



# Newsletter

Winter Edition, June 2007

## The Ag Tyre & Wheel Specialists



### EMPLOYEE PROFILE:

<b>Name:</b>	Mick Carbone
<b>Role:</b>	Sales & technical advice (wheel & tyre specialist)
<b>Favourite teams:</b>	Carlton & Mount Pleasant football clubs
<b>Hobbies:</b>	Harness racing, football
<b>Industry service:</b>	13 years

**Name:** Mick Carbone  
(Fat Tony)



**Name:** Tony Mokbel  
(Fat Tony)

After more than 13 years at Armstrong Tyres, Mick Carbone is one of our longest serving members. Away from work, harness racing is Mick's passion with major success as both driver and owner/trainer.

He is also a part-time look-a-like for underworld fugitive Tony Mokbel. This has attracted some unwanted attention from Piranha squad detectives and some members of the public interested in pocketing the \$1 million dollar bounty on Mokbel's head. He's a far cry from a gangster, but he certainly knows his tyres. So if you have any tyre or wheel conversion queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mick (a.k.a Fat Tony) at Armstrong Tyres.

Have you had an enquiry about a tyre size and gone through your price lists and couldn't find it? At Armstrong Tyres, we have a large range of new exchange tyres off original equipment which includes most popular brands and sizes. With the Pirelli and Continental range of agricultural tyres, and also our selection of exchange tyres, we will more than likely have a tyre solution for your customer's machine.

### To give you examples:

A machine may be fitted with 11LR16 R1 tyres, but an alternative is 285/80R16 R1 tyres. And an alternative to 12.4R20 R1 tyres is 335/80R20 R1 tyres. These tyres have a significantly higher carrying capacity and are also well suited to front end loader work.

So if your customer is after something different or difficult to obtain, give the guys at Armstrong's a call on 1800 037 091.

Contact us with your questions, or to find a dealer close to you:

Armstrong Tyres  
83-85 Midland Highway, Epsom, Victoria 3551

Phone: 03 5448 4822  
Fax: 03 5448 4785

Website: [www.armstrongtyres.com.au](http://www.armstrongtyres.com.au)  
Email: [sales@armstrongtyres.com.au](mailto:sales@armstrongtyres.com.au)

**FREE PHONE 1800 037 091**

## Tyre warranty claims on the rise

Tyre warranty claims involving tractors fitted with front end loaders are on the rise. The main reason for this is that in a large percentage of cases the tyres applied to the machines do not have the capacity to carry the large amount of weight being put over the front axle. Also, in other circumstances the loader being fitted is too big for the machine or tyres.

With no company or person directly at fault, we believe better communication between tyre or machinery dealer and their customer would be helpful to all in the industry to lower claims, time, effort and cost. Below is the recommended equation to work out the total dynamic load weight that can be put over the front axle.

A = 40% of the machine weight

B = Weight of the loader & bucket/fork attachment

C = Max weight of the load in bucket/fork attachment

D = Total dynamic weight over the front axle

Formula:  $(B+C) \times 2 + A = D$



## WIN A SLAB OF PREMIUM BEER!

**PREVIOUS MONTHS WINNER:** Nigel Ranson, JAMES FRIZZELLE, LISMORE  
Emailed the answer back in less than 30 minutes... must have needed a drink!!!!!!!

### THIS MONTHS TEASER:

**Q:** Using the formula on the previous pages, take the below information and calculate the maximum dynamic load that would be exerted over the front axle of this fictitious tractor.

Tractor weight = 4000kg  
Loader weight = 500kg  
Max load (loader) = 1000kg



## International agri tyre pricing

Pricing of quality agricultural radial tyres (as would be supplied to original equipment manufacturers) has risen on average 6% to 11% in Europe and the USA during 2006. This is largely due to a global 12.5% increase in the raw materials used in the manufacture of tyres in 2006. Other cost increases in transport and labour have also contributed to tyre manufacturers passing on their increased costings.

In Australia however, during 2006 and certainly over the last few years there has been very little, if any at all, movement in pricing of the top brands of agricultural radial tyres, in the face of constantly rising world pricing. Because of the higher sea freight costs Australian distributors incur and the larger inventories required due to the remoteness of our market (in world terms), our pricing should be at least on a par with the rest of the world - if not a little higher. The opposite however is true, with Australian farmers and agri contractors enjoying the lowest prices for quality radial tractor tyres in the world.

