
Laurence George (Laurie) Adams **(1929–2014)**

Born in Luton, Bedfordshire, Laurie qualified with a Certificate of Engineering (equivalent of Diploma today) from Luton Technical College (now Bedfordshire University), in 1952. He later graduated with a Diploma of Plant Biology at Canberra College of Advanced Education (now Canberra University) in 1974.

Laurie joined the BSBI in 1956 and although he emigrated to Australia in 1959, he kept up his membership until his death in 2014.

He was originally employed with Commonwealth Engineering, Brisbane, Queensland, as an engineering design draftsman until he resigned in 1960. In 1961 he spent five months on Dunk Island, Qld, as hotel general hand, then returned to Brisbane, rejoining Commonwealth Engineering before resigning again in 1962. He then moved to Canberra, joining CSIRO, Division of Land

Research & Regional Survey (now Land & Water), as an Herbarium laboratory assistant in the Australian Mainland Survey Group (later incorporated into the Australian National Herbarium).

As well as a wide range of other botanical roles, Laurie became a self-taught authority in botanical Latin, a skill much appreciated by his taxonomic colleagues in the herbarium. He also undertook five six-week courses in Bookcraft at the Canberra Institute of Technology.

He officially retired from the Australian National Herbarium on 26th August 1988, and continued his botanical activities as a CSIRO Honorary Research Fellow for over 25 years until just a few months before his death.

Compiled by Gwynn Ellis from information posted on the internet.