



Newsletter

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President's Report....

Our current construction industry cycle sees many steel detailing companies being kept very busy. We're all head down tail up trying to do our job as best we can while everything is urgent and the program is king. It's due to these market pressures that some consultants are also feeling the pinch and in an attempt to maintain target dates, issue their drawings for construction regardless of the drawing's completeness or checked status. In order to stick to compressed construction schedules, Builders seem to want the fabricators to deliver steelwork before it's detailed, and fabricators want the detailer to draw the steelwork before it's designed. The detailer is then the messenger of bad news, when he reports that the design documents are inadequate and his job will take longer than anticipated. It seems to me that more and more these days we are obliged to explain the role of the steel detailer to builders, owners & consultant alike. To assist in the "Don't shoot the messenger" argument the QISD has produced a document called "What is Steel Detailing". In due course this document will be posted on our website for all members to use and perhaps assist lay people to comprehend the functions of the steel detailing process.

Speaking of the website, its now in the process of a major overhaul. We are currently testing a detailer's forum type chat-room to promote the cross-pollination of ideas and experiences amongst detailers. This is sure to take off if some of the debate already posted is anything to go by.

Don't forget that the new QISD logo is also on the website and can be downloaded for use by all QISD members. It's available in a variety of formats so hopefully you'll find one suitable to your needs. By placing the logo on all company documents you help raise industry awareness of your organisation, which has a flow-on effect for all its members.

Since our last general meeting, the QISD has been busy developing some standard forms and supporting documentation for use by our members. These include:

The humble RFI, includes a recommended format, what it means to the detailer and how to use it
General Conditions of Contract, a little understood & undervalued document
As well as the "What is Steel Detailing" publication I mentioned earlier.

"The Benefits of Membership" is another document to keep an eye out for. This publication will be available soon and is designed to assist new & potential members to recognise the advantages the QISD has to offer them as individuals and their industry as a whole.

The Management Committee will soon be calling for nominations for the QISD Awards for Design Documentation Quality so get your Design Drawing Checklists out and choose the best projects for these years' awards. Try not to be too cynical in doing this because the aim of these awards is to recognise those consultancies that do the best documentation work.

These awards have been identified as the most effective way of represent the QISD can address the issue of design documentation quality.

Last years event achieved enormous gains for the Steel Detailing industry by raising awareness of the QISD, highlighting the issue of Design Documentation Quality and providing a focus on the particular aspects of design documentation that most affect steel detailers.

Hopefully this years awards can build on last years platform and drive our messages home to the construction industry. So get on board all QISD members and be a part of this initiative by sending in your nominations as well as any other feedback you might have to offer.

Best Regards to All

Clayton Roxborough



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AGM Summary....

The 2004 Annual General Meeting of the Queensland Institute of Steel Detailers was held at the Diana Plaza Hotel in Woolloongabba on Wednesday 3rd of November.

After the success of the 2003 AGM, the turnout of members for the 2004 AGM was equally encouraging as a indication of the impact the QISD is having on the Steel Detailing industry here in Queensland.

After dispensing with the formalities of the Statement of Income & Expenditure, Presentation of the Audited Statement and Appointment of the Auditor for the coming year it became time to elect a new Management Committee. Two existing members of the committee, Trevor Llewellyn our out-going President & Joe Biggs chose not to be nominated. Subsequently the new Committee voted in on the night is:

President	Clayton Roxborough
Treasurer	Kel Everson
Secretary	Phil Shanks
Members	Brad Backer, Ron Osborne Peter Hempsall Geoff Graham Tony Dwyer
Honorary Member	John Gardner (ASI)

The AGM was followed by a General Meeting, opened by Trevor Llewellyn, who then handed over to me. I gave a short presentation of achievements of the QISD for the previous 12 months which was followed by an open forum where suggestions were sought from the floor with regard to where the Management Committee should focus their attention in the coming year and in the longer term.

There were some valid points made that will be pursued by the new committee.

Some of the discussions that went on during the forum, and continued through dinner, were certainly refreshing if not entertaining.

The evening was a good opportunity for many members to catch up with old colleagues or to get acquainted with new ones over a few beers.

As the incoming President, I'd like to thank our outgoing Committee Members, Trevor & Joe, for all the time and hard work they volunteered to the QISD over the last couple of years. This is also an ideal opportunity to welcome Ron Osborne, Phil Shanks & Peter Hempsall to the committee and we look forward to work with you as part of the management team.

Best Regards

Clayton Roxborough
President



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QISD Field Trip....

Tour of Stramit

On Wednesday 23rd March 2005 a group of 19 QISD members visited the Stramit facility at Platinum Street, Crestmead. Technical Services Manager Hamish Cameron welcomed the QISD members to the facility and after a brief introduction the tour commenced.

