

“ Summer brings with it barbecues, beaches (if you are lucky enough to live near one and be able to beg off work long enough to get there) plus generally lots of reasons to climb ladders and tackle some roof painting. This issue we have a couple of the funny stories from our recent competition to share with you, plus some handy tips on ladder safety and a new product perfect for those jobs up high... ”



## Painting blues

*If you ever feel that you should have just stayed in bed in the morning, this story from Joe Szentpeteri of Nelson just might give you hope that bad things can turn out ok... if you're lucky! Plus make extra sure when delegating that the instructions are fail safe!*

"7.30am and the daily grind begins, as it does for many in the industrial coatings industry. From my second storey office window the view across the Nelson industrial area presents a vista of roofs sprawling over many acres. The contrast between the iron roofs capped by distant snow covered mountains never became monotonous. One roof in particular had always showed itself as the proverbial tall poppy with its orange hue of rust to which my eye was always drawn. How dare it interfere with my view!

As my foreman enters my office I point out the tall poppy that needs painting. The answer was simple in the end – 'get it sorted'. After several visits to the owner of said roof who cries I don't have any money to paint my roof, as familiar as this sounds, I'm sure, a deal is struck to my surprise. Before heading away on a business trip that would take me out of the country for a fortnight I explain the scope of the work and the intricacies of 'the deal' with my foreman who replies 'leave it with me boss, by the time you get back it will all be done'.

Arriving back late in the evening I decide to go straight home and deal with whatever the office has lined up for me the next day. During the staff meeting first thing in the morning I am delighted to find all is in order and everyone is happy. As I walk upstairs to my office I am told by my foreman that the roof painting of my tall poppy was a great success. This statement said with chin held high of a job well done. Now I can't wait to see my tall poppy in all its glory. You can imagine my confusion as tall poppy stands up proud and defiant with its rusty orange hue. Looking at my foreman as he proclaims 'so what do you think?' – what do I think?, I am speechless! Summoning patience from deep within and fighting down the knee jerk reaction... blind rage... I ask my foreman to point out this painted roof that looks so good. As the fantastic blue roof jumps into view I am floored, not only by its size but the fact that it is the building next to tall poppy! Mild sweat and rising bile taking hold, I slowly take a seat. After contacting the owner of this abandoned building who is just delighted with the job, I am informed that he has just purchased the building and wanted it painted anyway. I walk away with a contract to paint the rest of the building and a friend I continue to do business with to this very day. Tall poppy was eventually painted by another contractor. I can only presume we lost the job because we never showed up. The blue roof still looks good some five years on and the colour matched New Denim Blue supplied by Resene continues to perform."



Tackle some roof painting this summer!

### On top!

And if you are keen to try out other products that will stand the test of time like the Resene paint has on the 'tall poppy' roof that Joe did battle with, then the new **Resene Summit Roof** might be right up your alley. It's a waterborne satin roof paint, which is direct to substrate on some surfaces and recommended over a suitable primer/sealer on other surfaces. It's available in a wide range of colours including popular **COLORSTEEL®** colours plus a whole host of Resene colours too... and a selection of Resene Cool Colour options. Check out new Data Sheet D315 – available from the Resene website or your Resene representative.

So now you can choose to have a **Resene Summit Roof** satin finish on your roof, a **Resene Hi-Glo** gloss finish, a **Resene Hi-Glo** miox/metallic finish or a **Resene Sonyx 101** semi-gloss finish – whichever takes your fancy!



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## Ladder on wheels

Going back some years, Arie Preesman of Whangarei tells us this story of his time in a small village in the Netherlands in the late 60s. "Life was pretty laid back, you didn't lock your doors and the sole village policeman rode his bike keeping an eye on everything.

Those were my apprentice years. The painting firm I was working for didn't have a car. Everything got done on pushbikes. We were doing a job at a farmhouse and a big farm barn outside the village where we needed our very long and heavy 20 foot extension ladder.

My boss got a bright idea of how to get the ladder to the job. He said 'we put our arms through the rungs on the ladder. I hold the front and you hold the back'.

