WTIA Newsletter February 2017

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WTIA CEO UPDATE

With the new year already in full swing, the WTIA is delivering improved, industry-specific training, certification and qualification programs for the shipbuilding, power generation and structural welding industries. Plus, we continue to liaise with Government representatives to ensure the issues facing our industry are on their agenda, despite the various challenges.

WESTCONNEX TRAINING COURSE

The WTIA has recently completed the first of our new training courses. This course involved training WestConnex welders who regularly perform maintenance work on road tunnel boring machines.

As part of the project, the WTIA wrote weld procedures for WestConnex, and delivered a tailored training course. The welders who undertook this training then sat welding procedure tests under ISO9606-1, and became the first welders to be registered under the Australian Welder Certification Register (AWCR).

The WestConnex training course was facilitated in conjunction with Illawarra TAFE, who provided the practical teachers, and the Lincoln Electric Company, who very kindly supplied us with both training facilities and welding consumables. My thanks to both of these organisations, who were extremely helpful.

We are currently rolling out state-of-the-art programs focused on shipbuilding, power generation and structural welding. These programs are a group of industry-based welding procedures that will qualify and certify welders to ISO9606-1 for those particular industries.

For further information about qualification, certification and the AWCR, please visit: http://awcr.org.au

MINISTER CHANGES

Over the last few years, the WTIA has put a significant amount of effort into fostering a relationship with the Minister for Innovation, Industry and Science. It takes approximately six months of briefings and meetings in order for the Minister to understand the issues that are currently facing our industry.

Since we are now on our fourth minister in two years, we appear to be on a never-ending merry-go-round of briefing new ministers, who subsequently leave before they understand the issues and can take any action.

I recently wrote a press release (rant) about the lack of respect for manufacturing industries that this merry-go-round of ministers clearly demonstrates. Regrettably, the strong sentiments I expressed in my press release meant that the media was not willing to publish my views.

However, I can say to you, as WTIA members, that I am unbelievably frustrated at the complete lack of respect that the Government clearly has for the Australian manufacturing industry.

If the Government fails to take the issues facing our industry seriously, Australian manufacturing will die—it is as simple as that.

Geoff Crittenden
WTIA CEO
GET THE JOB DONE SAFELY
Legally connect 15A welders to 10A power
VICTORIA DIVISION NEWS

THE END OF AN ERA
In December, Ian Knight (Victoria Division Chairman) and Robert Vernon (Victoria Division Coordinator) attended a dinner in Bendigo in honour of Jim Priest.

Jim retired at the end of last year at 88 years of age. The dinner honoured and celebrated his 40 years of service to the WTIA.

Jim was the mainstay of the Central Victoria branch—the WTIA’s last remaining regional branch—which has now closed. Up until its closure, this branch regularly held monthly meetings with attendance of 70 to 80 members.

The Central Victoria branch was established in 1977, with the following committee members: Rod Maclaren (Chairman), Douglas Fairbairn (Vice Chairman), Graeme Watts (Secretary and Treasurer), Jim Priest, Lyle Green, Robert Birchmore, Jack Farrall, Marshall Dixon, Kevin Cloonan, Peter McDougal and Jim Shelton.

On behalf of the WTIA, we’d like to thank Jim for all his work, and wish him all the very best in his retirement.

VICTORIA DIVISION 2017 PROGRAM
We’re pleased to announce our 2017 program of events, the first of which are outlined below. This Program is subject to change. As such, we suggest confirming all event details one month prior.

In addition to the events below, we will also hold two welding competitions in April, and a trade show at the Chisholm Institute of TAFE mid-year.

The first committee meeting will be held on 23 February at ATTAR (1/64 Bridge Road, Keysborough) at 5.00pm, where David Lake will give a presentation on forensic investigation. For further information or to attend the first meeting, contact Robert Vernon on 0487 400 002 or robvernon@bigpond.com

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On behalf of the WTIA, we’d like to thank Jim for all his work, and wish him all the very best in his retirement.

