

CLIVE FRANCIS *FESTSCHRIFT*

Foreword

On 17th February 2012, Professor Clive Francis passed away after several years of ill-health. Clive was a celebrated agricultural scientist and long-standing member of Ag Institute Australia (formerly Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology). Clive was awarded a Fellowship of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology in 1981 in recognition of his contributions to agriculture, to the science of agriculture, his international collaboration and his work on the improvement of pastures and crops. In 1995 he was awarded the prestigious Medal of Agriculture by the Institute. The WA Division of Ag Institute Australia gathered together a group of Clive's former colleagues to co-ordinate the production of this special issue in recognition of Clive Francis' career and his significant contributions to agricultural science and its applications.

This special issue of *Crop & Pasture Science* comprises original papers that reflect the breadth of Clive's work and the standing in which he is held both within Australia and internationally. The papers are themed around the topic of crop and pasture germplasm collection and its utilisation for the enhancement of genetic diversity and agricultural productivity. Papers were sought, from leaders in their field from around the world on the above topics.

Within the specific topic of their papers authors were asked, as appropriate, to include the following ideas and themes, which were central to Clive's philosophy:

- concept of genetic collection an integral part of plant improvement through to end use;
- the importance of international collections and centres for the conservation of germplasm;
- the identification of traits and genes from 'historical' collections;
- the integration of 'conventional' breeding and biotechnology in breeding programmes; and
- current and future approaches and challenges and opportunities.

We would like to thank all of the authors for contributing their papers within the deadline required. Our special thanks to Mary-Jane Rogers and Chris Anderson for editing this special issue. The result is a journal issue that reflects the breadth of Clive's impactful work, his many achievements and his legacy.



Organising committee

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