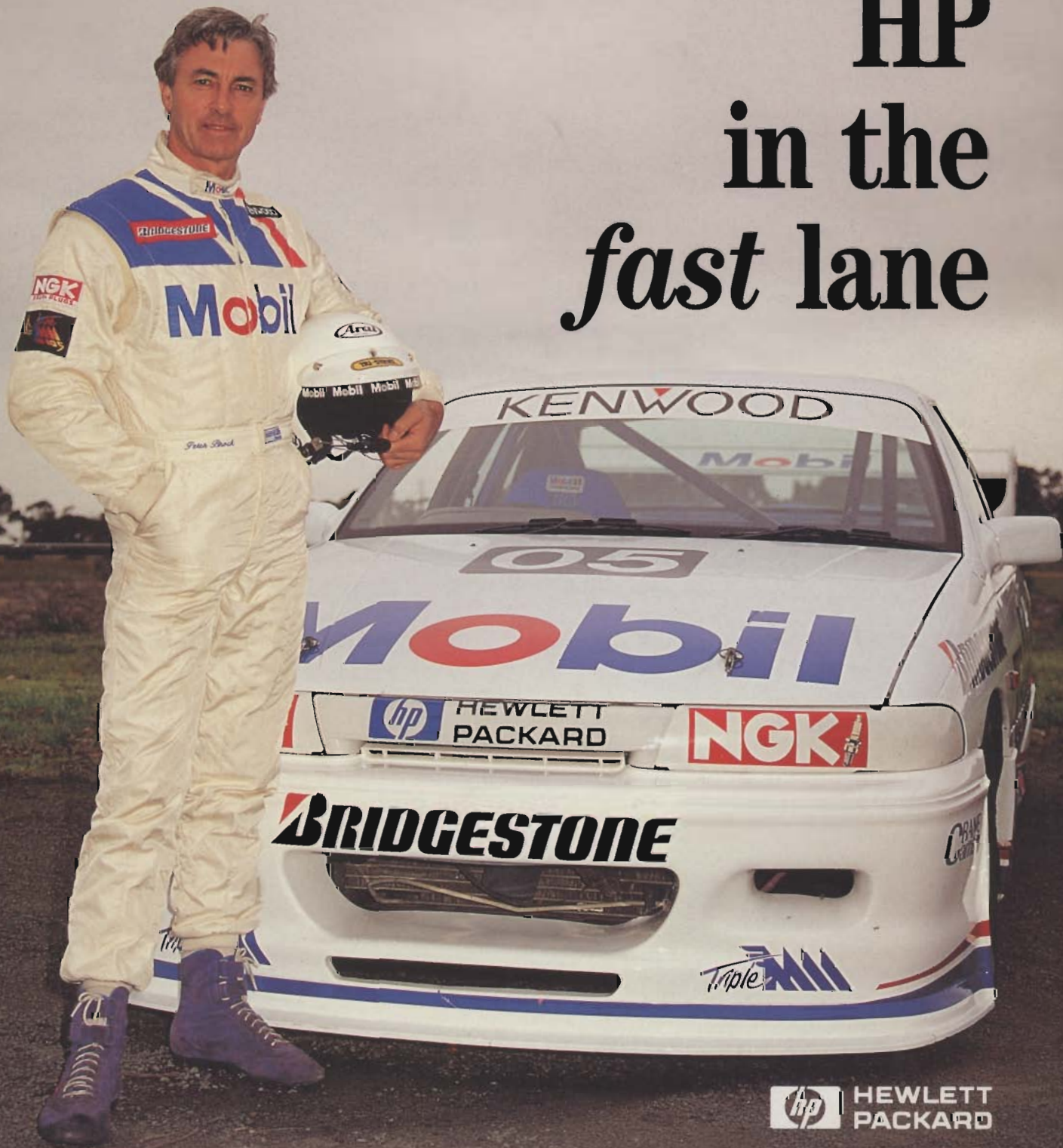


# inform

The magazine for the people of Hewlett-Packard in Australia and New Zealand

Volume 1 Number 7

**HP**  
in the  
*fast lane*



 **HEWLETT  
PACKARD**

# Keeping up with Clare

The sporty red car suits Clare Maguire very well. She is a woman who looks for a challenge and enjoys speed and excitement. "It's my reward for being a shareholder," she says. Clare has worked with HP in Canberra for the past 15 years and recently bought the shiny Astina 323 with some money from her involvement in the company's share scheme.

