

ON THE SURFACE

The National Publication of The Association of Wall & Ceiling Industries



IN THIS ISSUE

NWCI Wins Excellence Award for Energex 6 Star Green Building
AWCI Annual Conference Hamilton Island - Program & Presenters
See what some bosses are saying in Ask The Panel

HILTI

GX 120
gas driven
fastening system

**Boost your
productivity.**

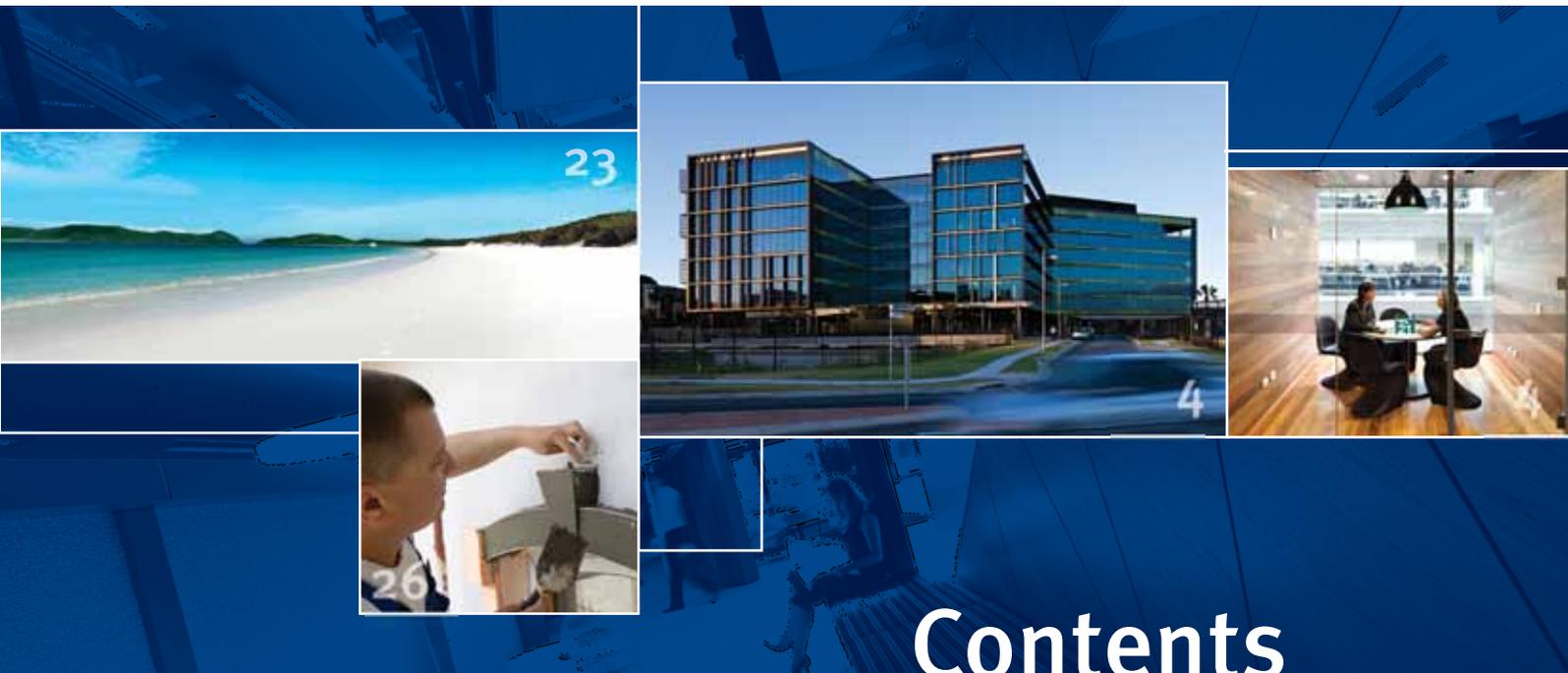
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HILTI	2 Years
LIFETIME SERVICE	NO COSTS
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Contents

From the Editor

Congratulations to Armstrong World Industries on their 50th Year.

The Armstrong name, an indicator of quality products, goes back as far as I can remember. Names like Fissured & Cortega come to mind from the earlier years, then there was the introduction in the early 90's of RH90, and RH99 mineral fibre tiles, these new products really set the benchmark in the level of performance. The AWCI would like to thank Armstrong, as members, for their continued representative and financial support over the years including conferences & special events and we wish Armstrong every success for the next 50 years.

Talking about conferences, please check out the three page spread about the conference in this edition including the program and speakers profiles. It's getting closer and the excitement is revving up, just think about Hamilton Island, a jewel in the crown of Australia's tourist destinations... Come join us.

I attended a meeting recently regarding the training of apprentices and the hand-me-down skills that non-qualified contractors obtain from their trainers and it was likened to photocopying..'The more you re-copy a copy, the weaker and more obscure the message becomes'. This message became glaringly obvious in the last few editions of On The Surface, when we received calls from non-qualified contractors, questioning the accuracy of Ask the Panel questions where they related directly to the Australian Standards, saying "this is different to how the boss told me to do it". The AWCI is calling for National licencing, and this is just another reason why it is so important. Due to the amount of enquiries, we have included information regarding acceptable internal and external, in the 'Ask the Panel' section and we invite everyone to share their questions with us, or ring us and tell us the way your boss does it.

The plastering industry is not only advancing with mechanical tools but estimating tools as well, as you will see from the editorials and advertisements. To expand your business, it is a necessary requirement to streamline your business and quoting process and these packages will assuredly help you achieve that.

I do hope you find this copy of On the Surface refreshing, as we have a great array of articles included, as well as a change in the look and layout – ENJOY.

Doug Smith

NWCI wins Queensland Excellence Award for Energex 6 Star Green Building	4
Profile – Perry Richardson	5
Knauf Enters the Market	7
A new name in plasterboard	10
Ceiling failure	12
Invisible Joints	17
Training – A big bother or great investment?	19
AWCI 66th Annual Conference 2011	23–25
Ask the Panel	26
Contractor Bullying	28
Finding a Balance – Paint and Plasterboard	32
President's Report	36
Around the States	37–41
AWCI Events Calendar	41
Proper Drying	42
Revised Fixing Patterns	46
Fire Talk	49
CMG Case Study	50
How to build a light weight Steel Lintel	52
Laffs	56
Who's Who at AWCIANZ	IBC

AWCI acknowledges articles from Jim Browning, Technical Manager of Boral and life member of the AWCI.

Terms, Conditions and Information please see website www.awci.org.au



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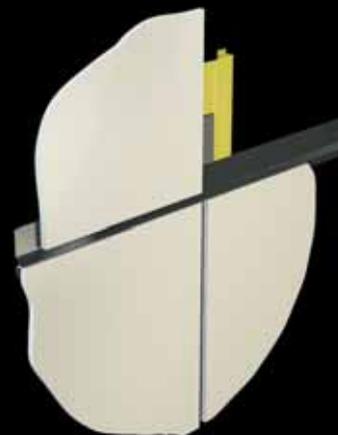
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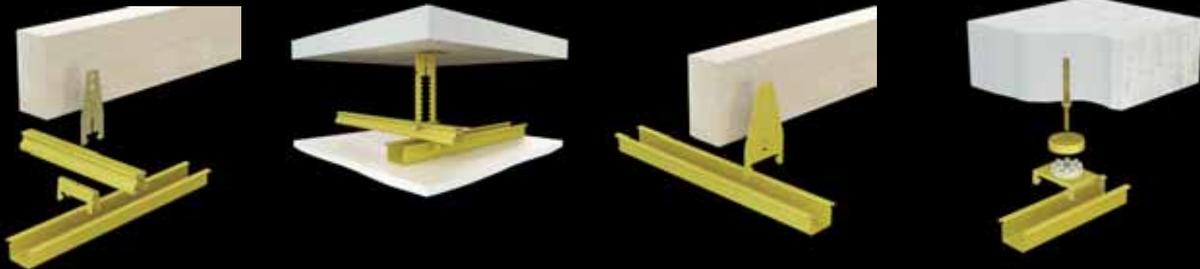
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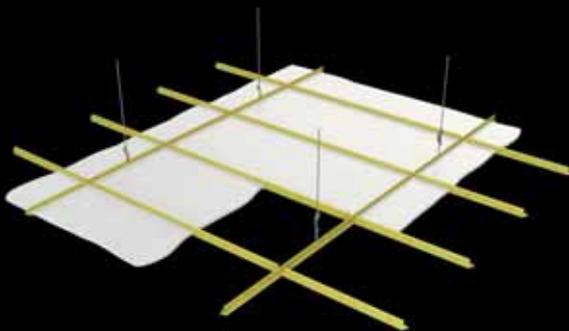


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Owa mineral fibre ceiling tiles are imported from Germany

Australian made – Australian owned

VIC

SA

WA

NWCI Wins Qld Excellence Award for Energex 6 Star Green Building

Winner of Qld Commercial Development Over \$1 Million: NWCI Pty Ltd – Energex Brisbane

Energex's new offices are Qld's first six star Green Star Office Design commercial office building and is also six star Design and As Built which is the first time a building has achieved this combination of ratings before. NWCI was contracted to do both the base build and office fitout which included numerous challenging aspects including feature panelling to inter-floor stairs, feature timber ceilings using recycled telegraph poles, aluminium partitioning suite sourced from a number of suppliers in the United Kingdom which complemented the typical construction details of suspended mineral fibre grid and plasterboard ceilings.

NWCI employed approximately 50 employees at its peak excluding subcontractors who were employed to undertake specialist works including operable walls, glazing and toilet partitions that were also included in the scope of works. Due to its green star, programming and budget requirements, this was an extremely difficult job but was delivered to FKP and its client in a professional manner that left them extremely happy with NWCI's contribution to the overall project.

NWCI would like to thank its major suppliers Boral Plasterboard and Rondo Building Services for their assistance with this project.

**Looking to tender for similar or other projects?
Then Contact Danny Simpson at NWCI
Phone (07) 3806 1366
e-mail Danny.Simpson@nwci.com.au**

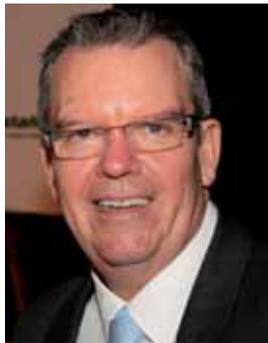


RONDO®



Perry Richardson

Perry Richardson is the Managing Director of A-1 Interiors and Pro Plaster. Not only has he developed growing businesses, he has also put those skills to good use in reinvigorating the AWCI through his role as State and Federal President.



Perry was born and raised in QLD, is married to Karen who has been a vital part of their success and has two daughters Elyse and Kate. Perry’s mantra is “Don’t get hung up on what you can’t change or influence, and don’t worry about yesterday - concentrate on tomorrow.”

Perry started his working career in the family landscaping business gaining an appreciation of design, hard work and business management. During this time, Perry met Karen and got into plastering through her father and started Able Plasterers in 1983, the beginnings of his very successful business A-1 Interiors.

Perry combined his love of travel with his skill of sales and commenced Plastermate a partnership with Gary Price, manufacturing compounds “Crystal” and selling imported Thai plasterboard and screws in 1988 and become a CSR distribution business in 1989. During this time as a distributor of Plasterboard, Perry recognised a niche for the specialisation in selling to subcontractors. He used his own contracting business as a test case supplying his sub contractors their own materials and tools and so started Pro Plaster Products which specialises in importing and selling tools and compounds.

It was a winning formula and Pro Plaster now has 5 retail stores in south east QLD and a national network of distributors, and is the exclusive supplier for the majority of products it sells. Pro Plaster recently moved to full vertical integration with the commissioning of their own Compounds plant.

Perry has always had a passion for the industry and joined the Wall and Ceiling Association in 1985. Not only was Perry instrumental in early change in the 90’s as Qld State President, he continued the relationship and has been Federal President since 2009 as well as enjoying a further term as State

President for Qld. Perry’s extraordinary energy and commitment has been instrumental in reshaping the AWCI into a more dynamic and responsive resource for the industry. “I am very proud to be a part of the ongoing success that the AWCI is currently enjoying”

When asked about his hobbies, Perry replied “Skiing as often as possible, Travel as often as I can and hopefully one day as much as Russell Argus. Triathlon regularly in a veiled attempt to offset my other passion - Dining out.” Perry is also a devout supporter of the NRL and is currently a Rabbitohs fan but has been a Penrith and Cronulla fan thanks to his brother who has been CEO at all 3 clubs.

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Knauf Group purchases Lafarge Australia Plasterboard business

Knauf Group purchased Lafarge's plasterboard business in Australia for 120 million Euros (\$164.4 million).



