



ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION INC



President's Report 2008-2009

The past twelve months have been a watershed for both ROCA and Roseworthy Campus.

ROCA is currently in a good place!

The focus in 2008 was firmly on Roseworthy's past 125 years service to the State, agriculture, winemaking, natural resource management and humanity.

From 2009 onward, it is now ROCA's responsibility to chart a way forward. The world has changed dramatically for ROCA over past months, in a technical, political and relationship sense.

ROCA's rapid decline into irrelevancy and ultimate demise would have been guaranteed if it hadn't been prepared to work co-operatively with important stakeholder partners.

Similarly, Roseworthy would now merely be a distant memory of a defunct educational institution if its function had not changed in the 1970's from a SA Government Department to a College of Advanced Education, then in 1990 from a CAE to a highly respected component of the three University model in this State.

Recent challenges and opportunities presented to the tertiary education sector have once again seen Roseworthy change form in order to survive, grow and prosper into the future. During this period, emotive and pragmatic thinkers locked horns in the public arena and only history will record the repercussions of that.

To retain a perspective on things, it pays to stop and do a stocktake in times such as these.

Thanks to a solid commitment by the University of Adelaide, Roseworthy Campus has survived, is thriving and has a guaranteed future as one of the University's core teaching and research sites.

Compare this with the closure of two campuses by the University of South Australia.

Understand that Roseworthy is being showered with new infrastructure and courses, while Adelaide University's three rural properties of Munduney Station at Spalding, Martindale Farm at Mintaro and Moralana Station at Hawker are being placed on the market.

Roseworthy Campus is currently in a good place!

It would be foolish for ROCA to take its eye off the ball and depart from its core values of focusing on Roseworthy Campus and support for the tertiary courses conducted at that location. The ROCA Committee recently re-confirmed this as being the primary purpose of our organisation.

ROCA's role in life is also coupled with a touch of reality. For some decades, ROCA hasn't been very successful at enlisting new graduates as members. Last year, ROCA failed to entice a Treasurer or Vice President into the ranks of its Committee.

Despite the temptation to position itself as a representative organisation confronting the broader issues involving tertiary education in agriculture or matters relating to University politics, ROCA recognised this was not its core function and it did not possess the internal resources to function in this manner.

In any case, attempts to lobby matters outside of its core values generally resulted in ROCA being alienated and actively cut-off from circles of essential communication. A truly counterproductive outcome for everyone.

Amongst its broader constituency, ROCA needed to overcome the poor realisation that the underpinning animal science and veterinary science themes of Roseworthy Campus were legitimate and essential components of an agricultural systems approach. Linked closely with the new Waite based agriculture degree in a co-operative manner, Roseworthy and tertiary agricultural training are now positioned in a Win:Win relationship.

But what of the future for ROCA?

If ROCA wants to regain relevance and legitimacy, it needs to offer obvious value to the staff, students and administrators located at Roseworthy Campus. This is definitely where ROCA is heading.

Through the "*Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund*", ROCA does offer value to Roseworthy Campus in the form of student scholarships. ROCA also provides student prizes for participants in Roseworthy based courses.

During a period when new and exciting courses are being developed at Roseworthy Campus, ROCA is able to provide it with the essential linkage it needs to past successes, a proud legacy and historic pride. This is not just an intent by ROCA. It is also a desire expressed quite strongly by the Campus.

For ROCA to grow and survive, it has to be co-operative, relevant and useful to Roseworthy Campus. We are firmly focused on heading down this track.

I would like to express my personal gratitude to all members of the ROCA Committee during 2008-2009: Wilf Bowen, David Cooper, Peter Dunn, Darren Koopman, Locky McLaren, Ian Rice, Damien Rixon, Mark Seeliger, Ray Taylor and Tom Yeatman.

ROCA also expresses its sustained gratitude to Chairman of Co-Patrons for the "*Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund*", Bruce Eastick. His long term support of Roseworthy and ROCA has been unparalleled by any other person.

Dale Manson
ROCA President 2008/2009