



A CAREER CHOICE OR A CAREER JOURNEY? *Another career story from CMEIG*

This is the career journey of Edward Ross Goodlet known as Ross Goodlet from 1953 – 2007.

Ross commenced his career 55 years ago as an apprentice Tractor Mechanic and has since then had an amazing journey through the industry which he attributes to the skills he has gained on the way. These skills have been enhanced by a number of qualifications he has gained through his various studies i.e. Certificates and Diplomas in Automotive Engineering, Teaching Training and Assessing he has also gained Membership of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Australasia and is an Honorary Member of the Institute of Automotive Mechanical Engineers (HMIAME).



Ross completed high school in a non academic stream in 1954. The decision to go academic or non academic in those days was made compulsory in 6th Standard (year 9).

Before leaving school at 14 his parents insisted he get a job, he applied for a job as a sheetmetal worker in November 1953 and commenced his duties as a boy Friday, he left after 2 days. He then applied for a job with Wigmores Ltd as an office boy and worked within their central office in Wellington Street, Perth for 8 months doing general office duties and noted they sold and serviced Caterpillar Tractors, John Deer & Shearer Farming Equipment. He asked the then manager Mr Sid Gare if he could get an apprenticeship in their repair workshops, it was there he commenced his apprenticeship in the same year.

Ross was the 4th Apprentice for Wigmores Tractors Serving a 5 year apprenticeship from 1955 – 1960, graduating as one of 10 state finalists in the apprentice of the year in Automotive and running 3rd overall. His studies were based on Motor Car service and repair skills and his on the job training was through Caterpillar of America Service training programs.

On completion of his apprenticeship he was appointed as a field service mechanic operating out of Guildford and traveling all over the state to start, service and repair the full range of Caterpillar, John Deer and other brands of machines and equipment.

He was then posted to Geraldton, a regional Branch as the resident field serviceman to continue to the establishment of their service department in that region. This was over a 2 year period.

He returned to Perth as a leading hand in the Guildford Workshop, and then became the warranty claims officer and service training officer training field service staff which included the introduction of hydraulically operated transmission drive lines and equipment.

In 1966 he was approached by the Western Australian Technical and Further Education Division (TAFE) to become a lecturer specialising in Heavy Vehicle Apprentice Training. He introduced Hydraulics I & II as a trade and post trade training course. To support this training and with the assistance of the Technician he built a Hydraulic Test and demonstration rig that was designed to support the basic and more complex principles of hydraulic system operations ie Pressure, Flow and Direction Control.

During this period Ross became the founding Chairman of the WA Chapter of the Fluid Power Society and was promoted to a Lecturer B in Fluid Power Technology. In 1974 Ross accepted a 2 year country posting to Kalgoorlie where he was responsible for all of the Automotive training in the region. While in Kalgoorlie Ross introduced hydraulics training and commenced a chapter of the IAME.

On his return to Perth he received a further promotion to Senior Lecturer responsible for the Heavy Vehicle Trade area plus the Pre-apprenticeship program and country apprentice intakes.

In 1977 Ross accepted a new challenge through a transfer to the Head Office of TAFE where he became responsible for a range of programs aimed at the high unemployment of Youth in Western Australia. This put him in charge of a 3 million dollar budget from the Commonwealth to introduce unemployed youth programs in Western Australia which were aimed at giving young people skills to enter the workforce which were across all sectors of WA industry ie 30 different programs were introduced across the state resulting in 30% employment placements for those young people.

Then came his appointment to Esperance TAFE in the South of the State where he became very involved in the community with the introduction of trade training and assisting people who wanted training to commence their own businesses based on local initiatives such as diversification in farming, sashimi fishing for the Japanese market and many other local innovations. This program is now in every major metropolitan and country centres across the state.

On his return to Perth, Ross was again appointed to Head Office of TAFE where he was appointed as a Superintendent of Technical Education later referred to as a Head of Department in charge of the Technical Education Divisions Commonwealth funded programs, these programs were aimed at entry level training including what is now referred to as Traineeships.

After 30 years of service in the State Training System, Ross decided to move on; he retired from the Department of Education & Training at the age of 55 after 30 years of service taking up a position with a private training organization know as the Motor Industry Training Association as a Training Program Manager. In the short period he was there he helped in the development of Competency Based Training which led to his appointment as the Chief Executive Officer of Automotive Training Australia WA (ATA WA).

This organisation which was funded by the Commonwealth and State Governments represented the states Automotive Industry advising government on the Training needs of the Industry and responsible for the states input into what we now refer to as the competency based training system or AUMOO, AUR99 & AUR05 Training Packages which are the group of standards that underpin all of the qualifications in the Manufacturing, Retail & Repair sectors of the automotive industry, including the Heavy & Light Vehicle Sectors of the industry.

Ross has played a major role in the development of this system. Following a major health scare in 2003, Ross again retired from this position taking up a part time position with the Construction & Mining Equipment Industry Group as their Executive Director in WA. This role has enabled him to become a board member of ATA WA. and the opportunity to provide ongoing input into the training needs of the industry.

Ross continues to be involved in the Heavy Vehicle repair industry that he commenced his rewarding career in to provide advice to government on the training needs of our future technicians.

In summing up, this industry has provided Ross with ongoing and rewarding life skills as he continues his journey into his yet to experience retirement years.

Would he do it again? Abso bloody lutely!!

“As an Automotive Technician the world is your oyster.”