

PROFESSOR A.F. O'FARRELL

After long suffering Professor A.F. O'Farrell (Tony) died from pneumonia in Armidale on 19 June 1997. A biographical sketch, with emphasis on his odonatological work, was presented by J.A.L. WATSON & G. THEISCHINGER (1986, *Odonatologica* 15: 373-376, incl. portrait and bibliography). After 1986, he did not continue his scientific work, and he appears as a joint author in only two more papers, viz.:

- 1991 (WATSON, J.A.L. & -). Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies). *In*: The insects of Australia, 2nd ed., Vol. 1, pp. 294-310, Melbourne Univ. Press, Melbourne.
- 1994 (WATSON, J.A.L. & -). Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies). *In*: Systematic and applied entomology: an introduction, pp. 254-261, Melbourne Univ. Press, Melbourne.

Fortunately, most of the Odonata collected by O'Farrell and his associates, while at the University of New England, were transferred to the Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC) in Canberra (CSIRO), where they are housed now.

In 1990 Prof. O'Farrell was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and had to be hospitalized. In 1991 he was transferred to the Hilton Nursing Home in Armidale. There he stayed for the rest of his life and, while his health gradually deteriorated, almost daily visits by his wife Isabell were the only highlights left.

A memorial service, held in the Uniting Church of Armidale, was attended by his family and friends and by the Armidale's large academic community. Several obituaries were read, depicting O'Farrell as a great scholar, generous and excellent teacher, a friend and a family man, who loved life, had a tremendous personality and sense of humour and who was able to display temper, particularly in order to beat stupidity and bureaucracy.

I've got to know Tony in 1976, and my family has experienced his and his wife's friendship and generosity ever since. I miss him dreadfully, but I am very grateful to have been able to enjoy his

great qualities as a human being and as a scientist.

With Tony's death, Australia and the science of odontology have lost a great pioneer worker and the SIO one of its associates of the first hour. His publications will remain as benchmarks for

future work.

Tony is survived by his wife Isabell, daughter Deirdre, son-in-law John and the grandchildren Tess and Ben.

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