

Passionate horseman

Keith William "Chum" Bradock

Horse breeder, dog breeder,
community identity

Born: April 15, 1921; Gladstone

Died: February 9, 2007; Clare

DROVER, horseman and poultry fancier Keith William "Chum" Bradock was one of the Mid North's iconic figures, well known in his community but equally well known throughout Australia, having developed a vast network of friends and acquaintances.

Chum (who disliked being called anything else) was born and raised in Gladstone where his family owned a wood yard. He left home at 14 to seek a more exciting life.

At 15, he became a state junior cyclist and then joined the Light Horse to go to war when he was almost 18. It was on one of his cycling trips while on leave that he met the love of his life, marrying Bernice Thomas on Anzac Day in 1942.

They had three children, Bernie, Jane and Kathryn, and during the early years of their marriage were both very involved in breeding and showing english setters, cocker spaniels and horses, their Bradbern Kennels achieving respect throughout Australia for the quality of show dogs produced.



There was never a dull moment in Chum's life, whether he was breaking in a horse, planting a vegie garden or sorting out the pigs ready for market.

The Bradock home was always open to everyone, and people from far and wide always filled it.

Chum's love for open spaces took him into the bush with his droving team as a young man and he loved the Flinders Ranges, but his other love was the sea, frequenting Pondalowie Bay at the bottom of Yorke Peninsula. His ashes will be scattered at Pondalowie.

Always ready for a prank or a dare, some of Chum's escapades have become legendary, and he had a knack for speaking his mind.

He was a passionate sportsman and supporter, played footy, raced bikes and was involved in every facet of the horse world from the rodeo arena to the showjumping ring.

He coursed whippets at Mintaro, raced greyhounds, was an amateur boxer and colt breaker, trained and raced his racehorses and trotters, and in later life became a successful poultry fancier, breeding, showing and judging poultry, pigeons and homing pigeons. Chum was a nationally accredited judge for the Waterfowl Association.

He was a life member of the Clare Hunt Club, Waterfowl Association, Clare Poultry Club as well as many other community associations.

Generous to a fault, Chum was always willing to help others in any way he could. When Black Tuesday bushfires swept through Eyre Peninsula two years ago, he sent hay and fencing wire.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Bernice, son Bernie and daughters Jane and Kate and their families.