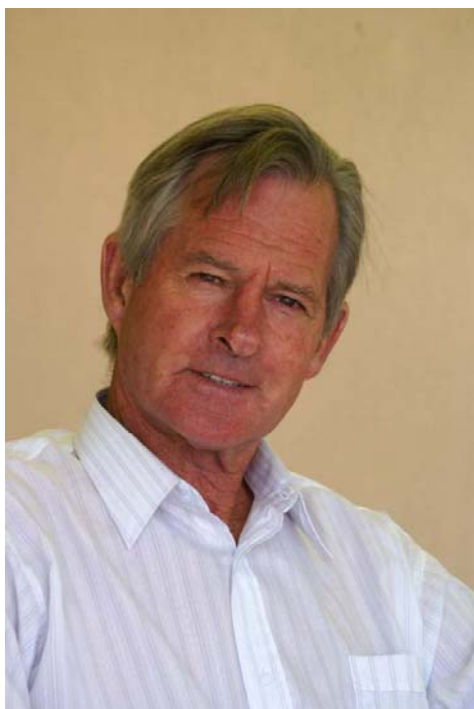


NEWS UPDATE

We Farewell Ross Lawson New Zealand Winemaker and Pioneer



Ross Lawson, founder of Lawson's Dry Hills Estate in Marlborough, New Zealand, died peacefully at home recently after a 15 month battle with lung cancer.

Ross, along with wife Barbara, was among the pioneers of the Marlborough region, renown for it's crisp style of Sauvignon Blanc. A tireless advocate of screw caps, he was also one of the instigators behind the revolutionary *New Zealand Screw cap Wine Seal Initiative*, which promoted the closure's wine improving qualities. Now more than 90% of New Zealand wineries have switched to using screw caps!

During his life Ross worked as a sheep musterer, sheep shearer, building contractor, swimming pool builder, union organizer as well as viticulturalist!

He was awarded New Zealand's Order of Merit for services to the community and the wine industry and was also involved in the *Family of Twelve*, a marketing alliance of prominent family-owned wineries in New Zealand.

These diverse skills allied with a never-ceasing quest for perfection helped him shape Lawson's Dry Hills into the successful New Zealand wine company it is today.

Ross passed away just four days before his 67th birthday.