

## **Wine Industry Leader Recognised**

The contribution to the global wine industry by a leading Australian oenologist has been acknowledged through The University of Adelaide.

The oenologist is Ray Beckwith, aged 92, who was recently granted the Honorary Degree of Doctor of The University of Adelaide at the annual presentation of awards in the Faculty of Science.

“Following his graduation from Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1932 having majored in oenology, Ray Beckwith’s first job was to undertake research into wine making at Roseworthy College” the President of the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association, Mark Seeliger, said.

“He was soon sought by the commercial industry, and as wine maker, subsequently manager, of Penfolds at Nuriootpa, he was to introduce ground breaking technology in wine quality,” Mr Seeliger said.

“He recognised that selected cultured yeasts introduced under controlled conditions was to greatly improve wine quality. This finding was reported at a conference in Melbourne in 1934.

“He later identified that wine spoilage, could be controlled by careful manipulation of acidity (pH).

“Until this time wine spoilage of between 20 to 40% was a major loss to the industry. As a result of carefully managing wine acidity, wine losses have been reduced to zero.”

Mr Seeliger said the university’s acknowledgement of Dr Beckwith’s contribution to the wine industry was particularly notable as it was the first time an honorary doctorate had been awarded.

“All Roseworthy graduates extend their congratulations to Dr Beckwith on this outstanding recognition of his achievements,” he said.



*From left:* Chancellor Brian Croser, Ray Beckwith, Vice Chancellor and President of the University of Adelaide Professor James McWha