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◆ OBITUARY ◆

**John Coleman Flinn 1939–1991**

The community of Agricultural Economists has suffered a tragic loss with the death of John Flinn on 19th September 1991. John is part of the history of Agricultural Economics in Australia and in the broader international community.

John's contribution to the literature in applied microeconomic analysis has been both prestigious and of prodigious quality. His role in the international scene has been one of institution building and of broadening and deepening the scholarship of those with whom he had contact over 30 years.

His life was a continuing process of sharpening the tools of agricultural economics applied to the problems of developed and developing agriculture.

John held a Bachelor of Agricultural Science from Melbourne University, a Ph.D. from the University of New England and a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University.

The sustained quality of John Flinn's work is indicated by awards at either end of his academic career — for his Ph.D. he was awarded the Drummond Prize at the University of New England and for his Master's degree in Public Administration, MPA, in 1989 he was honoured by Harvard University, one of the eleven in his graduating class of 296, as a Littauer Fellow for 'exemplary academic achievement and service'.

John's ability to enhance the quality of published outcomes from tightly disciplined and multi-disciplinary research shines in his published work and that of his colleagues with whom he worked in IITA, IRRI, and universities in Africa, the Philippines, North America and Australia.

His work carries the hallmark of a high order capacity to identify researchable issues and to point to ways in which the impact of constraints on increased productivity in agriculture might be alleviated.

Clarity of expression and perceptive interpretation of the results of his well-planned research were characteristics of John Flinn's published work which attracted the admiration and approbation of his colleagues.

Yet it is not enough to say that his own research was well received. John gave his talents freely to others. There are more than 60 higher degree students whose research paths were enlivened by the Flinn style of supervision, timely advice and an engendered enthusiasm for problem solving which enriched his students' careers.

To count his publications, 19 chapters in books and well over the century for journal articles and other papers, understates the fine research which emanated from his pen and gave a lead in applied production economics.

Let me record the many friendships which John Flinn made. While sometimes intermittent, they were of the kind which are highly valued by all of us who mourn the passing of one who gave freely of his time to assist the acquisition and communication of knowledge in Agricultural Economics. It will be great to meet John in the afterlife and to take up with him the happy view of life he had that his colleagues were all those who held without pretension common goals to alleviate the burdens of the human condition.

It was John's style that his sense of humour never deserted him. He helped many including me to enjoy the process of the getting of wisdom.

He was a loving husband to Alice. He cherished his children. He valued his friends and enriched their lives. His monuments are his valuable work and the memories of all who knew him.

*J. J. Quilkey  
Dean of Agriculture  
La Trobe University*