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WTIA CEO UPDATE

The Federal Government’s recent revision of its own procurement guidelines is a significant win for the WTIA, and the result of a sustained campaign of advocacy with Senator Nick Xenophon and a number of other key political figures.

NEW GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT GUIDELINES

The overhaul of commonwealth procurement guidelines aims to ensure value for money is not the sole consideration of government when awarding contracts. The new rules require tenderers to demonstrate their capacity to meet Australian Standards, and government officials are required to make reasonable efforts to ensure companies comply with these Standards.

Whilst the changes are a step in the right direction (they do emphasise the need for compliance to Australian Standards and the use of Australian steel), they do not explicitly bind the commonwealth to ensuring contracted companies meet Australian Standards.

The devil is in the detail. The guidelines need to be absolutely clear that Australian Standards are complied with in the fabrication of all welded structures.

It is pleasing to see that the procurement guidelines include training. The WTIA has long been an advocate for the training and upskilling of welders, believing that training is critical to the long-term future of the trade. As such, we will be doing everything we can to help, and are already engaged with the Commonwealth, a number of TAFE bodies and the University of Woollongong in a program to improve the quality of welding training in Australia.

Regardless of any shortcomings in the procurement guidelines, it is a significant change in the way the Federal Government does business, and an extremely positive outcome for Australian industry—it makes for a great Christmas present!

For more information, read the article from The Australian newspaper.

AUSTRALIAN WELDER CERTIFICATION REGISTER

In late November, I presented to TAFE SA on the Australian Welder Certification Register (AWCR), specifically on their establishment of an approved testing centre.

I also presented to the prime contractors for the LAND 400 project, as part of the Commonwealth’s defence industry engagement program.

LAND 400 will acquire and support the next generation of Armoured Fighting Vehicles.

All feedback on the AWCR, from both TAFE SA and the prime contractors, was extremely positive.

ROBOTIC WELDING IN CONFINED SPACES

We are currently working with the Defence Materials Technology Centre (DMTC), the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC), and the University of Woollongong on a project focused on robotic welding in confined spaces. I am pleased to report that we have moved onto scoping the project.
DIVISION EVENTS
Over the last month, I’ve attended a number of highly successful and engaging Divisional events, including a technical visit to BOC’s newly opened Technology Applications Centre in Rocklea, Queensland (see page 10 for further details), at which representatives from BOC, Bisalloy Steels and Robot Technologies-Systems Australia (RTA) presented.

RTA will present on the topic of welding robotics in Melbourne in March 2017. Be sure to keep an eye out for further details in the coming months—robotics is extremely important to the industry, with benefits including higher production rates, more consistent welding quality, and lower long-term operational costs. RTA is also well advanced on the syllabus for our new robotic welding courses. Our thanks to Trinton Smith, RTA’s General Manager, for all his work on the courses to date.

I also attended the South Australian Division’s Annual Dinner (see page 8 for further details), which was a well attended and excellently organised function. Ralph Villarosa, from AGL, gave an informative and extremely topical presentation on the power industry.

Finally, I was able to attend the Victorian Division’s Annual Dinner (see page 5 for further details), at which I provided an overview of the AWCR. This was met with extremely positive feedback.

All these state events were a great opportunity to socialise with like-minded people, and discuss opportunities and challenges within Australia’s welding industry. These social events are vital in creating a strong, national community of welders. I urge all WTIA members to attend as many events as possible in 2017.

As the year draws to a close, I’d like to wish all WTIA members a happy festive season, and a safe and prosperous new year.

Geoff Crittenden
WTIA CEO

RAISING FUNDS FOR KIDNEY HEALTH AUSTRALIA
As members are aware, our friend and colleague Nicolaas Bothma passed away on 21 August. Nic was a valued employee, associate and advocate of the WTIA for many years.

In memory of Nic, who had been ill for some time with congenital kidney disease and died following an ongoing battle with cancer, WTIA is raising funds for Kidney Health Australia. KHA is a not-for-profit dedicated to helping people with kidney disease with a view to improving their health outcomes and quality of life, as well as that of their families and carers. In addition they are committed to funding vital kidney research.

