



Australasian Wire
Industry
Association

The Wire Link
Newsletter
Issue No. 39
August 2017

Incorporating: Australasian Fence Industry Association; Australian Chain Link Fencing Association; Temporary Fence Association Australasia; Spring Manufacturers Association & Wire Workers; Reinforcing Steel Manufacturers Association

THE WIRE LINK

DON'T MISS OUT - ARE YOU COMING?



Enhance skills for you and your team while networking with others in the industry and enjoy a fabulous few days in terrific, convivial surroundings.

That's a good reason to come to the ASI Australian Steel Institute convention to be held at the Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa from Sunday 17th to Tuesday 19th September 2017.

The ASI convention is renowned for its high quality International and Australian speakers and this year is no exception. Among a host of key speakers are:

- ** Craig Laundry, Australian Assistant Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science
- ** Dr Richard Denniss, Chief Economist, The Australian Institute
- ** Ben Eade, Chief Executive, Manufacturing Australia
- ** Mark Vassella, Chief Executive, BlueScope Australia and New Zealand.

Space does not allow detailing of all 20 speakers or the wide range of manufacturing, supply chain management, energy security, risk management and Australian Government industry policy topics which will be presented.

For our golfing enthusiasts an 18 hole round of golf has been organised for Sunday 17th, commencing with a tee off at 8.15 on the prestigious Emerald Lakes course at Royal Pines Resort.

In addition to the excellent program provided by the ASI, our Association will hold its AGM during the afternoon of Tuesday 19th September. Members are encouraged to attend to hear valuable industry updates, and a variety of business and Industry topics to keep you better informed.

It will also provide an opportunity to hear firsthand about the on-going operations of your Association.

During the evening of the 19th, there will be a dinner on the Coast where networking opportunities will abound. Come along to improve your businesses and to have some fun.

All registrations for both the Convention and the AWIA AGM and mini-conference will need to be booked via the ASI registration process on their website:

<http://steel.org.au/key-issues/convention>.



AWIA Sponsors



Fencing Members

- 0508 TempFence
- 1300TempFence
- AAC Temp Fence
- Advanced National Services
- Advanced Steel Products Ltd
- Aim Hire
- All Temporary Fencing
- Anchor Wire NZ
- ARC Fences
- ATF Services
- Australian Security Fencing
- Australian Steel & Wire
- CAI Fences
- Carrick Hoarding
- Centurion Temporary Fencing
- Citywide Temporary Fencing
- Coast Wire Fencing
- Crown Temporary Fencing
- Diamond Fence (Aust) Pty Ltd
- Discount Fencing
- Doogood Powder Coating Pty Ltd
- Downee
- Emu Wire Industries
- Fahey Fence Hire
- Fence IQ
- Fencepac
- Fencescape Fencing
- Fence Works
- FenceWright
- Fencing & Gate Centre
- Fencing Australia Pty Ltd
- Fencing Victoria
- Frauenfelder
- GHL TempFence
- Glennwire Fencing Pty Ltd
- JSB Fencing & Machinery Hire
- Keena Fencing
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- Mesh Industries Group
- MP Mesh Products
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- Oxford Plastics
- Protective Fencing Pty Ltd
- Ready Fence NSW
- Secura Fence and Fabrication
- SiteTech Solutions
- Superior Fences and Gates
- Supreme Fence & Gate (Aust)
- Supreme Line Fencing
- Supreme Wire Fence and Gates
- Taylor Fencing
- Temporary Fence Hire
- The Temp Fence Shop
- Titan Hoarding Systems
- Totem Fencing
- Ultracourts Pty Ltd
- Vater Hardware Group
- Victorian Temporary Fencing



VICTORIAN REPORT

Simon Vassena from Downee recently facilitated a working group meeting in Melbourne to garner local input on the proposed Code of Practice for design, manufacture and installation of sliding gates.

