



WELCOME

Welcome to the Spring 2006 edition of XLERPLATE® *Steel In Touch*. Back in November 2004, we launched our first issue – so a big ‘thank you’ for your interest and ongoing support.

We’ve now conducted a reader survey to gauge how we are going – and you’ve come back to us with strong feedback.

We had a great response, with the majority of readers either happy or delighted with *Steel In Touch*.

You like what you’re reading about innovative uses of steel and developments in the industry.

You also want to know more about major projects in other States. We’ll bring this to you – along with more product information, feature stories and economic information.

In this edition we announce the winner of our reader competition (see back for details). Moving to the big picture, we also look at China’s robust economy.

On behalf of *Steel In Touch* and the XLERPLATE® steel team, thanks again for all your feedback and support.

Tony Fotea
State Sales Manager - Queensland

STEEL CARVES ITS NAME IN NRL HISTORY

Work is underway on the Gold Coast’s \$160 million Robina Stadium that will be home to new NRL side the Gold Coast Titans from 2008.

Watpac Construction is building the 25,000-seat rectangular venue. It will use about 3,000 tonnes of XLERPLATE® steel supplied by Smorgon Steel.

“We’ve sourced Grade 250 XLERPLATE® steel for the main columns and 25-60mm Grade 350 XLERPLATE® steel for other elements,” Smorgon’s Sales Manager



of Business Development Tony Wheeler said.

“It’s a flagship job because it’s a stadium with a unique design.”

The bulk of the superstructure is a steel-framed bowl covered by a curved 23,000 square metre fabric roof. A four-level steel-framed grandstand will sit on the western side of the stadium.

The plan includes a 500-seat function room, 100 open corporate boxes, 25 closed corporate suites and 16 food and beverage outlets.

The Queensland Government’s Major Sports Facilities Authority will own and operate Robina Stadium and plans to use it as a venue for rugby union and soccer as well as NRL.



XLERPLATE® STEEL TAPS UNTOUCHED WATERS

Pipes made by a Brisbane company are the key to tapping into an extra 40 billion litres of water a year for Sydney residents.

Rollpress Proplate Group (RPG) has manufactured pipes, some weighing up to 20 tonnes, to access deeper water at Warragamba Dam for emergency water supplies.

While the dam 65km west of Sydney can provide the city an extra six months water during an extreme drought, 10 per cent of its water capacity remains untapped because it sits below the lowest outlet point.

The pipes are part of a modification project being carried out by engineering and construction company Boulderstone Hornibrook to build new pumping stations and pipelines for the dam.



A pipe section in RPG's Brisbane workshop.

The pipes will be used to pump water from the bottom of Warragamba Dam to a treatment plant at the top. Work on both has been completed.

RPG's Sales and Marketing General Manager Richard Kearns said the \$2 million dollar pipeline contract was a complex one and RPG was proud to be associated with Boulderstone Hornibrook on the project.

flanges, manufactured branch lines and clutch plates and assembled them at the company's Wacol factory.

"The pipes are hydro-tested and pressurised to 20 bar, so they can withstand more than three times the pressure applied to average household pipes."

"Some of the pipes are six metres long with a diameter of 2.7 metres so they're three times as big as a car," he said. "We delivered 28 truckloads to Warragamba Dam and most were over-dimensional – some single loads weighing close to 20 tonnes."

Mr Kearns said RPG cut and rolled Grade 250 XLERPLATE® steel into pipes, welded necessary

CHINA FORGES FURTHER AHEAD

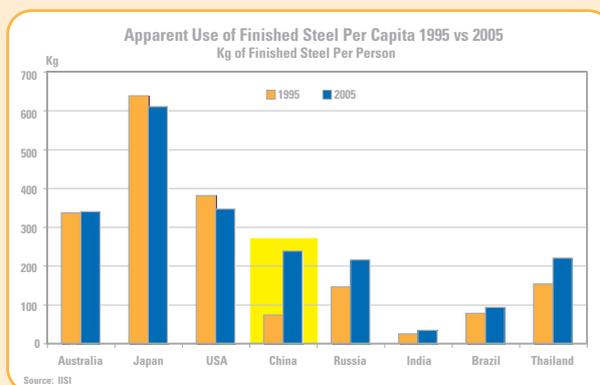
China's economy is now the fourth largest in the world, having recently overtaken the UK. China's share of world GDP, on a Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) basis has quadrupled over the last 25 years to almost 16 per cent last year.

Beyond 2006, construction investment is expected to continue growing but at more sustainable levels. Meanwhile, the manufacturing sector continues to expand aggressively and China's positive net export position is expected to improve further.

Investment in the steel industry has risen more than 400 per cent since 2001, which now sees China account for one in every three tonnes of steel produced and consumed globally.

There are now eight steel makers in China producing over 10 million tonnes a year, or 30 per cent of total Chinese production. China's demand for raw materials, including iron ore, has soared to meet the needs of the steel industry and general economy.

