

## BSEM supports leukodystrophy golf day

**Bridgestone Earthmover Tyres (BSEM) is a major supporter of an annual golf day that raises funds for children with leukodystrophies.**

Leukodystrophies are a group of degenerative genetic diseases that affect the nervous system. They most often take hold during childhood, with many losing the ability to see, hear, walk, sit up or even swallow.

There is no cure for leukodystrophy and the impact on families is devastating.

The Australian Leukodystrophy Support Group Inc (ALDS) is a voluntary, non-profit organisation that helps raise funds to provide counselling, support and information to families and individuals affected by leukodystrophy, said Earl Schonberger a volunteer for ALDS.

"We're really a small group that's focused on providing support and information to families as well as raising funds, where we can, that assist with the research and better understanding of the disease," said Earl.

"This year will be the fifth year that we have staged the leukodystrophy golf day, one of our key fundraising activities.

"We couldn't have achieved this without the generosity of Bridgestone Earthmover Tyres and recently retired Executive Manager Business Planning, Bruce Connor," he said.



"For the past three years, the event has been held at Macquarie Links in Western Sydney, and it's grown every year.

"At the most recent event, in October, almost 100 golfers participated, with well over 100 attending the lunch, including families and children.

"Bridgestone Earthmover Tyres has typically entered multiple teams each year, as well as offering golf bags, golf balls and other prizes.

"The company's involvement has been invaluable; it wouldn't be the event it is today without its support," said Earl.

# IMPRINT

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## Bridgestone opens major wheel engineering facility in Perth



**Bridgestone Earthmover Tyres has recently invested in the latest technology, equipment and people in a wheel engineering facility in Perth to provide wheel maintenance and refurbishment as well as sub-manufacturing of its Topy line of earthmover wheel products for the mining industry and other sectors.**

With mining wheels required to be serviced every one, two or three years (depending on application), turnaround time is very important to get the products back into service for the customer.

According to Adrian Angus, National Wheel Manager, Topy OTR wheel products with Bridgestone Earthmover Tyres (BSEM), the Perth wheel facility is designed to bring wheel service turnaround times in line with customer requirements.

"We are always keen to respond promptly to our customers needs, and we've been keen to address the blow-out in wheel service times which the industry had been experiencing," he said.

In addition, the Perth wheel facility has a sub-manufacturing capability which allows Bridgestone to build a complete wheel assembly to suit any specific type of machine that Topy does not manufacture as standard for an OEM (original equipment manufacturer).

This sub-manufacture operation involves BSEM using

a high quality rim base from Topy, then manufacturing and installing the wheel disc into the rim base, according to the fitment requirements of a particular piece of equipment.

Adrian said the new facility was in keeping with the "very serious business expansion" that has occurred since BSEM was appointed as Australian east coast distributor for Topy in 1986, followed by its taking on full Australian national distributorship in 2009.

BSEM has installed a number of key pieces of equipment at the facility, including:

- An enclosed Automated Shot Blaster, which not only cleans the wheels for testing procedures, but also helps to relieve the residual stresses that occur during the repair and manufacturing process.
- A vertical borer, with a total work capacity of 15 tonnes and an area capacity of 2.5 m by 2.5 m, for general machining of large and small earthmover wheels and or components.
- A 4 m CNC gantry mill for the specific machining and drilling of wheel discs, as well as machining and drilling of fixed assembly wheel discs.

"We can now produce centre disc components from the smallest diameter to 63-inch and beyond at this facility," said Adrian.

When building custom wheel assemblies, the

*continued next page*

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## Bridgestone's new Perth facility continued from previous page

disc/wheel design is developed using CAD/CAM, then transferred to the gantry mill, to automatically produce the machining and drilling requirements.

Examples of customer assemblies include wheels specifically for grader applications, wheel designs for underground mining vehicles, or new wheel designs able to cope with the largest diameters and widths now used on ultra-class mining trucks, he said.

"In addition, specialised products able to meet the unique requirements of underground mining equipment can now be produced through BSEM's technically advanced machining capabilities."

Adrian, who has worked in wheels for 43 years, has assembled a select group for his wheel team in the Perth wheel facility.

"The new facility is not just an investment in technology and equipment, it's also an investment in people," he said.

Ray Murphy, formerly BSEM's Western Region Wheel Manager, has moved into a new position as Business Development Manager for Topy products in the region.

Ray has responsibility for supporting Bridgestone branches and Sales Representatives and Account Managers, as well as using his technical expertise when new development is involved.

Trades personnel make up the rest of the team. The leading hand is a boilermaker/welder, the head machinist a fitter and turner with a CNC background, and the others are all trades assistants with fabrication backgrounds.

