



THE LINK

Showcasing the successes, innovation and developments in the Fencing, Gate and Wire Industries



President's Report

I hope wherever you are reading this, that you are all safe and well, and looking forward to many better months ahead than those current and past.

We are all in a state of flux due to Covid-19 and uncertain what tomorrow will bring. I keep finding myself wanting to hit fast forward and just get

through the next few months as quickly as possible. In conversations with my staff who are missing family contact, celebrating birthdays or other family milestones, I suggest they focus on how good it will be on the other side, once this is all over. It's easy to say enjoy the break, sit at home and take a load off, but of course we all miss our normal lives; the footy, the beach, the social or sporting club and of course family. I had a call last night from a friend who I normally ocean swim with each week. He was taking the time

to ring 2 people every day that he would usually see but wouldn't speak to on the phone. I thought this was a great idea, so I started making calls and checking in on the people who I normally run into on a regular basis.



community know people care. So go and put a soft toy in your window or sit one on the front fence.

It's times like these that we really need each other; we need compassion, kindness, empathy and to be grateful for the things we have in our lives and not be sad at what has been taken away. Please take care of yourselves, your families and your staff and I really look forward to an association catch up when this is all over.

Charles Johnstone

Vater and the Virus

While Vater Hardware Australia's friendly sales reps were known to be regularly hitting the road and visiting customers in and around metro areas as well as rural and regional centres of South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia, the COVID-19 virus has changed the level of personal contact the company can have with its customers.

However, with warehouses in 5 of the major capital cities, delivery services continue as normal and extend throughout the nation even though State and Territory borders may be closed.

Vater is well placed to assist members through this difficult period and its factory in South Australia continues to operate 24 hours a day.

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 Victorian Temporary Fencing

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Update on AS 2423

As members will already know, *AS 2423-2002 Coated steel wire fencing products for terrestrial, aquatic and general use* was withdrawn as an active Standard back in June 2019 because a project proposal was not put forward to update it. The procedure at Standards Australia is to withdraw old unchanged Standards and, given that this Standard has not been reviewed in 17 years, this became its fate.

Fencing members will understand that while old, the Standard is still in current use, and its withdrawal has caused some consternation within architectural firms, engineers and construction specifier groups.

Over the past few months the AFIA has been working to have AS 2423 reinstated through discussions with the Chairman and members of the relevant committee, and also with project managers and others at Standards Australia. Whilst the formal workload of the committee is high, and limiting of their time to take on additional work, efforts are being made to have the reinstatement of AS 2423 fast tracked. For any additional information, please contact Richard Newbigin on richard@wireassociation.com.au

Update on AS 4687

In May 2019, Standards Australia elected to re-constitute the relevant technical committee to try to resolve the impasse that had been reached over appropriate wind speeds to be specified in the temporary fencing provisions of the Standard.

It is now likely that the new Standard will be composed of 4 parts

- Part 1 – General
- Part 2 – Temporary Fencing and Crowd Control Barriers
- Part 3 – Temporary Hoardings (internal & external)
- Part 4 – Temporary Pool Fencing

Parts 3 and 4 are essentially complete but Part 4 requires some editing before it can proceed to public comment stage.

With the re-constitution of the committee, the time clock has been reset for completion of the revision by November 2021 but it is hoped that each part will proceed to public comment separately, and the intention of the committee is to finalise the document as soon as possible.

The main sticking point remains design wind speed levels for temporary fencing and if a consensus cannot be reached, the current industry standard of 15 m/sec, will be maintained for the draft for public comment. While the committee and Standards Australia are intent on making the Standard as rigorous and as safe for the general public as it can be, there have been no deaths or serious injury arising from the 4 million plus panels currently in use, and making a significant change to current design wind speeds would seem unnecessary and damaging to the industry.

Update on AS 1926.1

Standards Australia have confirmed that 3,099 comments were received from stakeholders as part of phase 1 of the public consultation phase for AS 1926.1 Safety Barriers for Swimming Pools.

SPASA Australia held a national roadshow to inform its members about the contents of the draft, and probably 85% or more of the public comments have been made by industry members of SPASA. Comments seen by SPASA Australia through the roadshow confirm the many, varied and significant issues within the current draft standard.

Standards Australia are currently in the process of consolidating all comments prior to determining next steps, and, while not all comments will be critical of the draft Standard, the sheer volume of comments presents the technical committee responsible for this Standard with a significant task to deal with each of them.

Should any members wish to be kept directly informed about the progress of this Standard, please contact Richard Newbigin at richard@wireassociation.com.au.

NEW MEMBER PROFILES

SA Security Fencing

Driven by client demand for perimeter fencing solutions, parent company Saxon Engineering incorporated its fencing and security solutions division, which now stands-alone as SA Security Fencing.

Saxon Engineering is highly skilled in all types of steel fabrication including: stainless steel, mild steel, sheet metal, aluminium, balustrade systems and structural steel, all of which is further complimented by in-house drafting and CAD services.

South Australian owned and operated, with a collective industry experience exceeding 60 years, SA Security Fencing (including fencing, gate and automation installations) undertakes projects state-wide and nationally.

