



Flour Millers' Council of Australia

GEOFF WISE MEMORIAL AWARD CITATION

John William McCorquodale

John McCorquodale is a flour milling engineer *par excellence*. Starting his career in the family company, McCorquodale Brothers in 1955 he worked first at the Sussex St mill and then at Parramatta establishing the foundation of his professional career. John completed National Service and continued his training at Wagga Wagga Agricultural Research Institute and Henry Simon Ltd. in Glebe.

International travel followed with work at Henry Simon Ltd at Stockport UK, Waterford Flour Mills and Dublin Port Milling Co. While in the UK John obtained a First Class award in the Full Technological Certificate in Flour Milling from the City and Guilds of London.

After returning to Australia John worked as Assistant Mill Manager at McCorquodale Bros. (3 years) and Assistant Mill Manager at Great Southern Flour Mills in North Fremantle (6 years).

In 1970 he returned to the family business as Mill Manager combining roles as Technical Manager for the Flour Mill and Engineering Manager for the Stockfeeds business. John excelled in engineering and he dramatically increased the capacity and efficiency of the feed and flour mills through automation and designing, building and installing new equipment.

Following closure of the family business John was Factory Manager of Arnotts' White Rose Flour Mills. For 18 years he was responsible for soft biscuit wheat receivals from southern NSW and set up modern and innovative laboratories with well-trained people to conduct a wide variety of quality tests.

John's incredible engineering skills had a significant impact at White Rose where he increased mill capacity, modernized and increased efficiency of the soft wheat, the durum semolina and specialty purpose mills, the screenrooms, conditioning bins, power distribution, dense phase blow lines, railway siding and outloading system.

By John's own admission, milling is in his blood, but he is not a conventional miller and has always worked towards creating better and more efficient milling systems. His interest in technical milling and research led to his successful appointment as Engineering Manager of the BRI Australia Pilot Mill in 1992.

At BRI John was able to draw on all his experience in milling, engineering, flour analysis, and teaching in the day-to-day activities of BRI Research and has raised the efficiency and flexibility of the Pilot Mill by completing modifications and upgrades of machinery:

- Installing a grain intake system for bulker bags;
- Installing a flour weigher on the valve packer and addition of a bran packer;
- Addition of a system for packing flour into bulker bags;
- Installation of a mini sifter and surge bins;
- Addition of a disc separator and second inclined conditioning screw;
- Installation and trials of Satake Peritech (VBF and VTA) machines;
- Organic accreditation of the Pilot Mill; and
- A system to produce durum semolina.

At BRI Australia John's overseeing of the Pilot Mill enabled research projects to be conducted on reliable equipment with accurate results for Flour Millers Council of Australia, Grains Research and Development

Corporation, Value Added Wheat and Grain Foods Co-operative Research Centres and Grain Growers Association.

John made a major contribution to the first ever National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accreditation of Test Milling in Australia. His careful reconditioning and improvement of the Test Mills enabled NATA's stringent requirements for technical competency and performance to be achieved.

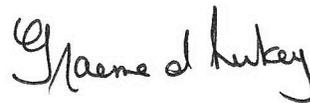
Highlighting recognition of John's skills was a contract to assist with the commissioning of the Five Star Flour Mill in Suez, Egypt for four months during 1998. John ensured the mill was operating on time, including commissioning of the port grain unloading facilities.

As a dedicated milling engineer and educator with on-going interest in developing the next generation of flour millers John has been an inspiring leader of the Milling Supervisors and Milling for Non Millers courses at BRI Research and continues to tutor students from the Asia Pacific region studying the National Association of British and Irish Millers Distance Learning Program in Flour and Cereal Milling.

This award is in recognition of the contribution John has made to the flour milling industry in Australia and internationally over 50 years and particularly his contribution to the Pilot Mill at BRI Research.



Mark Laucke
President



Graeme Lukey
Secretary