Headquarters in Northern Bavaria: the Knauf main office in Iphofen

A family owned, private company, Knauf was established in 1932 and today operates more than 220 facilities and 70 quarrying operations in over 60 countries. In 2010 the Knauf Group employed more than 23,000 people and achieved a turnover of more than 5 billion Euros.

A leading plasterboard manufacturer in the world, Knauf produces more than 1 billion square metres of plasterboard per year. This acquisition is part of the Knauf Group's strategy for the Asia Pacific region. The group sees a lot of potential in this region and it will make further investments in various countries of this region in the near future.

In Australia, the company is called Knauf Plasterboard Pty Ltd. Knauf manufactures and distributes plasterboard, compounds, cornice and associated products and systems to the Australian

In 2010 the Knauf Group employed more than 23,000 people and achieved a turnover of more than 5 billion Euros.



Knauf head office in Matraville, Sydney

market through its national distribution network – PlastaMasta stores. Knauf has manufacturing facilities in Matraville and Altona.

As part of the Knauf Group, the newly acquired company will be integrated into the group and have access to the latest European technology as well as a wide range of new building products. With a culture to create

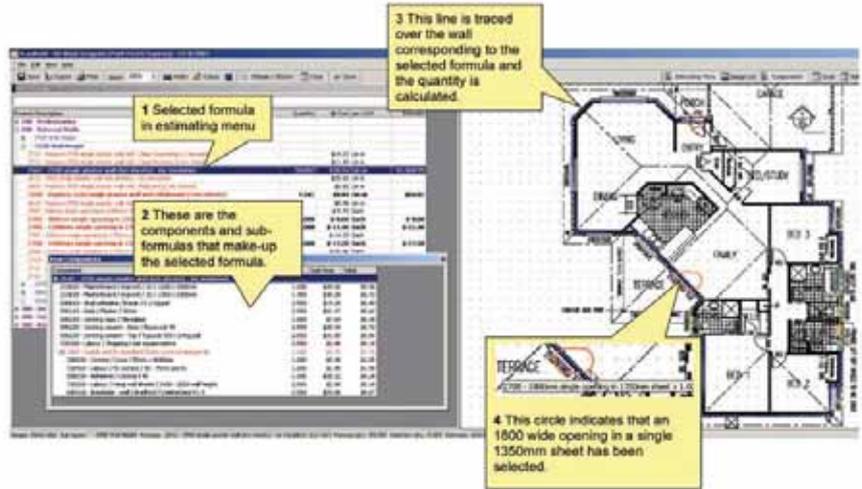
innovations that are world firsts, Australian architects and builders can look forward to an even wider range of products and systems, in addition to the current product range.

For more information on Knauf products and systems, contact the customer service team on 1300 724 505

Choosing the right Estimating software can make all the difference to your business

Invest into something that can help your business grow.

As a Plasterer you must be able to quote a project accurately in order to run a successful business; if your quote is too high, another contractor will probably get the job. If your quote is too low, then you risk not being able to return an adequate profit. Business Management Software allows you to produce quotes based on your own supplier pricing information and enables you to create BOQs quickly. Simply use your cost price and apply a retail mark-up.



Estimating software needs to be:

- easy to use
- able to produce accurate Plastering costs
- fully customizable

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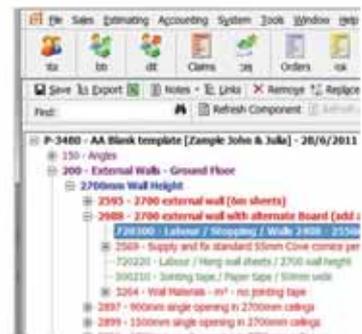
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CSR



A New Name in Plasterboard

With many companies consolidating into multi-nationals, it is refreshing to see a new independent Australian owned network of stores for the professional plasterer.

Direct Plasterboard Outlet (DPO) is a network of 6 stores offering the professional plasterer superior service. Backed by a large fleet of modern trucks, including state-of-the-art Easy Lifter crane trucks, the DPO network has the delivery capability and product range for all jobs.

As a family held business, DPO have a real interest in making sure that every customer who walks through their doors are

As a family held business, DPO have a real interest in making sure that every customer who walks through their doors are looked after.

looked after. Originally associated with Lafarge, the stores are now an independent network known as Direct Plasterboard Outlet. Some things still do not change however. You will still find the general manager Ben Hargreaves behind the counter at Canberra. In Ben's words

“As General Manager of Direct Plasterboard Outlet, it has been really exciting to launch an independent network of plasterboard stores. We can set these stores up with all the products our customers need. To do this with the backing of CSR as our major supplier is very exciting.”

Certainly the orange store colours stand out.

As the owner Barry Morcom points out “DPO is a new brand

that we are very excited to introduce to the market. And having CSR is very exciting for our customers. We are looking at expanding our product offer to our plasterers and who better to do this with than CSR.”

Some of these new product offerings from Direct Plasterboard

Outlet include the designer™ series from CSR Cemintel. These are a range of distinctive pre-finished cement composite panels ideal for any façade application. The look is very popular in new housing estates and adds real character to the exterior of a house. Gone are the days of simple cladding.

Barry is keen to point out that “if you are a professional plasterer and are not currently dealing with us, you should consider opening an account with Direct Plasterboard Outlet so that you have an alternate supplier when service is important and you want to make sure the range is there.”

DPO stores are located at Campbelltown, Smithfield and Batemans Bay in NSW, Mitchell and Fyshwick in ACT and Darwin NT.

To find out more about Direct Plasterboard Outlet, visit their website www.dpo.com.au



What's New?

Tapepro CFP Series Corner Finisher

The Tapepro CFP series corner finisher features a low friction high strength industrial plastic body. This requires fewer parts, reducing cost.

The stainless steel frames have been laser cut and machined for accuracy and feature super wear resistant cemented carbide blades and skids.

When fitted to the Tapepro Corner Box or Compound Tube, joint compound is forced through the Corner Finisher into the angle; the finisher then feathers the edges to produce a smooth joint.

Code: CFP-75

Available now from your local plasterboard outlet. For more information visit www.tapepro.com or call 1300 653 177.



Direct Plasterboard Outlet is your biggest outlet for buying plasterboard and accessories, including insulation. Great service and price for both the home handyman and tradesman. Buy direct and save. As a major stockist for CSR Gyprock, Rondo steel and CSR Cemintel fibre cement, we have a full range of plasterboard products. If you are renovating, come see us. All our stores are open 6 days a week. **The best place to go, DPO.**



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STORE LOCATIONS

Fyshwick • Mitchell • Darwin • Batemans Bay • Campbelltown • Smithfield



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Ceiling Failure

Despite expectations of long term survival for plasterboard ceilings, guarantees are dependent on many factors.

Long term maintenance-free ceilings are dependent largely on proper fixing practice. Temperature variations must be controlled (proper ventilation), blowback through tiled roofs, load limits on ceilings must be considered.

Perimeter fixing is one of the least understood but most important part of the fixing process, particularly if walls are brick and cornice is fixed with no bottom member support. With added weight placed on the ceiling boards they are coming down sooner rather than later.



Sliding the boards while fixing



*Lack of proper fixing - and weight from electrical fittings.
Tell the builder – Chances are he does not know either*



Insufficient pressure, Board not held tightly to framing

Stud Adhesive

With regard to any ceiling failure, the focus is immediately placed on the stud adhesive.

Many believe stud adhesive is not important. It is not seen so no one will ever know. “Yeah, right!” (Nobody sees, nobody cares. I don’t think so).

Let’s face it - stud adhesive is not expensive until it fails – why skimp on using half the quantity or anything less than the manufacturer recommendations?!

It is important also to note that while all products are highly dependent on proper practice, the speed of application seldom matches the speed of any request for guarantees and warranties, should things go wrong.

Let’s face it - stud adhesive is not expensive until it fails – why skimp on using half the quantity or anything less than the manufacturer recommendations?!



*Insufficient support and added weight from light fitting.
Cornice not fixed to brickwork.*



No provision for proper fixing of board ends. Trimmers spaced at 600mm centres will not provide enough support.



Absence of fixing points. Butt ends of boards require fixing at 200mm centre. Spaced noggings signal the start of many ceiling failures



Stud adhesive without sufficient pressure. NO PRESSURE = NO BOND



Another Era...



Gypsum Crystal

- In Egypt, plaster played an even more monumental and prestigious role: in the pyramid of Cheops, plaster was used as a building material, jointing together enormous stones weighing over 16 tonnes.

Plaster has been used since ancient times both in construction and for decorative purposes.

Man has made plaster for thousands of years. The recipe for plaster, which requires only gypsum, a commonly found mineral, fire and water, is quite rudimentary, yet its properties are infinitely useful. Archaeological finds and historical texts have shown that plaster was used by the artists and builders in all the civilizations that have thrived in the Mediterranean Basin and throughout the world.

Of all the materials that must be processed to be used, plaster is one of the oldest, along with lime and clay. Plaster has been used since ancient times both in construction and for decorative purposes.

- The earliest known traces of the use of plaster date back to 9000 B.C., where archaeologists found plaster and lime coatings under walls from civilizations in Anatolia.
- In Jericho, plaster moulding and shaping techniques were used six thousand years ago.

- In Greece, plaster was widely used for statue making and outside coatings for buildings.
- Italy used plaster to whiten the walls and in interior decoration.
- Paris is known as the ‘city of plaster’. Whether applied as a coating or to rough cast the timber frames of the houses and face the walls, plaster became a deep-rooted, long-lasting tradition in Paris. Its remarkably broad use in Parisian building was also due to another highly appreciated quality of plaster: the protection that it provides against fire.
- After London was completely destroyed by fire in 1666, Louis XIV issued a decree proclaiming that the timber frames of houses had to be covered with nailed boards and plaster, both inside and out, in such a way that they are able to withstand fire.

Source: Jean-Pierre De Monza.



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Speed up interior finishing work the easy way with the innovative Hilti GX 120 gas driven fastening system.



Featuring electronically-controlled gas injection and the world's first ever gas level indicator, this highly reliable and efficient system takes drywall track fastening productivity to new heights.

Fast driver

This innovative Hilti fastening system is ideal for a wide range of repetitive fastening jobs in the drywall trade. Powered by gas only, this handy system drives nails with ease into concrete, rendered masonry, sand-lime block, concrete block and steel.

Its keyless, adjustable and interchangeable nosepiece allows use of a washer or plug holder for an even wider range of applications, ensuring maximum fastening quality on virtually every material encountered on the jobsite.

In every direction

Ruggedly built, perfectly balanced and ergonomically designed, the GX 120 offers maximum working comfort in all directions. Thanks to its slim, streamlined design, nails can be driven easily in the tightest corners and in very narrow track profiles.

Always plenty of gas

This reliable, fully mobile system requires no battery charging and starts up without the slightest trouble even at very low temperatures. In non-stop fastening applications, 750 nails can be driven with a single gas can. Moreover, you'll never run out of gas unexpectedly because, at the touch of a button, the GX 120's unique LED gas level indicator always lets you know how much gas is left.

Service without limits

As with all Hilti tools, owners of the Hilti GX 120 also enjoy the unique advantages of Hilti Lifetime Service. Hilti provides this comprehensive, top-class service for the entire life of the product – completely free of charge for the first two years from date of purchase – covering repair or replacement of defective parts (even parts subject to wear and tear!) and including free pick-up and return transport. After that, Hilti continues to prove the quality of its products by capping repairs, for the entire life of the product. That's not just reassuring to know, it's unique in this field.

More details at
www.hilti.com.au/lifetime



What's New?



Goldblatt Vortex Pole Sander

The Goldblatt Vortex Circular Drywall Pole Sander Head allows for quick sanding of drywall. The head is compatible with any 9" hook-and-loop sanding disks and should be attached to any standard threaded broom handle for efficient use. The free-spinning head allows you to easily sand edges, and the protective rubber bumper helps protect door jambs, window casings and more.

- Allows for quick sanding of drywall
- Compatible with any 9 in. hook-and-loop sanding disks
- Should be attached to any standard threaded broom handle for efficient use (handle sold separately)

- Free-spinning head allows you to easily sand edges
- Protective rubber bumper helps protect door jambs, window casings and more
- No-flip design prevents the need for ripping and re-working
- Includes universal standard thread adapter

Contact Pro Plaster Products on 1800 652 267 to get more information on this new Sander!



What's New?



Columbia Hydraulic Brake Box Handle

NEWLY UPDATED EXTENDABLE BOX HANDLE

We are excited to introduce the new and improved, highly versatile, Hydra-Reach 2.0 Box Handle. Capable of lengths extending from 1.1m to 1.6m. Columbia's patented hydraulic actuated brake system allows continuous braking throughout extension. The hydraulic system also allows braking with only a minimal amount of pressure on the handle. Weighing in at 1.1kg our Hydra-Reach 2.0 is the lightest extendible flat box handle on the market. Rigid hex tube design limits flex and maximizes energies at all lengths. Precision machining for utmost durability and dependability.

