

Scientist's quest for farm solutions

**EDWARD (TED) DIMENT
CARTER**

Agricultural scientist

Born: April 27, 1927; Windsor

Died: November 8, 2018; Adelaide

RAISED on a struggling Lower North mixed farm, Ted Carter became an agricultural scientist who constantly pressed for research to produce practical benefits for farmers.

He was one of nine children born to Winifred and Allen Carter. They bought a mixed farm at Windsor on the coastal plains north of Adelaide in 1926.

Times were tough and Ted learned a love for agriculture, a strong sense of family, and a



drive to help others. He was doggedly determined to excel, boarding to attend Adelaide Technical High, and often riding his bicycle 70km to visit home.

He became the first of his family to attend university. Ted first met Joan Bagshaw, a Yorke Peninsula farmer's daughter studying at Methodist Ladies' College, when she stayed with her friend in Windsor. Ted and Joan married in 1951.

After completing honours in agricultural science at the University of Adelaide, Ted was put in charge of the Department of Agriculture's Parndana Research Centre on Kangaroo Island, moving there with Joan and their first child, Patricia, in 1953.

Kangaroo Island gave him early experience in using his research on pasture improvement and grazing manage-

ment to provide practical advice to soldier settlers.

In 1957, he was appointed lecturer in agronomy at the Waite Campus.

Ted was among the first to think in terms of farm systems, believing pastures were the glue that bound cropping and livestock enterprises together.

Not afraid to speak his mind, he was critical of Waite when it reduced its emphasis on pasture research. His concerns put him off-side with some academics.

Ted had set an example with his own teaching and research, and his leadership had been cemented on the back of travelling widely to conferences and being asked to consult

on agronomy in the Middle East, north Africa, South Africa and South America. His engagement with agricultural science continued long after retirement, and he was a fellow and later a life member of the Agriculture Institute Australia.

His suburban life included gardening and having khaki Campbell ducks on his property after being told they would help control snails.

He was soon recognised as a master breeder and, in 1987, established the South Australian Waterfowl Association.

Ted is survived by Joan, children Patricia, Susan, Judith and John, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.