

Pulling together triumphs in safety push

If there's one overriding lesson to be garnered from the qualities of winning entries in this year's ASI National Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Awards, it's that wide collaboration and solid buy-in by staff avert risk.

All three national winners were presented their awards at the Australian Steel Convention in Sydney on 20 November at a special luncheon ceremony sponsored by Sparke Helmore Lawyers.

Individual Award winner, **Garry Meagher** of OneSteel Australian Tube Mills in Newcastle employed a one-company mindset to communicate new ways of working to cut accidents.

Topping the Site Award category was Stramit Building Products in Bendigo Victoria that built new OH&S provisions involving staff throughout the high-movements facility.

Staff buy-in was integral to Pacific Steel Group's *Working Well* project in New Zealand winning in the Improvement Initiative category that concentrated on improving the fitness and wellbeing of workers.

Awards organiser, the ASI's National Safety Coordinator, **Phil Casey** said he was encouraged by the record number of entries this year and the support from member companies both large and small in facilitating improvements.

"It's pleasing to witness how protecting people is more than ever as much of a priority as profits and the environment for our industry," he said.

"There is definitely recognition out here that all those issues are closely interrelated and that responsible management of risk on the shop floor is good business."

Judges

Paul Cutrone (Sparke Helmore Lawyers)
Mark Goodsell (Australian Industry Group)
Adrian Marino (Southern Steel Group)
Andrew Miedler (Stramit Building Products)
Sean Minto (BlueScope Steel)
Steve Simpson (BlueScope Lysaght)
Ashley Smith (CMC Coil Steels)
Roger Wignarajah (Nepean Group)
Andrew Wiseman (Fielders Steel Roofing)

Individual Award:

WINNER

Garry Meagher (Site Operations Manager) Industrial Drive Mayfield NSW, OneSteel Australian Tube Mills

Under Mr Meagher's management in Newcastle, Medically Treated Injury (MTI) Frequency rates were cut from 15 in the third quarter of 2007 to zero in mid 2009. During that time, the site's workforce was significantly scaled back and redeployed and productivity per worker almost doubled to in excess of 1200 tonnes per year. He has a 'one company' attitude to his work and has been found to communicate regularly with other company sites to offer up resources that may assist. He has frequently demonstrated to senior management that placing people ahead of profits pays dividends. Continuing

improvements to onsite performance prompted production to be expanded there recently. It is widely acknowledged amongst his peers and superiors that he is very serious about the company's expectations regarding standards and safety observation completion rates.



(L to R) ASI National Safety Coordinator, **Phil Casey** and Partner National Health and Safety Team Leader with Sparke Helmore Lawyers, **Paul Cutrone** present **Garry Meagher** with his award.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

David Beaman (National Safety Manager) Based in WA, OneSteel Sheet, Coil and Aluminium

From Bibra Lake, Mr Beaman provides safety leadership and guidance to all of the company's Australian sites in WA, SA, Victoria, NSW and Queensland. He is responsible for working closely with the State Managers to help develop action plans to implement the National Safety Agenda as well as address specific local needs through a deep engagement approach of state managers, safety managers and site operations.

Max Sayer (Safety Coordinator) Bibra Lake, WA, OneSteel Steel and Tube Perth

Mr Sayer pays particular attention to spreading his skills across all areas of the Perth Steel and Tube (S&T) business, having a positive influence on the Leadership group, Sales, Inventory staff and Operations. Since he started with S&T, he has ensured the utmost rigour around systems to ensure an ongoing 100 percent Positive Performance Indicator (PPI) score for the past year, up on the previous year's 75 percent, to be the highest in the country for S&T.

Site Award:

WINNER

Stramit Building Products, Bendigo Victoria (Distribution, Ramsay Court, Kangaroo Flat)

Michael Yanko and **Andrew Meidler**

There have been no injuries or MTIs for the past three years at this Centre that distributes Stramit products to the Distributor, Commercial, Shed and Domestic market segments across the Central

and Western regions of Victoria. Rigorous auditing has demonstrated the Centre's effectiveness in isolating risks on the shop floor, providing appropriate storage of stock items, clear marking of walkways, workways and emergency access points, and generally a high level of cleanliness and order of plant and equipment. Recent safety initiatives include a new warehouse layout to improve workflow and accessibility for product movements, and introducing Product Load Sequencing to ensure that truck loads have consignments identified and assembled in an optimum manner with product identification labels clearly visible from ground level.



Safe stock movements at Stramit in Bendigo.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

OneSteel Sheet and Coil, Hemmant Queensland – **David Beaman**

The site lifted its game from incurring one lost time injury (LTI) and two MTIs in 2002 to achieving three years of MTI-free and seven years of LTI-free performance to date.

OneSteel Australian Tube Mills, Newcastle NSW – **David Gomez**

This site clocked up 410 days without MTIs and 679 LTI-free days on the back of a major footprint review of the business as part of the OneSteel and Smorgon merger.

Stramit Building Products, Hobart Tasmania – **Michael Yanko** and **Andrew Meidler**

There have been no LTIs over the past three years despite relocation to this new facility during that period and no MTIs incurring there during 2009.

Improvement Initiative Award:

WINNER

Working Well – Pacific Steel Group, Otahuhu Auckland NZ – **Robin Hyde** and **Kay Graf**

In the wake of a substantial makeover of the steel mill in 2008, staff agreed to undertake the same on themselves for better well being. A multifaceted, holistic program was created for the year targeting



(L to R) **Phil Casey** and **Paul Cutrone** flank **Ian Jones** from Pacific Steel Group NZ accepting the award in the Improvement Initiative category.

healthier eating and weight management, stress and fatigue management, balanced with physical activity, smoking cessation and health education. The program achieved a combined staff weight loss of over 1000kg, 24 smokers quitting for over six months, 72 gym memberships subsidised and underlying medical conditions diagnosed and treated. The biggest bonus has been in employee engagement which is evident from increased numbers participating in the program as well as employees initiating wellness events themselves.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Project No Dogs – BlueScope Steel Logistics, National – **Sean Minto**

The program ceased the use of over-centre load binders (known as 'dogs') and ad hoc pipes used as extension handles that have caused injuries within the transport industry for many years due to the quick way they release their stored energy. A collaborative effort assisted transport companies to select suitable alternative load binders.

Purlin Stacker – BlueScope Lysaght, Chullora NSW – **Chris Beston** and **Geoff Manzi**

The facility recently installed an automated stacker in its purlin mill to eliminate the site's highest handling risk from the repetitive lifting and twisting motions required in manually stacking purlins as they were produced.

A full list of entrants is posted on the ASI website.