The Hydraulic Power Grip is a light touch system that allows you to achieve more pressure with less force. This entirely closed hydraulic system is clean and carefree - no mess, nothing to fill. The new design features a smaller reservoir that is out of the way, an easier to grip lever, a soft grip for more comfort and new thumb-click extension mechanism.

- This great handle comes with Columbia's 180 Grip Head. Feels like a fixed box handle with the advantages of easy to use hydraulic power.
- The only handle available in our industry that allows you to change height without losing your breaking power.
- Newly upgraded rubber handle grips for comfort and long lasting quality. These new handle grips go well with the easy to use thumb release clip.

Contact Pro Plaster Products on 1800 652 267 to get more information on this new improved extendable box handle!



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“You just can’t beat Trim-Tex.”

Nathan Treloar | Plaster Designs | North Coast TAS

How long have you been using Trim-Tex?

5-6 years.

What are the features that attracted you to Trim-Tex?

Trim-Tex is easy to cut & install – it’s just really good to use.

What’s your favourite Trim-Tex trim and why?

I have too many favourites to pick one from. Trim-Tex is just a great product. Tear Away is a beauty.

Would you use another brand of PVC bead?

No. Nothing comes near Trim-Tex.

Why would you recommend Trim-Tex?

It’s a reliable product. You get a great finish with Trim-Tex.



INVISIBLE JOINTS – “I don’t think so”

Over the years there has been much debate over the ability or otherwise, to provide the elusive ‘perfect joint’, or in fact, whether or not it is at all humanly possible.



During this time we have seen the introduction of a variety of systems, accessories, mechanical tools etc, all with promises of magic outcomes.

Consider also the tape preference choices, shallow recess, deep recess comparisons, hand or machine finishes and the list goes on.

All of the above come with one purpose in mind, to achieve the invisible joint. However, none of the above will contribute any more or less if the background framing is inadequate before the plasterer starts - background framing will always influence the overall appearance. Today, consumer expectations are high and have placed pressure on the plasterer. At handover no one wants to talk about bowed studs, proud noggings, directional framing change, girder truss etc, as all eyes are on the quality of plastering finish. All too often, pressure is placed on the trades to proceed – even knowing there are background problems. Sometimes we just have to say – NO!

Today’s contract sanders also play an important role in the quality of finish and quite often good plastering jobs are reduced to average plastering jobs through lack of training and poor use of equipment.

Never underestimate the impact that some of these mechanical sanders can have on the overall plastering finish. The end result is totally in the hands of the sander and will reflect his trade skills and knowledge of the industry.

Never underestimate the impact that some of these mechanical sanders can have on the overall plastering finish.

No one will ever sand your job better than you. Take some time to build a relationship with your sanding teams to ensure their work meets your level of expectation.



What's New?

Autex QuietSpace Cube

is a lightweight semi-rigid panel product that re-defines sustainable design and dematerialisation. Cube will help increase privacy in open offices, reduce reverberated sound, and assist in controlling background chatter noise.

Cube is a high-density material manufactured from 100% polyester fibres. Cube is therefore completely safe, non-toxic, non-allergenic and non-irritant. Cube is ideally suited for office cube screen manufacture, partition dividers or as a pre-finished acoustic panel.

Key Benefits

- Cube is made from 100% polyester fibre without chemical binders
- Manufactured using a minimum of 60% already recycled polyester fibre; made from post-consumer waste

- Design flexibility without the need for edging or capping, created with solid colour throughout

- Offers complete design flexibility with our ability to provide custom colour printing

Applications

- Acoustic and pinboard surface for modular office partition panelling – Decorative and functional acoustic wall covering for education, retail, and commercial interiors

Product Specifications

- Product Name: Cube™
- Composition: 100% polyester fibre (PET)
- Panel Dimensions Standard: 2410mm (+/- 10mm) x 1205mm (+5 / -0mm)



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Training - a big bother or great investment?

The construction industry is highly competitive and is currently experiencing a downturn. Why would any small construction business invest in training in this environment?

Common replies are, “you’re kidding, I don’t have the time or money,” “I don’t want to invest in someone who might set up against me in the future,” and “I don’t understand the system”. Most small business owners fail to see the benefits of training as they can’t get past these initial fears.

People are the key to your business’, reputation and longevity.

People are the key to your business’, reputation and longevity. They interact with your customers, have a strong influence on your customers’ perception of you and well trained workers provide high quality work, quality checks, fix potential issues in advance

and ensure your clients expectations are met.

The truth is, investing in training for your workers will have a positive impact on your business. Training your employees increases productivity and reduces staff turnover as employee satisfaction is increased by feeling of being rewarded. Further, if you lose an employee it can cost up to 50% of their salary costs in regard to their replacement . Training increases employee commitment to your business, strengthening their loyalty. it also reduces the need for supervision and can enhance customer relationships. Happy customers lead to referrals, saving on advertising costs and increased income.

A team of skilled and knowledgeable employees can make your business competitive, profitable and have long-term survivability. There are many incentives paid by Government to support businesses to invest in training. Don’t forget to consider your own management knowledge and skills, as well!

NO QUALIFICATIONS?

Not getting paid what you are worth?
Looking to set up your own business?

If you have been working in Wall and Ceiling Lining and have the skills and knowledge to do the job - get nationally recognised!!

It doesn't matter how you've learnt, only that you have met the national industry work standards.

Call today to discuss how your experience and knowledge can lead to a qualification. What will you get?

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- a qualification recognised across Australia
- simple step by step process
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Also available: Quality Assure Fire Rated Systems, Small Business Management and other trade qualifications.
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Call your industry association now on 07 3846 5688
or Australian Consolidated Training on 07 3372 3974

you may be eligible for a range of government incentives

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in Wall and Ceiling Lining

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- a qualification recognised across Australia
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- Recognition of Prior Learning included
- highly experienced and qualified trainers

Also available: Recognition of Prior Learning for existing workers
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Call Australian Consolidated Training on 07 3372 3974



What's New?

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Eliminate Butt Joints...

An Australian invention has defeated the butt joint.

The RebateMate™ is a revolutionary new power tool designed to cut a rebate along the edges of both plasterboard and cement sheet in preparation for jointing.

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Autex GreenStuf® Batts do not contain any synthetic material fibres (SMF's). Only 100% safe polyester, which is safe to touch, non irritant, low VOC and resistant to vermin, moisture & mildew. Autex GreenStuf® is fully recyclable & contains a high content of recycled product from post consumer waste.



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ON THE SURFACE

The National Publication of The Association of Wall & Ceiling Industries

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Get involved in your industry and come along to the Annual Conference this year, it is shaping up to be the biggest one yet! With a location like Hamilton Island, who needs an excuse...

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 (Registration Fees are tax deductible)

Delegates – \$800

Partners – \$600

>> diverse exhibitors



>> networking



>> compelling speakers



>> whitehaven cruise



>> business workshops

>> partner program

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Set your sails for the future

AWCI 66th Annual Conference 2011

6-9 November, Reef View Hotel, Hamilton Island, QLD

CONFERENCE PROGRAM – DELEGATES

SUNDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

10:00 - 12:00	Registration Desk Open
12:30 - 5:15	4 Player Ambrose Golf Game on the Championship Course (optional, places limited, check flight arrival times)
4:00 - 6:00	Registration Desk Open
6:00 - 8:00	Cocktail Welcome Function at the Yacht Club

MONDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

Official Welcome - Perry Richardson, President AWCIANZ	
8:30 - 9:15	Keynote Speaker – Ben Buckley, CEO, Football Federation Australia
9:15 - 9:30	Sponsor 1 Presentation
9:30 - 10:10	Keynote Speaker. “The Future of Housing in Australia”, Kevin Doodney, CEO Future Housing Taskforce
10:10 - 10:25	Sponsor 2 Presentation
10:25 - 10:45	Morning Tea
10:45 - 11:00	Sponsor 3 Presentation
11:00 - 12:00	Business Workshops

Business Workshop 1: Business Skills for Contractors:-

7 Steps to a Successful Business by Westpac Financial Services.
 Making Money in Your Industry by Kevin Doodney
 Building a Facebook profile by Daniel Dotta
This workshop is targeted to contracting businesses and provides tips on financial management, business management and how to keep the money when you get it.

Business Workshop 2: Tools, Technology and Tips for being a Successful Commercial Contractor:-

Delivering a Successful Large Commercial Project: Labour control – Ongoing risk and opportunity assessment - Management of client expectations – Paul Lathouras, Managing Director of Superior Walls & Ceilings; Building Information Modelling (BIM) – Andrew Gutteridge, Principal of Arkhefield & Former Chairman of AIA IPD Taskforce; Future Trends in Estimating and Project Management Software - Cecilia Padilla, Vice President, On Center Software.
This workshop is targeted to the larger commercial contractors and the session covers some hot topics in the commercial industry.

12:00 - 12:45	Lunch
12:45 - 2:00	Workshop 1 & 2 Continued
3:00 - 5:00	Beach Activities – Group Programs coordinated by Mark Forbes – Game On International
6:00 - 9:00	Group dinner, poolside at the Reef View Hotel

TUESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

7:30 - 9:00	Breakfast in the Bougainvillea Marquee with motivational speaker Wayne Wetherall, Kokoda Spirit
9:15 - 9:30	Sponsor 4 Presentation
9:30 - 10:15	Keynote Speaker – “Using technology and social media for growing a successful contracting business”, Daniel Dotta, Featuroom
10:15 - 10:30	Morning Tea
10:30 - 11:15	Keynote Speaker – “A commercial construction company view on the Wall and Ceiling Industry”, Paul Langhorne, Senior Project Manager, Bovis Lend Lease
11:15 - 11:30	Sponsor 5 Presentation
12:00 - 5:00	Fantasea Cruise to Whitehaven Beach Evening free for Corporate dinners

WEDNESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

9:00 - 9:30	Annual General Meeting
9:45 - 10:25	Keynote Speaker. “Industry Outlook 2011/12”, Matthew King, Economist, HIA.
10:25 - 10:40	Sponsor 6 Presentation
10:40 - 11:00	Morning Tea
11:00 - 11:20	Address from Brent Allen, Past President of AWCI USA
11:20 - 12:15	AWCI Future Directions and Open Forum. Perry Richardson, President of AWCIANZ
12:15 - 1:15	Lunch
2:00 - 4:00	Beach Activities - Group Programs coordinated by Mark Forbes – Game On International. Session 2 - “Survivor Hamilton Island” Series
5:30 - 6:30	Pre-dinner Drinks
6:30 - 11:30	Gala Dinner – Incorporating presentation of the winners of the Trans-Tasman Apprentice Challenge and Awards of Excellence.

PARTNER PROGRAM

SUNDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

6:00 - 8:00	Cocktail Welcome Function at the Yacht Club
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MONDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

10:30 - 1:30	Lunch at the Golf Club on Dent Island including champagne on the terrace and a buggy tour of the course’s most spectacular views
3:00 - 5:00	Beach Activities – Group Programs coordinated by Mark Forbes, Game On International
6:00 - 9:00	Group dinner, poolside at the Reef View Hotel.

TUESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

7:30 - 9:00	Breakfast in the Bougainvillea Marquee with motivational speaker Wayne Wetherall, Kokoda Spirit
12:00 - 5:00	Fantasea Cruise to Whitehaven Beach

WEDNESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

10:00 - 11:30	Brunch with the koalas at the Wildlife Centre
2:00 - 4:00	Beach Activities - Group Programs coordinated by Mark Forbes – Game On International.
5:30 - 6:30	Pre-dinner Drinks
6:30 - 11:30	Gala Dinner – Incorporating presentation of the winners of the Trans-Tasman Apprentice Challenge and Awards of Excellence.



BEN BUCKLEY

Ben Buckley is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Football Federation Australia (FFA) and one of Australia's most highly regarded sporting administrators. Buckley played 74 games for North Melbourne between 1986 and 1993, before holding pivotal roles as Director of Marketing for Nike and General Manager for EA Sports. In 1999 Buckley was appointed the Australian Football League's General Manager responsible for broadcasting, strategy and major projects; before becoming Chief Operating Officer, and then promoted to Chief Executive Officer of the Football Federation Australia in 2006. Ben has a wealth of experience at the grass roots and at the highest commercial and strategic level of sport.



PAUL LATHOURAS

Paul Lathouras is a licensed builder and has a long history in the construction industry, starting out with a construction management degree and working in roles from foreman to project manager to gain hands-on experience. After managing Derite's \$30 million turnover, Paul then left to start his own operation, Superior Walls & Ceilings. Paul also has his hands in the HPP manufacturing operation in the joinery/cabinetmaking industry, and was involved in the development of "Cabinetmate P/L" an ordering, sales, estimating and manufacturing software system & now the benchmark in the southern hemisphere. Paul's group of companies turn over in excess of \$50 million annually.