SA Security Fencing also provides comprehensive and personalised project management services. The Estimator that provides the quote, becomes the Project Manager with intricate detail of the customer's requirements. From initial on-site mobilisation, throughout installation and subsequent handover, the Project Manager maintains regular communication with the customer, ensuring projects are completed as intended.

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NZ Wire & Mesh Ltd

In July 2019 Wire Displays came under the new ownership of NZ Wire & Mesh Ltd. Although still trading as Wire Displays and continuing on with the manufacture of high-quality display products and shop fittings it is known for, NZ Wire & Mesh is steadily moving into the industrial sector of largescale mesh panel and gabion production. With recent mesh panel projects for public parks and council collaborated designs for gabion displays, these first few months has seen Wire Displays expand into architectural fittings and building construction.

Based on the Kapiti Coast, Wire Displays is 100% New Zealand owned and operated and takes pride in its products ensuring that finished items match customer requirements and expectations, as well as offering the assurances of competitive pricing for quality and speedy delivery.

New owner and Managing Director, Nigel Brown, says 'we are looking forward to developing new innovations in wire forming and welding technology.'

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NEW APPOINTMENT

Doogood Enterprises new appointment: Jamon Rigoni, Sales Executive

Doogood Enterprises has recently welcomed Jamon Rigoni as their new Sales Executive. The Doogood group of companies are comprised of a number of interrelated enterprises involved in both the supply and coating of steel and fencing products. Doogood is a family run business that prides itself on service and quality.

Jamon has worked primarily in the steel fencing industry and brings with him over 15-years' experience. His personal interests include AFL – he is a die-hard Carlton supporter. Jamon looks forward to working with current and future associates in 2020, which is going to be full of new and exciting things from the team at Doogood.

Jamon can be contacted on 0448 311 037 or via email jamon@doogoodpc.com.au



Jamon Rigoni, Sales Executive, Doogood Enterprises.



AWIA DIRECTOR REPORT

Well that's another decade of our lives behind us, and I, for one, have found it to be the most tumultuous one yet, but probably also the most satisfying and rewarding. We are fortunate to live in Australasia, still able to enjoy personal freedoms that are the envy of most other parts of the world, despite the press often telling us otherwise.

It's not all beer and skittles though, and it is particularly sad to see the widespread bushfires that have impacted so heavily on most parts of Australia over the past few months. I shall leave the blame game to others, but I can't help but feel that some sensible management of our National Parks might have prevented much of the devastation to our native fauna and flora, let alone to the people who have lost their lives or their homes and businesses. As usual though, it is wonderful to see communities rally together, and the fund raising around the country has been exceptional.

The Association finished off the year with a well attended fencing meeting in November which updated fencing members on several current topics including various changes to Australian Standards. We also overfilled the private dining room of the Mitre Tavern, Melbourne's oldest building, for our Christmas dinner. A few diehards continued to enjoy themselves once the Mitre had closed for the night and were left wishing that the event had been held on a Friday night instead of a Thursday.

Our plans for a mid-year conference in Adelaide late May, and the October conference in Auckland, have been thrown into disarray by the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. I know that while this is unfortunate, it is the least of the problems facing our businesses and families right now, and I hope that you are all at least safe and well. The road still to be travelled will be rocky and difficult, but the Association will do all it can to support you through this difficult period.

Richard Newbigin

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InfraBuild's Newcastle Wire Mill Turns 100

InfraBuild Wire, a member of the GFG Alliance, has recently celebrated 100 years of continuous manufacturing with senior business and Government leaders coming together to mark the occasion.

Along with nearly all of InfraBuild Wire's 350 local employees, Chairman of GFG Alliance Sanjeev Gupta attended the ceremony in Newcastle and congratulated the InfraBuild Wire team for the incredible milestone of reaching 100 years and wished them all the best for their next 100 years.

Shortly after manufacturing its first wire on the Mayfield site in Newcastle, NSW in September 1919, the Austral Nail Co., as it was then known, delivered the first batch of locally manufactured nails to eagerly awaiting customers in Sydney and Newcastle.

Now a key part of InfraBuild Wire, the Newcastle wire mill is a fully integrated wire and wire products manufacturer. InfraBuild's Newcastle wire mill produces a broad range of bright and galvanised wires that find their way into numerous industries. Many of InfraBuild's customers are involved in the building of Australia's infrastructure and use InfraBuild's high quality wire products to reinforce concrete structures, beams, culverts, railway sleepers,

pipes and poles. InfraBuild's wire is also crucial to Australia's robust mining industry and finds its way into such applications as ropes for draglines, shovels and conveyors as well as roof-bolts and welded mesh to stabilise underground mines. InfraBuild's products can also be found in many of Australia's chain-wire fences, welded mesh panels, bedding springs and the safety barrier ropes that are increasingly utilised on Australia's roadways.

It is clear that thanks to the efforts of the passionate and dedicated team at the Newcastle wire mill, and its many loyal and valued customers, InfraBuild Wire is in a great position to take on the next 100 years.



