

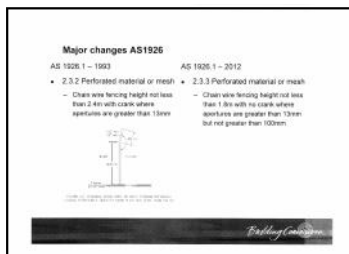
Incorporating: Australasian Fence Industry Association; Australian Chain Link Fencing Association; Temporary Fence Association Australasia; Spring Manufacturers Association & Wire Workers; Reinforcing Steel Manufacturers Association

THE WIRE LINK

CONFUSED?

At a fencing Chapter meeting in Melbourne a little over 12 months ago Temporary fencing colleagues were briefed on changes to AS 1926-2012. Part 1 "Safety Barriers for Swimming Pools" as interpreted by a representative of the **Vic State Building Commission**.

Following the presentation, members gained the impression the revised Australian Standard would now allow for the use of 1.8 metre chain-link temporary panels as a safety barrier during swimming pool construction.



The revised Australian standard in Section 2.3.2 "Perforated material or mesh" sub section (b) states "barriers using material with apertures greater than 13mm but not greater than 100mm shall have a height of not less than 1800mm" and therefore these panels could be expected to comply.

Recently it was reported that a building surveyor asked one of our members for chain-link temporary pool barrier panels to be removed and be replaced with 1200 tubular temporary pool barriers.

Whilst it is yet to be ascertained the reason why this request was made it may have been the gap between the bottom of the panel and ground level that concerned the surveyor. Some anchor blocks can raise the bottom of the fence panel more than 150mm above natural ground level.

AS1926-2012 states that "at any point along the bottom of the barrier, it shall not result in a gap between the bottom of the barrier and the surface beneath, of more than 100mm".

The regulation of pool barriers can be confusing. Pool barrier regulations are covered in the Australian Standard AS1926. Part 1. As well, most Australian States, through their statutory **Building Commissions / Authorities**, have published their own policy guidelines as practice notes. On top of these regulations, many city councils have enacted their own by-laws. Finally all these rules and regulations are interpreted by building surveyors who often give differing interpretations.

It is hoped that over the coming months we will be able to provide members and colleagues with more definitive answers on this subject.



NOTE FROM AWIA PRESIDENT

Over the last 18 months the Executive has pursued a search to expand the services the Association can provide to its members. Discussions have been held with a number of industry associations to determine if they could provide the AWIA with additional services on a fee for service basis. Whilst many of our larger members have direct access to legal, OH&S and industrial support, a number of small and medium members would value assistance in these areas. Unfortunately, we have not been able to find an appropriate fit at this stage; however, we will continue to investigate avenues that will enhance our services to members.



It is with regret I have to advise members that **Malcolm Michael** our Director / Secretary for the last 8 years has decided to relinquish his position with the Association. **Malcolm** is also the Managing Director of **M&F Group** and due to ongoing work pressures in his own business, unfortunately feels that he can no longer do justice to both roles.

As a consequence of **Malcolm's** decision, the National committee at its last meeting appointed **Richard Newbigin** to fill this role. **Richard** is well known to members having served as President, Treasurer and Southern Region chairman. Until recently, **Richard** was the Managing Director of **Jex Industries**. **Richard** will commence his duties on the 1st July 2015.

Along with your National committee I would like to thank **Malcolm** for his years of dedicated service as President then Director / Secretary. **Malcolm** has been instrumental in the many upgrades to our websites as well as planning and executing many successful conferences. We wish **Malcolm** ongoing success in his own business activities. **Malcolm** has offered to assist **Richard** in any way to ensure his transition into the Director / Secretary role will be seamless.

