

# Fact Sheet

Roseworthy Old Collegians Association Inc.

Roseworthy

## ROCA AWARD OF MERIT 1985 – Dr Bruce Eastick AM

**Bruce Eastick AM (RDA, 1947)** graduated with First Class Honours and a High Distinction in Horticulture. He was also awarded the Albert Molineaux Prize, Morphett Prize and many others. He was a Member of the Student Representative Council for two of the three years he spent at the College.

At the University of Sydney he again distinguished himself for his studies by graduating with Second Class Honours (four final year credits) with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree.

Bruce pioneered rural veterinary practice in Gawler by establishing himself as the first self-employed veterinarian in Gawler and surrounding districts.

He became State President of the Australian Veterinary Association in 1961 and Federal President in 1966, and was appointed a Fellow of the Australian Association in 1972.

Bruce's services to Agriculture are virtually all related to his contribution to the improvement in the standard animal husbandry and welfare, and therefore production.

Bruce has been a continuous member of the RSPCA most of his working life, and was a member of the General Committee of the Society from 1963 and Deputy Chairman for 12 years from 1971-1983.

His wide knowledge of agriculture in general and the animal production industries in particular, was of considerable value and contributed to the better understanding of policy needs relating to these industries since he became a member of the SA Parliament in 1970.

Bruce was a Charter Member of the Gawler Rotary Club, established in 1954, and has been a continuous member since then.

The Gawler and District Aged Homes virtually owe their existence to his insight and outstanding leadership, and he was the Inaugural President of that body in 1969, when the concept of District Aged Homes was very much in its pioneering phase.

He was Chairman of the Gawler Auxiliary of the Adelaide Children's Hospital for 10 years and a State Councillor of the Adelaide Children's Hospital for three years.

Bruce was Chairman of an organising committee for Boy Scouts from 1959 to 1962 and Group Scout Master for scouting in the Gawler district from 1967 to 1969.

Bruce was President of Meals on Wheels for the first two years of its operation from 1962 to 1964 and President of the Building Committee for Meals on Wheels from 1960 to 1964.

Bruce was involved with the Corporation of Gawler from 1963 to 1972, serving on almost all of the Council's Committees, including Chairman of the Finance Committee from 1965 to 1967, and Mayor of Gawler from 1968 until he voluntarily left local government in 1972 to concentrate on his increased responsibilities in the State Parliament as Leader of the Opposition.

Bruce was elected as Member for Light on 30 May 1970, and re-elected in 1973, 1975, 1977, 1979 and 1982. He was a Member of the Public Works Standing Committee from 1977 to 1979; Standing Orders Committee, Joint House Committee and the Library Committee in 1979; and numerous Select Committees on specific issues from time to time.



He was elected Leader of the Opposition in March 1972 and held that position until July 1975.

He was elected Speaker of the House of Assembly in October 1979 until December 1982, when his party lost office. He was Shadow Minister of Housing, Local Government and Treasurer from November 1982, and is still liked and respected by all members of Parliament regardless of their political allegiance.

Bruce held Roseworthy Agricultural College in high esteem as an institution for what it gave him in the form of basic tertiary education and training, and the outstanding opportunity that represented his future life. He was made a Member of the Roseworthy Agriculture Council in March 1982 and after one year was elected President of the College Council, and he held that office for some years.

Bruce is a Life Member of ROCA and has given regular service to the Association, and is a most worthy recipient for the 1985 ROCA Award of Merit