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Industrial Demolition & Environmental Services has a long-standing relationship with the Transport company - The Calleja Group. Calleja trucks are a common fixture on Victorian roads and have been involved in the transport of recyclable materials and demolition waste materials for decades. Steve McCoach and Graham Cressey recently visited the company’s new Western Region office complex in Bacchus Marsh and caught up with Director Don Calleja and learned of some of the history behind the brand.

The Calleja Group has an interesting history which dates back to 1948 when the family first moved to Australia. Australia represented a land of opportunity to many Europeans following the Second World War. This war, the second in just twenty-one years for Europeans in particular, had ravaged many countries and many Europeans felt that the chance of a better life and future could be achieved in the sun-drenched vastness of the antipodes.

Many of Australia’s most notable business leaders came from humble enough backgrounds in countries like Italy, Malta and Greece and many Eastern Bloc nations, determined to put conflict behind them and to make the most of their ambitions in a commercially young country like Australia. Thousands arrived at Station Pier in Port Melbourne with little more to their name than a suitcase and the promise of a dream.

One such person was a motorcycle cop called Joe Calleja. A proud Maltese man, he had heard in advance from a relative that Australia was the land of milk and honey, so he left the war damaged, tiny British bastion in the Mediterranean behind and came to Australia.

Such was the bravery of the Maltese people during the war, that the country was awarded a collective George Cross – something that has only happened twice in history. But Joe’s new threat was kangaroos, which he had been reliably informed were running free range through the streets. So he kept his trusty revolver, which he hid in the cashmere coat of one of his children. He held his breath until they cleared customs and when he realised that he didn’t need a weapon to ward off any wildlife threat, he calmly walked to the end of Station Pier and threw it into Port Phillip Bay.
In 1948, Joe Calleja started a transport business that has become—a famous brand name in Victoria. Calleja Transport. Joe started by carting volcanic rock from the basalt plains of Laverton and Rockbank to create the Brighton pier breakwater. They soon started moving scrap metal as well for Elgin Metals, Consolidated Metals and Albert G. Sims in the early 1950’s. Everything was loaded by hand in those days. By 1964 they had a fleet of four trucks and Joe’s three sons, David, Don and Brian had started to join the business.

Sims Metal wanted its own transport arm and offered to buy two of Calleja’s trucks, so in 1968 they were back to two trucks.

It was at this time that the Calleja’s started thinking about expansion into other complementary businesses and over time developed their intention to establish new transfer station facilities in Altona and Coburg.

Up until this time, large amounts of recyclable material were simply dumped into landfill, so the concept of reversing this practice and transferring materials for recycling was a relatively new development and in some respects—years ahead of what has become normal practice today. The company also accepted industrial and inert waste materials at its landfill in Keilor and then Bacchus Marsh, which was established in 1990.

Calleja’s purchase of the Maddingley Brown Coal mine at Bacchus Marsh was to become another important milestone in the growth of the Calleja business. MBC was purchased as a going concern and today produces soil blends which are enriched by the blending of brown coal and operates a landfill and transfer station at the facility which handles and processes, steel, paper, demolition materials and contaminated soils.

Today Calleja operates a fleet of 130 trucks and a fleet of landfill and mining equipment. Three generations of Calleja’s have now been involved in the growth of the business and the fourth is in the wings.

Industrial has close ties with Calleja—frequently utilising the Group’s transport, recycling and landfill operations for much of the demolition material that the business produces.

There is a very strong emphasis on recycling. Anything that can be reused or re-processed like steel, building rubble and concrete is diverted from landfill for processing and reuse.

Industrial Demolition & Environmental Services congratulates The Calleja Group on reaching its 65th anniversary in the business and for its contribution to Australian industry.
There are very few major manufacturers in Australia today with complexes so vast that you require an electric vehicle and a road map to navigate your way around the street network that is a factory ‘city’. Such is the scale of the manufacturer where Industrial Demolition Services is working at the present time to clear redundant manufacturing equipment on a scale that defies description.

General Motors Holden is perhaps Australia’s most iconic industrial name next to BHP and very few others. For 81 years, GMH is a name that is instantly recognisable for what it is. Most Australian families have owned a Holden at one time or another. Indeed as the song says, it is one of the most venerated symbols of Australia, a part of our folklore when broken down into the four things that Australians identify with the most: “Football; kangaroos; meat pies and Holden cars”. No other car manufacturer has achieved that status in this country.

Of course the Holden name and brand has been around much longer than 1931, as it was established in 1856 in South Australia by James Alexander Holden and went from being a saddlery manufacturer to coach builder and eventually a subsidiary of General Motors automotive group in 1931. Today the Company is simply known as Holden Ltd.