MATTHEW KING

Matthew King started as an Economist/ National Policy Officer for the Association of Consulting Engineers Australia (ACEA) where he achieved experience in the areas of economic analysis, forecasting, and reporting. Matthew was also responsible for economic and taxation policy development. Matthew joined the HIA in 2009 and his responsibilities extend across the full range of member services and research that the HIA Economics Group engages in. He is the editor of the HIA-rpdata.com Residential Land Report, HIA-JELD WEN Population and Residential Hotspots publication, and HIA's annual renovations publication.



KEVIN DOODNEY

Kevin Doodney is the CEO of L J Hooker Land Marketing and is recognised as one of Australia's most successful and innovative property specialists. In the past 20 years, Kevin has sold over 15,000 land lots and house and land packages and has received 180 industry awards for his achievements. These include the concept and development of the Smarter Small Home, the redevelopment of 650 homes for the QLD State Government as well as the successful Concept 90 Display Home Villages. He is a key speaker at major industry and property events around Australia and is the Founder of The Future Housing Taskforce.



PAUL LANGHORNE

Paul Langhorne has over 40 years in the building and construction industry. During this time he has worked his way from site foreman to project manager to design manager on projects that vary as much in scope as they do in budget. Paul is currently responsible for a detailed design review of all projects within Australia, the development of new processes for design & construction management, as well as risk mitigation associated with increasingly complex regulations and standards.



DANIEL DOTTA

Daniel Dotta has been part of the plastering industry for 17 years. Daniel comes from a graphic design background and has studied and worked in the creative field while gaining his trade qualifications through his late father and mentor with 45 years plastering experience. After winning both the state and national awards for plastering excellence in 2009 for the "Cloudland" project, Daniel started to pursue a creative angle in lightweight plastering construction through his business "Featuroom". Through many innovative business techniques including using social media, Featuroom has been consistently growing in the last 3 years and has established a reputation for its interior/exterior creations and high quality of work.



ANDREW GUTTERIDGE

Andrew Gutteridge is a founding partner and Principal of leading Queensland based architectural and interior design practice, Arkhefield. His broad experience in the management of the design process of complex projects, together with skills in strategic direction, has developed his interest in Building Information Management (BIM) to become an industry leader in the field. Andrew takes great pride in sharing his knowledge and experience of BIM.



CECILIA PADILLA

Cecilia Padilla is an internationally known expert in the industry and brings over 25 years of experience in estimating and project management for commercial drywall and plastering projects. Her long track record in the construction industry and in-depth knowledge of software products makes her a thought leader in our industry. Ms. Padilla's expertise includes drywall, light- and heavy-gauge framing, lath and plaster, EIFS, themed facades and acoustical ceilings.



WAYNE WETHERALL

Wayne Wetherall is currently the owner and Managing Director of Adventure companies, Kokoda Spirit and Wild Spirit Adventures. Wayne had a very successful career in the corporate world as a National Sales and Marketing Manager and General Manager, until in 2004, he walked the Kokoda Track in PNG; a life changing experience that he has turned into a passion and lifestyle. In 2007 he took on the fulltime role as Managing Director of his own company Kokoda Spirit, which quickly became Number One operator of adventure treks across Kokoda and PNG, escorting over 4000 trekkers across the track. Wetherall's adventure company has now expanded into Borneo, Africa and Nepal, with his passion to deliver life changing adventures.



BRENT ALLEN

Brent Allen is serving the last of his 5 year term on the Association of Wall & Ceilings Industry USA Executive Committee and Board of Directors as immediate Past President and has been an active member of the association for over 20 years.



Ask the panel...



Q When covering screw holes, how many coats of compound do I need.

A *2 Base coats and 1 topping. This is especially necessary, in some cases when screws are removed, do not go in straight or the paper lifts when the screw counter sinks into the sheet. It is important to ensure adequate drying time between coats.*

Q I am freshly out of my apprenticeship and into my Plastering trade and am working for a new head contractor who seems is reluctant to answer the many questions that I have regarding plastering and my future. Any suggestions?

A *In some cases Contractors may not be right up to date with changes in the industry and may be reluctant sharing incomplete information. We notice that you are not a member of AWCI and as such you may not be aware that the AWCI holds regular technical meetings where current issues affecting the trade are discussed. Anyone interested in learning more about their industry, from those at the coal face are most welcome. The technical meetings are attended by Manufacturers and Contractors with many years of experience. The state technical committees then send their items of interest to the National Technical committee for review and where relevant, inclusion into the Australian Standard. Regarding your membership, you can find an application form in this edition on page 44.*

Q I always have problems with the mitres cracking in my cornices and wondering how to avoid this.

A *Unfortunately as buildings settle, mitres sometimes fracture. One way to lessen this effect is to butter up the back of the mitre*

the same as you do the bottom and top of the cornice itself. This gives the joint significantly extra strength due to the compound behind it, rather than just depending on the joint itself.

Q I am having trouble with my builder saying my tolerances for internal and external angles are not up to scratch

A *The Australian Standards AS 2589:2007 and the plasterboard manufacturers have put out specifications regarding internal and external angles as below*

EXTERNAL ANGLES

External angles are unacceptable if-

- (a) they are not reinforced with a metal angle in positions subject to damage
- (b) the angle is not plumb or straight;
- (c) the total joint width either side of the corner is less than 250 mm;
- (d) the build-up at the metal angle exceeds 3 mm over the width of the joint;
- (e) the joint build-up is less than 3 mm over the width of the joint but insufficient joint cement/compound has been applied to provide a gentle taper to the metal angle;
- (t) gouges, scratches, voids or pock marks are visible in the joint cement/compound;
- (g) the edges of the joint cement/compound have not been sanded correctly and feathered to the surface of the gypsum lining, that is the edges show as an uneven line and/or
- (h) in the case of gypsum plasterboard, the edges of the joint cement/compound have been over-sanded, resulting in scuffing of the paper surface.

INTERNAL CORNERS

Internal corners are unacceptable if-

- (a) the corner is not straight;
- (b) the total joint width either side of the corner is less than 75 mm;
- (c) the build-up at the corner exceeds 2 mm over the width of the joint;
- (d) the joint build-up is less than 2 mm over the width of the joint but insufficient joint cement/compound has been applied to provide a gentle taper from the corner to the surface of the gypsum lining;
- (e) gouges, scratches, voids or pock marks are visible in the joint cement/compound;
- (f) the edges of the joint cement have not been sanded correctly and feathered to the surface of the gypsum lining, that is, the edges show as an uneven line; and/or
- (g) in the case of gypsum plasterboard, the edges of the joint cement/compound have been over sanded, resulting in scuffing of the paper surface.



What's New?

On-Screen Takeoff With Enhanced Overlay Tool

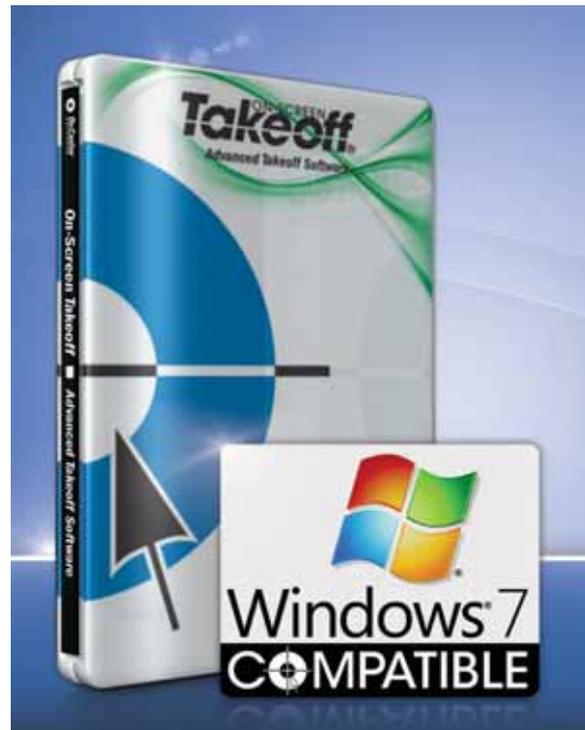
Introducing On-Screen Takeoff Version 3.8 with expanded Overlay tool feature.

From On Center Software, the pioneer in professional estimating software, the latest release of On-Screen Takeoff enhances one of the program's most popular features by automatically resizing and aligning Overlay images.

Designed to aid estimators and contractors in comparing plan revisions and spotting unmarked changes, the upgraded Overlay tool clearly marks deleted items in red and tags newly-added items in blue. Items that remain the same are simply grayed out. Changes are automatically marked for those out in the field.

Version 3.8 even includes an option to manually re-size or rotate the overlay image and an easy to use de-skew function to help better align the revised plan over the original.

For more information on On-Screen Takeoff and the complete family of On Center Software Software's bidding, takeoff, and project-tracking tools, call 1800 837 550 or visit www.oncenter.com.



Contractor Bullying

by Kevin Avery

Bullying is a term that has had a lot of airtime over the last ten years but very few people actually know what it is or even believe that it affects them.

The reality is that bullying is rife in the building industry and drywall plastering contractors are as much on the receiving end as everyone else. The result is that bullying costs you a lot of money on a daily basis.

The definitions of bullying are not a lot of use. Bullying can be anything from outright physical assault to subtle wasting of your time and money on site.

The best way to describe bullying is:

- the inappropriate use or misuse of power;
- showing complete contempt for the value of the resources and skills you and your workers are providing; or
- They think that they can engage in any behaviour they like and expect everyone else to be nice to them and abide by the rules.



Examples of that are:

- Not returning a signed contract to you;
- Providing a contract that is impossible or very difficult to understand;
- Providing a contract that is impossible to read because of the small type used (especially if they then fax it to you);

- Avoiding giving you any written documentation at any opportunity;
- Expecting you to have staff ready on coat hangers in the wardrobe for use on site at short notice;
- Wanting a lot of people on site at all times to pounce on any little scrap of work as it becomes available;
- Not assigning a qualified site foreman;
- Not having any site foreman;
- Not co-ordinating the works on site;
- Not ensuring materials are available for you to continue with the work;
- Using you as an interest free bank;
- Not paying on time;
- Pretending that variations have not been agreed to when you have done the work as requested at the price agreed verbally;
- Attempting to avoid agreement on price before the work or a variation is done;
- Telling you that if you enforce your contract or make a claim under the Building and Construction Industry Payments Act 2004 you will never work for them again;
- Carrying on like a pork chop and screaming that they will sue you when you do what you have to do.

The most important point to remember is that you do not have to work for a bully. They do nothing but take money out of your pocket and put it in theirs when they do not have any right to it.

Being in business is all about profit and quality of life. If you do not have those you may as well just be a wage slave.

The best way to spot a bullying situation is to compare the amount of profit you are making against the amount of labour and materials you have supplied and the amount of effort it took to make that happen.

If there is no alternative but to work for a particular contractor, Site foreman or you find yourself in this situation the best way to deal with it is:

- 1) Ensure that you have a written contract that sets out your rights and obligations clearly;
- 2) Read and fully understand your contractual rights and obligations;
- 3) Show up on time to perform the work;
- 4) Perform the work to the standard required by the contract within the time limits specified in the contract;
- 5) Drive the contract hard and ensure that you are serving the contractor with every piece of paper you have to (if they are not complaining you are not sending them enough paper);
- 6) Ensure that you are up to date with your claims

The best way to describe bullying is:

- the inappropriate use or misuse of power;
- showing complete contempt for the value of the resources and skills you and your workers are providing.
- They think that they can engage in any behaviour they like and expect everyone else to be nice to them and abide by the rules.

Remember that

- a) you are not alone in the universe;
- b) There are people with expertise in these issue;
- c) you are a member of the AWCI and you can telephone or contact them for assistance;



The new CFP Series
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A hand is shown using a blue corner finisher tool on a wall. The background features a grid of the corner finisher tool. The advertisement includes the TapePro logo, the slogan 'Finish First!', the website 'tapepro.com', the Facebook page 'facebook.com/tapepro', and a Facebook logo.



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Vince Troake

General Manager of Troake™ Wallboard Services Ltd
Proud User of On Center Software Programs



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*Eligible software licenses for this promotion include On-Screen Takeoff®, Quick Bid, and Digital Production Control™ only.

Better Quotes, Better Profits

Estimation Software Making Its Way Down Under

It was just over a year ago that the U.S. AWCI put on its 2010 Convention & Intex Expo in Denver, Colorado. Now, I'm no expert in geography (or the metric system), but I'm pretty sure it's about 10,000 kilometers from Auckland, New Zealand. That's how far Vince and Victoria Troake had to travel to get to the Mile High City.