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Marsh Springs and Metal Products have acquired Better Springs

Marsh Springs and Metal Products have negotiated the acquisition of Better Springs with Michael Priestly, who has successfully operated this family business for 36 years.

Richard and Fay Priestly took control of the business in 1983 and expanded the business through a lot of hard work and the acquisition of Forrest Springs and Wire Mesh Industries (Springs).

When selling the business, Michael wanted to ensure that his customers, many of whom have supported Better Springs for decades, were looked after and that the relationship is seamlessly transitioned to a new supplier.

Marsh Springs and Metal Products is a nationally represented company that has been trading for 67 years and is located in Carole Park, south west of Brisbane in Queensland and has approximately 80 fulltime staff. Over the past few years Marsh Springs has invested in its product offering and capabilities to better service the market, and offers wide manufacturing capabilities in springs, wire forms and metal pressings.

This purchase follows recent successful acquisitions of Bayswater Springs, Bernhart Springs, Gibbens Industries and Queensland Springs.

To ensure the continuation of Better Springs high-quality and efficient business practices, a number of Better Springs' employees will continue with Marsh Springs. Michael will also continue to work during a transition period for the next five months.

Please contact Marsh Springs on sales@marshsprings.com.au for any assistance.



Michael Priestly from Better Springs seals the deal with Adam McJannett from Marsh Springs.

Growth at Bayswater Plastic Coaters and Aarca Wire Products

Bayswater Plastic Coaters purchased Gale Products last year and continued under the umbrella of Bayswater Plastic Coaters and its manufacturing arm Aarca Wire Products. In 2019 Aarca Wire Products expanded into newer and bigger premises to accommodate this growth. They are looking forward to more growth this year as the company has been able to meet the needs of the custom wire products market not only in WA but also supplying to businesses across Australia.

MEMBER FUNCTIONS

Fencing Meeting

Towards the end of last November, fencing members from three States, (and even Singapore – thanks Andrew Marshall!) came together at the Tower Hotel in Melbourne to get an update on work done by the Association on behalf of members over the past twelve months. The topics discussed included:

- AS 4687 Temporary Fencing and Hoardings (revision)
- AS 1926.1 Safety Barriers for Swimming Pools (public comment stage for revision)
- AS 5345 High Security Anti Intruder Fencing (new Standard)
- Code of Practice for Sliding Gates
- AS 2423 Coated Steel Wire Fencing Products (withdrawn Standard)
- AS 1725 Chain Link Fabric Security Fences & Gates (due for revision)
- Tennis Australia Infrastructure Planning
- Licensing for fencers in VIC and NSW

It was a busy program but our Chair for the meeting, Ray Otter, kept us on track and all these topics were covered in just over an hour and a half, leaving attendees plenty of time to catch up for a drink and some dinner.

The past year's work has certainly had a substantial regulatory feel to it, and the intention of Standards Australia to more consistently update existing Standards will likely mean that more Association resources will be used in this area.

Any members who would like copies of the various presentations should contact Richard Newbigin at richard@wireassociation.com.au or phone 1300 942 500.

Christmas Dinner

Although we had two no-shows to our annual Christmas party, the private dining room booked at the Mitre Tavern, reportedly Melbourne's oldest building, was pushed to its limits. We apologise to Matt Curry from Vater for his cramped position at one end of the very long table. Fortunately, members utilised the private nature of the room to get up and about between courses which helped ease the tight seating. There may also have been networking taking place - either that, or collective trips to the bar.

The occasion was likely to be one of the last times that both Brian & Sue Mullarvey would be together at an Association function, and the opportunity was used to present both of them with a Certificate of Appreciation for the immense amount of work they had jointly and individually done for the AWIA. Brian's contribution to the AWIA, through his work with our permanent and temporary fencing members, simply cannot be overstated, and he would be the first to acknowledge that without Sue's support his work, especially with this newsletter, would not have reached the lofty heights it has.

For 2020, plans are being made to hold our normal year-end fencing update meeting followed by the Christmas party on 4th December to make it easier for non-Victorian members to attend both events.

Please put it in your diaries now. It's always a good event, and a nice way to catch up with your industry compatriots before the end of the year.

The employer battles of the coronavirus

The outbreak of the coronavirus is having a material impact globally. Therefore, it is appropriate and reasonable for Australian businesses to take prudent action.

Businesses and employers are being advised to take this virus seriously and to inform employees on symptoms to look out for and for employees to report any recent travel to China, including specific dates. It is important to note that the incubation period for the virus is believed to be up to two weeks during which a carrier will often not exhibit any symptoms at all.

Workplace Health and Safety

Employers have a duty to provide and maintain a safe workplace. During this time businesses should review the workplace to ensure that it is, to the extent that is possible, free from risk and that arrangements are considered and put in place to assist workers, and respond to any incident, should the need arise.

Businesses should consider health and safety procedures to prevent employees from contracting the virus and ensure that all staff are aware of the requirements in this regard. Employer work health and safety obligations may extend to measures ranging from mandatory quarantine of employees in the event of travel to infected areas, for example, by requiring employees to work from home, to providing alternative locations of work and ensuring the availability of P2/N95 face masks or equivalent personal protective equipment.

