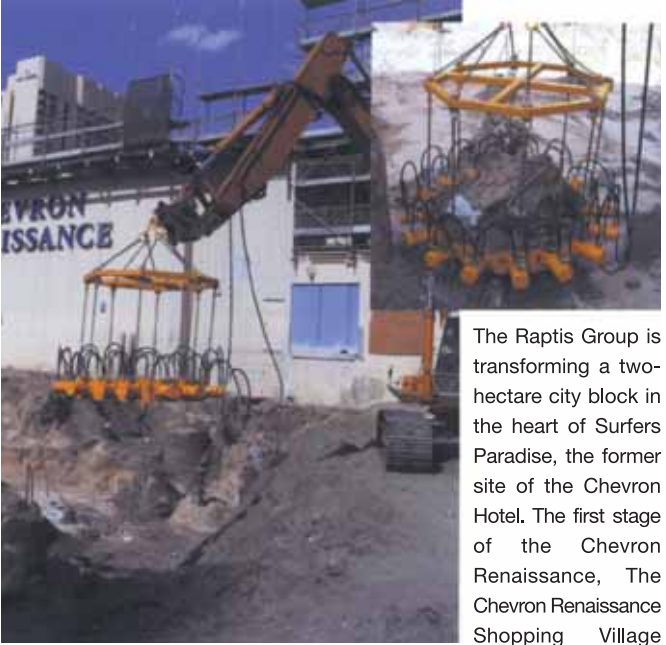


Foundations in sand - but what sand!

A Surfers landmark site gains a \$400 M mega-development



The Raptis Group is transforming a two-hectare city block in the heart of Surfers Paradise, the former site of the Chevron Hotel. The first stage of the Chevron Renaissance, The Chevron Renaissance Shopping Village

was opened in October 2000, its inviting sidewalk cafes and restaurants, fashion boutiques and convenient shopping variety have given new life to Surfers Paradise.

Now, work is complete on the first of three residential-resort apartment towers that will complete the landmark \$400 million de-velopment. The 50 level Tower 2 is currently under construction with completion expected in February 2004 and Tower 3 construction is soon to commence.

Rapcivic Contractors are the construction arm of Raptis Group and responsible for construction of the Towers. All three of the Chevron Renaissance Skyline Towers are on piles ranging from 900mm to 1500mm in diameter. Rapcivic were attracted to the speed and low noise operation of hydraulic pile breakers given the dense city location of the development. Raptis Group specified the pile breaker and Gold Coast Earthmoving who was awarded the pile-breaking contract, became the first Australian firm to use a pile breaker of this size on an Australian job.

The Type 380 is the largest hydraulic pile breaker available, capable of breaking circular piles from 600mm to 1800mm in diameter. Australian distributor Steelcom Pty Ltd brought a unit into the country specifically for use on the Chevron Renaissance development.

The circular pile breakers are highly modular systems that easily adjust to each pile diameter at site. The breaking will leave the reinforcement intact and guarantee no cracks below the cut off level. The breaking process is many times faster than conventional jackhammer breaking and is fully controlled throughout its operation. Handling and maintenance of the pile breaker is also very easy and doesn't require special skills.

Concrete pile breakers are available to break square, octagonal and circular piles in a wide range of pile size and diameters.

Steelcom can be contacted on 02 9954 9166.