The good news is the two principals of The Troake Group sat through my contractor presentation there on estimation software. The better news is they listened. The best news is we all learnt something.

My firm, **On Center Software**, has been around since 1988. That's when Leonard Buzz—then a drywall contractor, now our company chairman—came up with the idea of *Quick Bid*, the first software application designed specifically for the AWCI trades. Created as much out of exasperation as it was necessity, *Quick Bid* eliminated the old “pencil and calculator” meth-



Cecilia Padilla is Vice President and a former customer of Texas-based On Center Software

for quick and accurate measurements using electronic (we say digital) plans. In short order, On Center Software's first two products became the industry standard for quantity take-off and sub-contractor estimation software in the country. Contractors around the U.S. started us-

are now utilizing *Quick Bid* and *On-Screen Takeoff* in their daily work.

Not so in the land of the Troakes we learnt.

At Victoria's invitation, we sent Greg Duyka, one of our Senior Estimators, to New Zealand for last year's AWCI convention, to measure, if you will, contractor awareness of estimation software. While On Center Software has been doing business in Australia for over a decade, we came to find that, overall, contractors down under weren't anywhere near as aware of our products as folks were in the U.S.

That's surely not because American contractors are any smarter. They're not. It's because they've had the opportunity to see up close and personal the great things our software can do.

Which is why we've been asked to come to **AWCI's Annual Conference 2011** this November at Hamilton Island. I'm hopeful, of course, to talk with our existing customers to see how our products are working in their daily lives. I'm just as hopeful to meet with our not-yet customers to show them face-to-face about ways to improve their business specifically by using our estimation software.

And maybe double their profits. What a concept. Hope to see you there.

By Cecilia Padilla

we estimate that some 80% of U.S. AWCI members are now utilizing *Quick Bid* and *On-Screen Takeoff* in their daily work.

odology used to price materials and labor and prepare quotes. The software did the calculations for you! What a concept.

Logically enough, *Quick Bid* led to Leonard's next great idea, *On-Screen Takeoff*, which provided

ing our products to reduce their estimation time, submit more quotes (bids), and make more money. Another great concept.

If fact, we estimate that some 80% of U.S. AWCI members

Finding a Balance Paint and Plasterboard



The early 90s saw the introduction of the airless spray; without doubt a brilliant innovation for the paint industry. However anyone at the front line of the finishing trades will know that, other than speed of application it offers little or no benefits for the painting of plasterboard.

No longer is there a reasonable balance. The solution to one trades woes suddenly became another's worst nightmare.

Following the industry's reluctant acceptance of the spray method of painting for plasterboard, changes to building design has seen larger rooms, bigger openings (more glass) with adventurous lighting systems. As plasterers battled to cope with these more demanding applications Level 5 finishes were introduced in a bid to try and achieve the elusive blemish free finish. To this day Level 5 is one of the least understood systems in the building industry and it has provided more questions than answers. If the plasterboard finish is unacceptable, many think that applying a Level 5 finish over the top will fix the job. However, Level 5 must start with the designer, the framer and involve the plasterer and painter before and not after the work is done. And let's not forget that even following this process – Level 5 will give you the best result achievable – it is no guarantee of a blemish free finish, as indicated in the Standards.

Focusing totally on the plasterer to provide all the answers is neither fair nor practical. Smooth automotive finishes for internal linings are totally unachievable. Expectations of blemish free plasterboard finishes continue to

Focusing totally on the plasterer to provide all the answers is neither fair nor practical. Smooth automotive finishes for internal linings are totally unachievable. Expectations of blemish free plasterboard finishes continue to be a cost on industry and part of the reason that paint and plasterboard compete regularly for top spot on the Building Services Authority top 10 defect list.

be a cost on industry and part of the reason that paint and plasterboard compete regularly for top spot on the Building Services Authority top 10 defect list.

The presentation of an acceptable paint finish over plasterboard linings will always be highly dependant on favourable lighting conditions, and a paint application that meets the Standards – NOT prepaint patching with a magnifying glass and a fluorescent light.

Considerations:

- Plasterboard linings are made up of two substrates, textured paper and smooth plastered joints. When finished the surfaces are expected to appear

identical. A spray gun is only going to be able to achieve that if the proper application and technique (Three quality coats all backrolled) is used.

- Paint coating has to equalise the surface porosity differences. Differences in drying rates between the joint compound and the face paper will really show up inferior quality paints and poor application.
- The spray paint method exposes nap raising, highlights joint edges, necessitates the need to sand screw holes, pin holes are made prominent causing prepaint patching to be carried out to unheard-of levels. Spray painting also exposes the difference in texture variation. All of which require quality paint and proper application to overcome.
- Despite the literature available on recommended spray painting practices, it is still common on site to see painters rolling only the last coat if you are lucky. Forget rolling all three coats!
- Despite the Standards requiring three coats, backrolling all coats and using a quality sealer, there is still pressure in the trade to use two coat systems. Combined with poor quality trade paint – it is a guarantee of a poor result.

To Note:

It needs to be understood that any information contained herein is not meant as a reflection on trade skills either paint or plaster. However, there is a need to adjust current practices to accommodate:

- Changes in modern building design and consumer expectation.
- The ability or otherwise of products - both paint and plaster - to cope with the expected pace of the project (drying times etc.)
- Both the materials and tools available need to be understood (mechanical sanders, spray paint applicators, soft sanding compounds, low viscosity paints).
- The need to provide owner education on product limitations and application.

There must be a better way.
Working together to find a solution appears the only answer.

The facts remain:

A quality paint finish over plasterboard cannot be achieved without three coats of quality paint.

Back rolling needs to be applied when paint is wet to all three coats.

A nominated surface texture must be applied.

No texture = no hiding power.

- “It’s time for change.” Maybe the available literature on painting of plasterboard generally needs upgrading. Instead of leaving the specifications to the paint industry, we need to work more closely with them to educate and apply appropriate standards.

Expectations of a blemish-free automotive finish – great for cars, not for plasterboard!





The Quickest Corner Trim Yet?

The latest corner trim available on the Australian market is HYDROTRIM - the water-activated adhesive trim designed to speed up the corner finishing process.

HYDROTRIM corners are designed specifically for contractors looking for a faster, simpler alternative to metal and plastic corner bead. HYDROTRIM is a durable, no-mess corner that delivers a superior finish in less time. Simply spray with water and roll or press on. No screws, staples or adhesive spray needed. Water-activated adhesive creates an indestructible bond to plasterboard and the perforated holes allow joint compound to permanently seal corner to wall.

The paper-plastic-paper tapered design absorbs impacts better than metal or paper faced corners.

Structus spent four years engaged in intensive research and development to overcome the industry's past issues with water-based adhesives. The result is an easy-to-apply corner that does not blister, bubble or dent.

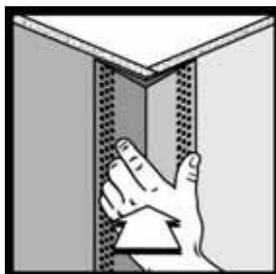
HYDROTRIM's patent-pending design includes punch holes in the paper-plastic-paper flaps that allow joint compound to further bond the corner to the plasterboard, preventing the blistering that has plagued other wateractivated products.

Once wet, HYDROTRIM can be adjusted during installation, and dries within 5-10 minutes for rapid finishing.

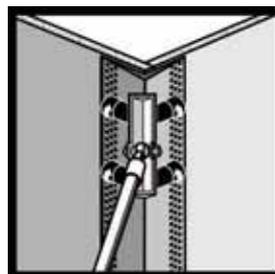
HYDROTRIM offers contractors a better business result than traditional outside corner products. Installation is faster and easier, fewer materials are required, and callbacks due to bubbles, cracks and dents are significantly reduced. HYDROTRIM is available now from your nearest Wallboard Tools distributor.



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Finish

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Presidents Report

Perry Richardson, National President, AWCI

I am looking forward to spending some time with industry colleagues at the 66th Annual AWCI ANZ Conference at Hamilton Island on the 6th to the 9th November.

This year is shaping up to be one of the best conferences we have put together. Have a look at some of the speakers we have coming:

One of the key requests following last year was an opportunity for the industry to have a say in future directions and I will be hosting an open forum on the Wednesday to discuss directions for the industry and seeking your input to our future strategies.

In addition to a great program, the conference also offers industry members the chance to network with other contractors, suppliers and manufacturers. There is no better opportunity throughout the year to make some new business contacts and catch up with your industry colleagues.

Finally – location. Hamilton Island is a jewel in the crown of Australia's tourist destinations. What better chance to combine a few days holiday in sunny North Queensland with a business trip. I hope to see many of you there.

A warm welcome to Stuart Phelps, President of AWCI New Zealand and Mark Toy, President of AWCI Victoria. I look forward to working closely with you both at a Federal level. A special thank you to the two past presidents Victoria Troake, AWCI New Zealand and Les Butterworth, AWCI Victoria. Victoria and Les have been great contributors at the Federal level and have represented their regions with a lot of passion.

You may have heard that the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is conducting an audit of the plastering industry over the coming twelve months. The ATO have advised that the intent of the approach is to create a level playing field in our industry. The ATO will work with the industry to provide assistance to businesses who want to do the right thing and focus on those that may be getting an unfair advantage by avoiding their taxation and superannuation obligations. Actions may include writing to businesses about the records they need to keep, visiting businesses to review the records they keep, and auditing those that the ATO think may not be declaring all their cash income. Activities are expected to commence in August.

The office of the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner will also be undertaking a twelve month review of "Finishing Trades" which includes painters, plasterers and tilers. The focus of this review is on the employer/employee relationship and the contractor/subcontractor relationship and reviewing the wage and benefits agreements in place.

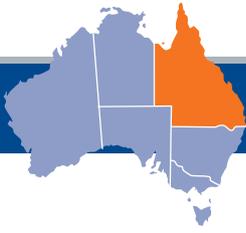
If you have any concerns with the reviews or want some further advice, please contact the AWCI.

On a sad note I advise the loss of two industry colleagues.

Bill Turner from CSR, aged 84 passed away on the 22nd February this year. Bill spent 27 years at CSR and was regarded as one of the Gurus in the industry, having also contributed time in Fire Services and Cyclone testing at the James Cook University Townsville. Bill was our OTS editor, Doug Smith's mentor in the mid 70's and displayed by his enthusiasm and knowledge, what a great industry we all work in. Bill had just celebrated his 58th Wedding anniversary.

Ray Barrymore another highly respected contributor to the industry and especially the AWCI in New Zealand recently passed away on the 2nd August after a brief battle with an aggressive cancer. Ray was always a great stalwart of the plaster industry and proved himself time and again as he sat with the executive panel or worked alone to keep the industry activities moving forward. He believed in the industry and put many hours into the apprenticeship competitions each year at conferences, designing plans that would test the skills of the upcoming young men. He and Kath travelled the Tasman many times to the Australian and New Zealand Conferences and was not afraid to speak up. Behind the gruff exterior was a heart of gold, and a deep love for his family and friends. There was only one Ray, and he leaves a big gap.

The AWCI offers its condolences to the families and friends of these gentlemen, who will be well remembered by their acquaintances and work mates in this Industry and the Association.



AROUND THE STATES

Queensland

Perry Richardson, President, AWCI Queensland



The road show to North Queensland attracted the Major plastering contractors in Cairns and Townsville as well as giving us the opportunity to secure some regional apprentices to participate at the “Apprentice Challenge” and “Try a Trade” at the Southport university Hospital on the 21st and 22nd July,

This event attracted 1700 high school students looking at determining their careers The AWCI were delighted with the opportunity to allow potential apprentices to see just what the plastering trade offers including the viewing and distribution of the best kept secret DVD. The students were amazed that the trade offered so much scope when they observed the apprentices actually constructing a mini room from the framing onwards to completion.

The recent Awards of Excellence event at the Hilton Hotel attracted 442 guests and by way of feedback, was an excellent evening. A video was done of the apprentices at work (from the Apprentice Challenge) which was presented in the foyer and during the winners presentations. The calibre of the Awards of Excellence entries and presentations is improving each year and the new judging process albeit much more labour intensive has been readily accepted . The AWCI thank all the participants and wish they could give everyone an award for the excellent workmanship.



AWCI President, Perry Richardson congratulates Greg Sweeney on his win.



(L to R): Nathan McPaul, Angus McClelland, Jake Jayasuria, Daniel Whitworth, Jamie Castle, Shane Admiral, Jess Evans.
Absent: Timothy Soo, Kyaw Lwin and Sam Briaes

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD WINNERS!!!!