The main products and services offered by Stramit include Purlins with punching, Purlin Bridging, Purlin accessories, Sheeting profiles, Condeck and rainwater products.

The tour was split into two groups to help with questions and answers. The tour took the groups through the plant where the packaging and distribution of the Stramit products were viewed and discussed. It was interesting to see the efficiency of the plant in action. In special circumstances orders can be processed from start to finish and ready for delivery in around 24 hours. Unfortunately the groups were unable to view the cutting and punching equipment due to strict policies and concerns with intellectual property. The investment by Stramit into their equipment is huge.



Hamish Cameron (Centre) speaking with a few of the QISD members who attended the tour

The tour then moved into the programming offices where questions could be bounced off the operator. Very interesting stuff! Topics such as punching options, detailing no no's and the benefits of coded data files kept the conversation relevant.

The tour then moved into the boardroom where Hamish met us again for a final question and answer session. Hamish was well prepared for this by having a "Hot Topic" list of common detailing questions, which were open to the floor for discussion.

The formal part of the tour was concluded and Stramit generously provided refreshments for the members. Our thanks goes to Hamish and the other staff of Stramit for providing our members with an insight into one of Australia's largest manufacturers of metal products.



Smorgon Steel Presentation....

LITE STEEL BEAM

The Pre-amble:

On Thursday evening the 14th of April, 2005 Smorgon Steel held a launch for its new Lite Steel Beam range. The venue on this occasion was the Logan Entertainment Centre on Wembley Rd., Logan Central.

The format of the evening began with a buffet style meal complete with complimentary wine, beer and other beverages. This certainly placed attendees in a receptive frame of mind.

The number of attendees was a little disappointing for Smorgons – the room and facilities were aimed at double the eventual number. The low number was attributable to the late notice of the event – in my case, only one week. I couldn't help wondering that, had the organisers made it known in the initial mail-out, that the complimentary meal and refreshments were on offer, greater numbers may have attended.

As it was, some thirty or so people were present, albeit five were from Smorgons. ASI State Manager and QISD Committee member John Gardner and I were seated with two Smorgons representatives for the meal, which was immediately followed by the presentation.

The Main Event:

Mr Ross Dempsey of Warren Brown and Associates presented the Lite Steel Beam using overhead slides, beamed onto a very large screen. This gave all attendees a clear look at what the range had to offer. Ross worked through the presentation, highlighting the strong points of the range such as: a lite beam being 40% lighter than the equivalent strength hot rolled member. Ross was heavily involved in the design of the "Dogbone" hollow-flanged member marketed some years ago. The Lite Steel Beam (LSB) is the latest evolution of Dogbone and addresses the negative aspects of Dogbone design. The narrow, hollow, tapered flanges of the "taper flange beam" profile of Dogbone made it difficult to connect to. LSB overcomes this by having a profile more like a PFC so that even though the flanges are still hollow, connections are more user friendly. So lets look at the cross sectional view of LSB and this all becomes clear.





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Smorgon Steel Cont'd....

The members are formed from one width of flat steel, folded to form the web, then double folded to form the two parallel flanges, which in turn fold on themselves to be electrically welded.

LSB is easily manipulated on site, especially in the thinner gauged members aimed at replacing floor joists and the like. The members can be cut and drilled on site similarly to timber members and much more easily than C and Z purlin material.

The Back-up:

With the introduction of a new range of structural members it is essential to have complete back up information with technical manuals and the like. Ross has spent some thirteen months involved in producing explicit technical manuals for use by designers right through to the installers. The Smorgon web site has a wealth of information on dedicated pages: <http://www.smorgonsteel.com.au/lsb/>. There is an enormous list of downloadable design manuals, capacity tables, connection manuals and product comparison tables at this address: <http://www.smorgonsteel.com.au/lsb/resources/brochures/index.cfm>

The Grilling:

After the official presentation, Ross invited questions from the floor. Three of the more important questions in my view were:

1. How much does it cost?

Answer – while pricing is not finalised, it is expected to be slightly cheaper than its hot rolled equivalent. The main economies are expected to come from ease of use on site, and (for smaller members) no workshop labour **or detail drafting** required.

2. Can shear studs be welded to LSB?

Answer – Not at this point in time – test is ongoing, but this is not a likely outcome. Bondek type products of course can be used for concrete floors.

3. Are there product manuals available to take home?

Reply: Samples of the manuals are on the side table for viewing. The information is contained in six hard covered, ring binders. Unfortunately the printers could not have manuals ready for distribution on the night (they must be as busy as steel detailers) but manuals will be sent to all attendees as soon as available.

