

WELD CONNECT

MAY 2025



Registrations for
the 2025 National
Manufacturing
Summit Open >>>

Weld Australia
Launches
ArcAhead
Program >>>

Identifying and
Managing
Stray Arc
Defects >>>



weldaustralia.com.au



membership@weldaustralia.com.au

 **Weld
Australia**

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WELD AUSTRALIA CONTACTS

NATIONAL OFFICE

PO Box 197, Macquarie Park BC
NSW 1670
1800 189 900
office@weldaustralia.com.au
weldaustralia.com.au

Geoff Crittenden
Chief Executive Officer
1800 189 900
office@weldaustralia.com.au

TRAINING

Guy Brooks, General Manager,
Training Operations
0488 743 322
training@weldaustralia.com.au

MARKETING

Michelle Tagliapietra, Executive
General Manager, Sales & Marketing
0437 106 726
events@weldaustralia.com.au

MEMBERSHIP

David Choudry, Membership Manager
0417 878 104
membership@weldaustralia.com.au

QUALIFICATION & CERTIFICATION

Luke Nicholls, General Manager,
Qualification & Certification
0487 487 985
qnc@weldaustralia.com.au

ENGINEERING

Simon Doe, Director, Engineering
0490 384 406
engineering@weldaustralia.com.au

NEW SOUTH WALES

Ashkan Abdibastami, Welding Engineer
0456 850 315
a.abdibastami@weldaustralia.com.au

VICTORIA, TASMANIA & SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Victor Blain, General Manager,
Engineering – VIC, TAS, SA & WA
0409 823 991
v.blain@weldaustralia.com.au

QUEENSLAND & NORTHERN TERRITORY

Ross O'Bryan, General Manager,
Engineering – QLD, ACT, NSW, NT
0491 491 888
r.obryan@weldaustralia.com.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Ian Mackay, Business Development
Manager
0493 027 882
i.mackay@weldaustralia.com.au



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

GEOFF CRITTENDEN



UNCHECKED IMPORTS ARE PUTTING AUSTRALIANS AT RISK

If a product is being sold in Australia, it should be safe, reliable, and compliant with Australian Standards. And yet, time and again, we are seeing products – from water heaters to wind towers – arrive on Australian shores without any local inspection, often with catastrophic consequences.

There is no question that Australian Standards are among the most rigorous in the world. But in too many cases, these standards are treated as optional because they are not legally enforceable. As a result, imported goods are often accepted on the basis of overseas paperwork alone, with no independent assessment or validation. The implications of this lax approach range from waste and inefficiency to genuine danger.

Take, for example, fabricated steel. Imported wind turbine towers are being erected across the country, often in regional farming areas, with no requirement for local weld inspection. These towers support 125-tonne generators and 80-metre blades, operating under enormous stress in some of Australia's windiest environments. And yet, they are not inspected once they arrive. The results have been tragic: turbine collapses, blade failures, and widespread cracking.

Systematic Failures

These are not isolated incidents. They are warning signs of a systemic failure in how we manage the quality and safety of imported infrastructure. In any other sector, this level of risk would be unacceptable. Imagine the public outcry if high-rise buildings were constructed using structural components that had never been inspected.

And the problem isn't limited to wind towers. Recent recalls of imported water heaters and heat pumps reveal systemic failures. Independent lab testing has confirmed dangerously low carbon content in the steel used in some imported models – up to 90% lower than equivalent Australian-made units. When installed, these products have imploded, leaked flammable gases, or failed outright. Every household in Australia has a water heater. These are pressure vessels. If they fail, the consequences can be explosive.

Australia has a proud local manufacturer of water heaters in Dux, a regional manufacturer with over 100 years of history and a proven track record. But despite this capability, imported heat pumps with substandard components are being installed in Australian homes under generous government rebate schemes—without any minimum performance standards. The risks associated with this are not hypothetical. We've already seen heat pumps implode during operation, with





fragments scattered across residential areas. This is not just a consumer issue—it is a public safety issue.

We've also seen road gantries collapse due to inferior imported components. In 2019, VicRoads was forced to conduct an audit of freeway gantries and signs to cover the entire Melbourne metropolitan network after an enormous Tullamarine Freeway sign suddenly fell and crushed a car travelling underneath it.

The amount of fabricated steel being imported from overseas and used for road infrastructure, including traffic signs, gantries and bridges, was increasing but often didn't comply with Australian safety standards. In 2005, about 5% of all fabricated steel was imported from abroad, but the quantity has soared to about 30% in the last decade.

Transformers used in renewable energy projects, imported with minimal oversight, have required complete refurbishment within 12 months. In some mining projects, companies have resorted to placing teams of engineers in overseas factories to supervise fabrication, recognising the risk of failure if components are not closely monitored. When Australian engineers must travel overseas to ensure basic quality assurance, we should be asking why these products are being imported in the first place.

The rail sector has not been immune, either. Offshore procurement of train carriages has led to costly rework, delays and defective units. In one example, trains had to be retrofitted and inspected locally after significant defects were identified. And yet, the trend continues. States continue to offshore contracts worth billions of dollars, undermining local industry and introducing unnecessary risk.

If it's made in Australia, it must comply with Australian Standards. Local manufacturers know this, and they build accordingly. If a water heater is made here, it must pass strict compliance checks. If VicRoads or Transport for NSW commissions a bridge or road, it is subject to local inspection throughout the build. So why is it that goods made offshore are not subject to the same scrutiny once they arrive?

Lack of Enforcement

The lack of enforcement is the root cause of this problem. Australian companies specify that components must meet local standards, but there is no mechanism to ensure that they actually do. The paperwork arrives, the product is delivered, and no one is held accountable until something goes wrong.

This creates a dangerous precedent where the lowest bidder wins, regardless of quality, compliance or safety. In many cases, the true cost of these products is only revealed after they fail – when bridges require strengthening, turbines collapse, or household appliances explode. These failures often require expensive remediation and can place lives at risk.

International Benchmarks

Compare this to other developed nations. In Europe, Japan, and Canada, compliance with standards is mandatory and enforced by accredited third-party inspectors. In fact, in Canada, such systems have been in place since 1947. These countries understand that safety cannot be left to chance or commercial interpretation. Their governments recognise the importance of high standards not only to protect public safety but to ensure long-term economic and environmental outcomes.

Our close neighbours and trading partners in south-east Asia do not always operate under such rigorous standards. Fabrication is typically undertaken to customer specifications, not to internationally recognised benchmarks. This means that unless Australian importers are checking every weld, every material certificate, and every manufacturing process, there is no guarantee that these imports meet our standards.

Validating Safety and Compliance Locally

At Weld Australia, we believe every product used in infrastructure, energy, and construction must be inspected upon arrival if it has been manufactured offshore. We must stop relying on foreign documentation and start validating safety and compliance on our own soil.

We are not suggesting that all imported goods are inferior. But we do argue that it is reckless to take quality on trust. Especially when that trust has been broken time and again.

That means implementing a national inspection regime for imported fabricated steel and other high-risk products. It means legislating that imported components used in public infrastructure projects must meet Australian Standards. And it means holding importers accountable for the safety and reliability of the products they bring into this country.

A national inspection framework would not only reduce risk, it would create local jobs for inspectors, engineers, and quality assurance professionals. It would also level the playing field for Australian manufacturers, who are currently competing against cheaper offshore products with no equivalent compliance costs.