The Melbourne group expressed the wish for the Code of Practice to be expanded to not only include sliding gates but also include swing gates. The working group also provided valuable input into commonly used industry definitions which could be added to those already identified for inclusion in the proposed Code of Practice.

Contact:

brian@wireassociation.com.au



QUEENSLAND REPORT

A visit is being planned to / with fencing members, industrial gate manufacturers and automation specialists in the Brisbane area by Director Richard Newbigin and AFIA Secretary Brian Mullarvey. This will take place following the mini conference / AGM to be held at the Marriott on the Gold Coast on Tuesday 19th September 2017.

They will be seeking stakeholders' comments and input on the scope and content for the proposed Code of Practice for Design, Manufacture and Installation of Sliding gates, a project currently being undertaken by the Association.

It is also intended to brief our Temporary Fencing members on work done by our Industry working group who prepared suggestions for consideration by the CE008 Australian Standards committee for inclusion in the revised Australian Standard AS4687 Temporary Fencing and Hoardings.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA REPORT

Business in the west still seems fairly subdued from all accounts, though one member is looking for used wire bending machines below 2.5mm if there are any that are around which are surplus to requirements.

Please contact richard@wireassociation.com.au if you have machines (of any sort) that you wish to move on to greener pastures. Information will be kept in confidence, and the assistance provided will be business matching only.

Congratulations to Matt Sivewright on his forthcoming nuptials. His presence at the September conference will be missed, but the alternative of leaving his bride waiting at the altar would seem unwise.

NOTE FROM AWIA PRESIDENT 2016/17



Hello everyone,

The best news in the Wire industry this year has to be Sanjeev Gupta, the white knight of Whyalla.

As a passionate Australian manufacturer I have always supported local steel production

as I've felt that if the big boys can't survive then how are the rest of us supposed to keep going.

Sanjeev Gupta has really infused some much needed life into our industry and the whole of the Australian Manufacturing sector with his purchase of Arrium. Hopefully this will get rid of some of the nervousness and allow us all to get going again.

I'm sure this will be one of the topics touched on at the conference in September and I look forward to seeing you there and discussing the future of our industry as well as sharing some AWIA fellowship.

Sincerely

Charles Johnstone



Qantas Aquire Program

Members coming to the AWIA conference are reminded that if they quote the AWIA ABN (95 602 035 937) when making their reservation (flights, cars, hotels) they will be assisting the Wire Association to earn Aquire points. These points will be used for travel approved by the National Committee.

REMEMBER: By quoting the AWIA ABN when making your booking, this program will not affect your own Frequent Flyer points. They are completely additional.

FENCING SNIPPETS



Vater Hardware announces the appointment of Michael Paras as the new Key Account Manager South / West Qld and Northern NSW.

Michael brings with him a great deal of experience in dealing with customers' needs having spent over twenty years in sales / retail businesses. In recent years he has undertaken key account management roles predominately in the sporting industry, servicing accounts state wide as well as key accounts nationally.



Michael says "I am excited and look forward to the challenges ahead of me in working for a company such as Vater."

Michael is located at Vater's Geebung office and can be contacted on 0417 852 949

or

mparas@vaterhardware.com.au

SALE OF CARRICK HOARDING HIRE



Tom Garlick, owner of Carrick Hoarding Hire has advised that effective June 2017 the business has changed hands.

Tom has been an active member of the Temporary Fence Association Australasia and in the last couple of years has been a member of the Industry working group which developed the successful

proposal for Standards Australia to revise AS4687, the Temporary Fencing and Hoardings standard.

The Association would like to thank Tom for his active support and wish him well in his retirement.

We welcome new Owner / Director of Carrick Hoarding, Sam Bond, as a member of the Association. Sam has already attended his first Industry working group meeting and is eager to participate in activities which will benefit the safety and professionalism of the industry.



