



Vale Geoffrey Melville Dimmock

(b. 18 November 1927 – d. 7 April 2018)

Geoff Dimmock grew up in NSW and completed his formal education at Sydney University graduating with a degree majoring in Soil Science. He joined the CSIRO organisation and moved to Tasmania where he was involved in a number of soil surveys. There followed a change in 1958 to CSIRO's sister organisation in New Zealand before he and his wife Joan returned to Australia in the mid 1960s, this time to the CSIRO Division of Soils based in Perth.

In 1982 Geoff switched from the Division of Soils to the Division of Forests, a move that allowed him to expand his interests further in areas involving vegetation and soil nutrient interactions. Throughout his career while based in Perth Geoff was associated with colleagues in a number of significant studies that led to a greater understanding of the

soil properties, especially of the Darling Range and the problems of soil degradation and rehabilitation in the wheatbelt.

One of common themes of those who spoke at Geoff's funeral service on the 19th April at St Aidan's Uniting Church, Claremont was his great ability to mix with a variety of people and discuss aspects of soil science along with those of life in general—family matters, gardening and music. Geoff became a member of the Organ Society of WA in 1973 and remained a staunch supporter of the Society through to 2015 when developing illness prevented his attendance at functions.

As a member of the St Aidan's congregation Geoff became fully involved in the life and activities of parish life. One of these activities was as organist, the St Aidan's organ being the first of Cecil Clifton's five organs and built between 1875 to 1879. He became



The Clifton organ in St Aidan's Uniting Church, Claremont.



the regular organist for the 8 am services and assumed responsibility for arranging the organ roster for both the 8 am and 10 am services. He advised and helped with organising arrangements for the organ's periodic maintenance.

Geoff's deep understanding of the place of the hymns in the liturgical setting allowed him to make appropriate choice of hymns and tunes for any service. Importantly, he played in a manner that supported and enhanced congregational singing. Even towards the end, when first his feet, and then his hands, began to restrict his ability, he would still come and play, if necessary for both services to ensure the congregation had a strong lead for its singing. Beyond the

immediate parish Geoff used to contribute to the Uniting Church Synod's magazine, *Western Impact*, writing a monthly article about organ music, hymn playing and the need to promote good music in churches. He also worked on the State Church's archives.

The Organ Society of Western Australia members farewell Geoff with fond memories of a real gentleman and musician. We offer our condolences to his remaining children and grandchildren. Geoff's wife Joan sadly passed away in December 2010.

*Professor Bill Loneragan (OSWA)
and Michael Owen (St Aidan's)*