

Lifetime Achievement Award – Peter Gwatkin

This award, formerly known as the Distinguished Service Award, recognises long and exceptional service and/or contribution to a New Zealand Food Industry sector in a scientific, technical, teaching, marketing or managerial role; and is specifically for industry personnel approaching, or in retirement.

This man's working life started following graduation with a BSc (Hons) from the University of New South Wales when he joined CSIRO as an experimental scientist on topics as broad as salmonella decontamination of chicken and treatment of dried vine fruit washes.

In 1985 a move to Mildura Fruit Juices as Chief Chemist was the start of a lifetime involvement in, and the development of in-depth knowledge of the beverage industry.

The move to New Zealand came when he joined Universal Flavours (now Sensient Technologies) in 1991, with the goal to create a technical department. From a lab the size of a store cupboard, he established processes and systems for R&D and Quality Control. He was also developing new flavours, colours and specialty sauces on behalf of New Zealand companies for local manufacture. Many of these products are still on the shelves. He was at the forefront of innovation in the beverage industry during the evolution of Energy drinks and other 'new age beverages' as they were once called.

He has also helped train many new food technology graduates in the fundamentals of beverage formulation – his knowledge meant he was instrumental in establishing a flavours and colours training workshop taught at tertiary level.

When the New Zealand Juice Council (now the Juice and Beverage Association) was established, his involvement was immediate, on the Technical committee; as an advocate for the industry to Government and later, on the Compliance Committee. His knowledge of the regulations paired with his technical knowledge on beverages was invaluable to both committees.

We cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award than "Encyclopaedia Gwatanica..."



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