Overall winner of the 2011 AWCI Qld Awards of excellence and \$2000 prize

Sweeney Plastering

Rondo Domestic Residence - under \$50K:

Sweeney Plastering –Noosa Project

Peer Industries Domestic Residence - \$50K to \$100K:

CMG Plaster – Ormiston Project

Boral Domestic Residence - over \$100K:

GP Plastering – Sovereign Is. Project

AWCI Unit Development - under \$1 Million:

Beenleigh Interior Linings – Indooroopilly Project

Knauf Unit Development - over \$1 Million:

Scooter Commercial – West End Project

CSR Commercial Development - under \$1 Million:

Rob Wilcomes Plastering – Townsville Project

Plastamasta Gold Coast Burleigh and Capalaba

Commerical Development - Projects over \$1 Million:

NWCI Pty Ltd – Energex Brisbane

AWCI Heritage: **Moose Plastering – Hamilton Project**

James Hardie Best Facade:

ASAP Plasterers – Aus.Banyo Project

And a big thank you to our Sponsors, Judges and everyone who assisted in the preparation of a great night

2011 Apprentice challenge team winners were

Jake Jayasuria and Daniel Whitworth

The Apprentices who will represent Queensland at our 2011 National Conference being held at Hamilton Island are **Daniel Whitworth and Angus McClelland**



AROUND THE STATES

New South Wales

Tony Roberts, President, AWCI New South Wales

Firstly I would like to start by expressing my sincere condolences to the Barrymore family and to those who knew Ray Barrymore. Ray was a terrific person and I know he was valued by many in our Industry. On a lighter note, I would also like to thank Les Butterworth for his contribution to the Wall & Ceiling Industry, particularly in his role as President of AWCI Victoria. Les has been a great contributor at National meetings and I know this would have been the same at a local level.

RDOs

Under modern construction industry awards there is no longer a provision requiring the production of a schedule of industry RDOs. The awards provide that an RDO should be taken every 20 days, but permits variations to this arrangement. The MBA and the unions do produce a schedule which is followed on nearly all major sites; the 2012 is available to members by contacting AWCINSW. Contractors who work mainly on major sites will find it convenient to follow this schedule in order to have employees take their RDOs on the days when most major sites are closed. Other

employers working under a modern award, who do not wish to simply have the RDO every 20 days as provided by the award, should get their employees to agree to an RDO schedule before the beginning of each year, whether it be the industry agreed schedule or their own schedule.

Picnic Days

The building unions have a 'Union Picnic Day' scheduled for Monday 5th December 2011. Members are advised that none of the modern awards affecting the building industry provide for a picnic day. The National Employment Standards (NES) makes no provision for a picnic day of any type and 5th December 2011 is not a public holiday for construction workers. If employees with no entitlement to a picnic day wish to attend the union picnic in December then there are several options, including taking the day off in lieu of any RDO due, taking the day as annual leave, or as leave without pay. If the employer is working on sites that will be closed by the builder on the union picnic day, then arrangements should be made for employees to take leave in one of the forms described above.



AROUND THE STATES

Tasmania

Mark Watson, President, AWCI Tasmania

Tasmania has undergone a bleak winter which historically is our quietest time in the construction industry.

The Global Financial crisis did not really affect the Tasmanian economy at that time, however the construction starts for both commercial and residential works have been drying up over recent months. So winter weather combined with a slowing in building placed a lot of pressure on the industry as a whole, especially in southern Tasmania.

All major Plastering contractors and suppliers are being affected by this drop off in activity. Many tradesmen have unfortunately been laid off causing a general disruption for our industry.

This predicament places even more pressure on the residential contracting operators because of the medium commercial contractors honing in on the larger residential projects to supplement their volume of work.

Several of the key building companies in both segments give us the word that there is work trickling through however not in the same volumes as it did this time last year.

The Tasmanian Committee have been very busy in these winter months rolling out "It's Not a Board Game". The way we have adopted this national training tool is to run training groups in teams up to 30 people which has allowed time to facilitate training and very healthy discussion around the safety issues raised.

This has provided a significant amount of discussion and feedback from the participants around actual safety issues that they are confronted with on a daily basis (almost a risk assessment in progress!). As a result of concerns raised by participants regarding "working at heights" issues being experienced, the Association has been in direct communication with Workplace Tasmania to seek clarity on a couple of key issues, and we have been able to feed this back into the training.

This is providing a great benefit for the AWCI as we are being seen as not only providing dedicated cutting edge training but also as a result of our training we are lobbying and advocating on behalf of the members on things that it is fair to say, the AWCI has been robust in its activities.



Victoria

Mark Toy, President, AWCI Victoria

Financial Audit for RTO

We are very pleased to say that we are through the Financial Audit for the RTO, it has been a slow moving process. Due to the fact that we now have to deal with ASQA [the Australian Skills Quality Authority] which only started operating on 1 July, we are waiting to be notified about when our site visit will be. This is the final step in achieving RTO status.

Membership

It is pleasing to report that membership in Victoria is now up to 238 members.

We welcome the following new members:

- Phil Darby
- Glen Turner-Premium Plaster
- PMC Albury Wodonga
- Triple Crown Pty Ltd
- Sales Plastering and Painting
- Tovar Holdings
- Grant Driffl

Recent events

A successful Apprentice Challenge was held at Holmesglen Chadstone Campus in July.

Four apprentices competed this year: Dale Bentley (Regency Plaster), Buddy Cameron, Jason Morgan (Warrnambool) and Ryan Griffin (Ballarat) with Dale Bentley taking out the winnings.

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE FRIDAY 5TH AUG

The day and the evening were an outstanding success. The presentation given by Gil King, Executive Director of the HIA, on Sham Contracting and Industry Projections were well received as was the presentation by Ian Swann on Trade Licensing. In the evening the numbers increased dramatically and it was quite obvious that industry people love to get together and swap information over a drink.

A few photos of the Awards night below, more available on our website

Congratulations to the following Award winners:

- Heritage Restoration: **Jewellco Pty Ltd**
 Façade Systems: **Leeda Developments**
 Distributor of the Year: **Warrnambool Gyprock**
 Non-residential: **L & W Plasterers**
 Residential: **Robert Timms Plastering and C.A. Rutledge Plaster Pty Ltd**
(In this category, the judges could not split the work of these two winners)

All of the entries were inspected and the standard was very high. Please keep entering in 2012.

EBA

The negotiations for the new EBA have now been completed. We have set up a process with the MPA and the FTA which allows us to offer more support to our members including dispute resolution and mentoring, full copy of national Building and Construction Industry Award, lodgement of the EBA with fair work Australia and DEEWR; Industrial relations Advice; and Debt Collection Service.

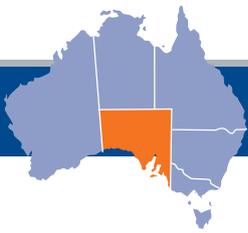
Sale of Elwood property

We have sold our property in Elwood and will shortly move into rented premises until we purchase another site. The new property will be purchased with the future needs of the RTO in mind.

AGM

As a result of our recent AGM, we welcome the following new members to the Executive Committee for 2011, Paul Gardiner from Ideal Contracting and Shaun Holloway from Ballarat Associated. I would also like to thank Les Butterworth, our outgoing President, for his hard work for the past 6 years; and the great service given by Len Pimm who is retiring from the Executive and Chris Morgan who is also stepping off the Executive due to work commitments. Les, Len and Chris have given generously their time and expertise to Executive matters.





South Australia

Phil Coymans, President, AWCI South Australia

Most importantly, AWCI SA is, for the first time in a number of years, in a good financial position. We have kept to our budget and although it has been difficult to fully serve our members while keeping an eye on our costs, it has been achieved and we have been able to implement a number of activities this year. Next year's budget has been set with a slight increase in revenue, enabling us to better provide for our members, so the office is in a strong position for the future.

On our Agenda We are currently discussing a proposed Lawyer to provide a service for members at a discounted rate.

Position Partners have also given us an opportunity to sell their products at a special price for our members.

ABCC Compliance Audit Activities – The finishing trades campaign - We will be responding to our members shortly on being compliant.

Recycling Plasterboard

AWCI are represented on a committee along with the MBA and HIA local government, recycling companies and EPA to implement a pilot study into the recycling of plasterboard in South Australia. As of September next year the dumping of plasterboard will be prohibited. This committee is to provide a business case study with government grants with the objective of a Joint venture business to supply to various markets recycled plasterboard/Gypsum.

Technical Committee

SA Technical Committee Review of Site Inspection and Report of disputed work practices by the AWCI has decided that, due to limited resources, this will only be available to Members FOC. Non-members have the opportunity to become members (for \$350) and they can access this service and get an inspection report at no cost.

AWCI Report Fee Structure

Current member fee \$60 per hour, non-members \$100 per hour (OCBA) (Site must be in metropolitan area. Outside metropolitan area POA).

CITB Residential and Commercial Committee

AWCI SA Executive recommended Gerald Valk to be AWCI representative to CITB residential committee. A free copy of the GBMA Safe Delivery of Plasterboard Guideline was posted to each SA member.

Social

Golf Day The AWCI SA Annual Golf Day will be held on 7 October at the same venue, Tea Tree Gully Golf Club. Last year was a very well managed event by Martin Hayward and he believes this year's golf day will be even better.

2011 Awards of Excellence Night

was a very successful event this year. We received the highest number of award entries as ever before. A special thank you to all those who attended the event, we hope everyone enjoyed the evening. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the Awards Night Committee and Sponsors because without them, we would not be able to hold this special event each year – the one night where the industry comes together to enjoy themselves.



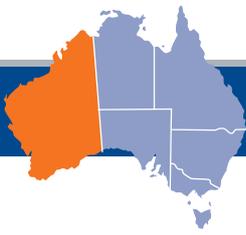
All Award Winners



Phil Coymans, (President SA), Mike Turner (Lafarge Plasterboard), Award winner Dimitri Costaridis (Heritage Plaster)



SA Executive Committee



AROUND THE STATES

Western Australia

Kim Prout, President, AWCI Western Australia

We held our Annual WA Products Information Night at the Gloucester Park on the 12th August 2011. This event attracted over 100 people along to have a look at 14 exhibition booths. The exhibition booths consisted of Insurance, Tools, Software, Safety Gear, Roof Racks and Industry Suppliers. The night enabled AWCI WA to invite non-members to the function and showcase what we can do for their business.



Travis Golding



Zane Grimble

AWCI WA would like to congratulate Travis Golding [Suncity Ceilings in Geraldton] and Zane Grimble [Ceiling Solutions] who were the winners of the challenge and wish both of them all the best at the National Challenge in November.

APPRENTICESHIP CHALLENGE – AWCI WA held its State Apprenticeship Challenge on Friday 12th August at Balga Campus, there were 7 apprentices battling out to see who will represent WA at the Trans-Tasman Apprentice Challenge at Hamilton Island.



AWCI SA ANNUAL GOLF DAY TEA TREE GULLY GOLF COURSE Friday 7th October 2011

Breakfast and Registration: 7:15am
Shotgun Start: 8:00am
Lunch and Trophy Presentation: 1:00pm

\$130 per person

Includes BBQ Breakfast, 2 Course Lunch & 18 Holes (Ambrose Competition)
Nearest the Pin/Long Drive prizes
'Best off the Stick' prize
Handicap and Runner Up prizes



For more information or to register your interest, please contact:
Martin Hayward 0419 475 125

AWCI Events Calendar – Updated Quarterly

SEPTEMBER 2011

TBA VIC Trade Night, Shepparton
5th SA Executive Committee Meeting
16th TAS Apprentice Challenge, Clarence Campus Plastering Dept
20th QLD Technical Meeting
29th VIC Construction Induction Training, AWCI VIC Offices in Elwood

OCTOBER 2011

TBA VIC Trade Night, Wodonga
3rd SA Executive Committee Meeting
7th SA Annual Golf Day
12th TAS Meeting – Black Buffalo Hotel
15th WA 23rd Annual Ball - Burswood Entertainment Complex
19th QLD Council Meeting
22nd WA Annual Ball - Burswood Entertainment Complex
26th VIC Executive Committee Meeting

NOVEMBER 2011

6th – 9th 66TH AWCIANZ NATIONAL Conference Hamilton Island, Qld
7th NSW/ACT Executive Committee Meeting
18th WA No Frills Golf Day
21st SA Annual General Meeting
25th TAS Meeting and Christmas Drinks – Black Buffalo Hotel

DECEMBER 2011

TBA SA Christmas Sun-Downer
5th SA Executive Committee Meeting
5th NSW/ACT Executive Committee Meeting
7th QLD Council Meeting
8th VIC Construction Induction Training, AWCI VIC Offices, Elwood
14th VIC Executive Committee Meeting

Proper Drying

Artificial Drying Not Recommended!



The winter months bring with them a range of issues related to the drying process of both paint and plaster.