Temporary Fencing member, SiteTech Solutions have re-located to Laverton in Melbourne's west. Since commencing trading in 2011, SiteTech have continued to grow and add additional products to their hiring range. According to Director, Piers Fitzgerald, his crews have warmly welcomed the move to the all undercover facility now that Victoria's chilly winter has arrived.

As well as concentrating on excelling in their customer service, Piers says the company is aiming to become the "greenest" construction hire company in Australia. Tackling waste, product damage and encouraging recycling in the construction industry will not only save costs but will also make a difference to the environment.

He cites an example of their phasing out of hardwood timber crossovers, replacing them with SiteTech "FlexiTech" crossovers made from recycled plastic as a move in his company's products and services to become greener.

Contact Piers at sales@sitetechsolutions.com.au

REPORT FROM AWIA DIRECTOR



After spending a few weeks in the sun in June, I arrived back to the full force of a Melbourne winter, and a football team whose results, while improving, are still somewhat mixed. Some consideration was given to returning to the sun but dedication to Association duties prevailed.

We have joined a group called the Associations Forum, and at their annual conference in July, I had the opportunity to meet with many other Association executives to discuss ways in which we can better serve the interests of members. Of the 600 or so delegates at the conference, it was interesting to see the variety and size of Associations working in the Australian community. Some had very small memberships (below 10) but with significant budgets, while others had thousands of members, some with very large cash reserves. The conference gave me confidence that, as an Association, we are on the right track, and with a bit of tweaking and hard work, we can make the AWIA a very healthy and vibrant organisation.

The Association's AGM and a mini-conference and dinner will be held on 19th September on the Gold Coast in conjunction with the ASI Convention. The AGM presents members with the opportunity to take an active part in both the running and the future direction of the Association, and I strongly urge you to attend.

richard@wireassociation.com.au

Richard Newbigin

TEMPORARY FENCING WEAK LINK

In the Australian Standard AS4687 Temporary Fencing and Hoardings, which is currently being reviewed, the standard details the requirements for clamps and fittings.

All clamps, pipe fittings, hinges and any other securing parts that are used in temporary fencing shall be manufactured in accordance with the relevant Australian Standard to ensure that the temporary fence system remains secure and maintains its integrity (section 2.1.5).

Unfortunately, it appears there is no Australian standard covering these items. In the past the fencing industry left it to the Australian fence fitting component manufacturers to design and develop fittings which are robust and fit for purpose.

In recent times we have witnessed a significant increase in the volume and types of fence fittings being manufactured and imported from overseas. Design changes and reductions in material thickness has in some cases resulted in price savings to purchasers, however, some of the fittings are much lighter in design and are unable to perform the role intended, which is to “ensure that the temporary fence system remains secure and maintains its integrity”



Photos show examples of unstable panels due to missing clamps and a damaged imported clamp recovered from a temporary fence in North Queensland.

The Temporary Fencing Association in partnership with several of the largest temporary fence hirers, Australian fence fitting manufacturers and importing resellers are conducting an investigation to determine if a specific strength value should be included in the revised temporary fence and hoarding standard. With the cooperation of our industry partners testing of fittings currently available in the Australian marketplace is being conducted at **Vater Corporation's** testing facility in Adelaide. The aim of the testing is to determine what strength may be required to ensure the fitting does not give way under different wind conditions.

When the results are known, this information will be conveyed to the Australian Standards CE008 Committee for their consideration to enable information on the strength requirements for fence fittings to be included in the revised AS4687 Australian Standard.

The Association is keen to hear from any importers of temporary fence fittings willing to submit fittings for testing so that we can create a larger base line for this investigation.

Contact brian@wireassociation.com.au

Temporary Fencing AS4687 Review – Working Group Meeting

Fifteen participants attended the meeting in Melbourne in July 2017. Participants represented temporary fencing, hoarding and swimming pool industry interests from Queensland, NSW and Victoria.

The purpose of the meeting was to table suggestions on new sections and possible amendments to existing sections for the proposed revised standard. These drafts were planned to be submitted to the Australian Standards CE008 Committee which was scheduled to meet in Melbourne early in August 2017.

