

## **DR FREDERICK CHARLES BUTLER**

### **Citation for the conferral of a Doctor of Applied Science (*honoris causa*)**

Frederick Charles Butler was born on December 15, 1922 at Grong Grong (in the Riverina of New South Wales where his family produced wheat and sheep.

He was educated at Yanco Agricultural High School, obtaining the Leaving Certificate with honours in 1940. He was awarded a Government cadetship enabling him to undertake a degree in Agricultural Science at the University of Sydney.

Fred Butler graduated with First Class Honours in 1946 and took up appointment as a plant pathologist in the Biology Branch of the NSW Department of Agriculture.

In 1950, Fred Butler was awarded a Walter and Eliza Hall Research Fellowship to undertake PhD studies at the University of Cambridge from which he graduated in 1952.

From 1953 to 1961, Dr Butler was Senior Research Officer (Plant Pathology and Microbiology) and Deputy to the Director, Agricultural Research Institute, Wagga Wagga. His main area of research was the root rots of cereals, the papers from which are still being cited in the current scientific literature.

In 1962, Dr Butler was appointed Principal of Wagga Agricultural College, a post held until he was promoted in 1965 to Assistant Deputy Director-General in the NSW Department of Agriculture. In 1966 he became Deputy Director-General (Research and Education) and then Senior Deputy Director-General in 1971. From 1977 to 1980 he became Chairman of the Dairy Industry Authority of NSW and in 1981-82 was appointed Director of Special Studies in the NSW Department of Agriculture from which he retired in 1983.

In his capacity as a research scientist he made an outstanding contribution to the directions of Australian agriculture. Among others he was:

- Chairman, NSW Committee on Wheat Production and Marketing, 1966-76
- Chairman, Commonwealth Extension Services Grant Review Committee, 1967-75
- Member, Australian Wheat Industry Research Council, 1968-76
- Member, NSW Wheat Industry Research Committee, 1968-76
- Member, Murray and Murrumbidgee Irrigation Research and Extension Committee, 1968-75
- Member, NSW Public Service Board Scientific Advisory Committee, 1969-72

The latter part of his career was devoted to the dairy industry and his role in the direction of that industry was noteworthy. His contribution included:

- Chairman, Dairy Industry Authority, 1977-80
- Chairman, Dairy Industry Artificial Breeding Advisory Board, 1977-80
- Chairman, NSW Milk Publicity Council, 1977-78
- Member, NSW Dairy Products Board, 1977
- Member, Australian and New Zealand Conference of Dairy Industry Authorities and Milk Boards, 1977-80

- Chairman, NSW Dairy Farming Stabilisation Scheme Committee, 1977-79
- Honorary Governor and Member of Council, Dairy Husbandry Research Foundation at the University of Sydney, 1980-present and numerous others.

Of particular relevance to this gathering has been Dr Butler's involvement in education and training. This is also evidenced by his service on numerous committees involved in education, including:

- Member of NSW Committee of Advice on the Development of Advanced Education, 1966
- Member, 14 Advanced Education Board, 1972-74
- Member of Department of TAFE Education Advisory Council. 1966-76
- Chairman, NSW Committee of Advice on Rural Studies, 1967-74
- Foundation Chairman of NSW Institute of Rural Studies, 1974-76
- Chairman, Orange Agricultural College Development Committee, 1971-76
- Member of the Advisory Council, Orange Agricultural College, 1977-83
- Member of Council of Riverina College of Advanced Education, 1970-74
- Member of Council of Hawkesbury Agricultural College, 1975-86 and Deputy Chairman from 1978-85.

Chancellor, Dr Butler is the author of over 40 scientific and technical papers on plant pathology, soil microbiology, general agriculture, agricultural history and agricultural education.

He was made a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science in 1986 and was the recipient of the University of Western Sydney Centenary Medal of Honour in 1991.

Mr Chancellor, I commend to you Frederick Charles Butler, noted scientist, public servant, administrator, educationist and all round "good bloke" for the award.

**Twentieth Day of April One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Four**