One particular factor to consider is ensuring employees have access to adequate facilities for washing hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub. This is a precautionary measure recommended by the Department of Health to protect against infections.

Employers should also bear in mind disability discrimination

laws and take care not to discriminate against employees on the basis of actual or imputed diseases or infections.

At this stage employees may only be stood down in regard to the workplace health and safety risk they may pose to the workplace. Unless there is a specific right to stand an employee down without pay, any stand down must be paid.

Alternative Working Arrangement

Employers may want to consider implementing temporary flexible work arrangements with employees who may be impacted. Flexibility in the form of hours, location and pattern of work could mitigate the effects of an emergency and maintain productivity. Consider in particular whether it is feasible for employees to work from home and perform their usual or modified duties until it is safe for them to return to work.

Access to Leave Entitlements

In circumstances where employees have been quarantined due to the coronavirus disease, they may request to access their personal/carer's leave over this period to mitigate any loss of income.

Personal/carer's leave may be taken where the employee is not fit for work due to a personal illness or injury, or to provide care or support to a member of their immediate family or household due to illness, injury or unexpected emergency. In order to access this leave, the employee should provide notice and may be required to provide evidence of the reason for the leave upon the request of the employer.

Annual leave can only be taken by mutual agreement, so employers will need to make sure agreement with the employee is reached before proceeding with processing of annual leave.

Article courtesy of HR Assured and FCB.



New date for wire and Tube Düsseldorf: 7 - 11 December 2020

The world's leading international trade fairs for the wire, cable, tube and pipe industry, wire and Tube, will take place from 7 to 11 December 2020 at Düsseldorf Fairgrounds.

This is Messe Düsseldorf's timely response to the postponement of the industry highlights announced at the end of February. It was agreed in consultation with all partners involved in order to counteract the increasingly dynamic developments regarding the possible spread of the coronavirus.

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CEO Craig Gibbens

As a leading Australian manufacturer and supplier to the fencing and wire mesh markets in the Asia Pacific region, the Protective Group, which today is led by fourth generation Gibbens family members, has thrived for over 44 years. Their success and continued growth are the result of numerous factors, including a strong leadership team, exceptional workplace morale, an unwavering commitment to their customers, diversification, quality Australian made products, end-to-end production and distribution control, and the strategic decision to focus on a niche market that gives them a distinct competitive advantage.

While the Protective Group began its journey in 1975, the Gibbens family history in the Australian wire-based manufacturing industry dates back much further. Craig Gibbens, who led the first arm of the Protective Group, Protective Fencing, is the grandson of Matthew George Gibbens, who, in 1907, was an apprentice at Australia's first wire spring making factory and later started a spring manufacturing business at Camperdown. George (Craig's father) joined the business and within a few years had begun producing his own machines. He then started his own business to export machines, which began to attract a global market. In 1968, George purchased five acres of land in West Gosford on the back of the State Government's business decentralisation incentive scheme and relocated to his newly-built premises the following year. Craig joined the family business in 1974 (his older brother, Greg, was already onboard) and commenced his fitting and machining apprenticeship. A year later, Protective Fencing Pty Ltd was formed with Craig at the helm.

Protective Fencing began with one chain link wire making machine, two employees and Craig working the machine, quoting, taking orders, manufacturing the product, delivering the rolls of wire fencing and even erecting the fences until he had sufficient work to subcontract out the installation process. Building an easy rapport with customers, Craig quickly identified a need to offer the complete fencing package. So he began manufacturing the posts, gates and other accessories to accompany the wire mesh. Word of Craig's quality products and services grew rapidly and soon he was asked to supply fencing companies throughout NSW as well as direct to consumers. A key milestone in the evolution of the company occurred in 1991 when Craig purchased Protective Fencing from his father's holding company and by 1995 the company had grown eight-fold. A staunch supporter of the Australian made ethic, Craig formed a strong strategic alliance with BHP as their major supplier in the early years and the company has stayed firm to this value ever since with only a small

percentage of the wire they use imported.

At a time when many Australian manufacturers were moving their operations overseas, Craig saw no reason to leave Australia, having a state-of-the-art 3,500sqm manufacturing facility and headquarters in Gosford. As part of their mission to continually provide more value to their customers they installed a new powder coating plant and extended the product range of industrial and security fencing products. This enabled them to manufacture and deliver orders with a much shorter lead time to meet customer demand, something they knew competitors importing from Asia could not do. While this has been a challenge for the business, particularly in more recent years with the low Australian dollar, one of the strategies instilled from generations past was to maintain a strong, local supplier relationship and this has given them the edge over others who sought to cut costs by purchasing overseas. Another strong point of difference is the company's niche target market of installers rather than consumers.

