



**ASSCT**  
Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists

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## **Life Member**

### **Dr Andrew WOOD**

Andrew joined the Australian Sugar Industry in 1981 as an Agronomist attached to the CSR Technical Field Department in Ingham. His initial work focused on understanding soil degradation under sugarcane cropping in the Herbert and the effects of poor drainage and soil compaction on productivity. He initiated a detailed soil mapping and analysis program which eventually covered over 50,000ha at a scale of 1:5000.

He played an important role in encouraging the adoption of green cane harvesting and trash retention in the Herbert and demonstrated that trash blanketing with zero cultivation of ratoons was a cost effective strategy for growers to adopt. He worked with scientists from CSIRO, BSES and Griffith University on better understanding nitrogen losses from urea applied to the trash surface and on strategies to reduce these losses.

In 1988 he took over from Brian Roach as Chief Technical Field Officer and managed a group of about 20 professional and support staff engaged in cane breeding, variety selection, agronomy, field drainage design, irrigation efficiency and general extension.

He was involved in the CRC for Sustainable Sugar Production initially as a sub program co-ordinator and later as leader of program 3 which investigated new approaches for enhancing productivity and profitability in the sugar industry.

For the last 15 years Andrew has worked closely with the BSES nutrient management group in developing an integrated system of sustainable nutrient management for the Australian sugar industry known as the Six Easy Steps to sustainable nutrient management.

Andrew is a past president of ASSCT (1994), a winner of the President's medal in 2010 and 2011 and served on the Publications Committee from 1988 to 1998. He is author or co-author of 75 papers in ASSCT Conference Proceedings.