



Rendering Circles

A Quarterly newsletter produced by the Australian Renderers' Association
for customers and members

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Australian Renderers' Association Inc.,
PO Box 390, BAULKHAM HILLS NSW 1755

Telephone: 612 9686 3119

Fax: 612 9686 3303

E-mail: gsbanks@ozemail.com.au

Web-address: www.ausrenderers.com.au

Andy Bennett takes over as WRO President

Andy Bennett was elected as president of the World Renderers Organisation at the October 2003 meeting when Doug Ward stepped down at the completion of his two-year term. Andy was elected as second vice-president when the WRO was formed in Phoenix in 1999 and his progression to president is recognition of his and the Australian Renderers Association commitment to the WRO since its inception. Doug Anderson was elected as first vice-president and Niels Nielsen second vice-president.

Andy thanked Doug Ward for his work as president over the last two years, particularly when Doug had other issues to attend to including the presidency of the European Fat Processors and Renderers Association and running rendering and skin operations on opposite sides of the Earth. Andy also thanked Mike Langenhorst for his vision in establishing the WRO and continued guidance and contributions. Andy said he was proud and humbled to be president of an organisation filled with people with such a wide range of skills and backgrounds. Although the WRO has been going for only four years, Andy explained that from the Australian perspective there have been good relationships within the international

rendering community for over ten years. The ARA's interaction with international renderers started when Fred Bisplinghoff was the keynote speaker at the first ARA Symposium in 1991. Fred also contributed to the ARA's first accreditation workshop on hygienic rendering in the same year. Neville Chandler and the late Bill Stappenbeck were leading speakers at the second symposium and the exchange of ideas and experience

among the world rendering community has continued since this time.

At the latest meeting, WRO members determined that the organisation should focus on countering unjustified claims about rendered products in some sections of the media. Back in Australia Andy is working on his communication channels to carry out the WRO policy. 



Past-president Doug Ward with incoming WRO President Andy Bennett and Vice-presidents Doug Anderson and Niels Nielsen. Photograph courtesy of Render Magazine.



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Over 200 at Symposium

The Seventh ARA symposium held at the Gold Coast in July attracted over 200 delegates. The final number of registered delegates was 211. In addition 41 partners registered to bring the total registrations to 252. There were 59 delegates from overseas including 16 partners. The number of delegates was slightly less than the number that attended the 2001 Symposium although this years Symposium did not have the added attraction of hosting the Annual General Meeting of the World Renderers Association.

The success of the Symposium was due to the great work of the symposium committee led by committee Chairman Andy Bennett and Graeme Banks. As usual the Symposium was strongly supported by generous sponsorship, particularly from Keith Engineering and Abattoir Engineering. Toby Escott and Paul Stenzel of Gardner Smith also put in an extra effort beyond normal sponsorship commitments by organising the golf day.

Niels Nielsen from Daka in Denmark was the keynote speaker. As vice-president of the European Fat Processors and Renderers Association Niels was in a good position to give an update on how the new EU by-products regulation have affected rendering in Europe and the prospects for getting animal protein meals back into feeds in Europe. The only animal derived products currently permitted in animal feeds in Europe are tricalcium phosphate, hydrolysed protein and blood from non-ruminants. There is also a ban on the export of all ruminant protein from Europe. On the positive side, Niels expected there would be discussions about lifting bans on the use of porcine and avian processed proteins in non-ruminant feeds in the second half of 2003. There is no expectation that ruminant material would return to any animal feed in Europe before 2006–2007.

Klemens Rethmann of SARIA Bio Industries also made comment about feed bans in Europe. Although the new animal by-products regulation makes allowance for category 3 material in feeds, Klemens commented that the feed bans would be in place at the European and national levels until at least 2005.

With no access to traditional markets for protein meals and fats, Klemens explained how SARIA has turned its attention to energy production. The options are to use fat as a substitute fuel in steam boilers, use meat meal as a substitute combustible in coal-fired power

stations or cement plants and to produce biodiesel from animal fats. Klemens explained that animal fats are efficient boiler fuels but must be carefully purified by centrifugation to ensure clean burning and to avoid residues. With the oleo-chemical industry in Europe looking to use only animal fats from category 3 material (i.e. material suitable for human consumption) the use of tallow as boiler fuel could become the major use of tallow. Converting animal fats to biodiesel is also an option but there are added processing costs and biodiesel production is not feasible unless there are subsidies or tax breaks. Meat meal makes an effective combustible when mixed with coal and it reduces emissions of sulphur dioxide. The cement industry also finds meat meal attractive as a combustible in high-temperature cement kilns.

