

Flinders Bio to expand

MELISSA TRUDINGER

Flinders University spin-off Flinders Bioremediation is continuing to expand its business operations despite the recent loss of founder and managing director Dr Nick McClure, who passed away in September (*see below*).

"There is no doubt that a large part of the company was built on Nick's reputation, there is a vacuum to fill, but we also draw a lot of other expertise from the university," said Dr Richard Stewart, recently appointed operations manager for the company.

"The company has built up a substantial knowledge-base and set of technical skills over the last couple of years. I feel confident that we can offer the same level of high quality services in waste management and soil remediation," he said.

Stewart said that a new business plan was currently being put into place and decisions were being

made about the strategic direction of the company going forward.

Flinders Bioremediation uses biotechnology to solve environmental problems and has worked on bioremediation of contaminated soil as well as green organic waste management and composting.

The company has bioremediation and composting capabilities ranging from laboratory scale to pilot and full-scale facilities.

According to Stewart, Flinders Bioremediation also has access to a broad R&D program to ensure that innovative technologies are available to further enhance the core capabilities of the company.

The company received a Biotechnology Innovation Fund (BIF) grant in March to develop microbial remediation methods for treating soil and water contaminated by coal tars and other polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. *

OBITUARY: Nick McClure

On the September 20 our valued friend and colleague Nicholas McClure passed away. Those left behind in the Flinders University School of Biological Sciences, the Faculty of Science and Engineering, and many members of the wider community are still coming to terms with Nick's death and grieving this tragic loss.

Originally from the UK, Nick moved to the University of Adelaide, in 1991. In November 1993, Nick was appointed as a lecturer in Biotechnology to the School of Biological Sciences at Flinders University where he remained for the rest of his career.

During his time at Flinders, Nick developed a vision that combined his unwavering enthusiasm for environmental microbiology and bioremediation with entrepreneurial and commercial skills.

He believed passionately that universities can and should be involved in commercial environmental endeavours. He established a wide network of industry



Nick McClure

contacts and partnerships across the fields of environmental engineering, agriculture and waste management. This led ultimately in 1999 to the development of Flinders Bioremediation.

Under his direction the company successfully completed a number of full-scale bioremediation projects, including soil contaminated with hydrocarbons, chlorinated pesticides, and organic wastes.

He also developed novel strategies for composting and reclamation of a diverse range of organic wastes.

Nick clearly had much more to achieve in his career and he has certainly left an enduring impression.

He will be remembered for the enthusiasm and passion with which he approached his work. His contributions, both academic and personal, are irreplaceable, and he will be sadly missed. *

— Peter Anderson

Peter Anderson is a lecturer in Biotechnology at the Flinders University School of Biological Sciences.