The Wrap-up:

The launch concluded at 8:00pm where I was able to spend a little time chatting to Ross about the product. I congratulated him on addressing Dogbones (detailer unfriendly) nature and coming up with LSB.

I wished him success and commented that the product will need to be picked up by Engineers in the initial design stage. While Builders will see the advantages for the product, builders often come in *after* the design phase is done. This will be Smorgon Steel's initial challenge.

I also congratulated Ross on the results of the effort put into producing the documentation. You will see in the catalogues that connections and holing solutions are presented in a clear and unambiguous manner – and isn't that what we stand for?

Kel Everson - QISD Management Committee



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Letter to the Editor....

Mechanical Equipment Platforms & Delays caused by Lack of Design Information

We are currently experiencing significant delays to completion of projects due to lack of Mechanical Information. We are all aware that too often the Mechanical Item supply contracts are now being let by Builders **after** we have completed our works. Thus we are forced to leave detailing of the decks in limbo.

We now have four projects, some almost 6 months old, whose A/C decks have become "skeletons in the closet". Waiting to come out and "bite" us when we can least afford the time. These each have approx. 40hrs detailing required to complete. When the information becomes available (applying Murphy's Law it will all happen at once) then other "works in progress" will be unfairly delayed.

This is a point ripe for discussion and we can all benefit from each other's views on how to best deal with it.

I have my views. A member raised the issue informally some time ago, however it is becoming a larger issue (for us at least); hence this topic is born. Our approach previously was to just muddle our way through the work as best we can. However in the most severe of cases, we are now advising our clients, that we have reached the point where we must deliver the shop drawings in an "as up to date as possible" state with the design information at hand. The details will have to be completed by the Mechanical Designer/Supplier. We are not abrogating our responsibilities as we have used due diligence to reach the current point. If there is a credit for work not completed, it may be minimal.

Our clients are usually as frustrated as we are in the to-ing and fro-ing of chasing answers, the aborted time expended and continuing delays.

Do we need to insert a clause in our conditions of contract to deal with this topic – indeed some members may already have this?

The views of the membership are invited.

Kel Everson - Q.E.I. Pty. Ltd.

Events Calendar....

Date	Events
3 rd May	ASI tour of RPG (Rollpress Proplate Group)
12 th August	ASI Awards Night
September	Next Newsletter
10-12th September	Australian Steel Convention
30 th Spetember	Membership Renewals
TBC (November)	AGM



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Industry News & Events....

Curved Steel

As all Detailers would know, the use of curved steel in buildings has been a popular trend in recent years as Architects and Engineers display their innovative designs in ever increasing ways.

To assist in the fabrication of curved members, the Rollpress Proplate Group (RPG) have published a brochure titled "*Curved Steel – The new bent in building design*" which identifies the cost structure for curving of various sections. The brochure is available from RPG on request.

As a follow up to the release of the brochure, the Australian Steel Institute is arranging a tour of the RPG facility on 3rd May where all your questions regarding rolling will be answered. For further details contact John Gardner at ASI. – Ph. 3853 5320.

ASI Awards Night

The Australian Steel Institute – Queensland Steel Awards will be held this year at the Brisbane City Hall auditorium on Friday 12 August. This is one of the premium events on the ASI calendar and is well patronised each year by Fabricators, Detailers, Architects, Engineers, Builders and Suppliers to the construction industry.

The event is an excellent opportunity for Detailers to meet with other players in the industry to promote business and develop relationships. As such, the QISD encourages you to attend the event.

In 2004, the QISD sponsored the inaugural *QISD Design Documentation Awards*, which recognised Architects and Engineers who had produced quality documentation in the field of steel construction. These awards were well received by the designers and the QISD will once again be promoting our charter through the awards this year.

Further flyers will be released regarding the Steel Awards function, as the date gets closer. In the meantime, put a note in your diary if you are looking for an excellent night out with your peers.

Modelling Award

Australian industry has long been recognized in world markets as a leader in innovative design, technology and quality of work. As evidence of this, one of the QISD members, **BDS Steel Detailers**, has successfully headed 79 international competitors to win the Y2004 Tekla Structures Global Modelling competition in steel detailing.



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QISD Website....

The website is in continual development and an item currently on the table is the upcoming inclusion of a Forum page. It is expected that the QISD forum page will allow all members to participate in worthwhile discussions of various topic associated to our industry. The forum will be broken into various sub folders eg Education, Contractual, Design documentation etc to allow for easier navigation to topics that may be of a specific interest to the member. Once the forum is fully operational and in place it is expected that a circular will be distributed to all members explaining the functionalities etc. This will be a great way to communicate and pass around knowledge and advice so please utilize the forum when it becomes available.

