



Roseworthy Old Collegians Association Inc.

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

PO Box 503 KENT TOWN SA 5071

ANNUAL REPORT

2 November 2008

It is my privilege to present the 2008 Annual Report on behalf of the ROCA Committee.

2008 has been a special year, during which we have celebrated 125 years of achievements associated with the Roseworthy Campus. The support and involvement of the Vice-Chancellor has been remarkable, in the events on Saturday 18 October 2008 - the St Peter's Cathedral Service, the Commemoration Ceremony at Bonython Hall and the Celebration Dinner at the Pavilion Adelaide Oval – and again here at the Roseworthy Campus Open Day today. The Roseworthy Staff and Council and the Nat Rats also held reunions to commemorate the milestone.

The acknowledgment of five Humanitarian Awards to Roseworthy graduates was a special element of the Bonython Hall Ceremony. Dick Turnbull, Rev Brian Polkinghorne, Paul Symonds, David Lewis and Anthony Petch were worthy recipients and can feel proud of their contributions to society. The presence of so many ROCA Award of Merit recipients or their family representatives provided another very special highlight. At the Celebration Dinner, it was an honour to present the ROCA Award of Merit for 2008 to Philip Young, a great contributor through the commercial success of the Australian Agricultural Consulting and Management Company (AACM) in Australia and overseas, as well as his personal contributions to ROCA networks, agricultural organisations, industry development and rural communities in Australia and in developing countries. And how nice it was to recognise Harry Stephen for 60 years continuous service on the ROCA committee!

Through all the preparations for 125-year celebrations, ROCA has developed a very strong relationship with the University of Adelaide Development and Alumni Office, and that will be important in future.

We met six times as a ROCA Committee during the year, twice at the Roseworthy Campus. The Roseworthy meetings continue to be a valuable contact with current students, but also demonstrate ROCA's continuing connection in the most demonstrable way. One of those meetings allowed the Committee to talk with Professor Gail Anderson about the new veterinary school and to the Campus Director, Professor Phil Hynd, about other developments.

The veterinary science school at Roseworthy is truly exciting. The Australian Government has provided a one-off capital contribution of \$15 million and funding for 40 new student places for 2008 in a Bachelor of Animal Science course, a 3-year pre-veterinary degree. Graduates of this degree will then progress to a 3-year Master of Veterinary Science course commencing in 2011. This provides a platform for further initiatives at the Roseworthy Campus and the ROCA Committee is giving the University of Adelaide every encouragement.

The Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund has the potential to play an important role in supporting the future profile of the Roseworthy Campus. The Trevor Dillon Agronomic Study Scholarship is already well-established after its second award and the new Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Education Foundation of SA is another positive contribution to the Roseworthy brand.

ROCA also continued to support Student Prizes that relate to the Roseworthy Campus. Joshua Lade received the Old Students' Cup for second highest aggregate in the Bachelor of Agriculture. ROCA prize alignment with the new directions at Roseworthy will be important.

The Eyre Peninsula Branch of ROCA continued its social success with a gathering of 50 ROCA members and partners at Port Lincoln in February, with Phil Hynd as the very entertaining key-note speaker. The Branch has an impressive email mailing list that provides very effective and efficient communication. Next year's gathering will be in Wudinna – not to be missed!

ROCA is blessed to have people so willingly prepared to provide voluntary support for the benefit of the Association, the Roseworthy Campus, the University of Adelaide and other members. Take a bow Dale Manson, Mark Seeliger, Wilf Bowen, Darren Koopman, David Cooper, Harry Stephen, Ray Taylor, Peter Lewis, Leith Yelland, Peter Dunn and Phil Hynd. Thank you.

Leith Yelland helped us provide information to members by producing two newsletters this year – an Autumn and a Spring edition. I was really pleased to receive letters from ROCA members wanting to convey their views about issues raised in the newsletters.

The ROCA Committee has, I think, represented the interests of its members very effectively during the last 12 months. We have developed a respectful constructive relationship with the University of Adelaide. A meeting with Professor Bob Hill was particularly useful and we have been invited to contribute ROCA views on Campus matters during the year. Consideration of Campus Director roles was an example. We look forward to more opportunities in future. In this respect, it is always very helpful to receive suggestions and ideas from ROCA members, as has occurred again this year, to stimulate Committee consideration and discussion. It is your Association, after all.

Locky McLaren
President
ROCA