Although new uses have to be found for animal by-products, Klemens pointed out that rendering will remain an important part of the process because the raw materials have to be stabilised in the form of tallow and dry meat meal before by-products can be used as energy sources. An alternative to rendering could be to ferment raw material to produce biogas. This approach can only compete with rendering if the dried residue of biogas production can be used as fertiliser and if subsidies are available.

SARIA is well down the track of producing energy from by-products. It has invested 10 million euros in biodiesel production. It produces 13,000 tonnes per year to fuel 1000 trucks. SARIA also produces a sterilised slurry from 80,000 tonnes of raw material per year and incinerates it to produce electricity in a fluidised bed power plant. This investment cost 20 million euros. The other major investment is in biogas production. For a 4 million euro investment SARIA produces biogas from 40,000 tonnes of food waste.

Klemens provide some illuminating examples of decision making based on science versus political science. Political science, which has dominated decision making related to rendering issues in Europe, has been described as 'the study of who gets what, when and how'. Klemens' definition was much less complimentary.

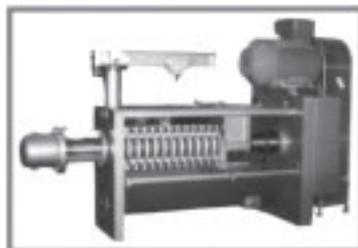
Gary Pearl of FPRF and Davis Clements of Renewable Products Development Laboratories also discussed alternative uses of rendered products. Gary continued the theme of the energy value of meat meal and tallow with examples such as adding tallow to wood burned in



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fluidised-bed boilers to keep dust down and to contribute energy.

Davis Clements explored other options for using rendered by-products including production of plastics and plasticisers, adhesives, polymers and the catalyst hydroxyapatite derived from bone. Davis' message was that while it is technically possible to produce a wide range of products from rendered materials, the new products must compete with existing product on price, performance and perception.

Although research on feed uses of rendered product is losing attraction in favour of a rush to find non-feed uses, Ken Bruerton pointed out some potential benefits of ruminant protein meals that have not been fully explored. Carnitine and creatine both could be deficient in young pigs. These nutrients are available from meat meal and supplementation of the diets of weaner pigs is not necessary if the feed includes meat meal. Another potential advantage of meat meal is the conjugated linoleic acid (CLA) content. The type of CLA produced by rumen fermentation and present in rumen fat can reduce body fat and if present in feed in sufficient quantity could help produce leaner pigs.

Jeffery Glanz of Unilever led the discussion about tallow markets. Jeffery came all the way from Zug in Switzerland to tell Australian renderers that the golden age for tallow was in the 16th century when all shops in London were required to keep a candle burning in the window. He continued to speak with good humour and delivered vital messages about international tallow markets. Unilever uses 250,000 tonnes of tallow in personal care products and the push is to replace animal fats with vegetable fats in these products. With Asian tallow markets under pressure from palm stearine and the prospect of more restrictive legislation in Europe, the outlook for tallow in traditional uses is not good. The marketing opportunities are in promotion of the quality of tallow compared with palm stearine and to make sure that animal fats can be used in biodiesel on the same basis as vegetable oil such as soy and canola.

Suchart Thanakiatkai of Protector Nutrition in Thailand gave a positive outlook for exports of meat and bone meal mainly for use in aquaculture. Thailand has been importing 40–50,000 tonnes per year of meat and bone meal from the USA to replace EU product that was banned in 2000. There have been problems with Salmonella in US meal

with bulk transportation in containers being blamed for the contamination. A penalty of US\$60 per tonne is applied to cover the costs of re-treatment if the product is not free from Salmonella. Suchart is looking to import 25,000 tonnes of meat meal in 2003 and is keen to source product from Australia.

Freddy Ib also talked about opportunities for the use of meat and bone meal in aquaculture. He pointed out that production of feed for aquaculture species is expected to double between 2002 and 2003. The world supply of fish meal is static so there has to be a substitute for fish meal in the aquaculture feeds. In addition feed mills have moved to Chile and may use up all the South American production of fish meal leaving nothing to export. This creates an opportunity for the use of meat and bone meal in aquaculture but with world supplies of 68 million tonnes of vegetable proteins and 5.3 million tonnes of animal proteins, meat and bone meal might get swamped by vegetable protein in the emerging aquafeed markets. The main disadvantage of animal proteins in aquaculture is the perception of a connection with BSE. Vegetable proteins also have their problems with negative consumer reaction to genetically modified material and fish meal is out of favour because of dioxin and PCB content.

