

**SPECIAL**  
**50th**  
**EDITION**

**THE LINK**



AUSTRALASIAN WIRE  
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

## Showcasing the successes, innovation and developments in the Fencing, Gate and Wire Industries

### THE LINK TURNS 50!

As you can see from the bling in the banner above, this is the 50th edition of The Link. Although it has appeared in different guises, it is still the voice of the Australasian Wire Industry Association Inc., and is published to highlight the successes, innovation and developments in the fencing, gate and wire industries, along with providing members of the Association, and other wire industry stakeholders, with pertinent information along the way.

To those of you that have been on the circulation list from the beginning, we hope you have enjoyed the publication, and the changes that have been made to it along the way. Thank you also for being such loyal followers. Many of the companies in the original member listing remain valued members some 17 years on.

The first issue was published in January 2004 as The Chain Link, and it was specifically the mouthpiece of the Australian Chain Link Fencing Association. There were 25 members at that time including:

- ARC Fences
- CAI Fences & Greenhouses
- Citywide Temporary Fencing
- Diamond Fencing
- Emu Wire Fencing
- Frauenfelder Gates
- Glennwire Fencing
- Keena Fencing
- Olympic Fencing
- Otter Fencing
- Protective Fencing
- RMD Metal products
- Supreme Wire Fence & Gate
- Ultracourts
- Victorian Temporary Fencing

All but two of these companies are still members of the Association today.

The first 23 editions were four pages long, and along with keeping members abreast of Association events, it also updated members on changes to Australian Standards. This segment of the newsletter remains as important today as it was back in 2004, and the AWIA is committed to being a strong voice for the wire industry in establishing and maintaining a robust set of Australian and New Zealand Standards.

Barry Loudon, the Director/Secretary of the Association from 1998 until his untimely death in 2006, was the custodian of the newsletter for its first six editions, with Brian Mullarvey driving its direction and content.

By the 10th edition in September 2007, the membership list had almost doubled. In addition to encouraging members to attend the AWIA Conference in Palm Cove (what wonderful pre-COVID days those were), it also augured the publication of AS 4687:2007 Temporary Fencing & Hoardings. Forty editions later, the revision of this Standard is being heralded.

Our 26th edition was the first of our eight-page newsletters and a doubling of the content, a significant undertaking by Brian Mullarvey, who further expanded it to its current sixteen pages in the 40th edition in January 2018.

It would be fair to say that Brian has been critical to the development of the newsletter over its duration, and, although he officially retired from the Association after the 45th edition was published, he has kept a pretty close eye on its subsequent progress since then.

When asked about the significance of the newsletter over the past seventeen years, Brian said "One of our key objectives pursued since the early editions of the newsletter has been the promotion and the encouragement of industry adherence to the relevant Australian fencing standards.

The successful publishing of any industry periodical largely depends on contributions received from those interested in the issues impacting on its industry. My special thanks are owed to Ray Otter, Craig Gibbens and the late Les Foreman who not only gave their valuable time to serve on Standards committees and workgroups but were a font of knowledge in assisting me identify items in the Australian Standards needing further explanation.

In more recent times our emphasis has been on the need to update the Standard pertaining to temporary fencing and hoardings, and here again several members including Bruce Fouracre, Rod Wilkie, Greg Bloom and Andrew Lee have given invaluable advice relating to the provision of safe and reliable temporary fencing and hoardings. The research, testing and advice given by Matt Curry at Vater on the relative strengths of temporary fencing couplers and other fence fittings was also welcomed.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have been involved with this industry newsletter for so many years and I will watch with interest its further development in the future."

A big thanks to our readers. We hope the content of the newsletter continues to provide you with good, and interesting, information. If you wish to add to the content, or if there are industry segments you think we may be overlooking, please contact our editor, Alex Doran (editor@wireassociation.com.au) or Richard Newbiggin (richard@wireassociation.com.au) who are only too happy to take on new ideas and suggestions.

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 SiteTech Solutions  
 South Fence Machinery  
 Supreme Line Fencing  
 Supreme Wire Fence and Gates  
 TFH Hire Services  
 The Temp Fence Shop  
 Titan Hoarding Systems  
 Totem Fencing  
 Ullrich Machinery Company  
 Vater Hardware Group  
 Victorian Temporary Fencing  
 Williams Hire

## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

**AS 2423 Coated Steel Wire fencing products for terrestrial, aquatic and general use**

It is pleasing to report that the work done with Standards Australia which started back in September 2019 to reinstate this withdrawn Standard has finally borne fruit - on 19th February 2021 it was reconfirmed. The Standard is unchanged, but is now known as AS 2423-2002 REC:2021. The reconfirmation will keep it current for some time, but being such an old Standard, it will probably warrant a revision within the next five years. The AWIA already has a great deal of Standards work on its plate but over the next year or so will look to do a review of this Standard. Any input from members is always welcome.

**AS 4687 Temporary Fencing and Hoardings**

The draft version of the revised Standard prepared by the CE-008 committee was submitted to Standards Australia editing department before Christmas and came back to the Chair of the committee for a review of the edited copy in the first week of March. A few alterations were made and the draft was re-submitted to the editors towards the third week of March. Information provided by Standards Australia points to a continuing backlog of work for the editors so the expectation of the draft going out for public comment in April was unlikely to be realised. Users of the Standard should be forewarned that the revised document is now in four parts and adds considerable detail to the Standard. The AWIA will hold member briefings once the draft is available for public comment.

**AS 5345 High Security Anti-Intruder Fences in Welded Wire Mesh and Open Steel Panels**

While the CE-008 committee is still tied up with the revision of AS 4687, work on this new Standard for high security fencing is being delayed. The Association has been approached by a couple of parties who wish to be involved with a working group to advise the committee. Any readers who wish to participate in the working group should advise Richard Newbigin ([richard@wireassociation.com.au](mailto:richard@wireassociation.com.au) or 1300 942 500) as soon as possible. The delay in commencement of this project is not good for the industry, and it will be useful if the committee has a good draft in front of it when it eventually meets for its kick-off meeting. The Association can provide some drafting guidelines to members of the working group to assist their discussions.

