this year. Mid year Franklin Pump Station completed and now off to Te Awamutu. The Waipa project had some learning curves for us working in the Fonterra site. We had to step up our health and safety. Our team split in two with one working on the Fonterra site and one on the Hazelmere site.

Next back up to Pukekohe to replace 633 water meters, another bit of learning and once the team got into it, the job ran smoothly. The amount of paperwork was huge and not to mention the amount of photos, at least three photos per meter.



This taking us up to Xmas and just waiting for news on the tenders we have out there to confirm our start date in 2011. Thank you team for watching the pennies, giving the projects your 100% commitment and playing the business game with us. It is appreciated even if I may not always say so.



Red's Voice:

As I complete my NEBOSH qualification, I am looking forward to some relaxation time with my family who haven't seen much of me lately without my head in a book in recent weeks. I am sure my desk will have been filled up with tenders to price, invoice to pass

(short month) and hundreds of email that I didn't have time to deal with recently. Relaxation, who I am kidding. I can see some very late nights in the office in the next couple of week so hope that Santa has been and dropped off some chocolates to keep my energy levels up.

This year I decided to return to study for Asset Management, that has caused me some stress with very tight deadlines. Not that easy when you have a young family and already work long hours. I have seen the cream drain from the tenders over the past year and our attributes getting better and better. Everyone is looking for the best deal out and at times that is causing some issues as we saw this year with one of our dewatering jobs.

More management meetings with Ash to work on the budget and forecasting. We both have our hands on the pulse but it is always a work in progress and never a completed job. I love the dynamics of our office and bouncing ideas off each other. At times, having Mike out on site has meant challenges and loads more emails to keep the communication up. I look forward to spending a relaxing break with my family and enjoy some more of this beautiful countryside. Lets talk in 2011.

Sherie's Voice:

We are grateful for a full year of work even if the cream is no longer in the jobs and pricing is getting tighter and tighter. Many a long hours is put into tenders and at times with little or no reward. As we head into the Xmas period, the last couple of weeks are crazy

2010 Issue

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with a large number of tenders that need pricing and chasing the ones out there to see if we were successful. Again, we continue to grow in all aspects of our business and have a better understanding of budgeting, forecasting and accounting systems. We load daily so each week know exactly what is owing and there is no mad rush or stress to get our 20th accounts completed or not enough money for cover them as the budget keeps us on track. Purchase orders have reduced the surprises at the end of the month and made keeping track of expenses easier. Our team is on huge learning curves and dealing with the challenges caused by needing purchase orders so our planning is getting better.



With all the stress and worry that a lot of people and companies have had this year, we felt that the “perfect” Xmas gift would be to help someone less fortunate than ourselves. With this in mind, we have decided to donate towards World Vision and give the gift of smiles—the gift that changes lives. With lots of thought and flicking through their catalogue, we decided to do the waterworks and water tank packages as everyone deserves to drink, cook and wash in fresh clean water. We take our water for granted and couldn’t imagine life without it. This is an organisation that is close to our hearts as we already sponsor 4 children and every child deserves to be happy, healthy and be loved.

Upcoming Projects:

- Waipa District Council - District wide sewer upgrade. Starting mid January 2011.

The Good News :

A lot of our team have had to renew their confined space certificates and Mike and Red have just completed their NEBOSH qualification for Health and Safety. Out of the 16 applicants, Mike and Red were the only ones from a private company that were not HR consultants. The amount of study for the 2 x 2 hour exams was mind blowing for a couple of lads who have been out of school a few years now.



New Team :

We had a couple of new team members this year, first

Alex Hoebergen:

joined in December 2009 as a casual and has now made himself very much at home. Alex has made the maintenance on the machinery a lot easier with his mechanical mind and skills in that field. The machines have never looked so loved. Alex is a bit of jack of all trades and he has taken up the position of Excavator Operator on our team.

Reynaldo Martinez:

who due to his drainlayers ticket not being recognised here is having to re-sit it and is half way through. Rey had been in NZ for a year or so before joining us in February 2010. He came to our lovely country from the Philippines. He settled in Hawera where his family continues to live to date. Rey goes back home every couple of weeks to visit and catch up with them as he still has young children at home. Maybe the new year will have his family make the move to Hamilton to join him. Rey struggled at the beginning and the huge amount of learning’s he had but as he has gone on is finding it easier day by day.

Tu Goodwright:

after a 2 year break rejoined our team. The break looks like it gave Tu a chance to experience some more life and work skills. One of his hidden talents was his skills on the machines. He has taken to it like a duck to water. There has been good feedback from the team and under the watchful eye of Alex is learning the maintenance side of the machines. Congratulations to Tu who has become a father during the year to a beautiful baby daughter. That’s a life changing event.

Testimonials:

“The Pump Station itself has performed well, without incident this past year. In fact it has been so efficient it had to be ‘turned down’ a bit— due to it pumping down so quickly and resulting in too many stop/starts”
Mark Dearlove, Hamilton City council, Edgcombe Pump Station Project.

Donations:

We have sponsored the following organisation to name a few:

- World Vision
- World Vision Smiles gifts that change lives



World Vision

We will close on Tuesday 21st December 4pm and will be back on board on Monday 24th January 2011. We will be clearing phone messages and checking emails at least once a week. If you require any assistance over the break, please feel free to contact Mike on mobile 021 935 574.

Keep In Touch:

We would love to hear from you with any feedback and/or comments so please feel free to send us an email. So you can keep in touch with us. Our office numbers:

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We would like to wish you, your families and team a relaxing and fun filled Xmas and a successful and continuing to improve new year.

*“Merry Christmas to all from the team at
Brown Drainage & Construction”*