We must also revisit our procurement frameworks. Projects funded by Australian taxpayers should prioritise Australian-made components wherever possible. This is not protectionism; it is good policy. It supports local jobs, maintains sovereign capability, and ensures that our infrastructure is safe and built to last.

How many lives must be lost before the government takes action? Public safety is not negotiable. It is time we acted like it.



CEO, Weld Australia



JUST IN BREAKING NEWS

RECENT MEDIA COVERAGE

[Farmers at risk: Cheap Asian-made wind towers imported without local weld inspections, published by the Weekly Times](#)

[Endeavour Awards special feature: Leader of the year, published by Manufacturers' Monthly](#)

[Why quality standards matter in Australian manufacturing, published by Manufacturers' Monthly](#)

[Australian welding body calls for sovereign manufacturing in response to Trump tariffs, published by AuManufacturing](#)

[Welding body calls for a nation-building approach to combat Trump's tariffs, published by Process Technology](#)

[Australian Governments Must Beat Trump's Tariffs with a Nation Building Approach, published by the Toowoomba Chronicle](#)

[Weld Australia boss calls for wind towers around Ballarat and beyond to be Australian made with Aussie steel, published by PowerFM Ballarat](#)

[Weld Australia calls for local manufacturing mandates in nation's renewable energy expansion, published by Australian Manufacturing](#)

[Indigenous welders invited to showcase cultural creativity on a global stage published by Manufacturers Monthly](#)

Weld Australia Launches ArcAhead Program

Turning Yesterday's Tools into Tomorrow's Opportunities

Weld Australia is proud to announce the launch of ArcAhead, a groundbreaking initiative designed to extend the life of legacy augmented reality welding simulators while creating meaningful social impact.

Through Weld Australia's new ArcAhead program, decommissioned and legacy augmented reality welding simulators will be refurbished and redistributed to communities in need, helping to foster welding career pathways for disadvantaged groups, including youth, Indigenous communities, women, and those from remote and regional areas.

"With ArcAhead, we're not just reusing hardware—we're reigniting opportunity," said Ben Mitchell, Director, Strategic Partnerships at Weld Australia. "The program bridges the gap between surplus equipment and underserved communities, delivering both environmental and social value."

"By upgrading to the latest Soldamatic 5.0 augmented reality welding simulator, participants not only receive a 15% discount on new hardware but also take part in a meaningful social impact project. Rather than returning legacy simulators to the manufacturer, Weld Australia works collaboratively with customers to donate these units to underprivileged or Indigenous schools and communities, introducing welding as a career pathway and supporting Australia's growing demand for skilled welders."

The program supports Weld Australia's strong commitment to sustainability and circular economy principles. By collecting and upgrading legacy augmented reality simulators no longer in use due to TAFE or industry training upgrades, ArcAhead gives new life to vital learning tools that would otherwise go to waste.

In addition to reducing landfill, ArcAhead plays a key role in building a future-ready welding workforce. As industries across Australia face critical skills shortages, especially in advanced manufacturing and infrastructure, programs like ArcAhead will help cultivate the next generation of welding professionals.

Mitchell continued, "Welding careers offer immense opportunity, and through ArcAhead, we're removing barriers to entry. Whether it's a school in a regional area or a training organisation supporting women entering trades, we're ensuring that equipment and expertise get to where they're needed most."

Weld Australia is currently inviting expressions of interest from TAFEs, training organisations, and employers who have unused augmented welding simulators and want to be part of this innovative program. Equipment will be tested, updated, and installed in new settings—with Weld Australia providing the wraparound technical support required for effective deployment.

For more information about ArcAhead contact: Ben Mitchell (Director, Strategic Partnerships at Weld Australia) via b.mitchell@weldaustralia.com.au



“With ArcAhead, we’re not just reusing hardware—we’re reigniting opportunity. The program bridges the gap between surplus equipment and underserved communities, delivering both environmental and social value.”

ArcAhead Program

TURNING YESTERDAY'S
TOOLS INTO TOMORROW'S
OPPORTUNITIES



WHY UPGRADE?

Upgrading ensures your training offering remains best-in-class and future-proofed against changing industry needs. Soldamatic 5.0 Key Features:

- ✓ Enhanced realism and immersive welding environments
- ✓ Updated training content aligned with industry standards
- ✓ Improved analytics, reporting, and instructor tools
- ✓ Integration with new training modules and skill assessments
- ✓ Better hardware ergonomics and user experience

**15%
OFF**

Participants not only receive a 15% discount on new hardware but also make a meaningful social impact.



PROGRAM WORKFLOW



Step 1: Eligibility Assessment

Weld Australia will review your existing simulator fleet to confirm model and condition eligibility.



Step 2: Trade-In Proposal

You will receive a customised quote for your upgrade, including the 15% discount.



Step 3: Community Nomination

We'll collaborate with you to nominate a community or school to receive your legacy simulators.



Step 4: Equipment Handover

Legacy units are collected, assessed, and prepared for reuse by your nominate community organisation.



Step 5: Donation & Support

Simulators are delivered along with basic orientation materials and optional on-site support or demonstration days.



LEARN MORE

For further information, contact:
Ben Mitchell (Director, Strategic Partnerships,
Weld Australia) on 0467 419 657 or
b.mitchell@weldaustralia.com.au



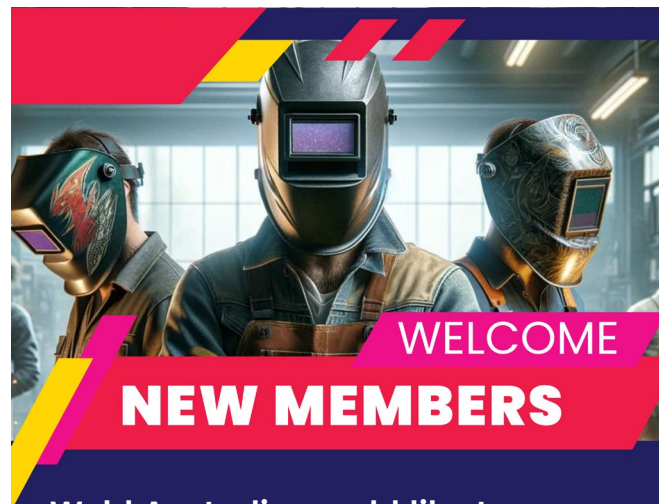
WANT TO DISCOVER HOW WELD AUSTRALIA CAN SUPPORT YOU THROUGH MEMBERSHIP?

Questions? Queries? Wondering how Weld Australia can help support your business, staff or career progression?

Contact David Choudry (Membership Manager, Weld Australia) on d.choudry@weldaustralia.com.au to set up a 20 minute Zoom chat. David will take you through the ways that Weld Australia can help.

A reminder that your Weld Australia membership expired on 31 March. So, if you haven't already renewed yours for this year, now is the time!

If you're not sure if you have renewed for this year, or you want to renew now, log into the [Member Portal](#) or contact us on membership@weldaustralia.com.au



Weld Australia would like to welcome all our new Members who have joined in the last month.

