



room to

IMPROVE

information for those serious about improving manufacturing

October 2010

Manufacturing Best Practice Networks

Network with world class practitioners and other local companies wishing to improve their operations.

The network introduces companies and individuals to modern manufacturing concepts and business improvement techniques such as lean manufacturing, total productive maintenance and lots more. We have regular guest speakers, site visits, videos and best practice presentations.

Members learn through sharing and learning. Membership is free, simply contact The Improve Group to become a member.

The Improve Group coordinates Manufacturing Best Practice Networks throughout Australia. To join your local MBPN contact your coach.

If you are unsure who your coach is, please call **07 3488 2143** or email info@improvegroup.com.au.

Competitive manufacturing success story

Weir Minerals Multiflo is a Sunshine Coast company that is on the way up. Designing and developing dewatering solutions for open pit and underground mines is proving to be a solid business.

Their main manufacturing site is based in Caloundra and a major service centre is located in Indonesia.

For more than 30 years, Weir have been designing and manufacturing mine dewatering pumps but it is recently their business has started to take off.

In the last two years this Lean Manufacturing success story has doubled their turnover and the forecast is for it to double again within the next two years.



Manufacturing Excellence Coach, Andy Pullin says their "structured approach to continuous improvement will be an enabler in Weir reaching their target".

Continuous Improvement Manager, Ben Lewis said, "At the heart of our Weir Production System here at Weir Minerals Multiflo are our people, who bring the whole development effort together.

It is of utmost importance then, that our people at every level of the organisation are trained and developed to cultivate a problem solving, innovative culture, free from blame, to bring out the best in the company's number one resource.

Our Competitive Manufacturing program is a significant contributor to



Good luck to the following groups who recently commenced new programs with *The Improve Group*:

- Digga, QLD
- Beta Blinds & Awnings, QLD
- San Remo Foods, SA
- ANCA, VIC
- Drew Price Engineering, VIC
- Gemco Rail, WA
- Sylvan, WA
- Autex, WA

Congratulations to the following groups who recently completed their programs:

- Label Power, QLD
- JMI Aerospace, QLD
- Terex Cranes, SA

this training and development. The benefits to individual, team and company are immediately realised with students able to apply what they've learned directly to their work environment, be it on the shop floor or in the office.

And this enthusiasm spreads, providing a culture with a very competitive edge over our competitors."

Photos

Far Left: Floor markings indicate walkways and the position of each piece of equipment.

Left: Shadow boards clearly show when something is missing.

Head Office: PO Box 188, Cleveland QLD 4163
phone 07 3488 2153
admin@improvegroup.com.au

improve
GROUP
www.improvegroup.com.au

Australian Edition



The Enterprise Connect Program

Manufacturing or service related companies with an annual turnover between \$2-100m may be eligible to take part in the Enterprise Connect Program.

A free business review is conducted at the start of the program. Upon completion of the action plan, companies will be eligible for a 1:1 (dollar for dollar) grant of up to \$20,000 to assist with implementing improvement initiatives identified during the review process.

The Improve Group is a specialist consultancy that provides productivity programs to industry, predominantly in the manufacturing and processing sectors.

Services include:

- subsidised Competitive Manufacturing training and implementation programs,
- manufacturing and supply chain diagnostics and benchmarking,
- strategic planning,
- lean consultancy
- training to the services and manufacturing sectors.

For further information on the Enterprise Connect program, please contact The Improve Group **07 3488 2143** or email admin@improvegroup.com.au



You may be eligible for Federal Government funding of up to \$4,000 for every participant.*

An additional \$4,950 is available for workers over 55 years of age.

For details call **07 3488 2143**

*eligibility criteria does apply

Standard Leader Work

Part one (part 2 next issue)

Standard Leader Work: a list of the normal tasks that must be done to sustain the lean management system.

Many leaders have heard the buzzword, read the book, picked up a pad and pen and headed out to the gemba (workplace) to go see.

Leader standard work is becoming a standard component of lean implementations everywhere.

In essence it has always been a part, under un-buzzy names such as daily management and genba kanri. Leader standard work as a phrase seems to have some more staying power.

In substance, leader standard work is all about sustainability and accountability built into the practice of daily, weekly and monthly checks of the actual condition of the gemba. Going to see is the easy part. All that takes is motivation and ambulation.

The degree to which a leader can quickly grasp the situation during a gemba walk largely depends on the

quality and variety of visual controls in use. But even with excellent visual management, gaining a deeper understanding of the what one is seeing requires thoughtful questioning and listening.

This is what we might call a "soft skill" and it is an area in which many leaders who have risen through the ranks due to their keen minds working out problems and their unfaltering delivery of solutions, frankly struggle. Some leaders who have risen up from the front lines are more comfortable on the gemba.

Others feel embarrassed that they in fact know so little about what really goes on and are afraid to expose themselves by asking questions.

Others have no fear, but may waste time asking the wrong questions.

Knowing what to ask and how to ask it are completely different things, and any leader preparing to practice standard work should first consider getting some frank input on their soft skills.

Courtesy – Jon Miller, co founder, Gemba Research

2011 WORKSHOPS

Masterclass series

1 day workshops

- Standard Leader Work
- Just In Time Master
- Pitstop Experience (Quick Changeovers)
- 5S Master

Inhouse/Public programs

- 3 day Lean Practitioner
- 1 Day Lean Expert
- 1 Day Lean Practitioner

Inhouse/Public programs are certified by the Lean Six Sigma Society of Australia.



If you don't wish to receive future editions of Room to Improve [click here](#) to unsubscribe

Head Office:
PO Box 188, Cleveland QLD 4163
phone 07 3488 2153
admin@improvegroup.com.au



www.improvegroup.com.au