

# AUTUMN 2013

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## NEW PRESIDENT FOR ROCA

David Spencer has been elected President at the last AGM in 2012.

David graduated from Roseworthy Agricultural College with a RDA in 1971 and a RDAT in 1972. He then completed a Diploma of Teaching in 1973 and taught Agricultural Studies in South Australian schools until 1986. Mid-career saw David appointed as a Rural Studies Lecturer with TafeSA at Murray Bridge. Later in his career he completed a Masters of Social Science (Educational Counselling) with the University of South Australia. He worked as a Student Counsellor at TafeSA northern suburbs campuses until his retirement in 2011.



## NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is an honor to be President of ROCA. It is 115 years since the Association started and is testament to the passion and loyalty of Roseworthy's Old Collegians.

I can still remember the first day I started at Roseworthy back in 1968, a place that has remained a very important part of my life ever since. The friendships I made during my four years there have been enduring, and I consider them to be my other family.

The Roseworthy Old Collegians Association only remains a viable association because of your passion and loyalty as well. You are ably assisted by having an active committee:

Immediate Past President: .....Richard Turnbull  
 Secretary: .....Tracy Parkes  
 Treasurer: .....Paul Mansfield  
 EP representative: .....Mike Wake  
 SE representative: .....Alan Richardson  
 ROCA Digest Editor: .....Locky McLaren  
 Chairperson,  
 Roseworthy Campus & Student Fund: .....Ray Taylor  
 Other members: .....Mark Seeliger  
 .....Rob Smyth  
 .....Dale Manson  
 .....Mark Rodda  
 .....Chris Penfold  
 Public Officer: .....Richard Turnbull

Every year at the AGM the Committee is up for renewal and you are most welcome to nominate yourself or some other ROCA member. It is only by having a few new faces do we re-energize and explore new ideas. We usually meet about six times a year with individuals and sub-committees working on projects in between those times. Our country committee members, if given plenty of notice of meeting dates, can usually attend. A broad base of committee membership will help to keep ROCA in touch with the general members.

### Moving With The Times

Keeping in touch with the leadership group is very important. To that end we now have a Facebook page set up by Cheryl Freak (Kernick '87) of BizBoost!

A number of committee members are administrators (Locky McLaren, Mark Rodda, Dale Manson, Tracey Parkes and Rob Smyth) and are doing a great job at maintaining it. We encourage you to visit and 'like' the page so that word will spread about it amongst Old Collegians.

The University of Adelaide Alumni also has an extensive web site on which ROCA is well represented. Those who have had a look would have seen all sorts of information that can be perused. One of the latest items to be added is a digital copy of every Student Magazine - if you wish to do a little research on the past you can make a start at this site. The Archives Volunteer Group is gradually adding more material to the University digital collection. Some items are being made available through the ROCA website.

If you have any material you think may be of interest to the archive please make contact. Anything that can be directly linked to Roseworthy could be useful such as articles about Roseworthy, campus or exam timetables, oral histories, and reports. Digital copies of paper articles or photographs are acceptable if the owner wants to keep the original. Photos are more useful if we have a date, name and explanation to go with them.

We have often been asked the question "I've still got my old lecture notes, would you like them?" Unfortunately, they are of little historical interest so perhaps the recycle bin may be their best fate!

### Looking To The Future

Some years ago many ROCA members were feeling a little despondent, as the future of the Roseworthy Campus was looking a little glum. However, just as a seed germinates under the right environmental conditions, it would appear that once again the Roseworthy Campus is about to bloom due to its reinstatement as a centre for animal production and agriculture.

This April will see the first Graduates of Animal Science and Veterinary Bioscience from the Roseworthy Campus. In 2014 we will see the first graduates of the Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. And there is more. Recently the University of Adelaide announced that they would build an Animal Research Centre on the Roseworthy Campus. This initiative was funded by the sale of properties originally bequeathed to the University by John Mortlock and John Davies.

I have had the opportunity of meeting many of the leadership staff at the Roseworthy Campus. Their evident passion and enthusiasm for the Roseworthy Campus, combined with The University of Adelaide strategic plans, shows that the misgivings some ROCA members had about the changing circumstances can be in some way perhaps appeased.

It would appear that just as Roseworthy was an integral part of the Agricultural Industry in the last 100 years, it will return to that status in the near future as The University of Adelaide's Roseworthy Campus makes a major contribution to addressing global issues of food scarcity and adapting food production to climate change.

