

Securing Rylington Park's future and Eric Farleigh's Vision

To the Boyup Brook Community

Since the gifting of Rylington Park to the Boyup Brook Shire in 1985 and the passing of my grandfather Eric Farleigh, the Farleigh family have followed the management and development of the property in its various iterations over the passing years and observed the wishes of Eric in maintaining his vision for agricultural research and education has continued.

Out of courtesy and respect, representatives of the Boyup Shire Council and/or the Rylington Park Management Committee have contacted the Farleigh family regarding changes that have occurred to the management of Rylington Park over the years. My opinion has been sort at various times and I have been invited to sit in on meetings or join via Teams in discussions pertaining to Rylington Park.

I have chosen not to become directly involved in any decision making as the property was gifted to the shire and local community of which I am no longer a part of.

At the start of 2026, The Boyup Brook Chief Executive officer contacted me to outline the changes planned for Rylington Park's future management. The reasoning and need for those changes was explained. Those details were kept in confidence until the Shire Councils decision was made public.

The Farleigh family continues to be informed and are grateful for the courtesy and consideration extended to us.

I am satisfied the new management model as explained to me and adopted by the Boyup Brook Shire Council will retain the original intent of the gift given by Eric Farleigh. The close collaboration with ECU, UWA and other organisations undertaking trials on a portion of the farm set aside for that purpose will continue.

I also acknowledge that all income generated through a lease will be placed into a community reserve and only used for community projects as per Eric Farleigh's wishes.

I recently had to the pleasure of meeting the Boyup Brook Chief Executive Officer, the Shire President and a number of other people at Rylington Park for an informal visit at my request.

I was pleased to see how well the house, gardens and buildings have been maintained and modernised.

I was given a tour of the house, my first since the passing of my grand father although I and other Farleigh members have visited the property on numerous occasions and noted the updated kitchen and bathrooms. The house has retained its former glory with a new colour bond roof added to replace the aging and weathered roof tiles. The house was built in 1930 and is nearing a hundred years old.

The gardens have been renovaded and some of the features are being restored which was pleasing to me.

While visiting the property I asked about the living arrangements for the house. I was informed the council had agreed for the CEO to live in the house on Rylington Park. In exchange the house in Boyup Brook owned by the Shire for a CEO was offered to nurses

who often work night shifts in the districts hospital to minimise travel distances and work fatigue. I was pleased to see the house on Rylington Park being occupied.

I am reassured Eric Farleigh's legacy and gifting of Rylington Park to the Boyup Brook Shire Council will continue his vision and benefit the local community into the fore-seeable future with the new management model as explained to me. I will follow and observe the developments as they progress.

On Behalf of the Farleigh family.
David Farleigh

Grandson of the late Eric Farleigh
July 2026.