

## ROCA AWARD OF MERIT 2005 – Ronald Mertin AM

Ron Mertin AM (RDD, 1949) had a distinguished career in the dairy industry after graduating with a Dairying Diploma. His 55-year contribution was at local factory level, nationally at government and industry levels and in the international scene., particularly in developing countries. His substantial achievements in dairy product quality and standards in Australia, and contribution to the development of dairy industries in developing countries were outstanding.

Ron managed dairy processing plants in SA and the ACT, then had 12 years high level service to the national dairy industry while in the Commonwealth Public Service.

Ron's first overseas assignment was in 1976 when he was seconded to the then Australian Development Assistance Bureau Program to assist Pakistan to develop dairy plant operations and village cooperative societies.

Then followed a 20-year association with the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN and other agencies in other countries, including Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Bangladesh.

Ron was made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to Australian-Asian relations as an adviser on dairy plant management. He was also a volunteer consultant with the Australian Expert Services Overseas Program serving in Vietnam, Fiji and Laos.

Testament to his skills is that in 2004 at age 81, Ron was asked by the National Dairy Development Board of India to conduct a critical study of milk packaging systems in a network of milk plants, plus the logistics of milk distribution to Delhi markets.

