

JULY 2022, ISSUE 25

# Industry Insights

*The Australasian Institute of Surface Finishing*

## President's message



To All AISF Members and Industry Stakeholders,

Welcome to the New Financial Year!

Along with actively progressing the review and update of the powder coating and electroplating standards with Standards Australia, the AISF has appointed a new Secretariat officer. With Natalie Mills departure into the NSW snowfields, we welcome Michelle Bracken to the team as our Members primary contact.

Michelle commenced in mid June and is undergoing her induction into the various industries the AISF covers. the services we provide our members and the diverse group of stakeholders we interact with. She brings a wealth of experience from different associations and industries that will help the promotion and administration of the AISF.

The AISF Board members are excited to see several of our key projects progressing well and join with us to welcome Michelle into the AISF family as she makes contact with each of you in coming weeks. Michelle's contact details below

### Michelle Bracken

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We thank you as always for your continued support of our industry body and look forward to communicating more updates about training and accreditation soon.

Kind Regards

*Mitch Connelly*

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# AISF

## UPDATE



### New to the Team ....

A big thanks to the directors and the association members I have had the pleasure of working with in my first few weeks. Everyone has been really welcoming and its so wonderful to be interacting with people who are so passionate and knowledgeable. There is certainly a lot work that goes on behind the scenes and I am loving learning every day!

I have come from a clubs background, predominantly in the golfing industry, as an Operations Manager leading large teams in the hospitality sector, training, attending board meetings, AGMs, working closely with directors, industry governing bodies and associations.

I applied for this role as it seemed like a really interesting way to apply some of the skills I had and learn more in an industry of interest. I look forward to working with you all to grow and strengthen our association with our directors and you, our members.

### Working Safely with Cyanide Training Online:

The Australasian Institute of Surface Finishing is recommended as the one and only organisation who can deliver working safely with cyanide training and is recognised by New South Wales Department of Health.

This course is fundamental for anyone working with Cyanides. In fact in New South Wales, you can not purchase Cyanide without having a Working Safely with Cyanide certificate.

Participation in this course will benefit:

- Applicators
- Safety Officers
- Managers
- Cleaners
- anyone working in a facility that handles Cyanides



We will be running another online course on **Thursday 4th August 2pm** with our expert Tim Elley so book now to save disappointment as spaces are limited.

Please see the website for bookings

### End of Financial year....

As our president Mitch has touched on, we have reached the end of the financial year and would like to thank everyone for their support over this last year with all its ups and downs.

Membership renewals have already been sent out to our existing members, please contact us if you haven't received yours. If you are not already a member of the AISF and would like to take part of joining the greater community of Surface Finishers, please contact our Secretariat, Michelle Bracken and she can email you the membership application form.





# Industry UPDATE

## Covid Opportunity: Remove Friction from the System

The problems we have been facing in business during this Covid recovery period include staff shortages and massive increases in costs of all our inputs. The friction in our systems are the blockages that make us pull our hair out, increase stress and cause our customers angst.

In my business, the Covid Opportunity has forced me to:

- Drive the forklift more often.
- Run a production line again
- Powder coat again

This is all really annoying but if I view the problem as an opportunity then our world can end up a better place. I take the view that if we survive the next two years, we will be a much stronger and overall, better business.

There have already been some casualties in our industry however there will always be plenty of opportunity ahead. Spending time on the forklift allows me to meet the customers and their drivers, some of whom I had never met. This has afforded me the opportunity to listen to their woes and understand what makes them tick. Some of our customers have drivers who are gems in the mine while others are tricky people so watching my staff handle them has been revealing.

Learning to run a production line again was a massive headache but has given me fresh insight into the struggles we have been dishing out to our staff. I could see the back logs, lack of organisation and leadership as well as the fragmentation of the systems we have that are overwhelming the workforce and yet, they say nothing because of the immense pressure we are all under. They just cope with what they have and get the job done as best as possible. I have been out of powder application for some years now so jumping back into it is daunting but I have relearnt the skills I teach and more. I was quite happy to report that I was coating faster than the team beside me were able to prepare.

Our aim is to work on our business not in it and as we become more successful the time spent in the business shrinks. That is good overall but going back and working in the production line is required for innovation. Working in the production line is required to see and feel the friction and learn from the staff that deal with it to create a better workplace. Many of the problems relate to the fact the systems have not changed as the business has grown. Also, the people have not changed to grow with the systems.