**AS/NZS 4944:2009 Temporary Edge Protection**

The relevant technical committee, BD-092 met just after Easter to refine the project proposal which had been put forward for Parts 1, 2 & 3 of this Standard. The AWIA had made a submission to the committee in June 2020 which was discussed at the meeting and incorporated into a revised project proposal. It was agreed at the meeting that this Standard was a valuable one, and that there had been significant enough developments within the industry over the past 10 years to warrant a revision by the committee.

**AS 1926.1 Swimming pool safety – Safety Barriers for Swimming Pools**

Following on from the significant number of responses to the draft revision of AS 1926.1 at public comment stage, the technical committee has revised the scope of the revision, and their kick-off meeting for the revision of this Standard under the new scope was scheduled for late April.

**NEXTgen Program**

Standards Australia's NEXTgen Program selects emerging industry and technical experts and provides them with an exciting opportunity to become involved in the national and international standardisation processes supporting Australian industry and government.

Through the program, participants will access training and gain direct exposure to the standards development process and context. Participants will create a valuable network of key Australian stakeholders and peers across industry sectors.

The goal of the program is to support the future of standards development through investing in the next generation of standards leaders and experts. Any members wishing to participate in this program should contact Richard Newbigin at [richard@wireassociation.com.au](mailto:richard@wireassociation.com.au).

*Members wishing further information should contact:*

*Richard Newbigin (Tel: 1300 942 500, Email: [richard@wireassociation.com.au](mailto:richard@wireassociation.com.au))*

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT THE HALF CENTURY

Welcome to the 50th Edition of our newsletter, just one piece of the association that binds us all together. The place where we find out about what the industry is proud of, who's new and who's moving around. This is where we tell each other what's going

on and advertise our wares. Good communication is what keep us connected and what helps form, build, and solidify relationships. Thanks to Alex and Richard for all their work in the production of The Link and of course to Brian who put the newsletter together for so many years.

We have so much to be proud of as an association not just historically but fundamentally and here's some small examples of why. In the last month I have had communication with members (friends via the association) at least weekly about a myriad of things. One was a lead from a customer that I knew was out of our scope and that I just wanted to pass onto the best person possible - and that was easy. The second was work referred to us by a member to help out with a wire forming issue that they were having trouble finding the right people for. The third was probably the most challenging, where I had a staff issue that needed external consultancy (it was beyond me) and I turned to a member for advice as to who would be the best person to assist with human resource consultancy. The last, and the best, was an association member ringing me as he was going to be in the area and wanted to catch up for lunch just because we hadn't seen each other for a long time.



If you aren't experiencing these incidental benefits from the association then I encourage you to reach out to other members or put yourself on the committee so you are in contact with other members more often.

Milestones are wonderful, in that they allow us to think about how far we've come, and in some instances, leads us to reflect how much more we may have left or what is still to do. For this association there is always more to do as our members are coming and going and business is always evolving and changing.

We have all seen change over the last 12 months and I for one am so grateful to be part of something that is bigger than just one business going at it alone.

**Charles Johnstone**



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The history of this newsletter can be found elsewhere in this edition (see page 1), and it is very satisfying to be involved with this 50th edition. It is not always easy to put the publication together and I acknowledge and applaud the efforts of all the people who have

been involved in its production over the past seventeen years - most especially Brian Mullarvey who was involved in the first edition and edited more than 40 of the 50 editions published to date.

There are three new contributors to this edition of The Link.

**Weld Australia** have provided an important article about the reclassification of welding fume to Group 1 Carcinogens to Humans, an important change for the many members which have in-house welding capabilities.

**The Galvanizing Association of Australia (GAA)** discusses the benefits of galvanising wire over painting or powder coating. No doubt this will cause some discussion amongst members who supply powder coating services, and any alternative views and comments will be welcomed.

Following on from the annual economic updates provided by Mei Leong, Head of Market Analytics at **GFG Alliance**, Mei has provided a summary of Australia's economic activity for the December quarter, along with a forecast for future activity.

It is planned that all three will be regular contributors to the newsletter in future and I'm very pleased that they have agreed to come on board. We continue to look for ways to broaden industry knowledge, and any suggestions for topics of interest are always most welcome. Contact is encouraged with either myself or The Link editor Alex Doran (editor@wireassociation.com.au).

Elsewhere in the newsletter you can read about the new Association website which is being revamped with the '.org.au' domain extension to focus on its not for profit status.

It has now been more than a year since we have held any face-to-face member functions thanks to COVID-19 restrictions but we are planning nonetheless to kick off the new financial year with a get together in Newcastle in July.

With the end of the Jobkeeper scheme, it will be a time to keep a close eye on your debtors, and all members are encouraged to review their credit terms and procedures to ensure there are no nasty surprises on the horizon. We shall plan on getting some expert advice on this topic at our July function.

I have taken the plunge and had the first Astra Zeneca jab, and by July should be 'COVID-safe' if there is such a thing. Hope you all stay safe and well.

**Richard Newbigin**

(Tel: 1300 942 500 Email: richard@wireassociation.com.au)

## INTERNATIONAL REPORTS



### SOUTH EAST ASIA REPORT

ASEAN has often positioned itself as the alternative investment choice to China, as clearly, many importers are wary of putting all their eggs in the huge Chinese basket! However, ASEAN is facing a lot of problems at the moment:

1. Myanmar/Burma has now joined Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia in having a non-democratic Government.
2. The COVID-19 challenge: Indonesia has had more than 1 million cases; Philippines 540,000; Malaysia 250,000 and even Singapore has had over 60,000 cases (though mostly dormitory based factory workers). Australia and New Zealand have both escaped the worst of the pandemic and so did China!
3. Economic challenge: The IMF calls this pandemic the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930's. Only Vietnam in ASEAN has avoided a substantial fall in GDP. Most of ASEAN relies on tourism and travel in general which of course hardly exists at the moment. 2021 promises a recovery but still many problems.

Possibly due to these challenges, foreign investment is down in all of ASEAN. For example, Malaysia attracted only US \$2.5 billion FDI (foreign direct investment) in 2020, down two-thirds from 2019. Indonesia has managed to attract Tesla to invest there, and Hyundai will switch their regional headquarters from Malaysia to Indonesia and has invested US \$1.55 billion in a new factory there.

On steel, over-capacity remains a major issue for most of ASEAN, though currently we are all seeing price increases that are clearly led by China.

The conclusion of all this is that China remains the "workhouse of the world" and despite the desire of many to find alternative sources, ASEAN needs to solve these political, health and economic challenges in order to attract more foreign investments.

