

Reg Miller Award 2007

Ken Jackson

Ken Jackson first worked and trained as a teacher, but retrained and graduated from the Queensland Agricultural College in 1971 with a First Class Honours Degree in Applied Science (Rural Technology). He began working with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries at Biloela in Central Queensland in 1972 as a research agronomist working in legume and oilseed research, before transferring to Gatton in 1985.

On appointment to Gatton, Ken commenced 12 years of research in potatoes, onions, sweet potatoes, pumpkins and garlic. During this time, Ken completed a PhD in plant nutrition. Ken undertook a wide array of research projects in the vegetable industry. Within the onion industry he was involved directly with the evaluating of onion hybrids, developing open-pollinated onion varieties, evaluating fungicidal control methods for white rot and evaluating jumbo onion production. He contributed to the development of selective herbicide programs and examined onions for attributes that might provide resistance to onion white rot. He also supervised two students who successfully completed Masters degrees in onion physiology. Ken also contributed to the development of Queensland's onion exports, participating in a market development tour of Japan.

Ken took an active role in the Australian onion industry, representing Queensland in industry forums, contributing

This award is named for Reg Miller, a founding member of the Australian Onion Industry Association and the award's original recipient. It is given by the industry association in recognition of people who make an outstanding contribution to the industry. Nominations for the award are accepted annually until 1 August. Anyone in the onion industry may be nominated for the award, and anyone may make a nomination. For more information, contact the association office on (08) 8188 0385.



regular articles to *Onions Australia Magazine* and taking a lead role in the International Conference on Alliums held in Adelaide in 1997.

With the formation of the Queensland Horticulture Institute in 1997, Ken was appointed program leader for vegetable research and extension across the state. Ken contributed an enormous amount of co-ordination activity to the industry including liaising with the Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers Heavy Produce Group. As program leader, he demonstrated a great talent for analysing a complex problem and pointing the way forward for scientists and industry. He has been a much-liked and respected program leader.

In 1999, Ken became the acting director of the Queens-

Ken Jackson, left, and Masters student George Pan on a trailer of Wallon White (Gladalan White) and Wallon Brown (Gladalan Brown), varieties that were developed at Gatton, Qld, and released to industry.

land Horticulture Institute for a period of 9 months before returning as the vegetable program leader. He retired from the Department of Primary Industries in 2002. Since then he has worked as a lecturer and tutor for the University of Queensland on a casual basis. He also does some contract work for the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries mainly in the areas of mentoring to young staff and assistance with scientific writing.

Ken has been a member of the executive committee of the Australian onion industry for the last two years representing Queensland, and late in 2008 will take on the role of the chairman of the Industry Advisory Committee which prioritises and reviews the onion industry funded research programs with Horticulture Australia.