The revised standard will contain four sections, each section dealing with one aspect of temporary fencing.

- Temporary pool fencing
- General construction temporary fencing
- Temporary hoardings (both internal and external)
- Crowd control barriers



Members wishing to hear more about the functioning of the Industry working group can contact Richard Newbigin: richard@wireassociation.com.au or 1300 942 500.

Sliding and Swing Gates – National Code of Practice

Work is continuing on compiling a draft layout for a National Code of Practice for the Design, Manufacture and Installation of industrial and commercial gates.

Having conducted a web-based search for references to other standards and information available overseas, our working group has produced a list of contents which can be considered for inclusion in the Australasian version of a Code of Practice.

Some industry colleagues have questioned the rationale of creating a Code of Practice instead of creating an Australian Standard. Unfortunately, these days, not all requests submitted to Standards Australia for a new Standard receive the necessary finance and resources required. A case has to be made and the industry backing confirmed before a Standards Project Proposal will be supported by Standards Australia.

It is believed that developing a National Code of Practice will demonstrate to Standards Australia that the gate and fencing industry is resolved to ensure high standards in design and manufacture of gates. It will also validate our concern for all sliding gates to be installed in a manner which does not jeopardise the safety of the public or operators.

The end game will be the creation of an Australian Standard.



SOMETHING NEW

Temporary Noise Barriers - Looking into the Future

Pollution is one of the main challenges facing many of the world's major cities. The topic of air pollution generally grabs much of the media's headlines however; the challenge of noise pollution is beginning to loom much larger on the public's radar.

With increasing amounts of demolition and construction activity now taking place in close proximity to thousands of residences and business premises throughout our cities, the need to mitigate associated construction noise is increasingly on the minds of the public and our regulators. In the future, unless adequate noise control programs and strategies are enacted, this has the potential to become a politically-charged issue.

It is likely that unless developers and project managers adequately control the project's "physical noise" this will lead to public agitation for regulators to step in.

In general, the solution is a willingness to use any and all reasonable and feasible noise control methods to mitigate the construction noise level at its source. Consequently, this will avoid posing hardship and discomfort on abutting communities and passers-by.

Temporary noise barriers and curtains are already being employed as cost effective measures to provide perceptible noise reduction benefits on outdoor construction sites as well as within factory confines. One thing is for sure, the upward trend of using temporary barriers to mitigate construction generated noise will grow.

Now is possibly the right time for more temporary fencing suppliers, hirers and installers to better acquaint themselves on specific details contained in their local state government requirements for construction noise abatement. What can reasonably be achieved in the field needs to be carefully investigated. It would be prudent to be in possession of more reliable data before making a commitment to a particular system. Noise reduction claims made by some suppliers on the web vary, some claiming an expected reduction of between 10dB to 15dB, whilst others claim an upper limit of 27db and 41db.

As this market grows, so will a need for better industry understanding of advantages and the performances of different propriety systems.



Downee

Courage, Vision and Creativity, are critical to adapt manufacturing in a continuously evolving landscape.

While most manufacturing businesses are moving offshore or simply closing down, after a 60+ year history in Sunshine, Downee has built its new factory next to their national distribution site in Melbourne's west.

Downee operation manager Carl Hardie expands on the subject: "...this is an important strategic investment toward our mission of becoming the most trusted team in closure components. We have a clear vision for the future of our game and to express our full potential with the flexibility to support our growth. Hence we needed to advance our manufacturing space today, to cater for the future requirements of our customers. More than ever, success depends on staying agile. We achieve this thanks to a great team and a sophisticated data analysis system developed in-house. This allows us to combine information from our customers, our international partners and now, our modern manufacturing facilities."



Reported Shortage of Specialist Sporting Fencing Installers in Victoria

The installation of sporting fencing such as tennis courts, cricket nets and sporting enclosures require installers to have certain competency skills to fence these projects. These skills include the ability to work safely at heights and an awareness of relevant AS1725 sporting fencing Australian standards.

