

90th Anniversary of Gallipoli Landing

The following article was published in the Plastics Pioneers Newsletter (Victoria) April edition and it was felt that it would be of interest to our readers at this time.

It is appropriate that we publish a report on the visit to Gallipoli by Dorothy and Brian Morrison last year and we will again think of the ANZACS on April 25.

"During our holiday in Turkey last year, we were fortunate enough to visit Gallipoli. It is amazing after all these years the hold that this little bit of Turkey has on the Australian psyche.

Thousands of Australians and New Zealanders, most of them quite young, visit every year and gain a certain something from the experience.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the visit was to hear the story from the Turkish side and to realize how much it means to them as well as us.

When we got up to the Lone Pine cemetery, we found that we were looking across the valley to a winding road leading up to another memorial. The road from that memorial down into the valley was solid with parked vehicles for over a mile. The memorial was to the Turkish Army 37th regiment. In Turkey, the school excursions are on a Saturday or Sunday and the dozens of parked buses leading up to the 37th Regiment memorial that Saturday had disgorged hundreds of schoolchildren.

The 37th Regiment had defended the area beyond Lone Pine against the ANZACS and were wiped out to a man; no one survived. To this day in their honour, there is no 37th Regiment in the Turkish Army. It has become a regiment of heroic ghosts.

The most amazing thing is the Turkish attitude to these young Australians and New Zealanders who stormed ashore on the Turkish beaches in 1915. The Turks do not see them as enemies or invaders but honourable opponents caught up, like themselves, in a terrible situation no one really wanted.

When you look at Anzac Cove, at the ridiculously small beach, at the cliffs and hills behind it and the dry stony country, you are filled with dismay at the sheer arrogant incompetence of the British & French Admirals and the British Generals that led to such a mess.

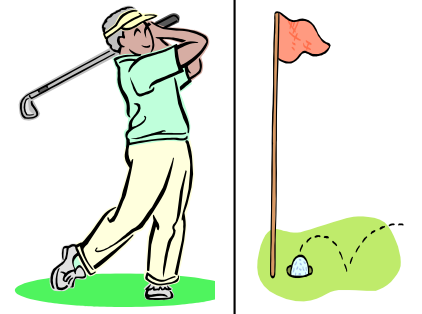
Despite the graveyards and the memorials and the scenery, the most moving thing is a huge slab at Anzac Cove carved with the tribute paid by Mustapha Kemal (later Kemal Ataturk) the commander of the Turkish forces. It is dedicated to the Anzac dead and reads:

These heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives; you are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between Johnnies and Mehments to us where they lie side by side in this country of ours. You, the mothers who sent their sons from far away countries, wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are at peace. After having lost their lives on this land, they have become our sons as well."

Dorothy & Brian Morrison



PIMA Charity Golf Day & Dinner 2005



Don't forget – it's on again - Friday 13th May at Carnarvon Golf Club, Lidcombe.

Remember to block this day out in your diary.

The guest speaker at the dinner will be former Olympian Mark Tonelli and we will also hear from Dr. John Harvey (head of the Burns Unit at Westmead Children's Hospital) – those who were there last year will remember being enthralled by John's insights into the treatment of burns victims.

Support from the industry has been excellent and at this time almost all the available starting positions have been taken.

There are still a few positions left but we do mean 'a few.'

This year's charity will be the 'Day of Difference Foundation'. The foundation has been established by Ron Delezio in an effort to help people with handicaps. For more information about the foundation please visit their website

www.dayofdifference.com.au. The Burns Unit at Westmead Children's Hospital is supported by the foundation & that will be where **ALL** the profits from the day will be directed. We will have a shopping list of badly needed equipment that we will be working toward purchasing for them.

We can still accommodate more sponsors. Don't miss this opportunity to have your name prominently displayed in front of an extremely targeted market

There are various levels of sponsorship:

Diamond	\$1500.00 + GST	Gold (all taken)	\$ 750.00 + GST
Silver	\$ 500.00 + GST	Sapphire	\$ 250.00 + GST
Prize	\$ 150.00 + GST	Or send a donation.	

