



Message From Our President....Changes...

A few weeks ago, whilst stricken with a bout of temporary insanity, I decided to waste a perfectly good weekend by cleaning out my “junk” cupboard at home.

One of the long forgotten items unearthed at the back of the top shelf, in amongst the cockroach droppings and other suspicious looking unmentionables, I found a very old Slide Rule, one that I purchased when I first started work some forty years ago. For those of you that don't know what a slide rule is..... go and ask your Father (or perhaps your Grandfather).

Anyway, this find started me thinking about how this Steel Detailing business has changed so dramatically over the last 30 or so years that I have spent in it.

When I first put pen on paper, the Steel Industry was still using Imperial dimensions (unless you work for BDS most of you will not be aware of the delights of working with feet, inches and fractions). Slide rules were used in conjunction with a thick tome called Smolleys Tables to carry out calculations of diagonal lengths and bracing bevels.

Calculators at that time were a thing used by the company accountant to add up the weekly wages and of course the only people using computers would have been the US Military or the like.

Compare then to now. Computers that are small enough to sit on your desk have a capacity many times greater than the Apollo moon missions. 3D packages allow a series of functions unheard of even a few years ago.

With all the technology available today, not only to us as Steel detailers, but to Engineers, Architects and the like, the question must be asked why there is such a problem within our Industry regarding the standard of Design Drawings. I regularly suffer from the “Hair Pulling” syndrome over this, as no doubt do most, if not all, of you QISD members.

Documentation problems were probably the catalyst that caused the creation of the QISD some 2 years ago. In the period since we first met as a group at a forum in February 2001, I feel we are making great progress in getting our voice heard within this Industry and are starting to make inroads into the many and varied causes and complaints highlighted by our membership.

My personal thanks go to fellow members of the QISD executive, for their devotion to the cause. Without a lot of effort by a few, an organization such as ours will not function effectively.

We still have a very long way to go to achieve our own Nivarna, but at the very least, we are starting out on the long road in that direction.

I look to the future with much greater optimism than was possible 2 years ago, and with the support of all QISD members I am certain that there is every chance of a better and brighter life ahead as Steel Detailers.

TREVOR LLEWELLYN
President

***Did You Know??...***

"The Australian Steel Institute (ASI) has recently been formed from the amalgamation of the Australian Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) and Steel Institute of Australia (SIA) to represent the Australian Steel Industry which employs 72 thousand people and has an annual turnover of \$21 billion. The ASI provides representation, technical and marketing leadership and an independent forum to facilitate steel promotion and industry competitiveness.

Future QISD Educational Visits...**BJR Rolling Workshop Tour**

A group visit has been arranged for QISD members to the BJR Rolling workshop. This trip is to take place on Thursday 15th of May (from 3.00pm) There'll be an opportunity to talk to some of the experts of section rolling, tube bending, plate rolling, brake pressing & guillotining whilst seeing some of this equipment in action. Light refreshments will also be provided.

We have tentatively scheduled a visit to the Webforge manufacturing plant in Brisbane for Wednesday 11th of June (from 3.00pm). A firm date will be announced closer to the time. It should be noted that all attendees will have to provide their own covered leather shoes and eye protection.

Webforge Tour

Webforge are currently producing a new product catalogue that should be available to QISD members at the time of our visit.

Anybody wishing to take part in either of these outings should advise Clayton Roxborough at secretary@qisd.com.au no later than one week prior to the event.

Important Outcomes of AGM....

As you are aware the AGM for the QISD was held in November last year. At this meeting the new management committee was elected to take the QISD through this current year.

The current management committee consists of:

Trevor Llewellyn	President
Dave Stansfield	Vice President
Kel Everson	Treasurer
Clayton Roxborough	Secretary
Brad Backer	
Joe Biggs	
Darren Mandall	
John Gardner	Honorary

Following on from the AGM there was a general meeting to discuss and obtain feedback from the attending members as to the future direction and goals for the QISD over the coming year. From these discussions various points were identified that now form the QISD's main focus for this current year. These points are listed below and to date the QISD is making good progress. Progress on these matters can be seen in further articles in this newsletter.

Points noted in the meeting were;

- Produce a position paper on industry standard acceptable design documentation.
- Produce a position paper on detailing standards and practice.
- Investigate PI insurance. Possible benefits achieved by approaching brokers as an association.
- Send a letter to ASI regarding their marketing of it's publications.
- Approach ASI regarding discounts for QISD members.
- Detail of the month. Possible web site addition.
- Documentation quality. Maintain and build ties with IEAust, RAIA and QS
- Education of design draftsmen.
- RFI position paper.
- Design drawing checklist.
- Drafting programs. Education of construction programmers.



Looking to the Future....

