



WELCOME

Welcome to the Spring 2006 edition of XLERPLATE® *Steel In Touch*. This time last year we launched our first issue – so a big ‘thank you’ for your interest and ongoing support.

To mark our first year, we conducted a reader survey to gauge how we are going – and you came 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.

Simon Fieldsend
State Sales Manager - Victoria & Tasmania

HAYWARDS BRIDGES BASS STRAIT FOR EASTLINK

Tasmanian company Haywards Steel Fabrication and Construction has shipped hundreds of tonnes of XLERPLATE® steel across Bass Strait for a major 242-metre-long bridge on Melbourne’s Eastlink-Monash Freeway Interchange.

Haywards is in the final stages of building 22 trapezoidal-shaped box steel girders for the project, made from 800 tonnes of 350L15 Grade XLERPLATE® steel supplied through OneSteel.

Haywards Managing Director Steve Edmunds said the bridge was very complex and required specialist skills in modelling and detailing to form the shape of the girders’ plates.

The \$100 million Eastlink-Monash Interchange will include nine new bridges, the widening of six existing bridges and more than 700,000 cubic metres of earthworks. More than 320 bridge beams will be lifted into place.



Aerial view of the Monash Interchange Project.

“We’re fabricating the high interchange off the freeway into Monash,” Mr Edmunds said. “It’s a curved double box girder bridge with a radius of 194 metres that rises and falls and has a camber.”

Camber is the amount of curve used in the girders to counteract the bridge and traffic load.

Haywards has 60 boilermakers in its Launceston workshops, many of whom are fabricating the trough girders which are painted onsite, then trucked to a ferry and shipped to Melbourne.

“The girders are up to 30 metres long so once they leave the workshop they’re delivered to the Melbourne site within 48 hours,” Mr Edmunds said.

Hayward’s Monash Interchange Bridge is one of 85



One of 22 box steel girders leaving Haywards’ Launceston workshops.

being built for the \$2.5 billion Eastlink project due for completion in 2008.

Eastlink will include 17 major interchanges, 39 kilometres of mostly three-lane motorway and 1.6 kilometres of twin three-lane tunnels.

XLERPLATE® steel is also at the core of a second major Melbourne bridge project. Read Page 3 for details.

MELBOURNE STEEL TERMINAL VOLUMES BOOM

A significant volume of XLERPLATE® steel has passed through BlueScope Steel's Melbourne Steel Terminal (MST) in recent months.

MST's Victorian Logistics Manager Craig Piggott said an end-of-financial-year rush from BlueScope Steel's Western Port Works and distributors almost doubled volumes for the May/June period.

"In some weeks, tonnage handled by MST was 65-70 per cent higher than budgeted tonnages," Mr Piggott said. "This really stretched our resources."

During that time, 3000 square metres of the MST's operations area was off-limits as it



Magnet crane operators Charlie Mangion (left) and Alan Netley.

was undergoing extensive pavement repairs, and the terminal had to revert to forklift handling.

"We also sent a couple of MST employees to Port Kembla Steelworks to get a better understanding of magnetic gantry crane operations and have had a couple of Port Kembla operators come here to



improve our crane operations," Mr Piggott said.

Despite the increased workload and handling issues, MST contributed to only a handful of DIFOT (Delivered In Full and On Time) misses to Industrial Markets customers in Victoria and Tasmania for the year to June 30.

CHINA FORGES FURTHER AHEAD

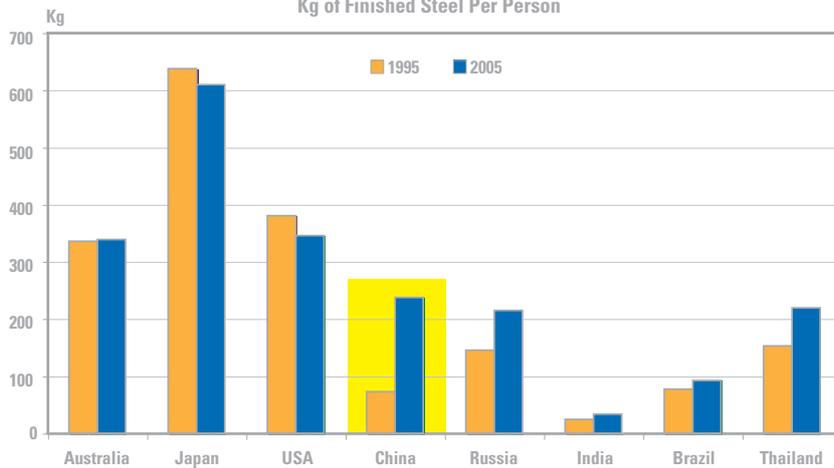
China's economy is now the fourth largest in the world, having recently overtaken the UK. China's share of world GDP, on a Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) basis has quadrupled over the last 25 years to almost 16 per cent last year.

