

**ROCA**  
**President's Annual Report 2003**  
**Presented to the AGM November 7, 2003**

I have pleasure in presenting the report on the activities of your committee for the past 12 months. I must acknowledge the work done by the committee, including 6 committee meetings, meetings with senior University and Alumni association personnel, the Eyre Peninsula reunion, an award ceremony and other functions where ROCA needed representation.

Let me outline the main activities and achievements for the year.

**Award of Merit**

The award this year goes to Phil Laffer who graduated in 1961 with a RDA and in 1963 with RDOen. His contribution to the rural industries of Australia has been well documented and we are pleased to recognise this with the ROCA Award of Merit for 2003.

**Faculty Awards**

As reported in the **ROCA Digest** our awards were gained by Alissa Linklater and Luke Simmons. The Sports Leadership Award has not been awarded this year.

**Reunions**

I attended the Eyre Peninsula reunion with Peter Dunn where about 25 people attended in Pt Lincoln. Next year they may return to Northern Peninsula where the majority of their membership lives. President Barry Lawes and Secretary Brian Ashton are working with us to extend their membership beyond the present 100 members.

The Adelaide reunion and AGM were well attended and enjoyed at this venue which seems to retain its appeal. Present plans are to hold the next function here on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2004.

**Membership**

It was mentioned at the last AGM that membership needed attention. Several initiatives have been introduced, including:

- Committee meeting and dining twice at Roseworthy when students were made aware of ROCA. Graduating students will get a letter from us, drawing attention to our sponsorship and statement of objectives in the 2003 Student Magazine, and inviting their involvement with ROCA
- Sending over 140 Digests with a membership brochure to people we know have been involved with ROCA but who are not members
- Publicising membership in the Digest and on the Reunion Dinner Invitations.

There have been some early responses from these invitations.

**Alumni Association**

I have been appointed to the Board of the Alumni Association following Ray Taylor's term of 2 years. We benefit from the support and advice we receive and I believe we contribute something as the largest Chapter. We are pleased with the recognition of Roseworthy Campus and ROCA in the 'Adelaidean', which is published monthly.

**Liaison with The University of Adelaide**

We have had separate meetings with Professor Rathjen, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Professor James McWha, Vice Chancellor. At both these meetings we discussed a range of matters concerning ROCA and Roseworthy when we believed we were assured of continued support for Roseworthy Campus. I acknowledge the support given to ROCA by Simon Maddocks who resigned late last year. Recently Professor Phil Hynd has been appointed Director. We accepted the invitation to make a submission to the Roseworthy Farm Review, when we emphasised the need for students in agricultural pursuits to have ready access to research, technology, economic data and hands-on experience in current farming practices. We recognise the need to change funding and management structures to ensure viability and relevance. The outcomes of this review are not yet known.

### **Roseworthy Student and Campus Fund**

The committee has appointed and met with the five Trustees of the Fund. The Chancellor of the University is Patron and we are still developing a satisfactory working arrangement with the University and Alumni Association. However, we will be ready to launch the Fund when an appropriate event or circumstance occurs. The Trustees will be introduced at the Reunion Dinner and their efforts so far will be acknowledged.

We note the donation of the clock in the main tower, by the late Jim Newland, which was a valued contribution to the Campus.

### **Acknowledgements**

I want to express appreciation to all the committee for their contributions during the busy year. Darren Koopman has fulfilled the roles of secretary and faculty representative with enthusiasm and efficiency – his contribution has been huge. Ray Taylor is to be thanked for his many contributions as Immediate Past President and ROCA representative as Fund Trustee – an on-going task. Other members have responded when needed for visits, submissions and meetings with willingness and enthusiasm.

Our Digest Editor has contributed greatly to the Association again and has done a lot to bring our membership lists up to date. Thanks also to our Treasurer and Auditor who maintained our financial viability. Thanks to all our members for their support and attendance at this AGM and the reunion.

ROCA has an important part to play in advocating for effective agricultural training in this State and particularly for the effective use of Roseworthy as a nationally and internationally recognised venue and resource for rural education. It is also providing opportunities for continuing social contact between former students and staff and encourages continuing interest and support for Roseworthy and its graduates.

Wilf Bowen  
President