

Obituary

DR DOUG REUTER

30-9-1940 to 25-8-2013

Doug Reuter had a long and productive career as a plant and soil scientist.

He worked for the SA Department of Agriculture until 1990, when he became Deputy Chief CSIRO Division of Soils. After retiring from the CSIRO ten years ago, he became a consultant. Despite the diagnosis of myeloma one year ago, he continued at his life's work.

His achievements include his contribution to the National Land and Water Resources Audit (NLWRA); developing solutions for the manganese deficiency that had crippled barley production on Yorke Peninsula; his role in setting up the Australasian Soil and Plant Analysis Council (ASPAC); and numerous research papers.

His NLWRA findings showed us where soil fertility was improving, where we had replaced the nutrients taken up by the food we eat and where it needed better management to ensure productive and fertile soils for our future.

Dr Reuter co-edited two key books published by **CSIRO Publishing** – *Plant Analysis: an Interpretation Manual* was edited by Dr Reuter and Dr Ben Robinson; *Soil Analysis: an Interpretation Manual* was edited by Dr Reuter along with Dr Ken Peverill and Dr Leigh Sparrow.

These books are standard texts used at university level, researcher level, by government organisations and private agronomists. Fertiliser companies also refer to those two books regularly.

Dr Reuter's last contribution was as a Guest Editor and co-author of 3 research papers in a Special Edition of the CSIRO journal, *Crop & Pasture Science* that was dedicated solely to the outputs from the GRDC funded Better Fertiliser Decisions in Cropping Systems project. It was published just before he died.

He was a fun-loving scientist who enjoyed a glass of good red at the end of a day, and a talk about sport and politics or anything else – he was a great company.



Dr Reuter helped Australian grain growers, who are faced with the constant pressure to increase productivity, have a better understanding of crop nutrient requirement and fertiliser use.

Dr Reuter was also a devoted family man, and is survived by his wife Phyl, daughters Sally and Katie, and granddaughters Libby, Emily and Sophie.

-Ken Peverill and numerous colleagues