



2016 In a nutshell

Brexit

Trump

Kaikoura Earthquake

New PM

Mix in the Olympics & it's been an interesting year, with 2017 shaping up to be a even more magical mystery tour. Who knows what the world will look like in 12 months time. There are plenty of "experts" doing their utmost to predict doom & gloom in 2017.

It was good to see some common sense by the "powers that be" in allowing the bulldozing of the massive landslips along the Kaikoura coast into the sea to get SH1 open. I guess in the scheme of things that takes care of any "loss of land" in our neck of the world caused by climate change.

"A Pathway built from the Sky"

When all other options fail, call in the Chopper.

We needed to get over 10 Ton of gravel to a pathway with limited access. With Skyworks Helicopters just over the hill from Omaha this was the easiest (and most economical) option. With bags of metal prefilled & weighing 850kg each it was a simple & quick job for the chopper to lift them off the back of our truck & deposit them precisely for our team to deal with. What might have take two days, a few sore backs, & lots of beers took an hour.

Meanwhile back in the real world life goes on. House (and more particular land) prices continue to rise; there are drastic shortages of trade's people in Auckland.

Over the past year we have tried many form's of advertising to get new staff, we have come to the conclusion, that training school leavers is a great way forward. Construction is a fantastic industry. It will never be taken over by computers or exported. Most work needs to be done at "the coal face". Some of the gear being used now is very high tech and the wages are good.

Getting these school leavers into construction, whether it is in our field of work, builders or other trades, should become a major priority for careers advisors at schools. The training/apprentice programmes for these trades then need to be upgraded to make the pathway meaningful & worthwhile.

These are careers that young people don't need student loans for; they can start earning wages from day one.



"GPS Guided Earthworks"

Jarrold & David Gough are our GPS gurus. The GPS system allows us to excavate & trim work to less than 10mm accuracy without the need of pegs, stringlines or other traditional methods.



"Tripstop" is a product we have come across and utilised on a number of projects.

Council Work: A LIST of some of the items that our guys have installed over the past year.

Electric BBQs	Bollards
Seats	Playgrounds
Picnic Tables	Stepping Stones
Rubbish bins	Paths
Grass cells	Retaining walls
Cycle Racks	Culverts
Doggy Bowls	Grass
Lookouts	Speed humps
Fences	Sculpture Circles
	Power boxes

Think of it as a hinge in a concrete footpath. Each concrete panel is able to move up (& down) hinged to the next allowing for tree root growth & unstable ground conditions. Concrete paths can be reduced in thickness to 100mm and tests show that an individual joint can safely move 100mm. We have used this on a number of Council & private developments and to date they are all exceeding expectations.

www.tripstop.net for test results



Guess Where Andrew is fixing the railings? Email us the answer and go in to win a bottle of wine. Entries drawn 8am on the 22/12/16.

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