

Era
Polymers

THE **Herald**
ERA POLYMERS NEWS BULLETIN



INSIDE THIS EDITION

LESSONS FROM LIFE # 23 - SADNESS

FEATURING: URETHANE COATINGS

EASTER HOLIDAY CLOSE:
FRIDAY 3RD APRIL -
MONDAY 6TH APRIL 2015
RE-OPEN:
TUESDAY 7TH APRIL 2015

ANZAC DAY - SAT 25TH APRIL 2015
LEST WE FORGET

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Breakfast time, at our house, is a time for Tina and I to rehash yesterday's stories; a time to tell each other, what we did yesterday. The highlights and the low-lights. We do it, sitting at our breakfast table, overlooking Kyle Bay. (YES, we do work in the same office... BUT we never seem to get a chance to "talk" during the day).

My wife, a few days ago, caught me staring out into the garden, and bay, below. It's a sight we never get tired of staring at. Sometimes the kookaburras come to sing their song. Sometimes the white cockatoos screech, as they fly by, to Jim's passion fruit vine, next door.

Tina caught me staring at the verdant vista, in front of us, and asked:

"What's wrong?"

"Nothing, I'm just feeling sad"

"Sad why sad? What's to be sad about? We have the kids that we always wanted, the grandchildren, the grandchildren!! SIX of them, growing up in front of our eyes...What's to be sad about?!"
(cont'd on page 2)

A Contemporary Flooring for a Contemporary Museum

The NSW Government are proud of their prominent public buildings and the NSW Museum of Contemporary Arts (MCA) is no exception. Housed in the former Maritime Services building located at Circular Quay on the edge of Sydney Harbour, the NSW government are focused on the importance of maintaining and preserving such a building.



So when Contractor Paul Miller from Wood Mill Timber was asked to finish the Australian hardwood flooring in the luxurious Harbourside Room and terrace at the MCA he knew exactly what product he wanted to use.

Urethane Coatings, Purathane Water Borne Range would be ideal for this application. *(cont'd on page 4)*



That's why we are so good, with each other... Tina is a "glass, half full girl" and me ... I'm a "glass half empty guy"!

So, what makes me sad?!

1. I'm 65 this year. Will I see my grandchildren get married? The trials and tribulations, in bringing up the children, are just about finished... How will our children cope, when it's THEIR turn?!
2. I look at my sisters, and see a 71 year old sister, called Maria. I see a 74 year old sister called Eleftheria (Ella). We look at each other, and compare our hands... Mine are definitely LESS gnarled than Maria's. Ella tells me about HER aches and pains. Maria has always been a fatalist; "Ah, well, what you can do, what can you do "...is her favourite saying. So, we tell stories, about our children, about our grandchildren, and about our lives.
3. I look at my child bride... A woman, who, walked into my life, when she was 19... and I saw my eternity lay out before me, when I got lost, in her GREEN eyes... My child bride is 58 this year! AND, she's ageing much better than I am.
4. I've lost my parents, and still feel sad, when I think of them.

Things that I should have told them;

Could I have been, a better son?

Did I hold them enough?

Did I tell them enough times, how much I loved them?

I made sure that I didn't make the same mistake with my father in law. Every time I saw him, I would hold him and tell him how much I loved him. I did the same with my Auntie Lefki, my father's sister, whilst she whispered in my ear... "You are the son that I never had"
5. And nothing brings me more to sadness than to think of the friends that I've lost, or nearly lost.

People like Bill and Joan Rutherford. Joan passed away all too soon, whilst her husband was going through the debilitating Alzheimer's. Most people

when you talk to them, lose focus in minutes, you see their eyes glaze over, as their mind turns inwards, whilst you are talking to them. Bill's mind, in his

"MY CHILD BRIDE SCOLDS ME, AND TELLS ME HOW FULL OUR GLASSES ARE"

hey-day, was SHARP, ultra-sharp. You had to focus ALL the time, because he would constantly throw out jokes / witticisms. And now he's gone.

Al Hoodbhoys recent bout of ill health, knocked me around. He was my mentor, whether he knew it or not. He taught me so much about life, about business. He is class, personified. Is he an angel? Nah! Who is? He just has an intelligent, soft demeanour that makes me feel good, when we are together (AND, he lives all the way across the other end of the world!)

