

The Herald

.Era Polymers News Bulletin.

Issue 14



LESSONS FROM LIFE Number 29 BOLERO

A few weeks ago, I had reason to drive past, my old High School Alma Mater – CLEVELAND ST . BOYS HIGH SCHOOL.

"Clevo" is near Central Railway Station, in Sydney, and backs onto Prince Alfred Park.

The Park was being torn up and the Swimming Pool was totally demolished. Looking at the Old School and the park brought back some strong memories.

One of the strongest was Mr. McCallion's, English Class. It was held on the 3rd Floor, in a class room overlooking the Park. There was always a mad rush, on Wednesday afternoon's, for that period, to get a seat, next to the windows, overlooking the Park... Why?

'Cause on Wednesday afternoon's, after lunch, a busload of GIRLS, from Randwick Girls High would be marched to the pool, for their sports day. Clevo, was, of course, an ALL boys, school. Girls/ women were a rarity. The closest thing we got to a woman, at school, was Mrs. Evans. She was the School Librarian. She was OLD, probably 60! She had a disconcerting habit, of putting her hand down her blouse, to fix, constantly, an ill fitting bra. It was THE highlight, of her class. BUT, to a bunch of 16/17 year olds it was nice, but didn't count, for too much... she was OLD!

BUT, the Randwick Girls were something else. They were REAL girls/ women. They would giggle, when they jumped off the bus, all the time, looking up, at the forlorn Clevo boys, peering out the windows. Mind you, we couldn't see very much. Their skirts were LONG, just past their knees (Girls back in "67/68, hadn't YET figured out, that if they tucked their tunics, under their belts... HEY, presto, Instant Mini Skirt). So we had to console ourselves with the occasional gust of wind that would expose a whole INCH of flesh! BUT, hey, they were REAL women. You could hear them. You could see them. And we even fancied that we could - smell them.

It didn't take Mr. McCallion long to figure out, why the mad rush, for the window seats.

It also didn't take him long to understand that our FUTURE lives ,wouldn't be dominated by Shakespeare and Judith Wright, or even Gerard Manley Hopkins..

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Expansions at Samos Ena

Samos Ena, our first factory, was built, in my mind about 20 years ago. It took a few years to become reality.

When we built the 1000 sq metre (10,000 sq feet) factory, we had 1 kettle (reactor) - KETTLE 1. It made 10 drums (2000 kgs, or 4400 lbs) per day. Six months later, I agonized about having Peter Otton, make a 15 drum kettle (KETTLE 2). Now we have 14 kettles in "Ena", and a whole bunch more in "Dio".

So we can make lotsa buckets of nice prepolymer.... VERY quickly.

We have plenty of manufacturing capacity!

BUT with growth, comes living space problems... We don't have enough lab space, lunch room space, change room space, office space. SPACE indeed, is at a premium. Shannon, Adrian Barber, Chris, et. al. are going to fix it for me... More importantly, fix it for them... So the second story slab is up. The brickies are laying the bricks...

And in a few months, we'll have plenty of room.... to move ... again.



Scaffolding Up



Building in Progress

Era Polymers polyurethanes used to create the bust of a Papua New Guinea Tribe Leader

NIDA (National Institute of Dramatic Arts) is Australia's premier acting school, producing many illustrious alumni including Mel Gibson and Cate Blanchette, but did you know they also have a prop making course?

Rhys Chapman has worked with *Era Polymers* before to make polyurethane elastomer weapons for a production. For his major work he again used *Era* polyurethane to complete the bust of a Papua New Guinea tribe leader.

He has quite a talent as you can see, and polyurethanes gave him the ability to bring his project to completion. We wish Rhys all the best following his graduation.



Era & Samos Polymers

Christmas Closure

Closing

Thursday 23rd December 2010

Opening

Wednesday 5th January 2011

We wish you a safe and Happy Christmas and all the best in the New Year



So he started to get us interested in CLASSICAL Music (Hey, it worked, the background "noise" in my office, has always been ABC-FM — thank you Mr. McCallion).

