



► DONALD BOYLE

A formal education gave way to learning by life's experience for Broomehill farmer and shearer, Don Boyle.

When Don, in his early teens, had to take over milking the cows by hand after his father became ill this young man never went back to school, preferring instead to make his own way – and mark – on the world.

And with a goal and a focus on owning and running his own farm sooner rather than later Don, at 15 years old, left home to take up shearing as a means of earning a good living.

Having bought his first bush block in Mt Barker on which he cleared, built a home and sheds to accommodate livestock, Don went on to newer pastures buying the family farm.

Now in his sixth decade Don considers himself to be one very successful farmer who has no intention of taking it easy any time soon – according to Don his incapacity to sit still for any length of time has stood him in good stead!

With farming in his blood and shearing his forte Don has racked up more awards and accolades for his shearing expertise than you can poke a stick at!

His skills as a shearer saw him compete at an international level and he represented WA at the World Shears competition held in England.

His reputation and know-how led to a lengthy stint as chairman of the Australian National Shearers' Association (ANSA) as well as national chairman for three, a shearing shed assessor for the WA Shearing Industry Association and the formation of his own business – Western Australian Shearing Industry Training Association in the early 90s until a few years ago. In 2004 Don walked away with the

State Training Medal for Shearer and Shedhand Training and previous to this – he claimed the prestigious Rural Community Achiever award in 2001.

Indeed, Don's proficiency within the world of shearing can perhaps be attributed to Damian and Brendon following in their father's footsteps – both accomplished shearers who have consistently laid their own claim to shearing success.

This man, who is a self-confessed fidget – unable to sit still for any period of time – took full advantage of being a member of the RAS Shearing Committee for 19 years incorporating the successful national sheep shearing and Tri-nations shearing competitions as well as wool parades held at previous Royal shows. He has also been involved with the Livestock in the Round exhibit as well as the ever popular Animal Nursery. He is still involved with the shearing competitions at the Shows.

Appointed to the RAS Council in March 2008 Don believes his expertise in farming is an invaluable asset particularly when it comes to city dwellers learning the importance of every aspect of agriculture at the Royal Shows.

"Farming is my passion, my work and it is my hobby," says Don.

Now in his sixth decade Don considers farming to be his passion, his work and his hobby and he has no intention of taking it easy any time soon!