Bonnie Barge's bout of ill health is also knocking me around... I saw my brother in law, Taki, Maria's husband; go through the same degenerative disease. There is no answer, just a slow decline.

So all these things and much, much more, make me sad. And, every time I feel this way, my child bride scolds me, and tells me how FULL our glasses are.



Then I begin to listen to her, and the diamond days that come my way, from time to time, makes up for the sadness.

I had a couple of them, last weekend...

It was Alex's 37th birthday, last Friday.

He has turned into the son, that I dreamt about, when I was 16. He has his mother's intelligence and looks (thank goodness), interspersed with incipient dollops of wisdom.



On the same Friday, I got to read "baby" Tina's latest speech (she is the school captain, at the ripe old age of 10!) And I'm in awe, at her writing. The wisdom, the clarity of thought, brushes away my cobwebs.

Then after the local Chinese dinner, that night, George slept over, because he had a 7.30 am start, at basketball on Saturday.

I watched my 12 year old grandson, play basketball, with a passion that I saw his father play, when he was 12 (and George made "man of the match" two weeks in a row, by the way!).

Then we went shopping at Bunnings. Then we washed two cars together. Then we had our Subway's,

Then Tina and I took him to soccer, and I saw the same passion again... the drive, the focus, that defines us.

So it was a good day, for the two, George Alexander Papamanuel's.

And Tina, as always, when she slows down, my mind, enough for me to listen, is right....

OUR glass is well and truly half FULL.

As I keep on quoting;

"Life is a long journey, and we have only just begun "

We still have, God willing, a lot of living, still to do.

International Women's Day Breakfast

Last Friday (5th March), students and staff from MLC School attended the annual International Women's Day Breakfast at Australian Technology Park. We were among 2000 powerful women and it was truly an amazing experience. In 2015 the theme for International Womens Day is *Make It Happen*.

We are so fortunate to go to MLC School because it was established specifically to provide a strongly academic education. Most schools in the 1880s considered a girl's main purpose in life was to marry and take care of their home, husband and young ones.

We are so lucky that some women have been brave and have stood up for equality, otherwise we wouldn't be able to study science, vote or be paid equally. Women are strong inside, and this is what has helped us to achieve so much.

At the International Women's Day Breakfast, the speakers encouraged us

all to act now, fix things that we saw as unfair and not wait another 20 years.

It inspired me to not be afraid to try new things or express my ideas.



Looking around the room, I saw many successful women in different areas of life, from politicians, business owners, and lawyers to our own teachers. We live in a wonderful country and at a great time where, as women, there is really nothing stopping us from achieving what we want. This is a quote that I like and try and think about every day.

'In the end, we only regret the chances we didn't take'

Tina Papamanuel (Year 5, Aged 10)

UTECH Europe April 14th-16th 2015 - MECC in Maastricht, The Netherlands

Era Polymers - Stand 1360

Once again Era Polymers will be exhibiting at UTECH Europe, the leading international event for the polyurethanes industry. The last UTECH show held in 2012 attracted just over 3,500 decision makers from 86 countries. The 2015 event is expected to be bigger and busier than ever.

Era Polymers will be showcasing the following products at the show:

Erapol L-Series: Our new range of TDI prepolymers, which have a lower-free TDI level compared to conventional grades. The products in some cases also give increased pot-lives and improved physical properties compared to their standard counterparts.

Erakote Series: Our range of prepolymers used for rotational-cast roller manufacturing. The range now includes Full and Quasi prepolymer versions, as well as Ether and Ester backbones. We also have a special grade which shows improved performance in High Temperatures and some acid environments.

Eracure Curatives: There are numerous curatives available to offer specific advantages, such as abrasion resistance. There are also some options for curing TDI prepolymers, as an alternative to MOCA.

In addition to these specific product ranges, we will also be promoting our extensive range of Polyurethane Systems including; High Performance Elastomers, Polyurethane and Polyurea Spray Systems, Cold Castable Systems and more.

Come and visit us at stand **1360** we would love to see you.

To register for the show go to:
<http://www.onlineregistration.co.uk/shows/utech/15/regutech.php>

Make sure you register by the 9th April to ensure free entry to the show.