Other uses of the forum page will be in the ability for all QISD members to obtain controlled documents such as:

- Standard Conditions of Contract
- Suggested RFI documentation and procedures
- QISD Logo

A new section also currently in development is the QISD **Gallery of Projects**. In this section we expect to be able to showcase in pictorial form, jobs detailed by QISD company members. With each project we anticipate to have a brief summary on the project with particular emphasis on what added value was provided by the shop detailer.

Careers Night....

One QISD company member, Hemsall Steel Detailing, has been proactive in participating in a Career's Expo to help educate school leavers on the opportunities available to become Steel Detailers. The following is a brief write-up from Peter Hemsall, principle of Hemsall Steel Detailing Pty Ltd. The QISD applauds Peter and his company for having the initiative and willingness to take the time to participate in this expo. Participating in these types of programs goes a long way to lift awareness of our Industry, which can only be good for us all in the long run.

The Redcliffe Chamber of Commerce annual Career's Expo enables local businesses to show case their company to all of the high schools within the local area. Mainly aimed at years 11 & 12 this expo allows the students to see what is available outside in the workforce. As we all know the steel detailing industry is sometimes forgotten or assigned to another subject at TAFE's and University's. This expo allows us to show the students that there is an opportunity for them to become a steel detailer.

Each company is allocated a display area of approx. 2 metres to show some aspects of their work. Hemsall Steel Detailing Pty Ltd has participated in this expo displaying shop drawings, samples of RHS, UB, CHS, plates and bolts. We also added some photos of projects under construction and then the finished product to help the student get an understanding of what steel detailing involved.



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Careers Night Cont'd....



Steelwork as a Detailer sees it....



*Completed project as others see it –
Where are the Steelworks?*

Being on hand at the expo was also very beneficial as the students' questions could be answered on the spot. It was also mentioned to students and teachers that a tour through a drafting office could be a good follow up excursion.

This year's career expo will be held at Grace Lutheran College at Rothwell in August. The Queensland Studies Authority now has this expo on its calendar. We look forward to participating in the expo again and being able to help students find a career path they may enjoy.

Additional QISD Initiatives....

How often are you asked this question at parties "What do you do for a living" and find that when you try to explain what is we do you just receive vague faces of bewilderment.

Currently the QISD is working on a document that we feel can be used to educate others within the construction industry and those wanting to know like school leavers or just party goers about what it is a Steel Detailer does. This document is expected to convey in very simple terms the real functions and responsibilities of a Steel Detailer. We expect to also show part copies of finished shop drawings, marking plans, 3D views and site photos similar to those above to assist in this education process. This information will be available on the QISD website in the near future.



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Member Database....

The QISD has developed a member database with all of the current member's details. Nothing too controversial, just basic company and employee details like names and email addresses.

It was felt that there was a need to streamline the membership renewal process and speed up the time from when membership is paid to when certificates and receipts are handed out. All current members should have received their certificates by now and these were created through this new system.

The database is in early stages at the moment and is undergoing constant change and improvement. With the hope that one day in the not to distant future that the data stored will come in use for such things as automating bulk emails to all members, at the moment this is a manual and time consuming task. Also making use of personalising letters and envelopes automatically to all members concerned.

The management committee sees this as a valuable step forward and will take the pressure off these time consuming tasks, giving more time for the important issues.

The Last Revision....

The detailer and the engineer
Are men of skill and vision;
At least they are until they hear
That hated word - REVISION.

The engineer with a practiced eye
Surveys his grand design;
The detailer expertly then draws
Each complicated line.

"Complete," they sigh contentedly,
"Miraculous precision."
Oh, optimists! Tomorrow brings
Catastrophe - REVISION

Revision one adds this new piece,
Revision two improves it,
Revision three makes it just right,
Then number four removes it.

"You can't do this, and you can't do that,
We'll wait for a decision."
But in the meantime, just revise
That last revised revision.

Revise! Revise! The very word
Fills detailers with dread.
Though die they must, they'll be revised
To make damn sure they're dead.

They hope that GOD's no engineer
When he makes his decision.
If once they win their wings they hope
There'll be no last REVISION.

The composer prefers anonymity.



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Feedback....

As requested in previous newsletters for the Institute to know what issues are really concerning its members we need to get constructive feedback. If you have any specific issue or ideas, please find the time to write them down and send them through to the committee for due consideration.

Feedback Form

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

Fax to QISD: (07) 3844 9477
Email to QISD: feedback@qisd.org.au
Post to QISD: QISD
 PO Box 8250
 Woolloongabba
 Brisbane Qld, 4102

Comments:

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