

Since our January Newsletter, as at the end of April the number of staff achieving 20 years service has increased to 130, and the number achieving 30 years to 34. We congratulate all these employees for their achievement and thank them for their contributions over many years of service.

20 Years Service



Ian Randles (123rd)
*Laboratory Controller (Fremantle),
commenced 20th January 1986*



Eugene Mastrogiannis (124th)
*Senior Testing Officer (Melbourne),
commenced 3rd March 1986*



Jim Marler (125th)
*National Technical Advisor,
commenced 17th March 1986*



Dennis Mudgway (126th)
*Sampling Officer (Fremantle),
commenced 10th March 1986*



Craig Baker (127th)
*Senior Sampling Officer (Fremantle),
commenced 10th March 1986*



Kiru Govender (128th)
*Manager - Systems Applications,
commenced 1st April 1986*



Georg Beilharz (129th)
*General Manager - Laboratory Operations,
commenced 7th April 1986*



Paul Walsh (130th)
*Senior Manager - Fremantle Laboratory,
commenced 14th April 1986*

30 Years Service



Ian Walker (32nd)
*Sampling Officer (Adelaide),
commenced 27th April 1976*



Clelia Koch (33rd)
*Senior Testing Officer (Sydney),
commenced 28th April 1976*



Steven Negel (34th)
*Senior Testing Officer (Sydney),
commenced 28th April 1976*

Departures

Eric Reiher

Eric Reiher, Sampling Controller – Newcastle, resigned from AWTA Ltd on 24th February 2006, after an extended period of illness, having completed 36 years of service with the Company.

Eric first joined the Statutory AWTA on the 2nd February 1970, as its Sampling Supervisor (Newcastle). He was promoted to Sampling Controller in April 1975 and continued in that role for the remainder of his service.

Eric is one of the few staff remaining in the Company who joined before objective measurement really got off the ground. As detailed earlier in this newsletter (**Features**) 1970 was the year the Australian Objective Measurement Program commenced. Eric clearly remembers when sale by sample began in Newcastle and the resistance to it by growers and traders in the northern markets. He also remembers the pressure placed on AWTA staff as presale testing began to gather momentum, and the pressure created by competing test houses which were in operation at the time.

AWTA grew throughout this period, seeing off its opposition, thanks to the dedication of Eric and many others like him. He enjoyed the highs as the Company grew and weathered the lows when it failed to meet its customers' expectations. When Certificates were not available on time for catalogues it was Eric and his fellow Sampling Controllers around the country who bore the brunt of our customers displeasure.

Eric was popular among our Newcastle clients because they recognised the efforts he made to ensure that the services they requested were delivered. But apart from that Eric is a "character" with a very quick wit. At times he is a "bit of lad" and a practical joker. Despite how desperate things might be he can always find something to joke about.

Unfortunately Eric had a heart attack in 1988 which subsequently required surgery. He returned to work but over the rest of his employment with AWTA Ltd he experienced a number of health problems which culminated in him being unable to return to work for the last two years of his service.

Eric offers loyalty where loyalty is given. As a consequence he has many friends within the Company and also outside the Company. He and his wife Jackie made provision for his retirement by investing in a caravan park in Scone, NSW. They have ambitions to join the grey army and caravan their way around Australia. His caravan, which on the accepted scale for accommodation must rate as 5 stars, is parked at the front of the caravan park. Hopefully it will eventually get hooked up to the 4 wheel drive and their ambitions will be realised. When they are we look forward to receiving a telephone call and an invitation to join him and Jackie for a beer and a glass of red wine in a caravan park somewhere in Australia.

All of us in the Company thank Eric for his contribution over his long service and wish him well for the future.



