



AGA NewsFlash

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Harold Adolphe Seeley A.H. FHIA FAIM The Passing of a Gas Industry Icon



It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Harold Adolphe Seeley AM FHIA FAIM. Harold passed away peacefully on 7th May 2017 aged 87. He was an icon of the Australian gas industry and a dear friend to countless people within it and beyond. We extend our deepest sympathies to Harold's wife Annie and his family and friends.

For those of us in the gas industry Harold's name was synonymous with Chef cookers, then manufactured by Craig and Seeley Limited.

The firm Craig & Seeley was formed as a partnership in Adelaide in 1952. The main business was the manufacture of pre-cast fire-place surrounds and the installation of heating appliances. A limited company was formed in 1953. From 1956 the company represented E.S. & F. Ferrier in SA which manufactured Chef cookers at its Lux Foundry in Hope St Brunswick, Victoria. Craig and Seeley Ltd expanded its

operations and became the S.A. distributors for other appliance manufacturers including Chrysler (Airtemp air-conditioning units) and Pyrox Limited.

Since 1958, the company's policy had been to design appliances (mostly evaporative coolers and slow combustion heaters) and have them made by outside manufacturers under contract. In May 1962, the Lux Foundry, which had been making cookers for E.S. & F. Ferrier became available and Craig and Seeley acquired its assets, trademarks and goodwill and started manufacturing and marketing Chef gas cookers, Lux slow combustion cookers and its own Crestair slow combustion space heater.

Under Harold's stewardship, Chef cooker sales increased swiftly and the Craig and Seeley company expanded rapidly. On 4 July 1963, The Hon. H. E. Bolte, Premier of Victoria officially opened Craig and Seeley's new £80,000 administrative headquarters which covered 11,200 sq. ft. adjoining the company's foundry and factory. The Chef brand became a household name and the company manufactured a range of other products including Gasglo space heaters and central heaters, laundry driers, gas lamps and, at one point, Craig & Seeley was the largest barbecue manufacturer in Australia.

Harold was a brilliant marketeer and one of his many sayings to his manufacturing staff was: "You build them and I'll sell them!" Another of his sayings was: "The people beyond the business are just as important as the people within it." This philosophy was embedded in the manner in which he treated people outside his company and he developed close personal relationships with contractors, dealers and retailers and, as a result, factory production of Chef cookers grew to more than 2,000 units per day.

Harold had a long career in general business in the gas and transport industries both in Australia and overseas. He was a Board Member of the Australian Gas Association for eighteen years and President of the Association from 1988 to 1990. As a Director of AGA, he was actively involved in securing a permanent exemption for gas appliances from the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement (TTMRA) between Australia and New Zealand which came into effect on 1 January 1997.

The basic principle underpinning the TTMRA was to remove regulatory barriers to trade between the two countries by passing legislation that allowed a product that could be legally sold in one country to be legally sold in the other. At that time, New Zealand regulations only required a self-declaration from the supplier that their gas appliance complied with applicable safety requirements. Harold recognised that this could undermine the regulatory framework in Australia and,

consequently, consumer safety. Harold was successful in convincing the Federal Government that gas appliances should be permanently exempted from the TTMRA which was one of many of his impressive achievements.

Apart from his service to the industry during his time as an AGA Director and President, Harold was a Member of the Institution of Gas Engineers (Australia) since 1964 and immediate past President of the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association of Australia. He was a Fellow of the Housing Industry Association (FHIA), Director of Macbro United GCF International Pty Ltd, Director of Ecom Asset Management (BVI) Ltd and Chairman of the Woodlands Fund – a substantial charitable organisation, as well as being a Director of various other private companies.

Harold Seeley A.M. FHIA FAIM was an icon of the gas industry and will be sorely missed.

New AGA Website - Coming Soon

We are currently developing our new website to be more responsive and user friendly. We welcome any feedback for improvements! Please contact our Group Manager, Technical Operation, Mr Billy Tabourlos - btabourlos@aga.asn.au with your suggestions.



Watch this space!

AGA Authorised Laboratories in Italy IMQ SpA & FlamGas Laboratories

We are pleased to confirm AGA customers can now benefit by using testing laboratories in Italy under the AGA Gas Product Certification Scheme.

Both "IMQ SpA" and "FlamGas Laboratories" have been successful in becoming AGA Authorised Laboratories, with two locations for "IMQ SpA" and one for "FlamGas Laboratories". This now provides additional AGA testing options available in Europe with a total of four locations including BSI Group in the United Kingdom.

With origins dating back to 1951, IMQ SpA has been the leading gas certification and testing organisation in Italy. The IMQ SpA laboratories are located in Milano and San Vendemiano TV in Italy and have been authorised under the AGA Scheme to test gas cookers, water heaters, barbecues, commercial catering appliances, manual shut off valves, thermostats, combination controls and Electronic flame safeguards/detectors.

The FlamGas Laboratory is located in Fiume Veneto (PN), Italy and has been authorised under the AGA Scheme to test commercial catering appliances.

For more information, please contact your AGA Client Manager.



Latest Standards Updates

DR AS/NZS 5263.1.4 (Gas appliances, Part 1.4: Radiant gas heaters), & DR AS 3645 (Essential requirements for gas equipment) have progressed with the Standards Australia review process and are expected to be published shortly.

Please contact your AGA Client Manager regarding the effect on your Certifications.

