



**STRICTLY EMBARGOED**  
**UNTIL 10PM, SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2012**

# 2012 WorkSafe Tasmania Awards

## Category winners

## **OVERALL WINNER OF THE 2012 WORKSAFE TASMANIA AWARDS**

### ***Pitt & Sherry Consulting Engineers together with Grange Resources, Launceston***

Pitt & Sherry is an engineering consultancy firm, while Grange Resources operates iron ore mining and processing.

By its very nature, open cut mining requires personnel and machinery to be exposed to the high wall of an open cut pit. Grange Resources took the position that the dangers associated with working under, or near, the high wall of an open cut pit were unacceptable.

To address this major hazard, Grange Resources, together with Pitt & Sherry Consulting Engineers, designed and developed a Remote Explosive Loading Unit.

This joint solution eliminated the need for personnel to work, or be located, within the 18 metre rock-fall zone. In the event of a rock-fall, all personnel are now safely positioned outside an exclusion zone.

### ***Overall Highly Commended Award***

#### ***North Eastern Soldiers Memorial Hospital, Scottsdale***

North Eastern Soldiers Memorial Hospital provides a range of health services to the local community, including acute beds, aged care, maternity, and community services. The hospital employs 110 staff.

North Eastern Soldiers Memorial Hospital's health and wellbeing program has been instrumental in creating positive role models within the local community, and includes initiatives such as regular healthy staff morning teas, bike racks, water stations, pedometers, provision of 15 minutes each day for staff to go for a walk, flexible rosters, an employee assistance program, as well as an annual staff immunisation program.

The organisation has found that a happy and healthy workforce is more resilient in facing the challenges that working in health provides, and the benefits of the program have been felt across the entire business.

### ***Overall Special Encouragement Award***

#### ***Tracy Orr – Director, Absolute Beauty Tas Pty Ltd, Launceston***

Absolute Beauty provides beauty therapy, body, nail and wellness treatments as well as massage, laser and anti-ageing treatments. The organisation has seven employees.

Tracy Orr is the Director of Absolute Beauty and has been instrumental in developing and implementing the organisation's health and wellbeing program as well as being the driving force behind a shift in both staff and client attitudes towards their own health and wellbeing.

Tracy has championed a healthy culture within the workplace and the success of Absolute Beauty's program has surpassed expectations, with healthy eating, exercise and physical activity now a daily part of life for the workers of the small business.

## **Best workplace health and safety management system**

### ***Winner***

#### ***Sibelco Australia Ltd, Mole Creek***

Sibelco Australia operates a limestone quarry and lime processing plant, employing 30 people.

In 2011, Sibelco Australia introduced a new look Environment, Health and Safety Management System. Over the past 18 months, the implementation of the revised Health and Safety System has focused on two new risk management tools, including the Job Start Check Risk Assessment Tool and a Permit to Work System.

The Sibelco Environment, Health and Safety Management System is delivering positive results at the Mole Creek operation. The success of the new system can be seen through the increased commitment and accountability taken on by management and plant operators, as well as a reduction in the number of workplace incidents and their severity.

### ***Highly Commended***

#### ***Hydro Tasmania and Entura, Hobart***

Hydro Tasmania is Australia's leading renewable energy business and employs approximately 966 people.

Hydro Tasmania's Electrical Safety Management System, established in late 2010, is an integrated system for managing the significant risks associated with performing electrical work on Hydro Tasmania's, and other companies' power assets.

The comprehensive system also provides for a Workplace Standards exemption, allowing employees and contractors to carry out specified electrical operational and maintenance work.

The outcome of the new management system is that electrical work can be performed under appropriate controls and supervision, providing flexibility in Hydro Tasmania's resource management, while also ensuring work is done in a safe manner. Since the implementation, there have been no electrical-related lost time injuries recorded.

## ***Special Encouragement Award***

### ***Tasports, Hobart***

Tasports is a state-owned company responsible for the management of 12 Tasmanian ports. The organisation employs 191 full-time employees, six part-time employees and 64 casual employees.

While Tasports already had a certified Safety Management System that had delivered positive results, the organisation noticed that work health and safety performance had begun to creep. To address this, Tasports initiated a consultative process to identify possible causes. From this consultation, Tasports developed a new risk management module to respond to the issues raised.

The high level of consultation resulted in a positive workplace cultural shift allowing Tasports to proceed with increased support and less resistance to change. While the health and safety management system is relatively new, Tasports is confident it will deliver a reduction in injury rates and workplace hazards.

## **The IPM Award for ‘Best solution to an identified workplace health and safety issue’**

### ***Winner***

#### ***Pitt & Sherry Consulting Engineers together with Grange Resources, Launceston***

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### ***Highly Commended***

#### ***Huon Aquaculture Company Pty Ltd, Dover***

Huon Aquaculture is a Tasmanian owned and operated family company which produces over 12,000 tonnes of salmon each year. It employs 400 workers.

Huon Aquaculture uses a significant number of cranes and capstans on board vessels to complete daily work, which presents a range of complex potential risks to the fish farm employees.

Following a series of incidents relating to its operation, Huon developed a range of systems and processes to improve the management of vessel mounted cranes and capstans. These developments included training, purchasing, engineering and servicing improvements.

Since the implementation of these improvements, Huon has not experienced any incidents involving cranes or capstans in a 10 month period.

### ***Hydro Tasmania, Hobart***

Hydro Tasmania is Australia's leading renewable energy business, employing approximately 966 people.

Hydro Tasmania identified a health and safety issue associated with maintaining heavy machine parts in a confined area, as part of the Tungatinah modernisation project.

To address these hazards, the Lower Guide Bearing Hydraulic Platform was developed, providing a safe working platform with infinite height adjustment, situated in a very confined working area.

