



Newsletter

Issue No. 10

October 2005

President's Report...

Everybody wants to be my friend... because I'm a steel detailer

Isn't it funny how things change? The local steel construction industry has gone crazy, everyone's busy building steel structures, and be it commercial, industrial or heavy engineering steel detailing is integral to all of these projects.

As the estimator in a steel detailing business, I receive calls every day from all the far-flung corners of the universe asking for steel detailing capacity. Everybody wants to be my friend, and I'm sure that the company I work for isn't the only one getting these calls.

Generally, I find this encouraging. It's evidence that our industry is buoyant and, for the time being, robust. It's a time when the detailing industry should be reinforcing its position in the construction industry and it's a time when detailers of all persuasions should beware the head-hunter.

Discussions I've had with other QISD members would indicate that detailers are being relied upon more and more to provide some certainty to others in the steel construction process. We are relied upon by builders to pick up design documentation errors, omissions and coordination shortfalls. In addition to producing quality workshop drawings, fabricators depend on us for back-up in claims for delays and variations. Some consultants even depend on the detailer for design document control. In this environment of hustle & haste, it's the detailer, who steadies the ship for all. As an industry, detailers should take this opportunity to make our dependants & benefactors more aware of this stabilising role we have inherited.

The Human Resources industry uses the term "Head-hunting" to describe the practice of poaching employees from one company, and engaging them on behalf of another. Out of the blue, someone from another drafting company calls you up, wants to be your friend, massages your ego and offers you a job. Better conditions (great stuff), more money (sensational), interesting work (naturally) it gets better and better. All very tempting, and it's happening more and more in our industry these days.

I suggest we all take a moment to think about some things that may not be immediately evident.

Such as...

- Why didn't they offer me this job five years ago, or three years ago or even last year?
- Why do they need me now? Is it because they haven't trained any detailers of their own?
- Perhaps they never bothered to put on juniors or cadets that might strengthen our industry and provide a more stable future for all detailers. Why didn't they do that?
- Maybe this flash company wasn't around 3 years ago, I wonder if they'll be here in three years time!



Newsletter

Issue No. 10

October 2005

President's Report continued...

This discourse only serves to fragment and weaken our industry, when in times such as this we should all be looking to strengthen it.

Each to their own I suppose, after all, people will change employers regardless of the state of the industry. What I'm driving at here is that amongst the razzle-dazzle, there remains a need for some long-term perspective in the decisions we all make with regard to our careers and our industry.

The QISD exists to encourage detailers and detailing companies to achieve their professional objectives, and to improve the lot of all detailers in Queensland. I encourage any detailer facing the head-hunter or those who may have become disillusioned by the current state of affairs, with regards to documentation quality or the perceived level of responsibility thrust upon them, to share their concerns with others in the industry. You might find the up coming general meeting an ideal forum to this end. Regardless, I hope to see you at the AGM in November.

Best Regards to All
Clayton Roxborough

Up coming AGM...

On the 10th November this year the QISD will be holding its AGM as well as a **General Meeting** with discussion/forum time available.

Details for the AGM and General meeting are provided at the back of this newsletter.

The AGM and the following **General Meeting** is a great opportunity for members to have their say about the QISD and the role it's playing in the industry.

Perhaps you have a suggestion or advice to pass on to the management committee that will be elected on the night.

You may even choose to nominate for a committee position. Remember, it is your institute so please come along and have your say.

The nomination forms for this year's AGM have recently been sent out to all current QISD members however, if for some reason you have not yet received these forms or just need additional copies then these can be accessed through the AGM Information page of the QISD web site. www.qisd.org.au

Please note that nominations close 4.00pm Wednesday, 2nd November 2005



Newsletter

The Industry Loses a CAD Pioneer....

It is with sadness that since our last newsletter we heard of the passing of Derek Barker.

Derek was a detailer & CAD visionary who founded CAD Systems Australia the developer of the program TSD (The Steel Detailer).

We understand that Derek suffered a major heart attack whilst canoeing with friends. The QISD sincerely expresses its sympathy to Derek's family and friends for their sad loss.

Letter to the Editor...

TIME TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED.

Let's face it, we are all so busy at the moment I am sure very few of us Business owners or Sole Traders are thinking much about anything other than trying to get through a glut of projects coming through the doors. However, several months ago the QISD released a Standard Conditions of Contract on the website for all current members to access.

The access to this and other 'Member only Documents' please go the forum page of the QISD web site. These documents are available to all current members of the QISD.