So, one fine Wednesday, Mr. McCallion brought in an LP, and a record player (what's an LP, pappou?) of Ravel's, BOLERO. It was the Leonard Bernstein version, played by the New York Philharmonic.

The music played that fine Wednesday afternoon, as all those gorgeous, giggling women, in their dark blue tunics, blazers and hats, alighted. It continued, as they marched to the pool. It came to a crescendo, as the girls jumped into the pool. (YES, the music, is that long) We were in HEAVEN! We all fell in love, with Bolero, and REAL women that fine Wednesday afternoon... I still have THAT record.

And where was my child bride to be, when all this was going on? She was in Randwick PRIMARY School. I was 17, she was 10! And where was Bo Derek? She probably wasn't EVEN born, then!

So, Mr. McCallion had hit the mark. He taught us to appreciate English and Music, as Mr. Lynn had taught us to appreciate Art. The next step was getting us to dance. DANCE? Yes! He convinced our PE teacher, Mr. Hatton, to teach us, how to dance.

So, in gym classes, for a while, rather than do forward rolls, we learnt to CHA CHA CHA.

Next problem, who would be the GIRLS? Hey this is '67. Boys danced with GIRLS. Only TWO, in our class, would volunteer, every week;

"Sir, can I be a girl "

We never really appreciated the significance of their volunteering, back then. People were still in closets. The closest you got, to say "that's weird" ...Was the two "funny" guys at Mark Foy's, that would outfit us for our PRIMARY school uniforms. They always insisted on measuring your inside leg, even though we were still in SHORT pants!

So Cha Cha Cha, we did. Mr. Hatton would always say to me;

"Papamanouil, you're doing well, BUT, learn to take SMALLER steps"

Forty Four years, I'm, still taking BIG steps.

The Cha Cha Cha, has evolved, into what our kids, now call, the "Kangaroo Hop"

Our kids, and soon the grandchildren, are at the stage where they get EMBARRASSED about EVERYTHING, their parents do — even dancing.

At my age in life, I tell them, I'm done with being embarrassed...

I'll dance through life, the way that, I, WANT.

And yes, I still listen to BOLERO.

And it still takes me back.....

"Global Reach, Family Values" Era's Distributors - Introducing IL Shin Chemtech & F.H.Engel



IL SHIN CHEMTECH - South Korea

www.ilshinct.com

Somewhere around 13-14 years ago, I started going to Korea. Initially it was with Mr. K.S. Yoo, of Megatec. We started conquering roll companies, and military applications. As business took off, Mr. Yoo, realized his limitations for growing a chemical business, and in September, '01, he introduced us, to another Korean gentleman...

Mr. Do Gun Yu, the President of IL Shin Chemtech.

Mr. Yu runs a high class chemical trading company. When we see each other, we spend a lot of time smiling... The problem is that I don't speak Korean, and he doesn't speak English. No matter. Our body language speaks volumes. We like each other.

Mr. Lee looks after our polyurethane business. He and I too, also smile a lot at each other. We both have a fondness for Soju, Garlic and Kimchee... AND Polyurethanes!

I can't however get Tina to come to Korea, I inadvertently scared her off, by telling her that Koreans are like saunas (Ah, not mixed saunas, like the Russians, but rather women's saunas, and men's saunas separately)... She still won't come!



ENGEL
INDUSTRIAL

F.H. ENGEL S.A - Chile

www.fhengel.com

I think that we started doing some limited business with Chilean customers, somewhere around early '02. By 2005, I felt that we needed an agent.

Back in 2005 we had four people, in Banksmeadow that could speak Spanish... Richard, Ana Maria, Jose and John. Mind you to this day, I don't know whether Richard speaks, and writes a schoolboy type of Spanish, much like Tony and I speak, a peasant form of Greek, OR, does he use HIGH Spanish.. I'm still trying to find out.

Nonetheless Richard, and Ana Maria, got the job to find a Chilean agent... Before you know it... F.H. Engel wrote back, and told us that they would love to represent us. Brilliant!

