



Melvyn (Mel) Bernard

GILMOUR

1942-2022

Mel passed away in the family home in Paracombe on Sunday 12th of June, 2022. His wife Gloria cared for him, with the help of his daughter Jaye and husband, son Rohan and wife and three grandchildren.

Mel was very generous and caring to all. There was always a card on your birthday, a phone call to say hello, a bag of pears left on the front doorstep, or a coffee to be shared. There would be words of wisdom written on the card to make you feel special as Mel liked to encourage all, young and old.

I learnt a lot about pear growing on the way into the city to play with Mel in the Tennis Seniors Mixed Doubles competition. Often on the way I would ask Mel if he had work to do when he got home. So sometimes after three sets of night tennis and a 45 minute drive home, Mel would go to work irrigating their pear orchard or packing the 3 am produce market. Mel was a tireless worker.



Mel played tennis for the Golden Grove Tennis Club before joining Tennis Seniors. He was a Division 1 player and then moved into the Mixed Double Competition. In the early days, between sets, Mel's teammates often lost him. Only to find him dozing in his little mini: I guess early morning markets did sometimes catch up with him.

According to Mel's family, Mel was passionate about the four F's (Faith, Fruit, Family, Friends) and the four T's (Teaching, Training, Teamwork, Tractors). Faith was everything to Mel. He was once a Sunday School teacher in Paracombe and an Elder of the church before he and Gloria moved to the Vineyard Church at Gilles Plains and later the Southland Church in Pasadena. Every Sunday Mel and Gloria would go to church of course taking a box of pears with them to share.

Saturday was a day of sport for Mel. He played SANFL for Norwood and North Adelaide, and when he retired from playing, he coached the local football team. Mel played tennis for Paracombe and won many State titles in the singles and doubles with his father. Mel also played cricket and golf to relax. He was a member of the Tea Tree Gully and Houghton Golf Clubs.

After leaving Adelaide Boy's High School as Head Prefect, Mel went to Adelaide University and Adelaide Teacher's College to study an Associate Diploma of Physical Education. Once teaching, Mel's wage went back into the family farm. It must have been very difficult teaching all day and farming after hours.

Mel retired from teaching in 1993 and became a full-time orchardist. Gilmour's Orchard has grown from a dairy, poultry and mixed fruit and vegetable farm into the well-known pear orchard it is today.

In 2009, Mel had a major health setback and his family said that his fitness (and stubbornness!) gave him another 13 years of Faith, Fruit, Family and Friends.

Mel will be greatly missed by us all at Tennis Seniors, especially by his 'Sideliner' teammates.