



*Dick Perry on his 100th birthday in June 2003.
Photo courtesy of Visual Reality Productions.*

Community farewells forestry icon

DICK PERRY is celebrated as one of State's greatest foresters. It is with sadness we mourn his passing in January 2003, aged 100.

Dick leaves behind the legend of his long and influential career as a forester and scientist.

He was a pioneer of the forestry industry in this State. His career spanned more than 50 years and was spent entirely at the Forests Department.

He is celebrated for his work on maritime pines, fertilisation trials and his expertise in termites and photography.

As an apprentice in 1918, Dick took part in the establishment of WA's first pine plantation at Ludlow.

He also worked as a personal secretary for the Conservator and became intimately involved with the planning and establishment of the State's softwood plantations.

This was the basis for today's plantation scene.

Dick and his wife spent time in Portugal searching for the perfect

pine for a tree-breeding program.

The Department received messages of condolences from the National Forestry Association in Portugal, which recognised Dick's work there between 1964 and 1965.

"In Portugal we feel honoured to be the guardians of one of his important career achievements – the *Pinus pinaster*," Research Scientist Maria Carolina Varela from the National Forest Research Institute Lisbon, Portugal said.

In 1991, Dick received Membership of the Order of Australia for his contribution to forestry and entomology. In 1993, his work was awarded by the Commonwealth Government with the Australia medal. In 1995, he was made an Honorary Member of the Institute of Foresters of Australia.

The plant *Goodenia perryi* Gardner ex Carolin, the termite *Amiternmes perryi* Gay and Dick Perry Avenue in Kensington have also been named in his honour.