For those of you who won't be able to make the show but are interested in some of the products we will be showing there please contact your local Era Representative or contact us at erapol@erapol.com.au



DID YOU KNOW?

Apple launched the polyurethane 'smart cover' for the iPad 2 in 2011

Other interesting facts....

- 1.6cm-thick polyurethane insulation has the same insulation efficiency as a 1.34m-thick concrete wall!
- The amount of energy used to produce enough polyurethane insulation for one house is subsequently saved in the space of just one year thanks to the insulation provided.
- In 1973, roller skates were improved and popularised by the introduction of thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) wheels and, later, TPU boots. Today they are known as Rollerblades.
- Polyurethane is often referred to as PU or PUR

HAPPY 29TH BIRTHDAY TO ERA POLYMERS!

Era Polymers - Stand 1360

Excellence in Polyurethane Chemistry



URETHANE COATINGS

(cont'd from page 1)

The Purathane range of products emit low VOC's (volatile organic compounds) so are both user and environmentally friendly, whilst retaining all the durable and hard wearing benefits of solvent based polyurethane, sealers and traditional polishes.

A durable product with a high class finish was required for this application, maintenance is extremely important to the MCA as they have 1000's of visitors annually many of which are international tourists visiting the iconic Sydney Harbour.

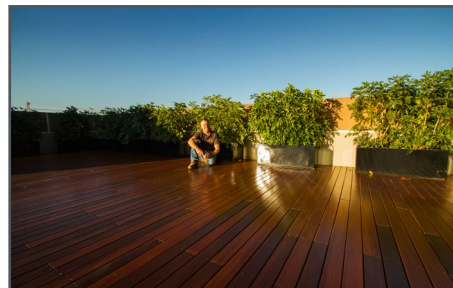
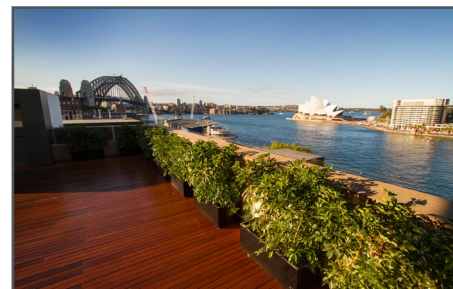
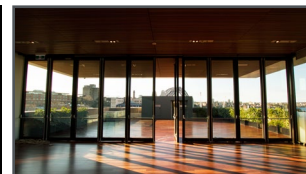
For many this could be a once in a life time opportunity to see such a wonderful harbour everything needs to be perfect so when you stand in the luxurious Harbourside Room or on the terrace of the MCA nothing distracts you from this breath-taking view.

The product used from the Purathane Water Borne Range was Purathane Two Pack Satin. This is a two component water borne polyurethane developed to provide timber and parquetry floors with extra hardwearing and long lasting protection. The rapid curing of the Purathane Two Pack achieves optimal hardness up to 50% faster than single pack water borne polyurethane and the higher solids content provides a thicker film which offers greater resistance to wear.

For more information please contact **Mark Webb**, our National Coatings Manager who will be happy to assist you with your coating enquiries.

Mobile: 0412 818 817

Email: mark@urethanecoatings.com.au



Pictures courtesy of Era Polymers and Mark Webb

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

The 25th of January 2015 saw **Era Polymers** celebrate two wonderful events.

The first was the blessing of our new building at 2-4 Green Street Banksmeadow.

"Excellence is the result of habitual integrity." - Lenny Bennett

The second was celebrating Tina's mother's 82nd birthday!



..AND ONE MORE THING

In the second last issue I wrote about the 60 year reunion of the Papamanuel and Vivelis clans. . .

Yes, it was a roaring success.. And here is the photo to prove it !





MEET THE ERA TEAM



MICHAEL MICELI

COATINGS CHEMIST, ERA POLYMERS

Joined Era Polymers in March 2015 as the new coatings chemist for the membrane and adhesive side of the coatings division.

Born and raised in Sydney, Michael gained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Applied Chemistry from the University of Technology, Sydney in 2013. He has since worked as a Chemist at Sika Australia, developing Cementitious Powders for use in mortar and grout.



