



ASI METAL MUSINGS

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Help for next gen

Constructionarium Australia is helping the next generation of construction professionals to gain skills and build networks by building a replica of a larger structure. Typically students of the program work as a team and together learn to plan, tender, build and handover a scale project that resembles an iconic civil engineering feat - bridge, building, tower or other structure. In Queensland, ASI members BlueScope, Beenleigh Steel Fabrications and RPG are lending their support and resources to Constructionarium's development and design projects, most recently the building of a replica of the Eleanor Schonell Bridge. In Victoria, InfraBuild, Best Fab and Arcadis are supporting projects. Constructionarium provides a safe environment for new engineers to develop experience. Details: constructionariumaustralia.com.au/.

New ASI partnerships

The Australian Steel Institute (ASI) is ramping up its partnerships with training and development organisations to promote careers in steel. New training and development manager Anne Lobascher will attend an engineering and manufacturing open day and recruitment evening put on by Belmore Engineering in Tamworth on September 14. The open day is an opportunity to engage with the young people/schools to showcase what the steel industry has to offer in terms of employment and career pathways. All the major players will be at the recruitment evening and will be an opportunity to network and collaborate. The ASI has also joined the Careers Adviser Association (CAA) which represents career advisers and teacher in NSW and ACT with a view to raising the profile of steel as a career pathway. Anne can be contacted on anne@steel.org.au or 0458 907 195.

Kelli shows the way at InfraBuild



Member profile

Being the only woman using heavy machinery to load and unload steel scrap at InfraBuild's Gladstone recycling plant hasn't held Kelli White back. Looking for a more fulfilling role after returning from her extended maternity leave, the Gladstone local was in the right place at the right time. Kelli was overheard by supervisor Rod Campbell expressing a desire for a fresh challenge from her contract cleaning duties. Noting her strong work ethic, Rod offered Kelli a new role operating an excavator material handler. A year later, she has no regrets. "Sometimes men arrive at site with their trucks full of scrap metal, and question whether that I'm the one going to unload their delivery," Kelli said. "But I just tell them 'Yes, I am' and then get on with the job. It makes me very proud both as a mum and a woman to be doing what I do. I'm proud that I'm one of the women at InfraBuild doing a role that is helping break stereotypes. If another woman asked me if they should do a job like mine, my advice would be to go for it."

Macfab a real success story

Member profile



Wayne Clarke
Macfab managing director

Wayne 'Mud' Clarke and wife Michelle have provided structural steel products to tier one construction companies across NSW and Victoria for more than 20 years (www.macfab.com.au). From a small workshop, Macfab is now fitted with modern machinery, expanded to two workshops and employ close to 70 people - a real success story. Macfab Engineering manufactures and installs structural, stainless steel, mild steel, aluminum and sheet metal fabrications for most specialist areas of industry. Their projects are as diverse as supplying bridge components for freeways, structural steel for commercial buildings and welded metal products for railways. Macfab is proud to be part of the West Gate Tunnel Project delivering steelwork frames on the concrete piers, the Prospect Highway upgrade and the Swanson Dock West project enabling the container terminal to continue receiving vessels.

Steel jobs vital for economy

Keeping steel jobs onshore is vital for the economy, Federal Minister for Skills and Training Brendan O'Connor has told the Australian steel convention. In his Day 2 (September 12) address to the ASI convention, O'Connor said the Federal Government had allocated \$15b in its National Construction Fund to building infrastructure locally, with locally made steel an important part of that plan. "Steel is the backbone of the construction industry," he told the convention. "Our government is committed to ensuring the Australian steel industry remains robust and active." Part of that plan would include protecting Australia against the dumping of cheap imported steel on its doorstep. "Going forward, there is a tremendous opportunity for Australian steel in the submarine projects, the move to renewable power through wind and solar and the booming infrastructure sector." But O'Connor said first Australia had to deal with one of the worst skills shortages in history. Welcoming the ASI's focus on promoting careers in steel via the new ASI Careers Centre (<https://jobs.steel.org.au>), O'Connor said the federal government had invested \$1b to create fee-free VET training in key areas.

\$12m expansion for BSF

Member profile



Anthony Stoeckert
BSF director

Australian steel fabricator Beenleigh Steel Fabrications (BSF) has upped its production capacity via a \$12m expansion. Construction of the new \$12 million facility at Berrinba, Queensland was supported by the Qld Government's \$175 million jobs and regional growth fund. Fifty-nine new jobs have been created at the new facility. Beenleigh Steel Fabrications is a long-term ASI fabricator member certified by the ASI's Steel Sustainability Australia (SSA) scheme to CC3 level, with SSA certification pending. Director of Beenleigh Steel Fabrications Anthony Stoeckert is a member of the ASI Queensland construction and technical committee. Beenleigh Steel has helped create Queensland landmarks such as Suncorp Stadium, North Queensland Stadium, the Cairns Convention Centre, and the Jubilee Centre.

Alltype grows business

Member profile



Kelvin Andrijich
Managing director

As the managing director of Alltype Engineering, Kelvin Andrijich has worked hard to transform Alltype Engineering into a credible tier two construction contracting organisation. The size and complexity of projects delivered by the company has grown exponentially in recent years, both in Western Australia and nationally. Alltype offers supply chain solutions in house, incorporating procurement, automated processing, fabrication, welding, testing through to site construction and multidiscipline installation services. Alltype Engineering started work at Kwinana and Muja Power Stations in 1985 and opened a fabrication workshop in the late 1990s. Kelvin has a 30-year career in the engineering and energy industries. He started as a mechanical engineer, gaining hands-on experience in the fabrication and construction industry.

Milestone 60th for Galserv

Member profile

Galvanising specialist Galserv is celebrating its 60th anniversary with the launch of a new website (www.galserv.com.au). One of the companies that make up ASI member Nepean™ Building & Infrastructure's business, Galserv is a market leader in planning, managing or specifying coatings for a project. The Yagoona based company is regular contributor to projects ranging from bridges to warehouses and railway stations - and fully equipped to manage sandblasting or spinning of small articles for client projects.

Laser Central chalks up 25 years

Member profile

Laser Central is celebrating its 25th anniversary in a new, state-of-the art Queensland facility with the most advanced laser cutting technology on the market. After 14 years at Richlands, Laser Central has moved to new premises at Darra providing premium metal processing services for flat bed and tube laser cutting, metal folding, counter sinking, drilling and tapping, and edge rounding. Managing director Rob Newton said the state-of-the-art facility allows for better workflows and room for new equipment. The company covers a wide range of industries including mining, defence, automotive, agricultural industries, construction, housing, and manufacturing. It has one of the largest tube laser cutting facilities in Australia.



Rob Newton
Laser Central MD

Did you know?

Federal Skills Minister Brendan O'Connor has praised the ASI's new online Careers Centre as an important resource for skilling the steel sector.

The ASI website had half a million page views and LinkedIn 70,000 impressions in FY2022-23.