

## ROCA AWARD OF MERIT 2014 – Hon Peter Dunn

Hon Peter Dunn was awarded the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association Award of Merit at the Annual General Meeting of the Association on Friday 18th October 2014. Peter had provided exemplary service to the Rural Community initially as a member then chairman of the local Agricultural Bureau, followed by chairman of the Advisory Board of Agriculture, then through his Parliamentary duties as Upper House member taking a particular interest in the communities to the far north of the State including pastoralists and aboriginal groups alike. He serviced this huge 'electorate' often by flying his own Cessna aircraft or by using a hire aircraft when flying with more than two people. He often travelled with the Lower House member for this electorate, Mr Graham Gunn. Messrs Gunn and Dunn represented this area as it had never been represented before, not only on a face-to-face basis but also in committee meetings and interpersonal discussions with colleagues on both sides of parliament.

Peter was elected by his fellow members as President of the Legislative Council, as he had previously shown to be impartial and fair in his decision making - qualities referred to by his opposition members. These qualities were also paramount in dealing with many disputes farmers had with the Native Vegetation Council of which he was chairman following his retirement from Parliament. He was usually able to find a 'middle way' that was acceptable to both parties.

Peter farmed at Rudall since graduating from the College in 1956 having bought the property from his family during a period of low wheat prices. One of the first things he did when going back to Rudall was to make 50 acres or so available to the College and then to the Waite Agricultural Research Institute agronomists for variety trials. This area was of particular interest to them because they said "if you can grow wheat here you can grow it anywhere in Australia."

Peter was a popular member of his year at the College. He played football, water-polo and cricket and gained the prize for being the best student handling farm machinery. Peter was President of ROCA as well as the Eyre Peninsula representative for several years, so he found time to support his alma mater as well.