China's per capita steel consumption has grown dramatically over the past 10 years. The experience of Japan and other developed economies suggests



that if the Chinese economy continues to grow at its current pace, there is strong potential for further healthy steel consumption growth.

Of some concern however, is that while economic growth has brought improved living standards, growth has not been totally benign. Pollution is damaging agricultural land and human health in the major cities as the basic air and water quality standards continue to deteriorate.

Addressing environmental issues remains one of the government's main challenges into the future. The government is likely to make companies invest in more stringent emission control technology, which will add to their costs of production.

UPGRADE TO ROLLING MILL

The Port Kembla Steelworks Plate Mill undertook a refit of Rolling Stand One incoming side guards in July. Stand One outgoing side guards will also be replaced soon.

The Stand One side guards had not been replaced for three years and the mechanical equipment had experienced substantial wear.

The side guards are an integral part of the set-up for Stand One rolling mill and edger. They are also responsible for centring the steel in the rolling mill to ensure accurate plate width measurements.

"Before the refit our operators had to allow for 10-40mm of margin when rolling XLERPLATE® steel," Plate Mill Manager Gerard Mahoney said.

"The refit has reduced that margin to just plus or minus 2mm, allowing us to deliver a better quality product to customers because the plates will be closer to the ordered width."

The Plate Mill plans to roll at least 388,000 tonnes of XLERPLATE® steel this financial year.

SAFETY MESSAGE: CROSSING DANGER

Fewer than one per cent of all road fatalities result from crashes between trains and road vehicles, yet nearly all such accidents result in death.

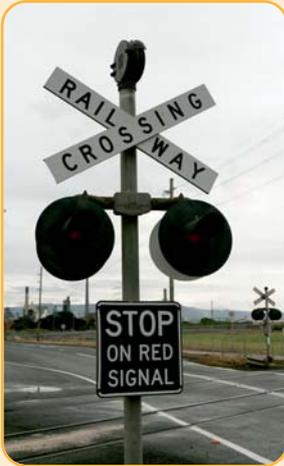
While most fatal road/rail crashes involve cars, 15 per cent involve heavy trucks.

A recent Australian study indicated that drivers' failure to take sufficient care or action was the major cause of such crashes.

More than 80 per cent of road/rail crashes happen in daylight, in fine weather and on straight, dry roads. More than half happen at crossings with electronic warning systems. And more than 60 per cent of drivers and motorcyclists are hit by trains – rather than running into the sides of trains.

Please remember, when you see a sign indicating a railway crossing:

- Slow down
- Look and listen carefully
- Always assume there's a train on the track.



MACKAY COMPANY MINES SEAM OF SUCCESS

Queensland company The Anderson Group is setting the pace as a rapidly growing service provider to Australia's booming coal mining industry.

Established in Mackay in 1994, the group has steadily grown and now has branches in Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW).

The Anderson Group consists of Anderson Industries, Anderson Mine Services and Anderson Mining Hire.

Anderson Mine Services now ranks as one of Australia's leading underground coal mining services contractors, specialising in the design, fabrication and installation of mine ventilation devices including stoppings, seals, regulators, machine doors, man doors and overcasts.

Anderson Mine Services' fabrication department manufactures ventilation and methane drainage systems, mining consumables and specifically designed products to support the underground coal industry.

Anderson Mine Services makes extensive use of XLERPLATE® steel in the fabrication of ventilation devices.

"We use steel from BlueScope Steel, which we source through OneSteel, because we never have any problem with quality and their technical support is everything that you could want," Company Director Greg Anderson said.

"Ventilation devices are a crucial part of every



Anderson Mine Services Company Director Greg Anderson.

underground mining operation. Their design, fabrication and installation are areas where our expertise has made us dominant in the Queensland market, and we are now poised to expand into NSW.

"We manufacture machine doors and man doors used in mines and regulators, which can be adjusted to control the amount of air movement within a mine," Mr Anderson said.

"Our overcast structures separate fresh intake air and contaminated return air. They can be very simple or quite complex and generally they are all unique to suit the particular circumstances for which they are designed."

These overcasts, designed as modular units, are fabricated in the Anderson Mine Services workshops, then undergo a trial assembly before being taken underground.

BLUESCOPE EMPLOYEES IN THE KNOW

BlueScope Steel employees are keen to know more about their customers, according to a recent internal survey.

Ninety-two staff members from across all departments of the Port Kembla Steelworks and service providers including Transfield and Hatch were asked to answer questions about customers and their relationships with them.

Employees strongly identified a need to strengthen their knowledge of what BlueScope Steel's customers wanted.

They agreed their actions within their respective jobs impacted on the satisfaction level of BlueScope Steel's customers, which they see is also linked to business performance. Employees also wanted to learn more about what BlueScope Steel customers want.



BlueScope Steel employees Breelee Traynor, Graham Solomon and Gemma Knight took part in the internal survey.

