

OBITUARY

DR. C. PRASADO RAO

OBITUARIES

THE MERCURY — 35

Honoured geologist had passion for music, photos

Dr C. Prasada Rao
Retired Associate Professor
of Geology at the University
of Tasmania
Born June 20, 1937
Died September 9, 1999

EMINENT geologist Dr C. Prasada Rao spent almost three decades teaching geology at the University of Tasmania.

Dr Rao published numerous papers in some of the most prestigious scientific journals in the world.

For his outstanding work, he was respected by his peers and was often invited to speak at international geological conferences.

He published two well-received books and was planning a third.

Dr Rao was appointed a consultant to the Hydro-Electric Commission during the planning of the Gordon-Below-Franklin dam-building scheme.

Colleagues and friends recall his absolute passion for geology, particularly for the area of cold-water carbonates.

He also devoted much of his energy and intellect to promoting exploration for oil, gas and gold in Tasmania.

Source: *The Mercury, Australia 1999*



Dr C. Prasada Rao: promoted mineral exploration.

Before Dr Rao came to Tasmania, he distinguished himself during his studies for his BSc and MSc degrees at Bangalore University, in India, where he won gold medals.

He studied for his PhD in the United States and arrived in Hobart in 1972.

Dr Rao's students at the University of Tasmania loved and respected him because his passion for his subject made him an inspirational teacher and he always made himself available to help them.

Off the campus, Dr Rao's energies and passions were focused on his family, music and photography. Friends recall that he loved all kinds of music and his collection was much admired.

Visitors to his home at Howrah remarked that there was always music playing, often the Urdu "ghazals" — romantic love songs — although he did not speak Urdu.

He was also a keen badminton player.

Dr Rao was an active and respected member of Tasmania's Indian community.

He was, for a time, the president of the Indian Cultural Society.

Dr Rao's artistic talents were evident in his photographic work, ranging from brilliant geological studies to sensitive images of flowers and people.

He used his photographic skills and equipment to help the Save the Children Fund.

He is survived by his wife, Flora, and children Madhu, Prashan, Vinay and Anila.

Dr Rao will be fondly remembered by colleagues, students and friends for his humility, simplicity, sincerity, honesty, passion and love.

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