



A passion for plants

local **hero**

By **Haley Sheridan**

TAMWORTH plant breeder Dr Ray Hare has been in the industry for more than 30 years.

The father of three boys has been one of the keys in the development of durum wheat, used for Australia's growing pasta industry.

The retired doctor is involved with the Tamworth and District Model Engineers group and participates in University of the Third Age courses.

He will soon bid farewell to the city, after taking on a position with the University of Sydney to teach in the area of plant breeding.

He told *Leader Xtra* he was looking forward to passing his knowledge and his passion on.

"I've recently been asked to join the University of Sydney as a teacher," he said.

"I find it an interesting career and would like to pass on my own experience to others.

"I have a lot of ideas and there are things I'd like to progress with the students.

"It's started already and we've already been down to Sydney to get organised."

Dr Hare was born in Sydney and studied at the University of Sydney. He was offered a job with the Department of Primary Indus-

FAST FACTS

Name: Dr Ray Hare

Date of birth: 6/10/1946

Interests: Biology, plant breeding, geology, astronomy, trains and family.

Favourite food: A variety, "my wife's a good cook"

tries and moved to Tamworth.

An on-the-job accident in 2001 left him with a prosthetic hand. He retired in August last year.

Dr Hare was also the recipient of two cochlear implants and has offered his support to others adjusting to their implants.

"I have two implants. It's (hearing) a lot better with two," he said.

"If you're insured it's not a particularly expensive exercise.

"I was profoundly deaf for the best part of 30 years.

"As people age, a number of them need hearing assistance. I belong to a group which is sponsored by the Cochlear Awareness Network, to help people with the tricks of the trade.

"I do a lot of advising through the internet and I feel very privileged to help people under those circumstances."



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Future in teaching: Tamworth plant breeder Dr Ray Hare has been involved in the industry for more than 30 years. Photo: **Simon Chamberlain** 210509SCB01