

## Changing Gears

# Local companies paving the way

Family-owned businesses Allciv Civil Contractors and Proserpine Machinery have pooled resources to bring groundbreaking machinery to the Whitsundays that might ultimately serve to repair many of the region's flood-damaged roads.

Allciv, operated as a partnership between the Gourlay and Thiele families, has been a presence in the Whitsundays for the last four years, with regular clients such as Whitsunday Regional Council. The company previously ran a pavement stabiliser capable of repairing smaller areas of road surface and isolated "potholes" but as owner/director Brett Thiele explains, "after the last wet season there was no such thing!"

"We looked at the situation and said, "Here's an opportunity to bring a machine in here that would fill a gap in the market," he said.

Mr Thiele and his team began extensive research into the sort of machinery available, settling on a product by German manufacturers Wirtgen.

"We didn't just research what we wanted, we researched what our clients wanted and purchased a machine that would suit both our needs and theirs," he said.

The Wirtgen stabiliser chosen by Mr Thiele's team lifts old and damaged road surfaces and recycles them with the addition of stabilising agents such as lime and cement. The road is then reconstructed using the original material, which is no longer taken to landfill.

But the stabiliser is just one part of the picture, the other half being a Massey Ferguson 8660 tractor, supplied and serviced by Proserpine Machinery.

"Basically the machine is powered from the power take-off of a tractor. I took all the technical specifications for the Wirtgen to several dealers, many of whom said they couldn't help me, but Shane Whitney at Proserpine Machinery said, "I'll find you something," Mr Thiele said.

According to Mr Thiele, Proserpine Machinery "did all the legwork", settling on the Massey Ferguson 8660 and obtaining approval from Agco for putting it to this type of use, "so there wouldn't be any problems with warranty".

"Basically Shane and the guys from Proserpine Machinery have been great – nothing's been too hard," Mr Thiele said.

Proserpine Machinery's owner/director Shane Whitney explained the Massey Ferguson 8660 was chosen because "it suited that application without any modification".

"That's the flagship of Massey Ferguson. It has an infinitely variable transmission and an extremely strong drive train. It's also got two

ranges – in low range it can go from .03 to 28km/p/h and in the road range it can do .03 to 50km/p/h," Mr Whitney said.

"We're absolutely proud to be a part of this. We don't see these sorts of things in regional areas. It's wonderful to think there's a company out there investing in that sort of machinery in the Whitsundays. It's got to be a bonus for the region," he said.

Mr Thiele, whose company currently employs 22 local staff members, says while it wasn't possible to buy the stabiliser in Australia, he was glad to have partnered with Proserpine Machinery for a large portion of the project.

"We're happy we've managed to buy such a large capital investment from the local guy in Proserpine. We try to use local people wherever we can," he said.

**WORK HORSE:** Brett Thiele's team works the Wirtgen stabiliser to lift the old and damaged road surfaces and recycles with the Massey Ferguson 8660 tractor helping the process.



**RESOURCEFUL:** Brett Thiele of Allciv Civil Contractors with Proserpine Machinery's owner/director Shane Whitney.



**MACHINE:** Brett Thiele and Shane Whitney with the Massey Ferguson 8660 which "suited that application without any modification".