



# ASI METAL MUSINGS



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE

Phone: 02 8748 0180

Website: [www.steel.org.au](http://www.steel.org.au)

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## Welcome to MM

Welcome to the first edition of *Metal Musings* (MM), a new Australian Steel Institute (ASI) publication taking a behind-the-scenes look at the steel industry and the people who make it happen. Each issue MM will profile:

- member stories (a look at the people who make up the steel industry).
- Member *Letter of the Month* (your view on the industry and trends.)
- latest news
- upcoming events.
- case studies.

MM is not all about the serious and sensible. Quirky and fun anecdotes are welcome, along with milestone events in your business and social life. Everyone from the factory floor to the executive suite will be recognised. Longtime employee about to retire? Let us know. Outstanding work, academic, cultural or sporting achievement? Let us know. Get your thinking helmets on - and contact MM now with your news contributions or ideas for the publication. If you want to nominate a person for a profile or comment on the industry, email or text a brief outline to ASI marketing and communications manager Steven Andrew at [stevena@steel.org.au](mailto:stevena@steel.org.au) or ring him direct on 0473 480 964.

## Compliance help

Easy access to a raft of existing and new compliance solutions is now available from the ASI. The ASI *Compliance Solutions* report includes the latest information and registration details for the National Structural Steelwork Compliance Scheme (NSSCS), Steelwork Compliance Australia (SCA), Steel Sustainability Australia (SSA) and ShedSafe. It can be downloaded at [ASI Compliance Solutions](#). All ASI company members receive significant discounts on SCA and SSA. Join today and save.

## ASI launches premier jobs site



Looking for the best candidate to fill your steel job vacancy? Find them now at Australia's premier site for steel positions - the ASI Career Centre at <https://jobs.steel.org.au>. Looking for a job in steel? Check out more than 1,000 positions in Australia's largest steel job portal. The ASI Career Centre is a one-stop shop for advertising, finding and preparing candidates for a steel position. Premium jobs on the jobs portal are singled out and emailed to an exclusive steel database of more than 20,000 people - a unique offering not available through traditional job sites. In addition to job listings, the site offers certified coaching on compiling a resume and handling interviews. Try this great new industry resource NOW at <https://jobs.steel.org.au>.

## Communication the key to success

### Member profile



Pat Tallon  
Civmec CEO

Chief executive officer of WA-based company Civmec Pat Tallon sees running a company as a continually evolving process. Through sessions on an online platform *Now You Know*, other platforms and direct interactions, Pat provides regular updates to his 3,000-strong workforce on what's happening across the company. Commitment to diversity is an important part of the company's approach, with 50-50 men and women across head office staff and a culturally rich workforce. Tallon and executive chairman James Fitzgerald are both tradespeople by background and pride themselves on understanding difficulties at the trades level. To this end, the company employs behaviour-based program *Never Assume* to encourage workforce involvement in safety, quality, and strengthening the business. Tallon said Civmec was a proud Australian company, with nearly all of its procurement from local businesses. Civmec provides turnkey engineering and construction solutions to customers in the resources, energy, infrastructure and defence sectors.

## 33 years strong: John inspires next gen



John Gardner  
ASI national education  
manager

Inspiring the next generation to take up careers in steel is a key goal of ASI's John Gardner. Queensland state manager and national education manager, John has 33 years with the ASI and its predecessor developing webinars and events to educate Australia's new and existing steel workforce. Joining in this important work is the ASI's new training and development manager Anne Lobascher, who will work with tertiary education bodies on building a raft of new steel-related training courses.



Anne Lobascher  
ASI training and  
development manager

## Latest technology paves the way

### Member profile



Anthony Ridout  
BridgeFAB director

ASI fabricator member Anthony Ridout from BridgeFAB is passionate about the benefits new technology brings to a business. With a degree in computer and electrical engineering and an MBA, Anthony employs latest technology in his business to ensure accuracy and top-quality results in structural steel and boutique steel fabrication. "With boutique work, a client's sketch is transformed into a 3D model before the steelwork begins," Anthony says. "This allows the client to visualise the results before their idea becomes a reality." Brisbane-based BridgeFab is a family-owned structural steel and metalwork company, which began in 2007. The company employs more than 30 employees and is a leading structural steel supplier for the Queensland tier two construction sector.

## Steel on the up but govt support needed



Mark Cain  
ASI chief executive

ASI chief executive Mark Cain has called on government to implement local content targets to encourage further investment in renewables and advanced manufacturing. In a July 5 presentation to a Federal House Standing Committee [inquiry](#) into advanced manufacturing, Mark said the steel industry was well placed to meet demand. However, he said the government needed to support steel-intensive renewable energy projects by providing greater certainty for investment. Between now and 2030 it is estimated 400,000 tonnes of fabricated steelwork will be required per annum to service 23 GW of existing renewable energy projects across wind, solar, water and transmission.

## Letter to the editor

"Cold-formed steel engineering is currently not within the standard scope of education for structural engineering. This is driving down the supply of engineers who can solve new problems, certify designs and influence specification decisions. Similarly there is a lack of entry level or trade licences across the country which focus on building with steel from end to end. The broader steel industry needs to work together to grow a skilled workforce and enable succession planning within building companies who are steel construction specialists. Tangible pathways are needed to achieve trade qualifications by changing our scope of works offering (eg, build a few houses a year, give them a steel fixing qualification via concreting work, attempt to job share with another builder 50/50). Our aging workforce is on the way to retire after back breaking labour for 30-40+ years. They would make GREAT trainers and assessors (engineers with expertise in cold formed steel in particular.)  
Joshua Knight, Business Development Manager, R&F Steel Buildings.

**Ed:** ASI is partnering with RTOs and tertiary bodies to deliver a range of new certificate II engineering courses in areas such as shed building, roll forming and fabrication.

## Winning design

### Member profile

ASI member Phil Shanks from steel detailing/construction modelling company Steelcad Drafting is no stranger to award-winning design. Steelcad completed the 3D model for the airpark roof at the Qantas Founders Museum at Longreach. The 8000 square metre roof project built by BESIXWatpac won the 2020 ASI Queensland Steel Award in the Buildings - Large Projects category.



Phil Shanks  
Steelcad Drafting operations  
manager

## Book now

If you haven't registered for the ASI Choose Steel annual convention in Melbourne in September, NOW is the time. A great line up of speakers, backed by exciting social events, kicks off on Sunday evening September 10 with a "welcome reception with a difference" at the Old Melbourne Gaol (courtesy of Combilift). The gaol where Ned Kelly met his final hour features interactive shows and an ultra-cool bar where you will enjoy drinks and canapés. A great speaking line-up over the next two days will explore steel as the preferred building material and career opportunities offered by the industry. Bookings: [ASI Steel Convention](#).

### Did you know?

*This year is the ASI's 21st birthday.*

*ASI professional membership grew 11% and manufacturers 24% in 2022-23.*

*The ASI has 5,557 members with 554 corporate members (245 fabricators).*