Rotary District 9685 Vocational Excellence Awards 2023

Honorary Associate Professor Tony Irwin

Honorary Associate Professor Tony Irwin is a Chartered professional engineer with extensive experience in nuclear power and research reactor commissioning and operations.

He is currently the Technical Director of SMR Nuclear Technology Pty Ltd, Honorary Associate Professor at the ANU, and Chair of the Engineers Australia Sydney Nuclear Engineering Panel.

In the UK he worked for British Energy (formerly the Central Electricity Generating Board) for more than 30 years commissioning and operating eight large power reactors.

In 1999 he moved permanently to Australia and joined the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, initially in the area of Government and Public Affairs, where he managed fuel strategies, and represented Australia at international meetings.

He was the Project Manager for two spent fuel shipments to France, and was appointed as Reactor Manager for the commissioning and early operation of ANSTO's new OPAL research reactor.

Moving on to become a Consultant, following the Chernobyl accident, he worked with Russian reactor operations engineers to improve their safety culture and was a member of a World Association of Nuclear Operators team that reviewed operating practices at Leningrad NPP, sister station to Chernobyl.

Tony is currently Honorary Associate Professor and principal lecturer for the ANU Master of Nuclear Science course, Nuclear Reactors and Nuclear Fuel Cycle modules. He is also Principal lecturer for ANU courses for the Department of Defence, and also a lecturer at UNSW and USYD.

He has recently done interviews for several media outlets on nuclear issues including the situation with nuclear power plants in Ukraine and topically in 2020 was author of two chapters of the UNSW book "An Australian Nuclear Industry Starting with Submarines?"

Rotary District 9685 is honoured to recognise Honorary Associate Professor Tony Irwin with a 2023 District Vocational Excellence Award.