



## ► KEN WALKER

*There is little Ken Walker doesn't know about the wool industry having made a career from it.*

A congenial man who professes never to have been bored, spent 45 years with Elders having finalized his formative years at John Curtin High School now known as John Curtin Arts College in Fremantle.

Continuing his studies at Murdoch University Ken holds a BA in history and Asian studies – credentials he has used to great advantage!

“As part of Elders I travelled a lot researching the Asian markets including China, Japan and Korea in a bid to encourage the practice of synthetics and cotton be replaced by good, Australian wool,” says Ken.

When questioned why anyone would stay with the same employer for more than four decades Ken responded he had one of the best professions that offered a varied range of positions and skills within the company as well as giving him the opportunity to be a board director for the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia.

Ken managed to fit in with his busy schedule one of the passions of his life – the military - having been a member of the Army Reserve for 35 years and a ‘sponge’ for military history! These days he can be found working at the Army Museum in Fremantle.

And although Ken spent three decades as the ‘face’ of judging for the prestigious wool competition at the Royal Shows, it wasn't until he retired that Ken

was able to become far more involved with the RAS.

“I had resisted all Elders attempts to nominate me as a council member for the RAS during my career for the simple reason - workload and time,” says Ken who eagerly sought to reverse that decision upon his retirement in 2009.

Recognising that change is the way forward Ken is eager to being a part of the council that makes things happen.

“The RAS has to stay abreast of modern requirements – we cannot stand still in the way we run business and the way we deliver our agricultural message,” he says.

In the meantime Ken, who is married to Margaret a former medical scientist, has full days, weeks, months and years - spending time travelling overseas and to the eastern states to be with the couple's daughters – one a gynecologist, the other a pharmacist, and their young families in between checking on his 93-year-old mother who lives at Hamilton Hill!