**David Spencer**  
ROCA President



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Roseworthy-Old-Collegians-Association/2015570998764>

**ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY TO BOOST ANIMAL RESEARCH**

ABC Updated March 6, 2013, 12:30 pm

Adelaide University is about to embark on what it says is the largest investment in agricultural research by an Australian university.

It will spend \$50 million on expansion of research capabilities at its Roseworthy and Waite campuses.

Professor Kym Abbott said the funding had been raised from a sale of three properties bequeathed to the university for the purpose of supporting agricultural science.

"What that will do will enable us to firstly invest in some additional infrastructure on the campus to make the place more attractive to the sort of research scientists that we want to get here," he said.

"Secondly we will actually now bring in new research scientists to help lead and develop a new research program."

'Strength builds more strength'

Professor Abbott said the campuses wanted to be internationally-recognised for their animal-based research.

"Strength builds more strength in research and as we are able to do research over the next few years that's going to make us a more attractive institution for PhD students, for post-doc researchers and for additional researchers to come and join us," he said.

Vice-chancellor Warren Bebbington praised the benefactors John Mortlock and John Davies who had made the expansion possible.

"We are extremely proud to be able to honour their memories in a way that will not only support South Australia's farming community but also address global issues of food security and climate change adaptation," he said

**ROCA DINNER & AGM 2013, THE GLENELG GOLF CLUB**

Please don't forget the upcoming Annual ROCA Dinner and AGM, to be held at **The Glenelg Golf Club**, James Melrose Ave, Novar Gardens on Friday 18 October 2013. The dinner is always a great event, filled with riveting and revealing stories from the 10, 25, 40 & 50 Year Reunion Groups.

Year groups, it is time to start rounding up your mates.

Each year the 50 year group has a special opportunity for an extra celebration as they are invited to join all the past students of The University of Adelaide who graduated 50 years ago to a special Golden Jubilee ceremony at the Bonython Hall. For the Roseworthy graduates of 1963 this is your chance to join the Golden Jubilee celebration as well as attend the AGM and Reunion dinner on the same day, 18 October 2013.

On Saturday morning, 19 October, the Wine Alumni has made an offer to the Reunion groups and other members to visit the winery at the Waite Campus - if there is enough interest we will accept.

Contact people for this year's special year groups are:

- **50 Years** (1963) – Robert Ryan (08 8598 0227)
- **40 Years** (1973) – Allan Alcock  
Email: [alcock.allan@gmail.com](mailto:alcock.allan@gmail.com)
- **25 Years** (1988) – Michael Vigar, 0427 399320,  
Email [michaelv@virginiairrigation.com.au](mailto:michaelv@virginiairrigation.com.au)
- **10 Years** (2003) –  
We need a coordinator. Can you help?  
Ring Dale Manson 0418 811233 or  
[manson.daga@bigpond.com](mailto:manson.daga@bigpond.com)

In addition, Brian Gravestocks is organising a reunion group of the 1973 Premiership RAC "A Grade" Football Team. Brian will be contacting all members of the team personally.

## ROCA IS ON FACEBOOK!

Come check it out, "Like" it and add to it!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Roseworthy-Old-Collegians-Association/201555709987641?fref=ts>

## SOUTH EAST REUNION AT NARACOORTE IN JULY 2013

South East ROCA members have a reunion on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> of July at the Naracoorte Hotel.

Contacts are: Allan Richardson, Charlie Goode and David Brown

The guest speaker will be Bardy McFarlane, flying over from Perth for the occasion.

Bardy is now employed by BHP Billiton as head of their Land Access Management, ie he negotiates all their deals with landholders regarding access to land for exploration for exploration and development. He also heads negotiations on things such as Native Title.

Prior to this he was a keen member of the Native Title Tribunal. After leaving Roseworthy, Bardy went back to the family farm south of Taillem Bend. Then he decided to become a lawyer, studied Law at the University of Adelaide, and joined Adelaide law firm Piper Alderman. He ended up specializing in Native Title negotiations - hence his career progression since then. He will have many interesting stories to tell and is an outstanding speaker.