Drying time between coats is often overlooked in favour of maintaining building schedules. With distance seldom factored into the contract price wet over wet coats will always take precedence over a return to site the next day. There are days when nothing dries. Environmental issues influence job

Under these conditions joints may swell and then shrink back later when dry, however they may never return to normal. Excess moisture can impact on the finish.

conditions. Cold, wet days can triple recommended drying times. Drying between coats normally only affects those with a conscience as quick before quality takes precedence over good practice.

On those cold, wet days proper drying cannot be interpreted as touch dry particularly if the choice of compound is a ready mix air dry material.

Under these conditions joints may swell and then shrink back later when dry, however they may never return to normal. Excess moisture can impact on the finish.

Paint Application

With today's porous paint systems air dry compounds absorb moisture from the paint application. The re-wetting of the compound will impact on the integrity of the plastered joint and can result in joint deformities, tape float, photographing and joint shrinkages. The effects of excess moisture are sometimes not immediately obvious and may only become apparent some time in the future under artificial or glancing light.



Moisture permeating atmosphere to make plasterboard drying difficult

Our experience has shown that the problems are most likely to occur under these conditions with the application of over thinned compound, all purpose systems, first coat base, two coats topping cement and/or three coats in one day.

Proper drying between coats and following the manufacturer's recommendation can be your best insurance.

Plastic dropsheets covering window and door openings do not allow proper drying times



Clouds are gathering



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Membership Application Form

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Enquiries: 07 3846 5688 Email: info@awci.org.au



Full Trading Name:

Applicant's Name:

Postal Address:

Postcode:

Street Address:

Postcode:

Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

Mobile Number:

Email:

Licence Class (if applicable)

Licence No (if applicable)

Business Operation

Total Years in Plastering Trade:

Do you have a trade qualification? Yes No (please circle applicable)

Current Number of Employees

Do you wish to be placed on a list for work referrals? Yes No (please circle applicable)

I/We apply for membership of the Association of Wall & Ceiling Industries and if accepted will undertake to abide by the Rules and By-Laws of the Association and undertake to pay all Fees and Dues as may be determined whilst a member of the Association.

I/We hereby tender subscription for 12 months. Being for the amount of \$ _____ (see below)

Signed

Date

Payment Method (please tick one) Mastercard Visa Cheque

Card Number

Cardholder's Name

Expiry Date

Cardholder's Signature

Date

(Payment by direct deposit is also available, please call the office number above for details.)

Member Type (please tick)	Metro/ surrounding (all rates include GST)	Regional
<input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturer	\$ 850	\$ 850
<input type="checkbox"/> Distributor/ Supplier	\$ 750	\$ 750
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional	\$ 250	\$ 250
<input type="checkbox"/> Contractor more than 5 staff & subbies	\$ 650	\$ 450
<input type="checkbox"/> Contractor 5 and less staff & subbies	\$ 350	\$ 250
<input type="checkbox"/> Apprentice and 1st Year tradesman	Free	Free
<input type="checkbox"/> Retired members	Free	Free

For details of Membership in Western Australia, please contact the AWCI WA Office directly on 08 9362 5977

Going Forward

It is very rewarding to be a Wall and Ceiling Professional. The recent Excellence in Plastering Awards hosted by the AWCI always highlights some of the outstanding achievements by the industry.



Today, so much of the overall contribution to the appearance and integrity of these buildings is completed solely by the plastering contractors.

Working in this industry can be difficult though and everyone is faced with their fair share of challenges. Some of these include:

- Poor historical image of the plastering trade
- Customers that won't pay
- Glancing light and decoration impacting on the perception of the finished surface
- Numerous standards and building requirements

Contractors need a strong industry body behind them to help out on these issues.

It is our goal at the AWCI is to support our members through:

- Provision of training and education programs to help you run your business
- Providing tools and programs for streamlining payment and sign off of work
- Provide information and education about the standards for our industry
- Setting the standards for our industry
- Lobbying of government on matters that affect our members e.g. licensing
- Promoting our members as preferred contractors

As an active member of the Association over the years, you may have taken a genuine interest in many of the issues that have been resolved for the plastering industry through the efforts of the AWCI and a handful of dedicated people. If the Association had not been able to step in, some of these issues would not have been resolved in your favour and the benefits would have been lost.

In the past, many of these achievements have not been well communicated to the trade – something AWCI are addressing through this national magazine and extensive database of contacts.

The Association of Wall & Ceiling Industries is dedicated to improving the profile and credibility of plasterers and is targeting continuous improvement. The AWCI has a focussed national approach on key topics and a strong local presence, and is well positioned to achieve a lot more beneficial changes to industry practice and conditions than ever before - but it can only happen with your support.

If the AWCI is not yet working on any of your particular issues, we want you to give us a call and get involved. Have a say in industry matters – your support can help improve the future of the trade and make us all proud for generations to come.

To become a member or for more information contact your nearest AWCI branch on 07 3846 5688 or email info@awci.org.au.

Revised Fixing Patterns

Currently, there are three recognised adhesive/ screw fixing methods in the Australian Standards:

- 1 centre screw
- 2 centre screws
- The 1/3 fixing system

Inevitably, changes to the Australian Efficiency Code will bring extra loads on plasterboard ceilings. Any extra weight on ceilings can only lead to more maintenance. Your choice of fixing patterns will make a difference. It is well known that any changes to the building industry will impact on something or someone, and they are normally met with strong resistance.

Inevitably, changes to the Australian Efficiency Code will bring extra loads on plasterboard ceilings. Any extra weight on ceilings can only lead to more maintenance.

Industry change can sometimes be compared with bad medicine. Initially no one likes it, but eventually it will do you good. There will always be protests

– those people quick to tell you we've been doing it this way for years and never had a problem.

Take backblocking for instance. The reluctance from some towards backblocking is still there, despite its inclusion into the Australian Standards some 14 years ago. Changes to manufacturers' specifications are not the result of any brain explosion on a Monday morning.

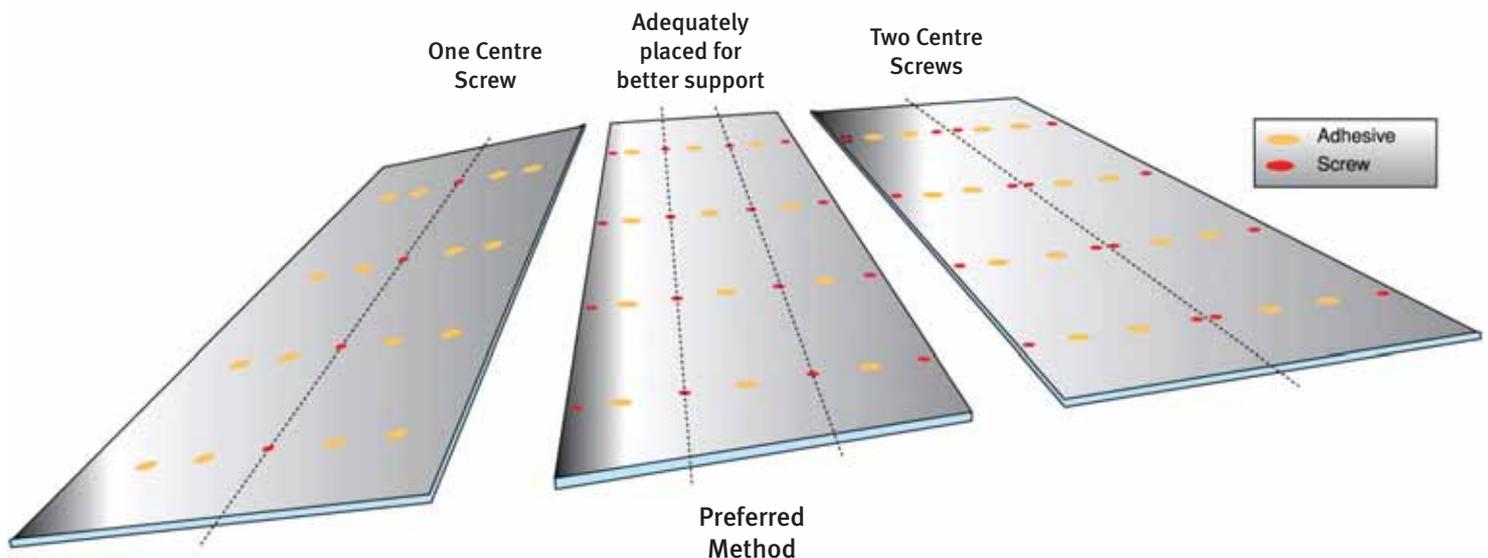
Changes are implemented only after exhaustive field and laboratory testing and information from recognised industry and tradespeople.

The 1/3 fixing method is one of those changes tested and compared over many years, with indisputable results under higher loadings, and will mean less maintenance and improved presentation.

At present, most loads on ceilings go unnoticed. Changes to the energy efficiency code will add extra weight to ceilings already under stress; plasterboard ceilings will need more support.

Consider the consequences.

- Energy efficiency
- Mandatory insulation laws
- How will it affect you?
- Be prepared



Who's Responsible?

It could be YOU. Don't just fix it – Tell your Builder!



One centre nail fixing can no longer provide sufficient support to meet the extra loading required with new energy efficient changes.



- Insufficient ceiling support.
- Boards running in the wrong direction.
- No sisalation.
- One centre screw for 1350 sheets.
- Extra loading could spell the end for ceilings like these.

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Fire Talk

By John Rakic, Technical Director –
Trafalgar Fire Containment Solutions

Steel structures typically require fireproofing materials such as fire rated boards, to protect them from the effects of fires and to ensure the steel structure does not collapse. We have just seen the 10 year anniversary of 9-11 and these horrific events showed the consequences of steel framed buildings collapsing when the steel structure gets too hot.

So why is this so you might ask? When steel gets hot, it starts to lose its structural strength and under load will bend, twist and collapse. This Figure shows the effects of temperature on both the yield stress and modulus of elasticity. You can see from this Figure that an increase in temperature to 500 or 600°C see these properties reduce by 50%.

When steel gets hot, it starts to lose its structural strength and under load will bend, twist and collapse.

To avoid structural steel collapsing, we are required to use fire tested and proven fireproofing materials to insulate the steel and ensure that in a fully developed and serious fire, that the temperature of the steel behind the fireproofing protective materials, will, for given durations (fire ratings), stay below these critical temperatures of 550°C for example.

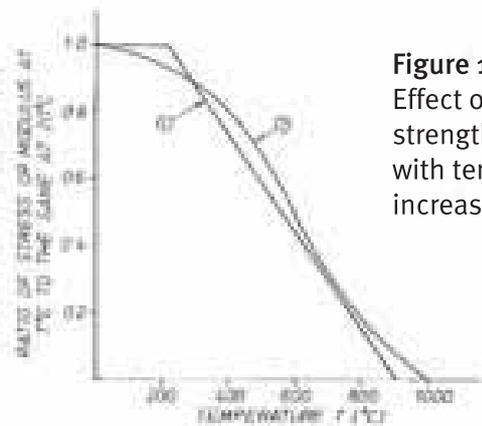


Figure 1:
Effect of structural strength of steel with temperature increase

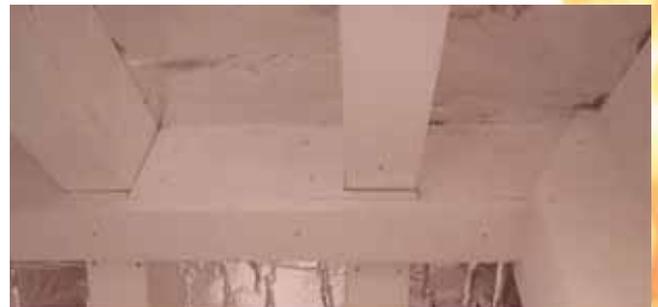
(1) yield stress ratio	$\frac{\sigma(T)}{\sigma(20^\circ\text{C})} = \left[\frac{1000 - T}{1000} \right]^2$ for $T \leq 200^\circ\text{C}$ $\frac{\sigma(T)}{\sigma(20^\circ\text{C})} = \left[\frac{1000 - T}{1000} \right]^2$ for $T > 200^\circ\text{C}$
(2) modulus of elasticity ratio	$\frac{E(T)}{E(20^\circ\text{C})} = \left[\frac{1000 - T}{1000} \right]^2$ for $T \leq 200^\circ\text{C}$ $\frac{E(T)}{E(20^\circ\text{C})} = \left[\frac{1000 - T}{1000} \right]^2$ for $T > 200^\circ\text{C}$



A twisted mess – spaghetti you might say – large steel beams and columns that did not have fireproofing applied and collapsed along with this part of the building

The Building Code of Australia and relevant Australian Standards such as AS4100 (steel structures design code) for example, recognize this and require manufacturers to do fire testing to AS1530 Part 4 for both loaded and unloaded steel sections using their proprietary fireproofing products. The results of these tests manifest themselves as required thicknesses of fire rated board materials for example, for each and every structural steel size and fire rating.

