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OILSEEDS NEWS

CANOLA LEGEND CALLS IT A DAY



CANOLA PIONEER: Denis Ballinger.

A pioneer of the canola industry in Australia has farewelled colleagues, growers and other work associates as he embarked on a new future after working in agriculture for 37 years, following his retirement as Seed Manager with

NuSeed, based in Horsham.

Denis Ballinger's retirement function at the Horsham Golf Club last week was attended by around 60 people who spoke warmly of the invaluable contribution he had made to develop the industry since the early 1990s.

Denis spoke of his facilitation of 37 farming groups, known as Canolacheck, across Victoria in the early 1990s, which allowed the canola industry grow from minor importance to the valuable commodity it is today.

Rob Wilson, chairman of the Canola Association of Australia, sent a message to Denis on behalf of the canola industry.

“Denis has been involved in the canola industry for well over 20 years. One of his first (if not first) canola projects as a pathologist with the then Department of Agriculture Victoria was his work on blackleg control using ‘Impact in Furrow’ where he conducted trial work at Horsham and Struan with Phil Salisbury and Trent Potter.

“Denis originally was working as a wheat pathologist with the Department and moved onto canola in the early 1980s, where he authored or co-authored several papers and Agnotes on *Leptosphaeria maculans* - the fungus causing blackleg.

“In the early 1990s he was also a key person in the highly successful Canolacheck program. He continued working with the Victorian Department of Agriculture until late 1997 when he accepted a position with Dovuro as Production Agronomist based at Horsham, where he has been till now, although in recent times with NuSeed, since Nufarm purchased Dovuro.

“Denis has been an active member of the CAA for almost 25 years, as well as involvement with the Australian Oilseeds Federation (AOF). His willingness to be involved and keenness to pass on knowledge has Denis highly regarded by his peers.

“And his dry sense of humour allowed him the ability to avert the odd sensitive situation.

Mr Wilson said that Denis’ input and service to the canola industry has been outstanding, one that he should look back on with pride.

“You will certainly be missed within and by the industry, and I sincerely on behalf of the Canola Association wish you a happy, healthy and a long retirement with your family,” he said.