VIC CONTACT
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0487 400 002
robvernon@bigpond.com

Jim Priest at the WTIA dinner.
Jim Priest.
The dinner to honour Jim Priest for his 40 years of service to the WTIA.
Hedweld recently hosted a site tour for WTIA members of their new advanced manufacturing facility in Mount Thorley. This recent investment in the Hunter Valley houses the latest cutting edge CNC machinery and robotics. Some of the new technologies at Hedweld’s facility are not only the first in Australia, but the first in the world.

After a short presentation on Hedweld’s growth since the 1980s, the group visited three main areas: the CNC Machining bay, the Machine Shop and the Fabrication Shop which includes Robotic Welding stations.

Hedweld featured their latest innovation: the 150T Material Storage Station designed and engineered to store plate used in the workshop. Demonstrations of the outputs from the Kinetic K5600 and Mazak 3D Beamline Cutters gave the group insight into how technology is evolving the modern workshops.

ABOUT HEDWELD
Over the past 36 years Hedweld has established itself as the world leader in technologically advanced, innovative products for the agricultural, mining and earthmoving industries.

Hedweld is known for the Trilift® range of component handling equipment, the Safe-Away® range of access systems and, more recently, Milbrotec® agricultural innovations.

By capitalising on their existing internal core competencies, skills and infrastructure, Hedweld has diversified into other sectors including Advanced Manufacturing. Hedweld’s growth and success can be attributed to their ability to identify opportunities, provide innovative and unique solutions and deliver high quality products.

NSW CONTACT
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Membership Coordinator
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DEFENCE TEAMING CENTRE FUNCTION

Held on 7 December, the WTIA was a proud sponsor of the Defence Teaming Centre (DTC) end of year function.

DTC is the peak defence industry body in South Australia. Founded in 1996 as a not-for-profit association with 24 member companies, the DTC now has over 200 members that employ in excess of 17,000 workers. DTC assists its members to develop and sustain their capabilities in order to enhance their opportunities and improve their competitiveness in the defence industry.

AWCR PRESENTATION FOR TAFE SA

The WTIA recently presented the Australian Welder Certification Register (AWCR), to TAFE SA training staff. The presentation promoted the collaboration between the WTIA and TAFE SA in terms of carrying out welder testing, as well as further training and upskilling of the workforce.

The presentation also highlighted the new industry trend of developing Australia’s workforce according to International Standards, particularly within the Defence industry, as well as sectors such as mining, oil and gas.

In launching the AWCR, the WTIA is aiming to:

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

With the AWCR, welders are invited to complete a weld test, at an approved testing centre, which will qualify them to a welding procedure according to the process set out in ISO9606-1. AS/NZS 1554, AS 3992 and ASME IX both recognise ISO 9606-1 qualified welders.

Once qualified, the welder will be certified to that procedure and this information recorded in the AWCR. For more information, please visit: http://awcr.org.au

2017 PROGRAM OF EVENTS

The South Australia Division committee is currently planning a 2017 program of events, including a number of technical nights. If you or your company would like to host a WTIA member event, please contact Paolo Corronca (WTIA Technology Manager) on p.corronca@wtia.com.au

SA CONTACT

Paul Bettison
Chairman
Bettisoneng@optusnet.com.au
WA DIVISION NEWS

AUSTRALIAN WELDER CERTIFICATION REGISTER

The Australian Welder Certification Register (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 (possibly) any site without further testing, resulting in a cost savings 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; an internet enabled cloud based system with a mobile app.

For further details, visit: http://awcr.org.au

Geoff Crittenden, WTIA CEO, will present two information sessions in Perth on the AWCR, covering topics such as welder certification, benefits for corporate members, and becoming an Approved Training Body.

EVENT DETAILS
- **Date: 22 March 2017**
- **Time:** 6:00pm
- **Venue:** South Metropolitan TAFE, Thornlie

- **Date: 23 March 2017**
- **Time:** 4:15pm
- **Venue:** Knowledge Theatre, Australian Oil & Gas (AOG) Exhibition and Conference, Perth Convention Exhibition Centre, 21 Mounts Bay Road, Perth

**Note:** If you wish to attend this session, we encourage you to register as a visitor to the AOG conference, free of charge at: https://register.aogexpo.com.au/AOG17P/index.php/

Please email Rebecca Hansen on r.hansen@wtia.com.au by COB 17 February 2017, to RSVP for either of the sessions above.

