

Howard's Rotary Hoe

location In Machinery Pool Shed, Clydesdale Lane, University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury, Richmond, New South Wales.

The hoe on display is an early model, but not the original.

owner University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury, New South Wales



Arthur Clifford Howard (1893–1971)

Howard studied engineering by correspondence while an apprentice at Moss Vale. In 1912 he began experiments in rotary tillage, which culminated in his invention of the rotary hoe.

After World War I, Howard tested and patented his rotary hoe cultivator and in 1922 formed Austral Auto Cultivators Pty. Ltd. He continued to develop his ideas, and a tractor he designed in 1927 initiated the first large-scale production of tractors in Australia. In 1938 Howard migrated to England and formed Rotary Hoes Ltd with branches around the world.

Arthur Howard was a practical engineer who combined business acumen with vision and an outstanding inventive ability. He died in England.

the plaque

type **Historic Engineering Marker**

location On a wall in Stable Square, University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury, Richmond, New South Wales.

plaque text

Howard's Rotary Hoe

Arthur Clifford Howard (1893–1971) developed the first commercially-viable machines for soil cultivation using powered rotors. His first model was built on the family farm at Gilgandra in 1912. Marketing his "Rotavator" began in 1922 from factories established in New South Wales and later overseas.

The principle of rotary cultivation has been adopted on farms worldwide from the smallest holdings to home gardens and the largest enterprises.

Cliff Howard also developed tractors and other farm equipment over a long and productive career. His name endures on a range of machines sold worldwide.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia, 1988.

