

Clancy of the overflow

PATRICK Clancy is on a roll when it comes to making great pies.

So popular are his mouth-watering creations — which are sold commercially across the State — that after just three years in the industry he has had to relocate his business, Clancy's Pies, to keep up with production.

"We simply outgrew the other plant in West Burleigh," said Mr Clancy, adding that the new production plant would allow the business to 'do ten times the volume we do today'.

He said having a larger and more modern facility at Currumbin Waters would also ensure the pies were produced at the highest standard.

"We have the highest food standards at the new plant," said Mr Clancy.

"To walk through it you have to go through a sanitising process which includes wearing a white coat, washing your hands and wearing a hair net.

"The production room is climate controlled — this is beneficial for the pastry, which needs certain temperatures and it is also a good climate for staff to work in."

Mr Clancy, who moved to Australia from Ireland 22 years ago for a better life, has achieved much in that time.

He started working for Cadbury Schweppes in Sydney and stayed with the company for 16 years, even after moving to the Gold Coast in 1988.

Then three years ago he decided to start the pie-making business.

In that time it has gone ahead in leaps and bounds.

The business, which employs 29 people, bakes five million pies a year, mostly for Queensland service stations and high schools.

That is about to change soon, with big plans in the pipeline.

Clancy's Pies are set to be launched interstate at the start of next year.

"We will be expanding into Sydney and Melbourne petrol stations and convenience stores," said Mr Clancy, adding that a move to home in on Queensland's retail market in the first half of 2003 was also on the horizon.

"About 80 per-cent of the pies eaten in Queensland are from other States and we are changing that."

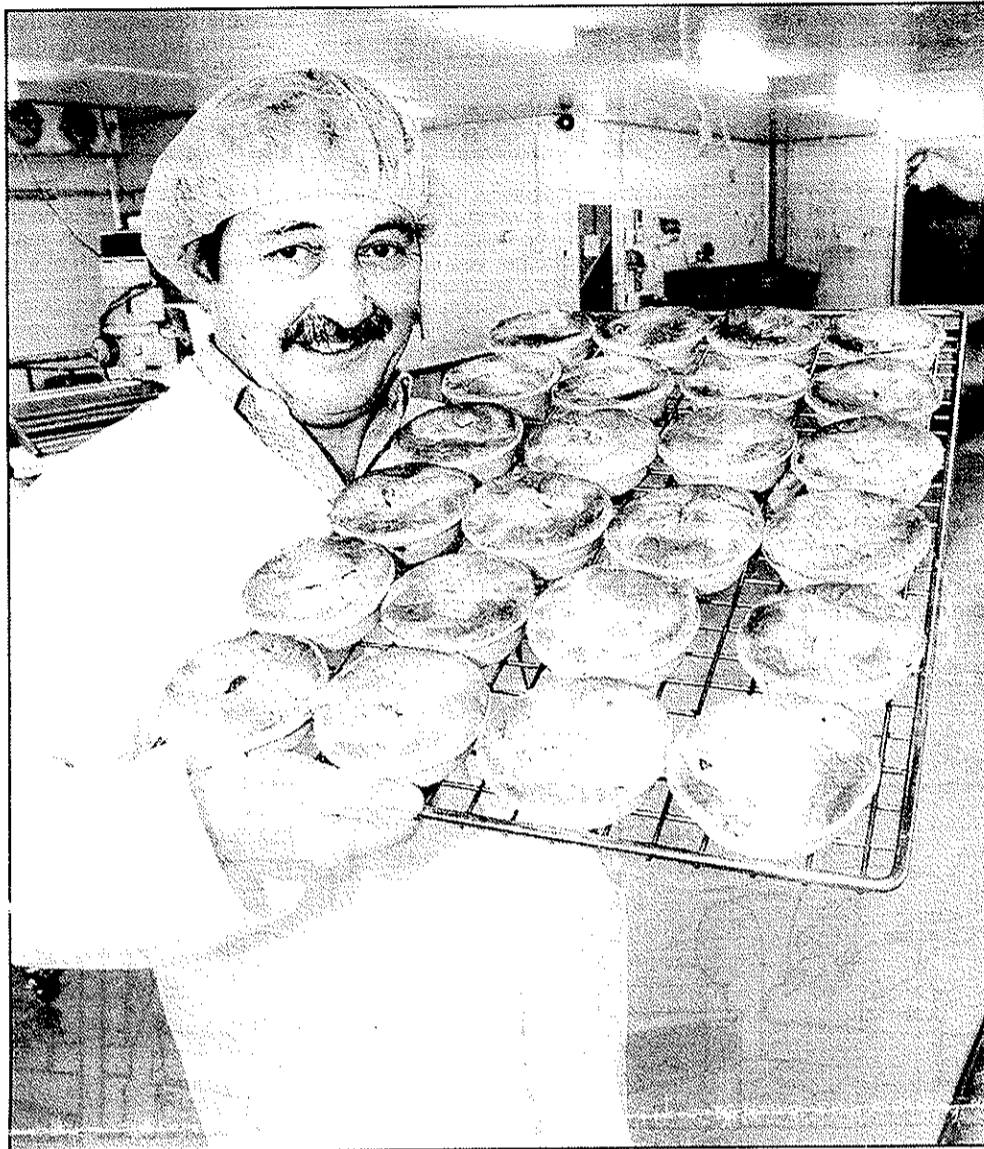
When Mr Clancy opened the doors of Clancy's Pies three years ago his aim was to produce the best commercial pie — and he said he has done just that.

"There has been a lot of controversy surrounding what is in a pie, but when people buy Clancy's Pies they can be assured they are getting the real thing," said Mr Clancy.

In fact his pies have not only impressed the public, but also judges in the Great Aussie Meat Pie Competition.

While he could not enter the competition this year due to the relocation, the business took out seven gold, two silver and a bronze medal in the 2001 competition. Mr Clancy said the reason Clancy's Pies was booming was because the pies contained good quality meat and they were fresh and full of flavour.

He said using fresh ingredients such as real onion, not onion flakes, in the



Patrick Clancy is no simple pie man, he has created a huge business from the art of pie-making

steak and onion pies and fresh eggs in the bacon and egg pies, made a real difference and 'you get a nice flavour'. Talking about flavours, the business offers 22 tantalising varieties.

They range from Irish steak and spud to steak and mushroom to best seller — the chunky steak pie.

There is even a pizza pie which is very popular with young people.

Just like Colonel Sanders has secret ingredients, so do Clancy's Pies.

"There is a pre-mix used for flavour," said Mr Clancy adding that 'the recipe contains various spices and no-one here, not even me, knows exactly what the ingredients are'.

Mr Clancy said another good point about Clancy's Pies was that the company aimed to support local business.

"We use as much local produce as possible and if not we use produce from around the State.

"We are also a member of the Gold Coast Food Forum — which develops an awareness of good products on the Gold Coast," said Mr Clancy, who also employs locals.



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