In addition to the high quality speakers from overseas, local talent also made a leading contribution to the symposium. ARA members David Kassulke of A.J. Bush, Beaudesert and Joe Rossingnuolo of Peerless Holdings gave outstanding talks about their experiences of running rendering plants. David and Joe manage the two largest rendering plants in Australia and have to deal with the largest problems. In David's case his challenge was to rebuild the rendering plant after a fire destroyed most of the buildings and equipment. David and his team rebuilt the plant in seven months while at the same time dealing with politicians and maintaining a service for their raw material suppliers.

Joe's sleepless nights have been caused by environmental issues resulting in conflict with the Environmental Protection Agency and irate neighbours. But by working with the EPA and the public to develop and implement an environmental improvement plan complaints about environmental issues were reduced from hundreds to less than a handful and prosecutions and fines were avoided.

Joe's talk was backed up by Doug Buchanan of the Victorian EPA. Doug gave the

regulator's perspective of dealing with the rendering industry about odours and other environmental issues. His message was the same as Joe's: a lot more can be achieved by all parties taking a co-operative rather than confrontational approach to environmental issues. This does not mean the dealing with environmental issues will be any cheaper for the rendering industry but at least it will be less acrimonious.

Tom Cook of the NRA gave ARA members a briefing about the NRA approach to representing the rendering industry. ARA members were interested to hear about the NRA's annual fly-in to Washington to lobby legislators. The ARA will be taking up Tom's suggestions for communicating with legislators and has scheduled the next general meeting in Canberra to create an opportunity for members to meet with government people.

Ed Klim of AFFA gave an Australian perspective of dealing with regulators and he outlined some of the successes the ARA has had in putting its message across in Canberra. Ed and Tom led into a session for the World Renderers Organisation. In the session Trevor Arnold from New Zealand explained the new animal processing act. He said that all renderers had to control their operations through an auditable risk management plan i.e. they need a HACCP-based quality assurance program. 

WRO Discussions

Klemens Rethmann gave a rundown of the situation in Poland. He said that animal protein is permitted in feeds but other European countries do not want to import food from animals that have been fed animal material. Renderers want the government to introduce a feed ban so that they can charge for processing raw material.

Niels Nielsen talked about Denmark and Sweden. In Denmark rendering plants have been divided into category 1, 2, and 3 plants. Product from Category 3 plants is mostly sold for pet food but prices are low. Niels illustrated the effect of changing regulations and restricted markets with an example of a \$15 million blood processing plant that was put out of business in 5 months. He said that in Sweden, meat meal is burned in fluidised bed wood incinerators to produce energy. Because of this use, Sweden has not separated category 1, 2 and 3 processing. 

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Wallace Corporation Ltd
1997 - Wastewater Treatment Plant

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Frigorifico Allana
1999 - Meat & Bone LTR Rendering

Frigorifico Allana
2000 - Meat & Bone LTR Rendering

AUSTRALIA

Hazeldene Chicken Farms Ltd - VIC
2000 - Feather and Blood Dryer

Sydney Water Corporation - NSW
2000 - Bio-Filter

Rockdale Beef Pty Ltd - NSW
1999 - Stickwater Evaporator

Sunland Meats Pty Ltd - QLD
1999 - Bio-Filter

Belandra Pty Ltd - VIC
1999 - Wastewater Treatment Plant

Rockdale Beef Pty Ltd - NSW
1998 - Gelbone Separation

Belandra Pty Ltd - VIC
1998 - Gelbone Separation

Oakey Abattoir Pty Ltd - QLD
1998 - Meat & bone LTR Rendering c/w
Blood, Gelbone Separation

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Thanks to Bob Hathaway

Bob Hathaway has resigned as a Director of the ARA. Bob has been representing Mudgee Abattoir at ARA meetings since 1984. Until his resignation he was probably the longest serving member of the ARA still attending meetings on a regular basis. Along with Brian Bartlett, Reg Evans and Graeme Banks he is one of the holders of ARA corporate memory.

Bob was State Vice-president in the days when the association was the Australian Meat and Bone Meal Shippers and Producers Association. He has served two terms as a Director since the ARA became incorporated. In his latest term he was responsible for membership and finance. Paul Stenzel warmly acknowledged Bob's contribution to the ARA at the Annual General Meeting. Dennis King of John Dee was elected to the vacant Director's position at the AGM.

