

ROCA President's Report 2015
117th Annual General Meeting
16 October 2015

It was a great honor to be elected as the President of ROCA at the October 2014 AGM and I thank my fellow ROCA members and Committee for entrusting me with this position. Having spent the past few years on the ROCA committee and engaging with fellow graduates and the University of Adelaide staff, I appreciate the commitment and dedication that goes into maintaining this wonderful organization and its progressive endeavors.

ROCA Membership

Our overall net membership numbers continue to increase and stand at just under 2,000. We believe that we are now capturing the majority of students graduating from Roseworthy each year and I thank my fellow Committee members for their ongoing efforts to bring our colleagues, mates and contacts into the fold. Many will be surprised to know that ROCA has the largest membership base within the University's Alumni, but we believe that there remain around 5,000 Roseworthy graduates still alive and not a member of ROCA – our challenge and opportunity is to bring these graduates back under the ROCA banner.

ROCA Committee Members

Following this afternoon's AGM, I would like to thank the returning ROCA Committee Members and congratulate and thank them for their enormous effort throughout the past year. A special mention to our retiring Honorary Treasurer – Dick Turnbull – who has handed over the treasury reigns to one of our newest committee members, David Coyner.

The ROCA committee meets every second month but a power of work is done throughout the year by the members – all contributing to the growth, influence and success of the Association. I again acknowledge and thank each member of the ROCA Committee.

ROCA Finances improving

The financial affairs of the ROCA have been significantly boosted over the past year with the signing of three national sponsors and the success of our inaugural "Plonky's Pick wine sales program. To date we have made in excess of \$11,000 profit from our wine sales with these proceeds going to new and existing Agricultural Scholarships, ROCA communications with members and other worthy ROCA commitments throughout the year.

Given the success of the first wine sales fundraising effort, we have again partnered with Oleary Walker to release our second vintage of Roseworthy Old Collegians Wine and you will be sampling this (and hopefully then taking a case home with you) tonight. A noteworthy thanks to Dick Turnbull and Fiona Hill for their ongoing efforts in coordinating this fundraising program.

National Sponsors

Our national sponsorship agreements with Agribusiness specialist, William Buck, Chartered Accountants and Advisors, Wall Studios (producers of the Digest and a host of other graphic design and web based solutions) and Piper Alderman Lawyers

are greatly appreciated and we encourage your custom of their wide array of services. These sponsorships are an integral part of the ongoing financial success of ROCA and allow us to significantly broaden our reach and impact as a group.

ROCA welcomes new Dean of Roseworthy

We were thrilled to hear of the appointment of Professor Wayne Hein to the position of Head of School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences and Dean of Roseworthy earlier in the year. Professor Hein's illustrious career started as a student and graduate of Roseworthy so it is tremendous to see him back with great passion and determination to lead Roseworthy Campus into the future.

We look forward to hearing from Wayne shortly.

Could I also welcome and acknowledge the contribution of our new Alumni representative, Melissa Connor. Melissa has recently joined the University Alumni and is already working feverishly to assist ROCA's activities.

Key ROCA Activities of 2015

Regional ROCA reunions were held at Port Lincoln, Renmark and Coonawarra during the year and were all well attended by ROCA graduates and their families.

The Roseworthy ANZAC Day commemoration event, co-ordinated by Dick Turnbull, was one of the great highlights of the ROCA calendar. Well over 100 guests enjoyed the commemorative service in the College chapel and an array of interesting speakers and historical displays.

To coincide with the annual Clipsal 500, ROCA, FREE Eyre and seven agribusinesses partnered with 60 Eyre Peninsula farmers to enjoy the Clipsal race and raise funds for a new agricultural scholarship for an Eyre Peninsula Student. This scholarship will commence in 2016 and we hope that this will be the start of many other regional groups coming together, with the help of ROCA, to create new agricultural scholarships.

ROCA Award of Merit 2015

It is our great honor to congratulate Richard Fewster for receiving the ROCA Award of Merit for 2015. Richard graduated from Roseworthy in 1965 and along with his year group assembled here tonight, is celebrating 50 wonderful years of contribution to Australian agriculture.

Alumni Fellow Award 2015

It is also very pleasing to announce that ROCA Committee Member, former President and Treasurer, Dick Turnbull has recently been awarded an Alumni Fellow Award for his contribution to ROCA. This prestigious award recognizes alumni who have made a significant contribution to the advancement of the University of Adelaide's Alumni Relations program and Dick is highly deserving of this Award. Congratulations Dick.

Mark Rodda
President, ROCA