Today the Protective Group consists of three separate trading entities – Protective Fencing, Protective Powder Coating and Protective Wire Mesh Industries – delivering an annual turnover of more than \$15 million. With Craig now semi-retired, the Group is led by his son, James, who joined the company in 1999 as an apprentice mechanical engineer, and his daughter, Samantha Swain, who came on board last year after several years in construction management. As fourth generation Gibbens family members, neither James nor Samantha (like their father before them) felt any pressure to join the family business. With their own unique skillsets, each plays a different role in the Group. James leads the production, logistics and warehousing teams while Samantha leads the administrative, accounts management and sales teams. The Group now employs a staff of over fifty, has a fleet of eight trucks and two additional manufacturing and distribution centers, one in Victoria and the other in Queensland. Knowing that diversification is crucial for success in Australian manufacturing in the 21st century, the Group has also moved beyond fencing into other markets, including wire mesh for the mining sector and government infrastructure projects. They are constantly working on product development and are currently partnering with an external team to develop Australia's first high security standard, an initiative driven by the Protective Group.

Article courtesy of Central Coast Business Review



James Gibbens, CEO Craig Gibbens & Samantha Swain

Ability Works Australia increases capacity in Wire & Metal fabrication including a new temporary fencing repair business

Ability Works Australia is a not-for-profit social enterprise employing 145 people with a disability and those experiencing disadvantage in Melbourne. They have increased their capacity in temporary fencing repair for major customer Victorian Temporary Fencing and completed bespoke fabrication works for major infrastructure consortiums such as Cross Yarra Partnership (Metro Tunnel) and McConnel Dowell Decimil JV (Mordialloc Freeway upgrade). Such opportunities are a result of the Victorian State Government’s new ‘Social Procurement Framework’.

The introduction of a new welding bay and manufacturing processes aided by experts from Toyota in ‘continuous improvement’, has increased repair output and provided more employment.



CEO Sue Boyce and Innovation & Operations Manager Craig Young showing site visitors the welding bay where employee Mark Galotta repairs fences.



CEO Sue Boyce with Victoria Temporary Fencing owner Damian Lee, General Manager Matthew White and AWA’s Innovation and Operations Manager Craig Young inspecting the new repair fence panels.



CEO Sue Boyce and The Hon. Luke Donnellan MP, Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers, Minister for Child Protection inspecting the new fence repair business.



CEO Sue Boyce and Innovation & Operations Manager Craig Young inspecting the new fence repair business with The Hon. Luke Donnellan MP, Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers, Minister for Child Protection.

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Bekaert PVC fusion-bonded wire

‘Bekaert PVC fusion-bonded wire’ is a commercially produced, colour-coated wire for the residential, commercial and industrial chain link fence industry. Galvanized steel core wire is coated with polyolefin elastomer to create this colour coated wire product. The most popular colour is black with the most commonly used material, although other colour options are available. This formulation, used by Bekaert, is also designed to handle any out-gassing from the zinc coating as a result of heating the wire during the coating process, effectively eliminating any adhesion problems.

‘Bekaert PVC fusion-bonded wire’ is flexible, chip resistant, offers outstanding adhesion, greater UV stability, greater abrasion resistance and is not permeable to moisture. The resultant fence has not only a decorative coating, but also, more importantly, a protective coating. In addition, it does not require an overly thick extruded coating and as such, provides greater “see thru” visibility for security applications, plus an added benefit of less wind resistance.



From Left to Right - Examples of PVC fusion-bonded wire.





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UPCOMING FUNCTIONS

May 2020 Conference

Adelaide – 28/29 May 2020

Indefinitely Deferred

Recent timing of the mid-year conference has been problematic for many members as it has either conflicted directly with, or close to, other events.

To try to accommodate members generally, this year's event will be held in Adelaide on 28 and 29 May. Please put the dates in your diaries.

Our current line-up is:

May 28th

- Guest speaker (an Australian sporting icon)
- Economic Update from Mei Leong, Head of Market Analytics, GFG Alliance/InfraBuild
- Roundtable discussion with Mark Eades, National Credit Manager, InfraBuild Wire
- Lunch
- Plant tour
- Boat trip
- Dinner

May 29th

- For those staying on in Adelaide on the Friday, plans are for a trip to either the Barossa or McLaren Vale

October 2020 Conference:

Auckland, New Zealand – 16/17

October 2020 Pending Confirmation

It has been several years since the AWIA has held a conference outside Australia, and the committee is hopeful that members will be keen to support this event. Certainly our Kiwi members are looking forward to welcoming us all to their shores and are already practicing their kia oras.

NZ Steel have offered a tour of their Glenbrook steel mill, and there will be an array of other events and presentations to enjoy.

Further details will be available over the coming months, and if any members have suggestions about what they'd like included in the conference program, please contact Richard Newbigin at: richard@wireassociation.com.au. Some pre-advice about your intentions to attend would also be very welcome.



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TECHNICAL NEWS

Spring Nitriding

In its simplest form, nitriding is a process which encourages the diffusion of atomic nitrogen into the surface of steels to improve the strength, case-hardening the metal. There are two commercial processes available - gas and plasma nitriding. This summary will focus on gas nitriding.

The process of gas nitriding is called the “Floer Process”. The process involves heating the component in a flowing ammonia (NH₃) or NH₃ + H₂ atmosphere at two different temperatures for two different times and at two different dissociations (gas flow rates). This allows the controlled diffusion of nitrogen into the surface, optimising the increase in surface strength.

