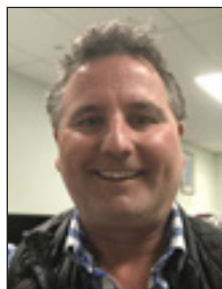




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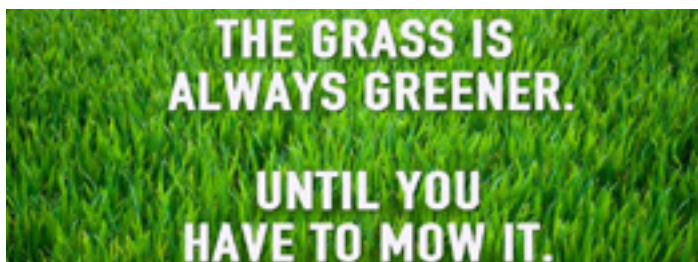
## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi all and happy new year.

Well, 2022 is done and dusted, and steel prices are starting to go down at a rapid rate of knots, along with the availability of long-term staff.

2023 will be a year that needs to bring back what I believe we took for granted for so many years - why employees stay, rather than move on to where the grass looks greener. Ask yourself this question, if a company was to knock on your door with a fist full of dollars

would you up and sell or would you chat with your team members about it first?



It's a difficult hypothetical to put yourself into, but worthwhile as this is what's happening to our employees all the time. Do you expect them to come to you and explain that they have been approached by another company and that they are intending to leave? If your answer is yes, then I hope your answer to the first question was yes, I would chat to my team also. The reason people hang around and stick with a company for years and years is quite simple, they are happy to stay where they are as they believe in you and the business and have no need to look elsewhere. If this employee is approached then most times that person will tell you that they want to stay, and you then can negotiate a fair rate of pay plus some added conditions that may appeal, or even an elevation in the business.

What all owners and HR Managers need to have in their vast bag of keeping the status quo is to believe in themselves and the company they drive. The biggest asset to the company and the employees is the knowledge that their boss has it in hand and that their position in the business is solid, owing to the fact that their boss is 100 percent committed to them and the business.

I would like to pass on my thanks and congratulations to Charles Johnstone on the great job he has done as president of the AWIA for the past six years. It has been a time of tumultuous change especially over the last three years, and I am pleased to say that your Association has come through it in great shape.

It is an honour to be taking over the reins from Charles, and I look forward to a bright future working with Richard Newbigin, our Director/Secretary, and the rest of the committee to ensure the Association serves all your interests well.

Please don't hesitate to contact Richard or me with any suggestions for how the AWIA can help you.

2023 will be a year where getting to know your workers and what drives them is how your business runs.

Graham Braithwaite



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2022 proved to be another challenging year with COVID issues continuing to take their toll on how we live our lives and conduct business. The recent reopening of borders by China will likely ensure that COVID complications will continue to affect us all in various ways for the foreseeable future.

Our natural inclination to press on regardless saw the Association hold a number of functions during the year

both locally and internationally. Our mid-year conference in May in Newcastle was very well attended with several members regretful that they weren't quick enough to book and consequently missed out. It presented us finally with an opportunity to elevate past member, John Guest, to Life Member status which had been on the agenda when COVID hit.

In July, a dinner was held for members and non-members in Dusseldorf, Germany during wire & Tube 2022. Late September saw the Association hold its first hybrid Annual General Meeting (AGM). It is likely that future AGMs will continue to use this technology, and more work will be done to ensure it is problem free. Our final event for the year was a Christmas function in Melbourne which kicked off in an absinthe bar in the Melbourne CBD followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Thanks to everyone who has attended a function this year for their support. It is important to us that you come along, and we certainly try to keep the costs down to encourage participation. An effective industry association relies heavily on member engagement and the benefit to members of active participation and the networking it provides is substantial. As a rule, the more attendees the lower the cost.

With the relaxation of travel restrictions our accrued points with Qantas Aquire have been valuable in permitting travel with less use of Association funds, and I would encourage members to consider quoting the AWIA ABN (95 602 035 937) whenever they are making travel reservations with Qantas. There is no reduction in your own accumulation of points so it's pretty much a win win for everyone.

During the COVID period, the Association has been spending an increasing amount of time working on Australian Standards and it is pleasing that AS 4687 Temporary Fencing & Hoardings has finally been published, and AS 4994 Temporary Edge Protection Parts 1, 2 & 3 are about to go out for public comment. In the new year, work will commence on a new fencing Standard AS 5394 High Security Anti-Intruder Fencing.

Given the staffing issues facing most industry sectors, the Association has engaged with the Institute of Research & Learning (IRL) to develop a series of training courses for member companies looking to improve the productivity of current and future employees. Member participation in course development will be critical for the success of this venture, so please let me know if you'd like to be involved.

Our year is already looking very busy, but we are here to assist members, so if you have a particular need that you think we could help you with, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Richard Newbigin

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

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 Titan Hoarding Systems  
 Totem Fencing  
 Ullrich Machinery Company  
 Vater Hardware Group  
 Victorian Temporary Fencing

## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

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

While this Standard was reconfirmed unchanged in 2021, any members wishing to suggest amendments to this Standard are requested to contact Richard Newbigin Tel: 1300 942 500 or email [richard@wireassociation.org.au](mailto:richard@wireassociation.org.au).

### AS 4687 Temporary Fencing and Hoardings – COPIES NOW AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS THROUGH AWIA

This four-part Standard has now been published and members wishing to purchase a copy of any part of the Standard should contact Richard Newbigin ([richard@wireassociation.org.au](mailto:richard@wireassociation.org.au) or 1300 942 500).

The AWIA is also working with the Institute of Research & Learning (IRL) to provide members with an online course providing further detail about changes to this Standard. Included in the course cost will be a copy of the relevant part of the Standard. The content for the courses is yet to be formulated but members will be advised as soon as it is ready.

New information in the Standard covers pedestrian barriers and temporary pool fencing, with temporary hoardings also being vastly expanded upon and assigned its own part within the Standard.

Uptake of the new Standard by suppliers to this segment is already underway.

### AS 5394 High Security Anti-Intruder Fences in Welded Wire Mesh and Open Steel Panels

With the delayed completion and publication of AS 4687, the ensuing project for Standards Australia technical committee CE-008 was suspended. Members of the AWIA, Protective Fencing Pty Ltd, resubmitted an updated version of the project proposal to Standards Australia late in 2022. The project proposal was accepted shortly thereafter and has been allocated a new reference number, AS 5394.

The CE-008 committee has also been allocated a new project manager and a new program manager for this particular project, and the kick off meeting for this project is slotted for early March.

In the meantime, the committee is undergoing some level of re-constitution to ensure that a broad range of experience relevant to this type of fencing is on hand.

Any readers who wish to participate in the technical committee or a working group advising the technical committee should advise Richard Newbigin as soon as possible ([richard@wireassociation.org.au](mailto:richard@wireassociation.org.au) or 1300 942 500).

