

# Beacon for orchardists

## William Neville (Bill) Bishop

**B**ILL Bishop was born into the prosperous Adelaide Hills orchardist family, a fourth generation cherry grower. He was first called Will B or Wilbur because his father was also Bill.

He attended the University of Adelaide but soon opted for a life on the family's 100ha mixed orchard and grazing property.

He had met Janet Cowling on the

daily bus trip from Basket Range to Norwood High, and the two married in 1956.

After contemplating a life in politics with the Liberals, Bill focused on becoming a successful cherry grower and promoting the cherry industry and caring for the interests of Adelaide Hills farmers and orchardists.

He became a member of Cherry Growers SA in 1962, and was chairman for five years in the 1980s. He also became president of the national Cherry Growers Australia from 1980 to 1982.

He was on many industry bodies, and represented horticulture on the Primary Industries State Planning Authority advisory committee. At the time, from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s, he was on 16 major industry committees and wrote many industry position papers for State and Commonwealth

governments. He also initiated and led the cherry breeding program for 15 years.

Until 1997 all of his industry work was voluntary, and barely covered his out-of-pocket expenses. But that year, at the age of 63, Bill left his brother Doug to run the property, retired from farming and took up a full-time position running the South Australian Farmers Federation Market Services Pty Ltd.

He finally retired in 2004, aged 70, after having spent his later years as the price reporter at the Adelaide Produce Markets.

Bill was also an active member of the local Basket Range and Hills community - he chaired the Basket Range School Council for six years, was a trustee of the Memorial Hall, CFS member, and judge at the Uraidla and Summertown Show.

In addition, he also served as a JP for 42 years.



## Milestones

### William Neville (Bill) Bishop

**Born:** June 4, 1934; Adelaide.

**Died:** October 24, 2012; Adelaide.

**Education:** Basket Range Primary, Norwood High, University of Adelaide.

**Achievements:** Cherry industry leader.

**Family:** He is survived by Janet, children Sandra and Bruce, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.