2017 PROGRAM OF EVENTS

The West Australia Division committee is currently compiling a program of events for 2017. This program will include presentations by industry experts, as well as technical site visits.

Our first committee meeting for 2017 will be held on 16 March at the South Metropolitan TAFE, Burslem Drive, Thornlie.

If you, or your company, would like to volunteer to be a part of our 2017 events, please contact Louise Petrick (WTIA Technology Manager) on l.petrick@wtia.com.au.

WA CONTACT

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WTIA WA Division Chairman
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QLD DIVISION NEWS

More than $80 billion worth of major projects are set to kick off or ramp up in Queensland this year, simultaneously boosting jobs and work orders.

From Cape York to Surfers Paradise, mines to high-rise apartment blocks, big building initiatives will power ahead, creating more than 73,500 jobs. More than 50 major projects are flagged to begin or continue construction in 2017. Just some of these major works are outlined below.

QUEEN’S WHARF
Work on the $3 billion Queen’s Wharf precinct—Brisbane’s largest ever development—started on New Year’s Day. This precinct will include a casino-resort which is expected to transform the cityscape.

CARMICHAEL COAL MINE
The $21.7 billion Carmichael coal mine is currently waiting on a final investment decision from Adani. This is expected to occur in the first few months of 2017. If this project goes ahead, it will result in new jobs in the Galilee Basin, Central Queensland.

RIO TINTO’S BAUXITE MINE
Rio Tinto has already awarded $850 million worth of contracts for its $2.6 billion bauxite mine, processing plant and export terminals. Located on the Embley River near Weipa, the project is expected to employ up to 1,200 people.

CASPER ENERGY’S OIL REFINERY
Casper Energy will begin work on Australia’s first new major oil refinery for half a century – a $3.2 billion project at Gladstone which will deliver 1800 construction jobs.

ROAD PROJECTS
More than 8,500 jobs will be created on road projects across the state, including the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, the Logan Motorway, Ipswich Motorway, Gateway North, Bruce Highway and Warrego Highway, and widening Kingsford Smith Drive.

KAWANA DEVELOPMENT
THE $3 billion Oceanside Kawana Development will commence. This is a 100ha mini-city that will include homes, a health hub, business centre and shopping centre.

SKYSCRAPERS
Skyscrapers are on the rise in all of Queensland’s major cities, including Brisbane’s tallest building, the Skytower apartments.

In Surfer’s Paradise, there are two major projects underway: Jewel, a $1.25 billion, three-tower oceanfront complex; and Spirit, a $1.2 billion, 89-level apartment tower.

Source:
www.couriermail.com.au
VALE BOB SIM

It is with sadness that the WTIA would like to inform members that Bob Sim passed away on Sunday 22 January.

Bob was a long-time, much-valued and well-respected employee of Lincoln Australia, heading up their Welding Technology department.

Bob was heavily involved with the WTIA as a councillor and a President (from 1996 to 1999). He was also an Honorary Fellow of the WTIA, and was awarded WTIA’s Dr Wilfred Chapman Award in 1994 for his outstanding contribution to the progress of welding and metal fabrication in Australia.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this difficult time.

WTIA EMPLOYEE CHANGES

The WTIA would like to welcome Alistair Forbes, who has joined us as Technology Operations Manager.

Prior to joining the WTIA, Alistair was a Product Manager at BOC, where he was responsible for the management of the welding consumables and industrial chemicals product portfolio.

Alistair was previously employed at the WTIA, managing our technical panels including Pressure Vessels and Equipment, Welding Metallurgy, Aluminium and Magnesium and Lasers.

With more than 30 years industry experience, Alistair brings a wealth of knowledge to the WTIA.

The WTIA would like to acknowledge Glen Allan and Ben Gross—both of whom have recently resigned—for their contribution to the WTIA, and the wider welding industry.

With a welding career spanning more than 40 years, Glen has experience in everything from steelmaking and pipe manufacture to mechanical testing and non-destructive examination.