It has been reported that due to a significant increase in the number of new and renovation projects forecast for the Melbourne metropolitan area, there could be a projected shortage of installers possessing these skills.

Should any fencing sub-contractors wish to enter this section of the fencing market, they can contact the AFIA with their details and these will be forwarded to fencing companies operating in this part of the industry.

brian@wireassociation.com.au



TWO EDGED SWORD



To overcome the risk of temporary fences overturning and to improve their stability, the practice of connecting fence panels to star pickets or use of impactor spikes has become more wide spread.

Installers sometimes resort to using these additional bracing methods when site conditions restrict the footprint available for normal bracing methods or there is the need to enhance the existing bracing such as when shade cloth or other coverings are attached.

Unfortunately, the use of any instrument which penetrates the ground's surface is a two edged sword. Testing has shown these types of braces can dramatically improve the stability of a temporary fence; however, a drawback is the potential risk of rupturing or damaging an underground service. The risk is heightened when the fence line is parallel with the street alignment.

Temporary fencing companies should ensure that these risks are explained in any instruction manuals or job instruction sheets issued to installers.

Installers' on-site check lists should include requirements for the installer to have discussed location of underground services with the site representative.

Prior to undertaking such work it is prudent for installers to seek the services of Dial Before You Dig before commencing the installation.

Photos: Examples of star pickets being used as additional bracing when shade cloth has been attached to the panels.

Shows ground spike and pipe sleeve attachment which is often installed using powered impact equipment.





HINTS ON SPECIFYING AND ORDERING STAINLESS STEEL

Providing correct information when specifying and ordering stainless steel wire products will ensure products are always fit for purpose.

Grades in every-day use

- Grade 304, the most commonly used.
- Grade 316 contains Molybdenum - more resistant to sea salts and highly corrosive environments.

Coil Wire

- Important to specify temper or tensile when ordering.
- Electro polishing quality wire of 700 to 900 Mpa - generally used in baskets and welded panels - diameter range of 2.50mm to 10.00mm.
- Annealed wire of 600 to 700 Mpa - generally used in manual operations such as wire tying - diameter range of 0.4mm to 4.00mm.

Woven Wire should be specified by the aperture (edge of wire to edge of wire) and wire diameter.

- Common use, grading of partials.

Welded Panels and Welded Rolls are specified by the mesh (centre of wire to centre of wire) and wire diameter.

- Common use, guarding and air flow.



Above information has been provided by Stainless Steel Wire and Mesh. Information on "Care of Stainless Steel" is available on their website www.sswm.com.au



The 2016 National Construction Code Will Be Implemented At The End Of This Month.

The Senate passed a bill to speed up the implementation of the 2016 *national construction code* from 2 years to the end of August this year.

The accelerated implementation will upset a significant number of current enterprise agreements, and discussions for any new enterprise agreements already underway.

The *code (the Building and Construction Industry (Improving Productivity) Amendment Act 2017)* prohibits restrictive clauses in enterprise agreements that limit the ability of a contractor to manage its business or improve productivity, as well as clauses that give Unions disproportionate power on building sites. Builders will now have a productivity mandate to bring to the bargaining table to negotiate the accelerated implementation of the code.

In addition, the *code* mandates an extensive compliance regime for any builder interested in tendering for Federal government building work – sham contracting, security of payments, prioritising jobs for Australians over visa workers holders, freedom of association and drug and alcohol management programs are all on the list.

For assistance with your enterprise agreement or *code* compliance concerns please contact Benjamin Gee, Partner and Accredited Specialist (Workplace Relations) on +612 9922 5188 .



Plastic Vinyl Coated Roof Mesh

Roof safety mesh is a product which is easily recognisable by nearly all persons in the wire and construction industries.

