

Obituary - Graham Cedric Hein (as read at his funeral service 16/01/2018)

Graham was the eldest child of Laurence and Eileen Hein, born on February 18th, 1941 at Murray Bridge. He attended the Pallamanna Primary School until it closed, and then became a student of Murray Bridge Primary.

Several years later, his parents took up a share-farming position at Lower Light. Graham then attended the Lower Light school. On one occasion, Graham and another student named Brian got into an altercation. When Brian didn't come to school next day, he panicked, thinking that he had seriously hurt him; he later found out that he was just home sick - much to Graham's relief.

When he was in Grade 6, his father became ill with the mumps, so Graham had to stay home from school and help around the farm, including driving the tractor, which was an old Field Marshall, notoriously difficult to start with cartridges or a crank handle.

Upon completing primary school, he attended Concordia College as a boarder, for three years. It was here that he was taught the art of smoking cigarettes, which was one of his vices, the other being black coffee with four sugars. He then went back to Lower Light, however the farm was not profitable enough to sustain an income for three, so when he was 19, his father suggested that he apply for a job with Alf Hannaford & Co seed cleaning. He did so, and was posted to the west coast of South Australia. He was in this role for two years - only the best and most reliable operators were sent there because there was minimal supervision.

In 1958, Graham purchased his first vehicle - a Vanguard ute. About this time he also learned to shear and entered a novice Shearing Competition at Strathalbyn Show, and won; after that he had to enter Open Competitions. Graham sheared mostly locally, but did travel as far away as the Mallee to work. Some years later Graham became a Shearing Judge - he judged at many country shows around South Australia. In 1978, as a renowned State Judge, he was asked to judge the prestigious Golden Shears Competition held in Euroa - the competition was between Australia and New Zealand - on this occasion Australia won.

On February 15th 1964 Graham married Rosslyn Weaver at the Zion Lutheran Church, Gawler. They had two children - Richard, born 1968, and Paula, born 1969. This year they were to celebrate 54 years of marriage.

Graham's faith was important to him, and both he and Rosslyn have been longstanding members of the Gawler Lutheran Church, rarely missing a Sunday service. Graham's sense of community was again evident with his involvement as Treasurer for a number of years, and his willingness and ability to help wherever and whenever he could.

In November 1966 Graham returned to Hannaford & Co at the Woodville Depot. During harvest he supervised cleaners throughout the State, but mainly on the west coast, and was only able to return home once a fortnight. Graham worked with Hannafords until 1975.

Graham loved playing tennis, and was President of the Lawn Tennis Association in the 1970's.

In April 1975 Graham commenced work with Roseworthy College in the Pure Seed Department in charge of the 'Seed Wheat Multiplication'; a position he held until 1985 when government funding ceased.

While employed at Roseworthy College, he also instructed students in shearing. At times, when the Field Marshall Tractor wouldn't start, he was called on to get it going - Graham was a genuine handyman.

When the Jaycees started in Gawler, Graham became the inaugural President. The Jaycees were an organisation that is similar to Rotary and the Lions clubs.

From 1980 to 1984, Graham was an elected member of the Gawler Council.

In 1986, Graham worked for saddler Tony Pavlovich, who had developed a wearable 'shearing back support'. He scored a trip to Auckland, New Zealand, at the Mystery Creek Field Day, to demonstrate its use.

From 1990 to 2005 Graham returned to the industry he knew best and managed the seed cleaning business for David and Judith Verner at Korunye - a position he held until he retired.

Graham's passion for broad acre farming led him to become a crop judge. He judged crops for the Wasleys, Rosedale and Freeling Bureau Crop Competition, and also in the Murray Plains for many years.

Graham was also a committee member of the Gawler Show Society for many years, and judged entries in the grain competition on Show Day. When he retired in 2005, he joined the Roseworthy Machinery Restorers Club, located on the Roseworthy College Campus. He later became the President, a position he held until he was recently diagnosed with cancer.

In 2008, Graham was nominated for the 'Service to Primary Production Award' for his dedication and expertise in seed multiplication and seed processing. He was extremely honoured that David Verner thought highly enough of his work to nominate him.

In 2015 Graham became Vice President of the National Historical Machinery Association; that same year he was also President of the Gawler Probus Club. Other interests were country music, and both Rosslyn and Graham loved dancing. He and Rosslyn purchased a caravan which was put to good use with many trips around the State, often to the seaside. Graham was also a great vegetable gardener, always growing far more than could be consumed by him and Rosslyn - he got great pleasure from giving the fruits of his labour to friends and family.

Graham had a great love of animals, bringing home several strays or abandoned cats and dogs. Of notoriety is Tom, who is the biggest cat you have ever seen partly due to Graham's overfeeding. Tom was able to visit Graham in hospital, which we hope brought him some comfort.

In February 2016 Rosslyn badly broke her leg while changing a light bulb late one night. This put her out of action for some 18 months. During this time Graham was the quintessential supporting husband, attending to all domestic duties, including shopping and housework, which he was not fond of - but he did his best. In 2017 Graham was elected President of the Rosenthal Pioneer Lutheran Cemetery Trust at Rosedale.

Graham loved tinkering and was gifted at making and fixing pretty much anything - he was extremely innovative. On one occasion, while working for Hannafords, he had a flat tyre on the car, miles from anywhere - the company only allowed one spare, which had already been used. Graham used washers with a nut and bolt to mend the tube; he pumped it up and drove slowly to the nearest town.

Graham will be sadly missed by his wife Rosslyn, children Richard and Paula; Richard's fiancée Natalie and the four grandchildren Xenon, Zoe, Oliver and Flynn.