



ROCA President's Report, 2013 AGM

15 years is a long legacy of tradition that the Roseworthy Old Collegians Associations maintains.

Recently, at an end of year pre-dinner drinks session with the current residents of Roseworthy College on the lawns in front of the Main Building, we were standing around a statue bust of Ridley (donated by ROCA) which has been in place since 1913 and which has over the years become part of various student rituals. The students with us were not too sure about the significance of Ridley and were not sure why there would be reference to his "Stripper". Anyway, we enlightened them about the huge input this mechanical harvester had on agriculture,

nationally and internationally. The Ridley story gives an example of how "The past determines the future".

The Roseworthy Campus and the Roseworthy Old Collegians also have a strong past and will continue to influence the future primary production in South Australia and elsewhere to some degree.

The Campus has taken a more specialised direction over the last couple of years as it concentrates on Animal and Veterinary Science. The first Vets will graduate in 2014. There is still a strong link to the Agricultural Science Degree as students from the Waite Campus also regularly study at Roseworthy. The University of Adelaide's infusion of energy and investment in the Campus over the past ten years has been commendable. Those of you who are able to attend the 2013 Open Day on October 27 will see the Equine Health Centre, the latest jewel in the Campus state of the art teaching facility.

The University is also keen on preserving the past. You may have noticed in the recent Digests that the Tassie Library is now fully restored and acts as a Post Graduate study centre. The Main Building was in trouble but stage one of a long project is nearly complete. The front façade and main entrance is fully renovated and major structural modifications have been put in place to stabilize a bit of wayward movement. Visit the main dining room and you will be pleasantly surprised by the reinstating of the arches that formerly supported the top floor.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to various individuals and groups.

Firstly the ROCA Committee has been great to work with. Like many of the ROCA committees before, we have had a few challenges to remain a relevant and vibrant association.

As well as a time to welcome new committee members, we say thanks to those who will move on. Mark Seeliger who is a former president and long standing member of the committee, Tracey Parkes our secretary for the past three years, Mike Wake our West Coast representative and Paul Mansfield our Treasurer - they have all been important in forwarding the aim of the Association. I look forward to continue working with the remaining committee members, namely, Dick Turnbull, Ray Taylor, Dale Manson, Mark Rodda, Alan Richardson, Locky McLaren, Chris Penfold and Rob Smyth. Dale also sits on the University of Adelaide Alumni Council which gives us a stronger connection to Alumni developments and support. Ray chairs the Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund that was originally set up by ROCA.

There is a gradual turnover of the committee over time but we need our members to step forward and take their turn at the wheel.

In June we had a planning session to explore strategies to attract the new generation of Roseworthy Collegians. From that session came the resolution to abolish the joining fee, which will bring ROCA into step with the other Alumni groups. It also means that there will be

fewer encumbrances to join, and our membership will increase. We are also resolved to explore the idea of working with the other Alumni groups on common interests that are connected to primary production. As the Roseworthy and Waite Campus make progress with their presence in primary production it seems only logical that the associated Alumni develop some relationship.

I would also like to convey our thanks to the University of Adelaide Alumni Team. Our main contact Ruth Rosie has been a great support to both the ROCA Committee and the Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund. This strong liaison with the University of Adelaide Alumni will ensure mutual goals will be achieved.

On the downside, our financial situation is in recession. Our costs exceed our income. We have been exploring some sources of sponsorship and fundraising as otherwise our investments will gradually be eroded.

To stay relevant to the Roseworthy Campus we have committed to providing a number of prizes to the top successful graduates of Animal Science, Veterinary BioScience, and Veterinary Science. The Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund will fund the prize for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine that will have its first graduate in 2014.

To make a start with the prizes the graduates of 1971, who completed their RDA between 1968 and 1970, have donated \$1500 towards the Prize funds. However, we now need other graduate groups and individuals to step forward to support this strategy.

The Old Students Cup was resurrected this year in that a new cup was purchased with donations from the 1971 graduate group once again. However, although previously it was an academic prize it is now awarded to a Roseworthy College resident who has made the best all-round contribution to the Roseworthy Campus. This was recently awarded to Ms Frances Collett.

Dick Turnbull and his colleagues from the ex-servicemen's group are working on a number of projects related to the Centenary celebrations of Anzac Day to be held in 2015. Dick is to be commended for his vision and energy to commemorate the sacrifices and efforts of past students of Roseworthy who have served Australia overseas in a Defence Force capacity. Once again we need your financial support. I entreat all past students of Roseworthy to reflect and give financial donations to these commemorative projects.

Reunions are valued by many old collegians; they are an opportunity for friendships forged while a student to be refreshed - after all, Roseworthy is a significant part of your past.

Besides the Annual Dinner the West Coast members have always been staunch supporters of their Reunions. If you are interested in attending, mark 8 February 2014 in your diaries. The South East has started off again with many thanks to Alan Richardson who is the main organizer. The Riverland is next on the list and hopefully 2014 will eventually see a revival of their annual reunions. Besides these general events many year groups meet regularly on an informal basis.

To the Archive group, we once again extend our thanks for the hundreds of hours put into retrieving, sorting, indexing and putting this information into a useful and accessible form, much of which is or will be later viewed on the ROCA web page.

In conclusion I wish all ROCA members success and happiness over the next twelve months, respond to our appeals and make an effort to catch up with old collegians when the opportunity arises.

David Spencer

President