If you would like to make a contribution, please visit our fundraising page.
The Victorian Division recently held its last 2016 meeting, along with an end of year dinner.

Held at Vetassess in East Melbourne, the meeting included a presentation by Geoff Crittenden (WTIA CEO) on the newly-launched Australian Welder Certification Register (AWCR). According to Geoff, the objectives of the WTIA in establishing the AWCR are to:

- Create welding jobs by increasing the efficiency and profitability of Australian industry.
- Provide a framework for upskilling Australian welders and improving their employability.

The AWCR provides a national framework for qualifying and testing welders to International Standard ISO9606-1. It:

- Allows qualified and certified Registered Welders (RW) to work on any site without further testing, resulting in a significant cost saving to industry.
- Provides industry with access to a database of welders with up-to-date certification and details of their career history.
- Generates data for a skills gap analysis, which will allow the development of a detailed suite of training initiatives to upskill the workforce.
- Runs on the WeldQ platform; a fully internet enabled cloud based system with a supporting mobile app.

Geoff also outlined the requirements for becoming a testing centre, how the certification process will work, and industry feedback received to date, all of which has been very positive.

Following the meeting, Victoria Division members reconvened for dinner. This social gathering gave members the chance to network, discuss issues that they’re currently facing, and build stronger professional relationships. A great night was had by all who attended.

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NSW DIVISION NEWS

To succeed in the global world of manufacturing these days, companies must increasingly rely on innovation to survive. Product lifecycles continue to shorten and every avenue to aid product development must be explored. On the other hand, life extension of large-scale welding infrastructure is also a high priority with safer, economic, and reliable repairing procedures much in demand.

The facilities available at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) in Lucas Heights, New South Wales, offer unique opportunities to assist Australian industry in these challenges.

Neutron scattering is a powerful but not widely known technique that can provide a wealth of knowledge that is either complimentary with more-standard measurement techniques (X-rays, electron microscopy, MRI, and so on) or, in some cases unobtainable by any other method.

Over 3,000 scientists and engineers from Australia and around the world have used the Neutron Beam Instruments at the OPAL research reactor at ANSTO in Lucas Heights since regular operations began in 2008.

We are offering business and academia state-of-the-art materials-research facilities through proprietary and non-proprietary access routes.

KOWARI and DINGO are the neutron instruments mostly used by the welding industry. Both instruments provide non-destructive characterisation techniques for modern materials, engineering, and structural integrity investigations (in particular in pressure-vessel and pipe-line applications).

The primary function of the KOWARI strain scanner is the determination of residual stresses within the interior of bulk engineering components and test samples, in particular for the development of modern joining processes, but also to gauge the effect of mitigation techniques such as peening, machining, and heat treatment. A second important function of the instrument is to assist in structural-integrity investigations and failure analysis.

KOWARI is well equipped to study residual strains or stresses in complex engineering components, and texture in a range of materials. The high resolution of the instrument allows detailed

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residual-stress measurements in thin coatings and peened surfaces, as well as in large sections such as castings, pipes, or rails. These measurements, combined with finite-element-modelling (FEM) simulation can provide more-accurate residual-stress estimates than current conservative codes and standards.

The radiography/tomography DINGO instrument is a recent new addition, and it significantly enhances the research capabilities of the Australian neutron science facilities at ANSTO.

The instrument is used to assess defects and dimensional tolerance of internal features in complex engineering components. It provides the user community with a world-class powerful tool for non-destructive real-space testing and evaluation, which are complementary to laboratory and synchrotron X-ray methods.

DINGO covers a large area of joining and advanced manufacturing research from small medical applications to large-scale engineering components. The full capability of this young instrument is yet to be discovered by academia and industry.

ANSTO is committed to providing assistance and solutions for Australian industry via the application of nuclear techniques. The ability to perform imaging and diffraction studies in the same facility with a single sample set-up offers exceptional opportunities for a new generation of neutron studies for academia and industry.