Article courtesy of Andrew Marshall, AM Wire. Figures taken from Singapore Straits Times.

### EUROPEAN REPORT

The COVID-19 situation in Spain continues to be dire. Indeed, we are seeing an increase in new cases thanks to people circulating during the Easter period. On any one day, we might see near on 10,000 new cases and up to 300 dead. A "light" day would be 4,000 new cases and 100 dead. The only bright spot amongst this is that the vaccine is slowly being rolled out. So, logically, the virus (in its current form) will progressively encounter more and more resistant bodies rather than vulnerable bodies.

While the world stock markets rise on the expectation of economic boom times, the reality on the ground in Spain is likely to be far more subdued. Prior to COVID-19, Spain's unemployment rate was still in its recovery phase following the 2008 global economic crisis. By the end of 2019 Spain had reached its best level: 13.7% unemployed. The economic damage done since then is incalculable at the moment, but vast numbers of small businesses have certainly gone bust. The GDP figures for Spain in about a year's time will give us an indication of the wreckage.

So, well done Australia, partly by the good fortune of being an island and partly by good management. As for Spain, most of her pain arises from bad management.

Courtesy of Mark Maccallum at Australian Steel News

### CHANGE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT ACRS

Australasian Certification Authority for Reinforcing and Structural Steels (ACRS) is sad to announce that Philip Sanders, its Executive Director has resigned from the Association for health reasons.

Dr. Andrew Wheeler has been appointed Acting Executive Director. Andrew has been an ACRS Board member and Member of the Assessment and Audit Committee for the last five years, and has worked closely with Philip Sanders. He has an excellent understanding of ACRS, its operations and certification processes, as well as customers and staff.

The ACRS Directors wish Philip all the best for a full recovery.

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

### STEFAN WEIGERSTORFER BLISS & REELS



Many thanks to the AWIA to allow me to introduce myself. I am taking over the role of long-standing member Juergen Arndt who is transitioning into retirement.

My background includes 9 years with EVG Austria as a specialist for mesh welding and wire bending machines, traveling the globe installing and commissioning these machines.

In 2017, I got married to my beautiful wife, who "imported" me over to the country of deadly spiders, snakes and sharks!

Bliss & Reels gave me the opportunity to start as a service technician with the option to further my career in sales. I must say, moving to Down Under was one of the best decisions in my life.

I have already had the chance to meet several AWIA members in person and I am looking forward to getting to know all of you after all the travel restrictions are lifted.

My sales role with Bliss & Reels will include the machines of EVG, Wafios, Schilt and Strecker Butt welders.

If you need any information, assistance or would like to just get in touch, please find my contact details below.

Hoping for a bright future for all of us!

Stefan Weigerstorfer

Ph: +61 3 9850 6666

M: +61 435 768 440

stefan@blissandreels.com.au

www.blissandreels.com.au



Stefan Weigerstorfer, Bliss & Reels

## NEW MEMBER PROFILES

### PINKY'S FENCING



Pinky's Fencing was established in 2005. Based in the Clare Valley, South Australia, Pinky's Fencing has earned a reputation for delivering high quality domestic and commercial/security fencing throughout the Clare Valley, Mid North, Yorke Peninsula and Eyre Peninsula of South Australia.

Fully licensed and insured for all types of fencing, Pinky's guarantees that all workmanship and materials are of the highest standard. Pinky's Fencing supply and install new fencing and can also help with changes/repairs to existing fencing. Additional licenced services include installation of retaining walls and paving.

#### Their commercial project clients include:

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- SA Water
- Suzlon Energy; Snowtown and Hallet Windfarms
- SA Power Networks
- Civil Group Construction and Drilling
- Catcon
- Taylors Wines
- Tim Adams Wines
- Vineyard Lutheran School
- St Joseph Catholic School Clare
- Clare & Gilbert Valley Council
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To learn more about Pinky's Fencing visit:

<http://www.pinkysfencing.websytle.com.au/>



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## TECHNICAL NEWS

### WELDING AND CANCER – IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BUSINESSES



#### Introduction

In March 2017, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) reclassified welding fume from Group 2B Possibly Carcinogenic to Humans to Group 1 Carcinogenic to Humans. In addition, they evaluated ultraviolet light from arc welding and classified it as Carcinogenic to Humans (Group 1).

Their assessments were subsequently published in IARC's Monograph 118 in July 2018.

The International Institute of Welding (IIW) through their Commission VIII experts, are evaluating the findings published by IARC and a position statement is being prepared.

#### Weld Fume

Following discussions with Commission VIII, Weld Australia advises that current fume management recommendations remain valid and recommends that the guidelines published within Weld Australia's Technical Note 7 Health and Safety in Welding and Technical Guidance Note TGN-SW01 Fume minimisation guidelines be followed. Both are available for download free of charge from Weld Australia's website <https://weldaustralia.com.au/>

#### Recommendations

In compliance with National and State WHS Regulations, businesses should conduct a risk assessment to ensure that welders, and people working nearby, are protected from exposure to fume from welding and welding-related processes (including

thermal cutting, gouging etc.). The following actions should be considered in the risk assessment—

1. Where practicable, remove the welder from the source of the fume by mechanising or automating the welding process.
2. In conformance with Weld Australia's Fume minimisation guidelines, arrange the work piece so that the welder's head is not in the plume. Note that:

(i) Unless welding in the horizontal (PC or 2G), overhead (PD, PE, 4F, 4G) or vertical (PF, PG, 3F, 3G) position, the welder's head is likely to be positioned within the plume, and fume management methods, personal protective equipment (PPE), or a combination of both, may be required.

(ii) Whilst all welding processes generate fume, the plume may not be visible to the welder, or with some processes, the observer.

(iii) Whilst the resistance welding processes commonly used in the wire industry are generally regarded as low fume level processes, significant volumes of fume can be produced in production environments and local extraction may be required.

3. Relying on a light cross-draught in the vicinity of the welder's face to ensure that the fume is either drawn or blown away from the welder's breathing zone can be unreliable. Whilst mechanically assisted ventilation (E.g.: a fan) can be utilised, cross draughts sufficient to disperse fume may cause weld quality issues particularly on gas-shielded processes. Other fume management equipment such as fume extractors (E.g.: fixed, downdraft or portable) may be required.
4. Utilise personal protective equipment such as respirator masks and air fed helmets if alternative methods of fume control are not reasonably practicable.

