



Roseworthy Old Collegians Association Inc.

<http://www.roseworthy.adelaide.edu.au/roca/>
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President's Report

13 October 2006

It is with much pleasure that I present the 2006 Annual Report of your ROCA Committee.

This has been a very active year with eight Committee meetings being held. The Committee has actively pursued the interests of ROCA members and the 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, treasurer David Cooper, and especially to the two retiring members Denys Slee and Peter Day who have been major contributors to ROCA activities.

Here are some highlights:

Members of the Committee have had meetings with the Vice Chancellor, Acting Executive Dean and Heads of Schools, and the Head of the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine designate, Professor Roger Leigh who commences in November 2006. Professor Hynd, Campus Director, is of course a member of the ROCA Committee. Matters of common interest were shared in some detail. We have also interfaced with Development and Alumni and Archives staff.

The Vice Chancellor is giving his support to planning significant and relevant events to mark the 125th Anniversary of Roseworthy in 2008.

We remain concerned about the demise of natural resource education at Roseworthy, integrated training in agricultural disciplines, student numbers, multi-campus issues for students, enrolments and the perceived lack of public understanding of the considerable activities and opportunities at Roseworthy. There is a need to better use the brand name 'Roseworthy' which still has national and international standing.

The Committee prepared a detailed submission for the external review of courses being run at Roseworthy Campus which was followed up with a personal hearing.

Award of Merit

The Award of Merit for 2006 goes to Brian Rex Wilson. He is a very successful farmer and has had considerable influence in developing new technology that now enables profitable cropping in high rainfall regions previously considered too wet. His fostering of this technology amongst his peers and to agribusiness, and the establishment of Southern Farming Systems, has been highly successful.

Student Prizes

The ROCA Awards were awarded to very deserving graduates of 2005.

The Gold Medal for the most distinguished student graduating from the Bachelor of Natural Resource Management was presented to Iain A Steenson.

The ROCA Old Students Cup and Trophy was presented to Graham Edward Turner for his achievements in the Bachelor of Agriculture course.

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

We congratulate all award winners.

The **Eyre Peninsula Branch of ROCA** had its Annual Reunion Dinner and AGM with an attendance of more than 40 at Port Lincoln on 11 February 2006. Emma McInerney a recent graduate was the guest speaker giving an illustrated address of her trek to the base camp of Mt Everest. The next Reunion is planned to be held at Streaky Bay in February 2007.

A Century Partnership

December 7th 2005 marked 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. The occasion was celebrated by the opening of a commemorative dozen of Roseworthy-university merger wines.

ROCA Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund

The Fund was successfully and publicly launched on 25 July. The development of the fund has progressed under the guidance of the Co-Patrons led by Dr Bruce Eastick. Mr John Crosby was appointed as Patron. The first tangible outcome is the announcement of the Trevor Dillon Agronomic Roseworthy Study Scholarship of \$5200 to be awarded to an enrolling student in 2007. The Late Trevor Dillon, a highly regarded agronomist, was a strong supporter of Roseworthy and ROCA and regular in his attendance at these functions. There are already sufficient funds earmarked for the scholarship to continue for the next seven years.

ROCA Digest

The ROCA Digests this year took the form of a personal letter from the Committee in Autumn and Spring. This format was chosen to keep costs down so that reserves were not affected. Feedback has been positive. At this stage, few members have advised of email contact for communications. The Committee wishes to pursue more cost efficient methods for member communications.

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, and the Alumni Board. Wilf Bowen, ROCA Immediate Past President, has continued as an important member of the University Alumni Board. The Vice Chancellor has engaged an external consultant to report on the future of the Board and the Association and I have had the opportunity of reporting ROCA's needs and expectations to the consultant.

Archives

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

Membership

The annual work plan specifically addressed the issue of ROCA membership. We recognise that the Roseworthy ethos and social structure has changed greatly over the past 10 years. We again targeted recruitment from students in their final year of studies, graduates from 2005 and year groups having special reunions, with fliers and newsletters. A Committee meeting at the Campus was particularly successful in interacting with students at Dinner and the Tavern.

Life Membership

Congratulations go to Ray Taylor who was tonight conferred Honorary Life Membership for meritorious services to ROCA. Ray has been a long standing Committee member, Vice President, President and Past President, and has given strong support to Roseworthy affairs including through his membership of Roseworthy Agricultural College Council.

In conclusion, ROCA has a very important advocacy role to play for 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 to lad the interest and support of former students and staff to better meet industry and community needs in agriculture and related education.

Mark Seeliger
ROCA President

