

Kennedy & Pollock joins the WHK Group



From Left to right: WHK Group Managing Director Kevin White, Kennedy & Pollock Partners Peter Palazzo, Alan Pollock and Sean Gallagher and WHK Group Head of Operations Craig Lake.

WHK Group along with the Partners of local insurance provider Kennedy & Pollock Insurance Consultants are pleased and excited to announce that they have joined forces.

Kennedy & Pollock have been providing the people of Sunraysia with their general insurance needs for over 30 years and have established themselves as a well known and respected local business.

In announcing the move, Kennedy & Pollock Partner Alan Pollock said "this allows us to continue our desire to provide the highest of quality to our wide and varied clients. The WHK Group will enable us to extend the services we provide and the network in which we operate."

Fellow partner Peter Palazzo added "the ethos of the WHK Group is to provide all clients with Total Financial

Solutions and it seemed quite a natural progression for us to join WHK."

Sean Gallagher, also a partner of Kennedy & Pollock wishes to emphasise that the high level of service that their valued clients are used to will continue. "In most ways it will be business as usual for both our employees and clients".

The Principals of WHK Thomsons warmly welcome the move providing them with the ability to meet their client's needs in general insurance to complement their existing accounting, taxation, financial planning, risk insurance and agribusiness services.

WHK Group's Managing Director Kevin White said: "This acquisition emphasises our ambition to provide Total Financial Solutions to all our clients, as the importance of insurance is paramount in risk and business management."

For all of your ongoing insurance needs please call 5023 5464.



Salary Packaging Cars

The reduction in personal tax rates over the last two years has necessitated the need to review salary sacrifice arrangements. Tax rate cuts will have no impact on salary sacrificed fringe benefits that are exempt for FBT (i.e. Superannuation) but will impact on concessional treated items.

The most commonly packaged concessional treated benefit is cars. Many employees will now find themselves on tax rates lower than the top marginal tax rate. If this is the case it makes sense for employees to make after tax contributions towards their car fringe benefit to reduce the FBT liability. For some employees the benefits of salary sacrificing cars will be greatly diminished unless they employ this contribution strategy to enhance the benefits on offer.

Employee contributions can be made by having employees pay some or all the running costs relating to the car or through after-tax salary deduction.

To eliminate the FBT liability employees need to make contributions up to the FBT taxable value of the car benefit.

The introduction of the GST has not impacted the concessional treatment of cars in any way, and has in fact enhanced the benefits, all other things being equal.

The employer has the ability to claim input tax credits on car costs, whereas individual employees have no such entitlement.

Employees on low marginal rates can also still come out ahead by car packaging. Depending on the kilometres travelled and the value of the car packaged salary packaging is still an attractive option.

In summary, the benefits of salary packaging cars can be substantial for both low and high income earners, especially if employees contribute towards the cost of the car.

Farewell to Ian



After 48 years with the firm Ian Bishop has officially retired ending a career that began on the 12th January, 1959, just 10 days prior to his 18th birthday. Over that time Ian has seen the firm grow from a staff of just six in its early days when it was known as Ronald W Smith to the present where 75 staff now work in Mildura with a further 15 at offices in both Loxton and Broken Hill.

During Ian's time at the firm he has been involved in many roles including auditing, where he would catch the train to Ouyen in the morning and return in the evening, bookkeeping and taxation for clients far and wide. In later years Ian specialised in the auditing of superannuation funds.

Ian's obliging nature ensured that Ian was loved by both clients and fellow staff members. In keeping with Ian's wish a small farewell ceremony was held at the Mildura office on 31st January to mark the occasion where Ian, an avid coin collector, was presented with a special framed certificate, which also incorporated six coins from 1959. A traditional personal gift from the principals of a gold watch was also presented. Congratulations Ian on your achievements throughout your career and we wish you every success in your retirement.

Pictured in the photo above are General Manager, Eunice Congress, Principals Iain Thomson and Sam Sullivan along with Ian.

Staff achievements

Congratulations to Tony Hickey who took out the Sunraysia Beverages Coach of the Year Award at the recent Mallee Sports Star of the Year Awards. Tony successfully coached the Sunraysia Football League team in the interleague competition held last season.



Client achievements

Congratulations to Mark Hand and John Gladigau, both of Loxton who were among the winners at the SA Great Regional Riverland/Murraylands Awards. Mark's business Hand Built took out the 'Large Business' category, which recognised the business's commitment to furthering community pride and confidence in the region. John received his award for excellence in the Arts; John was creator of the popular Loxton plays 'Little Town' and 'Joe's Boy'.

Congratulations also to Peter Smith who received the 'Order of Australia' in the recent Australia Day awards. Well done Peter.

Ministry in Kenya

Robin & Jennie Bartsch of WHK Thomsons Loxton have just returned from visiting their ministry in Kenya. Robin Bartsch Ministries Inc in East Africa has an extensive preaching and teaching outreach whilst caring for orphans, street kids and the very poor.

While on tour with some of their pastors as interpreters, they preached to many thousands of people, conducting youth, leaders, pastors and women's conferences. They also had the privilege of travelling to many remote areas off the beaten track for most visitors.

Robin & Jennie are excited by the work already accomplished, eg housing, water supply/storage, education and the support of many hundreds of people and now look forward to building a centre on land recently purchased, enabling the Ministry to reach many more street kids, orphans etc.

With funds partly provided by WHK Thomsons, plans are also in place to purchase and plant Blue Gums, which will be a sustainable project, supplying electricity poles in the future. Tanks and underground water storage are always a priority for the Ministry and the teaching role will soon be expanding to time on radio stations.



Pictured are some of the recipients of support already provided by the Ministry.