Care should be taken to ensure that other workers are not exposed to the fume by allowing it to accumulate in areas away from the welding or welding related process.

Specialist advice may also be sought from an occupational hygienist (E.g.: [www.aioh.org.au](http://www.aioh.org.au)) particularly in the preparation and implementation of the risk assessment, and the verification of the application of the controls.

Article courtesy of Weld Australia [www.weldaustralia.com.au](http://www.weldaustralia.com.au)

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## MEDICAL QUALITY STANDARD BOOST FOR AWI AND MSSA

Alloy Wire International (AWI) is setting its sights on increasing its presence in the Oceanic medical sector after securing a new quality accreditation.

The manufacturer of wire, bars and wire rope in high performance exotic alloys, has taken just nine months to refine its systems at its UK manufacturing facility to achieve ISO:13485 - the medical devices standard.

This accreditation is recognised throughout the world and means new and existing customers can purchase material from its international sales representatives, like Metal Spray Supplies Australia (MSSA), safe in the knowledge it will deliver maximum reliability.

“Companies in the medical sector demand exacting quality, full traceability and superior performance. After all they are often producing devices that improve or save lives,” commented Kevin Healey, Technical Director at MSSA.

“The ISO:13485 accreditation is a massive boost for our business as it gives companies confidence in the quality of our material. It has already sparked a number of conversations with clients in our territory and we expect this to continue over the next six months,” he said.

Away from supplying wire, a number of Metal Spray Supplies Australia employees are swapping their day jobs to take on sporting challenges to make a difference.

In June, Ross Healey is running the Brisbane Marathon, the second time he is running 42.2km to help raise funds to support the Leukaemia Foundation of Australia in their efforts to find a cure.

A month later David Andress will aim to test his own endurance, undertaking a two-day (3-nights) bicycle tour covering over 300km. He will be riding through the beautiful Sunshine Coast Hinterland, covering Montville, Noosa, D’Aguilar National Park, and the Noosa Hinterland. This will be a punishing ride up and down mountains whilst raising money for the Mental Wheels Foundation, who funds changing Mental Health Initiatives.

Finally, three members of the MSSA team have accepted the 6-minute challenge to help raise awareness of the importance of mental health and that every six minutes someone attempts to take their own life. The trio will walk, run or ride for six minutes on six consecutive days between September 19th and October 31st.

For more information, please visit [www.alloywire-au.com](http://www.alloywire-au.com). Details on the fundraising can be found at <https://bmf21.grassrootz.com/leukaemia/ross-s-42-2-for-leukaemia-foundation-au> and <https://mentalwheelstour-qld.raisely.com/david-andress>.



## MESH WELDING - THE NEW IDEAL GA 800 SERIES

In March 2020, the “regular” date of the WIRE show in Düsseldorf, Germany was the planned date for the introduction of the new machine generation of IDEAL-Werk from Germany – the GA 800 series.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has made this null and void. Never the less, IDEAL-Werk presented this new machine generation in an interactive webcast, to introduce the new features and advantages. Now, some time after the machine has successfully been introduced in the market, this success should also be achieved Down Under.

The new modular designed welding portal enables each kind of secondary circuit, such as AC, 1ph DC or even medium frequency DC (1000 Hz technology). The new ergonomic design of the machine comes along with the new swivel arm control panel, connected to the welding portal. In addition, the machine provides many new benefits and features such as:

- AC, 1 ph DC or medium frequency technology available (“open portal”)
- 1, 2 or even several secondary circuits are possible. No electrode change is needed in case of a input material combination in case of medium frequency machines
- The new latest transformer technology
- New generation of switchable welding cylinders (3,5 and 7 kN)
- New quick-change concepts to minimise the change over time of the machine
- Manual loading, up to fully automated loading, by magazines
- New swivel arm control panel (no separate PC cabinet necessary)
- Speed up to 200 strokes per minute! (depending on the wire diameter and the crosswire pitch)

The new machine generation comes along with all possibilities of semi-automatic or fully automatic operation. Fully customised welding solutions with the new GA 800 series as heart of the line are no problem.

For more information visit [www.ideal-werk.com](http://www.ideal-werk.com) or contact M & F Group Pty Ltd in Sydney on +61 2 9484 1166.



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## AN UPDATE ABOUT INFRABUILD



Integrated steel business, InfraBuild, has recorded its strongest first half year result since 2017 and its order book remains healthy amid strong market conditions, according to CEO Dak Patel.

InfraBuild, which has steel manufacturing, processing, distribution and recycling arms, is a member of the GFG Alliance but does not have exposure to the recently collapsed Greensill Capital. It has had its own separate capital structure since 2019.

It is a major supplier of the Australian wire industry, including rural fencing; bedding; welded mesh; reinforcing for pipes and poles; nail and steel rope manufacturing.

Mr Patel attributed InfraBuild’s first half result to a successful transformation program implemented last year, operational efficiencies and the market’s resilience to the impacts of the pandemic.

“Our order book is healthy, our service and payment commitments continue to be met as per contracted terms, and our operations continue as usual,” Mr Patel said.

“This includes a focus on adding both steelmaking and rolling mill capacity to keep up with the ongoing improvement in demand and maintain service for our customers.

“Whilst the construction market has been the key driver of growth in the past 12 months, the demand for InfraBuild’s wire products has continued to be very strong.”

Mr Patel said the business was again hoping to achieve healthy EBITDA growth year on year.

“Our focus is on continuing to deliver our transformation program effected earlier this year and our improved service offering,” he said.

“We are a strong business, in a strong position and I must give credit to our hardworking InfraBuild team who have played an enormous role in our result.”

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## GALVANIZING - WHY GALVANIZE WIRE PRODUCTS?

To start, let’s ask some questions: How long do you want the coating to last; what is the wire fabricator going to do with the wire; and what is the wire for? This article will deal with the types of galvanized coatings available before looking at durability.

