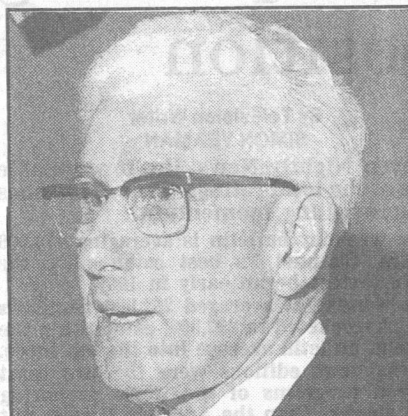


Died 18 July 1993

OBITUARY



*Sir Allan Callaghan: dragged SA's agriculture into the 20th century.*

## Agricultural dynamo and fine diplomat

The former chairman of the Australian Wheat Board, Sir Allan Callaghan, died on Sunday.

He was 89.

Described as agriculture's dynamo of influence, Sir Allan was principal of Roseworthy Agricultural College, Adelaide, from 1932 to 1949.

He steered it through one of its most difficult times, following a student strike in late 1931 which led to a Royal Commission into the college.

Sir Allan was educated at Bathurst High School, Sydney, and Sydney University, where he was a champion athlete.

After gaining an agricultural science degree, he won a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University.

On returning to Australia he was made principal of Roseworthy at the age of 27, an appointment which surprised many in agricultural and educational circles.

Sir Allan is described as one of two great SA public servants to drag the State's agriculture "kicking and screaming" into the 20th century.

### Chinese coup

After leaving Roseworthy he was appointed director of agriculture in SA, a position he held for 10 years.

Following the death of his youngest son, he and his first wife Zillah moved to Washington in 1950, where he became Australia's first commercial counsellor at the Australian Embassy.

Zillah Callaghan died five years later, and Sir Allan accepted the chairmanship of the Australian Wheat Board.

There he forged commercial wheat deals with China, despite Australia not officially recognising the Chinese Government, and also managed to sell an average of eight million tonnes of wheat a year to more than 50 countries.

Sir Allan, who leaves a widow, Doreen, and three children, was knighted in 1972 for services to agriculture.

A service will be held at St Michael's Anglican Church, Mitcham, on Saturday.