



Seachange Profile No: 6

Then came the advertisement that the Manildra Group wanted a chemist to fill-in for another staffer who was taking six months maternity leave.

Amy secured the position and she arrived in the Shoalhaven unaware that in quick time Amy would be transferred to full-time research work on new products based on wheat protein. She said she came back to the Shoalhaven "self-motivated and pushing myself" to succeed in a very challenging position.

All Amy will tell about her work is that it is world's best practice; is based on value-adding to wheat products; it's a process with international implications.

Amy explained her place in the grand scheme of things at Manildra. This family-owned group began in 1933. Today its headquarters are in Auburn, Sydney, and its flour mills are located at Manildra, Gunnedah and Narrandera in NSW.

The main manufacturing facility is located at Bomaderry and there are warehouses in Sydney, Brisbane, Western Australia and the United States.

The company manufactures wheat based products and ethanol at the Bomaderry Plant and there is some manufacturing in the United States.

The Manildra Group's markets, Amy said, extended to the UK, USA, Asia, Europe and South America.

Amy is one of four research chemists working on wheat protein products among the group's 200 Shoalhaven-based workforce. As well as the research and development work

Amy is also involved in customer-focused product developments designed to improve, for example, product clarity, solubility and blending qualities.

All told there are 15 other chemists in the group spread across Australia working as technical managers and in quality control on the group's range of products for the food and energy industries.

The Bomaderry plant works 24 hours a day 365 days of the year. Amy said this required a chemist to always be available on duty at the Bomaderry site.

"Unless you are here, you don't realise how many professional positions are available" Amy said, referring to the Shoalhaven's roll call of chemists in pharmacy and pathology work as well as in dairy processing, paper, rubber, toll chemical, cheese, cement, rapid set adhesives and industrial and mining compound industries.

Amy said that although her skills would find a ready market within Australia and overseas she would remain with the Manildra Group "however long they'll have me."

Although an eye condition no longer allows Amy to swim or play hockey, she still loves playing tennis. There are also the bushwalks around the special places she discovered across the Shoalhaven during her school days.

And then there's the wedding being planned for April 2005, when many of her fiancé's family and friends from the Rockhampton area will have their introduction to the Shoalhaven's lifestyle delights. ■

