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HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP KEITH O. CAMPBELL

*Professor of Agricultural Economics
University of Sydney*



Keith Campbell played many vital roles in the growth and development of the Australian Agricultural Economics Society and the agricultural economics profession. He was Secretary of the organising committee which convened the meeting in Sydney in February 1957 from which emerged the Australian Agricultural Economics Society. Keith became the Society's inaugural President. His active participation in the Society at both State and Federal levels, in terms of encouragement to other members, presentation and discussion of papers and general enthusiasm, has been a constant source of inspiration for others. He was the first official Australian representative of the International Conference (now Association) of Agricultural Economists (IAAE) and was Chairman of the organising committee for the Thirteenth Conference of the Association held in Sydney in August 1967. This meeting greatly helped in fostering international recognition of the Australian profession. He was elected Vice-President (Administration) of the IAAE for the 1973-76 triennium.

From his early career with the NSW Department of Agriculture and throughout his distinguished career as Professor of Agricultural

Economics at Sydney University, Keith has contributed mightily to informed and rational debate on his favourite topic of agricultural policy and to other areas of applied economic analysis. Many of the profession have gained from Keith's teaching and from his incisive comments at seminars and conferences. In addition to producing a steady stream of research papers and books, he was always willing to debate issues in the general press, to enter, and indeed initiate, discussions with scientists of other disciplines, and to contribute to various government inquiries. Keith did not chase the latest techniques and gimmicks developed by the profession. Rather, he focused on important policy issues of the day and on how the level of understanding could be advanced by careful economic analysis of the causes, effects and implications of alternative actions.

Much of his work has been brought together in three books that Keith has written. These adequately display the quality and incisiveness of his work. Those books, *Agricultural Marketing and Prices* (Cheshire, 1973), *Food for the Future* (Nebraska University Press and Sydney University Press, 1979), and *Australian Agriculture—Reconciling Change and Tradition* (Longman-Cheshire, 1980) are important reference works for professional agricultural economists, students and the laymen interested in agriculture. Notable among his published articles are:

- 'The role of prices and investment in agricultural expansion', *The Australian Quarterly* 24(4), 30-42, 1952;
- 'Some reflections on agricultural investment', *Australian Journal of Agricultural Economics* 2(2), 93-103, 1958;
- 'The rural development of Northern Australia', *Australian Journal of Agricultural Economics* 6(1), 21-30, 1962; and
- 'The State marketing board—relic or prototype?', *Australian Journal of Agricultural Economics* 17(3), 179-88, 1973.

For these and other reasons, the Annual General Meeting of the Silver Jubilee Conference of the Society unanimously supported the award of Honorary Membership for life as a token of the Society's indebtedness to Professor Keith Campbell.