

P R E C I S I O N L A B E L S

Off THE WEB



TOP: Rod Bryan, Lee Abbott and some of the Nilpeter team after the successful commissioning of the second MO3300.

LOWER: The delivery of Nilpeter MO3300 No. 2.



WHAT'S INSIDE

- NILPETER Main Feature
- NATIONAL PRINT LABORATORY Scuffing Issues
- RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
- CUSTOMER PROFILE
- OUR SOCIAL CLUB
Precision Scene

FEATURE THIS ISSUE.....

OUR SECOND NILPETER MO3300

To help meet the demands of the market place, we have recently completed the installation of two identical Nilpeter presses.

MORE CONTINUED INSIDE!



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Welcome to Off the Web. Over a 10 year period, Precision Labels has earned a reputation for printing some of the most technically challenging wine labels on the market. Innovation and high quality standards were both major factors then and are even more critical to our future.

As the wine industry has grown, Precision has been able to grow with it and we now face similar challenges to our customers as the market matures. We may be selling different products, but the challenges and opportunities that the wine industry is facing are being passed right through the supply chain. Quality, service and price are mandatory. Innovation and value engineering are the critical areas that will make future growth sustainable. The amount of time that we spend communicating face to face with our customers, suppliers and affiliated industries, has been reduced. The digital transfer of messages, files and information has given us huge improvements in achieving 'speed to market' but often at the expense of updating ourselves on what's happening in the industry.

Off the Web is designed to inform customers, marketers, designers and others directly or indirectly in the supply chain, of what's happening at Precision Labels and our parent company the Labelmakers Group. Future editions will showcase labels that we've produced and developed with input from customers and designers. The newsletter also has regular articles that cover some of the technical aspects of label manufacturing as well as some lighter reading material on the company and our most precious asset, the people who work at Precision. If you would like to make any comments or add somebody's name to the mail list, please contact us on offtheweb@precisionlabels.com.au. Later in the year, it will be available to be downloaded from our website. I hope you enjoy reading the first edition of Off the Web.

Rod Bryan
General Manager

R&D update

Research and
Development

Gold Ink to replace gold foil

After a long period of looking at numerous options we have secured supply of a product that can be used using current printing equipment. Trials have been completed and samples submitted to customers for approval. Initial figures indicate that the alternative offers savings on volumes in excess of 10,000 lineal meters with ink coverage of less than 25%. This product is being referred to as Liquid Gold Foil (LGFI).

Moisture resistant Varnish

We're continuing to trial both off-set and flexo alternatives to improve moisture resistance on uncoated paper stocks. Although new products

have offered significant improvements, large labels with low ink coverage are still a challenge.

Pearlised Coating

Despite successfully being used on several commercial jobs, further testing has to be completed before we offer this coating to the market. The light diffraction achieved from particles in the coating have raised considerable interest from brand managers and designers.

Frostbite Smooth

This product offers a flat clay coated print surface and the moisture membrane used on the current uncoated Frostbite paper. The paper has less bulk & is more flexible so is an option on labels that have high ink coverage. The product is a further addition to the range of papers specifically designed and produced for the wine industry by Labelmakers.

NATIONAL PRINTING LABORATORY

E-Bulletin Wednesday, 15 June 2005

Scuffing

The definition of scuffing is a vertical rub of the label against the side of the carton or the divider inserts. In all cases investigated by the NPL, the scuffed label has exceeded the industry rub test standard (2000 rubs on the Sutherland). Interestingly, the scuffing of the label has also occurred with very little or no transport.

In many cases, we were unable to duplicate the scuffing with severe hand rubbing against the carton, even on those labels already scuffed. This has led us to think that some scuffing must occur during the packing of the bottles into the carton; and some recent work by the National Printing Laboratory indicates that wet labels scuff very easily.

We are able to scuff UV varnished labels, which pass the Sutherland test, using a Sheen Wet Abrasion Scrub Tester and "Scotchbrite" pads. We can initiate scuffing within 100 rubs. If we wet the label for 5 minutes, though, we will get scuffing within 10 rubs!

The scuffing often starts at the top edge of a label. In a wet label, the moisture will penetrate through the edge of the paper, weakening the actual fibre matrix or the interfacial adhesion between the paper fibres and a coating. Once scuffing initiates, particles are produced which form an ever more abrasive environment at the point of contact with another surface.

The increasing use of uncoated papers appears to be making this problem worse. The absence of a paper coating means the moisture attacks the paper varnish interface immediately, leaving the surface susceptible to abrasion.

Foil stamping is often involved in scuffing problems. If foil stamping overlays the edge of a label design and is die-cut when the labels are produced, it creates a ragged edge (seen under a microscope) which will be a weak point for scuff initiation. Varnishes do not stick well to gold foil, easily rubbing off, and so the label edge is further endangered.

Uncoated papers may lead to poor "ice bucket" performance of the labels, and varnish suppliers should attempt to address the problem through better moisture resistance of their varnishes. This would include lower moisture transmission rates for the body of the label as well as better paper adhesion to protect the label edges when moisture is present.

Bottlers may be able to reduce label wetting during the process or ensure complete drying before packing into cartons.

Second Nilpeter MO3300



To help meet the demands of the market place, we have recently completed our second installation of two identical Nilpeter presses. The first press was installed in August last year and the second installation was completed in June.

The two presses are Nilpeter MO3300 servo rotolabel presses that offer a combination of offset, flexo and screen printing with rotary foiling and die-cutting. Both presses feature nine units that can be used for any combination of offset, flexo and screen, giving the operators tremendous flexibility in terms of how jobs are produced.

