

# A man proud to work the land

**Malcolm Ronald Orrock**

Farmer, shearer, wine producer

**Born:** September 22, 1947; Booleroo Centre.

**Died:** July 9, 2005; Booleroo Centre.

**M**ALCOLM Orrock was a man who loved the land and everything about it. Nothing was ever too hard for him, from shearing sheep to growing vines and producing wines. If it involved creating from the soil, he could do it.

Malcolm was born and educated in Booleroo Centre, the second son of Ron and Joyce Orrock, of Murray Town.

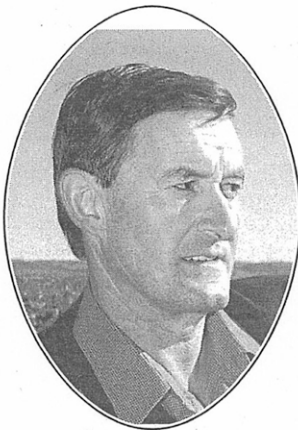
He always wanted to be a farmer and, aged 15, he left school and learned to shear sheep. Having perfected his craft so well, for the next 26 years he was a part-time shearing coach and shearer, and shored a total of 350,000 sheep.

Throughout the shearing part of his life, Malcolm had always dreamed of achieving the magical 300-sheep-a-day mark but fell just short, with his best effort being 256.

Aged just 18, he shored at the South Australian championships at the Royal Adelaide Show – and over the years he organised competitions around the state.

In 1970, he built a new home at Booleroo and married Karen Foulis, from Willowie. Together they raised their three children, Deanne, Stacey and Todd.

During this period, he worked hard to provide for his family, training 300 shearers across Australia, operating a seed grader by day and farming at night.



As if he didn't have enough to do, Malcolm started training endurance and showjumping horses, took part in hunt club activities, took up car racing and still found time to fit in commentating at shearing competitions. Malcolm became well respected at northern areas shows as a successful competitor with his showjumpers and hacks.

His community work was legendary.

He was actively involved with the CFS, St John Ambulance, Steam and Tractor Society, chairman of the Booleroo 125-year Book Committee and even took

part in the pest spraying of town blocks. Malcolm was also involved in the 1988 Bicentenary celebrations. In 1996, he developed Booleroo Fertilisers as a business and, two years later, planted a vineyard at Murray Town with 19ha of vines. He grew various wine varieties including shiraz, cabernet sauvignon, petit verdot, tempranillo, grenache and sangiovese.

His active involvement in the vineyards ensured healthy and prosperous yields and, in 2003, he opened the only cellar door in the Southern Flinders, Remarkable View Wines. He then instigated the Southern Flinders Geographic Wine Region, launched at the opening of his cellar door on October 26, 2003. As Peter Brady said in the *National Grape Growers* magazine: "Malcolm Orrock gives visitors to his cellar door the immediate impression that he doesn't believe in luck, but certainly makes his own."

Malcolm worked as publicity officer for the Southern Flinders Wine Grape Industry Council – and later, until his sudden death, was chairman.

Malcolm Orrock passionately promoted the Southern Flinders wine region as well as promoting tourism in the area.

Malcolm's life was certainly "full on" and anyone who tried to walk with him usually had to run. As a mark of respect to Malcolm and to honour his last wish, the Flinders Wine and Food Day on October 23 will go ahead as planned at Remarkable View, Murray Town.