“Science under threat. Why and what must be done?”

Dr Doug Edmeades
Managing Director: agKnowledge Ltd, New Zealand

Tuesday, 3 March 2009 from 5-6pm
Molecular & Chemical Sciences Lecture Theatre (G.33), UWA, (Fairway, Entrance No. 4, Car Park 14 and 21)

“Science is under threat world-wide. Dr Doug Edmeades explores several possible reasons for this touching on modern philosophies (political correctness and New Age fads), politics (monetarism and the ‘free market’), and their impact on science funding policies and the current standards of journalism. He will argue that all of these factors contribute to undermining the importance and value of science in modern society. He asserts that scientists must recognise these dangers and become proactive in explaining, and if necessary defending, the importance of science to society.”

Dr Doug Edmeades commenced his science career in 1977 at MAF Ruakura, New Zealand. Initially his research interests were on soil acidity and liming. In 1985 he was awarded an ANZAC Fellowship and spent a year at the University of Queensland studying the effects of aluminium toxicity on pasture plants. In 1988 he was appointed group leader (Soils and Fertilisers) at Ruakura and in 1991 became the National Science Program Leader (Soils and Fertiliser) in the newly formed AgResearch. After 20 years in his role as a soil scientist at Ruakura, Dr Edmeades left institutional science and established his own science consulting business in 1997. This business evolved to AgKnowledge. His vision for agKnowledge is clear: it’s purpose is to bring independent, objective, science-based solutions in the areas of fertilisers, soil nutrient management and environmental compliance to the New Zealand farmer. Dr Edmeades has published 90 scientific papers, several books, booklets and pamphlets and countless popular articles.