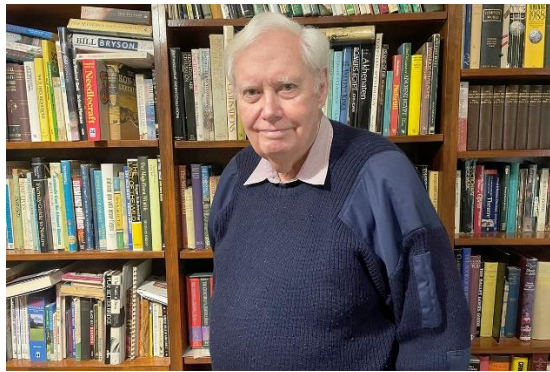


DR JEREMY WILFRID LEECH, AM (Jerry)

24 December 1940 – 6 November 2023

By: Jim O’Hehir



Jerry LEECH contributed to the foundation of the Australian plantation industry through contributions to the measurement of forests, yield regulation system design, innovative models of plantation growth and yield, forest valuation, and mentoring and training resource modelling and planning staff. His exceptional academic skills and knowledge of the modelling of the South Australian plantation resource, led to extensive consultancies around Australia and overseas for the FAO.

In 1959 he became a Woods and Forests Department cadet; completing his Diploma of Forestry with Distinction (Australian Forestry School 1963) and Bachelor of Science (University of Adelaide 1964). In 1974 he completed a Master of Science from ANU ‘Tree volume and increment models for Radiata Pine Thinnings’; a PhD (1978), titled “Radiata Pine Yield Models” undertaken with his friend and mentor, Professor Ian Ferguson (1994 Jolly Medal).

Jerry’s Masters was included (with Jolly Medal recipients, Norm Lewis (1974) and Andy Keeves (1987)) in the 1976 Woods and Forests Department publication, ‘Yield Regulation in South Australia’; a case study of a yield regulation system, also used to educate undergraduate foresters.

Jerry had a long association with Professor Ian Ferguson, co-authoring numerous articles, including the Australian Standard for Valuing Commercial Forests. Jerry contributed to the development of quantitative forestry with 26+ refereed publications, 8 books, 80+ consultancy reports and publications.

Jerry was a Principal Fellow/Associate Professor of the School of Forestry, Institute of Land and Food Resources at the University of Melbourne, Adjunct Professor of Southern Cross University; Life Member of the Commonwealth Forestry Association, Fellow of the Institute of Foresters of Australia and 2021 NW Jolly Medal winner.



In 2022 Jerry became a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to forestry, education, and community.

Jerry will be much missed by his large circle of colleagues and friends in Australia and overseas.