There would be no better time than now to think about all contract arrangements we are involved in on a day-to-day basis. Obviously we may all have more time later, but the best opportunity for clarifying contract conditions such as variations, progress payments, backcharges etc with our customers if required is whilst our industry is in high demand.

As I suggest some of my colleagues have discovered, a 'she'll be right mate' and a 'don't worry about it' attitude does not usually cut it when the proverbial hits the fan.

Tony Dwyer
TD Drafting Services

Events Calendar....

Date	Events
30 September 2005	QISD Membership Renewals
21 st October 2005	ASI Charity Golf Day
2 nd November 2005	Nominations close for AGM
10 th November 2005	Annual General Meeting
April 2006	New Edition of Newsletter



Newsletter

Issue No. 10

October 2005

ASI Charity Golf Day...

The ASI Charity Golf Day will be held on Friday October 21 at Pacific Golf Club, Carindale. Details will be distributed by the ASI in the near future.

Membership Renewals...

The **QISD Inc.** end of financial year has just passed i.e. 30th September 2005. Membership renewal forms for 2005 – 2006 period have now been forwarded. The initial flood of renewals, already received, is most encouraging for the coming 12-month period. If you have not already done so, please return your remittance promptly, to once again show your support and dedication to **your Industry Body**.

The **QISD's profile** has grown throughout the 2004-2005 period with the highlight being the **absolute success** of the QISD Inc. "**Documentation Awards**".

Through the Documentation Awards, Architects, Engineers, Steel Suppliers, Builders and Government Departments are increasingly aware of our existence. Our input is now being sought by many organisations with a view to improving the industry at large. Not only have we been congratulated by these **stakeholders** for setting up the Awards, but also encouraged by them to continue with the awards and with our aims and objectives.

This is where your support is invaluable.

The size of our membership is paramount to our continued success – *Size Does Matter!*

The publicity revived in the Australian Steel Institute publications affords the **QISD Inc.** exposure Australia wide – this is surely satisfying to each and every member. Our long-term goal remains the establishment of a national Steel Detailing Institute. Accordingly discussions with Detailing representative bodies in Victoria, West Australia and New South Wales continue. You may be pleased to know that **your** Queensland Institute is currently the most active and advanced such organisation in the nation.

Other **QISD Inc.** initiatives, such as the successful **Field Trip programme**, will continue throughout 2005 – 2006. As time permits, so to will the **forum night** programme, highlighting the latest market and product information.

In Summary, membership renewal fees remain the same as for the last four years. Your subscriptions are completely tax deductible. The **QISD Inc.** is not registered for GST so no GST is chargeable on membership subscriptions. The QISD is a non-profit organisation with all the work carried out 100% voluntarily by the members of the Institute. The management committee takes this opportunity to thank you in advance for supporting the Institute that supports you, as we strive for even greater successes for 2006.

Management Committee,
October 2005.



Newsletter

Issue No. 10

October 2005

ASI Awards Night...

The 2005 QISD Inc. "Excellence in Design Documentation Quality" Awards were presented in association with the Australian Steel Institute Awards Night, held at the historic Brisbane City Hall Auditorium on Friday 12th of August.

As a major tool used by the QISD Inc. to address the issue of design documentation quality, we are pleased to report that the acceptance of these awards continues to grow. This event continued to highlight the issue of Design Documentation Quality in a positive and constructive manner.

The annual ASI Steel Awards Night attracts representatives from all facets of the Construction Industry including Developers, Owners, Architects, Engineers, Steel Merchants and Suppliers, Detailers, Builders and Government. The impact and prestige of being able to showcase our awards among such a group, is not to be underestimated.

It was strategically pleasing that the official proceeding for the night actually began with our awards. This afforded us the most attentive audience for the night!

QISD recognised two design consultants who, our members have judged, made the effort to provide an ethical & professional service to the industry.

The consultants are:

- Whybird and Partners for Structural documentation on the Northlakes State College Project – Stage 4.
- Briggs Patterson Buhr Architects for Architectural documentation on the Northlakes State College Project – Stage 4.

Detailers who won free tickets to the awards night for submitting the winning nominations were Stuart Niven (*QEI Pty. Ltd.*) and Kel Everson (*QEI Pty. Ltd.*). Stuart and Kel were joined by fellow QISD member Peter Hemsall, all with their spouses. The award winners, Jim Whybird and Mark Shephard, Caroline Treacy and husband Cal, completed the group at the official QISD Inc. table. Once the official duties were completed, entertainment for the night was provided by surely one of funniest comedians in the country. Most of the audience had tears in their eyes from laughter!