### Galvanized Coating Mass

Galvanizing of wire is covered under Table 1 of AS 4534 and, depending on the wire size and coating class, the allowed coating mass can vary from a minimum of 20 g/m<sup>2</sup> to 765 g/m<sup>2</sup>. There are an incredible 127 options listed, although InfraBuild provides “just” 26 options in their standard galvanized range, typically offering two options (Standard and Heavy) for each wire size range; the lightest being 25 g/m<sup>2</sup> for the 0.75mm to 1.18mm diameter wires and up to 305 g/m<sup>2</sup> for wires larger than 8mm. They do offer thicker or intermediate coating masses on enquiry.

Wire can also be fabricated into other structures and galvanized as part of the overall structure. The coating is then governed by AS/NZS 4680 where the coating mass varies from 320 g/m<sup>2</sup> for wires less than 1.6mm to 600 g/m<sup>2</sup> for wires thicker than 6mm. Very thick galvanized coatings (especially those batch galvanized) are less tolerable to being bent and/or welded after galvanizing, so should only be offered if the finished product can be galvanized after fabrication (for example, safety mesh and trailer cages). These products will benefit from the complete coverage of batch galvanized which increases the durability.

Continuous coatings, typically to AS 4534, are particularly suitable for fabrication post galvanizing – for example, fencing and other woven mesh applications. Care should be taken if welded to ensure minimal damage to the galvanized coating and that galvanic action of the nearby zinc is still able to protect the heat affected zone. This aspect is particularly relevant in corrosive applications or those requiring long durability.

### Durability

Coating mass matters because, all things being equal, it is directly related to the durability of the coating. According to AS/NZS 2312.2, which covers durability of galvanized coatings, the corrosion rate of zinc varies from 5 – 15 g/m<sup>2</sup> in a C3 or medium corrosivity environment (for example, the suburbs of most capital cities are more than 1 km inland) to 30 – 60 g/m<sup>2</sup> in a C5 or very high corrosivity environment (for example, less than 200 metres from the Gold Coast surf beaches). So, we can already see that the galvanized mass will be important for wire products where outside exposure is near the ocean.

The table below shows the extremes of durability, where a Standard coating is unlikely to be suitable for important projects and a Heavy coating is likely suitable for most fencing applications in capital city suburbs, but not for long term protection on the foreshore of the Gold Coast without a topcoat to provide additional protection. The GAA can prepare estimates for most locations of Australia on request.

Wire Size, mm	Coating Class & Mass of Galvanized Coating		Estimated Durability Range of Galvanized Coating (years)			
	Standard (g/m <sup>2</sup> )	Heavy (g/m <sup>2</sup> )	C3, medium (e.g. capital city suburbs)		C3, very high (e.g. Gold Coast beaches)	
			Standard	Heavy	Standard	Heavy
2.5	40	230	2 – 8	15 – 46	0 – 1	3 – 7
3.15	50	250	3 – 10	16 – 50	0 – 1	4 – 8

Of course, in rural Australia, the rate of corrosion of hot dip galvanizing and steel drops dramatically and there are examples of very long lived Standard galvanized wires. The GAA even have a hot dip galvanized structural post rescued from an original Overland Telegraph pole where the coating is still intact after nearly 150 years of exposure.

What we can say is that knowing the end use and the location of the wire is very important to understand the durability of the product.

Article courtesy of Galvanizers Association of Australia [www.gaa.com.au](http://www.gaa.com.au)

## MEMBER UPDATES

### AUSTRALIAN MADE TITAN



TITAN Hoarding Systems (THS) has been licenced to use the Australian Made logo highlighting the company's commitment to offer the safest and best quality hoarding systems in the world.

From inception, TITAN sought local manufacturers for its products, and has been using those companies ever since. 'It has always been extremely important to us to support local business which is why we are so pleased to have been licenced to use the Australian Made logo' TITAN Hoarding Systems National Manager Christie McCormack said.

THS has just two key structural components, the Upright Receiver and Counterweight which can be used to build an Engineer Certified temporary hoarding in just three easy steps.

TITAN's award winning zero-trip temporary fence base, the first innovation in the temporary fencing space in many years also bears the Australian Made logo.

THS already exports to New Zealand and South East Asia with new market opportunities continually developing. 'We are already the market leader in Australia and envision becoming the number one temporary hoarding supplier in the world' Christie said.

Contact: 1300 848 266 or visit [info@titanhoardings.com](mailto:info@titanhoardings.com)



### MAGIC MOMENTS WITH OTTER FENCING AND DAN MURPHY'S



With Dan Murphy's recently unveiling a new concept store at 100 Market Street, South Melbourne, it's worth noting the amazing work AWIA member Otter Fencing has contributed to this innovative in-store design.

Otter Fencing recently completed a CLF fencing surround that they installed for 3-Fold Resources as a part of the "Magic Moments" point of sale (POS) display at the Dan Murphy's South Melbourne Store.

This is part of an innovative central area where customers can experience "Magic Moments", which includes wine and spirits tastings, as well as 'micro-classes' where customers can learn about beer, wine and cocktails, plus more.

The CLF surround was circa 20 linear metres with an o/a height of 2800mm, which included 400mm high heavy galvanized chain-link fabric top surround to give the POS display an industrial look. They were also wrapped to the store's support column with 2100mm high heavy galvanized chain-link fabric with top and bottom rails and contributed to the construction a tasting bar and shelving out of 40mmNB galv pipe and pipe fittings.

Chain-link fabric is very versatile and can be used in a variety of applications from a security fence, sporting application, storage or services cages, through to POS displays and so much more.



### ASF MANUFACTURING FACILITY UNDERGOES UPGRADE

Australian Security Fencing Pty Ltd, a family-owned company established over 30 years ago, has witnessed and recognised the progressive nature of the Security Industry in Australia. ASF appreciates the need for modern, innovative products which remain economically competitive in the ever-growing Global Security Market.

Due to an increased demand for ASF Fencing Systems, such as the class-leading Securemax® and on the move product Corromesh®, their mesh manufacturing facility is undergoing a complete upgrade. Within the next month, ASF will be operating the latest technology in weld mesh fencing manufacture.

Brands such as Securemax® and Corromesh® will be distributed nationally through their extensive network of customers and distributors, providing all end users access to security mesh fencing systems in Australia.

In partnership with Australia's leading wire manufacturer, ASF will be in a position to provide the security fencing market with some of the most cost-effective and innovative 358 mesh fencing solutions available.

ASF are focused on designing new, advanced anti-climb, anti-cut technologies to keep up to date with the growing need for security in today's market across all levels. A number of new products are to be launched in the coming years on both a Medium and High Security Level.



