

Leigh Christensen Achieves 25 Year Milestone With Kodak

Over the years, many employees have achieved 25 years of service with Kodak. A remarkably positive statement about the company, but perhaps more remarkable is when an individual's contribution is recognised by their industry peers and colleagues alike.

Becoming official in December 2003, the 25th anniversary for Leigh Christensen, Account Manager with Kodak's Entertainment Imaging group, was celebrated in grand style in November, when more than two hundred people at the Queensland Australian Cinematographers Society Awards presented Leigh with a standing ovation and a resounding round of applause in recognition of his contribution and generosity of spirit. This was not the first time the film industry has acknowledged Leigh, having bestowed him with the Kinetone Award in 1999 for services to the Queensland Film & Television industries.



Leigh began smiling at a very early age.

Leigh is a man of endless enthusiasm, integrity and knowledge. It's just a great shame he can't stay on his bike for long enough to enjoy the experience.

Leigh you have always been there and whilst we as a community would never take that for granted, it's often a simple case of "talking to Leigh." You are a man to admire for all your personal skills and attributes and I for one am proud to call you colleague and friend.

Finally it would be remiss of me not to suggest some trainer wheels.... they should help.

- Ron Johanson ACS



Holding back a smile

Karen Hayward, Producer at The Roly Poly Picture Company, has worked with Leigh for many years. "About two years after I first met Leigh, it dawned on me that I had never seen him in a bad mood nor heard him say anything bad about anyone," she recalls. "Leigh is someone who can be relied upon to always see the bright side of things and who has the ability to effortlessly brighten your day with his cheeriness. A bunch of people would be sitting around having a good old bagging session and Leigh would sit there with that big smile on his poker face and would only be drawn into the conversation to protest that whomever we were having a right royal go at wasn't all that bad.... 'Awww, come on guys...' he'd say and so "Pollyanna Leigh" was born".

Congratulations, Leigh on this marvellous achievement. May you continue to brighten our days for years to come!

- Karen Hayward, Producer, The Roly Poly Picture Company

Beyond working for Kodak for much of his life, Leigh's association with film dates back to 1966 when, after leaving high school in Sydney, he entered the Royal Australian Air Force as a cadet and quickly found himself working in the photographic unit. Whilst there, he studied for a Diploma in Photography, majoring in cinematography and later worked as a photographer for the NSW Department of Lands before yielding to more leisurely pursuits and setting up his own scuba diving business in Terrigal. For four years Leigh enjoyed an enviable lifestyle and made a living based around one of his great loves but unfortunately it came to an abrupt halt when his dive boat and equipment caught fire and sunk!

Soon after, Leigh was hawking his wares to Kodak, where Russell Chapman, then Sales Manager of NSW, noticed his potential and brought him into the fold as a Sales Representative. The rest is a colorful history.



Still smiling...you can't keep a good man down!

Successfully combining work and play is Leigh's signature style and the line between his work life and personal life has blurred into non-existence. His happy disposition stands as testimony to the benefit of working to live rather than living to work. Brisbane-based cinematographer, John Stokes ACS, one of Leigh's many friends underscores this as he recounts a round of golf with Leigh, "Whenever you play golf with Leigh, make sure you borrow his mobile phone and 'accidentally' lose it in a sand trap before you play. During a game at Hope Island Golf Club, I had reached the 17th hole and realized that I had not sighted my partner, Leigh, since the 8th! There he was, on his mobile, golf club in hand, fielding call after call and waving me on. Such is the dedication of the man!"

Good on you, Leigh. You're a class act. All the best!
- John Stokes ACS

Renowned for his passion for extreme sports, Leigh is a man of action who enjoys rock climbing, motor cross, sailing, and his latest obsession, mountain bike riding. Sean Glasson, Australian National Sales Manager, with Kodak's Entertainment Imaging group vividly recalls his first market-familiarisation trip to Queensland. He comments, "I still break into a cold sweat when I remember that trip. Leigh suggested we go for a night ride and being a bit of a bike-rider I agreed wholeheartedly. By 8pm I was seriously regretting that decision as I found myself strapped to a mountain bike, with a miners lamp strapped to my head, lighting my path as we whizzed up and down the goat tracks behind Griffith's University, praying to God that I didn't plough off the track into a

tree which I wouldn't have seen anyway, because the miners lamp was playing up and my eyes were full of sweat! Nothing has ever scared me as much as following Leigh along those tracks that dark, dark night."



Leigh Christensen


"My life has certainly been the better having you as a friend and work colleague."
- Sean Glasson, National Sales Manager
Kodak Entertainment Imaging

Leigh's penchant for activity is not restricted to Queensland and he happily totes his sports gear with him to ensure he never misses an opportunity. Nobody matches Leigh arriving at a Kodak sales conference in his station wagon (he always elects to drive to the destination) with his windsurfer and kayak strapped to the roof and his mountain bike and skis squashed into the back. Incredibly, he always finds time in the busy schedule to give

everything a run!

Besides having survived countless serious sporting injuries and currently nursing cracked ribs, Leigh's greatest achievement is the happiness and success of his two children, Martin and Anne. With him since they were only eight and four years old, respectively, Leigh's love for these young adults shines through like a beacon. Their children, his Grandsons, Christopher and Alex, are his absolute pride and joy (just narrowly beating his titanium mountain bike frame). Known to Alex as "Goggle" there's no denying Grandad's influence on the boys pursuits with Christopher, aged only 5½, owning his own motorbike and little Alex at four getting in some practice on his BMX . Like Grandad, injuries have been plentiful too!

Evidenced by a loyal and trusted circle of friends that include many of his industry colleagues, Leigh's half full approach to life is an inspiration to anyone who is privileged to meet him. His hard work and integrity endear him to many and he has established himself as a trusted and respected member of both the filmmaking community. Good on ya, Goggle!

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