I always say, that a company is only as good as the people it employs. Ditto agents. Engel, are a very high class company, super professional, with family values and ethos. Tina and I, had reason to visit them in early 2008. The place was a joy to visit. We were given a package of information about the company, its key people, our itinerary — total professionalism.

To boot, the foyer and offices, had on display a plethora, of antique typewriters, and office equipment, showing the history of the company. Nice, very nice. Professional, very professional!

Global Reach - South America

On a recent trip to South America, Richard Duarte & Louise Connor trained new distributors in Colombia – Parabor. Parabor are based in Bogota but also have offices in Medellin & Cali.

During this trip the Era reps also attended the Feipur Trade Show in Sao Paulo, Brazil to support our Brazilian agent, Arinos.

Pictured with Parabor during a training session:



GREENLINK PFA 1300 - Adhering PU to Plastic

Adhesives are available in a range of different chemical forms such as Acrylics, Epoxies and Urethanes and can be bonded to a variety of surfaces.

ACRYLICS are great metal adhesives. They are aggressive and provide good surface contact with minimal surface preparation but suffer from crazing or cracking on plastics.

EPOXIES are commonly used on metal, concrete, wood and foam but are brittle at low temperatures.

URETHANES are very versatile as they have the added advantage of being used at very low temperatures; often they do not need a primer and are therefore a practical choice for bonding to plastic, foam and wood.

When using adhesives, surface preparation is key; all dirt, oil and grease needs to be removed to ensure a good bond.

Despite preparing your surface well, (i.e. clean from dirt etc) problems can occur on adhesion to plastics such as ABS plastics simply due to the surface tension of the material.

In this instance the surface may need abrading or heat treatment to reduce the surface tension; alternatively the adhesive used needs to provide a chemical key to the plastic, to ensure a good bond.



Era Polymers **Greenlink PFA 1300** can provide you with that chemical key. Its other features include:

- High adhesion to ABS plastic – NO PRIMER REQUIRED
- Two Component Liquid Foam
- Convenient Mix Ratio 1:1
- Solvent Free

So next time you want to stick Polyurethane to Plastic – THINK

Greenlink PFA 1300

Eracast RT45A used for Rapid Prototyping Handheld Alloy Analyzer "ElvaX ProSpector"

Eracast RT45A is from our Cold Castable range of products. It is a medium performance cold castable polyurethane which is free from MOCA and flammable solvent. It produces an economical elastomer with outstanding toughness, high elongation and good abrasion resistance.



Applications include:

- * Flexible Moulds for concrete & concrete stamp pads
- * Cast in place liners
- * Sound dampening applications
- * Rapid Prototyping



OSV Technologiya in the Ukraine (<http://www.osv.com.ua/eng/>) recently used **Eracast RT45A** to assist Elvatech in the production of their Handheld Alloy Analyzer the ElvaX ProSpector. (www.elvatech.com)

Need to create consistent quality reproductions?

Try Dow Corning's premium mould making Silicone - Silastic 3481

Silastic 3481 is a high strength mould making silicone, ideal for special effects or reproducing intricate designs such as figurines and art objects.



This premium product is quick, simple to process and has the following features:

- Ratio Tolerant
- Requires no release agent - The self releasing properties of **Silastic 3481** means easy demoulding, which in turn means a long mould life.
- Long working time
- Low Hardness & High Elasticity - Easy removal of complex pieces
- High Tear Resistance
- Can be made thixotropic if vertical surface replication required

Era Polymers are the master distributor for Dow Corning's RTV Mould Making Rubbers in Australia and New Zealand. Offering their full range of moulding silicones, with various hardnesses and speciality grades available, we have something to suit most moulding requirements.

What's New in Era's Laboratory?

We have recently acquired a **DMA 8000**, one of the most flexible, cost effective Dynamic Mechanical Analyzers available. The **DMA 8000's** innovative design, high functionality, and flexible operation make it ideal for advanced research and routine quality testing.

Unlike standard ultimate testing such as Tensile Tear Strength etc where a material is tested to its breaking point; the **DMA 8000** uses a technique where a small deformation is applied to a sample in a cyclic manner.

This type of testing allows the materials response to stress, temperature, frequency and other values to be studied and measured for Dynamic Mechanical Analysis.