Holden have of course reclaimed every reusable asset that can be pressed into service again and still has relevance in the 21st century. But this leaves machines and processing lines that are long idle and that require removal and recycling. It is a job that requires precision on the part of Industrial who are quite adept at working in live environments like oil refineries and manufacturing plants.

The thing that strikes you most about the scope of works is the enormous amount of infrastructure that is required to build a motor vehicle. It is something that most people have no concept of. Old rail lines and trucks that transported components and foundry metals show how things used to be done before full automation took place. Massive machines that reach two stories in height carry the brass name plates of process engineering wizards from the last century.

Industrial’s excavator operators manipulate their shears with millimetre perfect precision and larger cast machines and their massive foundations are cut with torches and trucked out for recycling. Thousands of tonnes of scrap steel that will be recycled and used again, possibly for modern manufacturing line components.

Industrial is very proud to be part of this project at GMH and its significance is not lost on the men who work the machines and undertake the massive task.

Like most Australians, they know the model number and nuance of every Holden ever produced. And they treat their task with the same reverence as if they were working in a shrine.
Industrial has made considerable progress with the project, which has many constraints, not the least of which is that each component has to be treated on its own set of statistics and calls into play every skill that the demolition contractors have in their tool-box. In the mean time, Holden is working on producing its next generation of gleaming Australian icons.
Industrial Demolition and Environmental Services are highly experienced in decommissioning and asset recovery from redundant and operating facilities.

These projects generally fall into three categories –

- The dismantling and removal of redundant production machinery and facilities for resale or recycling within a live or non-operational environment.

- The removal of part of a manufacturing line or processing plant within a live manufacturing complex.

- The planned total asset recovery and demolition of a redundant manufacturing complex. This often includes required environmental remediation works and may involve hazardous materials.

This type of work requires careful planning and scheduling. Industrial is able to formulate a work procedure which meets with the client’s desired outcomes.

These types of projects always have various constraints, which must be managed carefully, including: working within a live environment, undertaking the works without any detriment to staff and the remaining manufacturing processes, dismantling methods that preserve all remaining structures and equipment and the necessary care with items that are identified for potential resale.

The Group is extremely skilled in operating within restricted access areas and has a range of equipment that allows for the dismantling of redundant plant and equipment close to other parts of the operating plant.

Industrial Demolition Services has completed a broad range of projects in this field, including several major strip-outs of large manufacturing and engineering complexes where machinery was either preserved for re-sale or dismantled for recycling. This requires specialist skills – both in the dismantling procedure and the lifting of heavy equipment within a restricted access area. Industrial has recently completed projects of this nature at CSR, GMH, Hunstman Chemical Company of Australia, SCA and Sibelco.

An excellent example of our asset recovery solution strategy was the Huntsman Chemical Company of Australia, where a 35-hectare industrial complex situated throughout a wide range of buildings and structures, was systematically recovered for resale or recycling. Through planned asset identification and recovery, the enormous project, which took more than 20,000 man-hours, was completed following the structuring of a mutually beneficial arrangement. Industrial Demolition Services and Grays Online structured a recovery program and agreement with the client so that they achieved a cash positive outcome for the project.

As an experienced demolition contractor, Industrial is able to advise a client on which items can be retrieved and reused and which must be consigned for recycling, based on the viability of recovery. The sale of redundant plant and machines was conducted in stages very successfully with excellent returns being realised. Anything that could be successfully reused was carefully extracted from the project, sold and cleared from the site in a safe and efficient manner without hindering the ongoing works.

More recently, Industrial Demolition has dismantled large volumes of production line equipment with no impact on the buildings and entire manufacturing complexes where the building structures were to remain. The most complex projects include those within a live and sensitive manufacturing environment like an oil refinery – where a redundant cracker tower or processing structure has to be extracted from a tightly built network of operating equipment and structures.

These projects are a testimony to the skill, experience and careful logistics and planning employed by the Industrial Demolition Services.
Industrial Environmental Drilling Services.

Industrial Demolition & Environmental Services is committed to investing in new technology and equipment to achieve high professional capabilities to suit client’s needs.

Leading the way in demolition, dismantling, decommissioning, asset recovery, tank removal and remediation, IDES has extended its service provision by forming Industrial Environmental Drilling Services.

Experience

This specialist service will be headed up by one of Victoria’s leading experts in this field – Lee Strutton who has over 25 years experience. Lee has completed a broad range of industrial, commercial and landfill projects ranging from Shell refineries, Mobil, Caltex, BP service stations, BHP, Orica, Huntsman Chemical Company of Australia, POMC, CSIRO, Docklands, power stations, wind farms and numerous landfill sites.

Services.