More information about industry access to our facilities can be obtained via our Industrial Liaison Office or by contacting Anna Paradowska on anp@ansto.gov.au

The New South Wales Division would like to thank Dr Anna Paradowska (CMatP MIEAust), Industrial Liaison Manager and Senior Research Scientist, Australian Centre for Neutron Scattering, for this article.
The South Australian Division recently held their 2016 Annual Dinner. Extremely well attended, the event gave members the opportunity to hear from Ralph Villarosa, Manager Engineering – Group Operations at AGL Energy, as well as WTIA CEO Geoff Crittenden.

During his presentation, Ralph provided an overview of AGL, including their history, and who they are today—a leading integrated energy company, with 3.7 million customers across gas, electricity, solar PV and batteries. They are the largest ASX listed owner, operator and developer of renewable energy generation and employ more than 3,500 people across South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

Ralph discussed AGL’s various power generation sources (coal, gas and oil, hydro, wind, landfill gas and biomass, and solar), fleet, emerging technologies, and key challenges that AGL faces with an aging plant.

He also outlined the crucial role of welding and welding integrity in AGL’s business, as well as some specific welding applications deployed on AGL’s plant and equipment. Ralph made clear the ways that the WTIA has assisted AGL throughout the years to find tailored solutions to their welding issues in critical components.

Ralph has over 30 years of industry experience in Power Generation and Heavy Engineering, specifically in areas of design, construction and operation. He holds post graduate qualifications in Finance and Business Management and is a Chartered Professional Engineer with the Institution of Engineers Australia.

Geoff Crittenden, WTIA CEO, also gave a presentation, speaking about the WTIA’s significant achievements in 2016 and plans for 2017.

We’d like to thank all the event sponsors, including Coregas, Cigweld and Plate Rolling SA, without whom this event would not have been possible.
The Western Australia Division was recently treated to a site visit at BAE System’s facilities in Henderson, Perth.

BAE Systems is Australia’s most versatile defence and security company. They offer the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and their other security customers total capability in vital areas such as through-life support, security, logistics and systems integration.

Employing over 3,500 people across Australia, BAE Systems works hard to maximise Australian industry involvement in all of their projects.

BAE Systems provides services in a range of areas, including:

- **Air**: BAE Systems provides military aircraft sustainment services to the ADF.
- **Sea**: BAE designs, builds, integrates and supports maritime platforms and naval weapon systems.
- **Ground**: BAE designs and delivers Defence land systems and equipment, and is amongst the world’s largest producers of combat vehicles.
- **Integrated Solutions**: BAE are experts in electronic warfare and surveillance; Information and Communications Technology (ICT); Intelligence and Geospatial Programs; and Satellite Communications (SATCOM).

**FUTURE FRIGATES**

BAE Systems recently signed a contract with the Commonwealth Government to further refine its design of the Type 26 Global Combat Ship (GCS) for the Royal Australian Navy under the SEA 5000 (Future Frigate) program.

BAE Systems is using the latest in modern digital planning capability to refine and tailor its designs to the Federal Government’s Commonwealth requirements. To assist this process, BAE Systems has revealed that a 3-dimensional visualisation suite will be delivered to Australia to help improve understanding of the unique features of the ship design.

This will enable conversations about design modifications the Royal Australian Navy requires and will help demonstrate how the Global Combat Ship could accommodate the required CEA Technologies’ phased-array radar system.

**LAND 400**

BAE Systems Australia, along with their bid partner Patria, has offered the AMV35 – Patria’s modern, agile, highly protected military-off-the-shelf Armoured Modular Vehicle integrated with the combat-proven E35 turret from BAE Systems Hägglunds.

BAE Systems Australia Chief Executive Glynn Phillips said, “BAE Systems will produce the AMV35 in Australia if we are selected as the successful tender. This will secure and retain in-country capability and contribute significantly to the Australian economy throughout the expected 30-plus year life and sustainment of the vehicles.”