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

Parts 1, 2 & 3 of this Standard have been undergoing revision since late November 2021 and the committee is yet to hold a face-to-face meeting.

In spite of this difficulty, it is admirable that the relevant technical committee, BD-092, has been able to significantly revise all three parts, and have a document ready for editing prior to Christmas 2022.

The draft documents are expected to be available for public comment early in 2023.

The AWIA is represented on this committee by Director/Secretary Richard Newbigin and if members have any concerns or input related to this Standard, please contact Richard directly ([richard@wireassociation.org.au](mailto:richard@wireassociation.org.au) or 1300 942 500).





## AS 4672.1: :2007 Steel prestressing materials, Part 1: General requirements

## AS 4672.2: :2007 Steel prestressing materials, Part 2: Testing requirements

Revision of this Standard continues with the committee's second meeting occurring via zoom in late October 2022. Its next scheduled meeting is in February, and it appears likely that Standards Australia technical committee meetings are planned to move back to in person meetings as a preference, and hybrid meetings as the next best alternative.

The AWIA has traditionally provided a representative to the relevant technical committee for this Standard (BD -084). Standards Australia has contacted the Association to request a nominee for the committee to revise both parts referred to above.

If any members would like to nominate for this role, please contact Richard Newbigin at 1300 942 500 or [richard@wireassociation.org.au](mailto:richard@wireassociation.org.au) and a copy of the Terms of Reference and further requirements can be provided. Interested members are encouraged to treat this invitation with some urgency.

In the interim, Richard Newbigin will represent member interests on the committee. Any members wishing to raise any matters for consideration by the committee should contact Richard directly per the above contact details.

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## NEW MEMBER PROFILES

### ALLWIRE INDUSTRIES



Allwire Industries is a chain link manufacturer based in Rosedale, Victoria. They can supply products Australia-wide and service clients from commercial, government, industrial and private industries. They have over 37 years' experience in the chain link

fencing industry and have been operating chain link machines for the last 20 years.

As a manufacturer of chain link, they offer a complete service, with the ability to transport your goods directly to your door, and they are very competitive on price. Owner Ross Cacialli has been a chain mesh installer for the last 35 years and has a vast knowledge to help customers get the job done.

Allwire Industries will be moving to their factory in Morwell in early 2023 where they will set up six chain link machines – they currently have three in operation.

Why not give them a try? *Contact Debbie the Sales Manager on 0415257285*



(L): Mark Venables, Bill Graham and Tom Mander – with Alloy Wire International

### 50 AND OUT AS BILL GRAHAM RETIRES FROM ALLOY WIRE INTERNATIONAL

The ever-present in Alloy Wire International's growth has decided to call it a day after clocking up more than five decades of service.

Bill Graham retired in December after what has been a roller-coaster career with the world's leading manufacturer of round, flat and profile wire, a career that saw him start as a maintenance engineer before leading an MBO, overseeing a sale and then bringing the company back into his ownership.

The former Machine Tool Engineering apprentice was also instrumental in growing the firm's international presence, travelling the globe to build export sales from nothing to over half of its annual turnover.

He has been Chairman for the last nine years, providing strategic guidance on growth opportunities, industry developments and supporting the management team in the firm's rapid expansion from £8m in 2013 to £13m at the start of 2022.

"When I joined the business in 1972, I never expected to still be involved 50 years later. Alloy Wire International gets you like that," explained Bill, who was born in Paisley in Scotland, but now lives in the Wyre Forest, near Birmingham.

"There's just something really special about the business and what we do, especially since we took the decision to be employee-owned. That was really the moment we put the marker in the sand and created the unique culture that has seen AWI become a globally trusted supplier of 60+ strong range of alloys to more than 7000 customers."

He continued: "After five decades of involvement, I felt the time was right to call it a day and focus on retirement. What will that look like? Travelling and spending much more time with my wife Sandra, who I first met at AWI in 1974."

Bill has enjoyed many achievements during his time at Alloy Wire International, but, if you ask him for the pivotal movement, he will always say it was the moment when he implemented his lifelong dream of introducing employee ownership and profit sharing for every member of staff.

This galvanized the workforce and 23 years on is still in place, with new starters offered the opportunity to join the scheme once they have been with the business for two years.

"When you are on a journey you must take your best assets with you. By showing our employees that everything they did would ultimately benefit them, the culture changed overnight, and I can honestly say we are a family now and that is reflected in how we have grown the huge customer satisfaction levels we achieve."

Alloy Wire International has recently promoted Tom Mander to Managing Director, with previous MD Mark Venables moving upstairs to the position of Chairman.

This is an exciting next step in the AWI journey and will accelerate its ambition to increase sales from its current £13m level to £15m by the end of the year, with most orders now coming from clients overseas.

Mark Venables went on to add: "Bill Graham is Alloy Wire International and has had an unbelievable 50 years with the business."

"I was invited to lead the company in 2010 and have had the honour of guiding it through some major growth and some really difficult times, including the current Covid-19 pandemic."

"As I was always told, we need to protect the core values that make AWI so special, so we took the decision last year to make Tom Mander, Adam Shaw and Andrew Du Plessis, MD Designate, Finance Director and Technical Director respectively."

"This was paving the way for the next generation to take over and Tom's promotion to MD recently is the next step in that process, meaning I can oversee things from the position of Chairman with Bill continuing to be on hand to offer us his experience and advice when required."



## SOUTH EAST ASIA REPORT



## QUARTERLY REPORT – DECEMBER 2022

Most of South East Asia is now living and working freely in a post-COVID world. Economies have recovered and we seem to be getting back to normal.

Steel prices have fallen since Ukraine and COVID-related highs, mostly due to falls in Chinese prices due to a lack of demand in China. China is finally realising it has to live with COVID, though now demand is slow as many people are staying at home to avoid catching it - or to recover from it!

As usual the Chinese steel sector is predicting increases around Chinese New Year and most of South East Asia will follow this if it happens.

Political stability in the region has been tested with a difficult election in Malaysia and continued problems with Myanmar, but overall, the mood is reasonably optimistic though a regional recession is clearly a big possibility.

Reports are that significant increases in steel and wire production are planned for Malaysia in the next few years.

*Article courtesy of Andrew Marshall, AM Wire*

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## USA REPORT



## USA MARKET REPORT

Steel and wire prices continue to fall in the United States of America, largely as a result of softening demand and additional capacity that has entered the market in the past 12-18 months. Interest rate rises are affecting business confidence, with many business leaders adopting a 'wait and see' approach as we begin 2023. There continues to be consolidation amongst the larger fence manufacturers and distributors, with world leading building materials supplier CRH Plc acquiring fence and railing manufacturer Barrette Outdoor Living Inc for \$US 1.9 billion in June 2022. We are looking forward to seeing some of our friends from the AWIA at FenceTech in 2023!

