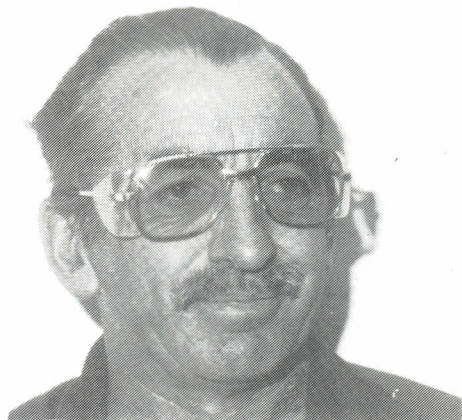

Potted Biography



Bob Murray was born on 27 May 1948 at West Wallsend. He was raised at Homesville and attended West Wallsend Primary and High Schools.

Like many in the area, Bob came from a

mining family, but his ancestors came from Sweden and he is presently tracing his family tree.

He was an active lad as a youngster, swimming and playing pool and soccer.

Bob remembers, 'When I was sick of playing for West Wallsend I would simply change sides and play for Young Wallsend.'

Life got a bit busy when he met his wife, Dianne. They both liked ballroom dancing, so he continued the dancing and gave up playing sport but the interest remained. Bob and Dianne have two daughters, Leanne is 18 years old and Jennifer is 20.

Bob started his working life at Lysaghts where he stayed for two and a half years before coming to Sulphide on 24 April 1967 as a brushhand.

Over the years Bob has seen many changes in the workshop. 'When I started

there were about 30 people in the boilershop and now you'd be lucky to see 12. You certainly see many apprentices come and go,' he said. But Bob enjoys his work at Sulphide and has not regretted his decision to stay.

Away from work Bob has a very active life. He has continued his interest in sports, soccer, league and cricket.

For 18 years Bob was a committee member for the Sulphide Employees' Recreation Club and for two years he was vice president. For the moment Bob is having a rest from the Rec Club but he said that he might take it up again in a year or so.

Bob and Dianne enjoy travelling. They have seen quite a bit of Australia, but would like to see a lot more. In particular they want to take a caravanning holiday to Ayers Rock and Cairns in the next few years. Bob said they also like to visit old mining towns, see aboriginal art and take an interest in anything to do with history.

Ross McGrath - Apprentice of the Year

Ross McGrath topped the list of apprentice achievers this year by winning the NSW Apprentice of the Year for Electrical Fitter Mechanic.

Ross has worked hard for this award. He attends TAFE college three nights a week studying for an Advanced Electrotechnology Certificate which will lead him to an Associate Diploma in Electrical Engineering.

Judging was based on work performance, TAFE results, work-related courses and awards, community involvement and general attitude.

Even though Ross had taken first place in the Regional Work Skills Australia Competition, he was still very surprised and

delighted with his second award.

Other Sulphide apprentices who won prizes at the Work Skills Competition were Neil Wallbridge, Craig Ferris and Wesley Burnes, who followed Ross and took out 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places respectively in the electrical wiring section.

Another proud achievement for Neil Wallbridge was selection as the Regional Safety Apprentice of the Year, an achievement Sulphide is also proud of as safety is an especially important aspect of all employee training.

These fine achievements are a credit to the apprentices and trainers involved. Well done!

Ross at work in the ETC

