

EULOGY

Fulfilling life of Donald Desmond Koch

Read by Bronte Manuel

Born 01 March 1928 to Arthur Norman and Linda Maria Koch, Donald Desmond is the elder brother to two sisters Beryl Paige (dec'd) Glenise Doecke and brother to Caudis Koch. Don was baptised and confirmed in the Lutheran faith which he continued practising his faith at St Martins Bugle Church and in the latter at St Peters Lutheran Church in Loxton.

Don attended Taldra Primary School where he travelled three miles by horse and cart, delivering cans of cream to the railway station before school and after school collecting the mail and sundries from the local general store at Taldra. However, school attendance was interrupted in the latter part because of World War 2. Man labour was unavailable and Don was required to help with the farming duties and in particular the harvest.

At the young age of 14, Don's father passed away, leaving the farm responsibility to Don. This

was a huge task not only being so young, but the war had affected labour shortage, essential farming items were unavailable, and coupons being required for many commodities. All this coupled with three successive droughts did not make an encouraging start to a farming career at such young age.

However, with determination and persistence, the hard work slowly and eventually the efforts were rewarded and so Don were considered to be successful and competent farm operator. His speciality was wheat growing and cattle grazer and willingly shared his experiences and knowledge with others, often giving advice when requested.

Don was passionate and loved his land including Gods amazing nature that complimented the farming career. The beauty and colour of the birds, transformation of trees through wet and dry periods and in particular loved the flowering wattles in season, bringing home flowering branches to place in the home. He admired the different species of lizards and goannas but "feared and loathed snakes"

A keen Sportsman, Don played football for Renmark in early post war years and later captained and coached Taplan Football Club. Interests of hunting wild game and was a keen marksman with both the Gun and Rifle Clubs. Tennis he also played, until lawn bowls got in the blood which he thoroughly enjoyed playing and being involved with. Being a very talented sportsman, Don played mainly for the enjoyment, socialising, and competition without that must win at all cost attitude.

With the wealth of farming knowledge, Don was closely associated with Wheat Breeders of South Australia via Roseworthy and Urrbrae Agriculture Colleges and for many years accommodated experimental trial plots. Despite limited and shortened primary 'only' school education he was always targeted for involvement and leadership within numerous community organisations and functions being:

- Area Secretary of Australian Primary Producers Union which later amalgamated with South Australia Farmers Federation.

- Member of the inaugural Riverland Board of Technical and Further Education (TAFE)
- Vice Chairman of Loxton Lutheran Parish Council for eight years
- Elder and Chairman of St Martins Bugle Lutheran Church Congregation
- Office Bearer for Taldra Institute Committee
- Office Bearer for Paringa Agriculture Bureau
- Office Bearer for Taldra Tennis Club
- President of Loxton North Football Club (the year of the Clubs 1979 Grand final)
- Committee member for the Loxton Bowling Club

It was through football and the dances that Don met his future life partner and friend Delphine Viney at a Taplan Dance and after a three year courtship were married and blessed with their pride and joy of four children, Heather, Grenfell, Tammie and Rashliegh. Don took great interest in all what the children did whether it be sport, music, or their chosen careers.

Don's love for music gave him a great listening ear, especially when the electric organ required tuning and setting up. Also, when playing our instruments, we were certainly reminded if 'we were out of beat'.

Don was always a popular figure amongst his peers of neighbours, friends and general public with a pleasant disposition and a great sense of humour.

The family relied on their Dads continual 'quiet' guidance and respecting his opinion and advice with admiration.

Don will be remembered by devoting wife Delphine, together with their siblings and families;

Heather & Trevor, Donna, Michael, Della & Spencer, Bronte, Genevieve & Loxton, Kelly, Shane & Ashleigh

Grenfell & Slavka, Steven & Lauren, Jesse, Emily & Isabelle, Marcus & Courtney

Tammie or known to Dad as 'Maggie'

Rashliegh & Tricia, Emma, Pat, Ashton, Jarah & Sunny, Joel, Lauren, Van, Florence, Imalia & Zane, Abby, Brodie & Ruby.

*Miss Me A Little - But Not Too Long
And Not With Your Head Bowed Low
Remember The Love That
We Once Shared
Miss Me - But Let Me Go*

To Know Don Was To Love Him

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