Eric Reiher – Sampling Controller (Newcastle)



Eric with fellow employees. A total of 214 years full-time Service

- top Left:** Andrew Lindsay -11 years (Sampling Manager NSW/QLD)
- top right:** Ian Ashman – 21 years General Manager Customer Relations)
- top centre:** Eric Reiher – 36 years (Sampling Controller – Newcastle)
- middle left:** Bob Menzies – 36 years (Sampling Controller Goulburn)
- middle right:** Gary Dunn – 37 years (Senior Sampling Officer)
- lower left:** John Cheshire – 31 years (Sampling Controller Sydney)
- lower right:** Peter Sommerville – 24 years (Corporate Development Manager)
- front centre:** Stephen Linstrom – 18 years (Sampling Officer)

Nancy Holden

Nancy Holden retired on 31st March 2006, just short of her 20th Anniversary.



Nancy Holden

Had she not decided to retire Nancy would have celebrated 20 years with AWTA on 18th August 2006. However, in keeping with tradition, she was presented with a gold pen for completing 10 years service.

Once she has organised her affairs in Melbourne she will move to Beaufort, just north east of Ballarat in central Victoria, to be closer to her family.

Always cheerful, Nancy did a wonderful job keeping the Melbourne laboratory

clean and tidy, a sometimes thankless task but a very necessary one. The place won't quite be the same without her.

All of us in AWTA Ltd who have worked with Nancy over her long period of service wish her a very happy retirement.

We also thank her for her contribution to the Company throughout her employment with us.

Staff Promotions

Angus Ireland

Angus Ireland has been promoted from Senior Manager Sydney Laboratory to Senior Manager Operations & Development, assuming accountability for AWTA Ltd's Research & Development Division in addition to his operational management role.

This restructuring is part of the Company's on-going succession planning in anticipation of the departure of some senior Head Office staff over the next two years.

Angus joined AWTA Ltd in 1981 as a Research Officer. He has served as Technical Manager, Regional Manager QLD and Senior Laboratory Manager Sydney over the course of his employment. His experience and location in Sydney close to Research & Development make him ideal for this new position.



Angus Ireland
Senior Manager Operations
& Development

John Hughes

As a consequence of the same succession planning John Hughes has been promoted from Laboratory Contoller to Laboratory Production Manager.

John joined AWTA Ltd in 1995, having already developed significant skills in production management and control with Hawker de Havilland, Rogers Chain, Dexion and Richardson Pacific.



John Hughes
Laboratory Manager - Sydney

His responsibilities when he joined AWTA Ltd differed somewhat to previous positions in that Human Resource Management took on more significance. The experience gained made him the prime candidate for his new position.

Charity Begins at AWTA Ltd

If you thought that AWTA Ltd employees' expertise was in testing and research you would be correct but there is a small band of staff whose expertise in raising charity funds is not widely known.

AWTA Ltd Sydney has long supported the well known charities, we have worn our red noses on Red Nose Day, our jeans on Jeans for Genes day, our head scarves for Canteen, supported the Salvation Army and SIDS Christmas appeals, while John Hughes sacrificed his hair for Shave for a Cure.

But more recently various talents have been used to raise money. Some of our fittest recently rode for a cause. Our "Woolies on Wheels" charity race raised money for the Salvation Army.

Our finest bakers are now asking us to "put your money where your mouth is" by supplying tasty treats for sale at morning tea. This started when Clelia Koch, Pat Harrison and Yvonne Evans began to cook for "The Biggest Morning Tea" which raised serious funds for cancer research; their efforts encouraged others to contribute treats.



From left to right: Yvonne Evans, Clelia Koch & Pat Harrison

Their success inspired them to raise money for those closer to home. Funds were raised to help a local disabled boy to compete in the Pacific School Games.

Currently, money is being raised to help Jessica Lennon, the brave little 13-year-old who is undergoing treatment for leukaemia. Jessica is very close to our hearts as the niece of our Laboratory Supervisor Kim Lennon. Jessie has the support of a very close family and we hope that our support helps in some small way.

Many thanks to this tireless group of people, who ride, shave and cook to raise money for others.

Source: Kim Lennon, Laboratory Supervisor, AWTA Ltd Sydney