

## ***In memory***

The Association is saddened to learn of the recent death of the following members:

### **Phillip Alve (1918–2012)**

Phillip Alve was born in Palmerston North in 1918, and initially joined the Post Office as a telephone technician. After war service in the Army Medical Corps, he attended Wellington Teachers College and subsequently taught in primary schools while studying for his BSc at Victoria University of Wellington. He was then a science tutor at the Technical Correspondence Institute until his retirement in 1977.

Phil was a member of NZAS Council throughout the 60s to the mid-80s, serving as its Hon Treasurer for 17 of those years. He was the Association's representative on the committee organising the Wellington Science Fair from its inception in 1964, becoming the Secretary and Fair Manager, a position he held for 20 years. When the New Zealand Science Fair was first started in Wellington in 1977 on the initiative of Prof. James Duncan, he naturally asked Phil to bring his experience to its Executive Committee. In 1973, he received the Association's Marsden Medal for Service to Science jointly with Prof. Duncan.

Phil was also on the Council of the Wellington Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand for what seemed a lifetime, serving as Treasurer and Membership Secretary for many years.

A self-effacing man, he could always be relied on to do the mundane but necessary tasks associated with running voluntary organisations, and his home would be littered with accounts papers, newsletters he was folding and labelling for posting (or hand-delivery!), and other material among the photographic and electrical gadgets that he used for his other hobbies.

In his later years Phil moved to Palmerston North, where he died on 20 July 2012, aged 93.

### **Andrew Pullan (1963–2012)**

Andrew completed a BSc at Auckland with first class honours in mathematics. He joined the Engineering Science Department as a PhD student of Ian Collins in 1985, and after receiving his doctorate in 1988, he spent a brief period working for Winstones/Fletcher Challenge, before returning to the university as a lecturer in 1989.

Andrew then moved quickly up the academic ranks, culminating in a personal chair in 2006. As Head of the Department from 2008 to 2010, Andrew committed himself to the task of promoting the engineering science degree throughout the country to maximise the potential for all students to benefit from the same opportunities that he had enjoyed. He created 'New Zealand's next Engineering Scientist' Modelling Competition, which is carried out each year in over 100 New Zealand secondary schools. It offers scholarships (now called the Pullan Prize) to the winners and serves to attract some of the country's brightest mathematical talents to the Department.

Andrew died on 7 March 2012, aged 48.

### **Bruce Thompson (1924–2012)**

After war service, Bruce joined the New Zealand Geological Survey and initially worked from the Rotorua District Office on hydro dam site investigations along the Waikato River. Subsequently moving to Auckland, he was involved in regional geological mapping of the upper North Island, and his studies on the rhyolite dome complex near Taupo became the subject for his MSc. In 1973, he moved to Wellington as Chief Economic Geologist, organising much of the work on mineral exploration, notably coal exploration, aggregates, oil prospects, oil shales, and water, and various engineering geology and land planning projects. A committed recorder of field observations, he produced well over 300 reports and publications.

Bruce officially 'retired' in 1984 but he continued as an Emeritus Scientist in GNS Science and its predecessors during the transformation from New Zealand Geological Survey into the present day Institute. During this so-called retirement he produced the New Zealand Geopreservation Inventory, a digital bibliographic catalogue of earth science theses from New Zealand universities, a bibliography of New Zealand field excursion guides, and another on published earth science literature referring to New Zealand. He was involved with developing concepts for the 1:250,000 New Zealand Geological Resource Map series (now integrated with the digital 'GERM' database), and co-authored several articles on New Zealand mineral occurrences, culminating in 1995 with the release of the lavishly illustrated book 'Mineral Wealth of New Zealand' co-authored with Bob Brathwaite and Tony Christie.

Bruce was a most congenial and supportive workmate and leader. He died on 10 March 2012, aged 88.

### **Gregor Yeates (1944–2012)**

Gregor gained his BSc at the University of Canterbury with first class honours in 1966 and this prompted his passion to study nematodes. He went on to complete his PhD in 1968 and was awarded his DSc degree by the University of Canterbury in 1986. Gregor worked for a year at the prestigious Rothamsted Experimental Station (now Rothamsted Research) in the UK, followed by a year in Denmark. He was a soil zoologist at DSIR Soil Bureau in Lower Hutt from 1970 to 1992, and when it became part of Landcare Research he was appointed senior scientist at its Palmerston North branch, where he continued his internationally recognised nematode research until his retirement in 2011.

Gregor's publication record was outstanding with more than 200 scientific papers describing new species of nematodes and the ecology of the communities where they are found. In recognition of his research contribution, Gregor was elected a Fellow of the New Zealand Society of Soil Science (1995), Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand (1998), and was named a Fellow of the Society of Nematologists in 2007.

Gregor died on 7 August 2012, aged 68.