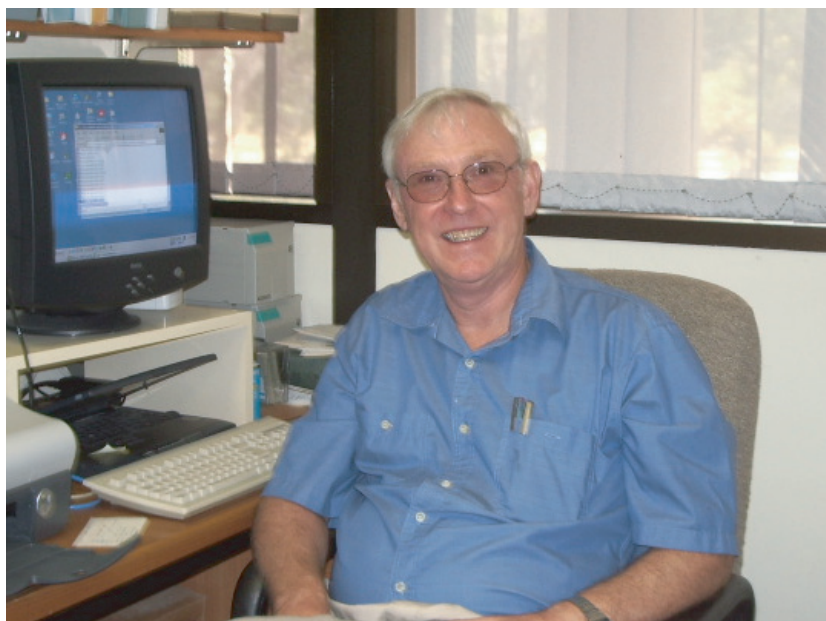


Personal report

Neil Clifford Turner

These proceedings are dedicated to Neil C Turner



Neil Turner was born on 13 March 1940 and will retire in late 2005 from the position of Chief Research Scientist at CSIRO Plant Industry, a position he has occupied since 1995. Neil completed his Bachelor of Agricultural Science at The University of Reading, UK, in 1962, and his PhD in Agronomy at The University of Adelaide in 1968 under the supervision of the late Professor C. M. Donald. He was later on awarded his DSc in Agriculture through The University of Reading in 1983.

Prior to taking up the position of Chief Research Scientist at CSIRO Plant Industry, Neil was the Research/Program Leader and Officer-in-Charge of the Dryland Crops and Soils Research Unit of CSIRO Plant Industry, Perth, Western Australia (1984–1995), Crop Physiologist at the CSIRO Plant Industry in Canberra (1974–1984), and Crop and Tree Physiologist with the Department of Ecology and Climatology at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, Connecticut, USA (1967–1974). Neil also was seconded as Scientist/Sub-program Leader at the Cooperative Research Centre for Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture (1994–2000) in Perth, Western Australia. During his academic and research career, Neil has been the editor of 4 books, 62 book chapters, and more than 160 papers in international journals. In addition, he has been the author of numerous

conference papers. He has served as Editor of *Irrigation Science* (1979–1986) and *Oecologia* (1985–1996) and currently serves on the board of editors of the *Journal of Experimental Botany* and *Tree Physiology*. In 1991 he was an Australian Citation Laureate for multiple high impact papers by the Institute of Scientific Information (ISI).

Neil has supervised 13 PhD students. His research expertise has covered agronomic and physiological responses of crops and trees to water deficits and the adaptation of crops to water-limited environments, particularly wheat, oats, lupin, chickpea, maize, rice, sorghum, tobacco, cotton, soybean, and sunflower. The work of Neil, his students and colleagues has provided significant industry outcomes such as management options for improved crop and pasture production on light-textured and texture-contrast soils in the Mediterranean climatic regions of Australia as well as the optimising of productivity and sustainability of cropping systems including wheat, grain legumes, and pastures. He has been recognised both nationally by the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (Fellow, 1992), by the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (Medal, 1993; Fellow, 1995), by the Australian community (Centenary Medal, 2003) and internationally by the American Society of Agronomy (Fellow, 1982), Crop Science Society of America

(Fellow, 1985), and the Indian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (Foreign Fellow, 2003) for his contributions to agriculture.

Neil was the Chairman of the Laboratory for Rural Research, CSIRO, Perth, Western Australia (1988–1991), and since 1998 he has been an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, University of Western Australia. He has had a wide range of other roles such as President of the ACT Branch of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science (1978–1979) and Federal Councillor of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science (1979–1980). He also has served as member of several scientific and government committees, including the Western Region Panel of the GRDC (1989–1995), the executive committee of the CRC Centre for Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture (1992–1996), the Board of Trustees of the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry based in Kenya (1994–2000), the Advisory Committee of the School of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Murdoch University, and the

Continuing Committee of the International Crop Science Congress (1996–2000) and was a member of the Organising Committee of the Fourth International Crop Science Congress held in Brisbane in 2004.

He took sabbatical leave at The University of Aberdeen in the UK, the Universität of Bayreuth in Germany, at the International Rice Research Institute in Philippines, and at the Universität of Würzburg in Germany, where he worked on the drought-induced changes in physiology and abscisic acid. Neil developed an international reputation through his work with colleagues in Germany, USA, and India and has fostered strong academic links between these countries and Australia.

Jairo A Palta

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