The XLERPLATE® Team

76 Lysaght Street

PO Box 302

Acacia Ridge QLD 4110

Phone: 07 3845 9350

Fax: 07 3845 9393

E-mail:

Tony.Fotea@bluescopesteel.com

Simon.Ritchie@bluescopesteel.com



Tony Fotea
State Sales Manager



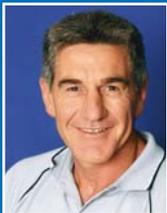
Simon Ritchie
Account Manager

XLERPLATE® Customer Service Group

Phone: 1300 135 004

Fax: 1300 135 003

E-mail: Keven.May@bluescopesteel.com



Keven May
Customer Service Officer

For technical enquiries
call 1800 800 789

For XLERCOIL® enquiries
call 1800 008 247

Xlerplate®



The Steel in Touch Newsletter has been prepared for information purposes only. BlueScope Steel makes no representation or warranty as to the completeness or accuracy of the information contained in the Newsletter. You must make your own assessment of the information contained in the Newsletter and rely on it wholly at your own risk.

IN THE HOT SEAT STAN CLARK

Name: Stan Clark

Job title: National Sales Manager – Distribution & Manufacturing

No. of years with BlueScope Steel: 19 years – started at NZ Steel in 1987

No. of years in the steel industry: Steel has always been in my life

Description of current role: Provide leadership in my sectors, for Industrial Markets

Previous position: International Marketing Manager for Packaging Products

Previous position duties: Develop strategy and promote export sales of Tinplate and Blackplate

Woman I most admire: Difficult one. Apart from my mum and wife, it would have to be someone like Princess Di

Man I most admire: Again apart from my dad, probably the late ex-NZ PM David Lange

Emails received on average per day: Around 40

Best invention of the last century: Organ Donor Card

Worst television program: Don't care! Best ones

are BBC drama/comedy though

Time I spend in my car each day: 20 mins, unless I go to Sydney

Hardest habit to break: I tend to time things to the last minute

Favourite drink: Has to be Heineken

Best car on the road/favourite car of all times: Jaguar XK8

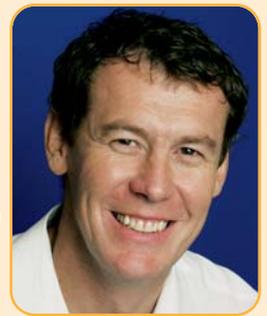
Most useless possession: The kilt I wore when I was seven

Favourite outdoor recreational activity: Association Football (soccer) and Mountain Biking

What kick-starts my day: Seeing my three sons off to school

If I had \$1m to blow it would be on... a Jag XK8 of course, my parents and world travel with my family each year until it runs out

Favourite holiday destination ever: Scotland on a sunny day in Autumn (very rare!)



WHAT'S HE DOING NOW? JASON ZAFIRIADIS

Former Queensland Account Manager Jason Zafiriadis may have moved interstate, but still a Queenslander at heart.

Since moving to Port Kembla 10 months ago to take up the position of National Account Manager for the pipe and tube sector, he's missed the warm climate and warm people he dealt with on the job in Queensland.

"Queenslanders are more down-



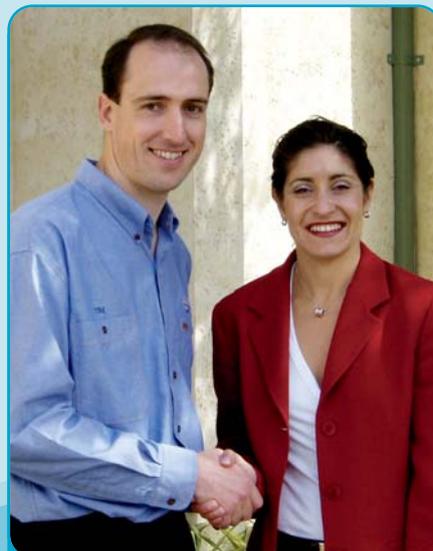
Jason hands out pineapple to his NSW colleagues the day after Queensland's win of the State Of Origin series for 2006.

to-earth and it's easy to build relationships and maintain them," he said.

In a show of true Queensland spirit, he's been making the most of his free time by making new friends and staying in shape.

"I've joined the surf club and rugby club and have been spending time with my family and going to the beach," he said.

READERS BACK STEEL IN TOUCH



Winner Tim Elkington of WA-based RCR Tomlinson with State Sales Manager Elly Pilkadaris.

Congratulations to Tim Elkington from RCR Tomlinson in WA for winning our reader survey competition prize; a 32-inch LCD TV. Thanks to everyone who responded to our series of questions about *Steel In Touch*.

A whopping 40 per cent of you responded – most saying you're delighted or happy with the newsletter and find the stories relevant to your day-to-day business.

Around 98 per cent of you liked the feature stories, product news and industry news, with comments including: "It's a very well-rounded newsletter which covers everything", and "The mix is about right."

Two thirds said you'd like to have your company or your customers featured in the newsletter, which tells us you're proud to be involved. So please call or email us and let us know what you're up to, and keep an eye out for more informative stories in our Summer edition.