



QISD Newsletter



Issue No. 2

December, 2001

And so it begins....

The QISD is rapidly growing in numbers from the very humble beginnings of a 10 member steering committee some months ago to the ever increasing membership base of 55 current members.

Subsequent to our last newsletter the committee's main focus has been in the promoting of the Institute to all Steel Detailers with the priority of increasing its membership base. It is clearly obvious that for the Institute to be a success it needs member numbers that will give it substance to allow it to pursue and achieve its aims and objectives.

One event that was promoted in our last newsletter was an open forum to discuss the needs and issues confronting our industry. This forum evening was held on the 7th of November and was very well attended from all aspects of the industry. We have attached a separate report on the evening for your information. The report outlines the issues discussed and gives some understanding of the need to have a body like the QISD that is able to confront the issues as well as be able to work with others in trying to solve them.

AISC / QISD meeting with Bechtel re: Inco-Goro Nickel Project.

On the 6th of November John Gardner (AISC) and Clayton Roxborough (QISD) met with representatives of Bechtel's design team to discuss the detailing requirements for the above project and to promote the capabilities and capacity of the steel detailing industry in Queensland and Australia.

The project is a nickel processing operation located in the French province of New Caledonia. It is currently estimated that the project will entail 15,000 tonnes of



structural steelwork. The design is currently being undertaken here in Brisbane and Bechtel expressed a desire to expand on the already proven method of design and detailing working together. They however expressed their position of procuring services on a worldwide scale and that all Bechtel projects are approached with a global attitude.

The meeting allowed the QISD to again promote the detailing industry. Meetings like these can only raise the awareness of what benefits steel detailers can bring to the project and design teams.

For further information on this meeting please feel free to contact Clayton on Ph: (07) 3844 3955, who would be only too willing to discuss this in more depth.

QISD / QUT Lecture

In October the QISD was invited to provide a guest lecturer to speak to 3rd year Engineering & Architecture students about steel detailing. The QISD gratefully

accepted this invitation as it was seen as a perfect opportunity to help raise the awareness of steel detailing as an integral cog and critical path activity in the steel construction industry.



Joint Venture Workshop

On the 5th of December the Queensland Heavy Engineering Industry Reference Group (HEIRG) in conjunction with the Department of State Development held a Joint Venture workshop. This workshop was conducted by 3 leading professionals in their fields (a Construction Lawyer, Joint Venture Lawyer and Accountant). This was a full day workshop designed to educate participants in the possible legal, financial and risk implications when entering these type of agreements. The (HEIRG) has recognized that the steel fabrication industry must be equipped with knowledge if it is going to compete on the global stage. Two members of the QISD, G&D Drafting & BDS Steel Detailers participated on the day which was found to be very informative and for further information on this workshop, please feel free to contact Brad Backer on Ph: (07) 3844 8093.

Parting Words...

The feedback gained from the open forum along with the QISD's documented Aims and Objectives will be used to develop a strategic business plan for action over the coming months and years ahead. While the committee fully recognizes that there is a long way to travel in addressing all the issues, we are fully committed to doing our best in the interest of all members. Once the committee has prioritized all the issues, work will begin to start to addressing them with progressive updates being distributed through future newsletters.



Feedback Form

This is **your** QISD so please take the time to let us know what you think.

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Comments:

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***Thank you for your input,
Queensland Institute of Steel Detailers***



Queensland Institute of Steel Detailers

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QISD Open Forum Report

Held at the Clunies Ross Centre.
Miles Platting Road, Eight Mile Plains
On Wednesday 7th of November 2001

The forum was opened at 6:40pm by Trevor Llewellyn who gave a welcome address and outlined the history of the QISD giving some insight as to the reasons and forces that has led to the formation of the institute.

