



OFFICE LOCATIONS  
Freshwater, Australia | Belrose, Australia

NEWSLETTER | October 2008. ISSUE 4

## WELCOME to the Simmat & Associates Newsletter!

Your regular installment of current affairs, updates and interesting information.

### Watts driving you?

ALAN Gray reckons he is driving the most ecologically advanced car in Australia. To other motorists it is just another zippy hatchback. But open the petrol cap and there's a surprise.

The Trentham man's new Hyundai Getz has been converted to electric power. He uses an extension cord to plug the car into a power point, charges it overnight and drives away. Using power from solar panels above his office, it costs only 97 cents to drive 100 kilometres. "What this shows is that there's no reason that here and now, today, we can't run our homes and our cars on solar," Mr Gray said.

The converted car — dubbed the "Blade Runner" — can get from zero to 60 km/h in just over seven seconds, compared with six seconds for a standard vehicle. And it can comfortably travel at 110 km/h.

The catch? The \$49,000 price tag. Mr Gray admits he is "driving the most expensive little four-door car in Australia". But he says the price will drop as more of the cars hit the road.

His hatchback will be on show at the

Sustainability Festival, Federation Square, from today until Sunday.

With soaring petrol prices and growing concern over greenhouse gas emissions, even the world's largest car manufacturers concede electric cars may be the solution to the globe's environmental and energy problems. But although the electric car allows drivers to use renewable energy, critics argue it will do little to slash emissions if it is run on brown coal-generated electricity.

The car is the brainchild of Blade Electric Vehicles director Ross Blade.

After several prototypes, it is the first production vehicle assembled at his Castlemaine headquarters. He said the car would become "cost-neutral" after five years.

Four of the cars have been sold. However, there is little future if Mr Blade cannot secure a contract to supply the Government fleet. To date he has funded his own work.

"Without government orders it all becomes a rather brief page in Australian automotive history," he said.

### Claws off our wildlife!

Australia's native animals have come out trumps in the latest threat to biodiversity, with Peter Garret announcing that the African Savannah Cat will be banned from importation to Australia.

The decision to ban the species, under the powers of the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999 (the EPBC Act) "is the best possible outcome for Australia" Mr Garret said. The Savannah cat, a cross breed of the African Serval (wildcat) and the domestic house cat, would pose a significant environmental risk, especially considering predation by feral cats is listed as a key threatening process under the EPBC Act.

Feral cats in Australia have been found to eat more than 186 species of native birds, 64 species of mammals, 87 species of reptiles and 10 species of frogs. With the of population in excess of 12 million, we're glad this one isn't joining the ranks.



©photo by  
Kathrin  
Stucki  
A1 Savannahs

### What Can Simmat & Associates do for you?

Simmat & Associates offer a wide range of services to help you with your business risk management system needs. The services that we provide include consulting and auditing for Quality (ISO9001), Safety (AS4801) and Environmental (ISO14001) management systems plus a range of other legislative and standards related services.

Our team is made up of highly skilled consultants with a high level of knowledge and experience in Quality, OHS, and Environmental management systems as well as legislative and government requirements in these areas.

For our construction clients we can also assist you with Federal Safety commissioner requirements, NSW 4th Edition guidelines for OHS management systems and 2nd edition Guidelines for Environmental managements systems as required by Commerce.

For more information on our services, please contact us on (02) 9451 2211 or email us at [admin@simmat.com.au](mailto:admin@simmat.com.au)

### Contact Details:

Do you have questions? Want answers?  
Or want to put in an article in our newsletter?

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## Electrical Safety.....Shocking Stuff!

Whilst driving to work this morning I passed a construction site where an excavator was operating within a couple of hundred millimetres of power lines that were covered with tiger tails. Unfortunately the OHS auditing functions are so ingrained in us that we notice these things (so much so that the other day I checked the tag on a fire extinguisher at Koh Samui airport whilst on holidays!)

Now I don't know anything about this situation other than what I saw, but it's a good time to talk about working near power lines.

The OHS regulation requires that the controller of a premise ensures that people working in or on a premise are prevented from coming within unsafe distance from power lines, and Tiger Tails are for high visibility purpose only and should not be seen as an insulator. The reg. also requires that tools, plant and equipment do not come within close proximity of power lines.

The OHS Act and Regulation do not provide specific details of working near power lines, these can be found in the work cover code of practice 'work near overhead power lines'. The code of practice outlines requirements for risk assessment and safe working distances from power lines.

First of all a risk assessment should be carried out in consultation with employees and contractors working onsite and also consulting the local power service. The employer has a responsibility under the legislation to provide information, training, and supervision. A SWMS must also be documented for the activity (as this is high risk construction work).

The code of practice includes some tables that outline safe distances for working near power lines and these should be consulted.

It is important to remember that construction sites are continually changing and also that power lines can move in windy weather. These factors should be considered in the risk assessment.

Before undertaking any works near power lines you should review the code of practice and consult the local services for requirements relating to permits, use of tiger tails and any other special requirements.

The picture below was taken from one of those emails that do the rounds with dangerous work practices. Apparently the excavator was tracking away from a spoil pile where power lines were lower than the excavators 'envelope'. You will note the person sitting on top holding the wires up to enable the excavator to pass.

Not only does this present some major issues with proximity to power lines, but there is also some major working at heights issues.

If you have any OHS questions for our newsletter, please shoot us an email at [admin@simmat.com.au](mailto:admin@simmat.com.au)



## SIMMAT SERVICES | Training

**ISO 9001:2000**

**ISO 14001:2004**

**AS/NZS 4801:2001**

Do you use these standards ... But don't know WHY or HOW??

Simmat & Associates Pty Ltd offer a full range of training services. We offer in-house training services on ISO9001, ISO14001 and AS/NZS 4801. We also run courses on internal audit procedures and other areas of business improvement such as mapping business processes and implementing management systems.

Our courses are presented by trainers that are both highly qualified and experienced. Our trainers have real life experience as consultants and external auditors ensuring you receive the most up to date information and industry leading examples. Get on top of your work and understand how these standards can help to improve your business. That's what Simmat Training is all about. We organize and run our training courses with you, so they are for you and about you. If you work along side these standards, then it is important to fully understand their intentions and implementation.

Jump on our website for more information on in-house training services, or our review our range of group trainings courses.  
[www.simmatconsulting.com.au](http://www.simmatconsulting.com.au)

**LET US KNOW WHAT TRAINING YOU NEED AND WE CAN ORGANISE THE COURSE BEST SUITED TO YOU!!**