Since Bob's resignation as an ARA Director, Mudgee Abattoir has closed. Bob told Rendering Circles that he has turned his hand to real estate temporarily. With the sudden closure of Mudgee Bob did not get a chance to thank his friends and colleagues in the ARA for their support and business co-operation over the years. He said that he would like to express his appreciation for the work of the ARA and the fellowship of the ARA members. 

Bio-Oxygen Odour Treatment

ARA accredited rendering plant Northwest Rendering (Devonport City Abattoir) has discovered a new approach to treatment of rendering odours. Dale Grey of Northwest Rendering told Rendering Circles that the performance of the Bio-Oxygen odour treatment had been extremely successful and had overcome long-standing problems with odour control. Northwest rendering has used biofilters to treat odours and Dale said that the Bio-Oxygen treatment neutralised odours more effectively than biofiltration.

The odour treatment installed at Northwest Rendering treats non-condensable gases but could also treat other factory air collected from point sources. The equipment supplied by Bio-Oxygen Pty Ltd



Bio-Oxygen ionised air generator installed at Northwest Rendering

generates a stream of ionised air from clean air. The non-condensable gases from the cooker vapours are mixed with the ionised air stream and odorous compounds in the foul air are oxidised and eliminated on contact with the ionised air.

The installation at Northwest Rendering has a short section of duct for mixing non-condensable gas with ionised air. The air steam is then released into a baffled chamber to allow further reaction time. However, Philipp Leicher of Bio-Oxygen said that it was quickly discovered that odours were neutralised within the mixing duct and

further retention time was not necessary to complete the odour treatment. Philipp told Rendering Circles that the aggregates of charged oxygen generated in the ionised air stream are a powerful oxidising agent capable of rapidly oxidising and destroying odorous compounds in rendering vapours. He said that the equipment had been used successfully to treat odours at a NSW rendering plant and Northwest Rendering was the second installation in the rendering industry. The equipment is well accepted for treating chemical fumes and vapours in other industries. 

Technology Forum

There were four presentations in the New Technology Forum. Max Morely of Keith Engineering discussed the airless dryer developed and installed in New Zealand and Alena Tetreault explained the benefits of electro-coagulation to recover solids from effluent streams. Both these technologies were featured in the previous issue of Rendering Circles.

Tissa Fernando discussed the opportunities for Enblood. Enblood is a protein meal that combines blood and stick water solids. The fat content of the stick water provides added energy to the meal. The fourth speaker was Jimmy Larson from Jimco in Denmark. Jimco have installed odour treatment equipment at the AMH Dinmore rendering plant. The equipment is based on oxidation of odorous compounds by ultraviolet light. 



Tim Juzefowicz of Peerless Holdings points out the qualities of Australian beer to Tom Cook of the NRA



Craig Aldous of Sunland Proteins, Ian Bromell of CTG, David Satchell of Arrow Commodities and Graeme Banks



Niels and Marianne Nielsen from Denmark with Cam Wilkinson and Margaret Baker-Crooks of A.J. Bush



Bill Trollope of Keith Engineering and Kevin Pratt of Camilleri Stockfeeds

Colyer Fehr

Colyer Fehr has expanded its site at Mt Druitt and plans to offer the Australian rendering industry a full range of tallow refining services including bleaching, caustic neutralisation and deodourisation. The expanded site also incorporates an immaculate rose garden.

The bleaching plant has been installed as one of the initial phases of the expansion. It is capable of bleaching 80 tonnes of tallow and oils a day. The Colyer Fehr engineering department designed the plant with help from Ray Clarke of Talloman. Reg Evans said that the design of the plant had benefited from the work done at Talloman as part of the project sponsored by the ARA under the Ron Lyon award. All the equipment in the bleaching plant has been duplicated. This allows a seamless change-over between products or a semi-continuous operation when processing a single product line. The system is under vacuum to improve tallow stability during processing and help draw off moisture from the tallow. The bleaching plant provides an opportunity for value adding to NSW tallow by providing an integrated operation for bleaching and drumming tallow. 🌹



The Colyer Fehr bleaching plant

Egg Industry Statistics

The Australian Egg Corporation has released a comprehensive statistical report on egg production and layer flocks. The full report is available from the AECL web site at www.aecl.org. According to the report the size of the layer flocks including pullets was about 13 million in March 2002. Layers consume about 50 kg per bird per year and the average inclusion of meat meal in layer diets is about 9%. This means that the egg industry uses about 58,000 tonnes of meat meal per year. Victoria and NSW are the major egg producing States each with about 4 million birds producing about 60 million dozen eggs. Annual consumption of eggs is estimated to be about 140 per person per year not including back yard production 🌹

