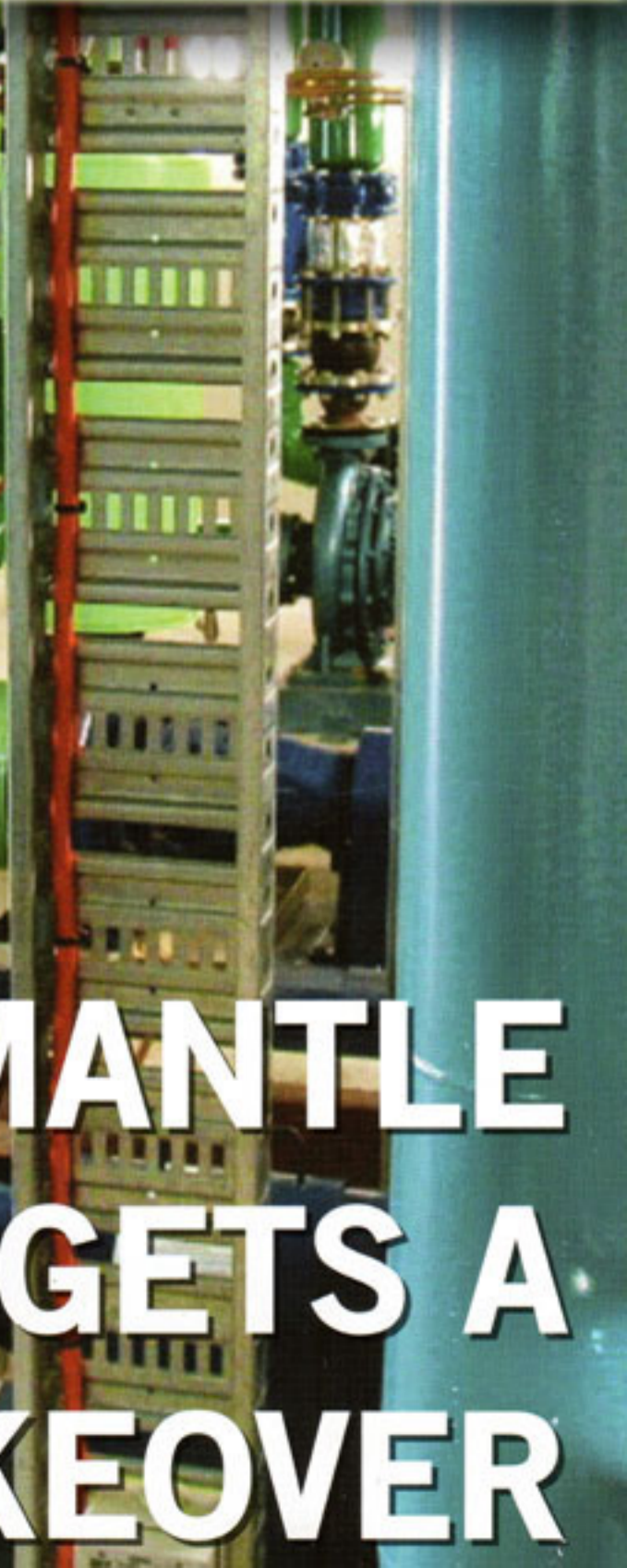


# BRUSH *strokes*

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& decorators  
australia

## FREMANTLE PORT GETS A MAKEOVER



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Master Painters and Decorators we endeavour to complete diverse and demanding projects that cover a multitude of trade disciplines, and this edition of Brush Strokes highlights the technical requirements of Industrial and Protective Coatings.

The repercussions of a failed coating system on structural pipe work can have catastrophic consequences. We all remember the Varanus Island gas incident and the costs associated.

Application of Protective Coatings is a very precise science with coatings applied to a wet film thickness prescribed by the manufacturer's specification. Failure to achieve the wet film thickness will compromise the dry films ability to perform as required which can lead to delamination for premature degradation of the coating.

Paint manufacturers have very specific requirements for the application of their coating systems, advice should always be sought from the manufacturer prior to applying the coating system. Dedicated training programs exist for the application of Protective Coatings. MPA Skills is developing the MSA30309 Certificate III in Surface Preparation and Coating Application.

MSA30309 Certificate III covers the skills and knowledge required to perform a wide range of surface preparation and protective coating application operations which occur across a wide range of industries, typically heavy industry, shipping and infrastructure.

#### Feature Project

Project completed by David Gault of WA Painters, highlighting the varied nature of work completed by Master Painters and Decorators Australia members. The project was commissioned by Fremantle Port and involved the highly technical coating of service pipe work.

Mr Gault tells us about WA Painters: "WA Painters was established in 1990 and now has 14 team members, 8 tradesman, 3 apprentices and 3 full time admin staff. Specialising in maintenance painting and repairs, WA Painters have been nominated as the preferred

contractor to 5 major insurance panel builders. We have attained a sound reputation for our commitment to quality workmanship and customer service. Our self-developed job tracking system has ensured tremendous efficiency and stability in facilitation. With advanced quality management

*"The challenge was to work in a confined space while the machinery was still operating."*

systems and a highly experienced leadership team WA Painters are industry leaders in painting maintenance services."

Q: So tell me a bit about the job.

A: It was quite a challenging project because firstly we weren't sure how long it was going to take because it's not your typical job. So we dived in gung ho and we were surprised that we finished it ahead of schedule. It was a very noisy environment as you had all the machinery operating while you were working and we couldn't shut it down as it was responsible for the heating and cooling of the entire building. It's one of two systems available in Australia and it's an experimental prototype heating and cooling system.

Q: What was your deadline? How long did you have to complete the project?

A: Well there was no deadline, but our initial estimate was that



*Different angles, confined spaces*



it would be 4 weeks to do the project. In 2 weeks we were done. We used ICOAT etch primer on them. The ICoat Primer and the industrial spray enamel gave it a terrific finish! We used foam nook and cranny rollers, little brushes. We had to keep the floor nice and clean so as you can see in the photographs there are no spots on the ground, and of course there are a few things there that shouldn't be painted, so not only did you have the attention to detail in what you were doing, but the attention to detail of what you weren't doing as well.

Q: I understand that the individual colours designate a purpose?

A: The colours were taken from the Australian Standards colour chart for pipe work identification. Each pipe had to be painted a specific colour depending on what was carried inside. Different shades of green denoted fresh and recycled water. Before we painted the pipes, there was paint peeling all over the place but they were only coated with an acrylic.

Q: What was the most difficult aspect of the project?

A: We had to sign a security protocol which was important if there was an incident so they could gather everyone at a muster point. Access was relatively easy. The most important aspect we identified with this project was to initially get verification that we have identified the correct pipes with their colour. The project itself was fairly straight forward.

Q: Did the managers supervise you on this project or were you left to your own devices?

A: As this was our first job for the Port Authority, I personally worked on the job and supervised the whole project with alternating crews working with me.

David highlighted a website called Houzz, "it is the "Pinterest" of the building and painting industry and the site has gone viral in Europe. I expect that Houzz will also become viral in Australia too.



*David and the WA Painters Team*



*Industry standard colour yellow*



*Industry standard green paints*



*The completed pipes*