CORPORATE MEMBERS

- IMF Steel Construction: imfab.com.au
- Precision Oxycut: precisionoxycut.com.au
- Open Welding: openwelding.com

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

- Keegan Pinkney
- Dean Terry
- Dave Aguinaldo
- Oscar King
- Phillip Chak Heng Kong
- Amir Mehdi Torkaman
- Adrian Ridout
- Dale Harbour
- Owen Colley
- Elim Clark
- Maxwell Gardiner
- Callan Spinelli



2025 WELDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS



ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2025 WELDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Weld Australia's Excellence Awards are the most prestigious event on the welding industry calendar. The Awards embody and promote the highest standards of craftsmanship, quality and professionalism. The 2025 Welding Excellence Awards are a fantastic opportunity for welders, fabricators and educators across Australia to showcase their people and their operations. Winners will be awarded in each state for each of the award categories below.

ENTER THE AWARDS

Entries must be submitted via the specific online form for each category by midnight on 5 September 2025. These forms can be found on the [Weld Australia website](#). Before starting your entry, download the Award Criteria:

- [Company of the Year – Fabrication](#)
- [Company of the Year – Supplier](#)
- [Indigenous Company of the Year](#)
- [Health & Safety in Welding](#)
- [Project of the Year](#)
- [Welding Professional of the Year – Welding Coordinator](#)
- [Welding Professional of the Year – Welding Supervisor](#)
- [Welding Professional of the Year – Welding Inspector](#)
- [Young Trades Person of the Year \(under 25 years of age\)](#)
- [Trades Person of the Year \(25+ years of age\)](#)
- [Young Indigenous Trades Person of the Year](#)
- [Training and Education Award – Organisation](#)
- [Training and Education Award – Individual Teacher](#)
- [Ken Trevena Award – South Australia Only](#)
- [Mick Cudmore Award – Western Australia Only](#)

ENTER THE AWARDS NOW

ATTEND THE AWARDS

The awards will be presented at events held across the country in October and November:

- [Queensland & NT: Thursday 9 October at Victoria Park, Herston Road, Herston](#)
- [NSW & ACT: Thursday 23 October at Strathfield Golf Club, 52 Weeroona Road, Strathfield](#)
- [Victoria & Tasmania: Wednesday 12 November at RACV Club, 501 Bourke Street, Melbourne](#)
- [Western Australia: Thursday 27 November at DoubleTree by Hilton Perth Waterfront, 1 Barrack Square, Perth](#)
- [South Australia: Thursday 4 December at Adelaide Pavillion, Veale Gardens, Corner South Terrace & Peacock Road, Adelaide](#)

WITH THANKS TO OUR NATIONAL AWARDS SPONSORS



INDUSTRY

NEWS



UNISA EXPERTS TO BE KEY RESEARCHERS AT TWO NEW COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRES

The University of South Australia (UniSA) has shared that it will play “a major role” in two of the Cooperative Research Centres – the Additive Manufacturing CRC and the SMART CRC – which were awarded \$58 million and \$65 million in federal funding last Thursday.

According to a statement on Monday from UniSA, Professor Colin Hall from the Future Industries Institute is a key researcher in the AMCRC, as AM is placed “on the cusp of full-scale adoption” by local manufacturers.

“From a South Australian perspective, this CRC means that UniSA can engage with some of our long-term industry partners, including SMR Automotive, Starke-AMG, EntX and Laserbond to take our industry research and workforce development to a higher level,” added Hall.

Associate Professor Shruti Sardeshmukh, a UniSA Business entrepreneurship and innovation researcher, will lead the AMCRC’s Sustainable Manufacturing research theme. Other themes are Applications and Materials Development; Technology and Process Development; and Surface Technologies and Post-Processing.

\$139 MILLION INVESTMENT TO BOOST WESTERN SYDNEY INDUSTRIAL FUTURE

The NSW Government is supporting jobs and investment for Western Sydney with the approval of a new \$139 million warehousing estate that is set to create more than 600 jobs within the booming Western Sydney Aerotropolis.

The 19.4 hectare estate has been approved as a State Significant Development and will offer a diverse range of warehousing options from around 1,000 square metres up to 30,000 square metres, with a total of more than 63,500 square metres of floor area spread across seven buildings.

“This investment is not just about warehouses, it’s about jobs, opportunity, and building a thriving future right here in the Aerotropolis. More than 600 jobs will be created through this development, and it’s just the beginning of what is to come,” said deputy premier and minister for Western Sydney Pru Goward.

“The Minns Government is delivering on our promise to grow Western Sydney by backing projects that create jobs, attract investment, and unlock opportunity. This project is a key step forward in activating the Aerotropolis and creating the jobs of tomorrow.”

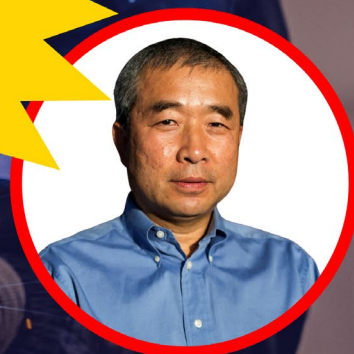


TWO DAY COURSE

WELDED STRUCTURES

- RESIDUAL STRESS & DISTORTION CONTROL
- FATIGUE DESIGN

LIVE
WEBINAR
AVAILABLE



ADELAIDE: 2 & 3 JUNE
BRISBANE: 4 & 5 JUNE
LIVE WEBINAR: 4 & 5 JUNE

- Expand your proficiency in the engineering and design of welded structures
- Grow your technical skills on residual stresses and distortions

Facilitated by USA expert Pingsha Dong, this two day course will cover the fundamentals that every engineer should know when designing welded components. From weld in-situ strength, residual stresses, and geometric discontinuities, every aspect plays a different role in contributing to resultant joint strength, and fatigue resistance. Implications on metallic additively manufactured (AM) parts will also be discussed.

With plenty of opportunities for questions, this course can help attendees mitigate the detrimental effects of welding defects, reducing inefficiencies and costs, and improving project schedules and productivity.

COST

- Members \$3,410
- Non members \$3,718
- Live Webinar: Members \$3,110
- Live Webinar: Non members \$3,418

COURSE DETAILS

- **Adelaide:** 2 & 3 June 2025
- **Brisbane:** 4 & 5 June 2025
- **Live Webinar:** 4 & 5 June 2025
- **Registration first day:** 8:00am
- **Course time:** 8:30am – 5:00pm



ABOUT PINGSHA DONG

Professor Pingsha Dong of the University of Michigan, is the inventor of the mesh-insensitive structural stress method (also referred to as the Master S-N Curve Method) adopted by the 2007 ASME Div 2 and API 579/ ASME FFS-1 Codes and Standards mandated by over 50 countries worldwide. Over the past 20 years, Professor Dong has taught courses in fatigue design, fracture control, residual stress and distortion control in over a dozen countries around the globe.

Professor Dong has published more than 300 peer reviewed papers in archive journals and major conference proceedings, including over 20 plenary and keynote lectures at major international conferences. He has received numerous prestigious national and international awards, including AWS Comfort Adams Lecture Award (2019), SNAME Helmer L. Hann Awards (both in 2012 and 2007), IIW Evgeny Paton Prize (2008), R&D Magazine's R&D 100 Award (2006), TIME Magazine's Math Innovator (2005), Aviation Week and Space Technology's Aerospace Laurels Award (2004), SAE Henry Ford Award (2003), AWS R.D. Thomas Award, and ASME G.E.O Widera Literature Award (2002), among many others. He is also a Fellow of ASME, AWS and IIW.