**WA CONTACT**

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The Queensland Division recently held a highly successful technical night, featuring special guests from both BOC and Bisalloy Steels.

The event was hosted by both BOC and Bisalloy Steels, at BOC’s newly opened Rocklea Technology Applications Centre. The new-concept welding facility is set to be an exciting hub for product applications and testing, research and development, and training. The facility will primarily be used to demonstrate the latest in welding, cutting and heating technology and automation.

The Centre contains the latest generation digital welding equipment, GMAW and GTAW arc projectors, and a Kawasaki RA 10L robot equipped with a Servo Robot PowerCam laser vision camera and EWM alpha Q 352 welding package (built by BOC’s automation partner Robot Technologies-Systems Australia). All of this new technology was on show for WTIA members to enjoy.

Bisalloy Steels’ General Manager Sales & Marketing, Shane Gleeson, provided insights into how BISALLOY® steel can be applied to industries such as mining, structural, engineering and defence.

Bisalloy Steels is Australia’s only manufacturer of high-tensile and abrasion-resistant quenched and tempered steel plate used for armour, structural and wear-resistant steel applications; products which are marketed under the brand name BISALLOY® and exported to a host of countries.

Members were then treated to a presentation from BOC’s Technical Manager Peter Kuebler, who explained that BOC’s investment in the new Centre will benefit both customers and BOC’s technical specialists across the nation. It is BOC’s hope that the Centre will contribute to advancements in the metal fabrication industry.

The event was very well attended by local members, as well as Geoff Crittenden (WTIA CEO) and Donna South (WTIA Membership Manager).
READY TO PASS ON THE TORCH?

To make access to internationally recognised welding training, qualifications and certifications more widely available to Australian industry, the WTIA is expanding its network of authorised training centres in Australia.

Organisations wanting to offer courses designed to prepare students for the International Institute of Welding (IIW) qualifications are invited to submit ‘Expressions of Interest’ to become an Approved Training Body (ATB).

WHAT IS AN AUTHORISED TRAINING BODY?

Authorised Training Bodies are responsible for administration and facilitation of IIW courses, with the resultant qualifications recognised throughout the 59 member countries of the IIW.

IIW courses that ATBs may be authorised to offer include:
- Welding Coordination Personnel
- Welding Inspection Personnel
- International Welded Structures Designers

APPLY TODAY

To apply, email gnc@wtia.com.au with:
1. Name of Organisation
2. RTO Status, including RTO Code (if any)
3. Scope of current training
4. Courses you want to conduct
5. Cities and regional areas where the courses will be conducted
6. Contact person, including:
   - Title within organisation
   - Email address
   - Phone numbers
   - Website
DID YOU KNOW?
Over the five years to November 2019, the number of job openings for Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers is expected to be above average (between 25,001 and 50,000). Job openings count both employment growth and turnover (defined as workers leaving their occupation for other employment or leaving the workforce).

Employment for this occupation fell slightly in the past five years, but remained relatively steady in the long-term (ten years).

This is a very large occupation (70,600 employees in November 2015) suggesting that opportunities should be available in most regions.

Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers have a very high proportion of full-time jobs (95.6 per cent).

For Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers working full-time, average weekly hours are 41.5 (compared to 40.2 for all occupations) and earnings are average. Unemployment for Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers is below average.

The most common level of educational attainment for Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers is Certificate III/IV (66.8 per cent).

Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers are mainly employed in manufacturing, construction, and professional, scientific and technical services.

Information courtesy of the Australian Government, Department of Employment Job Outlook Website.

FURTHER INFORMATION
For more information, contact Paul James (WTIA Training Manager) on 02 8748 0150 or p.james@wtia.com.au.
TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

THE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE IS EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED

The alternative route is aimed at individuals who may already have experience in a job at a particular level, without holding the appropriate qualification.

These individuals will have already gained full or part knowledge of the syllabus and be able to demonstrate their capability to proceed to examination directly without compulsory attendance at an approved training course. Individuals are assessed based on their experience, education, training, and practical work experience in welding at the relevant qualification level.