DMA 8000 applies an oscillatory force at a set frequency to the sample and reports changes in stiffness and damping. The DMA data is also used to obtain modulus information. This data can be used for modelling the behaviour of certain materials under extreme loads and repetitive actions in applications such as wheels, bearings and other high stress/strain applications.

The DMA (Dynamic Mechanical Analysis) 8000



Meet the Era & Samos Team

NIKI SUTISNA I.T. MANAGER



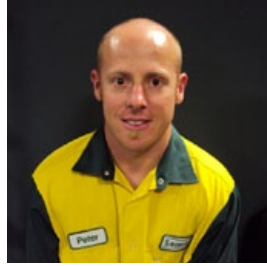
Niki came to us, straight from Uni. He took over Peter Bekiaris' IT role. He's THE guy that everybody runs to when their Blackberry's aren't Blackberrying. When the accounting system, Pronto, goes slow. When a new computer behaves like an old one. When the satellites can't log in. When the upgrades have to be implemented.

A million and one things to do... DAILY. And even when Niki goes home to Indonesia, on Holiday's, he's still fixing things. Always, on the Job. Nice, very nice.

The only problem I have is that he shares the same name as my daughter. So, when Niki (MY DAUGHTER), outdoes herself, and makes an EXCELLENT, Spaghetti Bolognese, I send her a thank you email, and finish off with "I love, you Niki"... Only to get a strange look from Niki Q, when we pass each other, in the corridor.....

With my bad eyes, "Niki Q" and "Niki W", look so much the same!

PETER STUTH PLANT OPERATOR



Peter walked through our doors, 6 years ago.

With little experience, he quickly learnt the art of producing quality prepolymers and plays a key role in our night shift operations.

After living life, in the "fast lane", Peter has finally settled and proposed to his now, fiancé, Danielle, who are due to be married in the new year.

They both have a beautiful, little girl named Claire.

Who's new to the Era Team?

Chemist: Jimmy Kostouros
I.T.: Alvin W. Lawuharja
Warehouse: Sharon Falke
Technical Sales: Craig Kennedy

Welcome on Board!

Introducing **Era Polymers** very own MasterChef **Tina Papamanuel**, with her debut recipe!

RECIPE CARD No. 1 - TINA'S TRIFLE

Ingredients:

- 2 Jam Rolls
- 4 pkts Port Wine Jelly
- 4 cups vanilla custard (made with Fosters custard powder, sugar and milk – see instructions on container)
- Large tin of sliced peaches
- Walnuts, cut into smaller pieces, not crushed
- Sweet wine e.g. Marsala
- Chocolate
- 2 cartons cream

Method:

- Make up the jelly and leave to half set in the fridge.
- Cut jam rolls into slices and layer your bowl or deep sided dish.
- Sprinkle liberally with the wine and place the peaches and walnuts on top.
- Pierce the cake layer a dozen times so that the custard is able to flow through the jam roll pieces and combine it all.
- Make up custard as per instructions on box and pour the warm custard over the cake/peaches/walnuts.
- Do not use readymade custard as it is not thick enough!
- When jelly is half set, carefully spoon over the custard mixture and leave in fridge to completely set.
- Whip up 2 cartons fresh cream and layer over trifle.
- Decorate the top with shavings of chocolate and walnuts.

If you make **Tina's Trifle**, why not take a picture and submit it to the next Newsletter with your comments. It certainly sounds delicious!

Enjoy!

Notice Board

If you have any interesting stories you would like to feature in a future issue of The Herald, please submit your articles to The Newsletter Team
newsletter@erapol.com.au

Era Polymers Product Bulletins
Just in case you haven't seen them please visit www.erapol.com.au/english/News/Bulletin to view or download!

For more information on any of the products featured in this Newsletter please contact **Era Polymers** on **+61 2 9666 3788** where one of our representatives will be able to assist you. Alternatively email erapol@erapol.com.au

WEDDING BELLS

Dave Weir recently announced his engagement to his girlfriend Sarah. They are planning on getting married in Fiji.

Strategic Alliances



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