



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE

ASI METAL MUSINGS

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Apex Welding boosts offerings

Member profile



Family-run business Apex Welding and Steel Fabrication has improved its processing capabilities by adding an advanced steel plate cutting machine to their in-line sandblaster and cnc beam line. Owner John Galgano started the business in 1982 in Thomastown, Victoria servicing local residents and businesses with general fabrication services. In early 2000s, the company started a new phase when sons Anthony and Matthew joined the business to provide a comprehensive and high-quality end-to-end service. The expanded business prides itself on retaining its core values of a strong focus on client relationships, comprehensive service, and on-time delivery. Anthony is an active member of ASI's Victorian Technical Committee, with his business hosting the committee's March 2024 meeting (pictured). He was an annual guest lecturer for the post graduate project construction management course for use of steel in the design and procurement of structures at Victoria University for more than 10 years and sits on a number of independent industry groups to improve steel design and fabrication practices. Most recently, Apex Welding and Steel Fabrication undertook complex steelwork fabrication of an oculus (an inversion of a dome) in the southern entry of the Australian War Memorial's development project in Canberra. Apex continues to enhance its business by implementing systems for capturing information for traceability requirements and SCA certification.

Apprentices off to world titles



Two steel apprentices are off to the Worldskills world titles after wins in the Australian national titles. Fabworx apprentice Joseph Cramp from Goulburn in NSW took out the construction metal work section of the WorldSkills national titles and AOK Fabrications apprentice Harrison Field from Bathurst, NSW the welding section. Growing up with a mechanic father and working with steel at school, Joseph's foray into construction steel work was a natural progression. His love of hands-on work saw him choose welding as a career path. Harrison has notched up several achievements, including winning Gold at the 2023 Nationals and being named Young Tradesperson of the Year at the 2023 New South Wales and ACT Welding Excellence Awards. Harrison's performance has inspired his sister, who is currently completing a fitting and machining apprentice. Joseph and Harrison are now off to Lyon, France in September to compete in the international competition. The Australian Steel Institute (ASI) is one of a number of sponsors for Worldskills. The ASI encourages other businesses, apprentices and tertiary bodies to consider nominating for the next round of Worldskills regional titles to be held this year. WorldSkills Australia competitions give young trade people an opportunity to showcase their talents in a range of trade categories. Details: <https://www.worldskills.org.au/competitions/lyon-france/>.

Julian awarded ASI scholarship



Queensland University of Technology student Julian Alber (centre) has been awarded the inaugural ASI Student Scholarship. Interest in ASI supporting a student scholarship was first raised by the ASI Board, with options presented at its February 2023 meeting. It was decided a \$10,000 scholarship would go to a fourth-year student in conjunction with a thesis topic. Support was received from Orrcon Steel to fund the scholarship, with Julian writing a thesis on Screw in Steel Piles. The scholarship supports students undertaking studies in steel; strengthens relationships with tertiary bodies, and increases awareness of steel as a design solution.

Booming business from humble start

Member profile



Jason Kell started Enduraclad from scratch in 2011 armed with donated tools and a borrowed plasma cutter. Today it is an award-winning, fast-growing fabricator in the mining and earth-moving industries. As the managing director, Jason seeks guidance from his management group and staff on a whole array of business facets including business development, strategic management and promoting skill growth and development in the company's four factory locations in WA, Brisbane and China. Strong involvement of staff in the decision-making process helps promote goodwill and retention. Jason is an ultra-distance runner in his spare time. Enduraclad Group has a whole array of fabrication and welding technology at its disposal to develop next-generation hard facing technologies in the wear-resistant products market, including chromium carbide wearplate. The company took honours in the 2017 Telstra Business Awards for best Western Australian Medium Business.

ASI appoints new sustainability team

Melinda Coles has joined the ASI as its new sustainability scheme manager. Melinda has broad expertise across the ESG sector including renewable energy policy, business sustainability, carbon emission reduction and greenhouse gas abatement. She has worked on landmark developments such as Sydney's Cross City Tunnel, and managed the Better Business Partnership program on Sydney's upper north shore. Melinda is responsible for managing the ASI Steel Sustainability Australia (SSA) certification scheme. She is joined by senior project manager Michael Dawson. Michael sits on a number of sustainability committees including chair of the Australian Steel Stewardship Forum, and is responsible for government advocacy and major projects. Michael was former ASI state manager for Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia, national manager of the ASI's Environmental Sustainability Charter and worked on the planning and development of SSA. The new roles absorb and extend duties undertaken by ASI sustainability manager Jerusha Beresford, who is on extended leave.



Cairns business wins government grant

Member profile



Cairns-based steel manufacturer CSF Industries has purchased a post fabrication blastline, thanks to a \$720,000 Queensland Government grant. CSF Industries managing director Sean Adams said the new equipment will revolutionize the company's blast and painting division. Acquisition of the Shotblaster equipment will enable the expansion of manufacturing capabilities and the creation of up to 15 new jobs over the next five years. CSF Industries anticipates a 67 per cent reduction in blasting times, streamlining production processes and opening doors to lucrative market segments, including the shipbuilding sector. CSF Industries is one of a 100 enterprises helped by the Made in Queensland initiative.

Bisalloy reports strong plate demand

Bisalloy reports Australian demand for quenched and tempered steel plate remains strong. In latest figures, Bisalloy said improved gas and electricity contracts along with reductions in transportation costs will support its Australian margins. Bisalloy said it remained committed to fair competition, but was concerned with the potential outcome of the Anti-Dumping Commission's review into the continuation of dumping measures. The commission is reviewing whether to continue anti-dumping rulings into quenched and tempered steel plate exported to Australia from Japan, Finland and Sweden. On Wednesday, Bisalloy announced its results for the six months ended 31st December 2023. While Bisalloy's revenue was down 2.3% mostly due to reduced volume impacts arising from industrial action, net profit after tax was up by 18.8%.

Fabbies welcome emissions training



Fabricators and rollformers have benefited from an ASI-supported forum building awareness about increasing regulation with net-zero emissions reporting. The Driving Sustainable Modern Manufacturing training event at Eastern Creek, Sydney on February 22 supported members in their efforts to develop net-zero plans and strategies for their businesses. The training was funded by Investment NSW. Partner attendees included Investment NSW, AiGroup, Lendlease NSW/ACT sustainability manager Stacey Johnson and ASI. The need for continued education on emissions targets for steel SMEs was a key theme to emerge from the workshop. ASI is meeting with Investment NSW to work through some other government-funded training options and how members can enrol and obtain funding. A steel sustainability e-learning module will soon be available via the ASI e-Learning platform. The ASI is also reviewing the Sustainability Advantage program available through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water to check its suitability for steel businesses.

Report highlights gender pay gap

Calls for a more inclusive, equitable and diverse construction industry come on the back of new Federal Government Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) data placing construction at the top of the gender pay disparity list. See <https://www.steel.org.au/news-and-events/news/wgea-construction-industry-snapshot/>