

OBITUARIES

William Harold Cleverly

William Harold Cleverly, known to everyone as 'Bill', died on 19 April 1997, shortly after his 80th birthday. Born in Guildford, Western Australia, on 25 January 1917, he joined the Royal Society of Western Australia in 1938 and was later to become a regular contributor to the Society's Journal. In recognition of his contribution to science in Western Australia, Bill was made an Honorary Member of the Society in 1982. Bill graduated from the University of Western Australia in 1939 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology. An arduous correspondence course in mathematics with the University of Western Australia eventually saw him awarded a BA degree in 1951.

Known throughout the world for his work on Australian meteorites and tektites, Bill's early work was more geological. In 1939, he joined the North Australia Survey. During the early years of World War II, he carried out geological surveys of Queensland, mainly on the Atherton Tableland. In 1941 he returned to Western Australia to take up a short-lived appointment as Science Assistant at the Western Australian School of Mines (WASM, now part of Curtin University of Technology) in Kalgoorlie, before war service as an ammunition examiner with the AIF between 1942-46 on Borneo and other islands.

Following the war, Bill returned to Kalgoorlie to resume his post at the School of Mines and to settle down with his wife Evelyn. In 1947 he was appointed Lecturer and Head of the Geology Department at the WASM, the position he held until his retirement in 1977. It was during this period that his interest in meteorites and tektites increased. The 1960's saw the recognition of the arid zone of Western Australia, particularly the Nullarbor Region, as a potential source of meteorite finds. Together with his great friend, the late Keith Quartermaine, Bill made many forays into the Nullarbor to search for meteorites and tektites, and investigated many reports of meteorite falls and finds throughout the Goldfields. He also sparked an interest in meteorites in the late John Carlisle who subsequently collected many meteorites from the Nullarbor. Consequently, during the period 1960-1974 the number of meteorites known from Australia increased by 57, with the largest contribution coming from the Western Australian Nullarbor. During the 1960's alone, nearly a tonne of meteoritic material passed through the WASM into its collection, or via the School into other collections. This material included 37 new meteorites representing an addition of about 2% to all meteorites known in the world at that time. Together with colleagues such as Brian Mason, Joe McCall and John de Laeter, and aided by Evelyn, Bill documented and described this wealth of new meteoritic and tektite material. In addition to his work at the WASM, Bill was one of the longest serving members (1966-1987) of the Meteorite Advisory Committee of the Western Australian Museum.

As Curator of the Museum attached to the WASM from 1972-1977, Bill also had the job of caring for the collection, including meteorites and tektites, that had

been so enriched by his work. During twenty years of retirement, as an Honorary Research Fellow (1977-97) at the WASM, and as an Honorary Associate of both the Western Australian (1966-97) and South Australian (1977-97) Museums, Bill's scientific output never waned, and he published many papers on meteorites and tektites. Overall, he published more than 40 scientific papers and popular articles, including twelve as first author and one as a co-author in the Journal of the Royal Society. His meticulous and systematic work on the shapes and size distribution of tektites in Australia remains as a valuable contribution to science. Last year, while on one of his regular tektite hunting expeditions with Evelyn, Bill suffered a stroke and died in hospital shortly after. On a personal note, all who knew him will remember his warm, friendly nature, wonderful turn of phrase, and great sense of humour. His tall, gentlemanly figure will be greatly missed in the Goldfields.

[Alex Bevan, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Western Australian Museum]

Brian John Grieve

Professor Brian Grieve, long-time member of the Royal Society of Western Australia, passed away on 5 September 1997, aged just over 90. Although a native Victorian, Brian Grieve became so much part of the botanical scene in Western Australia that he was readily accepted as a Sandgroper. Born in Allans Flat on 15 August 1907, he was educated at Williamstown High School and the University of Melbourne. In 1929 he gained First Class Honours in Botany, and the following year an MSc. Receiving an 1851 Exhibition, he studied for a PhD at the University of London in 1930-31, then returned to take up a lectureship in Botany at the University of Melbourne. He again spent two years in Britain in 1938-39, studying mycology at Cambridge. Early in the Second World War he served in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve but then returned to the University to investigate fungal contamination of field glasses in New Guinea.

