



Roseworthy Old Collegians Association Inc.

<http://www.roseworthy.adelaide.edu.au/ROCA/>

PO Box 503 KENT TOWN SA 5071

President's Report 14th October 2005

It is with much pleasure that I present the 2005 Annual report of your ROCA Committee.

This has been a very active year with six Committee meetings and many discussions with University of Adelaide administration, faculty and Alumni personnel and other groups. We have actively pursued the interests of ROCA members and the activities and interests of Roseworthy Campus and its students. I acknowledge the time and energy of Committee members who have responded whenever needed. Special thanks to our efficient secretary and faculty representative Darren Koopman, our treasurer, David Cooper, and the other contributors to the development of the Roseworthy Fund, publicity, our Digest and so on. I also wish to acknowledge the opportunities for the contact, liaison, meetings and attendance at other functions that senior Adelaide University personnel have provided the Committee.

Here are some highlights:

Award of Merit

The Award of Merit for 2005 goes to Ronald Mertin AM. He has had a distinguished career in the dairy industry since graduating with a Roseworthy Diploma in Dairying in 1949. His 55 year contribution has been at local dairy factory level, nationally at government and industry levels and in the international scene particularly in developing countries. His substantial achievements in dairy product quality and standards in Australia, and contribution to the development of dairy industries in developing countries are outstanding.

Student Prizes

The ROCA Awards went to very deserving graduates.

The Gold Medal for the most distinguished student graduating from the Bachelor of Natural Resource Management went to Nicole Zeoli.

The ROCA Old Students Cup and Trophy went to Rebecca Hall for her achievements in the Bachelor of Agriculture course.

The Old Scholars Trophy for Leadership to Campus sport went to Kerry Allen.

University Honour

In December of 2004, The University of Adelaide honoured a graduate, former staff member and ROCA member with the first special degree of Doctor of the University *honoris causa* - the recipient being Ray Beckwith. This was in recognition for Ray's contribution of the highest order to the development of the Australian wine industry.

We congratulate Ray Beckwith and all award winners.

The **Eyre Peninsula Branch of ROCA** had its Annual Reunion Dinner and AGM on March 5th 2005. Numbers were somewhat down because of the devastating bushfires which burnt out the properties of nine graduates. The next Reunion will be held at Cummins in March 2006.

A Century Partnership

December 7th 2005 marks the centenary of affiliation of Roseworthy Agricultural College with the University of Adelaide. From 1905 Roseworthy was involved in the delivery of substantial components of the university degree. A group of ROCA members assisted the University Archives

staff in setting up a display that was launched in May during history week to celebrate and publicise this milestone. The display is currently at the Roseworthy Information Centre and will be moved to the National Wine Centre in mid December.

ROCA Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund

The development of the fund has progressed under the guidance of the Co-Patrons led by Dr Bruce Eastick. A public launch is scheduled for February 2006 when members and potential sponsors will be invited to a special Dinner. It is hoped that at this occasion we can announce the funding of the first initiative.

We are pleased that Mr Robert De Crespigny, past Chancellor of the University and successful businessman, has agreed to continue as Patron of the Fund.

ROCA Digest

Both the Autumn and Spring Digests were posted to all members in 2005. Feedback on the 16 and 12 page issues has been positive. Its appearance in colour on our web page is appealing. However its production and distribution is a costly exercise. Thanks to the many members who have made voluntary financial contributions in the past year. We also secured a once off contribution from the University Alumni and another for advertising. The Committee will critically assess costs of the Digest in the future. One potential area of savings would be for members to download the Digest from the web and this alternative will be pursued.

Alumni

Our relationship with the Alumni of the University of Adelaide continues on a very sound basis. Committee members are in regular contact with Development and Alumni staff especially in relation to the ROCA Fund, membership matters, the Digest and the Alumni Board.

Wilf Bowen, ROCA Immediate Past President, is an important member of the University Alumni Board and in the past year has made considerable input into the major revision of the Alumni constitution. This has now been passed by the University Council. ROCA is now an affiliated body of the Alumni Association whereas before it was listed as a Chapter This is a win-win situation for ROCA and the University and enables us to continue as an independent incorporated body.

Archives

An industrious group of ROCA volunteers has continued its weekly input into cataloguing old Roseworthy memorabilia under the direction of Archives staff.

One notable outcome has been the compilation of a single volume, listing all Roseworthy graduates together with year and courses, since the first graduation in 1886. This was a large task and many discrepancies in old records were revealed in the process and corrected. When all proofing is completed it will be available on the web. A special tribute is due to Wilf Bowen, Ron Tuckwell and Archives staff for leading the project.

Membership

The issue of ROCA membership has received considerable attention by the Committee this year. We started the year with an annual work plan which is evolving into a strategic 5 year plan that addresses long-term funding and membership. We recognise that the Roseworthy ethos and social structure has changed greatly over the past 10 years. Even though we have nearly 2000 members, the analysis of membership clearly indicates that we are not attracting sufficient of the more recent graduates. Now is the time to assess the future of ROCA. In the short term we are targeting recruitment from students in their final year of studies, the last year graduates and 10 year graduates with newsletters, special fliers and attendance at dinners. This drive will be changing and ongoing.

In conclusion, ROCA has a very important advocacy role to play as far as improvements to agricultural education and training is concerned in this state. There is a need to ensure the effective use of the excellent facilities at the Roseworthy Campus as a national and international venue. We should continue leading the interest and support of former students and staff so that industry and community needs in agricultural and related education are met.

Mark Seeliger
ROCA President