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Ron Lyon award

In a change from the original concept, the Ron Lyon award was presented to Reg Evans at the Symposium dinner. The award was in recognition of Reg's long-standing support of the ARA. Apart from his term as President of the ARA, Reg has contributed to the ARA both in the forefront of ARA activities and behind the scenes. He has always been ready to provide generous sponsorship to ARA activities such as the symposium and the ARA accreditation workshop. The ARA and all sectors of the industry have benefited from Reg's commitment to rendering and the development of tallow markets. He also has a well established connection with the Ron Lyon award. Reg was a good friend of Ron Lyon over many years and has been a major contributor to the Ron Lyon award. He also assisted the first recipient of the award by providing equipment for studies undertaken during the course of the award.

Although the Ron Lyon award was presented to Reg for achievements in the rendering industry, the original intent of the award to recognise and assist young people to develop in the industry remains intact. The award is still open for this purpose and suitably qualified people can apply for the award. The details of how to apply for the award are available from Graeme Banks. 🌹



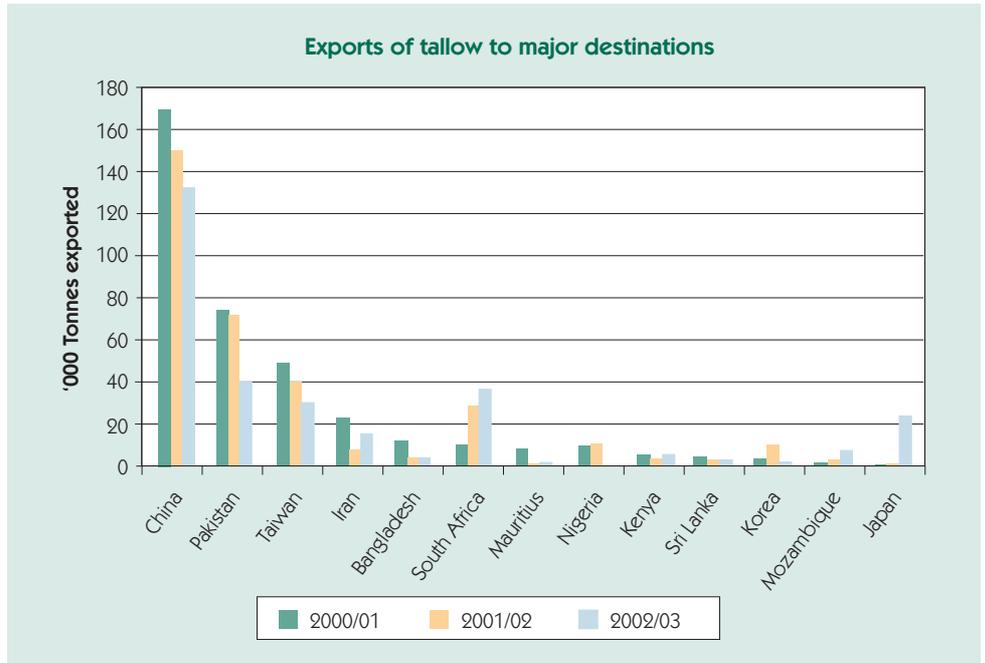
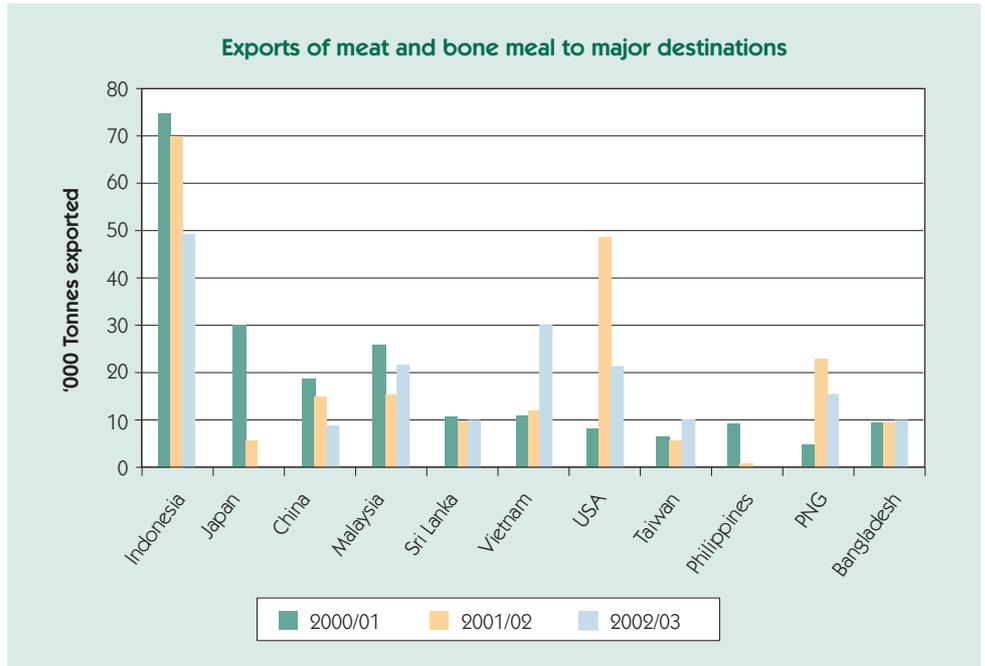
Reg Evans with his Ron Lyon Award and Honest Scales