Some examples of the solutions that we are implementing:

- We are a batch coater. The type of trollies we use must change. The solution is money that needs to be spent.
- Our job cards are not well managed, and jobs lose their tags, so we need to make this work. The solution is training and system simplification.
- There is a massive problem with the flow of work through one production line. This is a natural problem with batch coating. The timing for all the stages in production does not line up nicely so sometimes the coater is doing nothing and mostly the problem is preparation is too slow. The solution is mathematical after identifying which jobs will slow things down then allocating additional resources to keep the flow going. How to find the additional resources is then the fight. 30% of our team are women. Most powder coaters I visit, even the big ones, have zero women on the floor. There is an opportunity right there in front of our eyes.

Kind Regards,

*Chris Sweetnam*



# Industry UPDATE



DECO Australia’s new independent testing body, DECO Testing Pty Ltd, has been granted ISO 17025 accreditation by the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA), the country’s leading national accreditation body.

This significant ISO 17025 accreditation means that DECO Testing’s newly refurbished laboratory has scope to offer five accredited material performance and corrosion tests, with results accepted globally. These tests include:

- Cross Hatch Adhesion to ISO 2409
- Wet Adhesion to Qualicoat 2.4.2
- Machu Test to Qualicoat 2.11
- Neutral Salt Spray to ISO 9227
- Acetic Salt Spray to ISO 9227

DECO Australia General Manager, Richard Hamber said that this respected NATA accreditation is a significant achievement for DECO Testing.

“It really highlights DECO’s commitment and continued dedication to quality and performance and will now also give us the ability to offer accredited testing services industry wide.”

DECO Testing conducts these third-party accredited tests across DECO Australia’s wide range of products and finishes, and now also offers these globally recognised testing services to the wider industry with NATA accredited test certificates provided on completion.

For more information, visit [www.deco.net.au](http://www.deco.net.au) or email DECO Testing at [testing@deco.net.au](mailto:testing@deco.net.au).



A family owned Australian business





# Meet the MEMBERS

**Company:** Capital Precision Coating

**Member:** Joe Doherty

**Role:** Managing Director

**Industry:** Powder Coating job shop

**Shop description:** We have 2 x lines, abrasive blasting, 5 stage pretreatment (non-chrome) 20+ staff

**Interests/hobbies:** Cars, motorbikes and home renovations

**How did you get into protective coatings?** Long time family business, CPC was run by my parents Michael and Frances for 30 yrs before I took over 5 years ago

**Favourite part of the industry?** Architectural design

**Why are you in the AISF?** Support and knowledge sharing between like minded people

**How can our industry improve?** Through training and development



**CPC**  
CAPITAL PRECISION COATING

► POWDER COATING ► ABRASIVE BLASTING  
[WWW.CAPITALPRECISIONCOATING.COM.AU](http://WWW.CAPITALPRECISIONCOATING.COM.AU)





# AISF

## MEMBERSHIP



### Member Benefits

#### Support

- National body representation for various industry forums and related issues
- Professional representation on accreditation, licencing and compliance matters
- Industry experts on hand to assist with technical problems and making business decisions
- Industry specific tailored Insurance packages and reduced premiums
- AISF's commitment to long term sustainability and improvement of the Industry

#### Training & Knowledge

- Access to discounted AISF accredited training courses on powder coating, electroplating and cyanide training.
- Assistance with Government Training Grants & Incentives
- Improved business practices through local and web-based technical meetings & briefings
- Plant visits and bench marking
- E-mail access to our "Industry Insights" monthly newsletter
- Access to online directory with links and resources related to surface finishing

#### Networking & Marketing

- Maximise company's exposure in the market at industry events
- Interaction with key leaders and peers in the industry
- Free advertising on our online members directory - a valuable marketing tool
- Editorial opportunities in our "Industry Insights" monthly newsletter and on our association social media pages.

#### Member Discounts

Industry specific discounts with our member benefit partners, including:

- **Metal Industries Insurance Brokers:**  
For your business management and client centric insurance needs.
- **DAS Insure:**  
Helping you identify and minimise bad debt risks and protect your business against cyber risks.
- **Make it Cheaper:**  
Helping you slash your valuable \$\$'s off your energy bills

Contact us today for further information on membership or download a member pack at: [www.aisf.org.au/becomeamember](http://www.aisf.org.au/becomeamember)



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