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

Apparent Use of Finished Steel Per Capita 1995 vs 2005
Kg of Finished Steel Per Person



Source: IISI

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 (see chart) 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.

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.

GFC INDUSTRIES COMPLETES MAJOR FREEWAY BRIDGE

Melbourne steel fabricator GFC Industries has finished work on the 41-metre Tullamarine Freeway bridge.

The bridge is part of the \$150 million Tullamarine-Calder Freeway Interchange Project which is due for completion in late 2007. It will provide up to 176,000 vehicles a day with a safer link to the Calder Freeway.

Since January, GFC Industries has fabricated trough girders, cross-bracing, diaphragms and stiffeners for the bridge at its 5,000 square metre Campbellfield workshop.

GFC Industries Managing Director Glen Miller said the company sourced about 300 tonnes of Grade 350 XLERPLATE® steel through OneSteel for the project.



Cranes lift the trough girders into place.



"The trough girders were about two metres high, 3.5 metres wide and 41 metres long," Mr Miller said. "We built six of them, each weighing 45 tonnes."

GFC Industries delivered the girders to site in June where two

large cranes moved them into place.

As well as Tullamarine Freeway bridge, GFC Industries has been involved in several other projects this year including a 34-storey development in the city.

Established 47 years ago, GFC Industries has about 35 employees.

BLUESCOPE EMPLOYEES KEEN TO KNOW MORE



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

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.

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.

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**BLUESCOPE
STEEL**

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IN THE HOT SEAT SCOTT DUNSTAN



Name: Scott Dunstan

Job title: Customer Service Manager – Plate Products

No. of years with BlueScope Steel: 26

No. of years in the steel industry: 26

Description of current role: Manage the XLERPLATE® steel supply chain and provide leadership to our team at the Plate Mill

Previous position: Product Manger – Plate Products

Woman I most admire: Halle Berry

Man I most admire: Allan Yates (Chief Technologist Plate & General Strip)

Emails received on average per day: 50

Best invention of the last century: Computer

Worst television program: Too many to mention

Time I spend in my car each day: 15 minutes

Hardest habit to break: Coffee

Favourite drink: VB

Best car on the road/favourite car of all times: Mk2 Mini Cooper S (1967)

Most useless

possession:

Short sailboard – hasn't been used for 20 years

Favourite outdoor

recreational activity: Racing sailing dinghies (NS14) with my wife and four sons

What kick-starts my day: Coffee

If I had \$1m to blow it would be on... Take six months off with the family and walk the Appalachian Trail - Maine to Georgia

If I could have one person over for dinner, it would be... Andrew Denton

If there was one thing I could do all over again...

Thermodynamics 3 – I would have made sure I did better than the Pass Conceded!

Favourite holiday destination ever: Backpacking through the Sierra Nevada Mountain range in California – up to 12,500ft

ANYTHING BUT STEEL

Did you know that...

- When only four, Mozart was able to learn a piece of music in 30 minutes.
- Adolf Hitler was *Time* magazine's Man Of The Year in 1938.
- Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, never used it to speak with his wife or mother. They were both deaf.
- Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, the man who designed

the Eiffel Tower, also designed the inner structure of New York's famous Statue of Liberty.

- Albert Einstein was offered the presidency of Israel in 1952. He graciously declined.
- The most murders reportedly committed by a woman were 650, by Countess Erzsabeth Bathory, of Hungary. The Countess (1560-1614) systematically tortured and killed young female staff and girls within her castle's walls.

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.