

# A legacy of rural commitment

## **Allen Campbell (Cam) Day**

Farmer, community leader

**Born:** October 13, 1936; Adelaide

**Died:** May 15, 2006; Victor Harbor

**C**AM Day was a successful sheep and beef cattle breeder and a highly respected member of the Western Flat community, near Bordertown. A measure of his standing within the district was reflected at his funeral on May 18, which was attended by about 800 people – perhaps, according to locals, the largest funeral in Bordertown's history.

Cam spent his childhood on the family farm at Owen. His secondary schooling was at Scotch College, where he played for the 1st 18 football team and rowed in the 1st eight crew. From school, he went back to the farm, and played football for Owen and cricket for Alma.

In 1960, he married Heather Wilson, and the same year his family bought the Allendale Poll Hereford cattle and British breed sheep studs, near Bordertown.

There, Cam became involved in local sporting, community and farming organisations. He played football for Bordertown and when his sons started playing in the junior competition, he took on a number of club committee roles, among them president.

He was a member of the South Australia



Agricultural Bureau for more than 50 years, heading the Western Flat-Bangham group, and was awarded life membership.

When aphids decimated local lucerne pasture, Cam worked with researchers to develop new aphid-resistant lucerne varieties,

and his clay spreading trials on light soil helped promote a revolutionary practice that has benefited farmers across the country.

Throughout the 1970s and '80s, Cam was a judge of sheep and cattle at agricultural shows in every state and territory, including all royal shows, except Sydney.

His service with the SA Poll Hereford Association included terms in various positions, including president.

His commitment to the community was unwavering, and for many years he was dubbed the "mayor of Western Flat". He served as secretary of the Western Flat Progress Association, and was president for a decade. He co-founded the local cricket club, and was a Western Flat CFS member. In 1996 he was named Tatiara Citizen of the Year for community contributions.

An inaugural member of the Bordertown Apex Club, he held every portfolio, including president, and was awarded life membership.

With his brother, Graham, Cam continued to develop the high-profile Allendale sheep and cattle studs after their father's death. The family partnership was dissolved in 1989. Cam and his family then concentrated on commercial sheep and cattle, along with cropping.

He is survived by his wife Heather, children Leanne, Susan, Scott and Roland, and eight grandchildren.