

## **President's Report, 2017**

### Welcome and Acknowledgements

It was a great honor to be elected as the President of ROCA last year and I have thoroughly enjoyed the first 12 months in this role. From the outset, may I thank my fellow ROCA Committee members and the broader ROCA membership for entrusting me with this position. It is indeed a wonderful achievement to reflect on the fact that like-minded Roseworthy Graduates have continued to see the value of ROCA, 119 years after its formation.

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 over 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 – we are working on capturing many of these people and I will go into further details on this later.

### **ROCA Committee Members**

I would like to thank the returning ROCA Committee Members and congratulate the incoming office holders as they take ROCA to the next level.

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 Life Membership**

I am happy to announce David Spencer has been awarded an honorary life membership of ROCA for his work on the committee over the years. He is a past president of ROCA and continues to work with the university's archives on Roseworthy history and continues to collect aural history from past graduated and people involved in the campus. He will be award a medal during tonight proceedings.

### **ROCA Finances**

The financial affairs of the ROCA have been significantly boosted over the past few years with the success of our "Plonky's Pick" wine sales fundraising program.

As our Treasurer will shortly report, these sources of income, our reserves have increased slightly over the past 12 months. However, if we are to continue to publish our bi-annual ROCA Digest, support new and existing Agricultural Scholarships and academic prizes, we must all think carefully and creatively as to how we increase the revenue line of our organization.

May I again thank the suppliers of our excellent Plonky's Pick wines – Oleary Walker Wines and ROCA Committee Member Fiona Hill for their terrific commitment at this fundraising initiative.

### **ROCA and the University of Adelaide Alumni**

Our inaugural Alumni sponsored social media campaign via Facebook marked the 25th year of the amalgamation of Roseworthy Agricultural College and the University of Adelaide. This campaign featured 25 Roseworthy graduates and highlighted their personal and career achievements since their time at Roseworthy College. As a Committee, we were thrilled with the results of the campaign, which was largely aimed at increasing ROCA membership. Currently, we have increased our membership numbers by 107, and engaged and reconnected fellow graduates from across the globe. We consider the campaign a huge success and thank Wright Social for their hard work in designing and implementing the campaign and the Alumni for their financial support to get the campaign up and running.

Could I also acknowledge the contribution of our Alumni representatives, Lisa Taplin and Carolyn McLean. Lisa and her team work feverishly and diligently to assist ROCA's activities throughout the year.

### **ROCA Award of Merit 2016**

It is our great honor to congratulate Brian Polkinghorne for receiving the ROCA Award of Merit for 2017. David graduated from Roseworthy in 1969 (RDA)

In closing, I reiterate my sincere thanks to the ROCA Committee members for their ongoing commitment and passion for the Association and all that it strives to achieve.

There is no doubt that the importance of agriculture to this state and country. Other industries will ebb and flow, but agriculture will continue to provide the backbone of our economy and as an Association, we have a tremendous opportunity to help shape that future.

I thank all ROCA members for their ongoing support and wish them well for the year ahead.

David Coyner  
President  
ROCA Inc.