

# Obituary – The Celebration Of A Life.

Written by the family of John Williams

**John Williams** 11/11/1927 to 8/6//2007

John Williams was born at Taillem Bend on the 11th of November, 1927 and passed away at Meningie on the 8th June, 2007.

He was one of five children by parents Rock and Muriel Williams. He was raised on Naldene, the family farm in South Australia. He completed his formal education at a relatively early age. Due to the war, his brother Graham, was called up for duty so Dad was needed at home on the farm, cutting short his ambitions to become a journalist. However, John was a prodigious reader and he educated himself beyond his formal school leaving by reading everything he could lay his hands on.

He was a man with a great sense of community and was involved and indeed instrumental in seeing some ambitious community projects come to fruition over the years. One such project being the building of the Meningie Hospital.

Dad had many interests in life and particularly loved his thoroughbred horses. His memory for pedigrees was nothing short of amazing. To the families knowledge, he never placed a bet but his grandsons have benefitted from Grandpas knowledge by recently backing a Melbourne Cup winner.

Dad was also a keen but practical environmentalist and supporter of the landcare concept. When others in the district were still clearing land and knocking down trees, he had already implemented a strategic tree planting program on Bosgowan.

To his delight the tree planting program saw the return of birds that he had not seen since a boy when the scrub was first cleared. In fact when his eyesight was failing he could still identify birds from their call and our description.

In his younger years Dad was a keen footballer, and would proudly show you his gold best and fairest medal. He could only play after he had got up at four am and milked the cows and then traveled to the game by hitching a ride on the back of a local transport truck!

As a father Dad was very supportive and actively involved in our education and the local football club. Serving long stints on committees and various councils over the years.

In more recent years he supported the Meningie Historical Society and Progress Association.

Dad was a dairy farmer and renowned cattle breeder, initially by circumstance, but for the balance of his life, by choice.

Dad and his brother Graham together ran the Naldene Australian Illawarra Shorthorn Stud, before he founded Bosgowan Australian Red Dairy Breed where for the last 25 years he operated in partnership with Mum, Monica and John.

He bred and showed Australian Illawarra Shorthorns (AIS) for nearly forty years at the Royal Adelaide Show. He was the first AIS breeder to be awarded "All Breeds Champion Cow" at the Adelaide Royal Show. He was a member of the AIS Federal Council and was also on the Royal panel of judges, officiating at Royal Shows in all of the Eastern States plus major regional shows. It was acknowledged that the Naldene AIS herd was one of the best in Australia for type and production at that time.

With all those achievements you might think that he'd be satisfied, but Dad was a visionary, and continually sought improvement to his business and his herd. He foresaw the problems of a limited gene pool within the AIS cattle and sought to introduce genetics from red dairy cattle populations with similar genetic histories. His vision was of an efficient red dairy cow with a global gene pool. Fellow AIS breeders Bill and Ena Thompson had similar concerns and together with Dad and Josephine they travelled to Northern Europe, the UK and USA on study tours. This opened a new chapter in their lives, and they formed firm friendships and business relationships which have continued to this day.

With the infusion of Scandinavian genetics the Bosgowan herd was developed from the original Illawarras. Today Bosgowan has a national and international profile. It gave Dad enormous satisfaction to have bred two of the top five Australian proven bulls in 2006/2007.

In fact, Dad was working actively on the farm up to the day he was hospitalized at Easter. His eyesight was failing but that did not prevent him doing the cattle work that he could still do well on his Honda four wheeler, with his favorite dog on the fuel tank. No story of Dad would be complete without mentioning dogs. He loved his dogs, not one of them was trained in the conventional sense, they were pets, everyone. When eventually each departed, he said "I am not going to have another one; I have shed too many tears over dogs" And the next week a new pup would be installed.

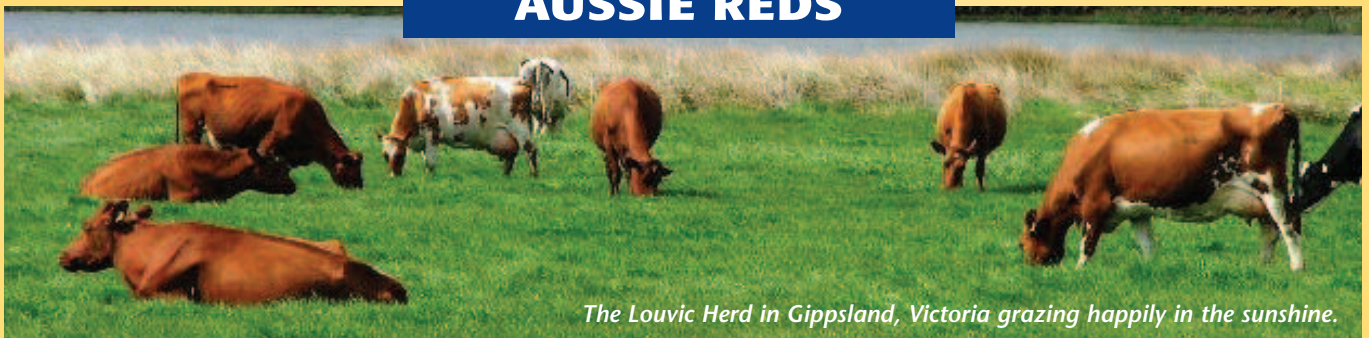
There were three things that Dad held most important in his life: Mum, his lifetime companion who was also his rock. Secondly, his grandchildren, all ten loved equally and thirdly, Dad treasured his children and our partners.

We remember with fondness the kitchen discussions at Bosgowan; trying to get a word in with Mary, Graham and Dad in full flight.

While Dad is no longer here, we know his stories will live on through his children and our children.

Farewell Dad. Thank you for all you've given us, your friends and your family. ♦

## LOUVIC AUSSIE REDS



*The Louvic Herd in Gippsland, Victoria grazing happily in the sunshine.*

**HERE AT LOUVIC, WE ARE HAPPY TO SAY THAT WE ARE EXPERIENCING A REASONABLE SEASON WITH THE HERD DOING WELL TO DATE: In 123 days: 3,328ltrs Milk, 3.3% Protein, 111kg Protein, 4.42% Fat, 141 kg Fat.**

**Visitors & Enquiries Welcome**

**GEORGE, JOY AND ADAM WALTHAM**

**RIFLE RANGE RD. GLENGARRY VIC. 3854 PHONE/FAX: (03) 5192 4219**