

WAITE ARBORETUM FACT SHEET: P. A. E. ELLIS 1941 – 1994

(Arboretum seats, memorial seats, history features)

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PETER ANTHONY EDWARD ELLIS 1941 – 1994

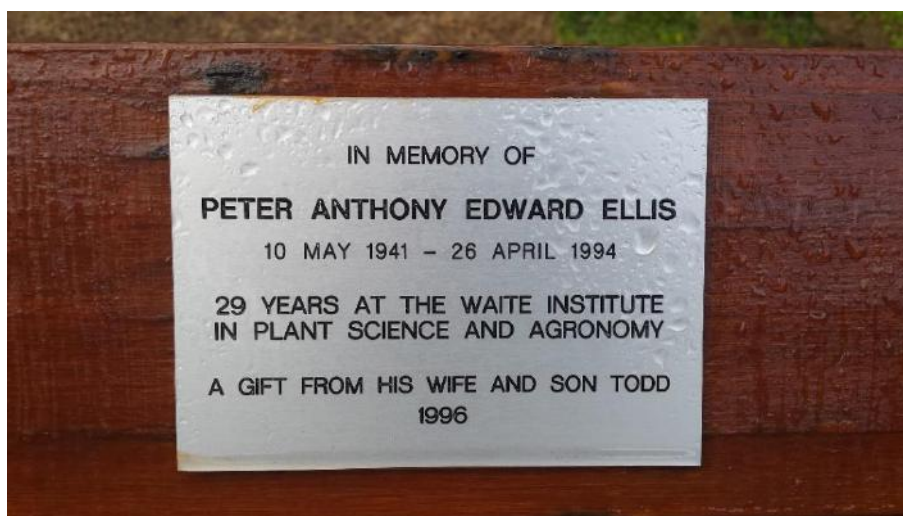


Photo: Terry Langham

1. NAME - DOB – DOD: Peter Anthony Edward ELLIS, 10 May 1941 – 26 April 1994

- **Occupation:** Technical Officer, 29 years at the Waite Institute in plant science and agronomy.
- **Seat location:** walk to the middle of the north side of the fenced dam, then walk north into the Arboretum. The seat is facing north west.
- **Nearby tree species:** #433, G13 *Ulmus parvifolia*, Chinese Elm, China., Japan., Korea. 1929



Photo: Terry Langham

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Foliage, bark and leaf litter of #433, G13 *Ulmus parvifolia*, Chinese Elm, China., Japan., Korea. 1929

2. QUALIFICATIONS:

"Ellis was a graduate from Roseworthy Agricultural College,"... Zeitz, 2014,p.392).

3. AREA OF RESEARCH, INTEREST or INFLUENCE relating to the WAITE ARBORETUM:

- 29 years at the Waite Institute in plant science and agronomy.

4. RESEARCH SPECIALITY – SPECIAL FEATURES:

- 29 years at the Waite Institute in plant science and agronomy.

5. FURTHER INFORMATION:

"... for new developments, there are teams of people behind any discovery or development..."

"When research scientists discuss their work they invariably use the term "we" as achievements are often the product of the laboratory or field group. The y stress that while individuals may provide leadership and be catalysts for new developments, there are teams of people behind any discovery or development. These teams at the Waite included a diversity of individuals: for example, technician working in the field or laboratory, the librarian who assisted with obtaining sources, the departmental secretary whose care and compassion went beyond her job description, a laboratory manager who ensured that the laboratory was set-up perfectly, the farm worker who ingenuity was in valuable, or the caretaker who helped newly arrived postgraduates move house" Zeitz, 2014,p.392).



Photo: Terry Langham

“... Knight’s team took Peter Ellis from the Agronomy Department with them. ...”

“When Ron Knight was setting up plant breeding teams to go to Indonesia as part of the Australian-Asian Universities Cooperation Scheme in the 1970s, he and colleagues insisted that one member of each team should be a laboratory manager. Knight’s team took Peter Ellis from the Agronomy Department with them. Ellis was a graduate from Roseworthy Agricultural College, “very capable with things like lathes or any electronic equipment or electrical equipment” and was fundamental to the success of Knight’s project in Indonesia. ... However, their microscopes lenses were infected with fungi and the team also found not a single laboratory within Brawijaya University was set up with microscope lamps. The Australian scientists could not conduct a cytology class without microscope and lamps. As a solution Peter Ellis simply offered to go to Malang, buy materials and set up a laboratory. According to Knight, within two days Ellis.

wired up a laboratory ... Firstly, I wouldn’t have known myself – none of the academics would have known how to even start on the job, and if we had ventured into it I’m sure we’d have probably taken a week or more and I wouldn’t have felt very safe about it doing.

“After working with Knight, Ellis went onto work for Donald Puckridge and then Ken Shepard for more than a decade doing crossing, glasshouse and cytological work as well as fieldwork. Shepard noted that Ellis was “very valuable member” of his team. Ellis died in 1994 after developing a brain tumour and Shepard “lost a wonderful helper and friend, so I’d like to record his contributions to my work” (Zeitz, 2014, p.393-394).

6. PHOTOS:



Photos: Terry Langham



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7. REFERENCES:

Zeitz, L.D 2014, *The Waite: A social and scientific history of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute*, Barr Smith Press, Adelaide, p.393 – 394.