

Born leader and icon of agriculture

Ronald John Lienert OAM JP

Sportsman, livestock breeder, manufacturer, pork industry leader

Born: June 13, 1938; Gawler

Died: January 11, 2010; Gawler

RON Lienert was a man of great passion, a supreme optimist, a far-sighted visionary, a risk-taker, a patient mentor, a born leader who was single-minded in pursuit of an objective and possessed an indomitable spirit.

Born the third son of Edgar and Linda Lienert, agriculturalists of Sheaoak Log, he received his education at the Sheaoak Log Primary School and Immanuel College North Walkerville.

Ron excelled at sport and at Immanuel played A-grade football, cricket and tennis and was prominent in the athletics team, winning two championship trophies.

Ron returned to the family property and became part of agricultural company E.A. Lienert and Sons, founded by his father in 1951. Ron began his lifelong interest in commercial pork production.

Ron continued his love of sport and became a member of Freeling A-grade football, playing in the 1956 and 1962 winning grand finals. In 1965, he became captain coach.

He was awarded life membership and was appointed patron of the club.

In 1960, Ron formed a partnership with his brother, John, and established a pedigreed large white pig herd under the prefix Oak Lynne.

In 1964, Ron selected the large white boar Meadowvale Field Marshal 2nd from the herd of A. O'Sullivan, Taranaki, New Zealand.

The outstanding sire had a profound and lasting impact on pig herds throughout Australia in growth rate and meat qualities.

Oak Lynne exhibited successfully at Adel-

aide, Melbourne and Sydney Royal Shows winning 64 championships and most successful exhibitor 18 times.

In 1965, Ron married Christine Jane Ring, of Adelaide. They had two sons.

In 1970, Ron and John began manufacturing livestock vitamin and mineral premixes on the property and, in 1979, moved to purpose-built premises at Roseworthy. In 1990, a company was formed trading as Lienert Australia Pty Ltd, with Ron as inaugural chairman and managing director.

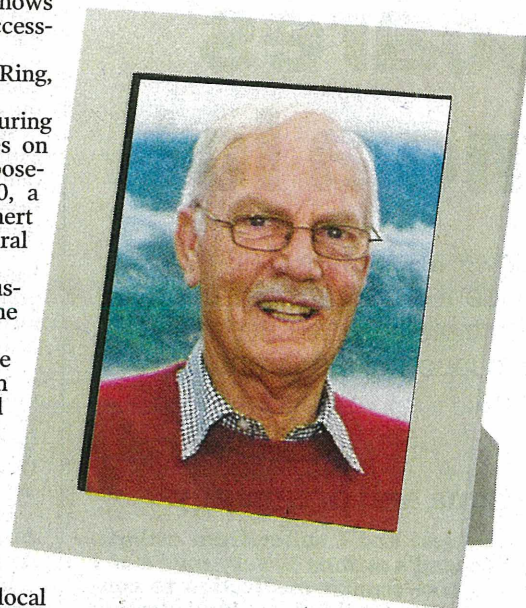
The company sells product to all Australian states, New Zealand, Fiji and the Philippines.

By mutual agreement, the Oak Lynne Herd was divided in 1972 and each brother formed a new entity. Ron and Christine founded the Royal Oak Herd and were extremely successful. They sold the outstanding boar Field Marshal 4018 in 1978 for an Australasian record price of \$3200.

Ron presided as judge at Royal Shows throughout Australia. He was director of livestock companies, served local community organisations and was Justice of the Peace.

Ron began his odyssey into pig industry politics by joining the United Farmers and Graziers in 1968. He became a member of its state executive and was elected chairman in 1979. During this period Ron joined a group to develop a standardised system of carcass classification, something which is taken for granted today. This took years to gain a consensus, the first sale being held in October 1979.

In 1982, Ron became the inaugural chairman of the Australian Commercial Pork Producers Federation. In 1986, he joined the Pig Research Council and was also a producer Government appointee to the promotional wing of the industry, The Australian Pork Corporation.



Ron was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 1989 in recognition of his meritorious contribution to the Australian Pork Industry.

In 1990, Ron was instrumental in forming a consortium of breeders to buy the Sheaoak Piggery under a joint venture scheme and was appointed its first chairman.

In 1997, Ron became chairman of the Pig and Poultry Production Institute at the Roseworthy Campus. He was awarded life membership of the South Australian Farmers Federation in 2001; the only pig producer to receive that honour.

Ron is survived by his wife, Christine, sons Nicholas and Adam and two grandsons.

John Lienert, Peter Brechin

READER CONTRIBUTIONS: Readers are invited to contribute obituaries. These should include dates of birth and death, and a photograph. Contributions must also include the author's telephone contact details. **SEND TO:** Stuart Innes, Obituaries, The Advertiser, GPO Box 339, Adelaide 5001. PHONE (08) 8206 2288 FAX (08) 8206 3661 E-MAIL obituaries@theadvertiser.com.au