The first invited speaker for the evening was John Gardener of the AISC. Points covered included :

- The AISC sees steel detailers as pivotal to the steel construction industry
- The QISD will raise the profile of detailers
- The AISC will work in conjunction with the QISD to educate and create change within the steel industry
- John voiced a very positive outlook of the AISC & QISD working jointly
- The AISC is looking to have detailers work more closely with design engineers. This concept is already being used by some of the large design firms such as Bechtel and Fluor Daniel. This is seen as a proactive way of addressing the poor design documentation issues confronting our industry
- The AISC is also promoting the formation of Joint Venture operations to compete globally

The second speaker of the night was Max Pearson from DA Manufacturing. Max provided a fabricators viewpoint of the QISD and offered a number of points in his address. The main points of his address were :

- Very positive of the formation of the QISD
- Believes in education of detailers for promotion of the industry
- Put forward ideas on having educationalists by accountants, lawyers, fabricators, riggers etc
- Suggested detailers need to get more feedback from fabricators and develop a relationship with the fabricators
- Fabricators have little or no opportunity to fix. If detailers were moved up the supply chain then this would eliminate many of the documentation problems
- Spoke of adopting an industry standard and saw the QISD as a fabulous opportunity to this end
- Security of payment was a major problem for all sectors of the industry
- Raised the USA system of detailing where detailers develop the connections. His belief is that Australian detailers should look at moving in this direction
- Need strength in numbers to push the detailers viewpoint
- Detailers skills are currently under valued
- To achieve equality in what we do we must work together as an industry.

Paul Tilley was the final invited speaker of the forum. Paul is from the CSIRO and is a Construction Systems Researcher.

Paul provided a power point presentation on research the CSIRO has undertaken on the topic of decline in design documentation. The main points covered were :

- Undesirable elements of construction have increased by up to 70 %
 - Extensions of time
 - Program delays
 - Cost over-runs
 - Variations
 - Rework
 - Contractual disputes
 - RFI's
- A cost assessment on RFI's has shown it costs approximately \$100.00 per query
- There is no contractual tie between detailers and engineers or architects
- Administration and query resolution takes up the majority of time from a consultants viewpoint on any given project
- There has been a 7.5% to 12% increase in cost at tender time for poor documentation
- Time delays in answering TQ's / RFI's are a major problem. Possible efficiencies to save time can be looked at in this area
- The CSIRO current study indicates there has been further decline in design documentation

Recommendations :

- Adequate fees need to be allowed for designers to do their job
- Sufficient time for the design and construction phases
- Designers need to re-evaluate their design management process and adopt a total quality approach
- Designers need to improve design co-ordination and documentation quality. This was the number one point

A presentation by Clayton Roxborough followed outlining the QISD's Aims and Objectives and what the Institute is all about, also covering a large issues that detailers deal with continually in their day to day business.

Issues facing Detailers today:

- Documentation – theirs and ours
- RFI's, Fax's, Variations
- Training
- Accreditation
- Advice
- Professional Development
- Develop and promote industry standards
- Improve lines of communication with others involved in the construction contract
- Raise the industry profile
- Insurance
- Security of Payment

Key points concerning QISD:

- Timing (fabricators and engineers are currently reviewing the way they do business)
- Global economy won't wait
- Membership numbers required to gain a voice and credibility
- Organisation...Regional task groups
- QISD will only achieve what members are prepared to support

Immediate Benefits for QISD members:

- Industry Recognition
- Periodical Newsletter keeping members informed and in touch
- Seminars and information nights
- Social events
- Strength in numbers (support, advice, experience)

Possibilities:

- Reference Library
- Position Statements to express industry standard code of conduct and policies of the detailing profession eg. Variations, re-design on approval, back charges
- Web site for membership use and industry marketing
- Detailer certification
- Quality assurance program
- Publications
- Guidelines to designers of information required by detailers
- Discounts to members for work related items (eg. PI Insurance premiums)

Discussion was opened to the floor.

Points of discussion from the open forum were :

- Look at detailers doing connections similar to what occurs in the USA – there was a reference to the Manual of Steel Construction (Allowable Stress Design) ninth edition
- Lift industry standards
- Define a detailers input into the industry to establish worth – critical path activity
- Define costs for documentation problems
- Training of steel detailers – there are no courses available for steel detailing
- Schedule of fees
- Standardise connection details – time and cost savings
- Who takes responsibility for the connections if detailers were to do them

The forum was brought to a close by Trevor Llewellyn thanking all for their participation.

Yours faithfully,
Queensland Institute of Steel Detailers. (QISD Inc)