

HONORARY MEMBERS

On May 17 1985, Council elected William Bolton-Smith and David George Wilcox to be the first Honorary Members of the Australian Rangeland Society, in recognition of their 'distinguished service to the Society or to rangelands' under Article 3 (i).

CITATIONS

David George Wilcox

David Wilcox is a familiar figure at rangeland meetings throughout Australia and overseas. Currently Principal Adviser in the Western Australian Department of Agriculture's Rangeland Management Branch he was the first scientist appointed by that organisation to work in the State's southern rangelands. He began work in the unresearched mulga zone in 1955, based at Wiluna, and quickly established high standards for research and advisory work, forging an enduring spirit of co-operation between pastoralists and scientists in that environment. His continuing involvement with the industry over a period of 30 years has been a fundamental factor influencing the attitude of land managers towards use of rangeland resources. An accolade indicative of his standing in the industry has been the general acceptance of the term "Wilcox bush" for an important mulga zone shrub species, the name being applied not by a botanist but by a pastoralist.

Apart from fundamental research on the productivity of mulga communities, David has played a major role in establishing methods for resource mapping, evaluating pastoral potential and range condition, and the planning of whole station management strategies. His exceptional ability to integrate the processes of range ecology and pastoral management into a comprehensive understanding of the whole production system has been of major benefit to the training of younger rangeland scientists. He has been a significant contributor to the literature on Australian rangelands and has played a key role in several committees of inquiry into the Western Australian pastoral industries.

David's wide knowledge of rangelands, pastoralism and bureaucracies led him to realise the potential for a respected society to bring together pastoralists, scientists and



administrators working in Australian rangelands. He was instrumental in the formation of the Australian Rangeland Society and was, in 1975, the Inaugural President. David has continued to be a driving force within the society, giving his time, wisdom and influence to the Publications Committee. He was a Convenor of the Programme Committee of the Second International Rangelands Congress and is a member of the Continuing Committee of that Congress.

By any standard, he has made a major contribution to the Society and Australian rangelands generally.