Mesh welder upgrade at ASF

### VALE GREG GIBBENS



Past member, Greg Gibbens, from Gibbens Industries, passed away on the morning of Wednesday, 3rd February 2021 following a 10-month battle with lung cancer.

The Gibbens name looms large in the history of this Association and Greg, along with his brother Craig, was a third generation of spring makers.

Greg's grandfather, Matthew George Gibbens, started Gibbens Industries

with Greg's father, George, back in 1937. Gibbens Industries was probably the only Australian manufacturer of spring forming machines and was always a considerable force in Australia's spring making industry. While the spring making part of the business is now owned by Marsh Springs, Greg and his sons, Scott and Matthew, pushed on to become successful property developers on the NSW Central Coast.

Greg was a big man, both in stature and endeavour, and had grown up around wire machinery. It has been said around the traps, that he and his brother Craig, whilst on a visit to Europe one year, managed to adjust a new wire machine being displayed by a machinery supplier so it ran properly when the supplier's engineers were unable to get it to run at all.

It is sad that icons of the industry like Greg are no longer with us, and our sympathies go out to the whole Gibbens family, and the staff of the Gibbens Group.

### DON'T LOSE 'BREAK POINT' WITH TENNIS COURT WINDBREAKS

Kelmatt have been manufacturing tennis court windbreaks for over 35 years. These screens significantly improve playing conditions by reducing wind speed on court and assisting with ball sighting. They also improve the appearance of a facility and can be digitally printed with club, school or sponsors name and logos.

Any screening or advertising material installed on chain link fences will add to the wind-load, so careful consideration needs to be given to fence design and material selection to ensure fences have sufficient strength to safely support this additional load. This has been highlighted on two recent occasions.

The first was a Melbourne school who have just completed a state-of-the-art tennis facility. The school was keen to install windbreaks on all perimeter fences, however when it was discovered that the fences had not been designed to cope with the additional wind-load, the screens had to be scrapped. The school had assumed that the company designing the facility would automatically factor this in, but as this discussion did not occur during the planning process, it was overlooked.

A second example of fences with insufficient strength for screens was encountered at a high-profile Melbourne tennis club currently undergoing a significant redevelopment program. Kelmatt screens were ordered, however a site visit revealed that 2.5mm wire chain link fabric had been used instead of the heavy duty 3.15mm wire fabric recommended for commercial venues by the Australian Standard (AS 1725.2-2010 Chain link fabric fencing – Tennis court fencing – Commercial).

These examples reinforce the importance of establishing during tender discussions whether windbreaks will be installed on fences at any point in the future. This way the additional wind-loads can be factored into fence design to ensure they have sufficient strength to ensure a safe, durable, and aesthetically pleasing long-term outcome.



Kelmatt Tennis Court Windbreaks

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### UPGRADE YOUR WIRE COILER WITH CDM



If you are in the wire industry, looking to boost manufacturing productivity without compromising quality or performance, read on.

South Fence Machinery has been manufacturing high quality wire recoiling machines for over 20 years for the Australasian wire market. Recently, South Fence Machinery has gone back to basics with the coil laying functionality, developing a new Coil Density Management (CDM) system. This advanced system allows for the dynamic management of the coil's density, ensuring the stack height of the coil is kept to a minimum. With this new system, we see a coil stack height reduction of 25% compared with identical products on the market. This saves you on shipping costs as more coils can be transported for a given volume.

The South Fence Machinery wire coiler machine operates at speeds up to 375 meters per minute, producing up to 60 kg coils. The machine produces a coil that has consistent diameter, cast and layering, guaranteeing highspeed tangle-free wire pay-off for the installer.

There are numerous additional improvements made to this latest machine, check the full specifications on the website and download the brochure today. South Fence Machinery can also provide retrofitting options to existing wire coilers in the market, contact their sales department to discuss.

South Fence Machinery is the leading supplier of safe, reliable, and highly productive fence manufacturing machines. With a history dating back over 85 years, they have the experience their customers know and trust. South Fence Machinery is a globally recognised specialist in the wire fencing technology sector with exports to the Australasian, American and European markets.



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[www.emuwire.com.au](http://www.emuwire.com.au)

## APAC AND OMCG – NEW PARTNERSHIP

Founded by Luigi Maggi in 1963, OMCG (Officine Meccaniche Costruzioni Generali) has grown to become a world-leading machine manufacturer for the wire forming industry with equipment installed in more than 35 countries.

OMCG has always been recognised for its technological and innovative leadership and today is one of the few companies in the world able to provide a full range of CNC machinery solutions for wire, strip and tubular materials.

Headquartered in Olginate, Italy, they provide customers with superior products and services for their complete satisfaction. Today, the mission at OMCG is to continuously develop and innovate in anticipation of future requirements in the wire forming and bending industry.

### Products

OMCG is a world leader in the design and manufacture of CNC wire, tube and strip bending machinery solutions able to serve different industries (automotive, agriculture, furniture, construction, appliances, retail, railway, etc.) They offer a complete range of CNC bending machines for wire diameters from 2 to 18 mm, strip up to 12x4 and tube up to 16x3 mm.

Besides their standard machines, their customised work cells are designed for specific products such as wiper arms and railway clips. They also offer accessory units for the execution of additional operations (end forming, chamfering, threading, punching, marking, notching, welding, 3D control, transfer).

### Mission

**Technology development:** Their mission is the constant research and continuous development, in partnership with their customers, of innovative bending and forming solutions to beat the challenges that the market proposes to them.

**Production flexibility:** Over the years they have adjusted production capacity to changing customer needs. Machine operation processes are structured to allow quick change-over to minimise the stops of production, their organisation is set-up to react quickly to evolving customer demands while still meeting project deadlines.

**Timely after sales service:** the delivery of a machine is only the starting point of the relationship between OMCG and its customers. Even after their machine has been delivered, they remain in close contact through an efficient after sales service.

**Australia/New Zealand enquires:**



APAC Wire Technologies

03 9841 008

info@apacwire.com.au

www.apacwire.com.au

All other enquires:



omcg@omcg.com

www.omcg.com

## AWIA SET TO LAUNCH NEW WEBSITE

Work has been ongoing to design and launch new websites for the AWIA and its sub-associations. One of the major changes will be to move from the commercially-styled '.com.au' domain extension to the preferred '.org.au.' The latter extension is more generally associated with not-for-profit entities, and is an appropriate change for the AWIA to make.

