

Keith Berryman (1929 – 2019)



Keith passed away on the 5th of April 2019, aged 89 years.

Born 21st of August 1929 in Blenheim, Keith attended Wellesley from 1944 - 1945, and Wellington College from 1946 - 1947 before returning to live on the family farm in Ward, Marlborough.

Keith was the loved husband of Margaret who he married in 1961. He was a proud father of one daughter and three sons, and grandfather to ten grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Keith was a keen horseman and huntsman and had the chance to become a jockey but stuck with farming. Keith was first and foremost an excellent stockman and ran three studs - Border Leicester's, Suffolk's and Dorset Downs, becoming both judge and inspector for these breeds. A testament to his ability is the fact that he won the Walker and Hall Challenge Shield for obtaining the most points at a Royal Show on two occasions, once when farming in Marlborough and the again whilst living in Wanganui.

It was after attending a Royal Show in Hastings and returning to the South Island that Keith and Margaret, along with other breeders, threatened to graze their stock on Parliament grounds when denied access to the ferries. This made headline news and all because the vet had failed to turn up to inspect the stock prior to boarding the ferry. A necessity in those days which thankfully is now no longer required.

The Berrymans moved to a much larger property in the King Country in 1984 and they eventually retired to Wanganui in 1999. Keith was a keen gardener, always providing the family with masses of vegetables. He also had a love of fishing and enjoyed surf casting with the family along the Kaikoura coast.

His time at Wellesley meant a lot to him and he attended the Centenary celebrations in 2014. Such was his connection to his old school, Keith's family knew exactly what tie he wished to wear when he departed.