The President of the Victorian Institute of Steel Detailers (VISD) will be attending the "Australian Steel Convention" being held on the Gold Coast this coming September. Both the VISD and the QISD are very keen to now start formal discussions on nationalising the various state based Institutes. Consequently it has been suggested that we should call for a gathering of all Steel Detailers that may be attending this convention to openly discuss this matter further. Those interested please contact the QISD for further details closer to the date.

Social Events – QISD GOLF DAY....

A Task Group Report by Dave Stansfield

The QISD inaugural golf day was held in October last year and was a great day for all those who participated. With the emphasis being a fun day, prizes and special recognition for Longest drives, Nearest the pins, Where's the Green ?, Beach Locator, Putting Champ and Wet Balls awards were given out on the day.

The days event was an ambrose competition with a few extra rules thrown in for interest and fun. The winning team was Darren Mandall from Online Drafting, John Riggs from A.L. Steel Detailing and Dave Stansfield from Outback Drafting. Given that this John's first, and we do mean first, game of golf, the

team were very happy just to get through the game let alone win the event.

Special award mentions must go to John Riggs who claimed the "Wet Balls" and the "Beach Locator" along with first place, Bruce Montgomery for his sensational tee shot off the first tee straight at the groundsman on his tractor picked up the "Endangering Human Life Award", Sam Lee got on winner for his efforts in the putting department, and finally for Clayton Roxborough for nailing the "Where's the Green Award".

Congratulations to all those who participated and we hope to see you again at this years event.

Software Solutions....

The following is about a free program called "Yankee Clipper "

Major features-

- Saves past 100 clipboard entries
- Handles unlimited amount of boilerplate texts
- URL aware- links copied to clipboard can be instantly launched
- Has a "Load and Shoot" function to paste text anywhere
- Can float on top of other applications for fast pasting
- No size limits for "clippings"
- Prints any clipboard entry, nicely word-wrapped
- This is a simple program to understand and use
- Has a global hotkey to make the application visible when hidden.
- This new version is totally re-written in C++ (A much more powerful programming language.) and uses MUCH less memory/resources.
- Free- totally, no strings attached [Free](#)

Yankee Clipper, a Windows 9x/NTx clipboard stacker/memory program has been updated. The prior version was listed in the April 1998 PC World magazine "Best Free Stuff Online" article and the August 1998 PC Computing magazine "Amazing Free Stuff" article.

Go to : <http://www.levasseur.net/YCP/> for more information and downloading.



Software Solutions Cont....

The second program in this months newsletter is "Examdiff"

What Is ExamDiff?

ExamDiff is a freeware Windows 95/98/Me/NT/2000/XP tool for visual file comparison. It has a number of simple and convenient features that many users have been asking for a long time from a file comparison tool. Here is what an ExamDiff screen after comparing files may look like:

ExamDiff is a part of a suite of products that includes FtpVC - an FTP based Version Control System. It allows joint software development remotely over the internet.

ExamDiff Features

Remembers a user specified number of last compared first and second files. This allows quick selection of the two files the user wishes to compare. There is no need to specify both filenames -- just enter a directory name for one of the files to be compared. ExamDiff will try to use an entered filename with a specified directory name. Toggles between the first and second files

Automatically detects file changes and prompts the user to re-compare files

One push re-compare function which attempts to leave the viewer's focus in the same place as before the re-compare. Drag and drop support for dropping one or two files into the program's window (e.g. from Windows Explorer)

Easy editing of the first and second files. ExamDiff will spawn any editor (configurable by the user) with the first or second file, and line number option (available for editors that support this, through ExamDiff variables: \$FILE (first or second file name), \$CURDIFF (number of line at which the current difference starts), and \$CARET (number of line where the caret is located))

Saves the file differences in a standard UNIX DIFF file

Easy navigation through the differences via "Previous Difference"/ "Current difference"/ "Next Difference" buttons and hot keys or via a drop-down list box of all the differences

Allows the copying of text from the comparison panes via drag and drop, a hot key, or a right button pop up Simple "Search" command to search for strings in the comparison panes. It also remembers a user specified number of most recent searches

Customizable text and background colors, font, tab size, and "Show Differences Only" option as well as options to "Ignore white spaces in lines", "Ignore changes in amount of white spaces in lines", "Ignore case", "Treat files as text files", "Ignore leading white space in lines" and "Ignore trailing white space in lines" for comparison<

Fully customizable file extension filter. For example, the user can choose only .c and .cpp files or any other files he/she chooses to be displayed

Tooltips which include file properties (when the mouse cursor is placed over the pane title bars), difference number (when the cursor is over the yellow triangle marking the current difference), and etc

Adjustable pane splitter with smooth synchronized scrolling. Allows easy toggling between horizontal and vertical splitter orientation as well as splitter centering and panes hiding

What ExamDiff Cannot Do (But ExamDiff Pro Can)

Compare directories and binary files.

Allow file or directory comparison from the directory comparison panes with a simple double-click on one of the files or directories to be compared.

Allow the copying, renaming, and deleting files or directories from the directory comparison panes.

