

## Clear-Up makes **SUPRA** Boats Super!



Incorporated in 2003, Ride Australia located in South Nowra NSW manufactures Supra, Moomba Ski, and Wakeboard Boats start to finish – lamination, grinding, sub-assembly plastics, upholstery, installation and final finish – under license to Skier's Choice, USA. It prides itself on being a family owned boutique boat builder who puts out a world class product in an efficient manner.

Wanting to continue to develop their capabilities and enhance the involvement of their workers in creating a better workplace, owners Josh and Justin Sanders organised a meeting with CTPM Australasia to hear about a range of Improvement Opportunities and a pathway forward.

From CTPM's range of short programs linked to Competitive Manufacturing units which are being sponsored by the *NSW Department of Education & Training – State Training Services*. The 12 week **Work Area Management (5S)** program was taken on board, and a team consisting of 4 employees kicked-off on the 23 August 2012 with a 3hr training session. During this time, the team got a rundown of what the next 12 weeks were going to entail and how they were successfully going to get there.

The team was allocated the 'Laminating Booth' as their Improvement Area. This area involves the most critical steps of the boat building process.

**Figure 1: Team 'Supra Boats'**



**L to R:** George Erdos, Alan De Paoli, Todd Snider & Cosmas Karp

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 Ride Australia's employees to achieve this selected single Unit of Competency from a nationally recognised qualification, Certificate III in Competitive Manufacturing.

*This is a great example where NSW sites are able to **improve productivity** and **reduce cost** with the aid of training funded by the NSW Government in partnership with the Commonwealth Government!*



The week after the kick-off, the Supra Boats team got stuck straight into the cycle, conducting a 'Clear-up'. The members sorted through the entire area, creating piles for items that needed to be thrown out and items that needed to be removed from the area.

**Figure 3: Cosmas and Alan Conducting Clear-Up**



Once all of the unwanted items were cleared from the area, it was easy to see what improvements needed to be put in place, to make the area more user-friendly and to create a more productive workplace.

The improvements the team came up with included:

- Fix up the current tool boards in the area by selecting the correct tools to be on the boards, and then setting a place for each tool through the use of shadowing and labeling;
- Create more eye wash stations;
- Acquire weights for the boat building process, to stop the use of other materials which lead to the creation of a disorganised area;
- Obtain wheelie bins for their powder products, to eliminate contamination when spraying in the area;
- Create a system for the Chemical cupboard to keep track of what colour gels are in stock; and
- Redo / update photo instructions for boat making.

**Figure 4: Todd and George Creating Shadow Boards**



After gaining approval from management and several weeks of hard work and commitment, the 'Supra Boats' team implemented their proposed improvements and came up with a set of standards and procedure to make sure everything would sustained.

**Figure 5: Complete Shadow Board for Spray Gun**



The results witnessed a great transformation for the Improvement Area as well as the participants. At the beginning of the process most participants were skeptical of the process as Lean had been tried and tested in the past, but what they found was that it was an excellent portal for communication.

"The ability of the trainer to motivate all parties involved including management to listen to workers and vice versa to achieve the things involved in making time saving manufacturing possible."

The team is so enthusiastic about their achievements that a future action list has been created, with the aim to implement these actions as soon as possible, along with the support of management.

CTPM would like to congratulate Ride Australia on their achievements in their first cycle of Work Area Management. We look forward to supporting the site with future improvement initiatives.

For further information please contact:



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