This night is to be recommended to QISD members so keep an eye out for next years invitations – details will be made available as usual. Members are encouraged to submit entries to next year's awards – it could be your turn to share in the entertainment, meal and beverages at no cost, as guests of the QISD Inc.



Newsletter

Issue No. 10

October 2005

ASI Awards Night continued...

Our thanks go out to all members that submitted entries for this year's competition. Thanks also to Clayton Roxborough who presented the awards on stage to Mark and Caroline.

The QISD Inc. has been invited by ASI to supply a Detailer member for the ASI Judging Panel. QISD committee member Ron Osborne represented the steel detailer's fraternity this year. Our thanks are extended to Ron for fulfilling this important role.

The QISD Inc. also wishes to thank the ASI and John Gardiner for their invaluable support and the opportunity to share this important occasion.



*Mark Shephard (Whybird & Partners)
Clayton Roxborough (President QISD - Award Presenter) and
Caroline Treacy (Briggs Patterson Buhr Architects)*

QISD Educating Student Engineers

The QISD is continuing to be active in providing education to student engineers from the QUT. The QISD sincerely thanks Clayton Roxborough for his time and effort in leading this program.

Just recently Clayton carried out lectures at QUT, educating students on the basic types of connections and requirements needed for detailing of portal frame designs i.e., bolted rafter to column connections, haunches, eaves & gable details, HD bolts, bracing types etc.

Clayton also touched on the cost of fabrication and drafting, and the implications in regard to loss of repetition or unnecessarily complicated design.

The QISD is positive that this program will assist greatly in enlightening our future engineers of what a detailer needs to do his/her job in an efficient and economical manner.



Newsletter

Issue No. 10

October 2005

Careers Expo...

As previously mentioned in the April edition of the QISD newsletter, Hemsall Steel Detailing Pty Ltd was planning to attend a Careers Expo at Grace Lutheran College in August 2005. This expo was held on Tuesday 9th of August and was a great success with over 1200 students attending from local high schools ranging from grade 10 thru to grade 12.

As said before Steel Detailing is not a well-recognised career path but we did have quite a number of students who were interested in our display and profession. Prior to the career's day we prepared handouts explaining what steel detailing is about and included the QISD website so that students could gain further information at a later date if interested. This proved to be a success as most students who were interested took a brochure and business card.

After being at the expo it was interesting to find that a lot of students thought we were architects/engineers. This is due to the fact that there is no specific tertiary course designated to steel detailers hence students aren't shown the option of going on to become a steel detailer. This may be a good reason to give ourselves our own identity in the education system (i.e. steel detailers rather than architects & engineers).

The organisers wanted to put an emphasis on trades rather than all Tafe's and Universities for school leavers. This year they got more trade orientated businesses to come along which made it a lot more interesting for the students and gave them some other options they may not of thought of. With the Career's Expo becoming bigger and better every year I think this one has been the most successful so far and we look forward to attending next years.

Jodie Hemsall
Hemsall Steel Detailing



Exhibition booth at Careers Expo held at Grace Lutheran College



Newsletter

Issue No. 10

October 2005

Electronic Data Transfers...

The steel distribution industry has recently called upon the ASI to coordinate meetings between Steel Detailers, Fabricators, Steel Merchants and Rollformers to discuss the sharing of Electronic Data that is generated by steel detailers. Clayton Roxborough and Geoff Graham from the QISD committee were invited to attend the meetings to present the views of the steel detailing sector.

One outcome from the meetings was that there seems to be a lack of understanding from some members of the steel industry in relation to the services that Detailers can provide. Particularly in the area of electronic data. Steel Merchants are interested in identifying the cost of the Detailers services and the efficiencies that the service brings to their business.

The QISD, in an endeavour to clarify the situation, is working on preparing a **Standard Deliverables Document** that will define and standardize the different levels of output that Detailers can provide. The idea being that fabricators will be able to select the level of detailing they require for a particular project, with the appropriate cost structure, and be confident that they are comparing apples for apples.

Although electronic data transfer is no new thing, some fabricators have been slow to appreciate the benefits. However as the steel distributors in Queensland now supply a substantial amount of predrilled and precut steel to the fabricators, they recognize the advantages of receiving the data. Steel Detailers should be supportive of this sharing of information to promote a more efficient steel industry.

