



Our First Edition

After much delay we have finally released our first edition of the AST monthly newsletter (AST Training Talk).

From humble beginnings AST has had a period of substantial growth with over 8000 students trained in 2009 from 12 countries.

With the geographical spread of people and places it can be difficult to keep in touch with everyone. The aim of this newsletter is to help communicate what we are doing and recognise the efforts of everyone involved with AST.

I encourage everyone to be a part of this newsletter and help contribute to the content each month. Any news worthy photos and/or stories can be emailed to chris@astpl.com



Chris Gittens
Managing Director
Australian Skills Training

Thoughts from the Top End!



While we may be mocked by our Southern colleagues the Top End crew (Chris, Marg and sometimes Richard!) have been punching above our weight the last few months. We have delivered courses in several remote communities (Wadeye, Elcho Island and Nhulunbuy), and booking up various courses at the training centre.

In other news the monsoon season is finally over and the tourists are flocking into town. The famous Mindl beach markets are open for business and the dry season sunsets as spectacular as ever.

Safety Advisers Start at Banda Aceh Project

AST has mobilised a team of six Safety Advisers to the Lkonnga Cement Plant Re-construction project in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. These guys will have plenty of challenges ahead to ensure the project is completed safely and with a target of zero incidents.

AST now has 14 personnel onsite plus a crew of 10 scaffolders from the Kaefer Group. In addition to providing safety expertise, AST is managing the erection of 95m high scaffold on a Gas Cooling Tower.



The 95m Gas Cooling Tower at the Lohknga plant to be Scaffolded by AST



AST's Rigging Crew in Banda Aceh From Left to Right (Noviansyah, Antoni, M.Asmi, Sadanur, and Alex)

Training in East Timor

Justin Wheeler from AST Loadwise in Canberra headed to the tropics to complete a two week training program in Skid Steer Loaders for the East Timorese Defence Force. It wasn't all hard work as you can see!



Justin with trainees from the East Timorese Defence Force



Barracuda caught trolling on the eastern tip of East Timor

Facts & Figures

- Since Jan 1st 2010, AST has enrolled 3838 people in courses and VOC's.
- Darwin has processed 672 people in 114 courses.
- Perth has processed 2444 in 509 courses/VOC's - that is a lot of toilet paper.
- Canberra has processed 618 in 107 courses.
- Batam has processed 104 in 15 courses.
- Singapore figures not available.
- 122 courses were forklift. Bored Roy?
- 48 dogging courses
- Conducted 275 BHP VOC's for United Group Limited
- 5 hydraulics courses - well done Mike.
- 8574 new visitors to the astpl.com website.



What's New in Perth?

AST is about to embark on training in the TAA40104 Cert IV in Training and Assessing. As you should know, this is the industry standard for those who wish to assess in Nationally Recognised Units of Competency. Any need a BSZ upgrade, contact Noel Cheney.

We are also undertaking Stress Management Training. Stress in the workplace has now surpassed injury as the most common harm caused in a workplace and costs Australia around \$11 billion a year.



On average, a worker will take 3 days off a year due to stress which means if you have 10 staff, you will lose one month a year through stress.

We all have a duty of care to make sure our work mates are squeezing their stress balls!

Mike, Tom and Jeremy have fought off Bureaucrats, confusing forms and unrealistic expectations in the nation's capital, Canberra, to become Workcover Assessors in the ACT.



AST has its sights set on a branch in QLD, so stay tuned for that.



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