The main benefit of this, with regards to springs, is the increase in fatigue life as the stress to strength ratio is reduced. There are however drawbacks to the process, namely reduced ductility in the nitrogen affected region and decreased core strength. The decreased core strength is due to the temperatures required being very close to the tempering temperature of the alloy. However, as much of the stress on the wire is at the outer edge, where the mechanical properties have been increased, the process should still be beneficial to the operation of the spring.

Information supplied by Institute of Spring Technology UK. For additional information please contact Richard Newbigin at richard@wireassociation.com.au



Is it True Blue?



AWIA has been made aware of instances of pipe bearing a blue band marking that has turned out not to be medium grade, as specified to conform to the Australian Standard (AS1725.1-2010). To assist members with ensuring accuracy of materials on the job, below is a table outlining wall thickness of security fencing tube - medium quality, as per AS 1725.

| Nominal size DN mm | Quality | Nominal Outside Diameter (OD)mm | Minimum wall thickness (t) mm | Strength grade (Mpa) | |
|--------------------|---------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| | | AS 1074 AS/NZS 1163 EN 10255 | | AS/NZS 1163 | AS 1074 EN 10255 |
| DN 100 | Medium | 114.3 | 4.5 | 250 | 195 |
| DN 80 | Medium | 88.9 | 4.0 | 250 | 195 |
| DN 50 | Medium | 60.3 | 3.6 | 250 | 195 |
| DN 40 | Medium | 48.3 | 3.2 | 250 | 195 |
| DN 32 | Medium | 42.4 | 3.2 | 250 | 195 |

What is the difference between seamless and welded pipe?

Welded pipe vs. seamless pipe

It's a debate that's been around for a long time, and it's still going strong today. When your next project arrives, what side of the debate will you fall on? Will you choose a welded steel pipe, a welded carbon pipe? Or will you go with one of their seamless counterparts?

Here are some of the advantages of both types of pipes to help you make your decision.

Advantages of welded

- Welded pipes are typically more cost effective than their seamless equivalents.
- Welded pipes are usually more readily available than seamless. The longer lead time required for seamless pipes can not only make timing problematic, but it also allows more time for the price of the materials to fluctuate.
- The wall thickness of welded pipes is generally more consistent than that of seamless pipes.
- The internal surface of welded tubes can be checked before manufacturing, which isn't possible with seamless.

Advantages of seamless

- The main perceived advantage of seamless pipes is that they don't have a weld seam. Traditionally, the seam of welded pipes has been viewed as a weak spot, vulnerable to failure and corrosion. For many years, this fear was probably justified. However, in recent years improvements in the manufacturing process for welded steel pipes and other welded pipes have boosted the strength and performance of the weld seam to levels indistinguishable from that of the rest of the pipe.
- Seamless pipes provide peace of mind. Although there should be no issues with the seams of welded pipes supplied by reputable manufacturers, seamless pipes prevent any possibility of a weak seam.
- Seamless pipes have better ovality, or roundness, than welded pipes.

Difference between a tube and a pipe

Cross-Section: A tube can have rectangular, square or a circular cross-section where as a pipe is of circular cross section only.

Ductility: A tube is a lot more ductile compared to a pipe.

Length: A tube is readily available in any length. A pipe is manufactured in regular lengths of 6-meters (single random length). On special requests even 12-meter pipe (double random length) is manufactured.

Thickness: The thickness is measured in terms of inches or millimeters in the case of a tube, where as a pipe is measured in terms of 'schedule number'.

Applications: Tubes are used generally for mass transfer and heat transfer (e.g. lubrication in coolers and pumps). Pipes are used only for mass transfer (e.g. transfer of fluids).

STATE REPORTS

VICTORIA REPORT



On 1 December 2019, new laws to improve swimming pool and spa safety came into effect in Victoria. They introduce new registration, inspection and certification requirements for property owners. As part of the changes, owners are required to register their pool and spa with their local

council and have their safety barrier inspected once every four years. Relocatable pools that do not consist of multiple components and do not require any assembly are not subject to the barrier requirements. Inspections of pool or spa barriers can only be carried out by a registered building surveyor, a registered building inspector or a municipal building surveyor, and the number of pools soon requiring compliance certificates may lead to surveyors limiting themselves to this work alone.

Compliance levels will depend on when the pool or spa was installed with three separate periods applying - pre 8 April 1991, between 8 April 1991 and 30 April 2010, and from 1 May 2010 onwards. Registration of existing pools must be made to local councils by 1st June 2020.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA REPORT



Measures announced by the WA Government in the last quarter of 2019 to raise the payroll tax threshold from \$850,000 annual payroll to \$950,000 on January 1st 2020, and then to \$1,000,000 on January 1st 2021 will most benefit small businesses in the State. In spite of this change the Chamber of Commerce & Industry has noted a continued drop in short-term business confidence year on year mostly attributed to slow consumer spending. Increases are expected to capital expenditure in the mining sector, and the construction industry is bucking the trend with an expectation for stronger conditions over the next twelve months.