## ROCA DINNER 2012

The 114<sup>th</sup> AGM was held at The Grange Golf Club. About 150 guests attended and as has been the case for the past couple of years, the members were mostly made up of the 50 year and 40 year graduates of the RDA courses. The Immediate Past President, Dick Turnbull, presented the Award of Merit to Vic Patrick who responded with a reflection on his past achievements. Vic concluded by offering a toast to ROCA and Roseworthy. Professor Iain Reid, the Executive Dean, School of Animal and Veterinary Science, represented The University of Adelaide as our Guest of Honor. Iain responded to the toast to ROCA and the Roseworthy Campus. We were fortunate to have a group of Veterinary Science students attend the ROCA Dinner with David Purdie, Manager of Student Services. This was made possible with the financial support of the University Alumni.

As always when the past Graduates took the floor, we heard a few interesting stories of their past and present life experiences. What are most striking are the diverse career paths that the Roseworthy graduates have taken since they left the campus many years ago.

One needs to be reminded that although their primary training was in Agriculture or Oenology, the accompanying transferable skills such as problem solving, evaluation of facts and information, research, report writing, internalization of the scientific method as well as life skills such as tenacity, team work, tolerance and management all go to make the individual. The forks in the career road once leaving Roseworthy are varied and numerous. However, the chance of a reunion gives them all the chance to backtrack for a moment in time to celebrate their common starting line.



The students shown in this photo are all Veterinary students (at differing year levels):

Back Row: David Purdie (Head of College), Jon Bartsch, Alanna Knight

Front Row: Alicia Rochler, Nichola Combe, Katerina Vallance, Benjamin Linn

### ROSEWORTHY CAMPUS & STUDENT FUND

There are several good news stories emerging from successful scholarship winners and two of these stories are about Sharnna Devereux and Amy Gutsche:

Sharnna Devereux was the 2012 recipient of the Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund Scholarship. She has successfully completed her second year of the Bachelor of Science (Animal Science Programme) achieving two Distinctions and 6 Credit Grades, therefore receiving a Grade Point Average of 5.25; well-done Sharnna.

Amy Gutsche was the inaugural winner of the Agribusiness Leaders Scholarship. Amy was the guest speaker at the University of Adelaide Benefactors Circle Dinner a few weeks ago and her speech about her experience as a scholarship winner was inspirational and one of the highlights of the event. She prompted keen interest in scholarships and how to become involved.

### ROSEWORTHY ARCHIVES UPDATE

In July 2004, a small group of Roseworthy graduates began work as volunteers in the University of Adelaide Archives. The group, which has grown over time, meets at the North Terrace campus on Tuesday afternoons to assist with managing the large collection of Roseworthy College records managed by the Archives. Since commencing, an outstanding number of projects have been undertaken to assist in making the records more accessible to enquirers and researchers, as well as providing basic conservation principles to ensure the records are preserved for the future.

One of the major achievements has been the completion of the authoritative list of graduates from 1886 to 2010 which is now available for viewing at the ROCA website. Other resources now online thanks to the volunteers are an extensive photograph collection, the Student magazine, Award of Merit Winners Information Sheets and back editions of the ROCA Digest.

But apart from these publicly available records, there are many other finding aids which have been or are currently being created, including:

- Rehoused and listed Student Files
- Staff Listing
- Listed Correspondence Files
- Index to 'The Student' magazine
- Index to Roseworthy Council Minutes
- Rehousing and Indexing of Newscuttings
- Summarised Annual Reports
- Indexed records of Munduney Station
- Digitised copies of student cards

The University Archives appreciates immensely the work done by the Roseworthy Volunteer Group. They 'add value' by performing tasks that are too time-consuming for paid staff to undertake and enable the collection to be accessed by greater numbers of researchers, as well as preserving the rich history of Roseworthy Agricultural College.

### Sue Coppin

Collection Archivist, University of Adelaide Archives

Whilst we can claim pleasing results to date we are acutely aware of the huge need for student and other appropriate Campus support hence our endeavours will continue with increased enthusiasm. At present discussions are being held with representative of the Pig Industry thanks to the efforts of Graeme Pope who is confident of a positive outcome.

Arrangements are well in train for the establishment of a prize for the top student in the final year of the Doctor of Veterinary Science. The award will be known as the Hon. Dr. Bruce Eastick Prize to acknowledge Bruce's contribution to ROCA and to the Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund. On a sad note we express condolences to Bruce and the family on the recent passing of wife Dawn; our thoughts and prayers are with you Bruce.

