

ROCA AWARD OF MERIT 2013 – Alan Hugh Richardson

Over a period of 50 years the Award of Merit has been given to many worthy recipients who have made a significant contribution to Primary Production. This is not to say that these are the only ROCA members who have made a worthy contribution, but rather they represent the high quality of graduates that have been educated at the Roseworthy Campus.

Like the previous years the Selection Panel, who are drawn from a broad cross section of those connected to primary production, examine the background of the nominees. Resumes and References paint a picture of each of the candidates.

The quality of the applications is always very high, and this year Alan Richardson was chosen to be the recipient of the 2013 Award of Merit.

Alan graduated from Roseworthy in 1972 with an RDA, earning the Gold Medal. He then went on to do the RDAT, and graduated as Dux in 1973. He spent the next ten years honing his skills on several sheep, beef and cropping properties, mainly in the South East of SA.

In 1983 he began his career as a Rural Reporter with the ABC and worked his way up through the ranks in both Western Australia and South Australia.

He has received numerous awards for Rural Journalism during his thirty-year association with the ABC - the latest being in 2012 when he received the prestigious award from Rural Media SA as a 'Rural Media Icon'. He was the sixth person to receive such an Award.

Alan has spent the last thirteen years as the Regional Production Manager at the Mount Gambier ABC station. There would not be too many rural people in the South East, or throughout the state of South Australia, who have not heard Alan on the radio. His referees all speak of the energy, drive and commitment that he gave to his job. Whatever task he tackled he left behind innovation, attention to detail and a high standard for others to match.

