

## OBITUARY

**(John) Graham Clancy, BSc (UNSW), MSc (UTS)**

**28 October 1944S 10 April 2004†**

Graham was the elder of two sons born to Ella and Paddy Clancy in Birkenhead, Cheshire, England on 28th October 1944. With his brother, Paul, they migrated to Australia when Graham was nine years old, and lived at Sawyer's Gully near Maitland. Graham's father ran the one-teacher school. Later, the family moved to the northern beaches of Sydney. Graham obtained a science degree from the School of Biological and Biomedical Sciences at the University of NSW, and in 1994 was awarded a Masters degree from the University of Technology, Sydney. His thesis entitled "*Terrestrial Arthropods of Mangrove and Saltmarsh Communities in the Sydney Region*" was a study of the composition, diversity and relative abundance of the terrestrial arthropods of some metropolitan mangrove and saltmarsh ecosystems.

Graham's first graduate position was with CIBA-GEIGY working on the effectiveness of agricultural chemicals on local pests and diseases. He and his young family moved to the Caretaker's cottage on the experimental farm at Kemp's Creek, where they lived for four years. After leaving CIBA-GEIGY, Graham worked for a while as a consultant on pest control to the mushroom industry. He also took up part-time teaching at Sydney Technical College School of Agriculture that in 1980 became Ryde TAFE. This led to a full-time position beginning 22nd April 1974 and continuing until his death almost thirty years later. On 9th July 1984, Graham became Head Teacher of his section of Horticulture - Plant Protection.

During his career at Ryde, Graham taught Botany, Agricultural Chemicals and their registration, Permaculture and First Aid, as well as all aspects of Plant Protection (insect, weed and disease identification and control). He prepared resource material including detailed class notes of a high standard. He was totally committed to the students of the TAFE, and he looked after his part-time teachers well. He was an extremely conscientious horticulture teacher and a mentor to many.

Graham joined the Entomological Society of NSW in 1978 and was elected to the Council for four years from 2000 to 2003. He contributed significantly to the affairs and activities of the Society including hosting a tour of glasshouses and facilities at Ryde TAFE for Society members. He attended the 50th Anniversary dinner of the Society in June 2003 and the pre-Christmas dinner, despite his illness.

On 10th April 2004 Graham passed away. He is survived by his mother, brother, two daughters and one granddaughter. A perpetual trophy in memory of Graham Clancy has been instituted at Ryde TAFE for an outstanding student graduating in Pest and Disease Control.



Barbara May

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