



MANY ROLES: Colin Ekers was the inaugural president of the Southern Fleurieu Agricultural Historical Museum and led efforts to open the Legendairy Interpretive Centre.

'Legendairy' Colin creates local legacy

BY MICHAEL SIMMONS

COLIN Lawrence Ekers has been praised as a great organiser who had time for everybody, in the wake of his death on June 17, aged 88.

The former dairyfarmer grew up on the farm at Mount Jagged, south of Mount Compass, with brothers Ken, Ronald, Len and Maurice and sister Marjorie.

He was particularly fond of the cows so took on organising the dairy and eventually the farm.

Colin's Holstein-Friesian stud breeding program took him throughout the world, selecting semen for artificial insemination to improve the genetic characteristics of the Colena Holsteins herd.

Colin had a deep commitment to community service; from the national community - he received a sporting award from then-Prime Minister John Howard - to the state of SA, and the local area.

He was a member of the Holstein Australia SA state committee for 27 years, was vice-president for seven years and president for nine, as well as a classification

co-ordinator for 14 years and a member of the state judging panel. He then sat on the federal council for 18 years and was an official breed inspector for 20 years.

In 2016 he was awarded honorary life membership of Holstein Australia.

His tireless efforts and dedicated passion benefited the Mount Compass community and sporting clubs, the Great Southern Football League, the Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of SA and the Southern Fleurieu Agricultural Historical Museum.

Such was his community service, Colin was honoured with an Australian Citizen of the Year Award in the Alexandra Council in 2014.

The Legendairy Interpretive Centre at the Museum and the cow at Bashams Beach were both Colin's ideas.

One of Colin's greatest dreams was to have the museum honour the dairy industry, which led to him helping establish the centre in a complex at the Port Elliot Showground.

Due to Colin, Port Elliot is known as the Dairy Cap-

ital of SA after the Southern Fleurieu Agricultural Historical Museum, under the umbrella of the Southern Agricultural Society, won the state title and with the money received from a grant given by the dairy industry, established the interpretive centre at the museum.

This section houses relics and historic information about the dairy industry within the Fleurieu.

He said the dairy industry in Port Elliot, and surrounding regions, stretched back a long time with its first milk processing factory in the 1890s, and it was fitting to recognise that.

The other dream of Colin was to have the sculptured cow at Bashams Beach. More than 80 people attended the launch of the Legendairy cow sculpture at Basham Reserve. The sculpture, made of recycled scrap metals, was created by artists James Stewart and Tracy Grivell.

Colin is survived by wife Kay, son Brenton, and adopted daughters Jackie and Natalie; eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and his brother Professor Ron Ekers.