John Guest
AWIA President 2014

AWIA Sponsors



Fencing Members

- 0508 TempFence
- 1300TempFence
- AAC Temp Fence
- Aaurora Fencing GC Pty Ltd
- Advanced National Services
- Advanced Steel Products Ltd
- Aim Fencing
- All Temporary Fencing
- Ambit Industries
- ARC Fences
- ATF Services
- Atlas Rodek Fencing
- Australian Security Fencing
- Australian Steel & Wire
- Barry Bond Fencing
- CAI Fences
- Carrick Hoarding Hire
- Centurion Temporary Fencing
- Chainmesh Security Fencing
- Citywide Temporary Fencing
- Coast Wire Fencing
- Crown Temporary Fencing
- Diamond Fence (Aust) Pty Ltd
- Diamond Security Fencing WA
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- Doogood Powder Coating Pty Ltd
- Downee
- Emu Wire Industries
- Fahey Fence Hire
- Fence Hire WA
- Fence It WA
- Fencescape Fencing
- Fence Works
- Fencing Australia Pty Ltd
- Fencepac
- FenceWright
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- Jackal Fencing
- JSB Fencing & Machinery Hire
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- Protective Fencing Pty Ltd
- Ready Fence NSW
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- SiteTech Solutions
- Superior Fences and Gates
- Supreme Fence & Gate (Aust)
- Supreme Line Fencing
- Taylor Fencing
- Temp Fenz
- Temporary Fence Hire
- The Temp Fence Shop
- Totem Fencing
- Ultracourts Pty Ltd
- Vater Distributors
- Victorian Temporary Fencing
- Visible Temporary Fencing
- WA Temporary Fencing Supplies



**NEW SOUTH WALES
FENCING
CHAPTER**

During a visit to Sydney in March 2015, Secretary **Brian Mullarvey** met with **Sports Contractors Association's** President **Mark Edmondson** and Secretary **Robyn Wilcox** to compare notes on recent developments regarding specifications for club and commercial tennis court fencing.

We are appreciative the **Sports Association** has given permission to make available to our members copies of their suggested specification for commercial and residential chain-link tennis court fencing.

It has been decided the **Sports Contractors Association** and the **AFIA** will together meet with **Tennis Australia** later this year to discuss the best way forward to provide information to Councils, Tennis Associations and contractors on specifying club tennis court fencing when it is envisaged that wind break or shade cloth materials will be attached.

brian@wireassociation.com.au



**WESTERN AUSTRALIA
FENCING CHAPTER**

Malcolm Michael is planning to visit temporary and permanent fencing members and colleagues in Perth in the next few weeks.

Amongst other topics, **Malcolm** will be seeking input into any proposed review of the Australian Standard AS 2423 - 2002 - Coated steel wire fencing products. The types of fencing products included in this standard are barb wire, wire netting, chain-link fabric and welded mesh panels.

Malcolm will also brief temporary fencing colleagues on the discussions held so far in relation to seeking a review of the Temporary Fencing and Hoarding Standard AS 4687 - 2007.

We are particularly interested in canvassing views on bracing methods for temporary fencing in areas subject to high wind gusts or are in cyclone prone areas along the coast of WA.

malcolm@wireassociation.com.au



**VICTORIAN
FENCING CHAPTER
REPORT**

Fencing Chairman **Ray Otter** welcomed 17 members to the Victorian fencing chapter's meeting at the Tower Hotel, Hawthorn in March 2015.

Ray briefed members on the issues recently encountered at a metropolitan club tennis court complex where a decision had been made to retrofit windbreak materials to the newly completed court fencing. The installer of the windbreak mats had informed the club the pipe structure was inadequate to safely support the windbreak mats if the fencing was exposed to strong wind gusts.

Following discussions with the club and other stakeholders, the Association in conjunction with a structural engineer, proposed a solution whereby beefing up the existing intermediate posts with additional pilot support posts would allow windbreak materials to be safely attached.

Following the Association's involvement in providing technical information and advice to the council and tennis club on this project it is recognised there is a need for better early information to be available to architects, councils and tennis clubs when tennis court complexes are being planned which will incorporate windbreaks or shade cloth coverings.

The Australian Standard AS 1725-2010. Part 3, does not provide any post design guidelines to specifiers when coverings are applied to the chain-link fabric.

The Association has taken the initiative of engaging a structural engineer to provide some basic engineering information which can be incorporated into a standard drawing which will give stakeholders some guidance when planning commercial and club courts which have windbreak or shade cloth material attached.

The meeting was also briefed on a future project to compile draft specifications for "heavy duty" and "light duty" chain-link security fencing compliant to AS1725-2005 Part 1. The project is being undertaken in conjunction with an Architectural specification provider who distributes building specifications to around 2500 clients throughout Australia. Eventually when completed these specifications will be posted on the Fencing website.