### Ray Taylor

Chair, Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund



Some members of the University Archives Volunteer Group  
– Roseworthy Special Interest Group, April 2013

L to R: Peter Fairbrother, Richard Campbell, Dick Flower,  
David Spencer, Andrew Brown (front)

## REAPPOINTMENTS

### **Dale Manson Reappointed to the Alumni Advisory Committee**

Past ROCA President, Dale Manson, has recently been reappointed for a second two-year term by the University of Adelaide Vice Chancellor, Warren Bebbington to his Alumni Advisory Committee.

The focus of the Committee is to provide strategic advice to the Vice-Chancellor with respect to the University-wide alumni relations program. Recent programs include the formation of new alumni networks and the establishment of new alumni initiatives to increase broad alumni engagement. Another important role is to provide knowledgeable leadership as an alumni ambassador of the University of Adelaide, including provision of ongoing advice and feedback on the University's strategic initiatives.

Following the merger of Roseworthy Agricultural College with the University of Adelaide in 1990, all former graduates of RAC were included as full alumni of Adelaide University. ROCA has developed to become an important chapter of the University of Adelaide's Alumni since that time. As the Alumni Advisory Committee comprises a limited number of alumni chapter representatives, it is indeed an honour for ROCA that the Vice Chancellor has included Dale Manson on his Alumni Advisory Committee.

Other members of the Alumni Advisory Committee include South Australian Lieutenant Governor, Mr Hieu Van Le, Adelaide Lord Mayor, Stephen Yarwood, Prominent International Lawyer, Mr John Hancock, Public relations identity, Ms Cherylee Harris and Managing Director of KeyInvest, Mr Ian Campbell.

Of particular interest to ROCA is the recent appointment of Dr Paul Grbin to the Alumni Advisory Committee. Dr Grbin currently leads the newly formed Wine Alumni Chapter and works for the University of Adelaide as Senior Lecturer in Oenology within the School of Agriculture, Food & Wine. He is also a graduate of Roseworthy Campus, gaining a Graduate Diploma of Wine in 1990.

### **Simon Maddocks and John Radcliffe returned to Council**

ROCA is pleased that its two preferred candidates for the recent University of Adelaide Council election were successful in gaining another term. ROCA feels it is important that the interests of Roseworthy Campus are directly represented on University Council. Although not graduates of the Campus, both men have the interests of Roseworthy at heart.

Professor Simon Maddocks is currently the Director, Science Partnerships with South Australian Research & Development Institute (SARDI). Previously, he served as Head of the University's Department of Animal Science and was appointed Director of the Roseworthy Campus in 1998.

Dr John Radcliffe AM, an Honorary Research Fellow in CSIRO, is a former Commissioner of the National Water Commission. He was previously Deputy Chief Executive of CSIRO responsible for Divisions in the "Natural Resources Alliance" (Plant Industry, Land and Water, Marine Research, Wildlife & Ecology, Entomology, Atmospheric Research, Forestry and Forest Products). Prior to that, he was South Australian Director-General of Agriculture.

## ROCA PRIZE AWARDED TO TOP GRADUATES

The University of Adelaide has accepted our offer to award the top graduates of the Bachelor of Science (Animal Science) and the Bachelor of Science (Veterinary Bioscience) from 2013. The Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine award will be awarded from 2014, and will be funded annually by The Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund.

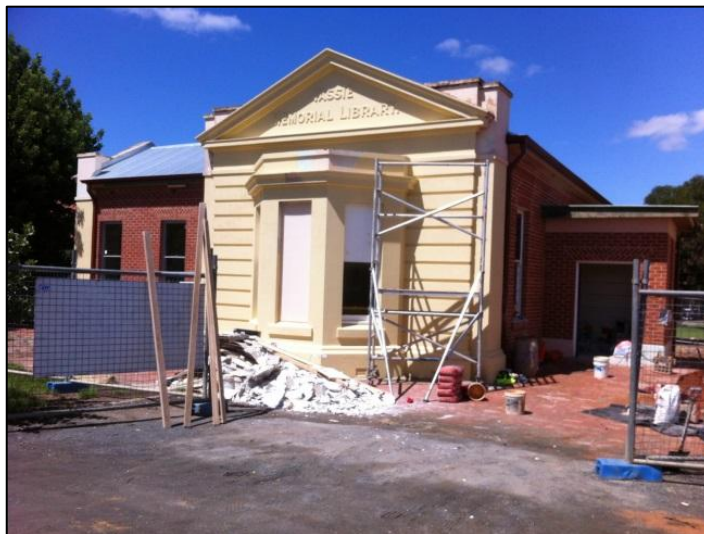
At the recent Recognition Evening held by the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences ROCA President, David Spencer, presented the Animal Science prize to Michelle Birkett and the Veterinary Bioscience prize to Jia Wen Siow.

