

## The Royal Society of Queensland

### Award of Life Membership to Angela H. Arthington, 18 June 2022



The Society offers Life Membership to people either on account of their eminence in a professional discipline or their service to the Society. Emeritus Professor Angela Arthington unquestionably satisfies both criteria to a high degree. Having published in the *Proceedings of The Royal Society of Queensland* over five decades, first in 1975 and most recently in 2022, Angela's professional life has encapsulated the aim of the Society to uphold standards of scientific excellence.

The accompanying retrospective published in this volume summarises her career. Angela has built networks between disciplinary specialists, government and the community across the world of water. Just one example was the global release of the seminal publication *The Brisbane Declaration and Global Action Agenda on Environmental Flows* at the International Riversymposium meeting in 2017 in Brisbane where more than 1000 leaders gathered to share and discuss global water issues and river management. Linked to other activities, the declaration recognised the importance of humans within the water cycle and the necessity of improved monitoring of river health and biodiversity as a key

indicator of the health of catchment and city water systems and societal well-being.

More recently Angela used her communication and networking skills in developing a book crossing jurisdictional and sectoral silos with her co-editing and coordinating the publication of the *Springs of the Great Artesian Basin*, a Special Issue of the *Proceedings of The Royal Society of Queensland*, in 2020. This volume saw research and management histories sourced from three states and written by a wide range of researchers, laypeople, lawyers and public servants. Angela successfully sourced funding from both Queensland and Commonwealth governments to publish the volume. To ensure that it received a wide release audience, she coordinated a workshop focused on the Basin springs within the Australasian Groundwater Conference held in Brisbane in 2019. She has subsequently spoken to a number of Queensland and national groups about the importance of conserving springs for their unique species and for their values to Indigenous people and society, as collated in the *Proceedings*.

Demonstrating her immense talents as a completer-finisher, in August 2022 Angela arranged

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for copies of the *Proceedings* to be provided to all members of the new national Great Artesian Basin Stakeholders' Advisory Committee at its inaugural meeting in Longreach, Queensland. Particularly useful to the group was a chapter in the *Proceedings* by Lynn Brake, a champion of the Great Artesian Basin from South Australia, that outlines a history of water extraction from the Basin from 1878–2020 and the significance of collaboration between landholders, experts, community groups and governments in the journey towards sustainability. An obituary and the negotiations that Angela conducted with Lynn Brake's widow over the volume's dedication to Lynn are testament to another of her talents, her compassionate spirit.

To produce one such compilation during a career is a praiseworthy achievement. But "Springs" comes eleven years after Angela served as lead editor of the 501-page *A Place of Sandhills: Ecology, Hydrogeomorphology and Management*

*of Queensland's Dune Islands*, Volume 117, which remains a benchmark publication on Queensland's sand islands.

As if the above highlights and the long list of achievements chronicled in her retrospective were not sufficient achievement, in 2018 she allowed herself to be elected to serve on the Council of the Society, a post she held for three years while concurrently editing the annual Volume 128 of the *Proceedings* as well as the "Springs" Special Issue. As a Councillor she was meticulous in reading and editing documents, giving generous praise to others' contributions and giving well-grounded advice on complex matters. She retired from the Council position only to take up a prestigious sectional editorship of an international journal. Not just the Society and Queensland science but international science owe an enormous debt to Professor Angela Arthington; and as much as the Society honours her, we are honoured to count her as a Life Member.

Craig Walton

Ross Hynes

Geoff Edwards

On behalf of the Council of the Society

Council of The Royal Society of Queensland. (2022). The Royal Society of Queensland, award of life membership to Angela Arthington, 18 June 2022. *Proceedings of The Royal Society of Queensland*, 131, 177–178. <https://doi.org/10.53060/prsq.2022-21>