



November 8 2016

## **ARCHER HOSTS INAUGURAL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT CLUSTER MEETING FOR NSW CENTRAL COAST**

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November Precision engineering company, Archer, hosted the first site cluster meeting of the Central Coast continuous improvement group. The group was formed after the Lean Cluster workshop in July this year.

The Continuous Improvement event was organised by Central Coast Manufacturing Connect and held in Archers 800 square metre Manufacturing Centre of Excellence. Present were Member companies McCain, TrendPac, Bio Action , Chamberlain Industries and Fortunity training and guest companies Van Homes, Open Shutters and CommScope TE Connectivity. Representatives from AusIndustry and CCMC were also present.

Directors Brad and Russ Byrne spoke about the journey of Archer - now into its third generation of the Byrne family - which has gone from precision engineering for the domestic market to world-class product development for international customers.

"Continuous improvement has been a key driver in our culture ever since Archer was started 40 years ago by my grandfather", said Operations Director Russell Byrne.

"What you see here today - with our investment in best in class manufacturing machinery, specialty areas covering the whole design-prototype-manufacture-product test process, and a team which is continually increasing their skill sets - is a direct result of us constantly assessing who we are, what we are doing, where we are going, and then embracing the most effective methodologies."

"Our audience was impressed. There was a lot of note taking and asking questions. We then placed the focus on them and each person explained their own Continuous Improvement journey and where they are at today. It was a very eye opening session."

Russ led the group on a tour of the facility which has dedicated areas for each stage of the design to manufacture process – from computer design to machining to assembly to product testing. He demonstrated how jobs are scheduled with the MRP and visual systems – "Everything has its place."

It was interesting to see the level of interest expressed in this part of the business. When Russ moved on to explain the machining area he noticed that much of the group still back asking about inventory and Kanban cards.

"The world is getting smaller. We now compete with companies from around the world and we are finding new customers overseas. So, it is vital that we understand and embrace best-practice continuous improvement in order to remain competitive and be better able to contribute to the local economy and provide more job opportunities for young people. That is why this event is so important and we're very proud to be the hosts of the first such meeting of the group on the Coast", said Managing Director Brad Byrne.

Frank Sammut, Executive officer of Central Coast Manufacturing Connect, stated that the event was a great success with everyone fully engaged in what the Archer team presented. "Having Archer as our first site visit for our CI group demonstrated to the visiting organisations the importance of leadership in driving a CI culture through engagement. If it is not led from the top then it is not sustainable! Brad and Russell are a great example of this"

The group plans to meet every two months. Organisations can join the group via an invitation from the participating members or by contacting Frank Sammut on 0411186634.

Ends.

Craig Hingston – Technology Writer 0488 60 70 50

Frank Sammut