Rod Wilkie from **MTS** attended the meeting and briefed members on progress with the Temp. Fence and Hoarding Standard review.

Brian Mullarvey

Email: brian@wireassociation.com.au

APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR / SECRETARY AWIA



The National committee has much pleasure in announcing that **Richard Newbigin** has been appointed as Director / Secretary of the **AWIA** effective 1st July 2015.

Richard is well known to many members having joined the Association in 1998, served on the committee from 2000 to 2012 and has held positions as Victorian

Southern Regional Chairman, National President and National treasurer.

Until recently **Richard** was the Managing Director of **Jex Industries** in Melbourne and brings to the Association a wealth of business and hands on manufacturing expertise.

Having been an owner in a wire processing business, he is acutely aware of the pressures and issues that are facing many of our small and medium business members in these challenging economic times.

We are confident that **Richard** is well equipped to guide our organisation in the future to be able to add value to the members' businesses we service.

VALE BOB LOVELL

It is very sad to inform everyone that one of our past and staunchest members, **Robert Lovell** from **Lovells Springs**, passed away in April after a long illness.

I attend his funeral on behalf of the AWIA and want to thank **Dennis Norton** from **Illawarra Springs** for his eulogy on behalf of our industry and his lovely wife **Bev**, for her help.



Robert was the 3rd generation in the company started in 1930. **Lovells Springs** became a major player in the spring industry including the springs for the royal carriage in the UK.

Robert was very instrumental in encouraging fellow spring makers to join the spring association and was also the key person in obtaining a better price and service for material for other spring makers, helping

them all navigate through the difficult ups and downs of the 80's and 90's. This approach really reflects the person **Robert** was in helping the industry and other spring makers even though they were essentially in opposition.

Robert was on the NSW committee for many years. **Robert** and **Bev** were always a delight at our conferences and social get togethers where his enthusiasm was always there and appreciated. Even when times became very difficult **Robert** put the wellbeing of his employees, suppliers and customers before his own, a true reflection of the person he was.

He will be sorely missed by those who knew him and I am sure he is still tinkering with heating and making springs up there.

Malcolm Michael

DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE 2 AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS FOR CHAIN-LINK TENNIS COURT FENCING?

When the Australian Chain-link Fencing standard AS1725 was revised in 2010, it was separated into five sections. Two of these parts refer to Tennis court fencing.

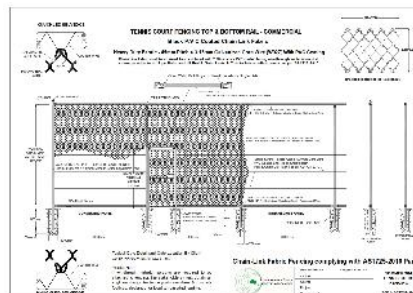
Part 2. - Tennis court fencing - Commercial, is intended for use by councils, schools, tennis clubs and tennis associations. It is used where player participation is generally higher and therefore requires a commercially stronger (heavy duty) construction design for longer service life.

Part 3. - Tennis court Fencing - Private / Residential, this standard applies to tennis court fencing intended for residential and private use only, where player participation is generally lower than commercial courts. The level of player participation and potential impact damage to chain-link fabric should be considered when selecting heavy and light duty chain-link fabric.

Over recent months the **AFIA** has been developing a standard drawing for commercial tennis court fencing which will comply with the Australian Standard, AS1725-2010 Part 2.

Currently, this drawing has been circulated to a number of state tennis associations, fencing companies and contractors to verify its installation recommendations coincide with local state requirements.

When the document has been approved for circulation it will be posted on the Association's web page to assist tennis court designers, architects and councils specify fencing that is compliant with the Australian standards.



It must be stressed, the proposed **AFIA standard commercial tennis court drawing** is **not** designed to have windbreak or shade cloth attached to the chain-link fabric. The Australian Standard suggests purchaser / specifiers should separately obtain an engineer's recommendation and design for fence members and attachment of supports when windbreak materials are expected to be attached. The engineer's fence design will depend on the area wind category and the likely exposure to local wind gusts.



Photo: Tennis court fence which seemingly wasn't engineered to allow for local wind gusts.



WHY REVIEW THE AUSTRALIAN TEMPORARY FENCING AND HOARDING STANDARD?