During his 16 years of dedicated service to the WTIA, Ben held the positions of Technology Manager (focused on his principal area of expertise in oil and gas pipelines), Research and Technology Manager and Senior Instructor.

We wish both Glen and Ben all the best in the future.
NOW’S THE TIME!
GET INVOLVED IN YOUR STATE’S WTIA COMMITTEE

The WTIA is extremely grateful for the contribution that many of our members have made, volunteering their time and energy to participate in our various state-based Committees.

Our state committees perform a number of roles. They:
• Act as local contacts, informing Head Office of the specific challenges in their state
• Are the voice of the WTIA voice in their local community
• Provide the WTIA with information on what we can do to help in their local area
• Are a WTIA champion

If you would like to join your state’s Committee please contact: Rebecca Hansen (WTIA Membership Coordinator) on 02 8748 0135 or r.hansen@wtia.com.au.

WELDQ: REGISTER NOW

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 WeldQ System.

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.
TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

In 2016, WestConnex (the New South Wales Government body responsible for upgrading and building new motorways in Sydney) collaborated with the WTIA to develop welding procedures for the repair of Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs). These TBMs are being used as part of construction activities on both the M4 East and the New M5 projects.

The boring machines use ground picks that wear rapidly as they bore through the predominantly sandstone ground. The picks can be exchanged quickly (as part of the design of the machine). However, the pick holders also suffer wear during operation.

WestConnex determined that all welders required to perform road-header pick replacement and tunnel service pipe extensions required training and certification in established pre-qualified welding procedures.

In addition, there was a requirement for basic structural steel welding in support of general construction maintenance activity, as well as pressure pipe welding for the delivery of air and water underground.

WTIA visited the WestConnex site at Haberfield in November 2016 to observe the welding that was being carried out in order to maintain the TBMs. Based on those observations, the WTIA developed and qualified the requisite welding procedures.

A three day training package was developed at the end of 2016 and delivered by NSW TAFE trainers in January and February 2017 at Lincoln Electric Company in Padstow.

This training will qualify existing and future WestConnex welders on the welding techniques required for maintenance activities on the TBMs.

Significantly, the training resulted in the welders being the first to be registered on WTIA’s Australian Welder Certification Register (AWCR).
TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

All the welders found the course useful and directly applicable to their work activities at WestConnex. Discussions during the course revealed that the welders come from a variety of backgrounds and had not been exposed to the specific tuition provided in the course.

Furthermore, it was discovered that trade apprentices currently studying under the NSW TAFE system are not provided with the specific welding training that was delivered by the course.

All welders thought that registration in the AWCR was a bonus, and will provide indisputable evidence of their welding competence.

The most successful aspect of this project was that the WTIA, NSW TAFE and Lincoln Electric Company worked collaboratively to deliver an outcome for the WestConnex project which met their needs in a relatively short time frame.

ABOUT WESTCONNEX

M4 East (Homebush to Haberfield)
This project involves extending the M4 Motorway in tunnels between Homebush and Haberfield via Concord, and also includes provision for the future connection to the M4–M5 Link. The project is approximately 6.5km long (with 5.5km of the motorway in tunnel). The M4 East is the first underground section of WestConnex. It will connect to the widened M4 and extend it via twin motorway tunnels from Homebush to Haberfield with three lanes in each direction. The M4 East will alleviate the frustrating delays and gridlock that motorists face daily when they come off the M4 and hit a standstill on Parramatta Road.

New M5 (Beverly Hills to St Peters)
This project includes duplicating the M5 East from King Georges Road Interchange Upgrade at Beverly Hills to a new interchange at St Peters. The New M5 will provide twin underground motorway tunnels, 9km long, from Kingsgrove to a new St Peters Interchange at the site of the old Alexandria landfill facility. The St Peters Interchange will provide motorists with connections to Alexandria and Mascot. It also includes connections to the future Sydney Gateway and M4-M5 Link. The New M5 tunnels also include underground connection points for the M4-M5 Link and the proposed Southern Connector.
ARE YOU READY TO PASS ON THE TORCH?

Becoming a member of the WTIA team of trainers is a fantastic opportunity to achieve a great work-life balance.

