

Up close with Shisham



With a core focus on braces, Shisham is excited to participate in the development of a new National Precast publication on precast bracing and propping.

This month, *Inside Construction* got up close with one of National Precast Concrete Association Australia's more recent Industry Partners, Shisham Stanley Group.



Dean Messina, Managing Director at Shisham Stanley Group.

National Precast Concrete Association Australia (National Precast) Industry Partner and Supplier members play an important role not only in supplying products and services to National Precast members, but in supporting the important work that is undertaken by the industry's peak body.

Shisham Stanley Group (Shisham) joined National Precast in August 2022 and Managing Director Dean Messina was proud to catch up with *Inside Construction* to share the company's journey.

How long has Shisham been around?

Dean: We have been operating for over 40 years. We are a second-generation family-operated engineering company that remains Australian owned, operates with branches in Melbourne and Brisbane, and supplies nationally.

With customers across Australia and abroad, and manufacturing and fabricating plants located both in Australia and overseas, we have grown to be a major player in the precast industry.

What is the company's core business?

Dean: Since 1977 Shisham has grown to be one of the market leaders in the manufacturing, and supply and hire of precast concrete push-pull braces.

We also manufacture a wide variety of engineered steel products for the precast and tilt-up sectors such as cast in plates, threaded bars, the Shisham Early Bracing System (SEBS), specified fixing plates and angles (standard and non-standard), customer specified strongbacks and other metal products.

We frequently work closely with customers to problem solve and present solutions for atypical situations designed to improve efficiencies and provide cost savings.

What makes you different from others?

Dean: Our scope is unlimited because we have the freedom of designing and manufacturing our own products and can therefore guarantee the quality.

Shisham has always believed in a comprehensive approach. We highly value our clients, and we like to be an integral part of their business by being able to understand and offer solutions to their desired outcomes.

What do you like most about the precast industry?

Dean: For more than 40 years the precast industry has enabled our company to establish a firm foundation and grow. In doing so it has challenged us to come up with innovative new designs to improve the use



National Precast Industry Partner Shisham is one of the market leaders in the supply and hire of precast push-pull braces.



Shisham's Melbourne factory manufactures and supplies a wide range of engineered steel products for the precast industry.

and safety of our bracing systems. Also, it is a very grounded industry full of switched on and down to earth operators.

How long have you been a National Precast Industry Partner and why did you decide to become one?

Dean: While we have been aware of National Precast for some time, we decided only some months ago to partner with the association as an Industry Partner member.

With bracing and propping being an important part of our business, we believe we have something to offer in terms of helping to better educate the market on the use of bracing systems and allied products.

Being involved opens opportunities for us to contribute to the work National Precast is doing on Australian Standards Committees and in producing publications like the new guide to bracing and propping which is currently being drafted.

What we have seen so far is a vibrant organisation that is doing some great things for both its members and the industry. We are excited about the opportunity to be involved.

Where do you see the precast industry heading in the next few years?

Dean: Great question. The precast industry is growing – we believe the role we play is only limited by our imaginations in so far as challenging the norm to do things better and creating new opportunities. ■



Leading the helm of National Precast for the next two years is newly elected President Jeff Stratford (Left), Euro Precast Queensland's General Manager, along with longstanding CEO Sarah Bachmann (Right).

National Precast announces new leadership

Several new faces have joined National Precast Concrete Association Australia's Board of Directors, with the organisation also announcing a new leader.

National Precast Concrete Association Australia's (National Precast) CEO Sarah Bachmann has announced Michael Waeger from Waeger Constructions has stepped down as President after three years in the role and has been replaced by Jeff Stratford, General Manager of Euro Precast in Queensland.

Bachmann says that Waeger made a big contribution while on the Board, having seen the organisation through difficult COVID-19 pandemic years and having led some major changes during his term.

"We have strategically tried to position National Precast to provide better value to members and the broader precast industry by introducing new services and reducing fees," Bachmann says. "We are now ready to make more precasters aware of what we do and why they need to join."

"Stratford – along with the rest of the Board, many of whom are new – will no doubt be keen to make further changes and is enthusiastic about helping to spread the word so we can realise the planned growth in membership and strengthen National Precast's voice."

Stratford comes to the Board following a long involvement with National Precast. Having worked for Reid Construction Systems for many years, he is now General Manager of Euro Precast's Queensland operations.

Michael Waeger remains on the Board as Immediate Past President and he and Stratford are joined by existing Board members who have been reappointed – Alberto Ferraro from PERMAcast and Riccardo Musella from Reinforced Earth.

While Peter Healy, Hollow Core Concrete's Managing Director has stepped down from the Board, his son, General Manager Joe Healy has been appointed. Also newly appointed to the Board are Brett Foster from Advanced Precast, Michael Hudson from Hudson Civil, Chris Kouris from Reid Construction Systems, and Professional Associate Individual Members with a long precast history, Bob Connell and Simon Hughes.

Bachmann adds: "Our thanks go to retiring Board members Craig Zinn from Stresscrete for his many years served on the Board and as President, and to Jason Walsh from Delta Corporation and John Cole from Austral Precast."