Several representatives on the Temporary Fencing Standards Review working group met on January 29th to review progress with the preparation of a submission to Standards Australia to review AS4687 - 2007 Temporary Fencing & Hoarding standard.

A view was expressed it could be as little as 5% of the total installation work being done by the industry which has brought us to the situation where the current standard needs review.

This 5% of work revolves around jobs where shade cloth is attached to temporary fencing panels or projects when an engineer's specification makes references to wind speeds set out in AS1170. Also includes temporary fences which lack integral stability which have been installed by incompetent installers.

It was the consensus of the meeting that it would be preferable to tweak some aspects of the current standard, as opposed to completely rewriting the standard. This would have the desired effect of clarifying the practices needing attention and not jeopardising the current practices of the remaining 95% of work in the temporary fencing industry.

It was recognized there is growing interest by more engineers in the specifying community on the effects of wind forces on the stability of temporary fencing and hoardings.

It is also felt the public disquiet regarding fencing and hoarding collapses will also focus regulator's attention in this area.



Photos: Recent examples of collapsed Temporary fencing with shade cloth attached upturned during strong wind gusts

The meeting endorsed the proposal that we should press on to make representation to Standards Australia to initiate a review of AS 4687 - 2007.

Other points made at the meeting were:

1. Stability problems often result after developers / builders attach shade cloth or signs to the temporary fencing without informing the hirer of their intention to do so.
2. Major cause of loss of integrity of temporary fencing is when sub-contractors disconnect panels to gain access and then do not re-connect in an appropriate manner.
3. The testing regime in section 4 of the standard for temporary fencing was conceived before the attachment of shade cloth was widely practiced.
4. It was identified the testing regime set out in Section 4 was not totally adequate to test the stability of temporary hoardings and further tests may need to be designed.

5. Temporary fencing on residential building sites still accounts for the majority of temporary fencing market. Most of this temporary fencing does not have shade cloth attached; however the trend in some areas to attach shade cloth is growing.
6. Need to encourage retail suppliers of temporary fencing to include installation details as a matter of course.
7. There appears to be no discernible test of strength on temporary fence fittings and connectors.
8. It was considered that if there was a mandatory requirement to meet the wind speed performance criteria as called for by AS1170.2, it would likely render a significant proportion of existing temporary fencing and hoarding systems which are commonly supplied in Australia as noncompliant.
9. It was agreed that the possibility of separating the temporary fencing and hoardings into two separate standards was unlikely. The current hoarding section will need to be expanded.
10. There is an ongoing need to make the requirements contained in AS4687 more widely known to specifiers including councils, statutory instrumentalities and relevant Government departments.

The Association considers it important to convey to the building and construction industry that TFAA members of the Association possess the necessary installation skills and experience to enable them to install stable temporary fencing taking into account any inherent risks associated with the site and location.



Photos: Examples of where TFAA members have incorporated different bracing and fence design to build stability into their temporary fencing in areas subject to possible stronger wind gusts.



Brian Mullarvey

Secretary
Temporary Fencing Association
Australasia



Swimming Pool Safety

In February 2015 **Merv Just** represented the **AWIA** at the CS-034 committee meeting in Sydney relating to AS 2818 - 1993 "Guide to swimming pool safety". The purpose of the meeting was to discuss what action should be taken in regards to a review of AS2818 - 1993.

The feedback from the committee was that AS2818 - 1993 was not current and that **Standards Australia** may not be the most appropriate forum to produce safety guidelines partly due to Australian Standards documents not being freely available to the public and that they are not live documents.

Pool safety guides are already published by **Royal Life Saving Society** (who are also members of the CS-034 Committee). They are regularly updated and are freely available to the public.

The committee decided subject to a review by **Standards Australia** and the committee, to determine whether AS2818 - 1993 "Guide to swimming pool safety" is cited in any legislation. It would be likely that the committee will recommend withdrawing this Standard from circulation.

It was considered that the withdrawal of AS2818 - 1993 would not have any bearing on AS1926.1 Part 1 Safety barriers for swimming pools.

A ballot will be conducted in due course to determine the status of AS2818 - 1993 "Guide to Swimming Pool safety".

Report prepared by **Merv Just, Playsafe Fencing Pty Ltd.**

mjust@playsafefencing.com.au

PICK WHICH TEMPORARY FENCE IS SPANISH, WHICH IS LOCAL



On overseas trips one often sees examples of temporary fencing that are below the installations standards we feel acceptable.

