

Michael Ferraris: 2018 recipient of the Paul Quagliata Engineering Award, donated by SEW-Eurodrive

On The 8<sup>th</sup> of June, 2018, I was fortunate enough to attend a Site tour of the SEW-EURODRIVE Australian Headquarters in Melbourne.

Arriving to the factory in the morning, I immediately was made to feel welcome and relaxed. I could see the leadership by the G.M. and other Managers had made this a desirable place to work for the employees.

The site tour began with a walkthrough of the assembly process. Here is witnessed how efficiency is key. Tools had their specific place in the assembly line, designated areas for specific components were assigned and the employees knew their targets. I was informed on their improvements in efficiency that have been made through the years. It was great to see the innovation brought forward by the employees on the floor to improve the operations.



*Figure 1 - Assembly process at SEW*

I was then given a tour of the warehouse and shipment area, where I got to see Artificial intelligence play its part in creating efficiency in the factory. There were robots designed to sort the various products into their correct location. This would only become more prevalent in the years to come.

I got to witness, the significance of SEW's role is in delivering the sugar industry quality drive technology, with seeing the quantity of products that are to Sugar Mills around Australia. I witnessed the condition monitoring tests undertaken on products and quality tests that are complete to ensure product compliance.



Figure 2 - Warehouse Storage

The SEW tour was a very eye-opening and fulfilling experience, to witness the insights of a successful manufacturing company.

I was amazed by the efficiency in the assembly process, the cleanliness of the factory and the advanced technology being used. However, what stood out most for me was the values that were on display. SEW stand for of being a 'Family-orientated' company who empowers every employee to make SEW a leader in drive technology. This to me was the underlying reason that the success of the company was so strong.

