

Life Member

Philip AHERTON



Born Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia, 9th February 1931.

Married with three adult children and three grandchildren.

Educated at Toowong State Primary School in Brisbane, and, for secondary education, at the Church of England Grammar School, Brisbane, Queensland.

Tertiary education at the University of Queensland, obtaining a Bachelors Degree with Honours and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Sugar Technology.

Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute.

Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.

Past President and Honorary Life Member of the Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists.

Member Emeritus of the College of Chemical Engineers, Institution of Engineers, having been a member of the Board of the College for 19 years.

Member of the Congress of the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

Awarded Australia's Centenary Medal for voluntary service to Education.

Awarded Medal of the Order of Australia, Queen's Birthday Honours List 2005.

One year as Sugar Technologist at the Sugar Research Institute, Mackay.

Ten years as research and development engineer with the Australian Estates company at its Pleystowe and Kalamia Sugar Mills. The work included both research and development, and factory operation.

Nearly thirty-one years with the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations, a research and development organisation funded mainly by the growers and sugar millers. Appointed as Senior Mill Technologist in 1965 and promoted in 1971 to Chief of Division. This position involved management of a research and development team of engineers and chemists, direct involvement in research, and advisory work with all Queensland sugar mills and Industry organizations. In 1993 was appointed Manager, Cane and Sugar Quality BSES, in charge of the technical arrangements for cane payment in the Queensland sugar industry, under secondment to the Queensland Sugar Corporation.

Retired from BSES in July 1996, at the age of 65 years, but now a part-time consultant chemical engineer – sugar technologist to sugar mills and cane-growing and milling organisations.

Extensive experience with both Australian and overseas sugar organisations, being in office in many of them. A member of the Editorial Committee of the Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists for more than 20 years. Chairman of the Publication Committee of ICUMSA from 1998 to 2002.

Overseas experience includes visits to sugar industry installations in Mauritius, Reunion, South Africa, Taiwan, Philippines, Canada, USA (Hawaii and mainland), England, Denmark, Germany, Turkey, Ireland, Holland, Belgium, Papua-New Guinea, and Mexico. Consultant to the Sugar Commission of Fiji for the development of a Quality-Based Incentive Payment System, and to Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand, for advice on cane payment and sugar technology. October 2006, appointed Chairman of newly-founded Sugar Research Institute of Fiji.