Unfortunately, there are still local hirers and installers who don't seem to have the skill sets or expertise to install temporary fencing which is stable, and does not present a risk of overturning and causing injury to the passing public.

Many Councils now have regulations regarding the risk to injury; sometimes it is evident that these bylaws are not being enforced.



Are the compliance tests in the Australian Standard AS4687 relevant to shopping centre hoardings ?



"Wall collapse in Melbourne Shopping Mall leaves six injured"

was a headline this month in several metropolitan and local papers as well as postings on internet services.

It referred to a temporary wooden hoarding which collapsed at the **Cranbourne Shopping Centre**. Two of those injured were hospitalised. The hoarding was reported to have run along the main corridor of the shopping mall, surrounding an area which was being refurbished.

It was speculated "high winds may have been the cause behind the wall collapse". One source indicated that a gust of wind came from open rear doors of an abandoned supermarket, however, until a thorough investigation is conducted by **Worksafe** this is all speculation.

Incidents such as the above, focuses the public's attention on the safety aspects of temporary structures which are in close proximity of public thoroughfares.

It has been noted that more hoarding companies are including references on their website which specifically indicate their hoarding products comply with the Australian Standard AS4687 in regards to impact and overturning tests.

When the CE008 standards committee compiled the draft Australian Temporary Fencing and Hoarding Standard and its relevant compliance tests in 2006, these tests were focused around wire based temporary fencing. It could well be time to look at whether more specific tests should be included for temporary external hoardings and whether the tests in the Standard have relevance to shopping centre internal hoardings.

Rod Wilkie from **Melbourne Testing Services (Rod)** participated on original CE008 committee) has agreed to take members' calls on queries on hoarding testing and discuss the options.

Contact (03) 9560 2759

rodwilkie@melbtest.com.au



FUTURE EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

National Manufacturing Week 2015
Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, **26th-29th May**
Australia's premier manufacturing exhibition
www.nationalmanufacturingweek.com.au

AWIA National Committee Dinner in Melbourne
All members welcome to join us during **National Manufacturing Week 26th-29th May. Final date and location T.B.A**

AWIA National Conference (September or October 2015)
Time and place to be confirmed

INTERNATIONAL

Wire Southeast Asia 2015, 16th-18th September 2015
Bangkok, Thailand
The major wire exhibition in Southeast Asia
www.wire-southeastasia.com

Wire South America 2015, 6th-8th October 2015
Sao Paulo, Brazil
www.wire-south-america.com

AFA Fencetech 2016. 12th-15th January
Nashville, Tennessee, USA
The 54th **FENCETECH** brings together the industry's leading manufacturers, distributors, contractors and specifiers to showcase the latest products and services in the industry.
<http://americanfenceassociation.com/fencetech-2016/>

Wire 2016, 4th-8th April, 2016
Dusseldorf, Germany
www.wire.de

Bauma 2016, 11th-17th April 2016
31st exhibition for the world's leading trade fair for construction machinery, building material machines, mining machines, mesh and reinforcing machines, construction vehicles and equipment.
www.bauma.de/en



The 11th International **Wire & Cable Trade Fair for Southeast Asia** will be held at the Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre (BITEC) Bangkok Thailand, between 16–18 September 2015. This biennial trade fair was first held in Singapore in 1995 and was relocated to Bangkok in 2007.

The range of products displayed at the fair includes machinery for Wire processing and finishing; Fastener technology and production; Spring making; Process technology tools; Test engineering and environmental protection.

You may like to look at including this fair in your next family trip to Asia.

The fair is organised by Dusseldorf Asia.

More information www.wire-southeastasia.com



The **Safety First Conference & Expo** is Australia's complete safety event, co-located with **National Manufacturing Week, Austech** and the **SMART Supply Chain & Logistics Conference** at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre on **26-29 May 2015**.

Safety First Conference & Expo will feature a dedicated exhibition showcasing the latest technologies, products and services to improve safety standards and compliance and reduce safety expenditure. The primary sectors to be represented include:

- Personal Protective Equipment
- Machine Safety
- Fire & Life Safety
- Hygiene & Cleaning
- Workplace Health & Wellness
- ICT for Safety
- Electrical Safety
- Safety Services
- General Safety

Running alongside the expo will be an industry-leading conference that will deliver essential information for business owners and managers wanting to protect their business from risk, and their people from workplace safety hazards. Delegates will take away practical solutions and learn from industry leaders on best practice, legislation and financial liability.



