David J Clark – Professional Biography

Inc WEA Participation

- December 1946 : Born and raised in the UK in the County of Essex.

- 1952 – 1963 : School education in Essex finishing in technical stream.

- 1963 – 1968 : Commenced employment with Millars Machinery Company who specialised in the design, manufacture and commissioning of Civil Engineering and Construction Plant and undertook an apprenticeship in the trade of tool making plus courses at college in mechanical engineering.

- 1968 – 1969 : Completed apprenticeship and specialised in plant installation and commissioning.

- 1969 – 1970 : Employed by United Glass Bottlers (UGB) and performed the role of cold end technician in their glass manufacturing plant involving the setting up and maintenance of new glass inspection and packaging equipment.

- 1970 (Aug) : Emigrated to Australia and resided in Melbourne.

- 1970 – 1971 (Aug) : Employed firstly by Fowler Rex who manufactured Civil Engineering and Construction Plant (specialising in ready mix trucks and concrete batching plants) and then Prewett Industries who specialised in road making plant both companies of which were sited in the Melbourne suburb of Clayton.

- 1971 : Commenced my career in the Australian wine industry with B. Seppelt & Sons.

- 1971 – 1973: Took on the role of leading hand fitter at Seppelt's new bottling, packaging, and warehouse facility in the Melbourne suburb of Braeside, this facility centralised all the companies still wine, spirit and vinegar bottling and packaging. In addition to the role of day-to-day maintenance this role also involved the closing down and transfer of Seppelt's previous bottling facilities in Collins St and the installation and commissioning of what at the time was "state of the art' bottling and packaging equipment.

- 1973 1979 : Promoted to Maintenance Supervisor taking on responsibility for managing the maintenance of all plant, equipment , vehicles, and buildings at the Braeside facility.
  This position also included the selection of new plant and equipment plus being involved in overseeing the installation and commissioning of specialised bottling equipment at Seppelt's Great Western sparkling wine production centre.
  Whilst at Braeside in the early 1970's the trial and adoption of Stelvin closures also took place on both white and semi carbonated wine which at the time was groundbreaking and long before it was fully accepted by both the wine industry and the public.

- 1979 – 1988 : Transferred to Seppelt's Great Western sparkling wine production centre and held the position of Maintenance Supervisor taking on the responsibility for managing the selection, installation and maintenance of plant, equipment and buildings covering winery, bottling, and packaging operations.
  During this period Seppelt's decided to close their winery operations in Rutherglen and in turn I was given the role of managing the removal and transfer of assets to their other operational centres.
  Also, during this period managed the design construction, installation, and maintenance of field processing facilities at Seppelt's Padthaway vineyard in South Australia with the initial setup being destemming and crushing of fruit and the must being transported to Great Western for further processing and later juice.

- 1988 – 2001 : Promoted to Engineering Manager being based at Great Western –
  During this period Seppelt Wines were acquired by SABH (South Australian Brewing Holdings) who overtime also purchased the Penfold Wine Group inc Lindemans plus a number of smaller wine companies that led to SABH becoming Southcorp and consolidation of production facilities taking place.
  In addition to the previous responsibilities at Great Western other significant responsibilities of the role during this period were as follows:-
    - Closure and transfer of assets from the Hungerford Hill winery in the Hunter Valley.
    - Closure and transfer and transfer of assets from Seppelt's Braeside bottling and packaging facility.
    - Closure and transfer of assets from Seppelt's Tanunda winery.
    - Design, construction, installation, and maintenance of field processing facilities at Seppelt's Barooga vineyard in NSW and Qualco vineyard in SA,

this processing included dejuicing and the chilled juice being transported to various wineries within the group.

- Project managing the design and development of new bottling, packaging, and warehousing facilities at Great Western as well as significant Winery expansion the project cost was $14 million +.
- Major expansion of the site's wastewater treatment facilities to accommodate the significant expansion in operations (20,000+ tonnes crush equivalent) with the treated water level conforming with EPA requirements and in turn being recycled in the surrounding company vineyards.
- Closure of sparkling wine facilities (involving both transfer and methode champenoise products) at Penfolds production facility in Nuriootpa and relocation to Great Western to the new bottling and packaging centre resulting in it being the largest sparkling wine production facility in the Southern Hemisphere at the time.
- Coordinating the implementation of Environmental Management System at Great Western resulting in accreditation to International standard ISO14001 and being the first location in Southcorp Wines to do so.
- Coordination and implementation of CMMS (Computerised Maintenance Management System) at Great Western.
- Coordination and implementation of production efficiency monitoring systems at Great Western inc OEE (Overall Equipment Efficiency)

- 2001 – 2007 : DJC Engineering Management Services – Engineering Consultant (self-employed) based in the Yarra Valley Vic providing Engineering Management Services to the wine industry specialising in the design, installation, commissioning, and cost control associated with Winery development.
  Clients and services provided included some of the following:-
  - Southcorp Wines Coldstream Hills Winery in Vic – Design, installation and commissioning of wastewater treatment plant and treated water storage.
  - Southcorp Wines Devils Lair Winery in WA - Design, installation, and commissioning of wastewater treatment plant inc primary treated water storage and wetlands providing final treatment to a standard allowing discharge into the local river system.
  - Evans & Tate Oakridge Winery in Vic – Design, installation, and commissioning of winery expansion inc fruit receival, wine storage facilities, water storage and carpark development.

- Evans & Tate Mildura Region Winery in Vic – Design, installation and commissioning of Winery expansion program taking the processing capacity from <15,000 tonnes to 20,000 tonnes inc increased wine storage facilities, completely new grape receival and crushing area and equipment and increased wastewater treatment & storage capacity.
- Evans & Tate Griffith Region Winery in NSW Design, installation and commissioning of Winery expansion program taking the processing capacity from <10,000 tonnes to 15,000 tonnes inc upgrading wine storage and fermentation facilities and increased wastewater treatment facilities to a standard allowing discharge to the municipal sewer system.
- Engineering services to various small wineries and vineyards.
- 2007 : Retired from active consulting and move back to Western Victoria.

Winery Engineering Association

- 1993 – 2001 : Attended WEA conferences held in South Australia, New South Wales, and Victoria.
- 2002 – 2020 : Appointed to the WEA Committee and performed the role of Australian Conference Speaker Coordinator from 2004 and produced seventeen speaker programmes in that period with 2010 being the only year that the conference was cancelled.
- 2008 – 2018 : Performed the role of New Zealand Speaker Coordinator alternating between the North & South islands and produced five speaker programmes in that period.
- 2010 – 2020 : Performed the role of the WEA's Newsletter Editor and Publisher and in turn produced the newsletter on a quarterly basis over that period
- 2022 : Made a Life Member of the WEA
- 2013 – 2023 : Appointed as a WEA Director
- 2023 : Resigned from the WEA committee to make way for younger members to take the Association forward.