

ROCA AWARD OF MERIT 1978 – Henry Day AO

Henry Day (RDA, 1942) joined the AMF following graduation, then RAAF, during which time he was awarded the DFM for distinguished conduct over enemy territory.

After the war, Henry commenced an outstanding career with the Department of Agriculture, initially as Manager of the Minnipa Seed Wheat Farm where he showed keen interest in research which had a direct practical application.

In 1958 Henry became Manager of Parndana Research Centre and in 1966 was appointed Manager of Turretfield Research Centre. In 1974 Henry was appointed Team Leader of the first group from the South Australian Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to go to Libya. This team commenced the development of the Australian Demonstration Farm at El Marj and advised the Jabel El Akhdar Development Authority on southern Australian farming methods. His managership of the three research centres and subsequently his leadership of the first South Australian team to work overseas, demonstrated his ability to adapt to a wide range of agricultural and cultural conditions.

On his return to South Australia, Henry was appointed Acting Superintendent of Research Centres and then Senior Agronomist with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

In 1976 Henry Day received the Order of Australia for his outstanding services to agriculture, including the introduction of medics to South Australian farming systems, which produced a remarkable increase in cereal yields and livestock production.

