

Australasian Agrifood Research Network

David Burch Prize for Best Student Paper



As one of the early co-founders of the Australasian Agrifood Research Network 20 years ago, and the network convenor for the first 10 years, Professor David Burch has been a key figure in building the Network. He is associated with developments that have raised the profile of the Network – including mentorship, facilitating a program of publications from Network meetings and not least, instituting the well-known Agrifood Trivia Night.

Professor Burch has had a long and fruitful career in Agrifood Studies. In 1980, he earned a PhD from Sussex University in the UK for his work on the Green Revolution in Sri Lanka. He later worked at Griffith University, Australia for 33 years until his official retirement in 2009 from the School of Biomedical and Physical Sciences. He was then awarded the title of Emeritus Professor at Griffith University. Following his retirement, he joined The University of Queensland as an Honorary Professor, where he continued his work on power in food supply chains and the financialisation of agriculture. The key focus in much of his work has been on the inequities in food distribution, particularly the ways in which patterns of income distribution, technological development and urban consumption has impacted on the rural poor of the less developed countries, usually resulting in their lack of access to food - even where food is plentiful.

In the last 10 years alone, David has supervised over 20 PhD students, and mentored, supported and influenced many more through his kind and approachable manner, depth of knowledge of his field and commitment to building and promoting Agrifood studies. Up until 2010, he had never missed a meeting, but has been absent in 2011 and 2012 due to ill-health. His colleagues have missed his involvement, and particularly his gentle humour.

Starting in 2012, the Australasian Agrifood Research Network will honour Professor David Burch's contribution to agrifood scholarship by offering an annual David Burch Prize for Best Student Paper. The prize of \$500 and a certificate will be awarded to the student judged to have delivered the most outstanding paper. The competition is open to all graduate students presenting an unpublished paper primarily prepared by them (although co-authored work is accepted where the student is the primary contributor). Judging will be based on the oral presentation; a written paper is not required.