So off we went on our bikes down the street. My shoulder was already sore and we still had about 5 kms to go. Here we come sailing around a corner and there was the village cop, watching the traffic. We needed both our hands on the handlebars to keep ourselves upright and straight. The cop saw us coming and yelled out to my boss 'eh, can't you indicate?'.

My boss yelled back 'yeah yeah I'll do that when I come back' and carried on, the village cop shaking his head after him."

Imagine that same scene today and the chaos that you could create.

Of course there's lots of other ways you can cause chaos with a ladder so to keep yourself safe here's some ladder safety ideas...

## High side

Sometimes a healthy dose of a fear of heights can actually keep you safe. We all joke around about ladder safety and many of us have heard stories of painters sliding off roofs when trying to clamber over wet paint or dangling off ladders, but the reality is that ladders are far more dangerous than they appear... well to be fair, ladders are perfectly safe – trouble is we often don't use them correctly, which can make them an accident waiting to happen.

The key thing to remember is that ladders are not designed as working platforms – they should be used to get access to the project or to carry out minor or routine work; not to dangle off for days at a time. If you're not planning to stick to this recommendation, it's time to stand back and figure out another way of tackling the job. Sounds obvious but how often do you get caught into the trap of 'just' using the ladder here and there only to find yourself perched on one for days?

Ladders should be checked regularly and any damage or excess wear repaired before use. The key things to look for are:

- Damaged or missing locking bars.
- Bent, twisted, loose, split stiles, steps, braces and/or frame.
- Missing rivets.
- Worn or missing non-slip feet.

There are a multitude of different ladder types so make sure you match the ladder to the job at hand... and if you find it isn't right then stop and grab the right ladder rather than putting up with something that doesn't quite suit – you'll save time and minimise the risk of accident.

Having checked that a ladder is needed, the right ladder is selected and the ladder is sound, it's time to set it up. Key things to remember are:

- Set it up on a firm surface and allow an overlap of at least 1 metre above the area you plan to move to.
- Get the ladder angle right – for every measure of four up go one out at the base.
- Secure top and bottom with sandbags, blocks or similar. Make sure locking clips are in place. You should have three contact points at any one time, which allows you one free hand. Get someone to hold the ladder while you secure the top to be on the safe side.

- Don't climb higher than three rungs from the top.
- Protect the ladder from passing foot traffic if it is in a thoroughfare area. Consider taping around the work area or placing cones to divert passing traffic away from the ladder area.
- Work within the width of the ladder – your belt buckle should stay within the width of the ladder. If not, move the ladder to reach the area.
- Always keep your cellphone handy if you are using a ladder when there is no one else around – just in case.

In short, a little extra effort up front and you'll not only save yourself time but a dreaded trip or two to A&E.

Of course once you have ascended to a roof or the like, never try walking on wet paint – it may only be a metre or two, you may have gotten away with it before and so on, but wet paint is extremely slippery and you'll regret the 'quick dash' when you are flying through mid air with litres of paint and a paintbrush following after you.

And if worse comes to worse and you do fall off a ladder... Don't panic. Evaluate the situation as calmly as you can and decide if you're hurt. If you don't think that you've broken any bones, get up slowly. Even if you are mobile, if you have hit your head, go and get yourself checked out as soon as possible. If you believe an injury has occurred that stops you from standing or walking, shout for help or if you have a cellphone handy call 111.

And if you are one of the lucky ones who manages to fall from a ladder but escape serious injury and harm, then the likely cleanup of spilt paint you will still have to endure before you can put the episode behind you will hopefully remind you to be extra super ladder safe next time.



What NOT to do on a ladder!

## Handy hint

With the hot weather now on tap, **Resene Hot Weather Additive** is a must for many jobs. If you've been struggling trying to figure out an easy way to measure out how much you need – here's a quick tip. If you are using a 250ml or 500ml bottle, the cap holds 10ml – so 1 capful is the average recommended dose for 500ml, 2 capfuls for 1L and so on.

And if you are using the 4L pack size, the lid holds 15-20ml so you can use that as your pouring device.



That's all for now – catch you next month!

TwoCan, Editor.

