

DON THOMSON — TRIBUTE

Statement by Member for Roe

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [12.54 pm]: Many people who did not know Don personally would know him by the state of his compost tumbler and his daily report on the weather from his beloved Braeside at Tincurrin on the ABC's morning radio broadcast with Owen Grieve. Don was a man of conviction. His love of his family, his farm and his sport were renowned in the community and much further afield. Everyone who knew Don knew that their opinion on anything counted for something. He listened, analysed, and never judged.

Don's education and experience in agriculture was reflected in his roles on committees in the Department of Agriculture and Food; the 35 years he spent on the advisory committee of the Western Australian College of Agriculture Narrogin; his long-term membership of the Western Australian Farmers Federation; and his membership on the board of the RSPCA, which he constantly reminded of the importance of farmers and producers. In 1997, Don and his wife, Bobbie, won the national wheat cropping awards.

Don's sporting achievements were many. He was more interested in people being part of a club and feeling part of a community than in any wins he achieved, but his talent and tenacity in competition is well known. Don was recently admitted to the WA Tennis Country Week Hall of Fame with "Legend" status, after playing for 47 years.

His daughter, Gerri; sons Roger and Stuart; and grandchildren Amiee, Hadyn, Ricky, Kiera, Xavier and Spencer, who are with us today, carry on Don's remarkable attitude to life. Don's pride for his family was always on show, and we also welcome Malcolm and Christine. Don was a fantastic man. His commandment was: "Don't be afraid to listen and seek advice from others. Even the biggest fool has something to offer."

Vale, Don Thomson.