The assessment process involves a paper assessment, completion of a case study project, presentation to a panel of examiners and oral interview. Success in the assessment process enables an individual to sit the relevant exams. A pass in the exams leads to the award of the relevant qualification.

The alternative route is available for:
- International Welding Practitioner (IWP)
- International Welding Specialist (IWS)
- International Welding Technologist (IWT)
- International Welding Engineer (IWE)
- International Welding Inspector – Basic (IWI-B)
- International Welding Inspector – Standard (IWI-S)

HIT YOUR CAREER TARGETS IN 2017

2017 EXAM DATES

IWS and WTIA Welding Supervisor
- 14 & 15 June 2017
- 9 & 10 November 2017

IWI-B and IWI-S
- 6 & 7 April 2017
- 31 August & 1 September 2017 (depending on numbers)
- 2 & 3 November 2017

Please note, these dates are subject to change. For further information, please contact qnc@wtia.com.au.

WANT TO GET QUALIFIED? NO TIME TO ATTEND TRAINING?

WANT TO GET QUALIFIED? NO TIME TO ATTEND TRAINING?
Over the next six months, the current public database of WTIA and IIW Qualified and Certified welding personnel will be phased out and replaced by the Australian Welder Certification Register (AWCR).

To protect the integrity of the data on the new system, and update contact details, we request that all qualified and certified personnel register at: https://wtia.weldq.com/applicant/login

Once registered, please upload scanned or photographed copies of your original WTIA or IIW Diplomas, Certificates or Wallet ID cards. Qualifications and certifications will be verified by audit against our master records.

For instructions on how to register, please visit: http://awcr.org.au/welders/how-to-register/

If you have any queries about how to register, the quickest way to contact us is via the online Contact Form.

MORE INDUSTRY SUPPORT

We are pleased to announce that the Australian Submarine Corporation (ASC) has formally joined the group of industry heavyweights that support the AWCR. ASC members Daniel Miller, David Price and Dan Millar played an important early role in designing the new system and their individual support is much appreciated. Check out who will support the scheme at: http://awcr.org.au/employers/supporting-companies/

EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Before Christmas, a number of welding procedure programs will be established on the AWCR, giving members the opportunity to become certified in shipbuilding, power generation and tunnel construction. Over the Christmas break, please take the opportunity to log on and have a look—it is in your interest: https://wtia.weldq.com/applicant/login

FIRST CUSTOMER

WTIA staff, in conjunction with partners Lincoln Electric and TAFE New South Wales, are busily putting together a training and certification program for welders on the WestConnex project.

Supported by the New South Wales Government, we anticipate that 30 to 40 welders will be certified over the next 12 months and possibly as many as 100 over the full lifecycle of the project.
BENEFITS TO EMPLOYERS

1. **Reduced Costs**: Check the competence level of any Registered Welder against an internationally recognised standard, minimising welder testing.

2. **Minimised Risk**: By having a recognised and certified competency level, the risk of a welder failing a weld procedure is significantly reduced.

3. **Currency of Certification**: Assess welders against current, rather than past, performance.

4. **Improved Record Keeping**: Independent records of welder qualification simplify record keeping for quality management.

5. **Unparalleled Access to Skills Base**: Quickly and easily identify and contact Registered Welders for employment.

BENEFITS TO WELDERS

1. **Improved Employability**: Welders will be able to present third-party verified qualifications to prospective employers.

2. **International Qualification Recognition**: Work overseas, with ISO 9606-1 certification recognised in Australia, Europe and North America.

3. **Continuous Upskilling**: In line with the AWCR’s testing framework, short training courses will be offered to upskill Registered Welders.

4. **Recognised Career Path**: Test yourself on more complex weld procedures for more satisfying and rewarding career opportunities.


Under the Australian Welder Certification Register (AWCR) system, welders are invited to complete a test that qualifies them to a welding procedure as set out in ISO 9606-1 (AS/NZS 2980). Once qualified, the welder is certified to that procedure, becoming a Registered Welder, and the information recorded in the AWCR.

