

It is with great sadness that we let you know Graeme Stark has passed away

By David and the CTS Team

Graeme passed away on Sunday 8th May, from a severe chest infection and complications, just short of his 60th birthday.

Graeme started at the JCU Cyclone Testing Station in 2009 as our Development Manager, but he had a longer association with us as a valued member of the CTS Advisory Board during his time leading the R&D section at BHP Sheet and Coil. He was a great ambassador for the Station. We all have really benefited from his counsel and enjoyed his sense of humour, good nature and valued his wisdom.

Graeme was a driving force in bringing so many aspects of the building industry together including Codes and Standards, product design and better education and training. He was a tenacious gentleman with absolute integrity, highly intelligent and able to bring outside-the-box thinking to turn issues into solutions.

During CTS damage investigations Graeme was the anchor for our teams in the field, managing communications between us, liaising with various agencies and groups, and getting daily reports out to all CTS contacts. Graeme was instrumental in coordinating the important workshops and meetings following TC Yasi to steer the complex process to implement the recommendations from the various investigations. He was respected by everyone and invaluable in bringing together differing groups for a common outcome. One of the major findings from this work was issues with garage doors and subsequent damage to buildings.

He was a driving and unifying force for the drafting of a new Australian standard for improving the performance of garage doors for cyclone regions. This is an example of his tireless work and passion to improve the performance of buildings in Australia. Graeme also provided valuable input to many other Australian and International codes and standards. He was an engineer with unwavering integrity, with the well-being of the greater community at heart. Australia has lost a great champion for better buildings.

Despite his increasing health problems and more restricted travel, his drive and positive outlook was an inspiration to us all. He always organised himself so that any issues he was having would have minimum impact on others or his work. He was a wonderful person who always provided generous support to those he worked with.

Graeme is going to be greatly missed.



A word from our Chairman

Graeme was to me a tower of strength when it mattered and consistently supported the CTS when we required a comment on any issue.....he always made a start so we could all participate and then he completed it. Graeme was highly intelligent and articulate. He possessed those attributes that made him an invaluable asset to the Station whenever he represented us on the various committees and organisations throughout Australia.

I will miss that cheeky laugh and wry smile that characterised his personality however that solid and dependable reputation he earned from his peers will be valued for many years to come.

Graeme was a force for sustainable buildings through resilience and fitness for purpose. His drive led to new or revised building Standards as well as highlighting areas of needed education and awareness for the building industry.

With the construction and design issues highlighted in recent CTS studies along with non-conforming products impacting our new construction, we need to continue Graeme's legacy to promote better buildings with awareness of correct material selection and construction practices.

John Galloway,
Chairman, CTS Advisory Board

Interim Report on Non-Conforming Products

An interim report has been released for the Non-Conforming Building Products committee titled "Safety- not a matter of good luck". The final is due September 30 2016.

The interim report states that there has been a serious breakdown in the regulation and oversight of non-conforming building products. The report stated that compliant companies are being disadvantaged...by other businesses that are prepared to put profit before safety. Further, the report states that a significant proportion of non-conforming are coming from overseas with no effective policing at port and that the use of non-conforming building products is on the rise and is not limited to any one particular industry sector.

For more information please go to:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Economics/Non-conforming_products

Boost to resilience of communities through recognition of mitigation including retrofitting

The importance of homeowners incorporating mitigation measures to reduce risk has been highlighted over the past several weeks with the release of the Northern Australia Insurance Premiums Taskforce's report.

<http://kmo.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/020-2016/>

The report places a great emphasis on mitigation strategies. An extract from the Executive Summary; "*Mitigation to reduce the risk of damage from cyclones is the only way to reduce premiums on a sustainable basis... Further, without action on mitigation, the benefits of any measures taken by the Government to lower premiums would be reversed upon government exit.*"

The Station is proud to have contributed to the Taskforce's findings through our damage surveys and building product testing experience and our research projects such as the Bushfire and Natural Hazards

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CRC project [Improving the resilience of existing housing to severe wind events](#) and our report on [Mitigation benefits for resilience of homes](#) for Suncorp.

The report does not just refer to pre-80s housing. The report also discusses the need for improving the performance of new construction especially in terms of reducing the damage from wind driven rain water ingress.

It is great to see the Station's work informing and making positive changes through this taskforce report along with the recent insurance product launches (Suncorp and RACQ) for reductions in premiums for retrofitting of older housing.

One of the Station's recent Youtube mini-webinars focuses on retrofitting of a roof for builders and homeowners. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIfdpIJUOWNzptV73pvIMRg>



Advance Queensland Grant

The goal of this project is to develop a research-based approach to stimulating mitigation in Queensland and other wind-prone regions of Australia. The prototype version of a smartphone application will be developed as a self-assessment tool that also educates and engages homeowners in cyclone-prone regions to make better decisions regarding mitigation. Building on the 2014-15 CTS/Suncorp studies, to expand the analysis of claims data to develop scenarios for typical housing types.

In working with JCU Psychology researchers, Prof Swinbourne and Dr McShane, the project will investigate how social and community characteristics, information seeking behaviour and preferences, past extreme weather event experiences, and perceptions of threat and risk, influence behavioural preparedness and likelihood of undertaking mitigation action. Findings will be incorporated into the application tool to maximize its effectiveness in generating mitigation activity.



18th Australasian Wind Engineering Society Workshop

6-8 July, 2016

Serafino

McLaren Vale, South Australia
Australia

Look forward to seeing you there,

Details can be found

<http://www.awes.org/events/awes18/>

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The Cyclone Testing Station wishes to thank all of our Benefactors and Sponsors for their continued support

