

# SHIFTING SANDS

**S**and Excavation has a well established relationship with ABIGROUP, having been involved with a number of their latest projects including the recent Capella and Phoenix developments. Established 20 years ago, the company has grown steadily and now operates a large fleet of modern excavators extracting around 500,000 tonnes of sand each year. The company is privately owned and operates from Sydney's eastern Suburbs.

The premier sand excavation company in Sydney, Sand Excavation are, as their name suggests, specialists in sand excavation. However the company's extensive experience in the piling and civil contracting industry has positioned Sand Excavation to be able to provide a complete design and construct service to their clients.

"Generally we specialise in the niche market of ground preparation works for residential unit blocks," Rob Hiatt, the Director and owner says, "however, with combined experience of over 40 years in this industry, and the ability to undertake design and construct of contiguous piling and ground anchoring, there isn't much that we don't do, including both large and small projects."

Amongst other services, the company provide a complete "early works" package to their clients, from demolition, bulk and detail excavation, continuous flight auger (CFA) piling and anchoring. "We do everything so that on handover, the form-working and concreting contractors can walk straight in and get to work, eliminating the problems that occur with nu-

merous trades working together" Hiatt explains. For the Abigroup Pacific Square Project, Sand Excavation moved a total of 80,000m<sup>3</sup> of sand and during the project they were shifting up to 1500m<sup>3</sup> a day.

"We had anywhere up to eight machines on site at a time," Hiatt says, "Including two Kobelco SK 330-6 excavators, two Kobelco SK 250-6, and a further two Kobelco SK 210-6s. They performed the bulk earthworks and we used a couple of our smaller excavators for the associated detail work." Sand excavation also provided CFA piling for the project.

"We have worked with a lot of large companies in our time," Says Hiatt, "including Multiplex, Parkview Constructions, Gledhill Constructions, Pbs building and of course ABIGROUP. We are very thorough in our approach to all our work and we set ourselves very high standards both in our operations and safety. Whether it's a small job or a large project like Pacific Square – reliability is at the heart of it. None of our machines are over 3 years old. It's a very efficient, reliable and well maintained fleet," Hiatt adds, "and all our operators are highly trained."

Being the premier sand excavation company in Sydney holds a good deal of responsibility. Sand Excavation's high standards and the thorough approach demonstrated on the Pacific Square project suggest that this responsibility is not taken lightly.



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# A WINNING FORM

**T**he complex and wide ranging brief of the Pacific Square Project located in Maroubra Junction provided significant challenges for all parties involved. The project was headed by Abigroup and it became clear from a very early stage that considerable coordination and cooperation between contractors and on site staff would be required. In particular during the early stage one works while the old shopping centre was still operational and the new development was under construction.

Winform Pty Ltd was engaged by Abigroup following a comprehensive and thorough tender. With a reputation for fast, safe and efficient work, Winform were an ideal choice. Additionally, the company's extensive planning and coordinative abilities suited the collaborative approach required to facilitate effective project delivery.

The project consists of retail areas, break-out areas, restaurants, coffee shops and many other services designed to ensure that visitors to the new centre are adequately catered for. Naturally there is also extensive underground parking

Winform's key personnel have been in the formwork industry for over 40 years and during this time they have naturally gained significant experience and understanding of the specialised requirements of a wide variety of formwork systems. This expertise was evident with the successful delivery and operation of the light beam shutter system and winged table forms employed on the Pacific Square Project.

The use of these new formwork systems reduced the required labour force whilst increasing the production rate per man hour when compared to conventional systems - this equates to significant time savings for both the Developers and Head Contractors, which translates to reduced expenditure for both.

Winform is a naturally innovative company both in terms of the systems and products they employ and in their approach to staff training and OH&S. These areas are considered integral to the effective delivery of high quality work that is safe, efficient and within the required time and budget constraints of major development. Winform provides extensive OH&S

and careers training to its entire staff based on the sound principle that skilled and safe employees produce exceptional work quality. Their involvement with Abigroup and the Pacific Square Project provides an ideal example of the success of their approach. Quite naturally they are very proud to have been involved.



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