History would indicate that some price increases in the Australian ag radial market are due during 2007/2008. This would ensure the support that is vital to both tractor importers and their customers, especially when new tractor tyre sizes seem to be appearing every day.

**Continental** 



### Continental MPT tyres

The Continental Multi Purpose Tyre is unique to the Continental range. This is due to the fact that it has a tractor tread pattern (AC70G) and a 90 km/h highway speed rating, making them perfectly suited to vehicles that must have both highway and off-road capability. The tractor tread pattern gives high field traction and tread cleaning capability combined with Continental truck tyre technology that ensures long, quiet, vibration free on-road performance.

There are 14 sizes in the range, ranging from 265/70R16 right up to the largest being 495/70R30. The most popular tyre in the range is the 445/65R22.5, which fits straight onto a truck super single wheel and gives 9000kg axle load capacity at 90km/h.

All Continental MPT tyres are steel belted in construction and this ensures superior puncture resistance, high carrying capacity, long life expectancy and maximum foot print.

The Continental MPT range is an excellent choice for vehicles that require high speed on-road capability, high axle load capacity and the ability to perform in harsh off-road conditions. This makes it perfectly suited to applications like fertilizer spreading trucks, spraying trucks, 4WD utes and on/off-road telescopic handlers and alike.



## Pirelli high speed tyres

The need to improve efficiency across all aspects of farm operations has seen the maximum speed of the average tractor steadily increase in recent years. From 30km/h, to 40km/h, up to 50km/h and now, with the Fendt 900 series (60km/h) joining the JCB Fastrac (65km/h and 90km/h), a new benchmark has been set. There has been a significant increase in the range of machines capable of operating at high speed between farms, leading to demands on agricultural tyres not imagined possible in the past.

Pirelli has met this challenge head on with a number of additions to its long-standing high speed tyre range (now 15 sizes in total). Due to the nature of these newer machines, being unequal wheel tractors with differing loads and forces over front and rear axles, Pirelli has developed some of the most outstanding new tyres and sizes on the market.

The headliner for this act is the 710/75R42 TM900, 172E. The tallest high horsepower drive tyre on the market at 2.14m, it features a massive carrying capacity of 6,900kg at a speed of 65km/h. Designed to be fitted to machines with over 350hp, this tyre is leading the industry into a new era of high speed agricultural operations.

Complimented by a selection of similar rear tyres with strategically matched fronts, the TM700, TM800 and TM900 high speed range offer unparalleled tractive capacities, carrying capacities, self cleaning abilities and unmatched on-road performance.

The Pirelli range of high speed tyres is not following tractors to newer heights, but leading the way to new capabilities in machinery previously believed impossible.



## Sunraysia solutions

When Sunrise Ag (Kubota dealer, Mildura, VIC) needed to modify Kubota M series tractors for table grape operators, they contacted Mick Carbone at Armstrong Tyres. Clint Williams (Sales, Sunrise Ag) said; "Mick's expertise enabled us to get the Kubota flat floor tractors as narrow as orchard type straddle tractors. Armstrong Tyres supplied tyres and wheels to meet our customer's width requirements." The tractors were also modified with narrow mudguards, and the lights and indicators were also relocated.

The M95S Kubota has proved very successful in the vineyards across the Sunraysia area running on 12.4x36 rears, which has enabled them to get to 1580 mm across the back tyres. These tractors are being well accepted by the table grape industry not only for the width across the tyres but also the cab is narrow enough to drive down between the wide trellises without causing damage to the grape bunches.

Sunrise Ag also had a wine grape customer who wanted to narrow a M95X model and once again Armstrong Tyres was asked to provide the wheel equipment to meet the customer's 13.6x38 rear wheels and tyre requirement. This tractor was also modified with narrow mudguards, light relocation and increased steering lock.

Owing to their location, Sunrise Ag is frequently faced with a wide range of customer requirements from broadacre applications to irrigation jobs such as grapes and turf. The combination of Sunrise Ag's machinery expertise and Armstrong Tyres' tyre and wheel experience is working to meet even the most unique applications in the Sunraysia area. Contact the team at Armstrong's next time you are faced with tyre and wheel difficulties and let the team help solve the problems unique to your area.



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