As we have made this commitment for the next ten years to strengthen the ties between ROCA and the Roseworthy Campus, we need your financial support. By coincidence, the RDA 1971 graduating year has donated \$1500 to initiate the Prize Fund. However, we will need more donations to fund our future commitments. At this stage each prize awarded to the top graduates is \$500.

It would be heartening if other Graduation Year Groups or individual graduates would also see their way to donate to our ROCA Prize Fund. Our Treasurer, Paul Mansfield, eagerly waits to write your donation into his ledger! With your permission we will acknowledge your contribution in the ROCA Digest.

**ROSEWORTHY CAMPUS BUILDING RESTORATION PROJECTS**

If you have been to the Campus lately you would be aware that The University of Adelaide has been very proactive in generating restoration projects. The Tassie library restoration was begun last year. All that neuron energy generated over the years, especially at exam time, must have weakened the mortar as the rear half of the building was breaking up. David Forwood, the Campus Manager of Services, Resources and Property said the project will be completed by the end of semester ready for use by the post graduate students. David has been very particular in maintaining authenticity and that attention to detail will see many aspects of the old library restored to their original appearance.



However, there have been a few building items lost over the years. Originally, there were three leadlight sections in the bay window. There is only one left, so if you have any idea of the fate of the other two, David Forwood would like to hear from you. The cross swords that were on the wall just beside the door on the right (that's where most remember them being) disappeared some time ago as well. If you have any information about their fate we would be keen to know.

A thorough Conservation Management Plan has been completed for the restoration of the Roseworthy College Hall (Main Building). The University was successful in receiving a Grant from the Your Community Heritage (YCH) Program through Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities to tackle Stage 1 of this Plan. Age and previous alterations has taken its toll leaving a few structural problems and loss of original character.



Stage 1 of the Plan involves remediation of the façade and foundations, restoring the front entrance and reinstating some internal walls. David Forwood said that Stage 1 should be completed by about August 2013. Full restoration will depend on available funds so that the whole building can comply with the Building Regulations (especially the upstairs floor) and be returned to active service.

**LOST AND FOUND**

These articles were found under the floorboards in Room 6 in the main building. The rightful owner can phone the Facilities Manager, David Forwood, to make a claim.



### UPDATE ON THE WINE ALUMNI

A Wine Alumni was formed in August 2012. The launch was reported in the spring issue of the ROCA Digest. The aim, very much like that of ROCA, is to continue the spirit of friendship that developed between people during their student years. The Wine Alumni aims to bring together past and present students and staff from Roseworthy Agricultural College and The University of Adelaide from wine-related programmes. This includes anyone who has taken an undergraduate or post-graduate course or research studies in the disciplines of viticulture, oenology or wine business/marketing at either of these institutions. At this stage the Wine Alumni is in the development stage and the committee is exploring how best to progress with its activities. A goal is to strengthen the relationship between The University of Adelaide and its graduates (from both institutions) and to help create links between current students and graduates.

The main source of information is via The Wine Alumni email newsletter. This is an email newsletter that will inform members of the Alumni's activities and functions, what is happening at The University of Adelaide and in the wine industry. The last newsletter reported on the many awards that graduates of Roseworthy Agricultural College and The University of Adelaide received in 2012.

**To receive the email newsletter** you need to join the Wine Alumni and provide your current email address. **To join the Wine Alumni** you need to register through the University of Adelaide's alumni community at [www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/adelaideonlion](http://www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/adelaideonlion). If you are an Adelaide onLION member (that is you already have a username and password) login and check your profile to make sure your email address is up to date. If you have not previously received login details, to request an account, use [www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/adelaideonlion](http://www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/adelaideonlion). The alumni team will send you login details (note this may take a couple of days). You can then register your details and then TICK the 'Wine Alumni' box in the Alumni Network tab within your Adelaide onLION profile.

