

## Editorial

It seems that I have been "Off-Line" for quite some weeks now with all the work in the lead up to the conference. I departed for New Zealand a couple of days after the conference closed and have only just got things back under control.

Ah, the conference. Congratulations must go to Conference Chair, Mark Thomas and his entire team for delivering THE biggest Lean conference ever held outside North America.



"The name's Thomas, Mark Thomas " Conference Chair, Mark doing his best Bond impression at the Hall of Fame Dinner

"Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of May was simply one of the best single-day learning experiences I have ever encountered - Ian Glenday was simply brilliant" said AME'er Carla Geddes. And judging by

the full house Ian had for his one-and-a-half hour presentation the following day, it seems that the word spread very quickly. Other standouts were Professor Peter Hines from the Lean Enterprise Research Centre in Cardiff University. A regular visitor to Australia, Peter enjoyed renewing his contacts with the AME and is looking forward to his next opportunity to spend some time with us. Bruce Baggaley's session on Lean Accounting were "Standing Room Only" affairs with all seats being taken early. John Kim and David Chao's sessions were similarly packed and I get the impression

that these guys will be invited to come back and spend some more time in Australia very soon. The opening by Tim Holding, the Victorian Minister for Manufacturing and Export was sensational! For

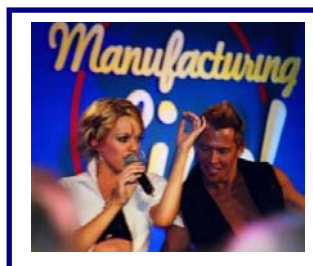


The Victorian Minister for Manufacturing and Export, Tim Holding Opening the AME Pacific Rim Conference

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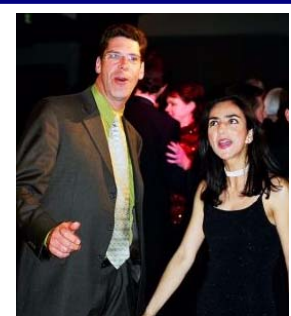
those of us who have heard Tim speak before, it was simply one more reminder of the great passion and commitment that our minister brings to his portfolio. For those who were hearing him for the first time it was a case of amazement that the Minister could speak for 20 minutes with so many facts while not referring to notes of any kind. Ian Nicholls from Value Innovation Partners in Europe stated to me that "this guy is the most impressive manufacturing minister I have ever met. We need him to come back to the UK and help us!" I suggested to Ian that he should tell this to Tim. The last I saw of Ian he was sitting next to Minister Holding at the Manufacturing Hall of Fame dinner deep in conversation.....

Conference delegate's passes included access to the Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame Dinner on the Wednesday evening where we were treated to great food and entertainment while



celebrating the success of local manufacturing. A very convincing Kylie Monogue look-alike did a couple of Kylie classics to get the entertainment started and this assisted the usually slow male

contingent in the room to hit the dance floor from the opening number. Well-known friends of the AME in Australia is are Richard Kunst and Mariela Castano from Canada. Despite busy work schedules of their own they made the trip to Australia to catch up with their many friends here and help us make our first major conference a huge success. Richard surprised his many



Richard and Mariela hard at work in Australia

Aussie friends by actually turning up prior to the closing ceremony this year and conducted two practitioner presentations on implementing Lean and one key note address on the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement on Manufacturing in Canada.

The keynote speaker at Thursday's Lunch was Jason McCartney, ex AFL Footballer and Bali bombing survivor. Jason Gave a heart-wrenching account of the terrorist attack, his horrific injuries

and his gutsy return to health. There was hardly a dry eye in the house!

The 12 Plant tours went without a hitch and those



Plant Tour Bus preparing for departure from the Grand Hyatt

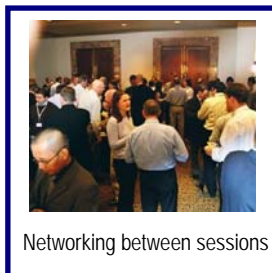
who did participate all gave the same glowing comments about the value of actually seeing the improvements that others have made to help them with their vision. I usually tell colleagues to come with 100 business cards and leave with 100 new contacts. The truly great thing about the AME is the networking opportunities. Most AME'ers are just too pleased to invite their colleagues into their businesses to share their knowledge and experiences.

On the final day of the conference, the team from Wilson Transformer Company reported back on their week-long Kaizen event. They showed their Spaghetti maps and their Value Stream Maps and discussed the improvements they had made and would continue to implement. The conference concluded with Keynote addresses from Richard Kunst and Australian Industry Group CEO, Heather Riddout who then participated in the moderated forum.

When the Board of AME began planning for this conference in February 2003 we had just 75 members and we dreamed of holding a world-class conference of 400 member delegates. I am so proud of all we have accomplished in bringing 400 delegates from every state and territory of Australia, China, Korea, Philippines, Indonesia, Canada, USA and the UK together for this inaugural event. In fact, with our transferable passes, we have managed to touch over 600 people.

As my tenure as President of AME Australia drawn near to an end I can think of no bigger thrill to have been a part of the AME Pacific Rim Conference. My sincere thanks once again to Mark Thomas and his team, and our sponsor: The Department of Industry, Innovation and Regional

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Networking between sessions

Development, Toyota, Syspro Software, Power Business Solutions and the many minor sponsors and supporters of AME Australia.

## Coming Events

Now that the conference is behind us we will get back into full swing with a full program of meetings and events.

- **June 17, Networking Opportunity in Sydney**, Time 4pm - 6:30  
 Location Tasman in Glenendenning (West of Sydney)  
 Topic Tasman Insulation's Manufacturing Capability Improvement Process

Tasman Insulation has been manufacturing insulation products at the Rooty Hill site NSW since 1979. The insulation products manufactured are for the domestic, commercial and industrial markets, branded as Insulco. Currently employing 120 people on site, operating a 24/7 manufacturing facility with 16 Branches/Warehouses Australia wide, for a total company workforce of 220. Tasman Insulation started its Product Improvement Process 5 years ago with some good success stories and is very keen to share these, and participate in Networking groups in Sydney to further learn excellence activities in other manufacturing industries. Contact –

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Other Events - the Sydney based AME would like to have at least 4 events in the next 12 months. Details will be in the AME newsletter.

- **July TBA, Networking Opportunity in Adelaide**, The AME will hold its next Adelaide meeting at RM Williams next month. Details are still in the planning however we will bring you more details shortly. Contact

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