



## **Tribute to**

### **Professor Emeritus Adrian Roderic Egan FAIAS, FTSE, FAAAS**

Professor Emeritus Adrian Egan FAIAS, FTSE, FAAS served the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry at the University of Melbourne and the succeeding iterations of the Faculty in a range of senior capacities, including Deputy Dean (1987-1989) and Dean (1990-1993). Weathering the perturbations within the University and nationally through reviews of agricultural education, and policies that encouraged amalgamations of colleges of advanced education with universities, he also served the wider University as Chairman of the Postgraduate Scholarships Committee and was a member of the Executive of the School of Graduate Studies, including a period acting as its Dean.

Appointed to the Chair of Agriculture (Animal Science) in 1983, he began his 20-year highly productive years in detailed ruminant physiology studies than spanned supervising a cohort of more than 30 high-performing research postgraduate students. Working with both sheep and dairy cows, his research extended from feed intake regulation, utilisation of low-quality roughages, body protein turnover and amino acid requirements, understanding the complexity of bio-regulatory mechanisms and their representation in mechanistic models. Overseeing the Animal Science section within the Faculty, Adrian's teaching led to his seminal authorship of the undergraduate textbook *Agriculture in Australia*, co-authored with Bill Malcolm and Peter Sale. As new demands for updated course structures arose, he established the new degree, the *Bachelor of Animal Science and Management*.

Among his international contributions, Adrian led a team in Nigeria guiding the Second National Animal Production Program funded by the World Bank, and was a consultant and member of Australian delegations on agricultural and livestock research and biotechnology to Indonesia, India, Chile and China. Academic institutions in which he worked included being a Visiting Professor to the Universities of California Davis, University of Wisconsin Madison and Ohio State University Columbus, as well as roles in New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

In recognition of his exceptional contributions to the agricultural sciences, Adrian was elected Fellow of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science (FAIAS) in 1990, Fellow of the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (FTSE), and Fellow of the Australian Association of Animal Science (FAAAS). On retirement, the University of Melbourne recognized his many inputs and the ongoing kudos that his reputation bestowed on the institution through its award of the title of Professor Emeritus.

Continuing to assist agricultural education and to advance animal science, Adrian and his wife Lesley returned to their home state of Western Australia (WA) settling in the southwest town of Bunbury to be among family and old friends. There he serves on the Boards of Management of numerous not-for-profit organisations, leading them through strategic planning programs and establishing improved governance. He is an Honorary Life Member of Leschenault Catchment Council, Bunbury Agricultural Society and Bunbury Historical Society. Apart from his two-volume memoir covering family adventures and his illustrious professional and academic career, he publishes his poetry, essays, short stories and theatre scripts through his membership of the Lawsonian Society, and the WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinners Club.

Born in Carnarvon, Adrian attended North Perth Primary School where he was Dux of his year and attended Perth Modern School on a full Scholarship where he served as a Prefect and Editor of the school magazine, *The Sphinx*, before taking a degree in Agricultural Science at the University of WA on a cadetship with the WA Department of Agriculture. He then started as a Research Officer in the Cereal Chemistry laboratory of the Department before returning to the University of WA on a postgraduate scholarship from the Australian Meat and Livestock Research and Development Commission. From that time, his commitment to ruminant nutritional physiology began under the supervision of Professor Eric Underwood AO and Professor Reg Moir AO culminating in what one of his PhD examiners called the most significant ruminant physiology research of its time. Attracted to the University of California Davis where he used radioisotopes to trace the metabolism of amino acids in lactating goats and dairy cows, he was soon sought by the University of Adelaide's Waite Agricultural Research Institute where he was to spend 16 years until he moved to the University of Melbourne.

Adrian continues to apply his energy to advancing agricultural science, not the least as an active member of the Society of Old Agricultural Fellows, which is proud to publish this Tribute.