Back in 1978, HP was run by a handful of staff from offices in Wollongong Street, Fyshwick. Clare had just returned from the U.S. where she had been working for the longest standing member of the Texas legislature, the

**By Sue Webber, Canberra**



• Clare's Astina 323 ...  
"my reward for being a shareholder".

Hon. Richard C Slack, when she got the job at HP working for another American.

"My boss handed me a bunch of hand-held calculators, which had just been released, and said 'here, sell these' ... it was very challenging."

Although Clare has spent a lot of time travelling and working overseas, she still considers Canberra "home". Her great-grandfather, Sullivan, was one of the first settlers in the region and Clare grew up on a property called Melrose in the Woden Valley, now a suburb of Canberra.

After completing boarding school in Sydney, Clare embarked on an accidental career in movies. "I went on a 12 month working holiday in Thredbo," she explained. "While I was there, a film crew arrived to shoot *Ski Australia*. I had never been skiing before and they strapped me onto some skis that were just 18 inches long!"


Clare's second "big break" in the movies happened while working for Avis car rentals when she was chosen to drive the group The Seekers in a film called *The Seekers Downunder*. "I was driving a big convertible while they sat on the back and sang," said Clare. "They were a great crowd to be with ... it was fun."

Clare also said that she had two childhood dreams - to ride an Arabian stallion across the desert and to ride Black Beauty in the Kentucky Derby.

Her first dream came true when she visited some friends with a private stable near Cairo. They gave her the pick of the stable, but her dream turned into a bit of a nightmare. "We did a trip meandering up the Nile to a place called Sakkara near the step pyramids. Along the way there were army bases so I got out my camera to take some photos. The next thing I knew the soldiers had my horse and camera. That was pretty exciting, they took my camera but left me my horse."

Clare is a keen judge of horse flesh and never misses the Melbourne or Canberra Cups. She even went to the races with a broken leg, had her best day ever and won lots of money. The broken leg was the result of an enthusiastic tackle by a football player as Clare joined a group celebrating a Raider's win in Canberra.

This 'have a go' attitude is evident in all the different tasks that Clare tackles as part of her present job as sales support and secretary for Computer Sales Organisation and the Test and Measurement Group. Her work includes handling customer enquiries, quotes, order tracking, discount agreements, correspondence and the ever-changing technical library.

"The Canberra office is excellent. We work together as a team, we work hard and we have a lot of laughs which is important." It's hard to imagine being anywhere with Clare and not having lots of laughs, she just isn't the sort of person to let things get boring. 

inside

inform

## 'Techno' success

*They describe themselves as 'technofreaks' who put their jobs on the line in the name of excellence.*

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## On a wing and a prayer

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- Hewlett-Packard equipment plays an integral role in Brock's workshop.



# HP takes the chequered flag

- *Racing Ace Peter Brock ... "it's great to be associated with a company which has similar aims."*

The HP logo charged around Forest Elbow, then clocked more than 280 kmh down Con Rod straight. It was not a main-frame on wheels contesting the Toohey's 1000 at Bathurst, but Peter Brock's V8 Commodore.

HP now participates in car racing as a sponsor of Peter Brock's Advantage racing/Mobil 1 team. It was the 25th time Brock had lined up for the great race.

HP's involvement with the Brock team had a simple beginning, the supply of six 95LX palmtop PCs from the CPO group at head office. The portable computers became track-side time keepers and lap calculators. Later, a team engineer asked to see HP's range of testing instruments.


That's how Eric Lording, of Testing Sales District, and Cate Rejman, Marcom assistant, came to make their first trip to the Brock headquarters in North Melbourne. Eric says of that visit: "Somehow I got roped into it, but I'm not sure how." They gave the team basic tools such as digital multimeters, an oscilloscope and a power supply. Eric also gave them a Hewlett-Packard catalogue. A few weeks later he received a phone call from the team.

They were setting up a 'dyno', a dynamometer to test engines for the racing car and were very interested in data acquisition technology. The dyno is a stationary test-bed where engines run in controlled conditions and their characteristics charted. Static testing of the highly developed motors is an important part of race preparation for Group A cars.