The solution has eliminated the hazards associated with maintaining the heavy machine parts, which have been present since the construction of the plant in 1955. The new platform has significantly improved worker safety and now has a proven track record after being used on two turbine modernisation projects.

### ***MMG Rosebery, Rosebery***

MMG Rosebery is a polymetallic underground mine which has been in continuous operation for 76 years. The mine employs 276 workers.

MMG Rosebery identified a workplace health and safety issue around the safe access of a test pit site which involved steep gradients in the traverse of the seven kilometre access road and an elevation of some 700 metres.

The trucking of ore from the test site was the prime safety concern which required a detailed plan, focusing on the potential for braking failure as well as trucks running off the road.

A detailed risk assessment was conducted which led to the development of a brake temperature monitoring and recording process, which resulted in the 526 days of the test project achieving injury and incident free status.

### ***Norske Skog Boyer Mill, Boyer***

Norske Skog is a newsprint manufacturer, employing around 295 workers.

The nature of operations in the Norske Skog Boyer Mill's warehouse presented a number of hazards, particularly between pedestrians and forklifts sharing the warehouse floor.

While engineering and administrative controls were in place to control these hazards, a fatality involving an incident between a worker and a forklift at Norske Skog Golbey Mill in France, sent shockwaves through Norske Skog Mills around the world.

Recognising the similarities between the two mills' work environments, the Boyer Mill undertook a full risk assessment of warehouse operations.

This resulted in the development of a customised Pedestrian-Vehicle Separation System that has dramatically reduced the risk of any worker being injured by a vehicle.

### ***Nyrstar Hobart Pty Ltd, Hobart***

Nyrstar is a large scale zinc smelter with 499 employees.

Nystar identified a workplace health and safety hazard in the process of workers manually digging manganese mud from cells with an eight foot shovel and bucket.

The practice of manganese digging had not changed for almost 100 years and was the cause of 30 per cent of total electrolysis injuries at Nystar in 2011.

In response to this hazard, a manganese suction pump was developed which has already had outstanding results, including a 50 per cent reduction in injuries caused by manual digging, long term financial savings, and the potential for increased productivity.

## **Best workplace health and safety practice/s in a small business**

### ***Winner***

#### ***Temtrol Technologies Pty Ltd, George Town***

Temtrol Technologies operates electrical contracting and instrumentation, electrical and automation sales via a statewide service. The organisation employs 12 workers.

While Temtrol Technologies had always had a good safety record, the organisation agreed that it needed to streamline the way in which it approached safety to ensure it could be easily managed, and allow workers to continue working safely.

In 2010 a complete review was undertaken of Temtrol's safety management system, with the result being a new streamlined system tailored to the organisation's core business tasks while also gaining compliance with the AS4801.

## **Best injury management and return-to-work system**

### ***Winner***

### ***Baptcare, Devonport***

Baptcare is a not-for-profit provider of residential aged care, community care, child welfare, and family services, employing 1200 workers.

In mid 2011, Baptcare implemented a new approach to injury management to address a steady growth in the number and cost of workplace injury claims. This included a range of initiatives aimed at improving the organisation's response to and management of injured workers to enable them to safely return to work.

The benefits of the new injury management system have included faster and easier notification of workplace incidents, injuries, near misses and dangerous occurrences, as well as earlier intervention. In a sector where people suffer a disproportionate number of workplace injuries, the benefits of giving people the support they need, resolving claims quickly and encouraging a monitored return-to-work program have been substantial.

## **The Kraft Foods Australia Award for ‘Best workplace health and wellbeing program’**

### ***Winner***

#### ***North Eastern Soldiers Memorial Hospital, Scottsdale***

North Eastern Soldiers Memorial Hospital provides a range of health services to its local community including acute beds, aged care, maternity and community services. The hospital employs 110 staff.

The motivation behind the development of the North Eastern Soldiers Memorial Hospital’s health and wellbeing program was to have happy and healthy workers that are positive role models for the community. The program consists of six key areas, including nutrition, physical activity, health initiatives, environment, wellbeing, and illness and injury prevention.

The success of the hospital’s health and wellbeing program has included a reduction in lost time injuries, a low attrition rate, an increase in staff physical activity levels, eight staff quitting smoking, and a greater utilisation of flexible working hours.

### ***Highly Commended***

#### ***Absolute Beauty Tas Pty Ltd, Launceston***

Absolute Beauty provides beauty therapy, body, nail and wellness treatments, massage, as well as laser and anti-ageing treatments. The organisation has seven employees.

Absolute Beauty developed and implemented a health and wellbeing program encompassing five key elements including healthy food choices, physical activity, social and emotional wellbeing, a quit smoking program and education. Initiatives included installing a large fridge in the staff room, a cooking program using ‘super foods’, lunch time walks, flexible working hours, and weekly education meetings.

Results from the implementation of the program have included a 66 per cent quit smoking program success rate, a rise in healthy homemade lunches and a substantial increase in physical activity levels among staff, with more than half of staff also joining a gym.

### ***MMG Rosebery, Rosebery***

MMG Rosebery is a polymetallic underground mine located on the West Coast of Tasmania. The mine employs 276 workers.

MMG Rosebery, in conjunction with Healthy Business Tasmania, developed and implemented the Gutless Club, aimed at losing one tonne of weight from its 100 participants, which included both workers and members from the surrounding community.

The program is a mixture of fun and informative presentations as well as one-on-one coaching sessions tailored to individual needs.

At the most recent weigh-in of program participants, the results were just short of a 500kg weight loss. MMG Rosebery has already seen some inspiring results, with one participant losing upwards of 23 kilograms and another losing more than 28 centimetres.