Like all other passive fire protection systems, we all need to understand the systems and install them correctly; for example a very simple thing like not putting enough fixing screws in, could see your work cause structural collapse in a fire, so please take the time to research what is required and do it correctly. If you are not sure, ask for assistance or do not do the work!



This fully tested lightweight fire rated board, only requires a single thickness of board to achieve up to a 4 hour fire rating



How do plasterers grow their business in a very competitive market ?

CMG Plaster owned by Chris Galbraith has focused on quality work and keeping overheads low through technology. This is his story.....

Chris and two apprentices started CMG Plasters in 2004. Coming from a family of Plasterers Chris knew he needed to get off the tools and run his own plastering company. The focus was to provide high quality work to home builders in the Brisbane area. What grew from these humble beginnings is now a company that employs over 20 people. How did he do it....?

From the start, Chris knew good relationships in the building industry were built on a commitment to quality work and client services. This business strategy has guided CMG Plaster to employ the right people and search

for business tools that make their clients jobs easier.

CMG purchased Quest Plastering Estimating System www.questbiz.com.au in 2010. It was his first major business software purchase outside of using an accounting system. The goal was to reduce time and improve the accuracy of estimates. "We purchased Quest because of it's long standing involvement in the plastering industry. We knew we needed a software package that could measure and price residential work but also had the capacity to move us into the commercial market. You need to know your job costs prior to submitting

the quote. If you get it wrong there you're up for a lot of hurt through the project. Quest came to our office and helped customize our cost catalogue from their plastering and suspended ceiling pricing system. We were up and running in a couple weeks, Quest made it all possible."

With over a year of confidence in their estimating system, Chris has laid the foundation to continue to grow CMG Plaster. Quality workmanship and client services while keeping business running cost low through technology, this is the best way to grow a business in a competitive industry.



What's New?

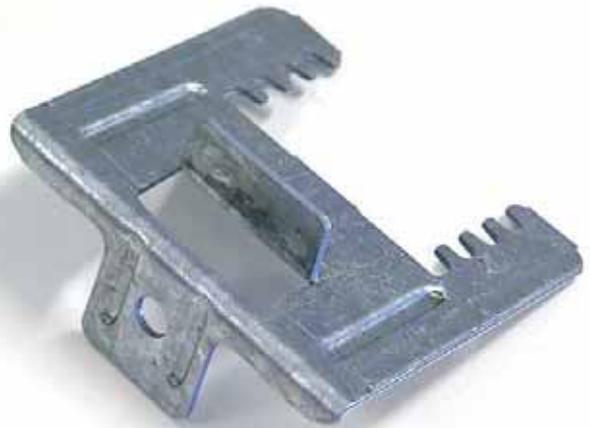
Rondo BETAFIL Clip for double layer Poly Membrane Insulation Applications

Rondo has developed a clip to accommodate double layer reflective membrane insulation, in order to satisfy NCC 2011 Energy Efficiency standards for external commercial concrete wall construction (i.e. tilt up panels).

The standards now state that two layers of insulation are required in addition to the internal lining board. This produces three air gaps which allows the installer to achieve the mandatory thermal control barrier (R Value).

The Rondo BETAFIL clip is secured to the inner face of the concrete wall with a suitable fixing and incorporates a tab to correctly space the inner layer of insulation. The next layer is then positioned by the spacers the installer adheres to the prongs of the clip.

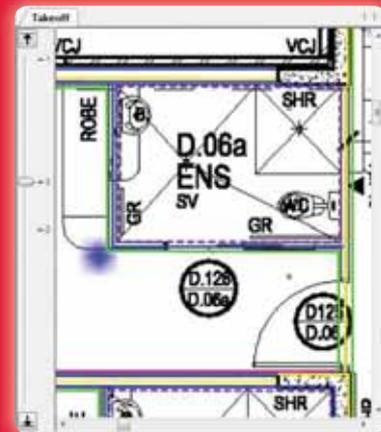
The patented fixing points on BETAFIL allows Rondo 129 Furring Channel to be secured plumb prior to the screw fixing of the lining board. Furring Channel is then installed vertically with the BETAFIL clip being spaced at no more than 1200mm apart.



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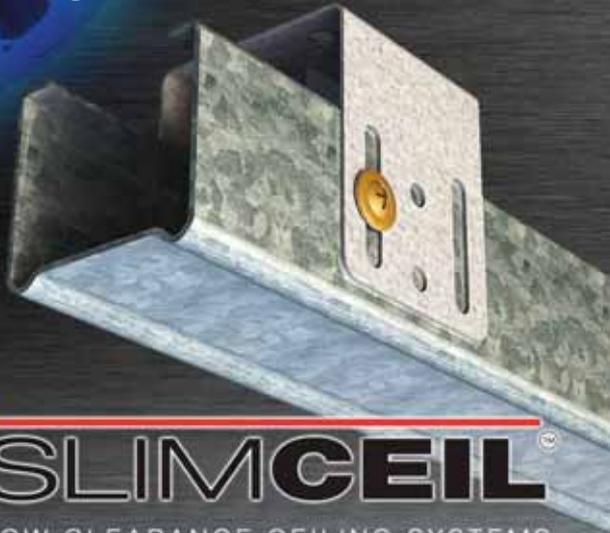


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How To Build A Lightweight Steel Lintel – Part 3 of 3

In the final part of the series on How To Build A Lightweight Steel Lintel, we are going to discover that making your wall openings to meet the standards is easy using simple methods to construct lintels, sills and jambs.

The two most practical ways that openings can be framed into lightweight steel walls are (a) to use a combination of standard steel studs and tracks in such a way that it creates a structurally sound section, or (b) to use a lightweight structural member that is specifically designed for the application.

Firstly, let's look at how we can use standard stud and track products to create a compliant opening. In most instances, single sections of stud and track cannot be used as lintels, sills or jambs. For example, a single piece of standard track is relatively flexible and light, and with a constant applied pressure, it may catastrophically fail in some way, thus making it unsuitable for use as a lintel or sill in high load applications (see Figure 1). Many unsuspecting contractors get caught using standard metal sections for openings, assuming that normal building practices can be used when framing openings into lightweight steel walls.



Figure 1

So to create a suitable lintel, sill or jamb that has structural integrity, you need to use a combination of several standard stud and track sections (see Figure 2).



Figure 2

For example, a suitable lintel may be constructed using two steel studs, two deflection tracks and two standard tracks: six sections in total, fixed together with screws (see Figure 3). This section offers considerable strength and rigidity and in some instances, can span up to more than 5 metres. For jamb studs, a common combination to use is two steel studs and two deflection tracks: four sections in total, fixed together with screws (see Figure 4). Sills are generally lighter sections and may consist of two deflection tracks fixed back to back (see Figure 5).

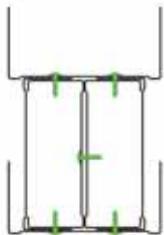


Figure 3

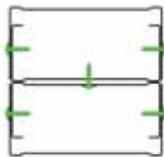


Figure 4

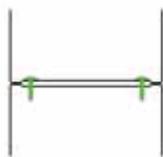


Figure 5

Another consideration is the way the lintel, sill and jambs are fixed to each other and how they are connected to the top and bottom tracks of the wall. In some instances, simply screwing the intersections together may not be sufficient (see Figure 6).



Figure 6

There are connection brackets available that are specifically designed to connect steel studs to track sections and that have been tested to take high loads. These brackets are readily available and easy to install (see Figure 7).



Figure 7

Using this construction method, it's possible to fabricate extremely strong lintels and jambs from materials that are possibly already on site, allowing the framing contractor to simply address each opening quickly and easily as they get to it. Many framing contractors in Australia already use this method and it has proven to be a simple yet adequately strong solution to creating openings in walls. Using this technique is an approved way of making your wall opening code compliant with the latest BCA, NCC and Australian Standards guidelines.

The alternative method for framing wall openings is to use a dedicated steel section that is designed for efficient framing of openings, such as the Studco HEDA System. Such systems use a heavy C-section profile that is larger than a standard wall stud and can span much greater distances when used as either a jamb or a lintel (see Figure 8).

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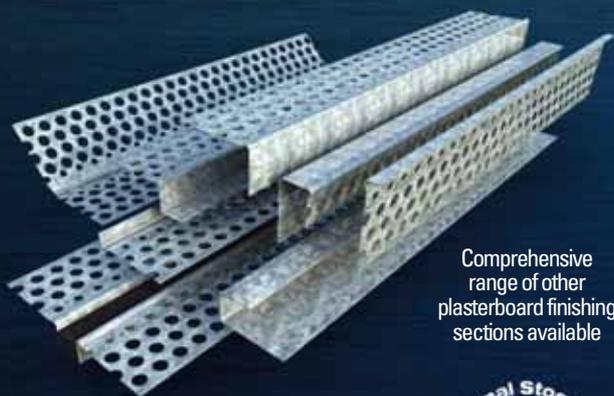
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Figure 8

These sections are designed to fit into a standard 92mm track section, allowing them to fully integrate into a steel stud wall structure without any major modifications. Large internal openings, such as long windows, may adopt the use of such a system and external openings of all shapes and sizes can be framed quickly using these sections (see Figure 9). Connection brackets are used for making a rigid connection at the various intersections.



Figure 9

To ascertain the correct combination of studs and tracks for lintels, sills and jambs, or to determine which heavy duty section to use, it is essential to always engage a structural engineer in advance. An engineering service that was recently introduced to assist the wall and ceiling industry uses a simple, interactive form (see Figure 10) where you can fill out with the details of your opening requirements and fax or email it off. The necessary engineering documents will then be sent back to you, ready for implementation and installation on site.



Figure 10

To sum up, wall openings are a vital part to the whole building's structural integrity and it is of utmost importance that they are framed correctly. This article serves to highlight the fact, to give contractors a basic

understanding the technical background of wall openings and to provide some practical solutions.

Article by Studco Technical Services

Download engineering forms at
www.studcosystems.com.au/wall-openings-form.html

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Laffs!...

Mating Call

Two Red Indians and an Irishman were walking through the woods. All of a sudden one of the Red Indians ran up a hill to the mouth of a small cave.

'Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!' he called into the cave and listened closely until he heard an answering,

'Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!'

He then tore off his clothes and ran into the cave.

The Irishman was puzzled and asked the remaining Indian what it was all about,

'Was the other Indian crazy or what?'

The Indian replied 'No, it is our custom during mating season when Indian men see cave, they holler

'Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!' into the opening. If they get an answer back, it means there's a beautiful squaw in there waiting for us.

Just then they came upon another cave.

The second Indian ran up to the cave, stopped, and hollered,

'Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!'

Immediately, there was the answer.

'Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!' from deep inside.

He also tore off his clothes and ran into the opening.

The Irishman wandered around in the woods alone for a while, and then spied a third large cave.

As he looked in amazement at the size of the huge opening, he was thinking,

'Hoo, man! Look at the size of this cave! It is bigger than those the Indians found.

There must be some really big, fine women in this cave!'

He stood in front of the opening and hollered with all his might

'Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!' Like the others, he then heard an answering call, 'WOOOOOOOOO, WOOOOOOOOO WOOOOOOOOO!'

With a gleam in his eye and a smile on his face, he raced into the cave, tearing off his clothes as he ran.

The following day, the headline of the local newspaper read.....

NAKED IRISHMAN RUN OVER BY TRAIN!!!

Outdoorsman

This morning I waded across a raging river, escaped from a bear in the woods, marched up and down a mountain, stood in a patch of poison ivy, crawled out of quicksand, and climbed up an enormous tree! ... My friend said, "You must be some outdoorsman!" "No," I replied, "I'm just a lousy golfer."

Little Johnny's logic !

Teacher: If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many will you have?

Johnny: Seven, Sir.

Teacher: No, listen carefully. If I gave you 2 cats, and another 2 cats and another 2, how many will you have?

Johnny: Seven

Teacher: Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you 2 apples, and another 2 apples and another 2, how many will you have?

Johnny: Six.

Teacher: Good. Now if I gave you 2 cats, and another 2 cats and another 2, how many will you have?

Johnny: Seven!!!

A very angry Teacher: WHERE ON EARTH DO YOU GET 7 FROM !?!?!

Very angry Johnny: BECAUSE I'VE ALREADY GOT A CAT AT HOME!!!

...Universal Wisdom

1. Money cannot buy happiness but somehow, it's more comfortable to cry in a Mercedes Benz than it is on a bicycle.
2. Forgive your enemy but remember the evil dog's name.
3. Help a man when he is in trouble and he will remember you when he is in trouble again.
5. Alcohol does not solve any problem, but then neither does milk.

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