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Our President's View

To avoid becoming irrelevant, ROCA desperately needs to embrace what is going on in the wider world and within the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy Campus. Each and every ROCA member needs to view our organisation in a thoughtful, supportive and strategic manner. Over the past six months, three things have become apparent:

Sound Future for Tertiary Agricultural Training: The future of degree based training in agriculture at The University of Adelaide is in safe hands. Nothing is going to turn the clock back. The new agriculture degree is a hybrid of the previous technology focused Roseworthy based degree and the science focused Waite based degree. The University is going to great lengths to consult industry to ensure that the new degree will provide graduates with most of the skills and knowledge previously gained through the Roseworthy degree. ROCA's role should now be to encourage the University to utilise the fine assets at Roseworthy Campus for significant parts of the broader agriculture teaching program, including the broad-acre farming land for demonstration, research, teaching and student work experience purposes.

Assured Future for Roseworthy Campus: Roseworthy Campus will not be sold off. The University of Adelaide has established Roseworthy Campus as the primary teaching and administrative site for a newly established School within the Faculty of Science. This encompasses the BSc (Animal Sc), BSc (Pre-Vet) and Post Graduate studies in animal and veterinary sciences. Roseworthy Campus will also be the site for components of the new BAgSc course, with potential for parts of other courses in future. The decline in enrolments for Roseworthy based courses and accommodation will be reversed, with predictions the Campus and Residential College will soon see all-time high numbers. Massive investment in capital works on Roseworthy Campus is underway.

ROCA's Wonderful Future: Without being a wet blanket, ROCA is struggling. We have only a handful of new members each year, an inability to fill all committee positions and reduced linkages with the student body. However the new vision at Roseworthy Campus will create a bright future for ROCA. The Committee has confirmed its primary focus on wholehearted embracement of Roseworthy Campus. At the upcoming AGM, ROCA is looking to slightly modify its constitution to permit a greater future involvement with Roseworthy Campus, its students and graduates. Of course, ROCA will always continue to cater for all existing members, irrespective of whether they received training in agriculture, natural resource management, dairy technology, business, marketing or oenology.

I urge all ROCA members to maintain a positive and supportive attitude toward Roseworthy Campus, ROCA and the direction each is taking to ensure a sound future. I also encourage anyone who wishes to be part of ROCA's wonderful future, to nominate for a position on the Committee. ROCA is about to create its own destiny.

Dale Manson
ROCA President 2008/2009