Tallow and MBM exports

Australian Bureau of Statistics figures for exports of tallow and meat and bone meal show a reduction in exports in the 2002/2003 financial year. Total exports of tallow were 341,000 tonnes compared with 347,000 tonnes in 2001/2002 and 390,000 in 2000/2001. Meat and bone meal exports were 178,000 tonnes compared with 222,500 tonnes in 2001/2002 and 214,000 in 2000/2001. Production figures for 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 are not available but it is likely that tallow production was lower than usual in 2002/2003 because stock were drought affected. Lower production could account for lower availability of tallow for export.

Exports of tallow and meat and bone meal to the major destinations in the last three years are shown in the accompanying figures. Exports of meat and bone meal to Japan and the Philippines have disappeared due to feed bans. Exports to Indonesia and China have also declined due to strong competition from the USA. However exports of Australian MBM to Vietnam have more than doubled in the last year. Exports to Malaysia, Taiwan and Bangladesh have also been firm. Exports of ovine meal to the USA, which were very strong in 2001/2002, have dropped back in 2002/2003. Sheep and lamb production in 2003/2003 was about 12% below production in 2001/2002 and this reduced the availability of ovine meal for export.

Tallow exports to the major destinations of China, Pakistan and Taiwan have been falling over the last three years. By contrast exports to South Africa have increased and a good market for certified edible tallow to Japan has been developed.



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People

ARA President Paul Stenzel has moved from Gardner Smith and is now at the vegetable proteins and oils desk at Brisbane Export Corporation. Toby Escott has taken over Paul's responsibilities. Toby is co-ordinating national tallow supplies for Gardner Smith from the Brisbane office.

Marc Travillian and Eric Watts of Conagra Trading Group have both returned to Omaha after helping out with the establishment of CTG in Australia. Marc is in charge of the CTG ingredients desk and looks after proteins and tallow. Eric continues to trade in tallow and is dealing in Australian tallow with Mark Frost. Kylie Mcleod has joined CTG in Brisbane as a trading assistant.

Roy Mullane has left E.G. Green and has returned to New Zealand to run the J.D. Wallace plant at Hamilton. Roy's position at E.G. Green is now filled by Peter Harding. Roy told Rendering Circles that he missed his favourite dish of fish with fried egg and had to go back the New Zealand to get a good feed

Sam Eyres ex. Castricum Brothers has started his own trading company Madison River. Sam specialises in high quality packaged meats for the export HR trade but also trades rendered products if the opportunity arises. 

SafeFood NSW receive ARA training

Twelve officers of SafeFood NSW attended a rendering training workshop at the University of Western Sydney on 16–17 June. The training was based on the ARA's accreditation workshop on hygienic rendering of animal products but the focus was on auditing rendering plants for compliance with hygiene requirements. The workshop was organised by Peter Grant of SafeFood NSW and Bill Spooncer of Food

Science Australia. It had the backing of the ARA and SafeFood staff who passed the exam received a certificate from the ARA. The purpose of the workshop was to help SafeFood build a pool of staff who have an understanding of rendering operations and the priorities for assessing compliance with the Australian Standard for Hygienic Rendering. 



Kevin Pratt shows the Camilleri Stockfeeds rendering plant to SafeFood NSW officers.

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