*Article courtesy of Matt Sivewright, CEO, EverFence USA*



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## TECHNICAL NEWS

### WELD AUSTRALIA CALLS FOR RADICAL APPROACH TO OVERCOME SKILLED WELDER SHORTAGE

**Geoff Crittenden, CEO, Weld Australia**

Weld Australia is calling for a radical four-pronged approach to overcome the nation's skilled welder shortage. Unless urgent action is taken now, Australia will be 70,000 welders short by 2030. The skills crisis is not unique to Australia - the US fabrication industry will face a shortage of 500,000 welders by 2030, and by 2050 Japan will need around 250,000 welders.

A practical, actionable plan is needed that can be implemented now to overcome the global welder skills shortage. Australia does not have the welders to deliver the nation's critical energy, defence, rail and infrastructure projects. Access to the global supply chain for fabricated steel products will be a high-risk, expensive proposition.

While governments can wish, and hope, and make public pledges about funding for Australia's transition to renewable energy and other major infrastructure projects that create jobs, we simply do not have the sovereign manufacturing capability to make this a reality.

#### 1. An Overhaul of Welding Apprenticeships

The existing Certificate III in Engineering (Fabrication) is a nominal 720 hours of face-to-face teaching at a TAFE interspersed with practical experience in the workplace via an apprenticeship. This is spread over three years. Weld Australia proposes that the current course is condensed into one year. The existing training package will remain unchanged but will be taught in two 24-week blocks consisting of 14 weeks of face-to-face training, and 10 weeks of structured on the job training in the workplace. Once an apprenticeship is complete, competency will be assessed and the Certificate III qualification awarded. Graduates will then be required to qualify to ISO 9606, the internationally recognised standard for welding competency. The shorter course will be less daunting to school leavers and will encourage mature aged applicants. Training will be more intensive and is therefore likely to be more efficient. The number of apprentices graduating should increase, and the skills of welders should increase dramatically.

#### 2. Skill Sets: Tapping into Hidden Sources of Talent

An analysis of people identifying as welders indicates that less than 50% have any formal welding qualifications. Clearly, there are a significant number of welding jobs that require a Skill Set (practical competence) without necessarily having the full range of trade skills. Skill sets are ideally suited to upskill the workforce by providing an internationally recognised certificate of competency, and provide a clear pathway to an apprenticeship for mature-aged workers. Weld Australia proposes that a series of courses covering basic welding Skill Sets are funded and included in the scope of all RTOs that teach welding.

#### 3. Refocussing STEM Training in Schools

STEM training in schools must be refocused to showcase the opportunities in trades and encourage women and other underrepresented groups into careers in STEM. Weld Australia has been working with the New South Wales Department of Education for the past three years on an Advanced Manufacturing School Outreach Program for schools. Weld Australia proposes that this Program be rolled out nationally.

#### 4. Investment in TAFEs Nationally

It is imperative that sufficient investment be made in the TAFE system to ensure that it is a world class technical teaching organisation capable of meeting Australia's demand for skilled tradespeople. Weld Australia proposes that funding properly reflect the cost of infrastructure, equipment, time, and materials required to teach to internationally recognised Standards.



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# CHAIN LINK FENCE MANUFACTURERS INSTITUTE – FIELD INSPECTION GUIDE

**Fencing readers may be interested in this advice for field inspectors in the USA.**

The purpose of this manual is to aid field inspectors of chain link projects in their task of assuring compliance to specifications. Laboratory tests are needed to assure compliance on some items such as the weight of zinc, zinc-5% aluminum alloy or aluminum coatings, following procedures in ASTM A90, or ASTM A428.

This manual is produced in conjunction with CLFMI Product Manual (CLF-PM0610), which references all current ASTM material specifications and test procedures applicable. The standard dimensions listed are in inch-pound units with metric values given in parenthesis for information only.

(Note: For complete material specification requirements on this project, refer to standards referenced in the project specifications.)

## SUGGESTED INSPECTION PROCEDURES

### Certifications:

Original manufacturer's material Certification of Compliance should be supplied by the contractor. Certification should:

1. Be written on original manufacturer's letterhead
2. Reference project by number and/or name
3. Reference ASTM standard used in project specification
4. Be signed by an officer of the corporation.

### Site:

The owner's representative should determine that all fence lines are accurately marked for the contractor. Particular attention should be directed to gate locations, underground utilities and property lines.

### Post Settings:

Periodic on-site inspections should be made during framework installation. Compliance checks for post settings and spacings should include:

1. Measure hole diameter
2. Measure hole depth
3. Check post embedment
4. Validate post spacings

### Framework:

After the fence lines and gate locations have been verified, the framework material should be inspected for compliance to plans and specifications. To verify the wall thickness of framework members, a micrometer with ball tips should be utilized.

Compliance check, follow ASTM F1043 and F1083 specifications and tolerances

1. Outside diameter
2. Wall thickness
3. Weight per foot
4. For polymer coated framework, verify coating thickness and adhesion per ASTM F1043

**CAUTION** - Remember the acceptable tolerances when a nominal thickness and weight is specified. Check appropriate specifications.

Overall post length should be verified before installation. Posts should be at least the height of the fabric, plus the required post embedment depth, depending on the post type, line corner, pull or gate. The ends of all framework items should be plain, i.e. no threads or couplings. Welded posts are usually not permitted except for special applications requiring posts longer than available manufacturer's standard mill lengths.

All framework materials should be reasonably straight and free from defects. The coatings should be free of voids or excessive roughness.

### Fabric

Mesh - measure the minimum clear distance between the wires

forming the parallel sides of the mesh, taking the average of two measurements at right angles to each other. Normal tolerance is plus or minus 1/8" (3.2mm). See table 3.

Height - measure from tip to tip of fabric selvages. Tolerance is plus or minus 1" (25mm).

Metallic coated wire size - two measurements are needed. Take the average of two readings (with a micrometer) at right angles to each other on a straight portion of wire to the nearest 0.001" (0.025mm). Normal tolerance is plus or minus 0.005" (0.127mm).

Popular gauge decimal equivalents are:

11 gauge is 0.120" (3.05mm)

9 gauge is 0.148" (3.76mm)

6 gauge is 0.192" (4.88mm)

Polymer coated wire - There are three types of polymer coated fabric, ascertain from the specifications if the fabric is extruded, extruded and adhered to, or fused and adhered to. The gauge of polymer coated wire is determined by the core wire diameter. To measure the core diameter it will be necessary to strip off the polymer. Polymer thickness can be determined by actually stripping off a piece of polymer and measuring its thickness or scraping the coating from one side of the wire, then measuring the reduced diameter. Polymer adhesion tests should be conducted on any polymer extruded and adhered to, or fused and adhered to, products by the method described in ASTM F-668.

Diamond count - Typical diamond count for each standard height is shown (see chart). Other diamond counts are permissible, providing they are consistent within a lot.

### Fabric Workmanship:

Galvanized (ASTM A392) - reasonably free of excessive roughness, blisters, flaking and frozen joints.

Zinc-5% aluminum alloy (ASTM F1345) and aluminum coated (ASTM 491) - reasonably free of excessive roughness, flaking, and heavy machine scars in bends.

Polymer coated (ASTM F668) - fabric shall be without cuts, breaks or voids of any kind which reveal the core wire.