On his next visit to the Brock workshop Eric took out HP's latest in VXI data acquisition equipment. VXI technology is a new approach to instrumentation and is perfect for use with a dyno. (The XI stands for extended instrumentation).

The engine under test needs constant monitoring for a multitude of functions such as temperature, air flow and voltage. Instead of having an array of testing devices, all jostling for both bench space and the engineer's attention, the VXI presents them in a single package. The secret of the unit's versatility is the card cage. A module for each required function simply plugs into an expansion slot, something like the expansion boards used for PCs. The cage can take up to 20 functions in whatever combination the application needs. The Brock

workshop dyno is controlled by a Hewlett-Packard PC. This gives scope to change details of the engine's environment. Information is constantly feeding into the computer allowing the engineer to log, graph, trend or archive the material. Print outs are handled on a HP LaserJet. HP technology helped greatly in setting up the engine for Bathurst. Peter Brock says of his Commodore: "As you accelerated, the engine had a singsong feel and the throttle response was really sensational." The engine also has a vastly increased fuel economy.

The Brock racing connection has brought some changes to HP staff. "It's turned our instrumentation group into a group of petrol heads," Eric Lording jokes. It is only right that Peter Brock has the final word on his association with HP. "I suppose in life you always try to do your best and it's great to be associated with a company which has similar aims." 

**Story and pictures by Sandy Burgoyne, Melbourne**

**HP Computer Museum**  
**[www.hpmuseum.net](http://www.hpmuseum.net)**

**For research and education purposes only.**

By Peter Burke, Wellington

## Success at the 'techno' edge



- *Kumar Rangan, Jos Kunnen and Tony Wilson ... highly motivated professionals who are team people.*

**T**hey like nothing better than a mission impossible. Spare time for one of them is skiing the attractive slopes of New Zealand's Mt Ruapehu, as for the other, well he describes himself as a "technofreak" who enjoys nothing more than sitting in front of a computer developing his knowledge and skills. Both are top performers who happily put their jobs on the line in the name of excellence.

This is about two members of Hewlett-Packard's Professional Services Organisation in Wellington who have broken new technological ground within a very tight time-frame to meet two important customers specific requirements.

Kumar Rangan and Tony Wilson are part of the six person team under Manager Jos Kunnen. While his staff are on duty at the "bleeding edge", Kunnen is the behind the scenes driving force. His success has been in selecting highly motivated and

professional staff who are good "team" people. Staff who have highly developed personal skills and who can win and maintain the confidence of their clients, both internally as well as externally.


Within minutes of being called into the office by Jos Kunnen, Kumar Rangan could just about calculate the number of weekends and 14 hour days that he would work. The customer was Housing New Zealand, a state-owned enterprise that provides low cost housing to a large client base. The project involved upgrading a series of new software applications nationwide with the completion date a mere six weeks away. There were six different systems all of which were interrelated and, to top it off, no similar upgrade had been carried out anywhere in South East Asia.

Housing New Zealand itself has a strong IT team so Kumar had to




**Congratulations to HP network support engineer David Shield, pictured above (right) receiving a "Quality Award" from Gordon Petty of ICI Corporate Finance.**

**David arranged the installation of an X.25 network link for ICI which allowed the company's Corporate and Finance division in Melbourne to make financial transactions with offices in Queensland and Wellington, NZ.**

**The award, the first of its kind by ICI, was presented to David at an all staff meeting at the HP offices in Blackburn. ICI appreciated the effort that David put in to making the links operational and also appreciated his explanations relating to the theory and practicality of the design. **

convince this group that his plan would work. Detailed planning and a rigid methodical approach to the project ensured its success. "The hard bit was just taking it one step at a time - resisting the temptation to move ahead too quickly when things appeared to be going well. I had this plan which was designed to complete each stage to perfection and then, and only then, move on. If we had deviated from this approach, I doubt whether we would have made it," said Kumar.

Contingency plans were also put in place and the system rigorously tested and deliberately crashed to see how long it took to get it back on line again. The end result was a very satisfied customer and a pretty tired, but much fulfilled, Kumar Rangan.

