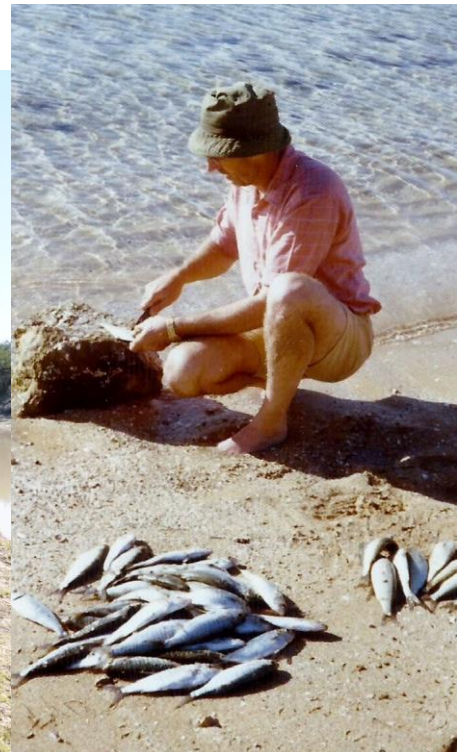




Edgar Reginald (Fred) Pfeiffer OAM

30 March 1930 – 11 March 2023



Fred was born on 30 March 1930 at Macclesfield to dairy farmers / market gardeners Fred and Dorothy Pfeiffer. Ed, as he was known at that time, was a keen and successful school student. He rode his bike to secondary school in Strathalbyn and boarded there during the week before riding back home.

Fred was awarded a number of scholarships enabling him to go to University. He studied forestry graduating with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Adelaide and a Diploma from the Australian Forestry School in Canberra.

After graduating Fred gained work as a foreman at Kuitpo Forest before transferring as a forester to Penola Forest. A keen sportsman he was soon involved with the football club playing in two consecutive premierships teams.

It was during this time that he met Jan who worked in the District Forest office. In 1957 Fred was transferred to Comaum Forest and he married Jan a year later. Their first child Julie was born in 1959 at Penola Forest and their second child Christopher was born in 1962.

After a short sojourn in the Regional Office in Mount Gambier Fred was appointed Assistant District Forester at Penola Forest while living at Nangwarry.



At Nangwarry he was again involved with local football taking on the task as coach of the newly formed Junior Colts. He was active in the church and became the Nangwarry representative on the Penola District Council. He was also a member of the Penola Hospital Board and was involved in the establishment of the McKay Memorial Kindergarten. During his time at Penola he was a great mentor to young foresters.

The family then moved to Tantanoola Forest Reserve where Fred was District Forester. There he continued his community involvement, especially with the Tantanoola Uniting Church. He joined the Millicent Lions Club where he was a member for 11 years.

His next transfer was as District Forester to Mount Burr Forest where the family were again immersed in the small community with Fred taking on the role as Treasurer of the Primary School and also taking a keen interest in the Mount Burr Football Club.

In 1977 the family moved to Adelaide where Fred worked as Forest Fire Control Officer for three years. Over the years he had been heavily involved with fire protection and control.

He became a member of the Campbelltown Lions Club.

In 1980 Fred was appointed Regional Forester in Mount Gambier. In 1983 he was challenged with dealing with the devastating Ash Wednesday bush fires. During that time he considered that his most important role was telling staff that they needed to take time off work.

He joined the Mount Gambier Lions Club and remained a member until well into retirement.

In 1985 Fred was made a Fellow of the Institute of Foresters of Australia, now Forestry Australia.

His retirement gave he and Jan time to pursue their other interests.

His lifelong gardening background and his career as a forester has led to many people benefitting from the provender from his garden. Fred always loved fishing and camping and for many years he and Jan made an annual pilgrimage to Innamincka on Coopers Creek. They became part of the community there.

In January 2019 Fred was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia, a fitting reward for a great career of service to forestry and the community

Fred died on 11 March 2023

Fred is survived by his wife Jan (Jannette), children Julie and Christopher, and 14 grandchildren and great grandchildren.