

President's Report, 2018

Welcome and Acknowledgements

It was a great honor to serve as the President of ROCA for the past 2 years and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time 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, 120 years after its formation.

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 into the future

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

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. However, the last financial year this has slid a little. We are hoping the years new vintage will see sales increase and I encourage everyone to make a purchase.

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

With the new Vice chancellor in the role, there has been a strong focus from the University on Alumni groups. Earlier this year the University held its first Alumni summit which was attended by several members of ROCA. This day brought together the majority of Alumni groups across the University to share ideas and experiences. It was great to see that ROCA was highly respected across all groups for being the longest standing Alumni organization in the network and we look forward to continuing these into the future.

For the second year running we secured Alumni sponsorship for a social media campaign. This campaign will again feature Roseworthy graduates who have excelled in their fields, with the results targeted at increasing ROCA membership. We 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 2018

It is our great honor to congratulate John Crosby for receiving the ROCA Award of Merit for 2018. John graduated from Roseworthy in 1971 (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.