



ROCA AWARD OF MERIT 1999 – Donald Moyle

Don Moyle (RDA, 1948) started with a city upbringing, but a desire to “be on the land” and to make a success of it. With no capital base from which to “springboard” this ambition, his two great personal attributes and dogged determination saw him become a truly great South Australian agriculturist. Although set-backs were numerous and to an average individual, some would have been insurmountable, he applied himself with even more enthusiasm to any project which faltered.

Don worked on a wheat/sheep farm at Riverton before commencing a share farming operation at Lameroo. In 1951, he joined the AMP Land Development Scheme, based at Brecon in the South-East of South Australia. Don was granted 560 hectares of land by ballot in 1955, establishing his original property, “The Basin”, south of Keith.

From the original 560 hectares, Don increased his holding to 2,250 hectares, running one of the largest and widely recognised herds of Angus cattle in Australia.

In the mid 1970s, he complemented his on-property agricultural enterprises with a joint venture export company to buy and assemble sheep and cattle for live export. Don was successful in obtaining his own export licence in 1980, enabling him to purchase cattle and charter ships for his own contracts. He exported cattle to South Korea, Thailand, The Philippines, Indonesia and Western Samoa.

To facilitate the collection and quarantine of export cattle, Don leased the 157,000 hectare Dotswood property in Queensland in 1991 from the Australian Property Group. He was an extremely hard and disciplined worker and set an example to all who worked with him. Don “took on” numerous young people, including his own children and assisted them to become excellent managers in their own right.

Don Moyle’s perceptive insight enabled him to recognise the true ethos that Roseworthy Agricultural College instilled into its graduates. This was the encouragement of youth to build upon a scientific base in order to undertake an agricultural pursuit in which they could apply their acquired skills “to make it happen”. He accepted that challenge and surely “made it happen”.

Throughout his career in agriculture, Don was