WTIA is seeking experienced individuals Australia wide with current professional welding qualifications, who have the technical knowledge and experience to train welding supervisors and inspectors, and can share their expertise in a classroom setting.

KEY SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

Ideally, your profile includes:

• Certificate IV Training and Assessment (TAE40110); and

• One of the following:
  • International Welding Engineer; or
  • International Welding Technologist; or
  • International Welding Specialist; or
  • International Welding Inspector Standard (or higher); and

• Delivery of technical training in a classroom environment; and

• Evidence of current welding industry experience.

APPLY TODAY

Please email your CV and cover letter, which outlines how your profile meets the key skills and experience listed above to: jobs@wtia.com.au

Only applicants with the right to work in Australia will be considered.

Applications from agencies will not be accepted.
National Manufacturing Week (NMW) is pleased to announce their partnership with the Welding Technology Institute of Australia (WTIA). NMW is Australia’s largest showcase of manufacturing innovation, inspiration and information.

Themed ‘Delivering the Industry 4.0 Revolution’, National Manufacturing Week is free to attend and will feature five critical areas facing the manufacturing sector: Industry Capability Development, Product and Service Innovation, Technology Innovation, Process Improvement and Sustainable Manufacturing.

CSIRO Manufacturing Director Dr Keith McLean, the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre Managing Director Dr Jens Goennemann, Visionflex Chief Technical Officer Andrew Kleinert, and the Australian Advanced Manufacturing Council Chairman John Pollaers are all confirmed as 2017 speakers.

Welding, heat-treating, joining and associated products and technologies will feature on the exhibition floor in the Welding Technology Product Zone, providing delegates with a dynamic environment of live demonstrations and the chance to try before purchasing.

The Welding Technology Product Zone is one of eleven specialist areas, along with Advanced Materials, Air Technology, Automation and Robotics, Digital Manufacturing, Electrical, Engineering, Process Control and Instrumentation, Research and Development, Safety, Supply Chain and Logistics.

Akekek Industries AB, Busicom Solutions, Ensitech, Inductotherm Group Australia, Klingspor Australia, Lincoln Electric Company, Magnet Sales Australia, Midway Metals, Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Supagas, Tesuco and Weldbrush are among the 200 exhibiting companies confirmed for the exhibition floor.

Promoting a safety leadership culture, mental health and wellness, safety and industrial technology along with emerging developments in industrial safety will all be explored during the Safety First Conference, which is co-located within National Manufacturing Week 2017.

For the first time, the Endeavour Awards winners will be showcased on the National Manufacturing Week exhibition floor as part of the official Industry 4.0 Theatre program. National Manufacturing Week runs from 9 to 12 May 2017 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Whether you need to brush up on skills acquired years ago, or want to try your hand at something new, there’s sure to be an event for you. For further details on any of the events or examinations listed below, contact events@wtia.com.au or +61 (0)2 8748 0100.

**FEBRUARY 2017**

**Australasian Oil & Gas Conference & Exhibition**

*Perth, 22 to 24 February*

This annual exhibition and conference will showcase the oil and gas industry over three days. It will include Australia’s leading oil and gas exhibition, a free conference program and premium industry networking opportunities.

The event will feature three forums: the Collaboration Forum, the Subsea Forum and the Knowledge Forum, all designed to drive a greater understanding of challenges and access to opportunities across the industry. For details, visit [http://aogexpo.com.au](http://aogexpo.com.au)

**MAY 2017**

**National Manufacturing Week**

*Melbourne, 9 to 12 May*

With the theme of ‘Delivering the Industry 4.0 Revolution’, National Manufacturing Week (NMW) will be held in Melbourne this year.

The annual conference and exhibition is free to attend and will feature an exciting array of products and companies in its dedicated ‘Welding Zone’, including Lincoln Electric and 3M Australia. The WTIA will also have its own dedicated stand at the exhibition, so feel free to visit us while you’re at the event. For details, visit [nationalmanufacturingweek.com.au](http://nationalmanufacturingweek.com.au)

**WTIA & IIW 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 that these dates are subject to change.

For further information, please contact [qnc@wtia.com.au](mailto:qnc@wtia.com.au).
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 available, in both Weld Connect and the 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