



### VLI's Conveyor Manufacturing Facility wins 2012 HMA "Excellence in Safety" Award

The Hunter Manufacturing Awards are dedicated to promoting best practice in manufacturing, by highlighting the achievements of Hunter-based manufacturers in a range of categories. On Friday, October 19, VLI was awarded the prestigious "Excellence in Safety" Award for their Tomago Conveyor Facility, a culmination of months of hard-work and dedication by both management and workforce.

The judges looked for examples of innovation in safety and safety systems, demonstrated by, but not limited to, "out of the ordinary" safety systems approach, positive impact on employee safety, health and wellbeing, improved employee motivation and morale, evidence of the development of a "safety culture", hazard and/or risk/accident reduction and an increased awareness of OH&S procedures/policies.

VLI submitted a presentation of their "Play it Safe" safety improvement program, which has significantly improved all safety statistics at this site and made the Tomago Manufacturing Facility a leader in safe work culture. The HMA judges thought so too:

*"An outstanding submission! The submission indicates excellent ownership by Management and involvement of the workforce. There is evidence of a marked improvement in Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate and Lost Time Injury Severity Rate, and also All Injury Frequency Rate. Undoubtedly, this would also equate to a reduction in the Workers Compensation Premium Rate. Increased employee involvement gave it the edge to be a deserved WINNER."*

Manufacturing Manager Derek Forward, along with a select team of management and workers, accepted the award at HMA's "Las Vegas" theme night. While being an integral part in this change for VLI, Derek was conscious that this result came from a team effort:

*"From my personal perspective, the improvement to our safety performance on site at Tomago relied on every person to be involved. To always "Play it Safe", to not make poor choices, always look out for your work mates, not walking past unsafe acts or conditions and to Stop and Think. Breathing this every day has made the difference. Winners are gridders."*



From Left to Right: Greg Powell, Phil Paradisi, Darren Rolph, Derek Forward, Dan Thompson, Michael Wild, Rob James, Stan Griffis, Grant Meredith and Paul Tomkins

**Valley Longwall International (VLI) is a leading supplier of specialised equipment and allied services used in the coal mining and bulk materials handling industries globally.**