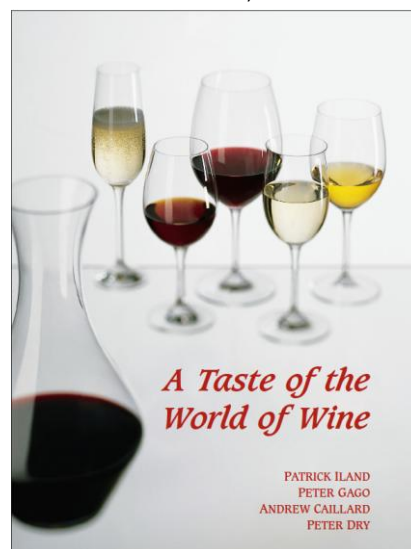
If you have any issues updating your profile, please send an email to [alumni@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:alumni@adelaide.edu.au) stating your full name and date of birth and the Development and Alumni staff will help complete the process.

Graduates from wine-related courses from the Roseworthy days can be a member of both ROCA and the Wine Alumni. We hope to have some combined functions in the future.

### Buy a wine book and support the activities of ROCA and the Wine Alumni

If you wish to support the activities of ROCA and the Wine Alumni you can purchase the book 'A Taste of the World of Wine', written by Patrick Iland, Peter Gago, Andrew Caillard and Peter Dry. The authors are past staff and students of Roseworthy Agricultural College and The University of Adelaide. The publishers and authors will donate \$20 from each sale to support the activities of ROCA and the Wine Alumni (\$10 to ROCA and \$10 to the Wine Alumni). The book has lots of information on the story of wine, vines and grapes, winemaking, how to taste and enjoy wine and the different varieties and wine styles of the world. It is a great gift for anyone interested in wine. Free postage to anywhere in Australia is included in the purchase price.

The book can be purchased from the website: [www.piwpwinebooks.com.au](http://www.piwpwinebooks.com.au)





**VIC PATRICK - ROCA AWARD OF MERIT 2012**

South Australian viticulturist and wine industry identity Vic Patrick has been awarded the 2012 Roseworthy Old Collegians Association Award of Merit. He was presented with the award at the annual ROCA dinner on 19th October. Vic joins an elite group of recipients who have been recognised for their contribution to primary industry and the community.

Vic Patrick graduated with a Diploma of Agriculture from Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1963. Ten years later he completed a Diploma in Viticulture, Vinification, Wine Chemistry and Technology at the Oenological Research Institute at Surrey in England. At this point he dramatically changed his career, from being the manager of the Cresco fertilisers plant in Wallaroo, to being appointed as vineyard manager for Wynns at Coonawarra in the mid-70s.



Over the years as the wine industry consolidated, Vic rose through the ranks to become the director of global viticulture with Mildara Blass, and then director of viticulture with the Foster's group worldwide. During his long career with the industry, Vic served with many wine industry bodies and natural resources management organisations. He is currently the chairperson of the Wine Grape Growers of Australia and a committee member of the Wine Grape Council of South Australia.

He now lives at Eden Valley with his wife Margie, where he is involved in farming and private viticulture ventures.

Vic enjoys legendary status in the industry, not just in Australia but worldwide, both for his knowledge and experience. His dry, incisive sense of humour, is also widely celebrated!

**THE ROCA AWARD OF MERIT**

Since 1961, fifty two notable Old Collegians have been honoured by the Association. The Honour Board detailing past recipients is in the foyer of the Main Building adjacent to the Dining Room at the Roseworthy Campus. The Award of Merit is regarded as the highest honour ROCA can bestow on one of its members. The quality of past ROCA Award of Merit recipients is illustrated by the following list:

1961 Roland Hill OBE	1978 Henry Day AO	1995 Grant Mayfield
1962 David Riceman	1979 Dr Mark Hutton	1996 Bob Knappstein
1963 Len Cook	1980 Cliff Hooper	1997 Jim Pocock
1964 W J Dawkins	1981 Andrew Michelmore	1998 Ian Young
1965 Frank Pearson	1982 Milton Spurling	1999 Don Moyle
1966 Sir Allan Callaghan	1983 Ralph Hewett Jones	2000 Grant Paech
1967 Bob Herriot OBE	1984 David Suter	2001 Brian Jefferies AM
1968 Denis Muirhead	1985 Hon Dr Bruce Eastick AM	2002 Dr Graham Mitchell AO
1969 Jack Reddin	1986 John Obst	2003 Philip Laffer
1970 Ron Badman	1987 Robin Steed	2004 John Vickery
1971 Prof Rex Butterfield	1988 Reg French	2005 Ronald Mertin AM
1972 Rex Krause	1989 Ray Norton	2006 Brian Rex Wilson
1973 Rex Kuchel	1990 Tony Summers	2007 Kenneth Wilfred (Wilf) Bowen
1974 Lex Walker	1991 Scott Dolling	2008 Philip John Young AM
1975 Ken Pike	1992 Rex Anderson	2009 Ian Hickinbotham OAM
1976 Len Laffer	1993 Bob Baker	2010 Arthur Ray Beckwith
1977 Des Habel	1994 Brian Hannaford	2011 Raymond John Taylor
		2012 Vic Patrick