### Selvages:

Knuckles - loop closed or nearly closed to a measurement less than the diameter of the wire.

Twists - wire beyond the twist at least 1/4" (6.4mm) 1-1/2 machine turns.

TABLE 3 STANDARD 1" & LARGER MESH SIZES AND GAUGES FOR CHAIN LINK FABRIC ASTM A392 galvanized, ASTM A491 aluminum coated, ASTM F1345 zinc-5% aluminum-misch metal alloy, ASTM F668 polymer coated.

*Reproduced courtesy of the CLFMI Columbia, MD, USA*

Size of Mesh	Gauge*	Nominal Diameter	Recommended Usage
2 1/2" [54 mm]	11 1/2	0.113" [2.87 mm]	Residential
2" [50 mm]	11	0.120" [3.05 mm]	Residential/light commercial
2" [50 mm]	9	0.148" [3.76 mm]	Residential/commercial/ind.
2" [50 mm]	6	0.192" [4.88 mm]	Commercial/ind./security
1 3/4" [44 mm]	11	0.120" [3.05 mm]	Tennis court
1 3/4" [44 mm]	9	0.148" [3.76 mm]	Heavy commercial/industrial
1 3/4" [44 mm]	6	0.192" [4.88 mm]	Security
1 1/4" [32 mm]	11	0.120" [3.05 mm]	Residential/swimming pool
1 1/4" [32 mm]	9	0.148" [3.76 mm]	Heavy/industrial/Security
1" [25 mm]	11	0.120" [3.05 mm]	Industrial
1" [25 mm]	9	0.148" [3.76 mm]	Heavy/industrial/Security

\*polymer coated core wire gauge is specified fabric wire gauge not the coated finished diameter/gauge.



GLOVES & HAND PROTECTION -  
HAND SAFETY FUNDAMENTAL

Many hand injuries occur when people are not wearing gloves, or are wearing gloves that are not suited to the task or hazard.

Why do we injure our hands so often?

We use our hands for most, if not all tasks at work, so it makes sense that our hands are injured more than any other body part. But that's also the reason we need to take extra care of our hands, because hand injuries can be serious and impact all aspects of our lives.

Protect your hands

One of the ways we can protect our hands is by wearing gloves. Gloves must be worn for all tasks, except where they introduce additional risk and it has been assessed and authorised for gloves to be removed. However, these tasks are the exception.

Types of gloves

It's important to make sure your gloves are suitable for the task and are in good condition. Check with your site/business to see which gloves are appropriate and available for the tasks you typically undertake. In some cases, it may mean you have a couple of different types.

In most cases, a general-purpose nitrile, cut-resistant glove may be suitable. For heavy duty tasks, where there is a risk of hitting or knocking your hands, added impact protection may be appropriate. If you work with thermal hazards, such as molten metal and hot work, you will need gloves that guard against heat exposure. If you work with chemicals or could be exposed to grease, oil, hydraulic fluid, paint, etc, you will need gloves that protect your hands against these chemicals. And for specialised work, such as types of electrical work, there are specific gloves that need to be worn.

If you need new or different gloves – ask. If you see someone working without gloves or placing their hands at risk, you must intervene!

Learn more:

Watch a hand injury video: <https://youtu.be/Zd6D3AbHHdE>

Access tools/resources at the InfraBuild Hand Safety Hub: <https://arriumcloud.sharepoint.com/sites/IBHS/SitePages/HandSafetyHub.aspx>

This Tool Box Talk is courtesy of: WRIB SAFE and InfraBuild

Gloves & Hand Protection  
Hand Safety Fundamental



Glove matrix

Protection for	Typical work	Example
Flame	Furnace work, handling hot objects, forging	Leather, pig skin, aramid blends
Radiant heat	Welding, galvanising, casting, smelting, steel production	Leather/pig skin, aramid blends, terycord, cotton blends
Abrasion	Handling steel, steel fabrication, construction, demolition, manufacturing	Leather/pig skin, neoprene, nitrile
Cut/slice	Guillotining metal, sheet metal, scrap metal	Aramid blends, neoprene, loopile, cotton blends, leather, metal mesh
Puncture	Swarf, reinforcing/steel mesh handling, wire handling, demolition work	Leather/pig skin, neoprene, nitrile, PVC
Biological	Effluent treatment, plumbing, spill containment	Nitrile, neoprene, rubber, vinyl
ChemicalsH	Handling chemicals	Refer specialist advice/safety data sheet, PVC, PVA, nitrile neoprene, rubber, vinyl
Electric shockE	Electrical work	See section 6.9.1 of the <a href="#">Clothing and PPE Procedure</a>
Vibration	Limited use with some machinery	Refer specialist ergonomist advice

ANOTHER ROLL REDUCTION SOLUTION  
FROM SOUTH FENCE MACHINERY

Today's market demands fence rolls that are presentable, not over tensioned, and at the optimum roll diameter for standard palletisation configurations over the wide range of available fence products. A common technique used to achieve this is to increase the torque of the windup to effectively "crush" the roll and reduce the roll diameter. However, this compromises roll quality as the line-wires can be stretched past their yield point resulting in damage to the product and loss of crimp.

The solution to this pressing issue is dynamic fence layering control that can now be achieved with South Fence's range of Take-up Optimisation Options. This system drives the fence layering, ensuring precise controlled layering of the fence as it is wound onto the roll and prevents over-torquing conditions. They have also taken the opportunity to implement various degrees of automation with each take-up option, boosting productivity and safety for their customers.

• Option 1: Drive Roller

Their base level option that achieves dynamic fence layering control. This allows for rolls up to 10% smaller in diameter to be produced without over-tensioning line-wires and improving fence crimp.

• Option 2: Option 1 + Clamping Trolley

Option two utilises the same dynamic fence layering control coupled with the clamping trolley. This enables the rolls to be cut and stripped with "tie off" completed later, allowing the machine to keep running while the operator finishes the rolls.

• Option 3: Option 2 + Automatic Cutter

Option three takes option two one step further with the integration of an automatic cutter that locates and cuts the rolls free from the machine. The slack section of cut fence is then rolled up and stripped automatically further saving time as well as eliminating Repetitive Strain Injuries related to cutting high tensile wire.

• Option 4: Fully Automatic Clamp, Cut, Strip & Reload

Option four is their premium option that allows for full automation of the take-up process. Fence rolls are clamped, cut, and stripped by the machine with no operator interaction, the machine can then refeed the fence and restart automatically. Automation of the entire stripping process allows for consistent roll stripping of one minute per cycle. The operator is then freed up to perform other tasks such as preventative maintenance, further boosting overall productivity.

These Take-up Options are suitable for both Stiff Stay and Fixed Knot machines, with retrofit options available to existing machines currently in the market. You can learn more by visiting their website at [www.southfence.com](http://www.southfence.com) or contact them directly for quotes and further information.

