



Australian Business News Source

ISSUE 06 | NOVEMBER 2013



INTEGRITY • RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY

**“AUSTRALIAN
VERTICALLY
INTERGRATED FRUIT
AND VEGGIE COMPANY”**



**National Farmers’
FEDERATION**

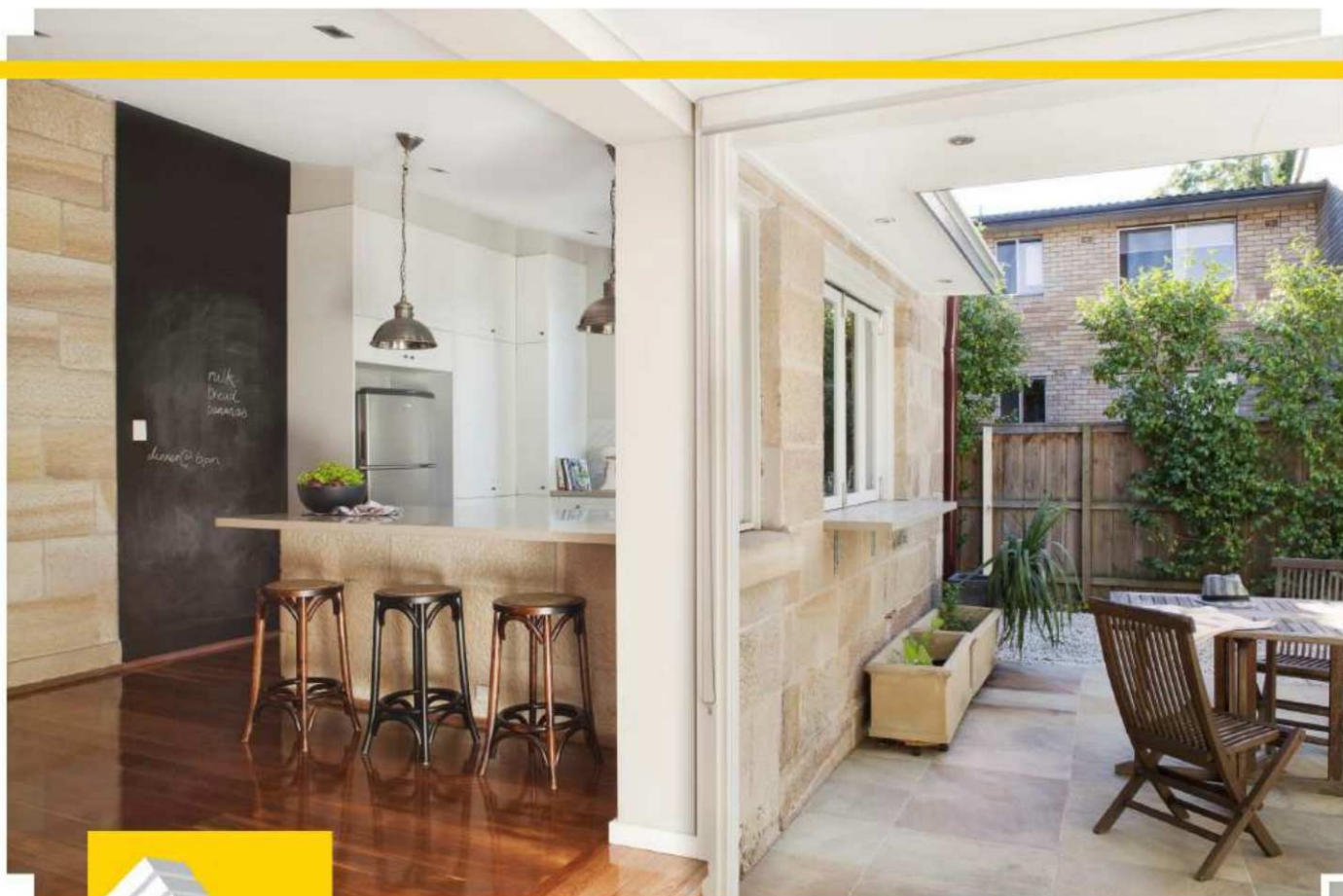
**“THE VOICE OF
AUSTRALIAN
FARMERS”**



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**AUSTRALIAN
NATIONAL
BUILDERS**

Australian National Builders is an established family business specialising in all aspects of construction, including building design and project management. Founder Charlie Cauchi was originally a freelance project manager for the private and public industry, forming ANB to meet growing client demand for his execution of building works. At present, work for the 10-man company has been contained within New South Wales, with some consulting and civil inspection works carried out in Queensland. ANB's construction works, such as stormwater work for the RTA and cattle feed lots for Jerry Harvey have taken place as far as Culcairn and Narrandera. While initially only taking on industrial and civil work, ANB has now begun to accept commercial projects as well, such as the refurbishment of medical offices, shops, schools,

offices and high end residential. "The way that the industry is going, we can't just stay in one sector," Charlie explains. "I'm adaptable enough to move to other industries."

Currently, ANB is performing a variety of remedial works, undertaking projects such as the M5 East Cooks River tunnel, which involved the rectification of a major leak over a 2 month period and a Killara residence where we carried out a balcony waterproofing to a 40 year old home. "Most of our work at the moment is on residential homes," says Charlie. "We do a lot of alterations and additions, and office refurbs, such as bathrooms and lobbies." ANB can perform any aspect of design and construction and Project, Construction management or Lump Sum contracts .

ANB's most recent build is the Katoomba Waste Transfer Station. This is a state-of-the-art waste disposal and recycling facility, also featuring new waste transfer capabilities such as sorting and bailing, and numerous other upgrades. ANB was involved in the design and building stages and implementation of a variety of sustainable features into the structure and surrounding area. In addition to guiding the orientation of the building in order to facilitate future solar panel installation, ANB used bright colours in the building to reflect light, installed water tanks, and dug a pond to act as a buffer between the creek and the station. Trees within the build site were mulched for use in future landscape areas, topsoil was stockpiled and excavated sandstone boulders were re-used as retaining walls. "We try to recycle whatever's onsite, even the old buildings, in which are cut up and sold."

One of Charlie's most challenging projects was the Our Lady of Victories Church in Horsley Park, South-West Sydney. The objective was to

replicate a 19th century building using modern day materials and technology. Materials such as reconstituted sandstone for quoins, columns and window sills, concrete roof tiles were used to replicate slate and the bricks in the arches were individually hand-made in order to achieve the desired traditional Gothic style.

ANB's current projects are mainly residential and additions, in the Lower North Shore and Eastern Suburbs. "We redesign concrete slabs to always find the best fit for each particular site," says Charlie. "Our aim is to save the client money and at the same time finding a sustainable solution."

The MBA has recently recognised ANB with an award for Excellence in Housing for alterations and additions carried out on a 100-year old semi-detached home, which was given an ultramodern addition on its roof; a giant cube. The HIA also recognised this home and was a finalist in its category.



Authoritarianism

Suppliers such as James Hardie assist the industry through the continual development of new products to clad light frame structures. “We need them to inform us of what they’re coming up with, so that we can apply that to the buildings that we construct,” says Charlie. “Architects and designers are usually time poor and they sometimes don’t put in what is really required for that project, so if we’re informed, we can actually make suggestions to design a project to be more efficient, sustainable and cost effective.”

Nationally, Charlie believes that the industry is in need of a stable majority government. "There's not much confidence in business at the moment. With that, we also need the money supply to become easier to attain. That can't happen if the US and European markets don't grow," he says. "If they don't grow, they're not going to be buying goods from China and therefore the Chinese will not buy raw materials from Australia. We're all connected."

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