### AWARD OF MERIT NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR 2013

When you have a look at past recipients of the ROCA Award of Merit you realize that Roseworthy has formed a great wealth of talented individuals who have in one way or another left their mark. However, when we look a bit further and listen to other Graduate stories you realize there are many deserving individuals who could also have been a recipient of the Award of Merit, but for the lack of a nomination by their peers.

So have a look about your peer group, perhaps there is an individual who stands out. Prepare a nomination by gathering the required evidence and submit it before 30 July. There is only one Award per year, but nominations can be resubmitted again.

More details and information is available at the ROCA website <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/roca/>

Nominations are now being invited for the 2013 ROCA Award of Merit, on the form enclosed with this Digest. ROCA awards the medal to a ROCA member who has made a meritorious contribution to any field of agricultural activity and/or ROCA community affairs. "Agricultural activity" is given the widest possible meaning and can include all aspects of animal, land and natural resource management.

All nominees must be ROCA members and nominations must be prepared and signed by two ROCA members. Nominations must be made on the Nomination Form and must include the information requested. A resume should be included, detailing the nominee's career since leaving Roseworthy, including details of major published papers, achievements, other qualifications, awards and honours received, services to industry, community, government and ROCA focusing particularly on impact and outcomes. References from colleagues familiar with the nominee's career and achievements should be included.



**Nominations, with the supporting information, must reach the ROCA Secretary by 30 July 2013.**

#### **BILL SPAFFORD, I.S.O., R.D.A.**

When reading a past Autumn issue of the ROCA Digest, I was once again reminded of the tremendous contribution Roseworthy College has made to South Australian – and indeed, Australian – agriculture by running my eye down the list of ROCA Award of Merit holders – all 51 of them. Most of them are or were well known to me.

It suddenly struck me that a name I felt should have been there was missing – W.J. (Bill) Spafford. I phoned President Dick Turnbull to learn that nominations of deceased persons are not acceptable under the Award rules. He suggested that to, in part, rectify the omission I could prepare a short note, setting out Spafford's contribution to rural industry and submit it for publication in a future issue of ROCA Digest.

So here goes.

Walter John Spafford – always known as Bill – was born in Adelaide in 1884. His parents were city people and there is no record of any family connection with farming. He was a student at Roseworthy College in the first years of the twentieth century and gained his diploma in 1903. While not in the top few of his graduating class, he obviously had caught the eye of

Arthur Perkins who, when he became College Principal in July 1904, appointed Bill as the first ever plant breeder to be employed by the South Australian government.

Initially inclined to see improved crop varieties by selection from within natural variation as the best way to go, he soon recognized the value of widening his options by cross-breeding and within a few years had produced new wheat varieties – Caliph and Daphne – which became quite widely grown. He also made crosses which were the basis of the work of his successor, Colin Scott, who took over Spafford's breeding lines when the latter left to join the Department of Agriculture, following Perkins when the latter became Director in 1914. One of Spafford's crosses handled by Scott became the first great Roseworthy wheat, Sword, the forerunner of the College's "weapons" series of varieties later developed by Jim Breakwell, Rex Krause and Gil Hollamby.

Perkins wanted Spafford, as the first Superintendent of Experimental Work, to take charge of the rapidly increasing program of applied research and demonstration work being undertaken with cereal crops and improved pastures on numerous farmers'

properties scattered throughout the mixed farming and higher rainfall areas of the state, and on the department's experimental stations at Kybybolite, Minnipa, Turretfield and Veitch (Murray Mallee).

