

ROCA President's Report 2020

It is with pleasure I present the President's Report as part of the 122nd ROCA Annual General Meeting. Tonight we create history by holding this meeting via video link. Interesting times we live in, indeed, during this Covid-19 pandemic. We regret that due to Covid-19, this AGM will not precede the normal Annual Reunion Dinner.

ROCA was established in 1898 and has provided an ongoing link to the thousands of men and women who have studied at or have been associated with Roseworthy since it was established in 1883 as the first agricultural college in Australia. It has been a privilege to serve this organisation for the past two years as President.

I would like to thank our keen Committee members for their service over the last 12 months, namely Dale Manson, Richard Turnbull, Mark Rodda, Andrew Dennis, Jess van der Weyer, Kate Forrest and Tom Nelligan. ROCA continues due to the commitment of these valuable volunteers, and I also acknowledge David Spencer who has been a sounding board over time to me as President.

Thankyou to our University of Adelaide Alumni support officer, Carolyn McLean. She continues to check in regularly and offer support to ROCA in the form of keeping us up to date with grant proposals and facilitating emails to ROCA members. A constant challenge for ROCA is maintaining our database of members, which is always fluid, and this is an ongoing project with the University of Adelaide.

The Roseworthy Old Collegians Association regretfully acknowledges the passing of some of our members since our last Annual General Meeting. They are attached to this report, with condolences to their families and friends.....

This year we made a concerted effort to connect and improve the relationship with the University of Adelaide Special Collections and Archives team, who possess and care for many items of significance to Roseworthy's past. We welcome the partnership with the new manager of this important group, Lee Amoroso, and her team. We believe ROCA can play a role in helping to provide the background story behind some of these items. A great deal of history exists in the collection and it is important going forward that we have a cooperative approach as opposed to the "us and them" mentality that has existed in the past. David Purdie has been kind enough to act as a conduit between the University's Collections and Archives group and ROCA, so I thank him for his role in this important ongoing project. We appreciate the items that ROCA members or their families have donated to the organisation this past 12 months, namely blazers, Student magazines, photographs and historical veterinary instruments.

ROCA was pleased to award two prizes at the annual Roseworthy Campus student awards ceremony this past year, namely the ROCA Prize in Animal Science and the ROCA Prize in Veterinary Bioscience. These top-tier prizes donated by ROCA are funded exclusively through the ROCA wine fundraiser project and occasional donations. A big thanks to all members who continue to support our fundraising efforts. We very much appreciate the partnership with O'Leary Walker Wines. With only 10 cases remaining of the 2016 Clare Valley Shiraz, get in quick to enjoy this excellent wine with its distinct pink and black Roseworthy label.

ROCA continues to lessen our expenditure through the electronic distribution of our bi-annual ROCA Digest. This is the main facility for communication with our members. Although some are choosing to now pay for a hard copy version which was previously free of charge, we appreciate that members accept the printed copies of the Digest were a significant cost to this organisation.

We really appreciate the support of William Buck in auditing ROCA's financial books. Thankyou to Matt King for his efforts to aid the running of our organisation, and ensuring we remain compliant with financial reporting responsibilities.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that this year's ROCA Award of Merit is Professor Wayne Hein. Wayne joins a long list of ROCA members recognised since 1961 as making a meritorious contribution to agriculture and/or ROCA. We also appreciate that Wayne remains an active member of this organisation despite having a busy role as the Head of School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences for the University of Adelaide and is the Dean of Roseworthy Campus.

Once again, it has been my pleasure serving you as ROCA President. It has been personally rewarding to have contact with members in such a skilfully-rich and demographically diverse organisation. The greatest pleasure comes from interacting with the more senior members of the organisations and hearing their tales of their time at Roseworthy Agricultural College.

I now take this opportunity to wish the incoming ROCA President well. I thanks all Old Collegians for being part of this great and historic organisation.

Fiona Hill

ROCA President 2019/20