As a result of this excellent effort, Housing new Zealand asked for Kumar to project manage their next upgrade. 



- *Ken Jackson ... "the changing electronics environment always provides me with a challenge."*

## Celebrating 25 years ... and looking forward to the future

*By Tim Boord, Adelaide*

**K**en Jackson says that too many of his colleagues in HP's Test & Measurement Organisation, might seem like the "backroom boffins", dealing in highly specialised technical equipment and speaking in a strange language to scientists and engineers.

Ken admits that to the layperson, HP means "pocket calculators and LaserJet printers". But he is quick to point out that T&M applications were the "baby" upon which the company was founded in 1939 by Bill Hewlett and David Packard in a Palo Alto garage.

In August, Ken celebrated 25 years with HP, having joined the company as a service engineer in 1968. For Ken, joining HP didn't mean working in luxurious premises befitting the multinational status the company has today.

The HP of 1968 in Adelaide was more akin to the original Palo Alto garage. It has certainly become part of the HP folklore in South Australia that the company's first premises in Adelaide was a converted fish and chip shop in the inner-city suburb of Prospect.

Today Ken is a field engineer (Test & Measurement Systems) and one of only three remaining HP employees from the early days who have watched the company become one of the largest world players in the computer and peripherals.


When Ken first started with HP, there was a great demand for military hardware and, consequently, the need for specialist T&M services worldwide.

"The 1960s saw nuclear studies being carried out globally, and governments were putting a lot of funding into aeronautical and rocket tests."

However, with the advent of super-power peace ... electronic warfare applications of T&M Systems needed to be supplemented with a push towards a new client base.

"There's now more emphasis on communications technology rather than purely military technologies," said Ken. But, he added that governments will always need T&M services to maintain state-of-the-art technology for their military agencies. The outbreak of the Gulf War is testament to this.

Throughout Ken's 25 years with HP he has been involved in projects on the cutting edge of technology. Recently this meant supplying the Submarine Project in Adelaide with T&M equipment during the manufacture of the first Collins Class submarine. He also has been involved in T&M applications for the sophisticated letter-sorting equipment used by Australia Post; the development of a Board Test system for British Aerospace; and the Jindalee Over The Horizon Radar (OTHR) early warning system.

Ken says that after 25 years with HP, he still maintains an enthusiasm for his work. "The changing electronics environment always provides me with a challenge. You can't sit back and think you know it all at any point in time. The day you do that everything goes whizzing past you." 




## Double celebration!

**For many, marriage is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.**

**So spare a thought for senior response engineer Andy Jaeger and SSO personal assistant Janine McDonald who married in April – and again in May – this year!**

**The couple celebrated their first marriage in Camberwell, Victoria, on April, 17; then packed their bags to do it all again on May 15 for Andy's family and friends in the U.S. town of Richmond, Virginia.**

**Congratulations ... and congratulations ... to you both.** 

# Boy from the bush writes up a storm

By Ritchie Yorke, Brisbane

In these desperate times of the big dry – parched crops, crushed hopes, livestock starvation and nightly TV news grabs of brutal bush realities and the relentless terrors of drought – 12 year-old Jon Tuxworth's moving and eloquent tale of the tribulations of living on a farm in the parched hinterland of Central Queensland was bound to have a profound impact.

## Jon's story

*As I got off the school bus and walked up the hill, I thought of the chores I had to do that evening. I decided to start with the cow. She was waiting expectantly at the fence ready to be fed. She ate the hay hungrily as I gave it to her. Immediately after, I set off to feed the chooks who were also waiting, ready to sample their delectable dainties from among the food scraps.*

*I flopped down on the ground under the great big gum tree and gazed at the sky above. My mind drifted back to the way things used to look. I could picture the birds preening their feathers and twittering gaily. I remembered the sweet-smelling blooms that once grew in our yard, and how the bees had gathered their succulent nectar.*

*How I had adored the wildlife – kangaroos, rabbits, even echidnas with their beady brown eyes and soft twitching noses. I recalled the lush green pastures near our home, the clear blue skies and plentiful plant life. I recollected our once promising farm-land with it's green lucerne growing and our healthy sorghum swaying in the breeze.*

*I woke with a start and watched as the mouse who had woken me scuttled away. Just then Mum called me for tea. I wandered towards the house knowing that it could one day be the same. All we need is rain, LOTS of RAIN!*

– Jon Tuxworth

Like all significant literature, it captured the mood and the mind set of the times.