Helping Secure the Future of Australia’s Welding Industry
AN UPDATE ON STANDARDS

Standards Australia has advised that AS/NZS 5131 Structural Steelwork – Fabrication and Erection 2016 will be published on 8 December 2016.

It is based on, and has descended from, the ASI and HERA publication Structural Steelwork Fabrication and Erection Code of Practice published in 2014. However, the standard also takes cognisance of the European Standard EN 1090-2:2008 Execution of steel structures and aluminium structures, Part 2: Technical requirements for steel structures and, where possible, adopts the wording of the similar draft ISO/CD 17607 currently under development.

Following publication of AS/NZS 5131, it is expected that AS 4100 Steel structures will be revised to remove references to fabrication and erection, instead directing the user to the new standard. Similar provisions are expected to be included in the bridge code AS 5100.6, which is currently being revised.

AS/NZS 5131 introduces the concept of risk-based construction categories. The four construction categories are based on a rational risk assessment basis making reference to the importance of the structure, maintenance and inspection requirements, consequence of failure, and complexity of fabrication and erection. The categories are:

- CC1: General purpose (category GP) fabrications and some minor SP structures
- CC2: Structural purpose (category SP) fabrications
- CC3: Higher risk category SP fabrications, and public infrastructure such as bridges
- CC4: Major public infrastructure projects such as stadiums

From a welding perspective, requirements are modelled around the provisions of AS/NZS ISO 3834 and its parts, similar to those of EN 1090-2 and ISO/CD 17607, but are consistent with the general requirements of the AS/NZS 1554 standard series.

Upon publication of AS/NZS 5131, it is expected that the ASI Code of Practice will be withdrawn with users transitioning to AS/NZS 5131.

Separate to the above, Standards Australia’s committee WD-003 Welding of Structures met to launch two projects – the minor text revision of AS/NZS 1554.3 Structural steel welding Part 3: Welding of reinforcing steel, and the modified adoption of ISO 9606-1 Qualification testing of welders – Fusion welding – Part 1: Steels, including the revision of the similar AS/NZS 2980.

It is the committee’s longer term intention to adopt ISO 9606-1, and withdraw AS/NZS 2980) given its recent recognition within the pressure welding standards AS/NZS 3992 and ASME IX. Also considered were correction amendments to parts 1, 4 and 5 of AS/NZS 1554 and the reconfirmation of numerous aged welding related standards including the AS 2205 series.
YEAR IN REVIEW

The WTA is committed to securing the future of Australia’s welding industry, through our lobbying and advocacy work as well as through the commercial initiatives we develop based on industry feedback.

This year we’re pleased to report a number of successes, which you can read more about in our Year in Review.

Highlights from 2016 include strengthening our membership offering, and launching a variety of new training courses and platforms, such as the ground-breaking Australian Welder Certification Register.

In addition, in July, we hosted the 69th IIW Annual Assembly and International Conference 2016 in Melbourne. This has raised the profile of the Australian welding industry enormously throughout the world.

These successes would not have been possible without the backing of WTIA members, and we wholeheartedly thank those members for their continued support.

SEASON’S GREETINGS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE WTIA

On behalf of everyone at the Welding Technology Institute of Australia, we would like to thank our members and clients for their continued support throughout 2016, and to extend our warmest wishes for the holiday season.

Our National Office will be closed over Christmas and the New Year, from Thursday 22 December 2016 until Monday 9 January 2016.
EXPAND YOUR AUDIENCE. GROW YOUR BUSINESS.

Advertise with the WTIA Today
WTIA is happy to offer you and your business the opportunity to promote your products and services directly to the decision makers in the welding and fabricating industry. We have a range of cost effective advertising and editorial packages in Weld Connect and Australian Welding Journal.

For further information about advertising in Weld Connect, please contact: Donna South on d.south@wtia.com.au or +61 (0)2 8748 0130