

Reg Miller Award 2000

Tim Groom

field management



Tim Groom is this year's recipient of the Reg Miller award for his outstanding contribution to the onion industry. Tim has served on the AOIA Executive Committee since 1994 representing the concerns of Tasmanian onion growers and exporters. He has served as Deputy Chairman of the AOIA in 1997-98 and as Chairman in 1999-2000. Tim leaves this position in November 2000 having presided over an important period of change within the Australian Onion Industry.



Part of Tim's commitment to a National R&D Levy was fuelled by the ideal that the onion industry would be stronger if it retained its independence. Not just in terms of the existence of an active research program determined by onion growers, but also that R&D provides a foundation for the industry through which the AOIA can better pursue the big issues such as chemical registration, quarantine/import issues and marketing and promotion.

Over the last two years, Tim has skilfully negotiated a common pathway towards a research and development (R&D) levy between government and industry, and is currently writing the levy proposal soon to be forwarded to the Federal Government. Despite having recently commenced work for the Pyrethrum Industry in Tasmania, Tim's commitment to the Onion Industry has not waned, and he continues to make a highly significant contribution in his role as AOIA Chairman.

Over the years as a member of the AOIA Executive, Tim has been an important source of information on export/import trends in the onion industry, and while employed by Field Fresh Tasmania, presented quarterly reports to AOIA meetings on the world market situation. His information was always accurate and up-to-date.

Part of Tim's success as a Chairman and industry spokesperson has been his diplomatic and quietly determined approach when dealing with both government and industry people. He displayed a very even-hand on sensitive issues such as the introduction of the R&D levy, and always ensured everyone had equal opportunity to have their say. Tim's chairmanship style kept several meetings on an even keel, when they could have easily deteriorated into a shouting match between disparate parties.

Tim has been a good friend to the onion industry, and we hope not to lose contact with him in the future.

Congratulations Tim !



"Hybrid Heaven"



STACCATO F1: A fantastic, very early maturing long day hybrid bred for the late creamgold slot, where long term storage is required. Staccato has dark brown thick skins on a uniform globe shaped firm bulb that will give onion growers the high packout yields they demand.

IRONBARK F1: The early maturing "Jumbo" bronze coloured onion, that is ideal for "catch-up", due to rain delays and to produce large onions from a late sowing. Bulbs are firm, mild, with very thin necks attached to a round globe shaped bulb



JUPITER F1: (HA 689) A very dark brown early maturing intermediate day hybrid, ideal for the kiwi gold/extra early creamgold sowing period. Jupiter will produce medium-large globe shaped bulbs, with very thick skins that gives it long storage capabilities.

TASSIE RED: A new long keeping red for sowing in the late Early Creamgold to Creamgold timeslot. Tassie Red produces deep red coloured thick skinned bulbs of medium to strong pungency with internal red scales that develop during storage.



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