



Lemogang Maclean: Shaping the future of welding excellence

With over 15 years of experience spanning power generation, petrochemical and railway industries, Lemogang Maclean is a beacon of inspiration for SAIW students, welding technologists, inspectors and professionals across the welding community.

Lemogang Maclean's story resonates deeply with those who aspire to elevate standards, champion innovation and leave a lasting impact on the welding industry.

Her academic foundation is as robust as her professional achievements. Armed with a qualification in Physical Metallurgy, a long list of certifications in welding, including IWT welding qualifications and an MBA, she combines technical precision with strategic insight, enabling her to tackle complex challenges with clarity and confidence.

As an IRCA ISO 9001:2015 Lead Auditor and certified International Welding Technologist (IWT), she mastered the art of bridging the gap between rigorous technical standards and forward-thinking leadership. Her expertise in ASME codes, AWS standards and welding quality management has made her a sought-after authority in the field.

At the Southern African Institute of Welding (SAIW), Maclean serves as a Senior Welding Technologist Lecturer, where her influence is nothing short of transformative. She brings a unique blend of expertise, enthusiasm and empathy to the classroom, inspiring students to push beyond their limits and embrace the pursuit of excellence.

Her ability to break down intricate concepts, whether explaining the nuances of weld imperfections or the intricacies of quality control, has earned her admiration from students and colleagues alike. Through her specialised courses, she equips the next generation of welding professionals with globally recognised skills, empowering them to compete on an international stage.

Before joining SAIW, Lemogang Maclean made significant contributions as a Supplier Quality Development Engineer at Gibela Rail Transport Consortium. There, she spearheaded initiatives to enhance supplier performance, mitigate risks, and drive quality improvements across the supply chain. Her leadership was instrumental in securing ISO 3834 and EN 15085 certifications for multiple suppliers, unlocking access to international markets and fostering sustainable growth. Her work not only elevated industry standards but

also demonstrated her belief that quality and profitability are not mutually exclusive; they are interdependent pillars of success.

What truly sets her apart is her infectious passion and unwavering commitment to fostering a culture of excellence. Her vibrant energy, punctuated by her signature loud laughter, creates an environment where learning is engaging and collaboration is joyful. She champions continuous improvement, safety and innovation, inspiring those around her to strive for greatness without compromise.

Her mantra, 'enter classrooms, seek knowledge, and doors will open', is more than a catchphrase; it's a reflection of her journey from a metallurgical trainee to an industry leader who now shapes the future of welding technology.

Maclean's impact extends beyond technical expertise and classroom instruction. She is a mentor, a role model and a catalyst for change, encouraging SAIW students and professionals to embrace challenges, pursue certifications, and view education as a lifelong journey. Her story is one of breaking barriers, defying expectations, and proving that dedication and knowledge can open doors to limitless opportunities. Whether



Senior Welding Technology lecturer Lemogang Maclean has an unwavering commitment to fostering a culture of excellence.

guiding a student toward their first welding certification or advising a company on achieving international quality standards, her influence is profound and far-reaching.

As a trailblazer in welding technology, Lemogang Maclean is not just building careers; she is forging a legacy. Her relentless pursuit of excellence, coupled with her ability to inspire and uplift, makes her a true leader in the SAIW community and beyond.

To aspiring welding technologists, inspectors and students, her journey serves as a powerful reminder that, with passion, hard work and a commitment to learning, anyone can shape not only their future but the future of an entire industry.

In Lemogang Maclean's words

What made you choose welding as a career?

"During my recesses when I was studying Metallurgical Engineering, I would visit industries to explore potential career paths. I explored foundries and material testing laboratories, but nothing clicked. Then one day, I was watching a documentary on TV showcasing the construction of cruise ships and aircraft, which included cutting, shaping and welding processes. That moment sparked a connection, and I knew I wanted to pursue welding after completing my metallurgical studies."

When did you join the SAIW, and what do you like most about your role?

"I joined as Senior Welding Technology lecturer on the 1st of April 2025. I thrive on the energy of students eager to learn and grow. It's fulfilling to see them recognise the power of knowledge in driving innovation and changing lives."

"The learning process is mutual – students bring valuable experiences and perspectives, keeping me updated on the latest developments. A day spent sharing my expertise and passion with students is a day well spent!"

What are your hopes for your future and the future of the SAIW?

"I aspire to continue inspiring students to reach their full potential, break educational barriers, and prepare them for real-world challenges."

"For the SAIW, I envision it becoming a hub for welding and related technologies and research, expanding its global and local partnerships to create better and better opportunities for students."