In addition to this change the websites have been updated to the HTTPS security level which the old website could not support, providing members and external users with a higher level of confidence when visiting the AWIA website.

Other significant changes are that the new sites are mobile friendly and much easier to navigate, with links to members own websites simple to access, and with member capabilities easily identifiable at a glance. Simplifying the website in this way enables it to be kept up to date much more promptly as the primary information source becomes the member's own website. It also enables faster load times to assist with visitor engagement.

Members had been given opportunities to be involved with the design of the new sites, and are still welcome to make comments which might result in an improved look, or improved functionality. Please contact Richard Newbigin (richard@wireassociation.com.au or 1300 942 500) to pass on your comments. Over time the AWIA email addresses will also change to '.org.au', but a separate notice will be sent out regarding this change.

Members will be advised when the new website is available for use. Please be sure to check it out and confirm that all your details are correctly listed.



A glimpse of our fancy new website

## AUSTRALIAN ECONOMIC UPDATE: 2ND QUARTER 2021

Australia's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic continued in the December 2020 quarter, driven by higher household consumption and strong investment in dwelling and machinery & equipment.

- Labour market recovery continues. Employers are more confident in hiring full-time workers or increasing current workers' hours to full time.
- Retail spending in every category is now above pre-COVID-19 levels except for cafes and restaurants which are almost at pre-COVID-19 levels.
- Consumer sentiment has been buoyed by Australia's success in containing COVID-19, rollouts of vaccine which could end the pandemic and government stimulus.
- Positive business conditions in all industries and confidence in all states are at high levels. Capacity utilisation is now above pre-COVID-19 level and the long-run average. Forward orders have increased further and are now above average.
- The number of approvals for detached houses has risen sharply since July 2020 due to the HomeBuilder program, other state-based grants and ultra-low interest rates.
- Additional fiscal funding for non-residential and engineering projects, announced both during and before the pandemic, have yet to come through.

Future expectations for Australia would include:

- Ongoing recovery in the business sector.
- Expect retail sales growth to slow as a wider range of services (domestic and overseas travel) become available and the negative impact of lower JobKeeper and JobSeeker amounts.
- Residential and commercial property sentiment back to pre-pandemic levels. Residential construction outlook positive across all states. Office property construction activity remains negative.
- Positive signs for engineering construction outlook with the pipeline of A\$100M+ projects set to ramp up over the next 2 years.

Article courtesy of Mei Leong, Head of Market Analytics at GFG Alliance

## ACRS RAISE THE BAR WITH NEW SUSTAINABLE STEEL CERTIFICATION SCHEME



Australasian Certification Authority for Reinforcing and Structural Steels ("ACRS"), the leading independent steel certification authority for Australia and New Zealand, announced in March the introduction of a sustainable steel certification scheme into the Australasian region. The Sustainable Construction Steel Scheme (SCS), is an internationally recognised, market leading scheme, already being used in thirteen countries around the world.

The SCS Scheme will be run in Australasia in partnership between ACRS and CARES (UK). It will dramatically improve buyers' ability to source steel for construction projects across the region, with confidence it has been independently assessed and meets globally recognised ethical and sustainable requirements.

The Scheme is compatible with the Responsible Steel guidelines and is moving towards recognition from the Green Building Council of Australia. Products covered include steelmaking (billets, blooms), production of intermediate materials (e.g., wire, rod, slabs), production of finished materials (e.g., steel bar/coil and structural steels), and fabricated materials (mesh, processed bar and welded fabrication).

The Scheme, coupled with the existing ACRS Product and ACRS Traceability Schemes, and drawing on the independence and rigour that ACRS is renowned for, will ensure that construction steel produced and manufactured within the region or entering Australia and New Zealand from anywhere in the world is independently assessed as meeting the necessary quality requirements, as well as meeting the defined global environmental, social and ethical standards.

As construction will play a major role in post-pandemic economic recovery across Australia and New Zealand, this Scheme will help designers, specifiers, contractors, fabricators and customers, make informed decisions about the materials they are buying. Accordingly, by specifying ACRS certified steel, confidence in the quality and sustainability performance of the product is achieved.



## BEKAERT PVC FUSION-BONDED

For the ultimate in vinyl coated chain-link fencing, look no further than 'Bekaert PVC fusion-bonded wire'. Using a polyolefin coating, the galvanized wire is first coated with adhesive material, and then heated, causing the wire and the plastic to bond together, creating a better protective coating to prevent moisture from penetrating to the steel core of the wire.

'Bekaert PVC fusion-bonded wire' is a commercially produced colour coated wire for the residential, commercial and industrial chain-link fencing industry. The galvanized steel core is coated with polyolefin elastomer to create this colour coated wire product and the most popular colour is black (although other colour options are available).

This formulation is also designed to handle any out-gassing from the zinc coating, because heating of the wire during the coating process effectively eliminates any resultant adhesion problems. 'Bekaert PVC fusion-bonded wire' is more flexible, more chip resistant, offers outstanding adhesion, greater UV stability, greater abrasion resistance and is not permeable to moisture. The resultant fence not only has a decorative coating, but also more importantly provides an impervious protective coating. Moreover, it does not require an overly thick extruded coating and as such provides greater "see thru" visibility for security applications, plus the added benefit of less wind resistance. Some manufacturers lay claim to having some of these features and benefits, although with Bekaert PVC Fusebond, you can be assured that you are buying the genuine article!



Ross Straw Field Vic (left) and Morton Park Vic (right)

## 358 SECURITY MESH – A GLOBAL STANDARD

Moving and working on 358 security mesh panels can be a hazardous task and historically has been carried out using a variety of methods. In 2013 Chris Johnstone, the MD of QAB systems, part of the Westcoast Group, took direct action to control the hazards and make moving and working on the mesh safer. After a period of development Chris invented the QAB 358 mesh lifting bracket.

This stopped the connection of lifting systems to 358 mesh with "Heath Robinson" strops and homemade unrated lifting equipment. Chris had provided a rated system with a safe working load of 500kg, a piece of equipment that is definitely "fit for purpose".

