

# A life of community service

## Malcolm (Glen) McLaren

Farmer, Lions Club branch founder,  
rural visionary

**Born:** March 20, 1931; Lobethal

**Died:** April 19, 2007; Kingston

**M**ALCOLM Glen McLaren was a fighter who overcame setbacks in his early years to become a respected leader of his community.

His family owned a 70ha apple orchard and he had two elder brothers, Ian and Verne. His mother, Maude, died when Glen was aged four. His father married Amy when Glen was 10, and they had a daughter, Margaret.

Later, tragedy struck again when Glen's eldest brother Ian died in a fire.

Glen started school at Forrest School in Lenswood and later attended Adelaide High School. At age 14, Glen's family sold the Lenswood orchard and bought 17,000ha of largely undeveloped land at Kingston.

After leaving school, he joined his family at Moreview Station, Kingston but contracted polio and spent months in Northfield hospital. On leaving hospital, Glen was burdened with leg irons and an atrophied left leg. He worried endlessly about how this would affect his life on the farm. It steeled his resolve to not only cope with life, but to be the very best he could.

In 1957, he married Marj Collins. They had four children - Fay, Craig, Brett and Melissa.

Glen became involved in community affairs, joining the Lacepede District Council



in 1964. At the age of 33, he became the youngest person to join the council. He stayed on the council for 16 years, serving six as deputy chairman and five as chairman.

Glen and his mate Kevin Starling, chartered the formation of the Kingston Lions Club in 1963. Glen became the club's president in 1966 and zone chairman in 1987/88.

He was pivotal in establishing a number of community services including the Lions Pioneer Park, Kingston Retirement Village

and the Junior Fishing Competition. He was also actively involved in the School Scholarship Youth Exchange, Debutant Ball and Kesab Roadwatch Program.

Perhaps Glen's most rewarding community involvement was the planning and building of the Kingston Community School, from 1978 to 1985.

During his time as chairman of the Kingston Tidy Towns Committee, the town won the Best Medium-sized Town in South Australia in consecutive years. Kingston was judged overall winner in SA in 2007.

Other groups Glen was involved with included the Coal Mining Watchdog Committee, Lacepede Fire Fighting Association, St Johns Ambulance Board, Uniting Church Council and the Farmers and Stockowners Association. Awards Glen received included, the Australia Day Citizen Award, the Melvin Jones Fellow Award from Lions International, a certificate of appreciation from the Local Government Association and life membership of Lions.

Glen was passionate about the Adelaide Crows, Norwood Redlegs and Kingston football clubs and was a committed bowls player. His other recreational passion was fishing.

Glen was dedicated to his family and extended family and is survived by his wife of 50 years, Marj, children Fay, Craig, Brett and Melissa and their partners, and grandchildren Megan, Nick, Angus, Madeline, Lachlan, Natasha, William, Lucy and Oliver.

**Craig McLaren**