QUESTIONS?

For further details, contact: Danielle Pennington on 0493 024 505 or d.pennington@weldaustalia.com.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

Need help or
further details? Contact
events@weldaustralia.com.au

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR WHEN REVIEWING SUBCONTRACTS

REGISTER NOW

Tuesday 27 May 2025
5.00pm to 6.00pm AEST
Online Via Zoom

We'll look at the essential components subcontractors need to consider when reviewing and negotiating contracts. During the webinar we will look at key considerations to help mitigate risk, safeguard your interests and support successful project outcomes. We'll break down complex topics so members can review their approach to subcontract agreements, to ensure fair and reasonable project outcomes.

The session will be presented by Charles Moran, a Partner at Lynch Meyer Lawyers. Charles practices in the firm's Construction and Infrastructure team in engineering, insolvency, commercial litigation, debt recovery and dispute resolution.

REGISTER NOW

**Lynch
Meyer**
■ LAWYERS

LASER WELDING AND ADVANCED ULTRASONICS FOR WELD TESTING

REGISTER NOW

Thursday 29 May 2025
5.30pm to 7.30pm AEST
Ringwood Training, Melbourne

Witness the latest technologies in laser welding and ultrasonic testing. Hear from industry experts and see first-hand a demonstration of a joint being welded by a Laser Welding machine then see the same joint being tested using the latest technologies in ultrasonic flaw detectors. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions and play with the ultrasonic equipment yourself.

Guest speakers include:

- Paul Trigg and Nick Eleftheriou from Evident Scientific
- Cameron Jamieson from Industrial Laser Solutions
- David Wilson from Ringwood Training

REGISTER NOW

EVIDENT

Please join us for the

2025 INDUSTRY DRINKS NIGHTS

With a relaxed, informal setting, Weld Australia's Industry Drinks Nights are designed to foster connections, inspire new ideas, and cultivate partnerships among Australia's top welding professionals. Hear from the Weld Australia team, as well as other industry experts. Industry Drinks Nights are FREE for Weld Australia members; and \$65 for non-members, which includes drinks and canapés throughout the night. For information, simply contact events@weldaustralia.com.au.



QUEENSLAND & NT

Sponsored by Kemppi

- Date: Thursday 12 June 2025
- Time: 6:00pm to 8:30pm
- Venue: Victoria Park
- Address: Herston Road, Herston Queensland 4006

REGISTER FOR QLD & NT



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Sponsored by WESS

- Date: Thursday 19 June 2025
- Time: 6:00pm to 8:30pm
- Venue: The Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron at North Haven
- Address: 750 Victoria Road, Outer Harbor SA 5018

REGISTER FOR SA



AWS D1.1 STRUCTURAL WELDING CODE – STEEL TWO DAY COURSE

Weld Australia recently hosted the very successful two day course on AWS D1.1 Structural Welding Code - Steel at the Hilton Hotel in Melbourne. The course was also facilitated online for the first time, enabling interstate attendees to attend without the travel.

Understanding the AWS D1.1 code helps fabricators and welders ensure compliance with industry standards, improve weld quality and structural integrity, enhance job opportunities, and reduce the risk of costly rework or project delays.

Many industries worldwide, including structural buildings, bridges, mining equipment, marine applications, and more, now require welding to comply with the AWS D1.1 code. Achieving this certification ensures fabrication and inspection meet stringent quality standards, helping companies reduce rework, minimise costs, and deliver projects on time.

The course was facilitated by expert presenter Cristian Zanfir (Manager of Standards, Office of Public Safety, CWB Group). Cristian joined the CWB Group in 2004, and his key role is contributing to the development of standards within many standards committees of the AWS, ASME, CSA and ISO organisations.

The course explored the requirements for AWS D1.1

compliance, covering key topics such as:

- Certification for welding contractors, inspectors, and procedures
- Visual welding inspection techniques
- Pre-qualification and qualification of welding procedures
- Changes coming in the new D1.1:2025 edition

By adhering to AWS D1.1 standards, companies ensure the reliability of steel structures and machinery, improve weld quality, and uphold the integrity of quality control.

The feedback from all attendees was very positive, with everyone gaining in-depth, practical skills and knowledge.

Don't forget: [Weld Australia's Welded Structures Course](#) is coming up. It will be held in Adelaide on 2 and 3 June, and in Brisbane on 4 and 5 June 2025. Facilitated by USA expert Pingsha Dong, this two day course will cover the fundamentals that every engineer should know when designing welded components. From weld in-situ strength, residual stresses, and geometric discontinuities, every aspect plays a different role in contributing to resultant joint strength, and fatigue resistance. Implications on metallic additively manufactured parts will also be discussed.



WHY CHOOSE A KEMPPI COBOT SOLUTION?

Collaborative robots, or cobots, provide a flexible and efficient way to automate welding tasks without fully replacing the human operator. Cobot solutions can help boost productivity, maintain high quality and address the growing shortage of skilled labour. However, choosing the right cobot solution for your operation can be overwhelming given the numerous options on offer.

[Kemppi's](#) cobot solution focuses on providing welding equipment and integration rather than the robot itself. This approach keeps costs reasonable while leveraging the operator's existing skills and equipment.

Apart from being cost-effective, Kemppi's cobot solutions are also flexible, scalable and compatible with leading cobot brands, user-friendly and offer comprehensive support.

HOW A KEMPPI COBOT SOLUTION WORKS

At the core of the system is the DCM (Digital Connectivity Module) device. It connects to the bus interface of Kemppi welding machines and translates it to the robot's fieldbus system. The DCM acts as a full robot interface, providing essential functionalities such as signal tracking and fault management.

The Kemppi cobot solution then integrates seamlessly with the Kemppi Master M and/or X5 FastMig power sources, and the Flexlite GXe-C cobot torch. The Flexlite GXe-C is designed to optimise usability and performance. It offers features that streamline the operator's workflow without requiring complex cobot programming.

KEY BENEFITS OF A KEMPPI COBOT SOLUTION

Cost-effective: Compared to traditional industrial robots, Kemppi cobots typically have a lower upfront cost and the cost of consumables are the same as those used in manual welding, ensuring their affordability.

Scalable solution: The Kemppi cobot solutions are suitable for small and medium sized businesses as well as large-scale operations. They are also portable and can be easily expanded in number.

Compatible with leading cobot brands: A standout feature of the Kemppi cobot solution is its compatibility with leading cobot brands including Universal Robots, ABB, Fanuc and Yaskawa. This flexibility allows you to work with the integrators and robots that best suit your needs, while benefiting from Kemppi's robust welding tools.

User-friendly and flexible: Simple in their design and intuitive, Kemppi cobot solutions are easy to navigate and operate. The cobot can also be quickly reprogrammed to adapt to different tasks.

Comprehensive support: For your complete peace of mind, Kemppi cobot solutions are backed by the company's global service and maintenance network.

With a Kemppi cobot solution, you can access an affordable and scalable path to high-quality, efficient and productive welding automation.

This article was supplied as part of a paid sponsorship package.

Cobotic welding components

- 1 Welding machine
- 2 Digital Connectivity Module (DCM)
- 3 Flexlite GXe-C cobot torch
- 4 Mobile app
- 5 Cobot*

*Cobot is not supplied by Kemppi



Registrations for the National Manufacturing Summit Now Open and Venue Announced

Weld Australia is pleased to announce that the 2025 National Manufacturing Summit will be held at the [Shangri-La Sydney](#).