It is the 300x150x2mm mesh laid over the roof plane of a building to provide a safe working environment throughout the initial roof installation and for any maintenance work in the future.

Australian Mesh have been manufacturing their Ausmesh 300 roof mesh in Melbourne since 1989 and in more recent years in Brisbane.

What may not be as readily recognizable is the specially coated plastic vinyl roof 1800 mm safety mesh used in high corrosive environments such as chemical factories, swimming pools or where a decorative finish is required.

Examples of where this product has been installed are at the Carrara sports centre on the Gold Coast and at the Sydney Desalination plant at Kurnell in NSW.



More information:

www.australianmesh.com.au



CHINA REPORT

While the Western financial press constantly scrutinizes China's yearly growth statistics, little attention is afforded by them to the economic transformation which is taking place in the lives of the Chinese people.

According to reports, in 2000 roughly 4% of the urban Chinese population were defined as middle class, defined as households earning between US \$9,000 and US \$34,000 per annum.

By 2022 this number is expected to grow to roughly 76%

What this transition means to us is difficult to predict, however, China's past reliance on exporting cheap goods and materials for economic growth certainly will be tempered by its rapidly growing service economy.

From our China Correspondent





WIRE AND SPRING MEMBERS

Ability Works Australia
Ace Wire Works
Advanced Steel Products
AM Wire Pte Ltd
Anchor Wire NZ
APAC Wire Technologies
Ariston Wire
Australian Steel & Wire
Australian Mesh
Austube Mills
Automatic Wire
Bekaert International
Singapore
Better Springs
Bliss & Reels
Boynes Springs
Castle International
Concept Wire Industries
Doogood Powder Coating
Frauenfelder
Icoa Australia
Idee Parfait
Jubilee Springs
M&F Group
Machinery Forum
Marsh Springs & Metal
Products
Mesh Products
MP Mesh Products
Mesh Works
National Springs & Wire
Products NZ
NZ Spring Works Ltd
One Steel Market Mills
One Steel Reinforcing
Protective Wire Mesh
Industries
ProTube Asia
R.E. Walters
Sanwa
Smart Weld NZ Ltd
Spring Specialists Ltd
Stainless Steel Wire and Mesh
Superior Industries NZ
Ullrich Machinery Company
Wiredex Wire Products
Wiretainers Pty Ltd
Wire Displays NZ



National Manufacturing Week
Sydney, May 2018

TRAINING AWARD

We are pleased to announce that three applications for the 2017 Training Award have now been received, one each from Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. Our judges are evaluating the applications against the Training Award criteria, and our winner will be announced at the September conference on the Gold Coast.

Thanks to the three member companies who have put forward candidates for this year's award, and good luck to each of the applicants.

Nominations for the 2018 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.

Please contact

richard@wireassociation.com.au



Black Powder Coated Fence Fittings

To ensure powder coating delays don't impact on tight fencing installation schedules, Vater Hardware have released a selected range of black powder coated fence fittings which will be stocked at all their distribution centres. This range will be added to over coming months



DATE CLAIMER



CE-008 Standards committee for revision of AS4687-2007 Temporary Fencing & Hoardings
9th August, 2017

SMI Metal Engineering Expo
3rd-5th October 2017

Hartford, Connecticut USA
North American trade show for the engineered spring and precision metal component industries.

www.metalingeringexpo.org

AFIA / TFAA update meeting
9th November 2017

Tower Hotel, Melbourne

AWIA Christmas Party
30th November 2017

Venue to be confirmed, Melbourne

AFA Fencetech
6th-9th February 2018

Phoenix, Arizona, USA

The 55th FENCETECH brings together the industry's leading manufacturers, distributors, contractors and specifiers to showcase the latest products and services in the industry.

<http://americanfenceassociation.com/fencetech-2017/>

Wire 2018
16th-20th April, 2018

Dusseldorf, Germany

The world's largest show for wire and tube based products, materials and machinery.

www.wire.de

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