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## MEMBER UPDATES

### BLUEDOG BARKING UP A STORM IN THE PACIFIC ON A RECENT PROJECT - HOW GOOD!

Since starting as a small family-owned business in Tamworth, NSW over 20 years ago, Bluedog has grown to become a national supplier with an enviable reputation for providing high quality products and services. While they have grown considerably, they remain firmly a wholly Australian owned and operated business with their manufacturing base still in Tamworth.

Recently, Bluedog had an opportunity to work on a project in Fiji. Bluedog Project Manager Tony Ryan provided an interesting – and somewhat jealousy-inducing – update on this work.

*When Andrew Lowry, a purchaser on behalf of Fulton College in Fiji, first got in touch and told me what he needed and where the location was, I had a good chat to him about Bluedog being the best option due to the corrosion factor that can occur in Fiji. I sent him all relevant information with the quote, as well as a price for Meta prep which I was trying to recommend to him.*

*They then decided to proceed with our Standard Powder coat option. I had discussions with Andrew to make sure he had materials all covered so they were not short. Andrew then got back in touch to say they were unfortunately short of material (his error which he happily admitted) and they were sourcing some extra panels they had at their College in Sydney. He did ask if we could send extra brackets, screws and post caps. Because we acted quickly and got these items to them, they were much appreciative.*

“We went with Bluedog partly because, from the beginning, they presented a professional and committed approach. Bluedog was not the cheapest option but I knew from their detailed quote and other information provided that they would do more than just present the kit in some boxes. When we needed engagement and help - we got it - which was really important given the location and conditions,” Andrew stated.

For more information contact Mark Forbes at Bluedog Fences:

Mark Forbes  
General Manager  
mark@bluedogfences.com.au  
0417 954 980



### TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND SHORT LEAD TIME PROVE A MAJOR ATTRACTION FOR AWI AT CASMI

Alloy Wire International's technical knowledge was in big demand when it returned to SpringWorld 2022 (CASMI) recently.

Hundreds of delegates from USA, Canada and Mexico visited the UK's leading manufacturer of round, flat and profile wire to discuss the firm's new INCONEL alloy 686 and to tap into its technical knowledge.

Spring manufacturers were keen to discuss exciting projects destined for the aerospace, automotive, chemical and petrochemical processing, oil and gas extraction and marine environments.

There was a common thread throughout the conversations, which focused on the need for earlier development support and having availability of material in short lead times, something AWI currently has access to due to its unprecedented investment in maintaining 400 tonnes of stock at any one time.

“It was excellent to meet so many existing and potential new customers face-to-face and CASMI certainly didn't disappoint in terms of footfall and the quality of visitors,” explained Stephen Olley, Sales Executive at AWI.

“Our clients require material that can work in all types of demanding applications from intense heat and sub-zero temperatures to highly corrosive environments. That is why we were so pleased to launch INCONEL alloy 686 after months of trials and testing.

“This single-phase, austenitic alloy delivers excellent resistance to general and stress corrosion cracking that can occur in aggressive liquids and gases and, judging by the conversations we were having, there appears to be a lot of opportunities for us to supply this material.”

He continued: “It was also great having Andrew Du Plessis there to talk in-depth about technical requirements. This included finer details of our nickel alloys, such as heat treatments to achieve a certain tensile strength after ageing and which alloys are better suited to working in different, corrosive environments.”

Alloy Wire International provides more than 62 exotic alloys to more than 7,500 customers across the world, with material available in sizes ranging from .001” (0.025mm) to .197” (5.00mm) and lead times often within 3 weeks of the order being placed.

The company, which celebrated 75 years in business in 2021, recently promoted Tom Mander to Managing Director, with previous MD Mark Venables moving upstairs to the position of Chairman.

For further information, please visit [www.alloywire.com](http://www.alloywire.com) or follow @alloywire on twitter

# THE FEMININE LINK

## Meet the Edgesmith Power Girls

***The brainchild of AWIA platinum sponsor Vater Hardware Australia, The Feminine Link is a new feature of The Link newsletter showcasing the talented and diverse skills of the female members of our industry, as well as a way to get to know the personal sides of our colleagues and friends.***

In this edition we get to know the Edgesmith Power Girls.

### Girls rule the world at Edgesmith!

Our roles include – Chief Financial Officer, Operations Manager, marketing, Internal Sales Team Leader, estimators, fork lift operators, accounts, customer service - and Bliss, our furry Stress Manager.

We are Māori, Kiwi, Australian, South African and Swedish.

Before we even think about work, we are feeding our seven dogs, 16 sheep, six fish, three birds and one cat. Then we're taking our children to pre-school, primary school, high school, organising birthday parties, weddings, looking after Grandchildren, celebrating university graduations and organising meals. Oh, the hats we wear!

We love 'Ink' and between us we have 54 tattoos! We also have a Black Belt in Karate, one of us has been a professional

make-up artist, acted in Shortland Street, hiked to Mt Everest Base camp, been to Santa's North Pole Residence in Rovaniemi, Finland, and one of us is even working from a boat in Fiji.

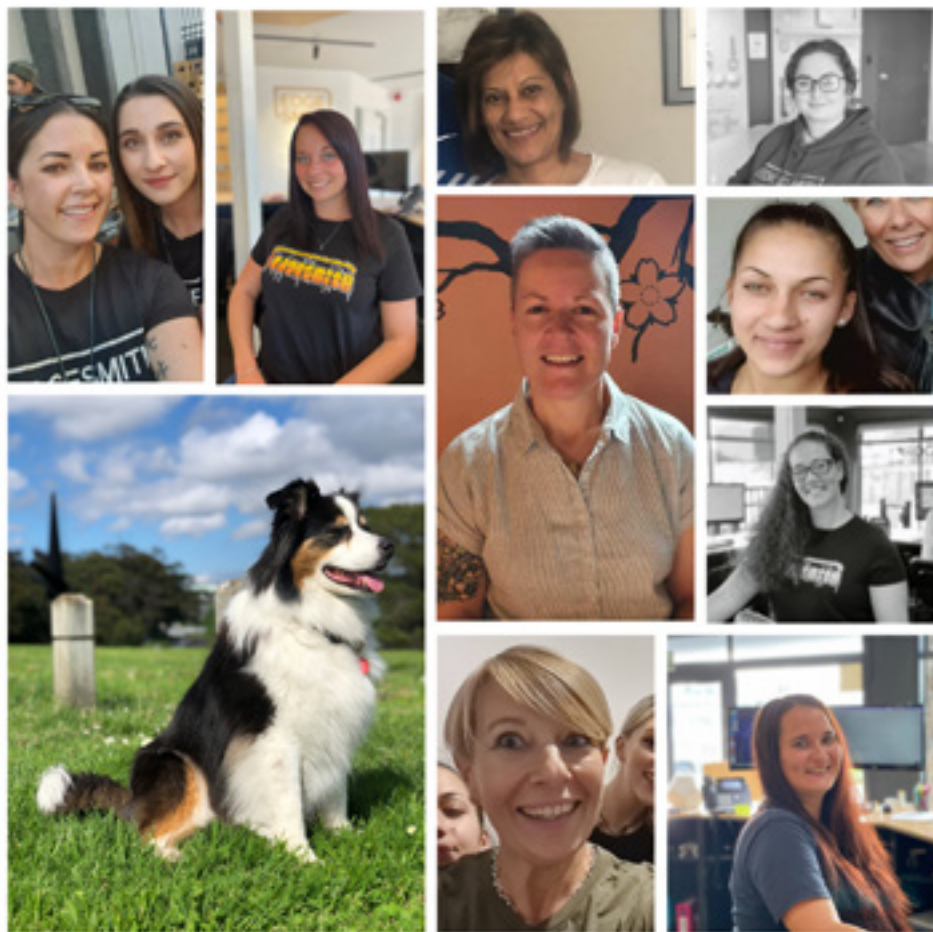
We have traveled to Thailand, China, United States of America, England, Rarotonga, Fiji, Greece, Cambodia, Malaysia, Hawaii, Australia, Nepal, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Canada, France, Italy, Scotland, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands and Czech Republic.

