



The 116<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ROCA will see the finish of my two-year term as President as another member steps forward. This refreshment of leadership is the essence of where ROCA needs to be in that it is essential we are open to change and move with the times.

2014 marks two important milestones: firstly, it is 40 years since women were first admitted to Roseworthy courses and secondly, the graduation of the first Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students from the Roseworthy campus was celebrated.

While there have been Bachelor of Animal Science and Veterinary Bio Science graduates to add to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine graduate list over the last few years we have not attracted many to the ROCA membership. In an attempt to address that gap ROCA has made a constitutional change to abolish our registration fee. That maneuver has seen our membership grow for the first time in some years. However, we will not be satisfied until we are attracting a healthy number of fresh graduates and bringing many of the older graduates back into the fold. Existing members can help, as in most cases all it takes is a little encouragement and maybe a little coercion to secure a new member.

ROCA has plans to work with the other Alumni groups associated with Primary Production to forge an alliance that will be able to help promote Primary Production education and research, and help attract talented undergraduates by offering more financial support. ROCA exists as an incorporated body but this does present a few challenges, as it is part of The University of Adelaide Alumni. In the next 12 months we will explore the advantages and disadvantages of being incorporated and may be ready at the next AGM to propose a change or maintain the status quo.

The Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund, an initiative of ROCA some years ago and now under the leadership of Ray Taylor, is currently undergoing a name change and reorientation to reflect a broader approach to the whole spectrum of Agricultural related courses within The University of Adelaide.

Over the last couple of years we have lamented the state of our financial situation as our costs have slowly exceeded our income. 2014 has seen a turn around at last as a result of new strategies. These include the engagement of two sponsors of which we are most appreciative. Firstly, Wall Studios came on board and offered us 'in kind' support with the production of the Digest, Plonky's Pick label and other media items. Secondly, William Buck, an accounting and financial advisory company offered us financial support. We encourage our members to consider procuring the services of these two sponsors, as they are able to enhance business or private opportunities.

Another successful strategy was the Plonky's Pick wine sales, largely driven by Mark Rodda and Dick Turnbull. You are able to sample the evidence of this labor tonight and perhaps help to reduce the last of the remaining stocks. We thank those members who have supported the scheme. It is an easy way to offer ROCA financial support while at the same time partaking of a reasonable drop of wine. We are most likely to repeat the exercise as it has been the most successful strategy we have tried in recent years in an attempt to ease our financial situation.

Better finance and Wall Studios have saved the demise of the ROCA Digest and elevated it to a fresher and more colorful platform. We would like to expand it by adding articles about a few ROCA members. There are lots of great stories to share. However, in the hard copy form the Digest is expensive and its publication still remains our biggest expense. The electronic version will eventually supersede the hard copy and then the scope could be limitless.

We commend The University of Adelaide on its recent appointment of the Roseworthy Campus Dean, Professor Wayne Hein. Wayne is one of our own, graduating in 1969 with an RDA, but obviously that was only the start of a brilliant academic and research career. We look forward to working with Professor Hein to support the campus in any way we can.

I would like to thank David Purdie, the Roseworthy Campus Manager of Student Services, who has helped ROCA stay in touch with the present day students. It's always a pleasure to sit at the Roseworthy dining room over a meal chatting with students while that hundred-year history pall seeps from the walls. Once again, ROCA presented the Old Students Cup which this year was awarded to Christopher Smith.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank The University of Adelaide Alumni staff for their support over the last year. Ms Ruth Rosie has been our main contact; we appreciate her enthusiasm and work output.

This year I attended ROCA Reunion dinners in the South East at Naracoorte, on the West Coast at Tumby Bay and up the Riverland at Renmark. It was great to mix and mingle with a few of the ROCA members on these occasions and I would encourage all regional members to make an effort to attend these functions as it helps to maintain the bonds we have built up over many years.

2015 will see the commemoration of the 100 year anniversary of ANZAC. Dick Turnbull has been quite productive over the last couple of years in raising awareness and working on projects centered around the Roseworthy Memorial Chapel. The memorial plaques in the Chapel are a testament to past students who gave their lives in support of the war effort in WW1 and WW2. The University has been very supportive and has reinstated an Anzac Day Service. On Anzac Day next year there will be a Dawn Service at the Roseworthy Campus, and a special ROCA Commemoration Service on Sunday 26 April. If you are not a regular ANZAC Day observer this could be a great opportunity to participate.

My thanks to the ROCA Committee for their support over the last two years. There is always work to be done and responsibilities to bear; things do not get done by only thinking about it.

I would like to thank those members who are leaving the Committee for their contribution this year: Mark Langman our West Coast representative, Kim Hudson our Riverland representative, Chris Penfold and Lucy Coward our roving interstate Committee member. We welcome the new Committee members and ask that other ROCA members consider stepping forward at some stage to share their ideas and abilities so that ROCA remains an evolving body serving its members and the Roseworthy Campus.

In conclusion, I wish all ROCA members success and happiness over the next twelve months. Take the time and make the effort to contact your Roseworthy colleagues as they are a link to an important period in your past and will always remain connected to you.



**David Spencer, President**

**17 October, 2014**