

4th *IIW* *Welding Research* *& Collaboration Colloquium*

A great contribution to WTIA's National Welding Capability Project



Photo courtesy University of Wollongong

From 5 to 7 November 2014, as part of its National Welding Capability Project, WTIA hosted the 4th International Institute of Welding (IIW) Welding Research and Collaboration Colloquium. With over 85 speakers and delegates from 12 different countries, including 63 from Australia, the Colloquium was a unique and outstanding forum which brought together representatives from local and global industry and research to exchange ideas and establish cooperative networks for future communication and development.

Such colloquia are an initiative of the IIW Welding Research Strategy and Collaboration Group (SG-RES). Chaired by Prof Americo Scotti from Brazil, SG-RES has the key objective to analyse the growth of welding research around the world. At regular meetings, critical feedback is collected regarding how topics of industrial interest, and support for research in welding and allied techniques, are progressing in the participants' countries, and strategies for future development are generated.

The Colloquium, organised and held in Wollongong by Australian IIW Responsible Member WTIA, was also sponsored by the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), BOC Limited and the University of Wollongong. It was delivered through the valuable team effort of the Organising and Technical Committees, respectively chaired by Chris Smallbone, WTIA Industry Advocate and CEO Emeritus, and Americo Scotti, with Emeritus Professor John Norrish and Professor Madeleine du Toit of the University of Wollongong and WTIA's Event Coordinator Cena Josevska as members.

After the opening introduction by Chris Smallbone and Welcome to Country by Chris Cook, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences at the University of Wollongong, an overview of IIW was given by Dr Cécile Mayer, IIW CEO, and one on SG-RES by Americo Scotti.

Session 1 set the scene for an overview of research capabilities by Prof Heidi Cramer (SLV Munchen, Germany), Prof Madeleine du Toit (University of Wollongong), Dr Lenka Kuzmikova (Post-Doctoral Researcher, University of Wollongong), and Dr Anna Paradowska (Bragg Institute, ANSTO). Nine subsequent sessions, including 35 presentations, focussed on topics such as welding processes, modelling, applications, additive manufacturing, joint manufacture, automation, joining processes, and surface treatment, each chaired by a prominent industrial or research representative.

Prior to the group discussion session for 'The Way Forward', Chris Smallbone presented 'The IIW White Paper – Its significance to creating a National Welding Capability' which stimulated the brainstorming on how the R&D fraternity in Australia, collaborating with the IIW R&D network, could contribute effectively to Australia's future research needs and capabilities.

The Colloquium participants approved a Resolution 'To establish and maintain a WTIA National Welding Capability in Australia with the support of IIW, IIW SG-RES and the research collaborators within the IIW and Australian Networks'.

Networking activities, such as the Colloquium dinner, sponsored by ANSTO and held at the Harbourfront Restaurant on the Wednesday evening, served to cement lasting relationships between Australian and international delegates.

Friday afternoon, more than 50 delegates attended well organised and informative tours either at the University of Wollongong's robotics and welding related facilities or ANSTO, at Lucas Heights, including the Opal Reactor and experimental hall, and neutron engineering instruments.

The positive feedback from those who attended the Colloquium was outstanding, reinforcing the WTIA's belief that the Institute's membership of IIW, and opportunities such as the Colloquium, attendance at IIW Annual Assemblies and involvement in the IIW Technical Working Units, provide Australian industry and the community with immense technical, social and economic benefits.

21st November 2014