Brian moved to Western Australia at the start of 1947 to become head of the Botany Department at the University of Western Australia. At the time there was one other lecturer and two graduate assistants. He set about building up both the Department and the courses offered. By 1957 the Department had grown to the extent that it was given a Chair, and Brian became the Foundation Professor. As staff and student numbers increased, the old wooden buildings (originally part of 'Tin Pot Alley' in Irwin Street in the City where the University was housed until 1930) became quite inadequate, and Brian planned the move to a new building which opened in 1969. The greatest strength of his contribution was the breadth of botanical subjects offered—general botany, anatomy, physiology, genetics, biosystematics, ecology, mycology and other cryptogams, systematics. Hundreds of students who passed through the Department have gone on to make significant contributions in their fields.

His own research turned towards the physiology of native plants, especially water relationships, laying a firm foundation for others to build on. He joined the Royal Society in 1948, and at the end of his first term as President in 1953, his address was on 'The physiology of sclerophyll plants' (*J Royal Soc Western Australia* 39:31–45, 1955). He was President again in 1970–71, closing this term with 'Botany in Western Australia: a survey of progress 1900–1971' (*J Royal Soc Western Australia* 58:33–53, 1975). In 1975 he was made an Honorary Life Member, and in 1979 was awarded the Society's Medal. In 1983 he delivered the Nancy Burbidge Memorial Lecture to the Australian Systematic Botany Society. He served on many committees both within and outside the University, including the Kings Park Board from 1959 to 1978.

Among the public and systematists, Brian is best known for his painstaking work on the project conceived by William Blackall—the illustrated keys published as 'How to Know Western Australian Wildflowers'. Blackall prepared considerable manuscript material before his death in 1941. His family asked the University to complete the work, and the task fell to Brian Grieve. Part 1 was published with little amendment in 1954 (the first work published by the University's Press), but all later parts required increasing input, both to incorporate existing taxa and to interpolate new discoveries. Brian worked towards this goal for almost 50 years, always in addition to his other duties, and often during vacation. Fittingly, his role was recognised in the authorship of later parts as 'Grieve and Blackall' rather than 'Blackall and Grieve'. The latest revision is currently in press.

Brian never published a formal taxonomic paper, yet his contribution to systematics has been immeasurable, providing a means for identifying wildflowers and hence encouraging the interest of students and users alike.

Never one to push himself forward, Brian was respected with esteem and affection by colleagues and students for his gentleness, wisdom and compassion.

[A George, RSWA Council]

Clee F H Jenkins

Mr Clee Francis Howard Jenkins, naturalist, broadcaster, entomologist and supporter of the Royal Society of Western Australia, died on July 13th aged 89. He was born in Adelaide in 1908 where he received his education at St Peter's College, and joined the Western Australian Museum as a cadet in 1929. He was appointed as an entomologist in the Western Australian Department of Agriculture in 1933, and as Government Entomologist in 1939 then Chief of the Division of Biological Services (incorporating Entomology, Botany, Plant Pathology and Weeds and Seeds) of the Department of Agriculture. He graduated with a BA from the School of Science, University of Western Australia, in 1935 then a MSc in 1939.

His obituary entitled 'Death of a Gentleman', written by Keith McDonald and published in the *West Australian* (21st July 1997), well sums up Clee Jenkins and his life. He joined the Royal Society of Western Australia in 1929 and played a prominent role in all aspects of the Society for many years. From the humble beginning as Assistant Librarian, he served in Executive or on Council for more than 30 years; his various roles included Honorary Secretary, Vice-president (4 years), President of the Society (three times over a span of 34 years, in 1945, 1963 and 1979) and member of Council. He was the tenth recipient to be awarded the Kelvin Medal of the Royal Society of Western Australia in 1966 for exceptional service to the Society, for advancement of science in all of its branches, and for his personal achievement in his own field. He worked for the Department of Agriculture, mainly in the field of insect control, and his sound recommendations were responsible for eradication of many important insect pests; this work greatly benefited Western Australia. Clee Jenkins also made a distinguished contribution to Science by his enthusiastic encouragement and publicity of natural history and ornithology, where he played an exceptionally important role in promoting interest in the natural environment and its conservation.

Clee Jenkins began writing for the *West Australian* in 1937, and his articles on an amazing range of conservation and natural history subjects appeared each week from then up to the present time. He also wrote more than 1 000 articles for radio and TV broadcasting.

The Council and members of the Royal Society of Western Australia recognise the outstanding contributions of Clee Jenkins to promoting Science in Western Australia, and extend their condolences and best wishes to his family.

[MGK Jones, President, RSWA]