Acquisition of the latest Geoprobe Model 7822DT drilling rig allows Industrial Environmental Services to offer:

- High capacity direct push
- Solid auger
- Hollow auger
- Rotary down hole hammer

This versatile machine equipped with a narrow platform to access limited spaces, is designed to perform a range of drilling tasks including the installation of groundwater wells, soil vapour extraction wells and soil bores.
Industrial Environmental Services joins forces with Maddingley Brown Coal to provide an approved tank disposal and recycling facility.

Recently Maddingley Brown Coal (MBC) and Industrial Environmental Services (IES) Manager Steve McCoach, finalised the arrangements for a new business partnership at the MBC Bacchus Marsh facility, which further expands the services provided by both organisations.

The new business partnership has been established to safely decommission and recycle redundant tanks for Mobil Australia as recognised within the Approved Waste Site List (AWSL) listings. This Mobil (AWSL) approved disposal facility offers a state wide service and an environmentally positive solution for redundant petroleum and oil tanks undertaken by two specialist organizations, expert in environmental and recycling initiatives.

Industrial Environmental Services has extensive experience in exhumation of redundant above and Underground Petroleum Storage Systems (UPSS) from sites throughout Victoria and other states having undertaken a varied degree of projects for Mobil, Caltex, Independent Petroleum companies, 7-Eleven and other petrochemical related sites.

Disused or abandoned tanks are de-commissioned and transported to the secure facility for processing and recycling into scrap metal. IES is highly skilled at tank and hazardous waste removal from various commercial and industrial sites.

This innovative facility provides our clients (including all the major petrochemical companies) the confidence that upon acceptance all vessels will be recycled in accordance with all EPA/Work safe statutory guidelines. In addition, clients will also receive complete inventory history including destruction certificates for individual tanks delivered.

IES is pleased to be in this complementary partnership and business venture and in turn looks forward to providing complete Environmental solutions for Mobil and other valued petro-chemical organisations.

Michelle Jones from IES tests a redundant tank for the presence of any explosive vapours with state-of-the-art LEL/PID equipment.

Maddingley Brown Coal Director, Don Calleja and Steve McCoach from Industrial Environmental Services shake hands on the establishment of the new tank disposal and recycling facility.
IES makes room for better traffic flow at former Shell Service Centre.

IES recently completed a tank removal and disposal project for BMD Constructions at the site of a former Shell service centre where VicRoads was undertaking road upgrading works on the corner of Princess Highway and Clyde Road in Berwick, Victoria.

The works involved the removal and disposal of several underground petroleum storage tanks, the excavation, stockpiling and disposal of contaminated soil, installation of a Geofabric membrane and backfilling and compaction of the site.

IES is one of the leaders in the removal of redundant petroleum tanks and is able to undertake all of the required services to complete such a project including trenching using Non-Destructive Drilling to determine services and depth, excavation, remediation and backfilling.

The Company also has its own dedicated tank destruction and recycling facility at Bacchus Marsh with its joint venture partner Maddingley Brown Coal.

**Warburton Highway, Seville**

IES also completed a similar project for Pace Brothers at Warburton Highway, Seville.

567 Warburton Highway was the site of a service station for many years and the entire structure including the buildings and canopies were removed and the underground tanks and contaminated soil removed and processed.
This project carries the code name -'Project Samson' - and not without reason. The main element of the photo shows a huge "Yankee" Roller - which is being upgraded in this major paper processing plant. Because it was problematic to rig and remove this 50 tonne roller in one piece within the building, it was cut into 5 tonne sections and lowered to ground level in pieces by the gantry crane.

When you attack a piece of metal this large, there is only one tool that will do the job. The Industrial Demolition team utilised the impressive thermic or thermal lance which burns at a temperature of 4500° C. This method of cutting up massive metal members is by no means new, having been around for decades, but it is still one of the most effective.

The lance, or burning bar is a tool that heats and melts iron with pressurized oxygen to create the very high temperatures required for cutting. It consists of a long iron tube packed with iron rods, sometimes mixed with aluminium or magnesium rods to increase the heat output. The end of the tube is placed in a holder and oxygen is fed through the tube once it is ignited.

The next stage Industrial Demolition will be working on involves the removal of approximately 8100sqm of asbestos roofing and replacement with new steel sheeting. This will include some internal demolition works of non-load-bearing brick walls to allow for the new paper plant which is to be installed later this year.

SCA are a leading global manufacturer of products including toilet and facial tissue, hygiene products, paper-towel and disposable tableware and are currently upgrading their manufacturing facility.

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- Department of Education - Dallas Project
- McDonalds- Remediation.
- Review of Dandenong Civil/remediation project - Dandenong City Council
- Update on Tank Disposal Facility
- Update on Caltex/ Mobil /Shell regional projects
- DSE abatement works - Princetown.