

A force for the good of SA farming

HUGH PETER CHRISTIAN TRUMBLE

Agricultural scientist

Born: July 19, 1927; Adelaide

Died: August 13, 2019; Adelaide

PETER was born into an agricultural family, his father Professor Hugh Trumble being a prominent agricultural scientist in agronomy at Waite Institute.

He spent his early childhood living in Claremont House on the Waite Campus and later in Upper Mitcham, so Brownhill Creek was the natural and treasured playground for him and his friends.

Peter entered nearby Scotch College in Year 5 and undertook his entire second-



ary schooling there, developing a profound love for the institution. In turn, Scotch would come to celebrate him as one of its school legends.

Peter was an all-rounder

who excelled in sports and studies, and taking after his grandfather Hugh, an Australian cricketing legend. Peter was head prefect, dux of the school, winner of the cross-country race and in the winning Head of the River eight.

After an initial leaning towards medicine, he took agricultural science at Waite, graduating with first-class honours in 1949.

He had a short stint at the West End Brewery before joining the Department of Agriculture, becoming scientific liaison officer to Dr Allan Callaghan, the director of agriculture, in 1952.

In 1961, Peter joined the CSIRO in Melbourne for two years before returning to Ad-

elaide to become secretary of the Waite Institute. He became assistant director of the SA Department of Agriculture in 1971 and was acting director for 18 months before being deputy to Jim McColl in 1976.

Affectionately known as "Trum", Peter was highly regarded for his leadership, intellect, mentoring as well as his concern for individuals.

When SA pioneered controversial land-clearing laws in the 1980s, Peter was one of the conciliators giving farmers an independent forum for land-clearing applications.

He was the founding chairman of the Pest Plants Commission and also chairman of the Vertebrate Pests Control Authority, both of them criti-

cal to SA's farming and pastoral lands management.

In retirement, Peter wrote about the history of agriculture in SA.

At Scotch College, he was a mentor to many senior teachers and administrators for decades, as well as being the school's archivist and historian, making a significant contribution to the *History of Scotch College* publication.

He also volunteered for community groups, including Meals on Wheels and Rotary, where he was a Paul Harris Fellow.

Peter married Dell in 1949. They had sons Andrew, Nicholas and Paul, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.