

WAM Second Cycle Done & Dusted @ Rambor

After the success of their Moulding, Winding and Machine Shop teams in their first cycle (1½hr meetings for 12 weeks) of Work Area Management (WAM), Rambor saw the need to spread the learnings across to other areas within the factory.

Being an Approved Provider under the 2011-2012 NSW Strategic Skills Program for Existing Workers, CTPM was able to receive funding of \$1,125 per student to assist Rambor's next group of employees to undergo the 12 week Work Area Management (5S) program while achieving a single unit of competency from a nationally recognised qualification, Certificate III in Competitive Manufacturing. This training is funded by the NSW Government in partnership with the Commonwealth Government.

Two teams were formed and kicked off on the 23rd August 2012 with a 3hr training session. During this time, they learnt about the program they were about to embark on and completed team activities to help spark team synergy.

Figure 1: F1 Finishing Team



Figure 2: Store '4' Team



The following week a big clear-up event of the team's individual areas was undertaken. Some of the team members found items they thought were lost for good.

"It's like a little kid going through a toy box, excited about finding things they forgot they had" said a member of the F1 Finishing Team.

Another member stated *"it's amazing how many times I have walked past an item that was in an incorrect place and did nothing about it"*.

Items found within the areas were either keep, thrown away or taken outside of the area.

Figure 3: R&D Room before Clear-up



Figure 4: Store '4' Team Clear-up of Steel Rack Area



Once the areas were all cleared-up and the teams knew what they had, it was time to think of ways on how they could make their areas more

productive and user friendly. A thorough planning process was undertaken using TPM³ Improvement Sheets for each proposed improvement.

Figure 5: TPM³ Improvement Sheet example

This process required teams to think about the problem at hand by identifying the current situation and their improvement target, detailing the proposed change (what they will do and the requirements needed), calculate the cost involved and lastly estimate the expected savings from the implementation of the proposed improvement.

“One of the big things that came out of this for me, was the importance of a proper planning tool when wanting to make changes. Having it all planned out including quotes before presenting it to management, can make the difference between getting approval and not” claims Adrian Bradshaw the Team Leader of the Store ‘4’ team.

Once all improvements were planned and approved by management, the teams got straight into implementation. With the use of a Task Sheet, they listed out all of the tasks required, who was in charge and when they needed to complete by. This made sure that everyone was involved in the process while keeping a good detailed record of what they were doing.

Figure 6: Finishing Area – Reorganised Jig Cupboard



At this point it in the process, it became apparent to the Team Leaders, the certain strengths their Team Members possessed. When delegating tasks, these strengths were taken into account making sure the best person was on the job.

Towards the end of the cycle, it was important to ensure the improvements would sustain and the areas did not go back to what they were (especially after all their hard work!). This was achieved through the use of standards and procedures.

Figure 7: Standard & Procedure for Steel Rack Area



During their implementation of procedures, the Store ‘4’ team learnt the power of communication. In the past they constantly struggled having people from other areas coming in and using the Saw incorrectly. So it was important that their procedure would be happily followed by all. They first drafted up their thoughts, then invited all key members to explain and then discuss. It is this communication that not only shares knowledge and experience but also gets ‘buy-in’ from others.

After all their great work the teams finished up on the 8th November 2012 with a presentation to management and others within the site. The teams proudly showed off their achievements with a tour of the Improvement Areas and also showed before photos to reinforce the great work they had achieved within the 12 weeks. CTPM would like to congratulate everyone involved on their achievements and we look forward to supporting the site with future improvement initiatives.

For further information please contact:



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