The Access Bracket System not only assists with installation but can be used to perform maintenance of 358 security mesh and defence attachments. The fall restraint bracket can be used with fall arrest equipment to provide a work positioning system with a step system that creates a safe working platform.

The System has evolved to attach access ladders and alloy towers to 358 mesh in order to perform maintenance to video surveillance, repair and installation of perimeter Intrusion detection (PID) systems, electrification systems and razor wire.

The QAB system is lightweight, easily transportable and requires no ground surveys as would be required with powered access, thus reducing the carbon footprint of access. The system is the ideal solution for reactive maintenance. The West Coast Group perform maintenance on many Military contracts in the UK where the QAB bracket system has been adopted as "a safe system of work"



Working safely on 358 mesh using QAB safety brackets

## RECEIVE JIM'S FENCING LEADS WITHOUT BUYING A FRANCHISE



The Jim's Group turns away thousands of fencing customers every month as it does not have enough franchisees to service the work. Jim's Plus has been established to pass these unfilled leads onto experienced, independent fencers to ensure the work still gets done and the customers coming through Jim's Group are satisfied.

### Here's how Jim's Plus works:

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- You are in control of how many leads you receive and when you receive them
- You choose the type of fencing leads you want and the areas you want to go to
- Leads are sent via email/text
- You also get free access to Jim's Group full customer management system – send quotes, invoicing, organise scheduling etc. all from one platform
- Lead fees are \$20 each if you decide to continue after your free leads.

For more information go to [www.jimspius.com](http://www.jimspius.com) and check out the FAQ's under KNOWLEDGE BASE.

## RECIPROCAL MEMBERSHIP AGREED BETWEEN SAPIA AND AWIA

The Sports and Play Industry Association (SAPIA) is the peak industry body for sports and recreation construction in Australasia whose members are specialists in the design, construction, installation, maintenance, manufacture, supply and testing of sports and play spaces, both domestic and commercial.

SAPIA is a not-for-profit association, established to promote the best construction standards and business practices for the benefit of both members and their customers, as well as to contribute to the safe sporting pleasure of those who use facilities constructed and/or serviced by SAPIA members.

The AWIA is pleased to enter reciprocal membership with SAPIA and looks forward to exploring the mutual benefits to be gained from the sharing of knowledge and technical expertise.



## UPCOMING FUNCTIONS

COVID-19 has hit the staging of face-to-face events hard both here and overseas. Now that the vaccines are being rolled out, plans are being made to hold a fencing meeting in Melbourne, and a general wire industry meeting in July. The timing of the fencing meeting will be dictated by the release of Draft AS 4687 for public comment but is expected to be before end June 2021.

In July, a general wire industry event is planned to be held in Newcastle where attendees can expect to enjoy plant tours of the InfraBuild Newcastle wire mill, and Olympic Fencing's new facility at Rutherford in NSW.

Details for both events will follow.

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 Castle International  
 Concept Wire Industries  
 Doogood Powder Coating  
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 Wiredex Wire Products  
 Wire Displays NZ  
 Wiretainers Pty Ltd



## 2021

May 12 - 13

## Hire21

Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition  
 Centre, Gold Coast, QLD  
[www.hire21.com.au](http://www.hire21.com.au)

May (Exact Date TBC)

## AWIA Fencing Meeting

Tower Hotel East Hawthorn, Melbourne, VIC  
[www.wireassociation.com.au](http://www.wireassociation.com.au)

June 8 - 10

## wire Russia

Expocentre Fairgrounds, Moscow, Russia  
[www.wire-russia.com](http://www.wire-russia.com)

July (Exact Date TBC)

## AWIA Mid-year Conference

Location TBC, Newcastle, NSW  
[www.wireassociation.com.au](http://www.wireassociation.com.au)

August 31 - September 2

## WireShow 2021

Shanghai New International Expo Centre,  
 Shanghai PRC  
[www.wireshow.com](http://www.wireshow.com)

September 7

## International Conference of Spring Technologies

Online event  
[www.icst2020-germany.de](http://www.icst2020-germany.de)

September 8 - 10

## wire India 2021

Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai, India  
[www.wire-india.com](http://www.wire-india.com)

With the impact of the COVID-19 virus on allowable public gatherings, and the severe disruption this has caused to air and other forms of travel, please use these dates as a guide only. It is expected that some of these events may be cancelled or deferred to later dates.

September 28 - 30

## SMI Metal Engineering eXpo 2021

South Point Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas,  
 USA  
[www.metalingengineeringexpo.org](http://www.metalingengineeringexpo.org)

October 5 - 7

## wire South America 2021

Hall 1 of Sao Paulo Expo, Sao Paulo,  
 Brazil  
[www.wire-south-america.com](http://www.wire-south-america.com)

October 26 - 27

## Interwire

Georgia World Congress Centre, Atlanta,  
 Georgia, USA  
[www.interwire21.com](http://www.interwire21.com)

## 2022

February 9 - 11

## wire Southeast Asia 2022

Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition  
 Centre BITEC, Bangkok, Thailand  
[www.wire-southeastasia.com](http://www.wire-southeastasia.com)

March 8 - 11 Austech

(National Manufacturing Week will no  
 longer be held)

Melbourne Convention & Exhibition  
 Centre, Melbourne, VIC  
[www.amtil.com.au/austech/](http://www.amtil.com.au/austech/)

May 9 - 13

## wire Düsseldorf 2022

Düsseldorf Exhibition Centre, Düsseldorf,  
 Germany  
[www.wire-tradefair.com](http://www.wire-tradefair.com)

## DISCLAIMER

The information contained in "The Link" newsletter has been prepared in good faith and is intended for general information only. Information on products and industry practices are not to be construed as Association recommendations. The views or opinions expressed in the newsletter articles are not necessarily those held by the AWIA.

## Letters to the Editor

If you have suggestions for future articles or want to voice your opinion on important issues facing the sector, please feel free to drop the AWIA a line. Email [editor@wireassociation.com.au](mailto:editor@wireassociation.com.au)

Director/Secretary

Richard Newbigin  
 1300 942 500  
[richard@wireassociation.com.au](mailto:richard@wireassociation.com.au)  
[www.wireassociation.com.au](http://www.wireassociation.com.au)

## Editor &amp; Advertising Enquiries:

Alex Doran

Australasian Wire  
 Industry Association  
[editor@wireassociation.com.au](mailto:editor@wireassociation.com.au)

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