



## NW Jolly Medal Citation

### Dr Jerry Leech

Dr Jerry Leech has contributed to the foundation of the modern Australian plantation industry through his contributions to the measurement of forests, the design of yield regulation systems, development of innovative models of plantation growth and yield, development of the Australian Standard for valuation of forests and mentoring and training of resource modelling and planning staff in Australia and internationally.

His exceptional academic skills and intimate knowledge of the modelling of South Australian plantations translated over time to extensive consultancies around Australia and internationally, frequently working for the FAO as a specialist forest inventory consultant.

Jerry holds a Diploma of Forestry with Distinction (AFS, 1963), Bachelor of Science (UAdelaide, 1964), Master of Science (ANU, 1974) and PhD (ANU, 1978), the latter on the theme of Radiata Pine Yield Models, which evaluated growth and yield equations using advanced statistical analyses, undertaken with Professor Ian Ferguson, himself a Jolly Medal recipient.

Jerry's Masters work published with his co-workers Norm Lewis and Andy Keeves (both also Jolly Medal recipients) was used as a case study of a yield regulation system for educating undergraduate foresters for many years and was the cornerstone of the South Australian industry for four decades.

His papers clarified important issues of sampling and statistical design, financial rotation length, fire risk quantification and innovative methods of sampling, such as importance sampling. He contributed to monitoring procedures to assess sustainability between successive rotations, an important early area of concern in plantation forest management.

In addition to his South Australia colleagues, Jerry had a running publishing association with Professor Ian Ferguson, with whom he co-authored numerous articles, including the Australian Standard for Valuing Commercial Forests and associated Handbook. He contributed to the development of quantitative forestry in Australia and New Zealand with over 26 refereed publications, 8 books and more than 80 consultancy reports and numerous other reports and publications. In a lighter vein, Jerry contributed 12 "Lessons not Learnt at University" articles to the IFA's "The Forester."

A skilled communicator, Jerry has been much sought after as an international consultant and contributed significantly to forestry missions in many countries including China, Indonesia, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Bhutan. His authority and ability to bring relevant facts and science to bear on points of debate in many Board rooms, conferences and meetings is perhaps his most significant contribution.

Jerry has been a Principal Fellow/Associate Professor in the School of Forestry at Melbourne University, and an adjunct Professor at Southern Cross University. He is a Life Member of the Commonwealth Forestry Association and a Fellow of the IFA. He has also been a longstanding member of the Australian Computer Society and the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute.

Dr Jerry Leech has had a major impact on the theory and practice of forestry, and the education of future foresters in Australia, representing an outstanding contribution to the forestry profession.