### At Edgesmith we live by the 5 H's:

- Hungry – to achieve
- Happy – in life and attitude
- Humble – we are successful together
- Honest – with each other and our customers
- Healthy – mind, body and spirit

We all love our jobs and find Edgesmith both challenging and rewarding. All of us have started in customer service roles and through hard work, research and study at night time we have proven worthy of promotions. Some of us have been with Edgesmith for over 10 years, and others only a few months.

**Our message is - Never doubt your ability and aim high.**



### Tell Us YOUR Story!

#### GETTING TO KNOW THE WOMEN IN OUR INDUSTRY.

Whether you are out in the workshop on the tools or in the office supporting the daily running of a business we want to hear from you!

All articles published will receive a \$500 pamper pack proudly sponsored by Vater Hardware Australia!

Entries to: [sschrapel@vaterhardware.com](mailto:sschrapel@vaterhardware.com)

From L to R: Michelle, Sonya, Ursula, Hannah, Fiona, Emma, Shyla, Serana, Mandy, Ellie and Bliss



## BLISS AND REELS ARE ON THE MOVE

After operating for 30 years from 9 Kim Close, Bullen Victoria, Bliss and Reels have moved to a brand-new office building in Bundoora.

The open floor plan and refined design makes it easier for us to collaborate and to enjoy our well-deserved break time.

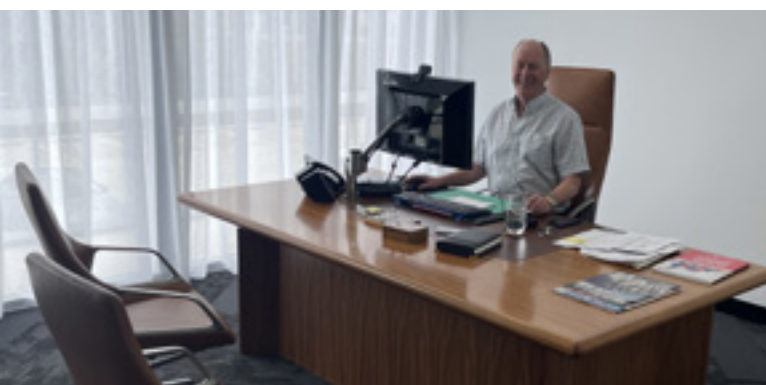
*The new address is:*

Unit 1 & 2 / 10 Enterprise Drive, 3083 VIC Bundoora

The land line phone number remains the same - 03 9850 6666

If you are in the area, feel free to drop in for a coffee.

For further information contact Stefan Weigerstorfer at Bliss and Reels on 0435 768 440



*Martin Kesselring at his desk*

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## AWIA IS LINKEDIN

The Australasian Wire Industry Association now has a LinkedIn profile and we are calling on all our members to join our page and support the association as we reach out to a wider audience.

LinkedIn is a social media platform. It acts as a social network used by jobseekers and employers to share information about business life and sales. It is actually a bit like Facebook but used for professional purposes.

Our LinkedIn page will be a great platform for us to communicate news about our industry, as well as link you in to businesses, current issues, contacts and events.

Get LinkedIn to the AWIA and the industry.

## USE OF TRAINING AWARD— MARSH ALLIANCE – MEI HU

The training award that I was granted has allowed me to undertake a tailored course that will result in a Green Belt certification. This is not only empowering me to further develop my skills but is also of great benefit to Marsh Alliance as it will give me the necessary tools to complete internal projects to help improve our delivery and lead times.

The course I chose to undertake (Lean-Six Sigma Green Belt) is an online, self-paced project coaching curriculum and incorporates my existing knowledge into Lean-Six Sigma process sequence and practices. By applying these professional tools and utilising the one-on-one coaching, it has allowed me to implement the correct tools and my current project is tracking well.

After successful completion of my project, I will explore additional projects at Marsh in hopes to reduce the cost, simplify/streamline processes, increase productivity, reliability and improve customer satisfaction.

I am extremely grateful for this opportunity and for the additional growth it has provided me and will continue to provide Marsh Alliance in the future.



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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022



*Michael Knight (Otter Fencing) receiving his prize from Lance and the crew from Vater Group*

Following the success of holding virtual meetings during covid, it was decided to hold the 2022 annual general meeting in hybrid format, and while fifteen members attended the meeting in person, a further three members elected to attend via zoom.

Unfortunately, the venue chosen for the meeting ran into some software issues which meant their in house cameras were inoperative, however the AWIA video camera was used to enable our zoom attendees to join in.

The meeting was further enhanced with a presentation from associate member company, FCB Group, regarding unfair dismissal laws and an update of future employment policy following the new federal government's employment summit the month prior to our meeting. The presentation prompted plenty of questions and commentary from the members present.

Director/Secretary Richard Newbigin presented an overview of the Association's activities over the past year, while Treasurer, Graham Braithwaite, highlighted the relatively strong financial position of the AWIA for the 2022 financial year.

The election of the committee followed and the Association welcomes Pierluigi Albicocco to the national committee, replacing Grant Murdoch as alternate for Simone Vassena representing Downee, and thanks Matt Sivewright and Grant Murdoch for their valued past service as they retire from the committee.

Graham Braithwaite has been elevated to the role of President of the AWIA for the coming year after several years as Vice President and Treasurer. To further maintain continuity, our previous president, Charles Johnstone, has been appointed to the role of Vice President. Glenn Otter has been appointed as Treasurer to

add some fresh blood to the executive committee. Many thanks to all three of them for their continuing support and dedication to the Association and our industry as a whole.

The meeting wrapped up with a presentation of AWIA Platinum Sponsor Vater Group's 'Wish You Were Here?' competition to Michael Knight of the Fencetech / Otter group by Lance Vater, Matt Curry and Stefanie Schrapel from Vater. Michael was very excited to have won the prize and is looking forward to his time in South Australia with some of his mates.

Following the meeting, several of the members adjourned to the Glenferrie Hotel in Melbourne's leafy eastern suburbs for dinner and an opportunity to catch up with each other less formally.