Nestled in Sydney's historic Rocks district, the Shangri-La Sydney offers a luxurious setting for our conference. Delegates will enjoy panoramic views of Sydney Harbour, the Opera House, and the Harbour Bridge from elegantly appointed rooms and suites.

This high-rise luxury hotel is a five minute walk from the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, seven minutes' walk from Circular Quay train station and 1km from the Sydney Opera House. The Shangri-La Sydney features state-of-the-art conference facilities, award-winning dining options—including the renowned Altitude Restaurant—and exceptional amenities such as Chi, The Spa.

With key focus areas including renewable energy, infrastructure, defence, critical minerals, workforce development, and policy, the Summit will explore actionable solutions to drive economic growth, increase sovereign capability, and support local businesses. The Summit will highlight the importance of establishing a minimum local content threshold across all government and major private sector procurements.

In the coming weeks, we'll be launching the full program for the Summit.

[Visit the Summit website to register now.](#)



REGISTER NOW

VISIT THE SUMMIT WEBSITE

With thanks to our Major Sponsor Investment NSW

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TECHNICAL NIGHT: MAXIMISING PRODUCTIVITY WITH COBOT WELDING

At the end of April, Weld Australia hosted a technical night focused on *Maximising Productivity with Cobot Welding*.

Approximately 30 people attended the event, which was hosted by [Kaladri Industries](#) and [Colbotic Automation](#) in Adelaide.

Attendees were treated to an insightful introduction to cobot welding, including the key reasons why investing in this technology is a game-changer. Cobot welding maximises productivity, addresses the welder shortage, enhances weld quality, excels in small-batch production, and delivers a rapid return on investment. With advanced software applications like ColWeld, programming is now simpler than ever, making cobots accessible even to non-experts.

The session covered:

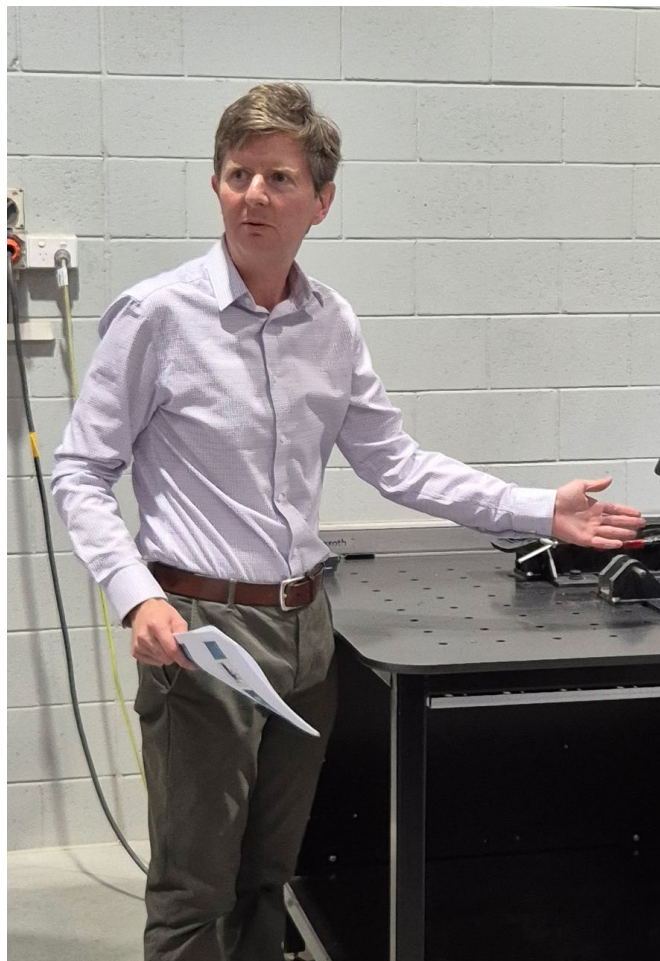
- Why Choose Cobot Welding? (Key benefits and business impact)
- The ColWeld Software App (Simplifying programming for all users)
- Cobot Welding Systems (Components, setup, and operation)
- Jig Design for Cobot Welding (Ensuring accuracy and repeatability)
- Sensing and Adaptability (Managing part variations and improving weld quality)

Dr Paul Colegrove (Chief Technology Officer, Colbotic Automation) discussed the background behind the development of Colbotic Automation and how the software controlling the system is the only one that has been developed in Australia. The systems are bespoke, designed to purpose, and can include twin stations with the cobot mounted on a linear track to obtain the 3m reach needed.

The jigs demonstrated are simple (compared to rotators) and allow multi step welding. With a low complexity system like this, non-technical staff can be trained to weld high quality parts in a matter of hours.

Sam Kaladari (CEO, Kaladri Industries) discussed the return on investment of such systems, and why Kaladri Industry partners with Colbotic Automation. One example Sam provided was the short run production of 4,000 brackets—with the use of appropriate jigs, the entire cobot station realised a full payback on investment within two months.

Following Paul's technical presentation, attendees enjoyed practical demonstrations of the systems before networking. Weld Australia would like to thank Sam Kaladari and Dr Paul Colgrove for an excellent evening.



THREE DAY COURSE

ASME

SECTION IX

Need to use ASME Section IX?
Learn how to minimise cost
and maximise qualification
usefulness.

The ASME code is the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) standard that regulates the design, development and construction of boilers and pressure vessels. ASME Section IX specifies the requirements for the qualification of welders and the welding procedure specifications. This three day course will give participants a working knowledge of ASME Section IX, including how to comply with its requirements.

WALTER J. SPERKO

The course will be facilitated by Walter J. Sperko, P.E., President of Sperko Engineering Services, a consulting firm specialising in metal fabrication technology, including material selection, welding, heat treating, inspection, quality assurance and failure analysis. He has particular experience in piping and pressure vessel fabrication, installation, maintenance and repair.

Previously, he was Quality Control Manager for RECO North Carolina, and he provided technical support in welding, metallurgy and fabrication for the parent company, Richmond Engineering Company. He was also employed by ITT Grinnell Industrial Piping, where he was responsible for technical interface between piping system designers and the fabrication shop, including all aspects of welding, fabrication and Code interpretation. He also worked for EBASCO Services in the Materials Engineering and Quality Compliance Department.



BRISBANE

7 TO 9 OCTOBER 2025

COURSE OVERVIEW

A review of the welding processes and variables, and basic steel welding metallurgy will be conducted to provide all participants with sufficient background in welding technology to interpret and understand Section IX. The mechanics of using Section IX and how to address its requirements will be explained in a simple, straightforward manner. Emphasis will be placed on writing welding procedures so that they contribute positively to the manufacturing process and on qualifying procedures in a cost-effective manner.

COST

- Weld Australia Members: \$3,610 inc GST
- Non Weld Australia Members: \$3,810 inc GST
- Payment is required at the time of booking. Cancellation four weeks prior to the start date will not be refunded.

COURSE DETAILS

- **Date:** 7 to 9 October 2025
- **Time:** 8.30am registration on day one; 9am to 5pm
- **Venue:** Amora Hotel, Brisbane



QUESTIONS?

