



ROCA AWARD OF MERIT 1983 – Ralph Hewett Jones

Ralph Jones (RDA, 1934) followed his graduation with a career in agriculture spanning more than 40 years, making numerous meritorious contributions at Roseworthy Agricultural College, and at Glenthorne Field Station, CSIRO.

Except for one year at the Waite Institute, he held various positions at Roseworthy Agricultural College from 1934-47, the most important being that of Farm Manager for 10 years.

During those years, he was probably the only agriculturist in South Australia to manage a farm of such magnitude (2,347 acres), that was composed of so many diverse enterprises, including sheep, dairy and beef cattle herds, about 100 Clydesdales with an associated breeding program, crop and pasture production, fodder conservation and pure seed production.

The success of all these individual enterprises was influenced by the cultural inputs and results obtained on the College farm, to which his management skills and ability were applied.

In addition, he was involved daily in the field work instruction of students. Many of these young men became leaders in agricultural and livestock production, and it was deeply moving at the College Centenary celebrations to see mature farmers and graziers expressing their gratitude to Mr Jones for the practical farming skills that they had learnt from his personal efforts in their education at the College.