Sort directories in the left or the right pane by name, size, type, last modification time etc. without losing synchronization.

Highlight file differences down to the level of words or characters in changed lines.

Print (and print preview) the diff report.

Word wrap long lines.

Edit files inside comparison panes.

Use named comparison sessions.

Go to : http://www.prestosoft.com/ps.asp?page=edp_examdiff to check it out



Design Document Checklist....

Updating from the last newsletter our story on the QISD producing a "Design Document Checklist" for consultants drawings we are happy to report on progress being made in conjunction with another important task being undertaken at present. Geoff Graham (BDS), Barry Watson (Brighton Drafting & Computing) and Dave Stansfield have combined to do a review on a New Zealand based document titled "Code of Practice for Structural Steelwork Documentation". The paper was produced and published by HERA, New Zealand Heavy Engineering Research Association & SCI-NZ, Steel Construction Industry-New Zealand.

The QISD has had discussions with Leigh Wilson, who is the ASI Victorian State Manager, and one of the topics covered was the ASI were in the process of "Australianising" the New Zealand "Code of Practice for Structural Steelwork Documentation". The QISD offered to do a review from the steel detailer's point of view,

which was readily accepted by Leigh Wilson. The ASI's intent is to produce an Australian equivalent to the New Zealand paper which will be published by the ASI on completion.

From this review process, a checklist for consultants documentation will be developed that will encompass what a Detailer goes through from locating the first hold down bolts and making sure details such as bolt grade, size, treatment, grout etc are on the design documents to architectural aspects such as roof pitching points, roof slopes, column locations etc.

The QISD Management Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank QISD members Geoff and Barry for their time and assistance on this task. All QISD members will be able to benefit from this and use it as an accepted universal means for requesting base level information that should appear on consultant's design documentation.

QISD Involvement with IEAust Quality Panel....

The IEAust Quality Panel report on documentation quality was submitted to the IEAust QLD council in February as part of a presentation by members of the Quality Panel and the IEAust QLD have decided to run with the recommendations the report came up with.

From the QISD viewpoint this is a very positive step in tackling the problem of poor documentation quality. The Institute of Engineers are setting up a Task Group that will be headed by a senior Vice President to flesh out a project charter on exactly how the problem is to be best approached. The QISD will maintain its close links with the IEAust to put forward the Steel Detailers perspective.

In other news, the AIQS Qld Chapter held a Quality of Documentation Forum on Wednesday April 2, 2003. The event was jointly sponsored by the AIQS, Public Works Dept., QLD Master Builders, AIB, RAI and the IEAUST. Kel Everson and Dave Stansfield represented the QISD and attended this function to promote the viewpoint of Steel Detailers. A "Special Issue" QISD Newsletter Report will be compiled by Kel and Dave on the forum viewpoints and outcomes and distributed towards the end of May.

QISD Current Membership Status....

Whilst the QISD has maintained its membership numbers in this current year the management committee encourages all members to be active in promoting the Institute to other potential members within our industry. Let's face it, if we (**Steel Detailers every where**) don't get behind and support an Institute that is for the benefit of all in our industry then how can we expect others in the construction industry to really take our concerns seriously. The QISD would also like to sincerely welcome those new members who have joined the Institute in this current year.



Important Changes to QISD Task Groups....

As previously mentioned in past newsletters the management committee formed various task groups to help the QISD maintain focus and direction in achieving its aims and objectives. Over the past couple of months the committee has decided to change these groups a little as there were various tasks identified as being overlapping with others. This should help distribute the energy needed in a more efficient manner. See below for the new groups and the relevant committee members assigned to them head up:

Management: Headed by the Management Committee.

- AGM & General meetings
- Co-ordination of task groups
- Planning & agendas
- Position papers
- Liase with interstate Steel Detailer Institutes.
- PI insurance
- Produce suggested forms for detailer quotes, variations, terms of engagement etc.
- Budgets
- Code of ethics
- Legal issues involved in running the QISD

Membership Sales & Service: Headed by Brad Backer and Darren Mandall

- Find & attract new members
- Provide support to members
- Produce newsletter
- Maintain web site
- Welcome packs

Education: Headed by Clayton Roxborough

- Organise detailer workshops & technical presentations
- Determine detailing industry requirements for cadets
- Research existing training provisions (private and public)
- Investigate government training incentives programs
- Site visits to fabrication shop and construction sites.
- Accreditation or recognition of training.
- Produce professional development programs
- Product information nights

Documentation: Headed by Dave Stansfield

- Address the declining standard of design documentation.
- Develop minimum standards for presentation & content of steel detail drawings.
- Standardise methods & formats of electronic data transfer.

Marketing: Headed by Management Committee

- Take the QISD to the industry
- Source sponsors and funding
- Develop contacts in political, media and business circles
- Promote & foster relationships with other industry associations
- Raise the construction industry awareness of Steel Detailers
- Create a matrix of Steel Detailers