We would particularly like to have prize donations – PIMA will source the prizes for you but donations of money towards the costs of the prizes means more money for the Burns Unit.

As you can see there are sponsorships for every budget.

Although we are restricted as to how many players we can accommodate (so that everyone finishes before dark) we are able to accommodate a much larger number at the dinner & auction that will follow. This day is fast becoming the premier social event of the plastics industry in NSW so don't miss out.

Contact Ralph Cable either by phone (02) 9387 6610 or email pima@pima.asn.au



Important Diary Dates for 2005

PIMA Charity Golf Day	Friday	13/05/05	Dinner Seminar	Tuesday	9/08/05
Plastics Pioneers Lunch	Thursday	26/05/05	Plastics Pioneers Lunch	Thursday	25/08/05
Dinner Seminar	Tuesday	7/06/05	Dinner Seminar & AGM	Tuesday	11/10/05
			Plastics Pioneers Lunch	Thursday	24/11/05

Trade Directory

Have you placed a FREE listing in the PIMA Trade Directory? You will find it attached to the PIMA website. Go to www.pima.asn.au and click on Trade Directory. If you have any problems contact Ralph Cable on (02) 9387 6610. This directory has the potential to assist the industry with fast access to providers of goods and services but we need more listings.

Advertising & Contributions

PIMA PRESS has been approached by several companies about advertising and we hope to introduce this option in the next edition.

Please contact Ralph Cable (Ph: 02 9387 6610 or pima@pima.asn.au) if you would like more information.. Advertising rates will be reasonable with a discount for those who wish to place a regular advertisement.

We still need articles to be contributed. As PIMA PRESS is read by a large cross-section of the plastics industry articles do not need to be specific to Injection Moulding. Information on insurance, OH&S, raw materials, latest news on people and companies etc.



26-29 September 2005

Australian Plastics Industry - the early days by Les Dalton (Part 1)

(This account is based on personal recollections and a manuscript by Austin Laughlin recording his researches of the Dalton and Nally ventures. The Australian Science and Technology Heritage Centre now hold the manuscript).

Due to the length of this article it will be presented in installments.

Little has been put on record of the early days of the Australian plastics industry. A bulletin of the Advisory Council of Science and Industry describes an investigation, during World War I, into substitute tin plate using phenol-formaldehyde resin varnishes.

Frederick Spencer (Spence) Dalton, a Sydney backyarder, in 1916, made phenolic moulding powders and produced buttons from them. His first fully commercial production was in 1924 at the Metters works in the Sydney suburb of St Peters. Nally Products was born in 1923 when Nat Fienberg and Wally Wakeham imported 'Condensite' to make more reliable timers for the T-Model Ford. This was during the formative years of our manufacturing industry when new products often got their start in some small factory or even a backyard shed. The following is about Dalton and his work in those early days with phenolic plastics.

In 1901 Spence Dalton, 13 years old, left Newtown Primary School having been awarded a 'Certificate of a Child Being Sufficiently Educated'. He had studied elementary science, which probably sparked his life-long interest in chemistry. As a teenager he worked as a jack-of-all-trades carting bricks, storeman, and fletcher on railways. In a family brickworks in Cootamundra he hand-moulded bricks. When the business failed he worked in a coal mine at Kurri Kurri before coming to work as a bricksetter at the Federal brickyards in St Peters. But Dalton always cherished the idea of working for himself. Settled into married life Dalton began looking at ways to go into business making something. Plastics seemed up and coming. At first it was casein, shellac and viscose. However, reading about bakelite and the uses to which it could be put he abandoned the other plastics. Still at an early stage of development it was a fairly open field for a small entrepreneur like himself.

