

AAPA 2017 SA INDUSTRY LEADER AWARD WINNER



ROD MCARTHUR

Rod commenced with Bitumax, later to become Boral Asphalt, in 1989. He came directly from university under a traineeship. He transferred to Boral Concrete and Quarries in 2001 as a result of a restructure, gaining testing experience in concrete and quarry material along the way.

In 2003, he returned to asphalt testing, his true passion. Rod took up the position of laboratory manager with Topcoat Asphalt in 2003. His responsibility is ensuring the quality of all outgoing products from Topcoat's asphalt plants.

Rod has been on the AAPA SA Branch committee for the past 13 years and the chair of the SA Branch Technical committee for the past 10 years. He has been responsible for the working relationship, on a technical level, between the Department of Planning Transport & Infrastructure (DPTI) and AAPA.

Rod is passionate about the use of recycled asphalt (RAP), and works to ensure that recycled material is equal to or better than the quality of virgin materials. As part of the RAP challenge, he has been aware that the key to successful asphalt production is efficiently ascertaining the viscosity of the RAP binder to produce new asphalt that is compliant. The methodology to determine this was generally the preserve of R&D laboratories with very expensive equipment. Rod worked at simplifying the methodology, making use of equipment generally available in production laboratories.

Rod developed the methodology for RAP binder extraction and worked with the technical community in the SA membership, including DPTI, to explain, demonstrate and verify the process. This has now become the industry standard in SA.

Rod has been a regular attendee of the Victorian AAPA branch's technical committee, as a result of independent member companies working under the VicRoads specification. As a result, he has brought an independent voice to the table. Differences between states and advances in technology have been fed back through both the SA and Victorian AAPA branches.

Rod, with the support of management, believes that laboratory techniques that benefit the whole AAPA community are better shared. Many companies' technical teams have attended Topcoat's testing laboratory by invitation for a demonstration of Rod's RAP binder recovery methodology.

Rod's SA branch technical committee role has put him at the forefront of all DPTI specification changes. He liaises with all SA member companies, seeking their views on proposed changes and advocating their concerns or agreement back to DPTI.

Rod is part of a panel of National Association of Testing Authorities technical assessors, an acknowledgement of his standing within the asphalt industry. In this role Rod has carried out technical audits of laboratories throughout Australia.