The QISD is conscious of the fact that our members have different capabilities and will be seeking feedback from members before the Standard Deliverables Document is released.

The Australian Steel Convention...

The Australian Steel Convention was held at the Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove on September 11 to 13 and was attended by representatives from all sectors of the steel industry. Approximately 250 delegates and partners attended the event.

The theme of the Convention this year was *Global Steel Markets* and the presentations by various speakers addressed this topic and the impact to the Australian market very well.

This excellent event, which is held each year, is well worth attending for the social activities as well as the opportunity to meet with other industry players.



Newsletter

Issue No. 10

October 2005

Website and Forum...

As mentioned in our previous newsletters the website is always in continual development. The main focus since our last newsletter was on the inclusion of a QISD Forum page.

On the 27th of July 2005 the QISD Forum was officially launched. The forum is now open to members and non-members alike however there are restricted areas that only current QISD members will be able to access.

While activity at this stage is minimal we feel the forum will provide a good vehicle for the industry to communicate their views on relevant topics.

Please take the time to explore the forum however we understand that in this busy market place of today there is not too much free time available.

We welcome constructive feedback on the use and friendliness of the forum so after you have tried it out please feel free to offer comment for due consideration.

You can access the forum through the QISD web site. www.qisd.org.au

The other large task that we currently have is for the inclusion of a Project Gallery onto the web site. Due to the hectic current market place the progress on this task has not advanced as much as we would have liked however we are hopeful that by sometime early in the new-year this will also be up and running.

As previously mentioned in our April newsletter the intent of this section is to be able to showcase, in pictorial form, projects detailed by QISD company members.

While we believe that the inclusion of a Project Gallery will help promote the detailing industry in general a real spin off for all our company members who contribute projects to the gallery is that it will also provide them with additional advertising of their businesses. This in itself is great value just for the price of QISD membership.

Database Update...

This is the second year for the QISD database and with all of the membership data being collected in 2005 it has really come into its own.

We saw the membership certificates that were automatically generated and distributed in 2005 from the data collected and a similar principal has been applied to the distribution of the membership renewal subscription forms. The successful delivery to all current QISD members has proven the value of this automated system.

The idea now is to apply this technology to any type of personalized membership form in the future, to ensure an accurate and consistent delivery to all members. Remember to inform the QISD of any change in personal details such as Email or work address to make this all possible. If there are any suggestions on what else the database could be used for, fell free to offer suggestions.

Thank you

Philip Shanks

Secretary, Queensland Institute of Steel Detailers. (QISD Inc)



Newsletter

Issue No. 10

October 2005

ASI Standardised Structural Connections

The ASI is currently in the process of updating their Standardized Structural Connections. As a consequence they recently sent correspondence to the QISD requesting a review and feedback, from a detailer's perspective, on the geometry associated to various standard connections.

This enquiry was distributed to all QISD members so as to obtain the greatest review & feedback opportunity possible. All findings and suggestions were then sent onto the ASI to be consolidated, with the majority preferences to be adopted in the new tables.

The QISD would like to thank those members that responded to this request and from what we understand the ASI greatly valued all the input received.

This can only assist the ASI in developing design standards that are more economical and efficient to work with for both Detailing and Fabrication. Ultimately this must help in making the steel industry more competitive which in the long run is good for all of us.

As part of our Aims and Objectives the QISD will always work closely with the ASI and the above example is a good reason why our industry needs a central point of call like the QISD so we can provide a collective voice in helping improve the future of our industry.



Newsletter

Issue No. 10

October 2005

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2005

Date: **THURSDAY EVENING 10TH NOVEMBER 2005**

Place: Covers Restaurant, Southbank Tafe "COTAH"
Level 4, Corner of Merivale and Tribune Streets
South Brisbane Qld 4101

Format of Evening:

5.30pm Start (Finger food and drinks provided)

6.00pm AGM

- Present Statement of Income and Expenditure
- Receive Auditors report on financial affairs for the last financial year
- Presentation of the Audited Statement for adoption
- Election of management committee – President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and four additional committee members
- Appointment of Auditor
- AGM Closed

6.30pm **General Meeting** starts with **Discussion/Forum** available in general business

7:30pm Formal Meeting Closes.

7:35pm Buffet Dinner and drinks provided compliments of QISD Inc.

Note: For catering purposes please RSVP by Friday, 31st October 2005.

