

SPAR Australia

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MEDIA RELEASE

Industry legend at SPAR retires

Clocking out on Friday last week for the last time, SPAR stalwart Hugh Brown is heading into retirement after an impressive career and numerous achievements working 36 years for the world's largest supermarket chain.

Starting his SPAR career in South Africa in 1972, Hugh began as assistant manager in a SPAR supermarket in Durban, before moving onto various roles in the retail operations division, including National Retail Systems Coordinator for SPAR South Africa.

While on holiday in Brisbane in 1993, Hugh decided on a whim to contact Queensland Independent Wholesalers (QIW) to enquire about opportunities. QIW, who had only just attained a licence from SPAR International to start SPAR in Australia the previous day, called him in immediately and he was offered a job on the spot.

"The timing could not have been more perfect and it was certainly not a hard decision to take the plunge with four young children into an Aussie lifestyle and a fantastic career opportunity with SPAR," Mr Brown said.

Working in various SPAR manager roles throughout his career in Australia, Hugh has been responsible for maintaining the momentum of SPAR Australia's growth, developing the culture and recruiting SPAR retailers.

At Hugh's farewell party last week, SPAR Australia CEO Leigh Carson spoke of his sadness to see SPAR Australia's longest-serving employee leave full time work and paid homage to an outstanding career.

"Hugh retires with a solid track record in assisting to build the SPAR business. He strongly promoted the SPAR Philosophy of independent retailers working together with their own warehouse to grow their futures," Mr Carson said.

“His 36 years of dedicated commitment and service to independent retailers across two continents are testament to his strong belief in what SPAR stands for.

“In the next two weeks, SPAR Australia is about to reach a total of 80 stores around the country - that is the greatest number of stores we have ever achieved. Hugh has been a big part of the dynamic team that has achieved this and he will be sorely missed by his work mates.”

With invaluable experience in recruiting and training SPAR retailers, Hugh has accepted SPAR Australia’s request to remain available to assist in a part-time consultant role on ad hoc projects, such as SPAR inductions.

A keen fly-fisher and gardener, Hugh is now looking forward to doing more of the things he enjoys the most, including cultivating his own vegetable patch and spending more time with his family.

The SPAR brand is a global success boasting around 15,160 stores in 34 countries. SPAR is an acronym that means "Save" in Europe and last year, SPAR stores, all 100 percent locally owned, injected almost \$300 million into Australia’s retail economy. With franchise opportunities throughout the country, SPAR is the fastest growing independent supermarket brand in Australia and winner of Global Convenience Format of the Year in 2007.

Worldwide, the SPAR group serves millions of customers every day and supports local communities all over the world by sponsoring local sporting clubs, charities and community events.

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