For further details, contact: Danielle Pennington on 0493 024 505 or d.pennington@weldaustralia.com.au



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When it comes to welding wire, quality, durability and reliability must be ensured. You need to know what you're buying is able to meet industry-imposed standards and that the correct chemical compositions have been used during its manufacturing process. This is where industry certifications matter.

In situations where a wire product does not perform or delivers an inferior outcome, certifications like a 3.1 Certificate can help answer the question of "what went wrong?" For over a decade, Alphaweld Supply Group has established itself as a premier provider of welding equipment and supplies throughout Australia, offering an extensive range of premium products both online and in-store.

The team at Alphaweld truly understand the high demands of our welding industry and constantly strive to deliver superior outcomes for welding operators. In 2023, Alphaweld expanded its Betaweld wire range to include '3.1 Chemical & Mechanical Certified' options. These certified products are designed to give end-users confidence in both product quality and performance, ensuring that materials meet the highest chemical and mechanical specifications.

The Importance of 3.1 Certification

A 3.1 Chemical & Mechanical Certificate is issued under the EN 10204 standard and confirms that the supplied material meets the precise requirements outlined in the order, including both chemical composition and mechanical properties at the time of product manufacture. This certification provides welding operators with three key assurances: transparency, product verification, and full traceability.

For industries where failure is simply not an option - such as pipelines, structural steel, offshore platforms, pressure vessels, and power generation - certified materials help reduce risk and ensure compliance with quality assurance standards.

What Information Does a 3.1 Certificate Provide?

A 3.1 Certificate typically includes:

- Product identification: batch number, material grade, and product form
- Chemical composition analysis
- Mechanical property results, including tensile strength and impact tests
- Dimensional checks for size and consistency
- A compliance statement and inspector's signature or stamp

Certified Wire Solutions by Alphaweld

Alphaweld offers a number of wire products that meet the strict criteria for 3.1 certification, including:

- Betaweld [Stainless Steel MIG and TIG Wires](#)
- Betaweld [SL-Series Cored Seamless Wires](#)
- Betaweld [Carbon Steel TIG Rods](#)

These products come available in multiple dimensions and sizes and can be quickly delivered anywhere in Australia.

Contact the Welding Experts

Alphaweld Supply Group continues to lead the way in providing certified, high-performance welding solutions. For further information, contact the Alphaweld team on (08) 9456 8000 or email sales@alphaweld.com.au

This article was supplied as part of a paid sponsorship package.





IN-HOUSE TRAINING

Considered in-house training for your team? It's convenient, tailored, cost-effective and collaborative.



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Weld Australia currently has a few—very rare—one-week blocks available in May and July. All our in-house training courses need a minimum of 10 students.



OUR MOST POPULAR IN-HOUSE COURSES



IIW International Welding Inspector - Basic (IWI-B)

This internationally recognised course provides extensive knowledge surrounding welding, inspection theory and application.



Welding Fundamentals

This course covers significant issues that may arise with welded components, welding processes, weld defects and testing, and welder qualification.



Welding Supervisor - AS 2214 and AS 1796 Cert 10

Our course covers welding processes, terminology and technology; welding metallurgy; weld testing and inspection; standards and specifications; and more.

For information, or to book your in-house course, contact us via 1800 189 900 or training@weldaustralia.com.au



weldaustralia.com.au



ENGINEERING



WHEN SPARKS STRAY: IDENTIFYING AND MANAGING STRAY ARC DEFECTS

At the heart of every successful fabrication project is a proactive and experienced welding engineering team—one that not only solves problems, but often prevents them before they arise. In a recent case, the keen attention to detail of Weld Australia's engineers identified potential weld defects early, preventing issues that could have led to premature failure in service. By recognising the risks associated with stray arc defects—such as localised high hardness, microcracking, localized embrittlement, metallic inclusions and porosity, we helped mitigate a serious risk to product integrity and long-term performance.

Recent Inspection Works

During a recent inspection works completed on a PQR test stray arc defects were noted on the parent material coming from the bullet tack.

Stray arcs can occur from several issues including poor access to the joint, inadvertent movement of the welding torch with a live electrode, broken insulation on the welding torch or electrode holder and leads, or a poor return clamp connection.

Due to the high heating and cooling rate and the loss of shielding coverage of the arc during a stray arc incident this can cause localised high hardness at the stray arc, microcracking, localised embrittlement, metallic inclusions, and porosity. This can cause issues during the life of the product if left untreated and are a common crack initiation point.



Stray arcs under magnification

When encountered it is best practice to grind to remove the stray arc followed by either visual inspection and or magnetic particle or dye penetrant testing.

When grinding to remove stray arcs it is also important to ensure that the ground area is not abrupt and does not remove material below any design requirements. Depending on the standard being used for construction, other testing may be required to ensure that all the affected material in the stray arc are removed and, in some cases, a full cut out of the weld and stray arc area may be required.

Trusted Support, Real Results

This incident underscores the value of early detection and expert intervention. By drawing on years of industry experience, our welding engineers continue to support industry partners with practical solutions that enhance safety, compliance, and reliability.

Whether we're identifying weld quality concerns, preventing failures, or improving processes, our commitment remains the same: to protect the integrity of your assets—before problems occur.

For further details, [visit our website](https://www.weldaustralia.com.au) or contact engineering@weldaustralia.com.au



Stray arc at bullet tack

WELD AUSTRALIA'S COMBINED AS/NZS ISO 3834 + AS/NZS 5131 CERTIFICATION SERVICE

Weld Australia now offers an innovative combined certification service for AS/NZS ISO 3834 and AS/NZS 5131. This new offering streamlines the certification process for fabricators and structural steel manufacturers, reducing time, cost, and administrative burden while ensuring compliance with both critical standards.

This service is only available to businesses already certified to AS/NZS ISO 3834, or those completing a dual certification. AS/NZS 5131 certification is provided as an additional component—not as a stand-alone certification.

By integrating the audits for AS/NZS ISO 3834 and AS/NZS 5131, Weld Australia eliminates redundant certification processes, providing a simplified, efficient, and cost-effective solution. Companies seeking AS/NZS ISO 3834 certification can now opt to include AS/NZS 5131 as part of a single, comprehensive audit, ensuring compliance with welding quality and structural steel requirements in one streamlined step.

Our combined certification offering removes unnecessary duplication, making compliance easier and more accessible for businesses of all sizes. By consolidating audits into a single, integrated process, companies will experience significant cost savings, as they no longer need to undergo separate assessments. Additionally, the time and effort saved by avoiding multiple audits will allow businesses to focus on operational efficiency and quality outcomes rather than administrative burdens.

GET CERTIFIED NOW

Reduce costs, save time, and ensure your business meets industry standards with one simplified certification process. Simply email: engineering@weldaustalia.com.au

KEY BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION

Achieving combined certification with Weld Australia delivers significant benefits for fabricators and purchasing organisations alike:



Efficient Compliance: A single process covering both AS/NZS ISO 3834 and AS/NZS 5131 eliminates duplication and saves resources.



Cost Savings: Combining the certification process lowers overall costs compared to obtaining separate certifications, offering greater value.



Time and Effort Reduction: Combined certification minimises administrative burdens and operational disruptions associated with separate audits.



Enhanced Technical Knowledge: All personnel—trades, inspectors, supervisors, and managers—benefit from increased technical expertise.



Improved Market Access: Certification demonstrates compliance with industry standards, improving supply chain opportunities both locally and overseas.



