

Bruce had pear and the passion

BRUCE WATTS LOCKIER

Apple and Pear Growers' Association of SA general manager

Born: June 24, 1928, Maylands

Died: March 15, 2020, Magill

BRUCE Lockier lived his 91 years at the same Magill property.

He was the fourth child and only son of Anne and John Watts Lockier. As a lad during World War II, Bruce joined the Air Raid Precautions, cycling the neighbourhood checking lights were out and blinds shut.

He also scavenged for materials to help the war effort and was a St John Ambulance volunteer.

At 15, Bruce began full-time work, serving for 22 years at the Government Printing Office as a proofreader and com-



positor. In 1953, he married Dulcie Butcher. They had two sons, John and Steven.

Bruce then became involved in the apple and pear industry, where he stayed until retirement 28 years later.

In 1977, the Apple and Pear Growers Association of SA was

established, with Bruce as founding manager.

He was instrumental in the creation of the returnable plastic produce crate organisation SA Crate, which he also managed. This was necessary as wooden crates were becoming too expensive.

Bruce helped the produce market move from the East End to new warehouses built by the association at Cavan. He also worked in establishing a juice-concentrate industry and chaired the SA Apple and Pear Shippers Association.

Promotion of the local industry was a real focus for Bruce, and he represented the association at many national and international conferences. He developed an excellent relationship with the media and

sought publicity whenever he could. Such occasions included Apple and Pear Week, running apple-peeling competitions, promoting the world's biggest apple pie bake-off at the Lenswood Harvest Festival and creating displays at the Royal Adelaide Show.

Never missing an opportunity, Bruce saw a chance to claim the record for world's biggest pear in the Guinness Book of Records. This "pound pear", grown in Forest Range, weighed more than 1.7kg and caused quite a stir in the media in the early '70s.

Bruce delivered entertaining speeches often peppered with humour. He promoted apples and pears with a passion and worked tirelessly for SA orchardists. His association

with the Show began in 1965 and he became a committee member, councillor and then chairman of the Horticultural Committee. In retirement, he joined the executive committee of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of SA, where he was honorary treasurer. Bruce did not miss a Show for decades.

After Dulcie died, he married Joan Ramsey in 1992. They enjoyed going to events and entertaining rural guests. Bruce judged various show entries and was well known for his friendly, hospitable nature.

He published his memoir *From Vineyards to Apple Trees* in 2008. Bruce is survived by Joan, John, Steven, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.