15TH ANNUAL AUSTRALIAN POULTRY SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

10 – 12 FEBRUARY 2003

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(University of Sydney)

and

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<td>1983</td>
<td>Dr. R.K. Ryan</td>
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SYD WILKINS MEMORIAL PRIZE

The Syd Wilkins Memorial Fund was set up in 1983-84 by the Australian Branch of the World's Poultry Science Association (WPSA), with the active collaboration of the Poultry Husbandry Research Foundation (PHRF) as it was known at the time, with the help of a major opening donation from Allied Feeds. The purpose of the fund was to honour the many contributions of Syd Wilkins to the Australian poultry industry. The practical use of the Fund was to provide an award, called the WPSA Syd Wilkins Memorial Award, for outstanding work by young poultry scientists working in Australia. The first annual award was made in 1984 but the definition of young has been extended twice from the initial 30 years to the present 35 years.

Syd Wilkins received his tertiary education at Hawkesbury Agricultural College and developed a career as a Poultry Officer in the NSW Department of Agriculture, becoming its Senior Poultry Officer by the late 1950's. In the mid to late 1960's he transferred to Allied Feeds, where he remained as a Senior Executive of the Allied Mills Group until his untimely death in 1982. During all this time he was very active in the affairs of the WPSA Australian Branch, including a period as President. He was also elected as one of the Vice Presidents of WPSA world body in the 1970's, a position he still held on this death. He was actively involved in the conduct of the 1974 and 1978 World's Poultry Congresses in New Orleans and Rio de Janeiro.

Syd Wilkins was also involved with the PHRF virtually from its beginning, and served many years as its Vice-President. He was the recipient of the Australian Poultry Award in 1974. Syd’s career was contemporary with the application of the 20th century poultry technology revolution in Australia. In his own low-key and unassuming way he contributed very significantly to its progress.

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