Risk Mitigation: Reducing errors means less rework, which reduces project costs and overruns, keeping schedules and budgets on track.

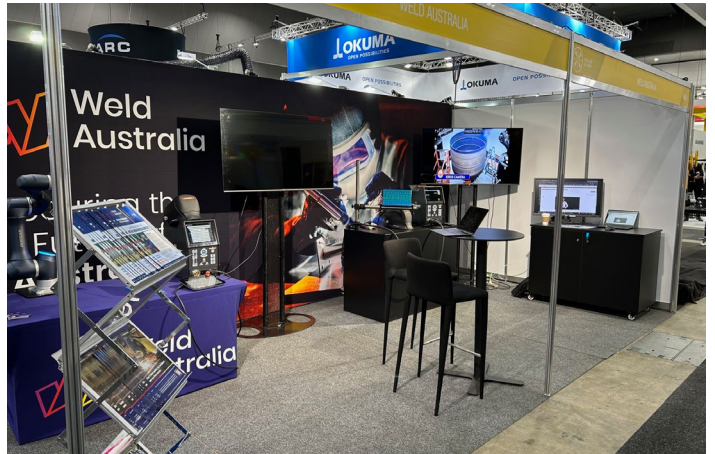
WELD AUSTRALIA AT AMW 2025

[Australian Manufacturing Week 2025](#) proved to be a huge success. Across the three days of the show, thousands of people attended. Attendees had the opportunity to visit the 400 exhibitors at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, and take in the highly engaging sessions at the Future Solutions Speaker Program.

There were six distinct zones at AMW 2025, each showcasing the highlights of the different active sectors in Australian manufacturing. The Weld and Air Solutions Zone highlighted advanced welding processes and offered interactive experiences that demonstrate developments and applications.

Weld Australia's stand was as popular as ever, with attendees keen to learn more about the Soldamatic augmented reality simulators, as well as the Doosan cobots.

Australia's premier manufacturing technology trade show, Australian Manufacturing Week is a dynamic event that brings together professionals, companies and experts from many industries related to manufacturing, engineering and technology.



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THREE DAY COURSE

API 579-1/ASME FFS-1

FITNESS-FOR-SERVICE EVALUATION

Learn how to successfully analyse, evaluate, and monitor pressure vessels, piping, and tanks for continued operation. Understand and apply the API 579-1 / ASME FFS-1 fitness-for-service standard in your daily work.

Fitness-for-service assessment is a multi-disciplinary engineering approach that is used to determine if equipment is fit to continue operation for some desired future period. The equipment may contain flaws, have sustained damage, or have aged so that it cannot be evaluated by use of the original construction codes. API 579-1/ASME FFS-1 is a comprehensive consensus industry recommended practice that can be used to analyse, evaluate, and monitor equipment for continued operation. The main types of equipment covered by this standard are pressure vessels, piping, and tanks.

GREGORY BROWN

Gregory Brown PhD is the principal and owner of Blue Ring Engineering. He is a current voting member of the ASME/API Joint Committee on Fitness-For-Service. Dr Brown currently performs computational mechanics and fitness-for-service assessments for a variety of industries using API 579, as well as supporting litigation and failure analysis. He also develops specialised software and methodologies for structural analysis and life assessment. Previously Dr Brown was the Chief Engineer for TEAM/Quest Integrity.

Dr Brown joined Dr Ted Anderson in 2001 at Structural Reliability Technology, which later became part of the Quest Integrity Group. Prior to SRT, he developed algorithms to update industrial finite element models using experimental measurements and performed flutter analyses of F16 and F18 fighter aircraft. Dr Anderson, Dr Brown, and the engineers at Structural Reliability Technology performed much of the work that was incorporated into API 579.



LOCATION TBC
LATE 2025 OR EARLY 2026

COURSE OVERVIEW

This three day course helps participants understand and apply the API/ASME fitness-for-service standard in their daily work. The material presented in the course shows how the disciplines of stress analysis, materials engineering, and nondestructive inspection interact and apply to fitness-for-service assessment. The assessment methods apply to pressure vessels, piping, and tanks that are inservice.

The course includes an extensive set of notes to supplement the contents of the recommended practice, and the recommended practice contains numerous example problems that illustrate fitness-for-service assessment.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This course is intended for engineers and engineering management engaged in the operation, design, analysis, and maintenance of plant facilities. Participants should have a Bachelor degree or equivalent experience in engineering. A general knowledge of stress analysis, materials behaviour, and fracture mechanics are helpful.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

QUESTIONS?

For further details, contact: Danielle Pennington on 0493 024 505 or d.pennington@weldaustralia.com.au

QUALIFICATION & CERTIFICATION

UPDATE

AN UPDATE ON AICIP QUALIFICATIONS

Weld Australia has taken over both the In-Service Inspector (ISI) and Senior In-Service Inspector (SISI) certifications and examinations previously performed by the Australian Institute for the Certification of Inspection Personnel (AICIP).

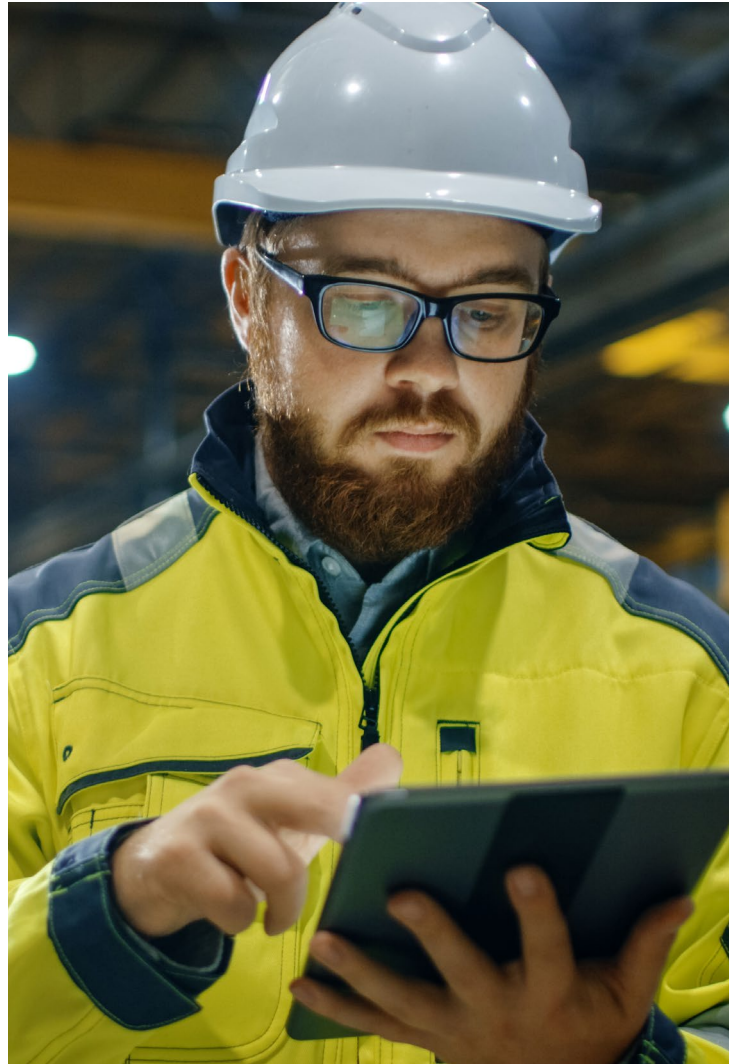
Weld Australia has now rolled out the new WeldQ site for the AICIP examinations, which commenced in early May.