The flexibility of the machines is matched by their productivity. A major advantage of the Nilpeter presses is

their wider web width (340mm compared to the 280mm running on our existing flexo presses) as well as the higher running speeds. This combination enables the company to meet demands for faster production and greater volumes while still maintaining the required quality levels.

The two presses are the first servo machines from Nilpeter to be installed in the Australasian region. The servo technology on the presses has helped to reduce make-ready times and improve lead-times.

The addition of the Nilpeter presses gives Precision greater flexibility to meet the demands of the wine industry for both large and small volume runs.

WEST COAST WANDERERS!

A recent visit to the US west coast wine regions of Oregon & California by Precision Labels was well received and confirmed our commitment to this increasing export market. Rod Bryan & Glenn Castell made the trip across to visit a number of existing & potential customers in both regions, 'It was great to catch up with many of our customers and enjoy the friendliness and hospitality they showed towards us.' 'The region offers additional opportunities that have yet to be explored and with more visits planned this year, we are keen to build on these relationships and expand our healthy customer base.'



Cathy & Rollin
from Argyle Winery



Glenn with Jim
from Lemelson Winery



Lyn & Ron
from Penner Ash Winery

CLUBBER'S CORNER

Graeme Lang, Labelmakers Group Technical Manager
PS Labels – More than just a Pretty Face!



Pressure Sensitive labels are viewed as giving a premium image to the products they identify. With an almost limitless range of materials, printing processes and embellishment techniques, the PS label can create virtually any 'look' the designer desires. Australian wine labels are the very embodiment of this, truly becoming an art form in their own right.

To date, the bottling hall has paid a price for this design eloquence - slower application speeds, a narrower operating window with regard to application conditions and higher label unit costs when compared to wet gum labels. At Precision, we see improvements in application efficiency as an equally important opportunity to add value to our customers.

Recent advances in PS label application equipment have meant that speeds in excess of 1000bpm are no longer the sole domain of wet gum labels. PS labels are now applied at comparable speeds without messy, lengthy changeovers and expensive change parts. However these speeds impose greater performance demands on the components of the label that the consumer doesn't see – the PS adhesive and the release system (comprising the liner and the silicone release coating).

Higher lineal web speeds give rise to increased web tensions. For higher speeds to translate into output, it's important that web breaks are minimized. This may be achieved through the development of more resilient release liners with higher dry and wet tensile and tear properties. Silicone release coating systems must also be adapted to resist more frequent changes in web direction, higher tensions, and longer web paths whilst delivering clean, reliable label/liner separation at the dispensing plate.

Bottlers of sparkling wine have long sought improvements in PS adhesion to cold bottles saturated with condensation. This application invites the development of a PS adhesive that can form a 'green' bond in much the same way as a casein wet glue does.

But where should we look for this next breakthrough technology to come from?

At the heart of the chemistry our PS industry uses today, are just a few large chemical companies producing the base raw materials. Massive oligopolies with research 'cities' staffed with thousands of researchers dedicated to the development of new polymer and fibre technology. No converter, label printer or label stock manufacturer alike, could hope to match the resources that these companies commit to polymer and fibre research.

At Precision we see our role as being a conduit to the research facilities of these chemical giants. Interpreting and conveying what performance characteristics it is that you need. It will be their development of a fundamentally new base polymer that will improve label performance on sparkling wines - not a tweak of the same technology that has been around for the last 30 years.

Through this publication, we will be reporting the progress on some of these developments in the upcoming editions.

Our aim is to develop labels that are – more than just a pretty face!

With so much going on at Precision Labels these days with new presses, increased capacity for existing and new customers and a developing stock portfolio; it's a challenge to ensure we keep everyone up to date.

Most of us would like to include some "social time" with their fellow co-workers, however co-ordinating appropriate times between production shifts and the office, can be an arduous task.

2005 has seen the start of the Precision Labels social club which is for all Precision employees, so get involved and enjoy!

There is a group of people that will work with you to achieve a great social club, so please see them with any suggestions for future events.

Club Co-ordinators
Frank Breen
Kearon Custance
Bob Clifford



LEFT: Daina Kruschel (nee Thompson), looked even more stunning (if that's possible!) on her wedding day.

ALSO Congratulations to George Bozanic who married his spring bride in April.



RIGHT: The lovely Vicky Shepperd (nee Schiller) married her man after their love of tennis and music brought them together.

ALL OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE TIED THE KNOT RECENTLY
We wish you all the best of luck from everyone at Precision

WHAT'S NEW Gallus 5
Operator Steve Bennett has realised that nothing smells better than a new baby.....well most of the time!. Congratulations to Steve and Debra Bennett on the birth of baby Lewis.



Steve and Debra Bennett's newest addition, Baby Lewis Bennett.

PL PIN BOARD

P.L Social Club goes..... Gokarting!!!

Precision Labels First Social Club event was Gokarting at Kart Mania Gepps Cross and was split into 2 nights of pure adrenalin, 60 lap races. Both events found many speed demons and road blockers, but thankfully they were great fun and injury free.

Event 1 was won by Team 8 who was Peter leadfoot Linsenmeier and Smooth Ashley Parr. Their Best lap time was 33.09 seconds.

Event 2 and the overall winners were Team 11 who was Andrew Magnusson (PV Technologies) and "the expert" Greg Sheridan (pictured below). Their Best lap time was 31.91 seconds.



Rippin' round the corner & burnin' down the strip



We are the Champions! Andrew & Greg

LONG SERVICE

Congratulations to our third quarter "old timers"

- 15 years - Bob Nicol
- 10 years - Peter Donnellan
- 5 years - Ivan Attard
- David Clark
- Felicity Moody
- Frank Breen
- Alan Roberts

NEW FACES

Precision Labels welcomes some new faces:
Scott Lawless, Self Adhesive Printer
Tara Mitchell, Account Manager



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