LAKSHMI KRISHNAN

COATINGS CHEMIST, URETHANE COATINGS

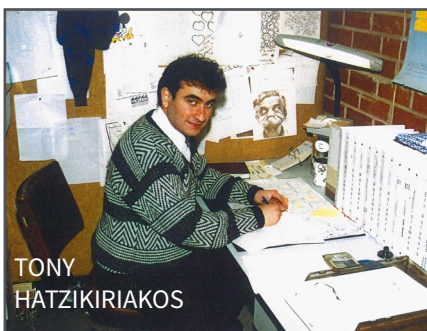
Joined Samos Polymers in 2014 as a Quality Control Technician based at Samos DIO which primary focuses on the foams and coatings businesses.

After almost a year of working at Samos, Lakshmi's excellent skills and extensive experience were identified as ideally suited to the role at Urethane Coatings of R&D Chemist.

She has obtained degrees B.Tech, M. Tech and a PhD in polymer engineering. She also has broad industrial and research

Michael is working closely with Rhys Waldron and the Urethane Coatings team.

Michael has an extremely good understanding in rheology, formulation, and materials chemistry, and his experience in R & D has enabled him to quickly find his feet here at Era Polymers.



TONY
HATZIKIRIAKOS

George thought his Blackberry was playing up....

...when he got a reminder to say Tony Hatzikiriakos has been with the company for 23 years!

Tony, Era Polymers International Sales Manager, joined Era Polymers on the 6th March 1992 and has been with us ever since. He is a dedicated employee an absolute joy to employ; nothing gets in the way of him doing an excellent job keeping both the customers and the boss happy.

Tony has a unique talent to talk polyurethane to people on the factory floor, as well as the ability to sit down with the boss of a company and do a deal.

Keep up the good work Tony and here's to the next 23 years and beyond!

experience with companies such as Akzo Nobel and The Shriram Institute of Industrial Research in Bangalore, India.

Lakshmi will be working directly with the business managers of Urethane Coatings and will form a integral part of the Technical Coatings team for Era Polymers.



APPLIED POLYMERS

ROB STEIN

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Rob joined Era Polymers on the 15th February as Production Manager of our Applied Polymer business; Ordish Road, Dandenong South, Victoria.

He has spent 42 years in Polyurethanes, just one year less than yours truly. So he KNOWS polyurethanes. He has lived and breathed it all his life, just like me.

Rob has an impressive and extensive knowledge of the Polyurethane industry and brings many skills to the role of Production Manager.

42 years ago Rob started as a Urethane Chemist since then he has had various roles in Production, Technical, Sales, Marketing, working in Germany, Singapore and Australia; for companies like BAYER, BASF, Orica / HUNTSMAN, and lastly with his own company URETECH INDUSTRIES quite an impressive CV I'm sure you will agree.

Rob has a quiet, professional demeanour, a whimsical sense of humour he can see chaos and create ORDER from it!

He even spent 18 months, with Applied Polymers in the 1980's! Where he trained and worked alongside Rob McLean (Era Polymers National Foam Sales Manager) in the Applied Polymers' laboratories.

Rob will be another valuable member of the Era team.

Welcome Rob, we look forward to working with you.



WHAT'S NEW IN MACHINERY



“Portable Perfection”

The Easy Spray Hydraulic

Now available in Australia & New Zealand
Suitable for Polyurea, PU Coatings &
Polyurethane Foam

In the last issue of The Herald we mentioned that Carles Roya Quelart, MD of Gama Machinery visited our Sydney offices. We learnt about Gama's latest machine development the Easy Spray Hydraulic; well this perfectly portable spray unit is now available in Australia and New Zealand through Era Polymers.

The Gama Easy Spray Hydraulic machine is an easy to use compact portable hydraulically driven unit; suitable for Polyurea, PU Coatings and Polyurethane Foam. This machine may be small but it has 3 big advantages; hydraulic pumps which make it more robust than electrically powered machines, the hydraulic power pack also ensures a more consistent spray pattern and there is also an option of heated hoses. Its unique configuration and compact design enable it to be used in a variety of working areas.

The Gama Easy Spray Hydraulic machine has a simple control panel that incorporates specially designed software to facilitate the selection and control of all working parameters in a quick easy

manner. It has a sophisticated alarm system that warns the operator of any errors in the process to ensure the right application of the products.