Jon Tuxworth's touching account of "Where I Live" was the winner out of a staggering total of 1500 entries in an intriguing national competition.

Announced in April, the "Where I Live" contest was jointly sponsored by HP, New Idea magazine and SBS-TV's The Bookshow, based on an original concept by former series co-host, the late Dinny O'Hearn.

A widely-known author himself, Dinny O'Hearn poignantly observed:

"We have got to give kids some form of expression other than art work, to give them confidence in their ideas and their imagination."

An appropriate sentiment for the '90s, an era driven by computers and the multi-media whack of the visual arts.

To stimulate interest at the grass roots level, HP provided a Vectra PC with a HP DeskJet 500C colour printer setup – not only for the successful writer but also for the winner's school. The response was overwhelming.

Jon Tuxworth lives with his parents Sandra and Barry and two brothers and a sister on a 300 acre property 17 kms south of Monto. With a population of

1700, Monto sits serenely in the upper corner of the North Burnett Valley, 530 kms up the Burnett Highway from Brisbane and 250 kms south-west of Rockhampton.

Appearances can be extremely deceptive in this neck of the dry country.

There may not be a single drop of moisture among the stones of the parched Splinter Creek bed, but less than 10 metres directly below it, lies the Tuxworth's agricultural salvation.

Thirty six thousand gallons of good quality water can be pumped hourly when Barry Tuxworth switches on his irrigation system, which makes his 100 acres of lucerne a growing concern.

Out here, water supply is just about everything and local inhabitants guard their supplies zealously but imaginatively. Village gardens and municipal landscaping in Monto are exploding in early Spring colours with accompanying scents of sweet peas, freesias, stock and jasmine.

In a region where water means so much and dominates local verbal intercourse, it's little wonder that an aspiring young writer should find himself drawn into its prodigious well of ironies and agonies.

Monto's instinctive reaction to Jon Tuxworth's long-shot triumph in a national writing competition is probably best expressed by State School principal Greg Dobson, a man who

**Tell us a story**  
A colorful tale could win a computer

Dinny O'Hearn, author of the book 'Where I Live', has invited you to write a story about the bush. The story should be about 100 words long and be written on lined paper. It should be typed or written clearly. The story should be about the bush and the life of a boy living on a farm. The story should be about the life of a boy living on a farm. The story should be about the life of a boy living on a farm.

**BOOKSHOW/LETTER PACKAGING CONTEST**

Booker's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to send you my story and you agree to send me the prize if I win.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



- *Competition winner Jon Tuxworth ... first some chores then all wrapped up by Sunday afternoon.*

obviously has the trust and respect of his 270 pupils.

The siege mentality abroad in the corridors of many urban schools is notable by its total absence hereabouts.

Not one for beating around the proverbial bush, Greg says: "I was certainly astounded when I first learned of Jon's win. I was surprised, but not surprised, if you know what I mean?"

"I wasn't surprised at his success because I am very aware of Jon's writing qualities. But it certainly was very surprising to see someone from the bush pull off the first prize against all that competition from the big cities. That was really something."

Jon's grade seven teacher, Ms Robyn McInnes, is a firm believer in his talents. "Obviously Jon is highly interested in literature," notes Robyn, "and he has fostered his skills, with the support of his family, to a particularly high degree for a 12 year-old student."

**L**ong before white settlers established cattle stations in the mid-19th Century, local aboriginals had named the district Monto (for Ridgy Plains).

The township came into existence in 1923 as a consequence of the Land Development Scheme in the Upper Burnett district, which included the extension of the Gayndah Railway to Monto. Ultimately, Monto was linked to the coast by both the Gayndah-Maryborough and the Kalpowar-Gladstone lines.



- *Jon's efforts have benefitted all pupils at the Monto State School who now have use of a new HP Vectra PC and a HP DeskJet 500C printer.*

Monto boasts one of the Sunshine State's most modern butter factories and a huge silo grain storage facility capable of handling 4000 tonnes. The lingering drought conditions have prevented the silos ever being filled since they were constructed in 1981.

