OFFICE LOCATIONS
Freshwater Beach, Australia | Belrose, Australia | North Sydney, Australia

NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2008. ISSUE 2

WELCOME to the Simmat & Associates newsletter!

A quarterly newsletter full of current affairs, training updates & interesting information.

EARTH HOUR - 29 MARCH 2008!

Simmat & Associates have signed in support of Earth Hour, and we'd like you to do the same. But don't just sign up and sit back. Be proud, embrace it and inspire others to take action on climate change. By getting involved, Earth Hour provides people with the knowledge and, we hope, inspiration, to enable them to make a difference. In this sense, Earth Hour is a celebration of what is possible.

On 31 March 2007, 2.2 million people and 2100 Sydney businesses turned off their lights for one hour - Earth Hour. A great city was darkened and a powerful statement made about the threat of global warming.

This year, Sydney is taking the lead once again, on March 29, as Earth Hour goes across Australia and to 24 cities around the world. Earth Hour, has already attracted close to 10,000 business across the world, with many more schools and individuals also take action on board.

Climate change is the most significant threat to life on Earth. One way to slow the current rate of global warming is to get each individual to make small adjustments to the way they live. To achieve individual change we need to demonstrate how simple and easy the changes are. Earth Hour is a simple statement of concern that we want

- we expect - government, business, consumers and communities to get together to act now to deal with the issues of climate change.

We invite everyone across NSW and Australia to participate in Earth Hour. Turn off your lights at the appointed hour of 8pm - but more importantly, think about the issue and work out what you can do to help, at home, at work and when you travel.

Simmat & Associates have registered and committed to reducing our ecological footprint, not only during Earth Hour, but in our every day activities. Why not do the same for you business. Be loud and proud in your support of Earth. Register for Earth Hour today!

Visit www.earthhour.org

COLD FACTS IN A WARMING COUNTRY.

The plans of the Australian Government to cut greenhouse gases will produce the biggest shake-up to the economy in decades, and the Minister for Climate Change, Penny Wong, has promised to set out by July (08') how households and businesses will be impacted. Senator Wong will release a green paper that will try to bridge deepening divisions between business and environmental groups over which industries should be given free permits to emit greenhouse gases. The introduction of emissions trading will constitute the most significant economic and structural reform undertaken in Australia, resulting in the best results for our climate while minimising the risks to our economy".

The unveiling of these plans coincided with United Nations publishing an alarming report showing the world's glaciers are melting at a record rate under the impact of climate change, threatening millions of people with water shortages.

"There are many canaries emerging in the climate change coalmine," said the head of the UN Environment Program, Achim Steiner. "The glaciers are perhaps among those making the most noise, and it is absolutely essential that everyone sits up and takes notice." The disturbing data led Mr Steiner to call on all nations to increase their efforts to sign a comprehensive global agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions linked to climate change.

NEW CONTACT DETAILS
POSTAL & CONTACT.

P.O. BOX 505. Harbord, NSW 2096
admin@simmat.com.au | (02) 9451 2211 ph. | (02) 9453 3306 f.

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SIMMAT & ASSOCIATES. 'SPECIAL BULLETIN'

On-site Wastewater specialists.
MANY COUNCILS REQUIRE SITE CAPABILITY AND SYSTEM DESIGN REPORTS TO BE PREPARED TO RESOLVE ISSUES WITH RESPECT TO THE MANAGEMENT OF WASTEWATER IN UN-SEWERED AREAS.

Council requires these reports comply with the requirements of :

- AS1547:2000
- NSW Environment and Health Protection Guidelines, DLG 1998

There are many options available for on-site effluent disposal and all reports are designed specifically for individual site constraints.

If you are having trouble with on-site waste water management, call the experts you trust.

Simmat & Associates

OHS CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS - WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

As auditors and consultants, we are seeing a common trend regarding a lack of understanding for occupational health and safety consultation. OHS Consultation is a requirement of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000. The legislation requires that an employer consult with their employee's regarding OHS issues and decisions. The Act provides for three mechanisms of consultation as follows:

1. **Establishing an OHS committee**
   This is required in the case of 20 or more employees and the majority requesting a committee be set up. In situations where there are less than 20 employees and there are requests that a committee be formed, the work cover code of practice recommends that an employer 'value' the employee's request and takes it into account. Where WorkCover directs an employer to set up an OHS Committee, the Act requires that they do so.

2. **Elect an OHS representative**
   If at least one person requests that an OHS representative be elected, then the Act requires that this occurs. It is possible to have more than one OHS representative. However if for example 5 people request an OHS rep, you are not required to provide 5 reps.

3. **Other arrangements agreed to by employer and employees**
   You may decide to agree on another form of consultation for example direct consultation or informal meetings (eg tool box meetings).

It should be noted that an employee may choose to set up a committee or representatives regardless of a request from staff.

After establishing a consultation arrangement, the employer must record the arrangements and publicise the arrangements among existing and new employees. The arrangements must also be reviewed on occasions as required or requested by a majority of employees.

It is also important to note that just because arrangements have been established, doesn't mean that you are meeting your obligations as an employer. You must also take into consideration employees views on safety when making decisions and consult when changes affecting health and welfare occur.

Under the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001 Reg31, all committee members and OHS representatives must be trained in OHS consultation. The training must be provided by a WorkCover accredited trainer, or a registered organisation under the Vocational Education and Training Act 2005.

For all your OHS management concerns, please feel free to contact us.

STAFF PROFILE | KOBI SIMMAT.

Education

- Associate Diploma of Applied Science TAFE 1996.
- Major in Tourism and Hospitality Management.
- Bachelor of Applied Science, UWS Hawkesbury 1999.
- Certified Lead Auditor for Quality, Environment and OHS 2003.

Role at Simmat & Associates

Director of Simmat & Associates Pty Ltd. Management systems ISO 9001 & 14001, AS 4801, ISO18001, development implementation and auditing.

Recent Achievements

- Successfully grown Simmat & Associates into a skilled, independent and highly motivated organisation that ranks as a top management systems service provider in the Asia Pacific Region.
- Races in the 2007 Surf Ski World Cup, Perth Australia.

Passions include:

Work and Business Development, Travel (currently enjoying the best of Sth America), Surf Ski & Kayak Racing, Long walks on the beach!