## AWIA CHRISTMAS PARTY

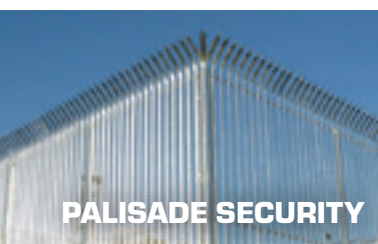
A rather impromptu Christmas dinner was held for members on 9th December in the Melbourne CBD.

The city was in full swing on that Friday night and the planned kick off at Bar Ampere, a popular absinthe bar already at almost full capacity, was lucky to get out of the starting blocks. Sadly, but probably sensibly, and, being wire men we are nothing if not sensible, no-one decided to get on the absinthe train to start the night off. Maybe next year.

A short stroll took us to Sezar Restaurant, a favoured Armenian restaurant, offering a spectacular lamb shoulder amongst its seven-course degustation. The wine flowed as freely as did the anecdotes until the restaurant decided they'd had enough of us, and we were despatched out to an uncharacteristically cold December Melbourne evening.

There were reports that some pressed on to other venues to further extend their celebrations through the night though these have not been confirmed.

The 2023 event is already scheduled for 1 December so please put it in your diaries now. It's always a good event, and a nice way to catch up with your industry compatriots before the end of the year. There will likely be a meeting for fencing members beforehand.



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# AUSTRALIAN ECONOMIC UPDATE

Article courtesy of Mei Leong, Head of Market Analytics, InfraBuild

The Australian economy continued to be pressured by high inflation which justifies the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA) ongoing increase of the cash rates. Consumer spending has held up relatively well despite cost-of-living concerns and interest rates hikes. This is due to the large household bank deposits that were built up over the past few years. However, growth will slow next year as higher mortgage repayments will start to bite

- National Gross Domestic Product rose by 0.6% q/q in seasonally adjusted terms with contributions from consumer spending, business investment and stocks
- Unemployment rates steadied at 3.4% with a record-high participation rate, supported by net migration. The SEEK job ad Index declined for the 6th consecutive month, but it is still 40% higher than November 2019
- Consumer sentiment lifted by 3% but the Index remains comparable with the lows seen during the COVID pandemic and the GFC
- Business confidence fell below zero for the first time since December 2021, led by heavy falls in manufacturing, construction and retail. Business conditions also fell with construction at its lowest level
- Housing construction activity declined for the seventh consecutive month - a comparatively longer period of contraction. Increase in house construction costs have moderated at 2.7% q/q in Q2 2022. Structural timber and reinforcing steel prices rose by 1.8% q/q and 0.9% q/q respectively
- New home loan commitments have dropped by 18% since May 2022 when the RBA started to increase the cash rate. Housing values have continued to trend lower for the seventh month, but the rate of decline has been moderating.
- Private sector non-residential work done has been increasing in the past 6 months whilst public sector work done has declined

- Both engineering public and private sectors work done have increased
- Rural export values have continued to increase, reflecting strong domestic production and high prices amid tight global supply
- The RBA forecasts GDP to increase by 2.0% for the financial year 2023 (previous forecast was 2.25%)
- Future expectations for Australia
- Inflation is expected to remain at high levels driven by high energy prices and high food and fresh produce prices as a result of the disruptions caused by flooding in the East Coast of Australia
- The household saving ratio is forecast to continue to decline, going below its pre-pandemic average level
- A large pipeline of residential and non-residential projects is expected to sustain construction activity into 2023. Construction timelines could be pushed out further due to capacity constraints, rising costs, adverse weather including recent flooding and rising insolvencies in the residential construction sector
- Demand for new dwellings is expected to decline due to increases in interest rates, rising construction costs and house price declines. Prospects for higher density residential projects are better than for detached dwellings especially in Sydney and Melbourne as vacancy rates have dropped with the reopening of the international border
- The existing pipeline of public engineering work is anticipated to last for several years, however the speed of the rollout could be constrained by labour and materials shortages in the near term



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## AWIA MEMBERSHIP – GROW YOURSELF AND YOUR BUSINESS

We're here to make the case for the humble industry association - and not just any industry association, your industry association, the Australasian Wire Industry Association (AWIA) – and why a modest annual membership fee might just be the smartest investment you can make.

First off, let's list the many benefits of AWIA membership:

- One voice for many – When government decisions threaten to reduce your ability to do business then we speak for you. This includes input to the maintenance and revision of Australian, and joint Australian and New Zealand, Standards.
- Education – Regular newsletters, free technical data and standards access.
- Support – Got a technical problem? Call the AWIA and we will put you in touch with the people that can help.
- Opportunities to meet new customers - Two Conference(s) each year with key business enhancement seminars and selected technical presentations, national and regional meetings with industry peers (subject to travel restrictions).
- Promote your professionalism – Membership entitles you to use of the AWIA and other applicable association logos for your signage and stationery.

In addition to these very tangible benefits, the new and updated AWIA website contains member contacts, products and services information plus hyperlinks to member e-mail addresses and websites.

AWIA membership also means access to our affiliated Associations including American Fencing Association (AFA), Australian Certification Authority for Reinforcing Steel Ltd (ACRS), Institute of Spring Technology (IST), Spring Manufacturers Institute (SMI) and Wire Association International (WAI). As well as membership to our other Associations as applicable - AFIA, RSMA, TFAA at no extra cost.

Above all else, AWIA membership is really about growth—growth for yourself and growth for your business.

Contact AWIA Director Richard Newbigin for a one-on-one conversation on 1300 942 500 or email: [richard@wireassociation.org.au](mailto:richard@wireassociation.org.au)



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## BEFORE YOU DIG AUSTRALIA – A VISION FOR ZERO DAMAGE, ZERO HARM



After almost 40 years, the Dial Before You Dig (DBYD) state entities have transitioned into a new, national organisation now known as Before You Dig Australia (BYDA).

BYDA is an essential safety partner for the civil construction industry and continues to provide the free referral service that protects workers and essential infrastructure. BYDA also provides free damage prevention awareness sessions, so there is no excuse for digging blind.

BYDA Data highlights a worrying trend that up to 50% of underground infrastructure damage is a result of excavation work in the civil space. More worryingly, in 70% of damages, a BYDA enquiry was not completed, or the plans and information were not passed on to the team on-site.

### What to do Before You Dig

Safety is fundamental to any digging or excavation project, so using the BYD service should always be your first task before starting work. The service is free for users and is accessible via the new BYDA website or the BYDA iPhone and Android apps.

Once you lodge an enquiry, plans and safety guidelines are emailed to you from utility owners indicating the presence of their underground services. Plans only indicate the presence of underground infrastructure; therefore, you should use them as a guide. If you require further information or assistance or have not received plans, contact the asset owners directly using the contact details in your enquiry confirmation sheet. Do NOT proceed until you have received the relevant information from all asset owners affected by your project.

### Book a free damage prevention awareness session:

Our Damage Prevention and Awareness Officers can tailor a toolbox talk or in-depth session to meet your team's needs, delivered online or onsite; book a free session for your team via our website [www.byda.com.au/services-education/education/](http://www.byda.com.au/services-education/education/)

Final tip - always follow the 5Ps of safe excavation: Plan, Prepare, Pothole, Protect, Proceed.

