



## LIFE AFTER TANFIELD

**NAME: M.B. (WARREN) PESCOD**

**PUPIL AT TANFIELD FROM 1944 TO 1951**

**MY LIFE AFTER LEAVING TANFIELD**

Following success at Tanfield in the first A level examinations in 1951, I entered the Civil Engineering BSc course at King's College, Newcastle, University of Durham, graduating in 1954. During my time at King's College, I played football for King's College, for the University of Durham, and for Consett AFC in the North Eastern League. I went on to qualify for a Master's Degree in Sanitary Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1956. After a short period back at Newcastle, as a Research Associate, I took up a post as Lecturer in Engineering at Fourah Bay College in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Before passage to West Africa I married my wife, Laurie, and we had two sons during our four years in Freetown. Without her support I could not have achieved my potential.

In 1961, I returned to the UK to join Babbie, Shaw and Morton, Consulting Engineers, in Glasgow. After three years gaining experience all over Scotland, I was invited by the British Government to take up an appointment at the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering (SEATOGS) in Bangkok. There, I initiated the Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering and went on to become Associate Professor and full Professor at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), which the SEATOGS had become. Over the twelve years I lived in Thailand I developed an international reputation for developing country environmental technology and served as a consultant to several Governments and United Nations organizations. Nevertheless, I found time to play tennis, squash, and golf.

I returned to the UK in 1976 to take up a Professorship at Newcastle, now the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. For services to technical education in Thailand, I was awarded the OBE in 1977, and this led to my listing in Who's Who. During my twenty-two years in the Department of Civil Engineering at Newcastle I continued to develop my reputation for expertise in developing country technology and attracted many overseas students to the Department. I became Head of Department in 1983 but still continued to advise in developing countries. Over the period of my academic career I lectured, presented conference papers, advised and served as consultant in more than 60 countries around the world.

During my tenure at Newcastle I developed my professional reputation and became a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of: the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management and the Institution of Wastes Management. I served as External Examiner to most Civil Engineering Degree Courses in England and Scotland and one in Ireland. In 2001, I was Chairman of the Civil Engineering Panel of the Higher Education Funding Council's Research Assessment Exercise. I also served as a Non-Executive Director of Northumbrian Water Group Plc over the period 1986 to 1997.

Late in my time at Newcastle University, I started up a Consultancy company, Environmental Technology Consultants (ETC). ETC was taken over by Motherwell Bridge Group in 1988 and I became Chairman and Managing Director of the Company. On retiring from the University in 1998, I joined ETC full time and continued as Corporate Fellow when it was taken over in 2003 by Safety and Ecology Corporation Ltd, a US company. I continued to work as a consultant until I was seventy-five years old. After finally retiring, I was invited to become the first President of the Tanfield Association and continue to serve on the Working Executive Committee.

Tanfield School built a solid foundation on which I developed the superstructure of my career.