

Headlie Taylor Header

location Henty Park, Allen Street Henty, New South Wales.
owner NSW Farmers' Association, Henty Branch
custodian Culcairn Shire Council

the plaque

type **Historic Engineering Marker**
location In the pavilion housing the header.

The improvements in Taylor's header, over previous harvesters, were cutting the heads from the crop rather than by beating, spiral augers to deliver the heads to the threshing drum, a level comb at all heights of operation, elimination of unnecessary parts such as a large fan, and a main drive system for easier mechanical repairs. The header could handle crops in all conditions: light, heavy, storm damaged or weed infested.

plaque text

Headlie Taylor Header

Headlie Taylor (1883–1957) of Henty patented his grain harvesting machine in 1913. It removed the grain heads by a cutting rather than a beating action and had other innovations that greatly improved the efficiency of grain harvesting. After agreement between Taylor and H V McKay in 1916, the harvester was manufactured in Victoria as the Sunshine Header and is recognised as the basis of modern grain harvesting technology. This header was constructed with parts from nine headers produced between 1915 and 1917.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia and the Council of the Shire of Culcairn, 1995.



Headlie Shipard Taylor (1883–1957)

Taylor was born at Bungowannah near Albury of local-born parents and went to school at Henty but left at 14 to work on his parents' wheat and sheep farm.

Years of familiarity with farm machinery gave rise to ideas for a new type of harvester that would combine the best features of the existing harvesters but would incorporate many innovative details.

He made up for his early leaving school through buying any book on practical mechanics and began building the new machine for the 1911-12 harvest. It was a qualified success so was modified for future harvests, each time with greater success.

After a demonstration for H V McKay an agreement was signed on March 4, 1916 and Taylor moved to Melbourne to supervise manufacture and development of new models.