An additional feature incorporated into the design of the Gama Easy Spray Hydraulic is a phase connection alarm. This alarm alerts the operator to any errors or mistakes when plugging the proportioner into the electrical supply, helping to avoid costly repairs due to simple errors.

Want to know more about the Gama Easy Spray Hydraulic or other machinery that Era Polymers offer?

Contact:

Era Polymers Machine Specialist
Hugh Fraser on +61 (0) 2 9666 3788
Email: hugh@erapol.com.au who will be happy to assist you with your enquiry.



EVENTS

The RACI Young Chemists Group COMMITTEE MEETING



The Young Chemist Group was re-formed in 2013, prior to that the Young Chemist Group hadn't been operational since 2006. The focus of this group is to engage the younger scientific community where scientists / engineers in a chemical focus can network.

In 2014 the Young Chemist Group had over 7 events, the first of which was held at Era Polymers where George Papamanuel founder and owner of Era Polymers spoke

about how he got started in polyurethane industry and the growth of Era Polymers as inspiration for the young chemists.

Last week the Young Chemists had their first meeting for 2015 at Era Polymers; they discussed a plan for this year on managing the future growth of the Young Chemist Group; as well as aspects of the industry and how they can improve the field they love.

George Zavras, Chair of the Young Chemist Group (Business Development Manager for Urethane Coatings) commented:

“I must keep the group engaged and on track – it can be fairly challenging when you have a group of young highly ambitious men and women in one room.” George is looking forward to this challenge and the year ahead.

For more information on the RACI please visit: www.raci.org.au



WHAT'S NEWS?



the green foam

OZONE FRIENDLY ✓ CFC FREE ✓ HCFC FREE ✓

WHAT? REALLY?

One of our customers needed to apply rigid foam through a **narrow gap of less than 25mm. IT CAN BE DONE.**

Traditionally rigid polyurethane foams are dispensed through metered equipment for large applications, while smaller batches are simply mixed with a paint stirrer and hand drill. Neither of these dispensing methods; are suitable for such a narrow gap.

Vanessa Swift, Era Polymers Foam Specialist worked closely with both our customer on their requirements and Svenic on dispensing equipment to come up with a solution for this application.

Svenic are a leading supplier of dispensing equipment cartridges, syringes and process techniques suitable for the Packing of and the Application of Sealants, Adhesives, Coatings and other chemical compounds.

SOLUTION: The Foam: **Era Polymers Ecofoam BS700:**

A rigid polyurethane block foam for board stock with a 1:1 mix ratio designed for use in a wide range of applications including insulation and cavity filling. The formulation also contains fire-retardants and has a free-rise density of 70kg/m³.

Ecofoam BS700, was chosen due to its density and the compression needs of the foam in this application.

The Dispensing Unit: Cartridge System with a **Static Mixer** from Svenic:

To dispense material into such a narrow gap was solved by using a cartridge system with a **static mixer**; an ideal dispensing method for **Ecofoam BS700** due to its 1:1 mix ratio. Once the material is dispensed through the narrow gap it flows to the point where expansion is required.

Era Polymers supply the foam to Svenic who fill the cartridges and deliver them to the end user ready for their dispensing needs. Dispensing rigid foam into a narrow gap? It's easy - Era easy!



For more information on **Era's ECOFOAM BS700 and dispensing system** please contact: **Vanessa Swift**, Tel:+61 (0) 2 9666 3788 or Email: vanessa@erapol.com.au

WHAT'S NEWS IN OUR PHYSICAL TESTING LABORATORY:

FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS

Finite element analysis (FEA) is often used to ensure a design will perform prior to manufacturing. New product design or refining an existing product with the aid of FEA requires data that is not available on data sheets. Our Physical Testing Facility can prepare samples of Erapol and conduct Biaxial and Planar tests to generate accurate model data in a large temperature range.

For more information on

Era Polymers Testing Facilities please contact:

Jose Diaz, Tel:+61 (0) 2 9666 3788 or

Email: jose@erapol.com.au



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EXCELLENCE IN POLYURETHANE CHEMISTRY

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Strategic Alliances

