

Harvey, Alan (from The Forester March 2013)

Alan Harvey CVID Research Endowment

Alan Harvey was an IFA member until he died in 2009.

Since then his wife, Barbara, has been working hard setting up an endowment in Alan's name at the ANU, known as the Alan Harvey Common Variable Immune Deficiency Research Endowment.

Alan (Al) Harvey's (1951-2009) Bachelor of Forestr (Hons) degree was conferred by ANU in 1973, when he was awarded the Sir William Schlich medal for the most promising forestry student. He was a consummate professional, his contributions to forestry are vast and his involvement in the development of the world's most advanced plantation yield simulation system (ply sim) was an outstanding achievement. His career spanned 37 years with Queensland Forestry, retiring as General Manager of Operations in 2006.

Alan contracted Common Variable Immune Deficiency (CVID), which is a disease of antibody deficiency that results in increased susceptibility to infection, and although he was successfully treated for 15 years, in the last 10 years of his life he battled a succession of infections and auto-immune diseases, leading to his death at age 57.

Researchers at The John Curtin School of Medical Research at The Australian University (ANU) have instigated a major national research project, the Australian and New Zealand Antibody Deficiency Allele project that aims to elucidate the causes of CVID, enrolling patients from all around Australia. This is an exciting strategy for making substantial progress in genetic diseases as large scale sequencing of human genomes. The Alan Harvey CVID Research Endowment will enable researchers to take advantage of state of the art sequencing technology to sequence several CVID genomes. Once completed, this will be an international landmark for CVID research that should result in significant advances in our understanding of this debilitating disease, and other immune-mediated diseases, including Lupus and Rheumatoid Arthritis.

As a memorial to Alan's example of courage, strength, perseverance and achievement, his family, friends and colleagues are establishing an endowment to support CVID research to better understand this unusual disease, and to develop prevention techniques and treatments. We invite you to contribute to the Alan Harvey CVID Research Endowment at ANU.

For more information visit www.anu.edu.au/endowment/alan.harvey