Other features of the new Perth wheel facility include:

- Welding accreditation to AS 1554 part 5
- National Association of Testing Authorities' approved testing personnel
- Adherence to Tyre and Rim Association guidelines
- A strong relationship with Topy engineering in developing product and sub-manufacture techniques.

"As a result, this operation is the most advanced, and best qualified wheels and rims servicing, repair and sub-manufacturing operation in Australia," said Adrian.

"And it's only something that can be achieved through the unique combination of Bridgestone Earthmover Tyres and Topy, both of which are recognised world-leading manufacturers in their areas of operation."

Ultimately, the company aims to set up similar facilities for BSEM and Topy in other states.

BSEM currently has Topy testing facilities in the Hunter Valley, NSW, and undertakes wheel testing in all other states.

## Australian mining families matter to Bridgestone

**Bridgestone Earthmover Tyres is pleased to announce it has renewed its sponsorship of the Mining Family Matters website for 2013.**

Mining Family Matters is an award-winning website ([www.miningfm.com.au](http://www.miningfm.com.au)) providing free professional support and practical advice to Australian families in the mining, oil and gas sectors.

It is the brainchild of mining mum Alicia Ranford and journalist Lainie Anderson.

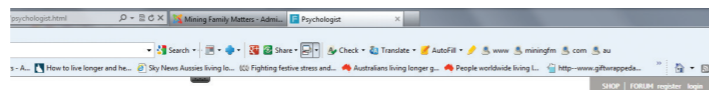
They aim to present the mining and resources industries in a positive light, while also being honest and proactive about the relationship challenges of working fly-in, fly-out (FIFO), drive-in or drive-out (DIDO), or living in isolated mining communities.

"The support of companies such as Bridgestone Earthmover Tyres is vital to the long-term sustainability of the website," said Alicia.

"It means mining families right across Australia can

access free expert advice from professionals such as our resident psychologist Angie Willcocks, along with practical tips and experience from others having very similar experiences.

"And with [www.miningfm.com.au](http://www.miningfm.com.au) now attracting up to 12,000 visitors every month, sponsorship also provides Bridgestone with a significant means of publicly demonstrating the company's commitment to the mining industry and the families who underpin it," she said.



Empowering families in mining, oil & gas  
[miningfm.com.au](http://miningfm.com.au)

## BSEM helps keep Flying Doctor in the air



**During 2012, Bridgestone Earthmover Tyres donated \$20,000 to the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia (RFDS), playing a valuable role in bridging the gap between its traditional funding and operational demands.**

The funds provided by Bridgestone are contributing to the purchase of new aero-medical equipment, replacing outdated equipment as well as that which has worn out.

RFDS equipment being replaced over the next 24 months will include monitors and defibrillators, emergency ventilators, monitors, handheld blood analyser, transport cots, ultrasound systems, vacuum mattresses and ECG machines.

"We can't continue to deliver world class in flight medical care without these upgrades of our equipment," said Judi Whitehead, RFDS Senior Flight Nurse.

"We aim to ensure that those who live and work in remote and rural Australia have access to the latest lifesaving equipment, just the same as populations in major cities.

"With this support from Bridgestone Earthmover Tyres, our equipment replacement program is well underway," she said.

"On behalf of the RFDS and the people of remote and rural Australia who we serve, we would like to thank Bridgestone for its generous donation."

### About the RFDS

The RFDS is one of the largest and most

comprehensive aero-medical organisations in the world. Using the latest in aviation, medical and communications technology, it delivers extensive primary healthcare and 24-hour emergency services to those who live, work and travel throughout Australia.

Although the Flying Doctor started as an emergency rescue operation and is best known for its emergency retrieval services, these now account for a smaller percentage of its work in comparison to the provision of primary healthcare services.

Today it is a comprehensive medical service covering 80% of Australia – and no patient is more than two hours away from help.

As a not-for-profit organisation, supported by the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments, the RFDS relies heavily on fundraising and donations from the community and corporate entities – such as Bridgestone Earthmover Tyres – to purchase and medically equip its aircraft, as well as to finance other major capital initiatives.

Nationally, the RFDS has a fleet of 61 aircraft operating from 21 bases located across the country and provides medical assistance to over 278,000 people every year – one every two minutes. Across Australia the RFDS performed more than 40,000 patient transports and flew 26,869,690 km covering a service area of 7.15 million square kilometres.

During 2012, the RFDS held nearly 14,000 healthcare clinics across Australia and spoke to over 93,000 patients via tele-health consultations.