The amateur chemist

In our age of professionalism we tend to forget the amateur chemist, engineer or whatever was not all that uncommon in those days. Though perhaps someone labouring as a bricksetter, while avidly reading technical journals and experimenting into the late hours of the night was somewhat exceptional. Dr Hans Spitzer, Chief Chemist of Beetle-Elliot, paid tribute to Dalton's pioneering effort saying that in 1917: "...there could be practically no information beyond the description of the principles in the Patent Specifications. ...everyone of us knows what a long and difficult path has to be traversed by one who sets out to produce a new material on nothing but a description in a patent specification."

Baekeland had encouraged fellow chemists to improve on "my methods or increase still further the number of useful applications of this interesting compound". Although not a member of the chemical fraternity, Dalton took the encouragement to heart. Fortunately for him Baekeland had not taken out patents in Australia. For however genuine were Baekeland's sentiments the Bakelite Company kept an eagle eye to see no one poached in their domain of patent rights. They fought legal battles against the Condensite Corporation to defend those rights. Eventually the two companies merged. Though Baekeland was the *effective* discoverer of this new plastic like any research endeavour other contenders were never far behind in the field.

The reaction between phenol and formaldehyde had been known since Bayer described it in 1871. In the years following many chemists experimented and took out patents. But Baekeland had seen the potential of the hard intractable residue, which other chemists discarded as a nuisance. He devised a two-step process with the second stage occurring under pressure in a mould.

The Early Days (cont.). Little was known about the chemical structure of the new resins. Baekeland offered a cautious explanation that his resins might "be found to be an example of polymerisation". Of a philosophical turn of mind Dalton no doubt pondered over the meaning of the term but his interests were essentially pragmatic. He was keen to get his hands on some phenol-formaldehyde moulding powder. But it was unlikely that any would come to Australia during the war. He would have to make his own. Actually reacting two simple chemicals in a vessel with alkali catalyst could well prove more manageable than making semisynthetics from complex natural materials like casein.

Dalton began to realise he needed to improve his knowledge of chemistry. In 1916 he applied to enroll for a chemistry course at the Sydney Technical College. Waiting for an interview he met Tom Begg also applying to enroll. They found they had much in common and formed a life-long friendship. Tom, working in the Metiers foundry, wanted to learn more about the chemistry of ceramics and metals. They were interviewed together by Dr Murphy. Neither had the prerequisites for their chosen courses. Impressed by their intelligence and earnestness he set them a test, which they both passed and enrolled in night classes. Dalton stayed the course until he gleaned the chemistry he needed for his resin-making.

Several years on their friendship became an important factor in Dalton advancing his aim to manufacture his plastics. **(To be continued in May edition)**

Starting in the May PIMA PRESS this sort of space is available for advertising.

ADVERTISE HERE

Contact Ralph Cable for rates

Qenos

Qenos Pty Ltd, a joint venture between Orica and affiliates of ExxonMobil Chemical, today announced that it has reached agreement to sell the Qenos polypropylene business to Basell Australia Pty Ltd.

"The sale of our polypropylene business continues the rationalisation of the Australian polymer manufacturing industry and delivers efficiencies required in the face of increasing international competition," said Ross McCann, Chief Executive Officer, Qenos. "With this divestment the company will increase the focus on building its core business as Australia's pre-eminent supplier of polyethylene."

As Australia's pre-eminent manufacturer and supplier of polyethylene resins, Qenos offers high density polyethylene, low density polyethylene and linear low density polyethylene manufactured locally as well as a range of specialty imported resins. These materials are used in a diverse range of industry sectors, including automotive, packaging, agriculture and mining.

Qenos operates manufacturing facilities in Sydney and Melbourne producing approximately 400,000 tonnes of polyethylene annually.

This article was published in the Plastics Pioneers Newsletter (Victoria) April edition

Chinaplas 2005



21-24 June 2005

Guangzhou International Convention and Exhibition Centre
Guangzhou - China

PIMA

PO BOX 324
Lidcombe
NSW 2141
Ph: (02) 9387 6610
Fax: (02) 9387 6924
Email: :pima@pima.asn.au