WIRE LINK NEWSLETTER
AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL

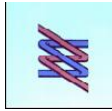
This newsletter can be forwarded to you or members of your staff simply by sending a request and your email details to:

brian@wireassociation.com.au

Previous copies of this newsletter are available on:

www.wireassociation.com.au

then click on linked Associations – "**Australasian Fence Industry Association**", lastly click on "**News**" tag.



Australian Government

ABN Lookup

Do you really know who you are dealing with? Sometimes it's worth checking out the business name given to you to match its ABN number or check that the business is actually a registered identity.

Simply by typing "**ABN Lookup**" into your search engine will bring up this site. Then typing the name the business or the ABN into this free web site will get you this information.

ABN Lookup is the public view of the **Australian Business Register (ABR)**. It provides access to publicly available information supplied by businesses when they register for an Australian Business Number (ABN).

AWIA NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The National committee met in Sydney at **Sanwa's Edgecliff offices** on 18th March 2015.

Director / Secretary **Malcolm Michael** told the meeting the ongoing negotiations with the **Australian Steel Institute (ASI)** to provide administrative and support services for the Association had not been successful.

The committee then heard a presentation from the National Manager Business Advisory Services from the **Australian Industry Group (Ai Group)**. The **Ai Group** is Australia's largest industry association.

Within this organisation they have an Association Management Division which offers an extensive range of low cost secretariat, lobbying and administrative support services to incorporated industry associations.

A written presentation was received from the **Ai Group** outlining services they could provide to our Association. This submission will be considered by the committee members over the next few months.

After nearly 8 years as the Director / Secretary, **Malcolm Michael** has regrettably tendered his resignation from this role, citing time pressures in his own business.

The National committee endorsed the appointment of **Richard Newbigin** to carry forward the work of the Association.

Also on the committee's agenda was the format and frequency of future conferences. In recent times there has been a noticeable decline in the numbers of members and partners attending the annual conferences.

It is still felt that the conferences provide an excellent opportunity for members, colleagues and suppliers to network and share ideas on the wire and fencing industry. However, the cost pressures and time away from their businesses has influenced a number of members to miss recent conferences.

The format and frequency of future conferences will be high on **Richard's** agenda when he commences in July.

APPLICATIONS - TRAINING AWARD

The **Wire Industry Association** is now calling nominations for its 2015 **Training Award**.

This \$2500 cash award is presented annually to an employee of an **AWIA** member. Whilst originally restricted to employees in the spring industry, nominations are now welcomed from all **AWIA** members whether they be fencing companies, temporary fencing hirers, spring makers, wire formers, component makers or industry suppliers.

The **AWIA Training Award** program is designed to promote the continued educational and technical advancement of the industry by providing the recipient with a cash award which can be used to:

- ** Purchase training manuals / books or other software which is wire industry related
- ** Enable the employee to enrol in an educational course offered by a University or TAFE
- ** Assist with costs in attending an international training course or exhibition run by accredited associations such as **Wire Association International, Spring Manufacturers Institute, Institute of Spring technology, Stainless Steel Development Group, American Wire Producers Association, Wire & Cable Industry Suppliers Association** or other relevant wire organisation.

The award may be based on any of the following:

- ** Awarded to the most outstanding student who attended a recent **AWIA Training Program** or:
- ** Awarded in recognition of a new invention / design relative to wire, wire products and wire work by an employee working with a member company or:
- ** Awarded in recognition of a technical and / or scientific paper published on wire topics by an **AWIA** member's employee or:
- ** Awarded in recognition for services to the Industry by a member's employee in advancing the technology, knowledge, research machinery, tooling and other meritorious work as deemed valid for the award by the trustees.
- ** Awarded in recognition to an **AWIA** member company's employee who has shown outstanding dedication to service in their workplace or has achieved remarkable personal advancement in their career.

Application forms can be sourced by contacting **Malcolm Michael**, malcolm@wireassociation.com.au or downloading one from the AWIA website / news page.

