

## ROCA AWARD OF MERIT 1979 – Dr Mark Hutton

**Mark Hutton** graduated from the University of Adelaide with a B.Ag.Sc in 1933 and joined the Department of Agriculture. He joined the staff at Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1931 and was appointed Assistant Plant Breeder in 1936. His major interest concerned the value of wheat as a staple food for the human race as he researched the quality parameters of South Australia's wheat crop. These studies resulted in his Masters degree in 1941.

Mark became a full time cereal chemist before leaving the college in 1941, joining the CSIRO Division of Human Nutrition. His Doctorate of Science was awarded in 1951 for his work on vegetable crop genetics. In total he published 35 papers in this field in the period 1943-1958 and his work has had major and lasting significance for the improvement of these crops.

In the post-war period, Dr Hutton switched his interest to the genetics and breeding of temperate forage species with special attention to the principal sown species phalaris and sub clover.

In 1952, Mark moved to the Division of Tropical Crops and Pastures in Brisbane where he was involved with the development of Siratro, which became one of the most important Australian pasture legumes.

Siratro was used in Brazil, Mexico and the Pacific Islands. He then worked in Columbia, South America, on the development of Siratro for their acid tropical soils.

Mark Hutton was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Agricultural Science by Queensland University in 1977.