The Township of Monto, observes Deputy Shire Clerk, Les Hotz, has usually experienced slow steady growth, year in and year out. Unlike so many inland centres in Queensland, Monto is a model of carefully sustained growth, shielding it from the traditional ups and downs of rural endeavour.

But like so many country towns all over Australia, Monto's very survival depends on water – from above and below ground. Irrigation is the key to its situation.

**J**on Tuxworth likes to joke about the school bus which picks him up first in the morning and drops him off last in the afternoon.

It cuts into his game time. After taking care of the chores at the farm, he likes to toss basketball shots, kick around an old soccer ball or bowl down a few six-stitchers with his older brother Paul, 15.

Last season, Jon fired off a hat-trick in a school game, just about the most exciting experience of his life prior to winning the "Where I Live" competition, which his mum Sandra, a teacher's assistant in nearby Mulgildie, originally spotted in New Idea.

His 250-word essay took him a weekend to finish – he kicked off on a Friday afternoon after chores and had it wrapped up by Sunday night. He's always been a keen reader and particularly likes adventure and mystery books, typified by Enid Blyton's "Famous Five" series.

He hopes to be an author when he grows up but would-be publishers beware – Jon Tuxworth has already discovered that he doesn't like deadlines. [i]





- *Here's cheers ... HP equipment is at the heart of the Waitemata brewery in Auckland.*

It's probably the last thing they'd think of as they relax at their local after a hard week, but thousands of Kiwi beer drinkers can thank HP for their refreshing pint.

HP equipment is at the heart of the \$30 million redevelopment of the Waitemata brewery in Auckland – main plant of New Zealand brewing giant DB – and innovative beer-making techniques. It's the brains behind the beer.

The refit has turned the plant into one of the most sophisticated, with 85 per cent of the brewing process now under automation.

"It puts us a very long way ahead of most brewers in the world," according to process systems manager Peter Gillingham.

Two HP 9000s have been installed in the redevelopment. One 9000 controls the brewing operation, from the moment truckloads of malt are dumped into the grinder to the start of packaging. The other is used for laboratory testing, as a database and as a source for management reports.

In the past, many people spent much time watching gauges, turning valves and keeping a constant eye on the half-dozen stages of beer-making.

But with the newly installed HP systems and specially-developed software it's quicker, easier and more exact. Much of the brewing is now overseen from a room smaller than your average lounge.

# HP ... the brains behind the beer

*By Paul Yurisich, Auckland*

HP's involvement has not just been as equipment supplier. It has held courses to outline the systems to key staff and Mr Gillingham says there's been good support from the Auckland office.

The DB group is a major HP customer, with a 3000 responsible for distribution and sales, while HP is the favoured choice for PCs.

A "Monitrol" software programme operates the Waitemata plant's monitoring and control side, while the lab and reporting is run on a "Konetix" programme.


Says Mr Gillingham: "We did a lot of homework before we went into this choice ... there are quite a few plant monitoring systems around, but the thing about this one is that it's purpose-built and it's a Unix platform, not a Dos."

The two systems have been completely integrated, so much so that once a tank fills a message is "sent" automatically to the lab and a sample extracted for testing, eliminating the need for constant manual checks.

"That sort of thing is just the icing on the cake of very effective automation."


The systems are also linked into a network which allows managers, sitting in an office block opposite the plant, to plug in a PC, call-up a detailed picture and read-out of any stage of brewing and even make alterations. They can also access daily lab reports and will eventually be able to check historical data.

"Say if someone calls with a complaint," says Mr Gillingham. "They give us the date off the package and we'll be able to click in right then and there – it will allow us to follow from that packaging date and trace the beer back through the system, on line, and see what was done where." The lab database has been installed and the software should be running early next year.


The Waitemata brewery already operates a revolutionary system of continuous fermentation and has combined that with new computer-controlled micro-filtration to come up with a new beer brand, DB Natural. Micro-filtration eliminates the need for pasteurisation – the process favoured by most brewers – which can effect the flavour and freshness through heating. 

## Inform us

Your contributions to *inform* are most welcome. "Letters to the Editor", comments and story ideas should be sent via HPDesk to David Hattrick at Blackburn.

We are also interested in receiving photography from HP people. All contributions will be returned after use. 

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