



Australian manufacturer celebrates 80 years in the steel industry...and there's more to come

Austube Mills, formerly OneSteel Australian Tube Mills, will officially donate a time capsule to the City of Newcastle on Thursday 4 September 2014 as part of its national 80th anniversary celebrations of the business' contribution to the area's steelworks industry since 1934.

Austube Mills will present the time capsule to Deputy Lord Mayor Cr Brad Luke at its Business Birthday BBQ event where current and former employees will celebrate with local community groups and local and national customers.

Austube Mills General Manager Mr Richard Clement said the time capsule, to be buried on-site at Mayfield, comprises iconic memories of the business' heritage and also stories and videos current employees have created about the business.

"The time capsule will freeze in time the journey Austube Mills has taken from being Australia's first pipe and tube manufacturer 80 years ago to now it's largest," Richard said.

"Since our inception as Stewarts & Lloyds in Newcastle, Austube Mills has gone on to build a strong national footprint, with two other manufacturing facilities in Victoria and Queensland, and we are leaders in our industry for quality products, best practice safety principles and customer service.

"Employees manufactured our one metre galvanized pipe time capsule on site, a very fitting souvenir to protect the special items placed inside for the next 40 years. Items that are sure to educate people in the future on how much the Newcastle steel manufacturing industry changed throughout the 20th and 21st centuries.

"Copies of our anniversary books, old photos, including the old mills in operation and from when the site made shells for the Second World War, pieces of the evolution of our personal protection equipment, and current business reports, are just some of the items to be interred at our head office location.

"To represent the present day, we will include winning entries from internal competitions we held to engage employees and their families to tell us stories from their time at Austube Mills and short videos themed '*Why choose Austube Mills?*'"

"Austube Mills is very proud of our Australian heritage and especially our head office in Newcastle, where the majority of our manufacturing innovations were born; the most notable is our DuraGal® brand which has radically improved the inline galvanizing coating process for steel pipe and tube products since the early 1990s."

As official recognition of Austube Mills' contribution to the local steelworks industry, the City of Newcastle invited the business to donate a piece of its innovative DuraGal steel tubular product to sit permanently in the Newcastle Museum's steelworks collection.

Newcastle Deputy Lord Mayor Brad Luke said the City of Newcastle is pleased to accept the time capsule from Austube Mills.

"Newcastle City Council and many local historians are concerned with the preservation of Newcastle's industrial heritage," he said. "This generous gift will remind generations to come of the significant economic impact of Austube Mills as part of Newcastle's proud steel industry. Congratulations to Austube Mills on its 80th anniversary and its continued presence as a significant employer and corporate citizen in Newcastle."

Richard Clement will present the Newcastle Deputy Lord Mayor with the time capsule and piece of DuraGal product at the Business Birthday BBQ on Thursday 4 September at 9.30am at the Austube Mills site on Industrial Drive, Mayfield.

For more information visit the Austube Mills website www.austubemills.com

[ENDS]

Photo/interview opportunity:

If you would like to organise an interview with General Manager Richard Clement please contact Shannon Eagles.

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Additional information

- > Austube Mills is Australia's largest structural steel pipe and tube manufacturer.
- > With a history dating back to the 1930s, Austube Mills has evolved from the knowledge and experience of respected Australian steel businesses Stewarts & Lloyds, Tubemakers, Palmer Tube Mills, Smorgon Steel, British Tube Mills and most recently, OneSteel (Arrium).
- > Austube Mills is the largest Australian manufacturer of the widest range of high quality structural steel pipe, tube and open profile sections that are third party certified (ACRS) to the highest AUS/NZ Standards.
- > Austube Mills has a core network of manufacturing and warehousing facilities in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria, and is supported by more than 200 distribution partners across Australia and New Zealand.
- > Austube Mills was rebranded in 2013 from its previous name as OneSteel Australian Tube Mills.
- > Austube Mills has played a major part in the steelworks industry in Newcastle and in particular, in the lives and generations of its citizens since 1934, employing during the 1950s more than 3,000 employees.
- > Austube Mills has spearheaded major developments in the Australian steel pipe and tube industry, most notably becoming the home of DuraGal® - the well respected and recognised brand known for the revolution its steel products have made in the steel market since the 1990s.
- > Significant milestones from the Newcastle site have contributed greatly to the design innovation and technological advances of the entire Australian steel pipe and tube manufacturing industry. In 1963 it obtained an international license for the 'Newcastle Design' (pioneering a process for automatically galvanizing circular pipe) and in 1994 it won the national Australian Information Industry Award for Excellence Through Information Technology with its barcoding and storage system.
- > Today Austube Mills continues to give back to the local area through its present employees and Community Sponsorship Program.

Other story ideas

Fourth generation family history in Newcastle steelworks industry

- > Austube Mills Safety Coordinator Andrew Jago is a fourth generation Newcastle steelworks employee.
- > Andrew's great grandfather Robert Simpson worked as a leading hand blacksmith on the site in 1909 and his grandfather Guy Foster, worked at the Newcastle Steelworks during the 1950-60s. Gavin Jago, Andrew's father, commenced his working career with Stewart & Lloyds (the first company in the Austube Mills history) in 1963 as an electrical trainee. Gavin completed 39 years service before retiring from the position of site services manager in 2001.
- > The family tradition also includes two of Andrew's uncles; one who worked as a carpenter at the Newcastle Ropeworks site and the other as an apprentice fitter at Tubemakers in the early 1970s.
- > **NB** – the Austube Mills corporate video features Andrew and Gavin together on site www.austubemills.com
- > **Gavin and Andrew Jago are available for media interviews.**

DuraGal – the product that revolutionised the steel industry in the 1990s

- > In the late 1980s, Tubemakers of Australia (Newcastle) discovered a steel pipe and tube coating process in the USA that improved upon the existing processes in Australia.
- > Tubemakers purchased the license for this benchmarking technology and became the first manufacturer to introduce it into the Australian market. After further developing the process, Tubemakers patented the work and branded it 'DuraGal®'.
- > Tubemakers revolutionised steel applications when it introduced DuraGal products into the Australian market.
- > DuraGal offered many never seen before advantages:
 - > The quality surface finish left products strikingly clean and rust free (the silver galvanizing was a breath of fresh air to the dominant traditional black steel of that era)
 - > The durable corrosion protection and temporary rust preventative made the products more resistant to handling damage during transportation and storage
 - > Higher strength
 - > Easy and economical powder coating, resulting in a smooth attractive surface
 - > Eliminated costs incurred by shot blasting, cleaning and painting.
- > The impact DuraGal made to the Australian market was positively felt far and wide. Pipe and tube consumers across all market segments embraced DuraGal products as fabrication production became safer and the products more easy to use. DuraGal streamlined production, reduced application costs and enhanced project outcomes.
- > Today DuraGal is the second most recognised brand (to Colorbond) in the Australian steel industry and is the brand of a coatings range including DuraGalUltra, DuraGalPlus and DuraGalClear.