

Summary Biography, John Richard (Rick) Gumley FIEAst CPEng

Rick Gumley was born in Hobart on 17 January 1933. His father was a fitter and turner and motor mechanic. His primary and secondary education took place in State Primary and High Schools. At the time students had to pass an examination in order to be admitted to State High Schools. His was the first four-year secondary course.

Rick commenced his career in 1949 as a Technician-in-Training with the Postmaster General's Department in Hobart. At the time, the PMG Department had an extensive in-house technical training programme of which Rick availed himself. He became a fully qualified Engineer in 1961, via the Technician Training School and the Trainee Engineer programme. During his traineeship he served in various technical positions.

In 1970 he was appointed Senior Communications Engineer in the Hydro Electric Commission of Tasmania. In this function he was requested to safeguard explosive charges in tunnelling from premature detonation due to above-ground lightning strikes. This led to research in the field of lightning protection, and to part-time consultancy work. He moved to the private sector in 1979 where he established, and was Executive Chairman of, multiple Companies which eventually became the Global Lightning Technologies Group, located in Hobart's Technopark. In 1997 the Company was sold to Erico Lightning Technologies and Rick was employed as Chief Research Engineer until his retirement in 2001.

During his career Rick has been responsible for fourteen patent and provisional patent applications. Engineering products and services based on Rick's innovations have grossed approximately \$100 million in sales in the period 1984 to 1998. Some 40% of this amount were in export sales. He has been active within national and international lightning protection bodies. He is a member of Standards Australia Committee EL24 on lightning protection and of the National Fire Prevention Association USA, Standards Committee 781 on lightning protection. He has also served on several IEC Technical Committees where he has been appointed in his own right as technical expert rather than as country representative.

In 1998, he was awarded the M.A. Sargent Medal by the Institution of Engineers, Australia and the Jack Finlay Medal by the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Australasia Region, for "his significant contribution to the national welfare in the manufacturing area". Prior to this, in 1989, he won the IEAust. Tasmania Division Award of Merit for his work in developing and installing equipment for lightning and surge protection in Australia and overseas. In 1973 he won the IEAust. National Prize for the best paper published in the Electrical Transactions.