Manufacturing businesses can, of course, use other methods to achieve growth as member company, Bayswater Plastic Coaters did when it purchased Gale Products last year. Gale Products will continue under the umbrella of Bayswater Plastic Coaters and its manufacturing arm Aarca Wire Products. In 2019 Aarca Wire Products expanded into newer and bigger premises to accommodate the growth from gaining the business from Gale. The company has been able to meet the needs of the custom wire products market not only in WA but is also supplying to businesses across Australia.

Australasian Certification Authority for Reinforcing and Structural Steels (ACRS)

Among the disturbing number of building products issues facing consumers recently, it is comforting to know that suppliers of steel for construction including reinforcing mesh and structural steel can access pre-eminent third-party certification through ACRS.

ACRS operates an integrated 2-stage, independent, expert steel certification scheme unique in Australia and New Zealand. ACRS is supported by 19 peak technical bodies, including the AWIA, and provides steel specifiers, designers, and customers with the highest available confidence in the manufacture, fabrication and supply of finished steel into construction projects.

ACRS is a consumer-facing product certification scheme, independent of steel suppliers and is not for profit. ACRS operates to the internationally recognised higher standard for steel certification, and ACRS is a recognised peer of its equivalent, peak, international steel certifiers.

ACRS certifies over 150 sites from 80 suppliers in 23 countries and covers over 70% of steel supplied to construction in Australia and New Zealand.

All ACRS assessment and review is undertaken by ACRS' own qualified and experienced metallurgists and engineers, and all certification decisions are made by an expert ACRS committee drawn from specifiers, designers, and consumer bodies to deliver the most rigorous scheme available for certification of steel construction materials to Australian and New Zealand requirements. In 20-years of verifying suppliers of steel to the requirements of Australian and New Zealand customers, ACRS has developed an unrivalled body of knowledge and awareness.

By using the ACRS 2-Stage certification system (ACRS Stage 1 for steel manufacture and then ACRS Stage 2 to validate the rebar processing, mesh manufacture, and structural welded section fabrication) steel specifiers, purchasers, and customers have the highest available level of confidence that the steel delivered to their projects meets the Standard.



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Victorian Building Authority goes to work on swimming pool and spa safety

On 1 December 2019, new laws to improve swimming pools and spas safety came into effect in Victoria.

It is now mandatory for owners of land where a swimming pool or spa is located, to register their pool or spa with their relevant council. In addition, owners are now required to obtain and lodge a compliance certificate for the safety of their pool or spa barrier every four years.

Owners of backyard swimming pools and spas will need to engage a registered building surveyor or building inspector to carry out an inspection and issue the compliance certificate.

Once a pool or spa is registered, the local council will notify owners of the due date for the first certificate of pool barrier compliance. Owners are required to arrange an inspection and lodge the certificate with their local council by the due date.

The Swimming Pool and Spa Association (SPASA) Victoria CEO, Chris Samartzis, applauds the Andrews Government for bringing in this new legislation that will ensure the safety of all Victorians.

“Backyard pool and spa owners can now relax and enjoy the fantastic lifestyle that comes with pool and spa ownership, knowing that their wonderful asset will now be safer than ever. This legislation will help focus attention on a critical component of pools and spas. The regulations allow for a low-cost environment to deal with mandatory barrier inspections and we applaud the State Government for a well thought out piece of legislation,” Mr Samartzis said.

Registration of pools and spas

Victorian backyard pool and spa owners have until 1 June 2020 to register their pool or spa with their local council. The maximum fee that a council can charge is \$31.84.

For pools and spas constructed prior to 1 June 2020 that have an unknown construction date, an information search fee may be charged, up to a maximum of \$47.24.

Pools and spas constructed after 1 June 2020 must be registered within 30 days after issue of occupancy permit or certificate of final inspection.

Inspection and lodgement of certificate of barrier compliance for pools and spas:

- For pools and spas constructed on or before 30 June 1994, a certificate of barrier compliance must be lodged by 1 June 2021.



SPASA VIC CEO, Chris Samartzis

- For pools and spas constructed between 1 July 1994 and 1 May 2010, a certificate of barrier compliance must be lodged by 1 June 2022.
- For pools and spas constructed between 1 May 2010 and 31 May 2020, a certificate of barrier compliance must be lodged by 1 June 2023.
- For pools and spas constructed on or after 1 June 2020, a certificate of barrier compliance is due within 30 days of occupancy permit or certificate of final inspection. This certificate must accompany an application for registration. The next certificate of compliance is due four years after registration.

Hefty fines will apply for pool and spa owners who do not register their pool or spa.

The fee for lodging a certificate of pool and spa barrier compliance will be up to a maximum of \$20.50, with certificates of compliance being required to be lodged once every four years. Pool owners will have 60 days to bring their pools into compliance, if an inspector identifies any non-compliant safety concerns.

These new regulations also introduce a new class of registered building inspector - Building Inspector (Pool Safety). This new class of building inspector will be limited to carrying out inspections and associated functions for the purposes of the new regulations only.