Entries should be received no later than **31st July 2015**.

The 2015 **AWIA Training Scholarship Award** is valued at **\$2500** and the winner will be announced in August 2015.

Last year's winner, **Kylie Azzopardi**, used her award to visit **CASMI** in Chicago





WIRE AND SPRING MEMBERS

- Ability Works
- Ace Wire Works
- APAC Wire Technology
- Ariston Wire
- Australian Steel & Wire
- Australian Mesh
- Automatic Wire
- Bayswater Plastic Coaters
- Bekaert Singapore
- Bernhart Springs
- Better Springs
- Bliss & Reels
- Boynes Springs
- Castle International
- Fraser Hrones
- Icoa Australia
- Idee Parfait
- Industrial Engineers Spring Makers
- Jex Industries
- Jubilee Springs
- M&F Group
- Machinery Forum
- Marsh Springs & Metal Products
- Mesh Works
- Multi Slide Industries
- National Springs & Wire Products NZ
- NZ Spring Works Ltd
- One Steel Market Mills
- Quality Springs
- R.E. Walters
- S&S Springs
- S.A. Wire Ware
- Sanwa
- Smart Weld NZ Ltd
- Spring Specialists Ltd
- Stainless Steel Wire Products
- Superior Industries NZ
- Wiredex Wire Products
- Wire Mesh Industries
- Wiretainers Pty Ltd
- Wire Displays

Mesh Welding Technology Changes

For decades mesh welders have traditionally used AC welding for the great majority of applications. Its lower cost and effective welding has been well utilised and satisfactory for many markets. A certain amount of DC welding is used for specific application where better quality welds were required.

In more recent times the changes in design, technology, increased reliability and reduction in cost, has started to change the face of conventional mesh welding.

Now there is far more automation enabling faster changeover resulting in increased productivity and in many cases far outperforming the conventional AC mesh welder.

One of the big steps forward is medium frequency welding (MFDC). Instead of the conventional 50 cycle AC welding, MFDC welding typically uses about 1000 cycle DC providing a host of benefits. The cost differential has now decreased substantially over AC welding and there is now an increase in reliability over AC welding.

Benefits of MFDC Welding versus AC Welding

1. Significant energy savings because MFDC requires shorter weld times and less energy also resulting in lower greenhouse effect.
2. MFDC results in almost unity power factor, reducing energy costs and penalties by the electricity providers plus removes the possible need for power factor correction often required for new installations.
3. Much flatter product due to less heat required and utilising direct welding design. This is particularly beneficial in products such as 358 mesh and meshes with small and closer wires.
4. Better load distribution as MFDC typically uses 3 phases, less harmonics and reduced current peaks experienced with AC welding.
5. Better quality welds due to less heat and less splatter compared to conventional AC welding. Also results in less wear and tear on the electrodes.
6. Able to weld a wider range of products such as aluminium due to the ability to control the welding current much more precisely.
7. MFDC eliminates the intercool state between cycles, thus permitting shorter weld times.

Malcolm Michael

**Wire Member Profiles
IDEE PARFAIT PTY LTD**

Idee Parfait has been a trusted supplier of needs to the wire drawing and spring industry since 1999. They have been a member of the Wire Industry Association since 2006.

General Manager, **Steve Sviecka** is well known in the industry for his expert knowledge in matters concerning the manufacture of wire and especially in regards to wire dies and wire handling equipment.

Steve is located at their Morningside Brisbane office. The company has distribution centres in Derrimut, Melbourne and East Tamaki in Auckland in NZ.

Steve's 12 year background in the chemical industry grounded him well to provide expert advice on wire drawing lubricants and coatings.

The company holds a wide range of agencies supplying auxiliary products used in wire industry. Among the companies he represents are **Paramount** - Dies; **Traxit** - Lubricants; **Sjogren** - Drawing Lines; **WWM** - Welding Wire Machines and **Mario Frigerio** - Wire Rollers and Straighteners.

In his time in the Industry **Steve** has witnessed the contraction of wire manufacturing activity in Australia but he remains confident there is a place for niche operations manufacturing specialty products, however to remain viable these operations must be innovative and achieve high levels of productivity.



"The WIRE LINK"

is an industry newsletter publication by the Australasian Wire Industry Association Inc.

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ARBN 103 377 537

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Disclaimer

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