



# construction solutions

**Giles Civil Ltd**  
Newsletter  
June 2008

## Comment

Now that 91 Petrol has broken through the \$2.00 mark (be sure to get in quick to those \$1.99 bargains), it's quite interesting to note the price of other everyday items.

Item (1 Litre)	Budget Price	Premium Price
Coca Cola	\$0.60	\$2.59
Bottled Water	\$0.76	\$2.96
Fruit Juice	\$1.50	\$2.41
Milk	\$1.82	\$2.39
Sparkling Water	\$1.89	\$3.33
Ice Cream	\$1.98	\$10.88
<b>Petrol</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>	<b>\$2.06</b>
Tomato Sauce	\$3.78	\$6.99
Beer	\$4.68	\$6.17
Wine	\$10.65	\$34.12

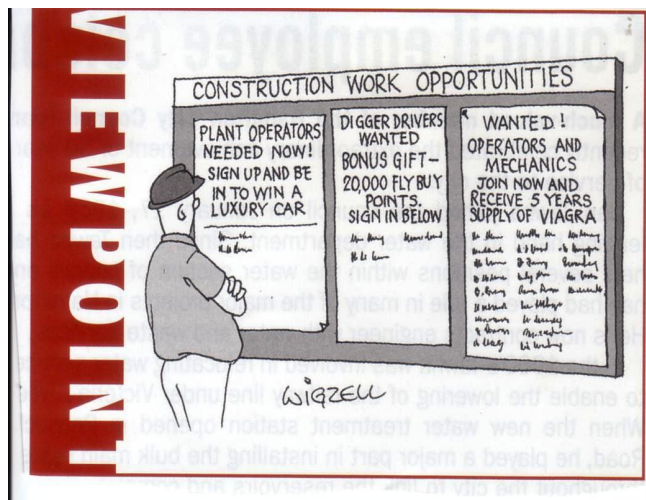
So based on this if you can come up with an engine that ran on Coke you'd be on a winner.

Just out of interest a litre of concrete is around 17cents!

I can remember working on an oil field in Papua New Guinea in the early 1990's. They had a small refinery that produced diesel for on site usage... the manufacturing cost was 5cents per litre!

Well happy motoring and just to prove the mega dollar price of fuel does have an up side see our competition over the page.

David Hick



## Our Aging Workforce

When buying a used car, check the radio's preset stations. If they are all set on rock stations, the transmission is probably shot.

**WIN A DAY'S FISHING: WINNER**  
Pick the score for the Crusaders vs. The Blues in Christchurch on Anzac Day. Nearest to the score will win an awesome day out on the Kiwi Angler. **Congratulations to David Llewellyn.**



## Recent Jobs



GilesCivil Ltd Ph 09 415 8702 Fax 09 415 6876 email: [info@gilescivil.co.nz](mailto:info@gilescivil.co.nz) [www.gilescivil.co.nz](http://www.gilescivil.co.nz) page 1

**A-Z of how we can help you:** Asphalt, Bulldozer Work, Carpark Construction, Clearing, Cobblestones, Concrete Breaking & disposal, Concrete Work, Digger Hire, Drainage, Drilling (200,300,400,500 diam.) Driveway & Carpark Design & Construction, Earthworks, Emergency Work, Excavation, Grass Cells, Hotmix, Kerbing, Pothole Repairs, Project Management, Retaining Walls, Roading, Roller Hire, Sealing, Silt Control, Subdivisions (Complete Construction), Topsoiling & Grassing, Truck Hire, Vehicle Crossings & **Those really difficult jobs that nobody wants to do!**

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## The Horse's Bum & The Space Shuttle

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number.

Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did they use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

Why did the wagons have that particular odd spacing? Because otherwise the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because of the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those rutted roads? Imperial Romans built the first long distance roads in Europe (and England) for their legions. The roads have been used ever since.

And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon. Therefore the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot.

And why were Imperial Roman Army war chariots this width? They were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses (two horses' bottoms).

Now the twist to the story:

When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two solid rocket boosters (SRBs) attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. The engineers who designed SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So...a major design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's bottom.

## USELESS INFORMATION

'Stewardesses' is the longest word typed with only the left hand.

And 'lollipop' is the longest word typed with your right hand.

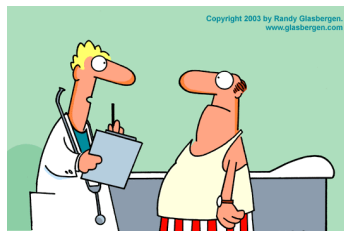
No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.

'Dreamt' is the only English word that ends in the letters 'mt'.

There are only four words in the English language which end in 'dous': tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous. (You're not doubting this, are you?)

There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: 'abstemious' and 'facetious'.

TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard. (All you typists are going to test this out)



"What fits your busy schedule better, exercising one hour a day or being dead 24 hours a day?"

## New Zealand:

### Least Corrupted Country in the World

The attached table is From Transparency International, an independent organisation committed to fight corruption. For further information go to:

[http://www.transparency.org/policy\\_research/surveys\\_indices/cpi/2007](http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi/2007)

country rank	country	2007 CPI score
1	Denmark	9.4
1	Finland	9.4
1	New Zealand	9.4
9	Canada	8.7
9	Norway	8.7
11	Australia	8.6
12	United Kingdom	8.4
20	USA	7.2
43	South Africa	5.1
172	Afghanistan	1.8
175	Tonga	1.7
178	Iraq	1.5
179	Myanmar	1.4
179	Somalia	1.4

## COMPETITION High Price of Fuel

Send in a copy of your fuel dockets. We're looking for the highest individual spends (to fill your vehicle) for both Petrol & Diesel. Competition closes 30<sup>th</sup> June. Bottle of wine to each winner! Entries restricted to purchases from Fuel stations within Mainland New Zealand. Entries to:

Ga\$@gilescivil.co.nz

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