For more information visit www.vba.vic.gov.au/consumers/swimming-pools

Qantas Business Rewards Program – help the AWIA!



If members quote the Association’s ABN (95 602 035 937) when making any Qantas bookings (flights, cars or hotels), Business Rewards points will accrue for the AWIA. These points can then be used by the secretariat to pay for travel approved by the National Committee, thereby freeing up Association funds for use elsewhere such as updating its website on a more regular basis. The best part is that points earned by the Association through this program do not affect

your personal accumulation of frequent flyer points.

If every member were to do this even just once a year, the benefit to the Association would be immense. Please give it a try.

Additive - The changing face of manufacturing

The Additive Manufacturing Hub is hosting a one-day educational event to introduce people in the manufacturing industry to the possibilities offered up by additive manufacturing.

Organised in partnership with the Additive Manufacturing Hub and AMTIL, the event will feature an extensive program of speakers from both industry and academia, who will:

- Examine the ways that additive processes are affecting and enhancing conventional manufacturing operations.
- Round up the technologies now available and the capabilities they offer.
- Explore the options for integrating additive processes into any manufacturing business.
- Present case studies detailing successful applications of additive manufacturing technologies.

This event is likely to be held at various universities around the country over the next few months, so if you feel that additive manufacturing can be used by your business please let the AWIA know so we can keep you updated.

Contact Richard Newbigin on 1300 942 500 or email: richard@wireassociation.com.au

Training Award

Nominations for the 2020 Training Award are now open, and we would like to see some early applications.

All member companies may submit applications to reward one or more of their staff whom they believe are deserving of recognition for their hard work or inventiveness in the wire industry. The Training Award Criteria is available in the News section of the AWIA website. http://www.wireassociation.com.au/sites/wireassociation.com.au/files/AwardCriteria_2017v4.pdf

The aim of this award is to keep good people in the wire business by providing them with the means to add to their knowledge of the industry.

So, if you have someone within your ranks that you would like to recognise for their achievements or dedication, please put their names forward, and we shall guide you through the application process. It is simple to do, and it could be worth \$2,500!

Please contact richard@wireassociation.com.au

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- Ullrich Machinery Company
- Wiredex Wire Products
- Wire Displays NZ
- Wiretainers Pty Ltd



With the impact of the COVID-19 virus on allowable public gatherings, and the severe disruption this has caused to air and other forms of travel, please use these dates as a guide only. It is expected that many of these events will be cancelled or deferred to later dates.

2020

March 30-3 April 2020 International Wire & Cable Trade Fair

Fairground Dusseldorf, Germany,
www.wire.de

(Deferred to December 2020)

May 13 – 15 Advanced Manufacturing Expo

Sydney Showgrounds, Sydney,
www.advancedmanufacturingexpo.com.au

May 26 – 28 Hire20 CANCELLED

Adelaide, South Australia,
www.hire20.com.au

May 28 – 29 AWIA Mid-Year Conference

DEFERRED

Adelaide, South Australia.

June 2 – 4 2020 WAI Wire Expo

Mohegan Sun Resort and Casino,
Uncasville, Connecticut, USA

June 3 – 5 2020 Fastener Expo Shanghai

National Convention & Exhibition Center,
Shanghai, China

June 9 – 11 5th International Rental Exhibition

MECC Exhibition Centre, Maastricht, The Netherlands,
www.ireshow.com

June 16 – 17 Victorian Transport Infrastructure Conference 2020

MCEC Melbourne
www.expotradeglobal.com/events/victransport

June 17 – 20 Korea 2020 Metal Week

Kintex South Korea
www.korea-metal.com

June 18 – 20 SPRINGCON: 2020 (IST Technical Conference)

Millennium Gallery, Sheffield, UK,
www.springcon.com

July 21 – 23 Queensland Mining Exhibition

Mackay Showgrounds Mackay
www.queenslandminingexpo.com.au

August 27 – 27 Safety in Action

ICC, Sydney
www.safetyinaction.net.au

September 14 – 19 International Manufacturing Technology Show

Chicago, USA
www.imts.com

September 23-26 2020 wire China

Shanghai New International Expo Centre
Shanghai, China,
www.wirechina.net

October 7 – 9 CASMI Spring World

Rosemont, Illinois,
www.casmi-springworld.org

October AWIA Conference & AGM

Auckland, New Zealand

November 23 – 25 wire India

Bombay Convention & Exhibition Centre, Mumbai,
www.wire-india.com

December 4 2020 AWIA Fencing Meeting and Christmas Dinner

Location TBC, Victoria

December 15 – 17 Asia Fence Expo 2020 (AFE 2020)

Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia
www.fenceexpo.com

DISCLAIMER

The information contained in "The Link" newsletter has been prepared in good faith and is intended for general information only. Information on products and industry practices are not to be construed as Association recommendations. The views or opinions expressed in the newsletter articles are not necessarily those held by the AWIA.

Letters to the Editor

If you have suggestions for future articles or want to voice your opinion on important issues facing the sector, please feel free to drop the AWIA a line. Email editor@wireassociation.com.au

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