

# Fabricator Profile

## Award Winner – Geelong Fabrications

**AISC's State Manager Victoria & Tasmania, Frances van Reyk, profiles the fabricator of the winning entry in the AISC Victorian Architectural Steel Design Award for buildings and uncovers a long track record of high quality fabrication.**

**F**ounded in 1968 by David Kirby, Geelong Fabrications' recent success as the fabricator for the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre is the culmination of over 25 years in the steel construction industry.

In 1990, Geelong Fabrications moved from North Geelong into new facilities in North Shore and took its place among key industries such as the Shell Refinery, BHP Wire Mill, Pivot Fertilisers, Cheetham Salt and Ford Automotive and Casting. The company still owns its old premises and uses them for overflow from the main factory if the need arises.

With a team of 30 permanent staff, the company minimises the use of subcontractors by undertaking fabrication, painting, steel erection and rigging themselves. Managing Director David Kirby feels that this allows Geelong Fabrications to serve their clients better.

"We have total control over quality and program and are able to increase efficiency and minimise costs," Mr Kirby said.

"Our key asset is our personnel, many of whom have worked for us for over 10 years. Even during the recession we had little turnover of staff. As a result, our workforce is loyal, experienced and committed to producing quality structural steel.

"Our expertise covers architectural, industrial, mechanical and bridge projects, but our main focus is on architectural projects like the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre. We see one of our best projects on the news each night behind the Canberra Correspondent – the Great Verandah at the New Parliament House."

### New Parliament House

Geelong Fabrications supplied, fabricated and installed all the structural steel, aluminium and glazing to the Great Verandah and 'Links' for the new Parliament House. A total of ten 'Links' connect various sections of the New Parliament House, including the House of Representatives and the

Senate Chambers to the Members Hall.

This required fabrication to very strict tolerances as well as a high standard of paint finish.



*In addition to the Atrium ceiling, Geelong Fabrications provided steelwork for the main tower roof, gallery walkways, Atrium pyramid and shop fronts at 530 Collins Street.*

### 530 Collins Street

530 Collins Street is the new home of the Stock Exchange in Melbourne. It consists of a main tower of 40 floors with an adjacent podium of 14 storeys which enclose the Atrium. Geelong Fabrications provided structural steelwork to the Atrium ceilings, main tower roof, gallery walkways, Atrium pyramid and other secondary steelwork for shop fronts.

Steelwork for the Atrium ceiling had to be erected for 14 floors without scaffolding. Work platforms were attached to the main roof trusses and secondary members prior to erection from the concrete floors. Ancillary steelwork was then erected using these platforms. All the steelwork involved in this project was highly complex and required an extremely high level of architectural finish.



*Steelwork for the Atrium ceiling at 530 Collins Street was erected for 14 floors without scaffolding.*

### Toyota Manufacturing Facility, Altona

Toyota Motor Corporation recently constructed a new \$500 million manufacturing facility at Altona in Melbourne's western suburbs. Geelong Fabrications provided structural steel for the Administration building, body shop, paint shop, inspection platforms, conveyor system and utility buildings.

Work on the Toyota facility was undertaken according to the John Holland Quality Assurance System. This project gave Geelong Fabrications a good insight into the QA process and helped in developing their own QA system.

### Aircraft Hangars

Geelong Fabrications have undertaken work for Aero Space Technologies of Australia (ASTA), including upgrading of hangar facilities at Avalon Airport to the west of Melbourne.

Starch International Limited recently used Geelong Fabrications to supply, fabricate, paint and deliver 20 aircraft hangars for the RAAF. Starch, now based in Singapore, uses Geelong Fabrications as the manufacturer of the Starch patented design in Australia.

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