

# Hot-to-Trot solutions

Everyone is on the lookout for smart products that boost performance, increase safety and save time. In this issue we review a few hot-to-trot innovations which may give you the very edge you're after.

## Sandless sand bags

Stopping floods or accidental water ingress with traditional sandbags can be bit a hit and miss.

By the time you've filled 'em, and lugged 'em and placed 'em in position, your property may have been damaged (to say nothing of your back!)

So how about a flat sheet of just 200 grams which you simply lay in front of the impending water and watch it expand to traditional sandbag size and 22kg in weight?

That's not wishful thinking – it's sheer reality in the form of a new product called FloodSax in which each bag's semi porous inner liner of crystals can absorb about 20 litres of water in under three minutes.

And once the water's in, it stays in and the bags act just like sandbags.

No sand piles, shovels, forklifts or back-breaking yakka. But most importantly, no valuable time lost!

FloodSax can be "energised" well in advance of a flood simply with a bucket of water or hose. But if time's against you, the first wave of flood water will do the trick.

And in this respect, FloodSax were put to a dramatic real-life test during the recent Queensland floods when the Blackwoods Bundaberg branch and a neighbouring business were threatened with inundation!

Quick-thinking Branch Manager Darryl Turner grabbed the few FloodSax remaining in stock, and within minutes had placed them in front of all threatened doors and roller doors.

"This kept the building interiors intact, despite the water level rising



Instant sandbags... just add water.



Web Dog – the truckie's new best friend.

well above the door thresholds," said Turner. "So FloodSax not only saved us time and money, but also spared us a messy cleanup.

"Our hearts go out to those who weren't so lucky though, because the Burnett River peaked at 7.5 metres, which was higher than the 1954 flood record of 7.2," he said.

As Darryl Turner points out, FloodSax are easy to store as they come in shrink-wrapped packs of five units (Home & Office Pac) or 20 units (Commercial Pac).

Home & Office Pac units expand to 12 kg and the larger Commercial units to 22 kg.

In addition, the bags are entirely biodegradable within several months after use, so there are no special disposal problems.

Apart from coping with outdoor floods, the super absorbency of FloodSax also makes them ideal for accidental indoor water ingress from faulty sprinkler systems, burst pipes, leaking ceilings and so forth.

And another good thing about this new Blackwoods product is that it's sourced from The Brotherhood of St Laurence, a major Victorian charity for the disadvantaged.

So, when you buy FloodSax, you know the Brotherhood's profit is going to a good cause!

## Secure that load

You can't be too careful when moving heavy loads along Australia's rugged roads – which is why a handy device called the Web Dog has become the transport industry's new best friend.

Web Dog evolved following a joint project a few years ago