Weld Australia will contact all certified individuals with instructions on how to access and manage their certifications through the WeldQ platform.

Moving forward, the primary point of contact for any AICIP-related matters is Weld Australia. Please direct all future enquiries to the following email address: gnc@weldaustralia.com.au.

Recognised nationally, AICIP certification can expand your career options and job opportunities. Examinations assess the level of skill, knowledge and capability of professionals working in the pressure equipment sector to ensure the integrity and safety of plant and pressure equipment inspection.

For further information, visit: aicip.org.au



WHY GET CERTIFIED?

There is a range of benefits associated with individual certification for welders, including:

- Improved employability and job security with the ability to present third-party verified qualifications to prospective employers
- International recognition of qualifications affords the opportunity to work overseas
- Opportunities for growth and career progression
- Easier to obtain future welding qualifications

Certification is the best way to prove that a welder has the competence, knowledge and skills to complete a specific task. To learn more, [visit our website](#).



Weld Australia would like to congratulate everyone who qualified in April.

IIW INTERNATIONAL WELDING ENGINEER (IWE)

- Shing Hei Leung

AS 1796 CERTIFICATE 4

- Daniel O'Halloran
- Mason Hensgen

IIW INTERNATIONAL WELDING INSPECTOR - BASIC (IWI-B)

- Christopher Stephen Hausheer
- David Thorncraft
- Dylan Thompson
- Eric James Rosalejos
- Jake Mighall
- Lochie Pansaru
- Matthew Chase
- Payam Hosseinzadeh Asl
- Robert Abbey
- Shah Zaib Ali Syed
- Simon Elsner

AS 1796 CERTIFICATE 5

- Mason Hensgen
- Ryan Boyd

AS 1796 CERTIFICATE 7

- Anthony Bartel
- Hamza Hamed
- Joseph Rooney
- Mason Hensgen

AS 1796 CERTIFICATE 10

- Kaydeem Hain

AS 1796 CERTIFICATE 11

- Andrew Caldwell
- Jackson Beath
- Lincoln Albanese
- Llewellyn Baker
- Paul Ferrall
- Richard Ang
- Steven Fairbrother
- Ted Allman

IIW INTERNATIONAL WELDING INSPECTOR - STANDARD (IWI-S)

- Paul Ferrall

AS 2214

- Lolito B. Orongan JR.
- Michael Bellon
- Phillip Lumsdon



WELD AUSTRALIA'S EXAM CALENDAR

Do you need to book an exam through [WeldQ](#)? We've made the process even easier, with our new exam calendar, which can be accessed via the [WeldQ homepage](#). The calendar includes all exam dates for 2025, making planning ahead as simple as possible. Upcoming exam dates include:

- Friday 16 May: National Welding Supervisor Exam - Papers B1 & B2- Session 11
- Wednesday 28 May: Re-sit/Online Exam (All Qualifications)
- Wednesday 4 June: WTE-B/WTE-S Online Exam
- Wednesday 18 June: National Welding Supervisor Exam- Paper A- (Mackay Group)
- Friday 20 June: IWE/T - EA2/TA2 Online Exam
- Wednesday 25 June: Re-sit Online Exam (All Qualifications)

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about exams and qualifications, simply email our team via: gnc@weldaustralia.com.au



TRAINING

UPDATE



WELDING INSPECTION TRAINING FOR ASC

Earlier this month, Weld Australia facilitated a successful round of International Welding Inspector – Standard (IWI-S) training for ASC in Adelaide.

Over two intensive days, participants deepened their knowledge of welding inspection standards, including AS/NZS ISO 9606 and BS EN ISO 15614-1, while applying inspection theory in a hands-on setting.

Welding inspectors play a vital role in safeguarding the quality and integrity of welded structures. The IWI-S qualification supports this critical responsibility by delivering in-depth training on inspection procedures, quality assurance, and the identification and analysis of weld imperfections.

Through a blend of theoretical exploration and practical application, participants were equipped with the tools needed to lead with confidence in inspection roles—ensuring weld quality meets the highest standards across fabrication and manufacturing environments.



IWE PRACTICAL TRAINING IN WOLLONGONG

Weld Australia recently delivered the face-to-face practical component of the [International Welding Engineer \(IWE\) course](#) at TAFE NSW's Wollongong campus, facilitated by Joe Sandor, Principal Welding Technology Trainer.

Over the course of five days, participants gained hands-on experience to complement their in-depth theoretical knowledge—an essential part of the IWE qualification, which is increasingly recognised as a critical credential in Australia's welding and fabrication industries.

With Australian Standards placing growing emphasis on the role of qualified Welding Engineers, the IWE certification, backed by the International Institute of Welding (IIW), is set to become an essential qualification for professionals in the sector. The course is strongly supported by major industry groups and hundreds of leading Australian companies, reinforcing its status as a job-ready, career-defining program.

KICK-START YOUR WELDING CAREER

**ENROL IN A WELD AUSTRALIA
TRAINING COURSE NOW**



IIW INTERNATIONAL WELDING SPECIALIST (IWS)

Starts 20 May 2025

You will gain comprehensive knowledge in welding processes and equipment, materials and their behaviour during welding, construction and design, and fabrication and application engineering. The IWS is an online course run over 5 x 5 week blocks, with a mixture of live and recorded.

ENROL NOW

FACE-TO-FACE WELDING SUPERVISOR IN MACKAY

Starts 2 June 2025

A Welding Supervisor qualification expands your career horizons enormously. Welding Supervisors play a vital role in industry—they understand the factors that influence welding quality, how to oversee welders effectively, and the variables that help maximise welding productivity.

ENROL NOW

FACE-TO-FACE IWI-B IN SINGLETON

Starts 14 July 2025

The IWI-B course is a globally recognised International Institute of Welding (IIW) qualification. You will gain comprehensive knowledge in non-destructive testing, mechanical and visual inspection techniques, Inspection procedures and acceptance criteria and identification of weld imperfections.

ENROL NOW

IIW INTERNATIONAL WELDING INSPECTOR BASIC (IWI-B)

Starts 18 August 2025

The IWI-B course is a globally recognised International Institute of Welding (IIW) qualification. You will gain comprehensive knowledge in non-destructive testing, mechanical and visual inspection techniques, Inspection procedures and acceptance criteria and identification of weld imperfections.

ENROL NOW

IIW INTERNATIONAL WELDING INSPECTOR STANDARD (IWI-S)

Starts 18 August 2025

This course provides advanced knowledge of welding and inspection theory and application, including NDT, mechanical and visual inspection techniques, inspection procedures and acceptance criteria, identification of weld imperfections associated with pre-production, fabrication, and post fabrication.

ENROL NOW

IIW INTERNATIONAL WELDING TECHNOLOGIST (IWT)

Starts 4 September 2025

This course provides you with a detailed understanding of welding technology. You'll be able to comprehensively manage and perform, supervise, oversee all company welding and welding-related activities, and have overall responsibility for coordination of all welding activities.

ENROL NOW



Need help? Contact our Training team via training@weldaustralia.com.au



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For further information, contact Michelle Tagliapietra
on m.tagliapietra@weldaustalia.com.au