## TRAINING AWARD 2023

Applications are open now for the 2023 Training Award. Do you have an employee you think would benefit from some professional development? The AWIA Training Award may be just what you are looking for. The award is a cash grant of A\$2500, and is open to any employee of a member company. Award criteria can be found on our website under the News tab (Training Award Criteria). One application has already been received for this year's award and all members are encouraged to get their applications in as soon as possible. If you need any assistance please contact Richard Newbigin (email: [richard@wireassociation.org.au](mailto:richard@wireassociation.org.au) or 1300 942 500). Our winner for 2022, Mei Hu from Marsh Alliance, used her award to further her skills in quality control and lean manufacturing, and a report of what she learnt can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Let's keep good people within our industry through assisting with their professional development



## LET HARDWIRE HR COMPLIANCE INTO YOUR COMPANY

Remember when your old HR provider told you that those engineering students doing 'unpaid volunteer work experience' in your factory didn't need employment contracts or payment? Incorrect advice can result in wasted time, energy, and money fighting a claim, expensive penalties and back pay, brand damage, and even harm to your share price.

Luckily, HR Assured's advice is backed with an Advice Promise for total peace of mind. Their trusted advice has been designed to prevent employment claims from occurring in the first place. The outsourced HR provider not only has some of the highest-trained workplace relations advisors of any HR provider, it's also backed by a team of employment lawyers – FCB Workplace Law. They'll be there to protect your business from an employment-related claim by providing legal representation and paying damages if a claim does surface.

If you haven't heard of HR Assured, it's the human resources wraparound software, IP and phone advisory support service which takes care of thousands of businesses in Australia and New Zealand – including industrial workforces who handle metal fabrication and engineering, similar to those in the Australasian Wire Industry Association.

### These are some of the ways HR Assured can help

- 24/7 Telephone Advisory Service
- HR Compliance Audit
- WHS Management System
- HR software, HRA Cloud
- A Library of Resources
- Advice Promise

### HR Assured ensures your business is in the know

When a Perth civil construction company didn't respond correctly to Compliance Notices issued by the Fair Work Ombudsman for not paying employees their accrued leave entitlements, HR Assured notified as many people as they could to let them know how to get it right.

- When SafeWork began targeting construction businesses to try to lower harm caused by silica dust and mental distress in construction workplaces, HR Assured reached out to all their clients with advice, guidance and the offer of our Workplace Health and Safety software.
- And, as the Fair Work Commission conducts its four-yearly review of modern awards, HR Assured has always let manufacturers, builders and construction people know which updates affected them.

Keeping clients informed about employment law and protecting them from unintentional mistakes is a large part of what HR

Assured is all about. They're also about offering an amazingly powerful tool called HRA Cloud through which HR managers and employees easily take care of contracts, licensing, checklists, training and so many policies and procedures which are available anywhere on the cloud, minimising the chances of a costly oversight.

### How might a business in the wire and fencing industry benefit?

- An employee who has used up all their paid leave would like to take unpaid leave for two months. However, you're unsure whether it's legal to give their job to a new employee. The experts who can advise on this are HR Assured's 24/7 Telephone Advisory Service.
- Or, say you're a temporary fencing supplier and you have an urgent job, squeezing in 50 hours of fencing work with only 72 hours' notice before a major music festival. Unfortunately, there may be a modern award rule which restricts the number of overtime hours that staff can work. It is the experts in the HR Assured Telephone Advisory Service who can give guidance about whether there's a legally-safe way around the problem.
- Perhaps your business needs to take on some independent contractors to urgently deliver \$3 million worth of high-performance alloy steel to a client. The contractors won't sign the first draft of their contract because it doesn't cover superannuation. Simply upload the contract to HRA Cloud then immediately talk to a workplace relations advisor who will advise on whether the contract is lawful.

If HR Assured sound like naturals in this sort of thing, it's because they have been taking care of construction and manufacturing businesses for decades.

Unlike others, they don't make mistakes with their employment law advice, and they have the backing of their sister company, FCB Workplace Law for any complex problems.

### Grab a free HR and WHS audit, each worth \$750 before it's gone

HR Assured is offering members of the Australasian Wire Industry Association two audits valued at over \$750 each. These valuable audits will not only uncover any workplace risks in your business, but they will also tell you how to keep your processes compliant with Australia and New Zealand's strict workplace rules. First in best dressed.

Highly-experienced Business Development Manager Adam Alijagic, who knows manufacturers' needs inside and out, can book in your free HR and WHS audit.

Contact Adam today to get your free WHS and HR checks underway. You can email [aal@hrassured.com.au](mailto:aal@hrassured.com.au) or phone 0405 143 725.



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- ✓ Protect your business's reputation.
- ✓ Educate you on workplace rules.

### Book yours today.

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 Mesh Products  
 Mesh Works  
 National Springs & Wire Products NZ  
 NZ Spring Works Ltd  
 Protective Wire Mesh Industries  
 ProTube Asia  
 R.E. Walters  
 Raw Metal Corp  
 Sanwa  
 Smart Weld NZ Ltd  
 South Fence Machinery  
 Spring Specialists Ltd  
 Stainless Steel Wire and Mesh  
 Superior Industries NZ  
 Thermakraft Australia Pty Ltd  
 Ullrich Machinery Company  
 Wiretex Wire Products  
 Wire Displays NZ  
 Wiretainers Pty Ltd



## 2023

9 - 11 May

**Interwire 2023**

Georgia World Congress Center  
Atlanta GA USA  
[www.wirenet.org](http://www.wirenet.org)

9 - 11 May

**Made In Steel**

Fieramilano Rho Halls 22 - 24  
Milan, Italy  
[www.madeinsteel.it](http://www.madeinsteel.it)

9 - 12 May

**Australian Manufacturing Week**

MCEC, Melbourne VIC  
[www.australianmanufacturingweek.com.au](http://www.australianmanufacturingweek.com.au)

9 May

**AWIA Mid-year conference**

TBA, Melbourne VIC  
[www.wireassociation.org.au](http://www.wireassociation.org.au)

23 - 24 May

**Hire 23**

The Dome Sydney Showgrounds  
Sydney, NSW  
<https://www.hriaconvention.com.au>

20 - 22 September

**wire Southeast Asia**

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

26 - 28 September

**SMI Metal Engineering eXpo 2023**

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

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.

1 December

**AWIA Fencing Meeting and Christmas Party**

TBA, Melbourne VIC  
[www.wireassociation.org.au](http://www.wireassociation.org.au)

## 2024

15 - 19 April

**wire 2024**

Dusseldorf Exhibition Halls  
Dusseldorf Germany  
<https://mdna.com/show/wire>

2 - 4 October

**SpringWorld 2024**

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center  
Rosemont IL USA  
[www.casmi-springworld.org](http://www.casmi-springworld.org)



## DISCLAIMER

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## 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.  
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