

# Re-Engineering Australia – where do we start? How do we start?

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## Introduction

Australians have an international reputation for creativity across a wide spectrum from science to engineering, entertainment and the arts. We are strong appliers of the latest technology, but we are weak in getting into the creation of business in new areas.

This country also faces a worrying trend of a shortage of people taking up Engineering, manufacturing and trade professions which will have devastating effect on the future of the Australian Engineering and Manufacturing Industry if not addressed immediately.

This had happened because, for the last 30 years, no one has bothered to provide the right kind of inspiration to our children. Unfortunately, our society, in all its wisdom, continues to make social and political blunders which, if not rectified will have us walking this great nation into oblivion and irrelevance on the world stage.

## The Way Forward

With the goal of putting something back and bringing inspiration back to young Australians, Michael founded the Re-Engineering Australia Forum in 1998. The Re-Engineering Australia Forum is putting in place an environment in which the youth of this country want to achieve, want to get involved in Engineering and Manufacturing .....showing them opportunities ..... not blockages.

**The Re-Engineering Australia Forum** is about building this process with targeted education programs focused on students from Primary School and High School age (when they are considering their futures) through to University level. We show students the exciting opportunities that exist in engineering and Manufacturing and encourage our children into science and engineering fields. We do this by offering project-focused competitions that have as a key component, the development of collaboration projects between educational institutions in the cities and regional centres, and with industry.

We have developed a pathway of programs and challenges which maintain the interest of students in engineering from primary school through to University. Through the programs students gain an understanding of the development cycle “from the idea to design to manufacture and test” of the prototype product, and finally the proof of the design.

This year REA activities will touch 150,000 school students in collaborative activities bringing together the city and the bush, schools, universities, TAFE industry and dads.

The Forum’s activities, the result of passion inspiration and innovation, have taken off Australia-wide but for ultimate success there needs to be a shift in the policies of government and the way in which Australian society understand the role and responsibilities of Engineers. It is only with this can we hope to inspire our engineers of the future.