In 1927, Spafford was promoted to the new job of Deputy Director of Agriculture, cementing his position as Perkins' right hand man. He also served as Acting Principal of Roseworthy College for three months in 1932 between the resignation of S.P. Birks and A.R. Callaghan's taking up duties in July of that year.

When Perkins retired in 1936, Bill Spafford was appointed as his successor and served as Director of Agriculture until his retirement in 1949

Under his stewardship a number of important developments occurred

- The Soil Conservation Act was passed and the Soil Conservation Branch established (1939-41)
- During the 1939-45 war, a major load on the Department's staff was the setting up of District War Agricultural Committees, chaired by departmental district officers. These committees were required to investigate and report on farmers' needs for manpower, machinery and the many materials which, in short supply, were closely regulated under National Security Regulations.
- The formerly separate Stock and Brands Department became a branch of the Department of Agriculture in 1944.
- The first departmental graduate cadetships were offered in 1938-39.
- In early 1947 the first fruit fly outbreak was detected in suburban Adelaide, leading to massive campaigns to eradicate this pest.

- The Australian Barley Board was established in 1948 under twin South Australian-Victorian statutes, to undertake the orderly marketing of barley and Bill Spafford was its first Chairman. He did an excellent job in this role which he retained after retirement until his death in 1962,

Spafford retired as Director of Agriculture in 1949 when his valuable service to South Australian agriculture was recognized by the award of the Imperial Service Order\*.

Bill Spafford was one of the outstanding "products" of Roseworthy College: the first professionally trained plant breeder in South Australia; the first person to be given charge of the Department of Agriculture field crop and pasture research programs; as the first Chairman of the Australian Barley Board, laid the foundation for the successful orderly marketing of the state's second most important cereal crop; and was the only Roseworthy College diplomat ever to have been appointed substantively as South Australia's Director of Agriculture.

It has given me great pleasure to summarise his achievements and bring them to the notice of members of the Roseworthy Old Collegians' Association.

Peter Trumble

\*The Imperial Service Order was established by King Edward VII in 1902 to recognize, on retirement, the long and meritorious service of staff in managerial positions throughout the civil service of British dominions and colonies. Normally 25 years service was a criterion for eligibility but this could be reduced to 16 years for those serving in "unsanitary conditions"! The Order was discontinued by the British Government in 1993.

## RECEIVING THE ROCA DIGEST

From time to time we are contacted by old collegians who have not received a Digest for a while. The usual cause is a change of address and we lose contact. We have several hundred lost members so if you know of any members in this position please encourage them to renew contact through the ROCA website, email link [roca@alumni.adelaide.edu.au](mailto:roca@alumni.adelaide.edu.au) Once we have their details we can notify the Alumni so that they receive the ROCA Digest by email.

Distributing the Digest by email is our preferred method of distribution as sending a hard copy through Australia Post is proving to be increasingly expensive. The Digest is our major cost. Last year that cost amounted to \$3,581 and, as our income is mostly accrued interest from our term deposits, we will eventually erode that investment.

If you are a recipient of a paper copy of the Digest and are prepared to swap to delivery by email, please contact us through the ROCA website. The electronic version is usually longer with more photos, because the number of pages is not a cost issue. Past copies of the electronic version can be viewed on our website.

**ROCA NOTES THE PASSING OF SOME FINE ROSEWORTHY GRADUATES**

Ray Fehlberg (RDA 1971, RDAT 1973)  
Bertie Nannes (RDA 1948)  
Martin Cochrane (RDA 1968)  
Greg Symes (RDA 1973, RDAT 1974)  
Dr Arthur Ray Beckwith OAM (RDA 1932)  
Patrick Tocaciu (RDO 1976)  
Martin Paul Hewton (RDA 1955)

**We also note the passing of the following people who have made a significant contribution to Roseworthy:**

**Dr Bryce Rankine**

Bryce did much at Roseworthy and elsewhere to train some of today's leading Oenologists. In 1978 when the oenology course at RAC underwent a significant change in administrative structure, Bryce came from the Australian Wine Institute to join the RAC staff as Head of School. He was later appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Oenology.

**Mrs Dawn Eastick**

Dawn was the wife and prime supporter of Roseworthy's most eminent living icon, Hon Dr Bruce Eastick AM. Her unwavering support of Bruce and all activities associated with Roseworthy did much to improve the institution.

**THE PASSING OF PAT TOCACIU**

With great sadness, ROCA notes the death of well-known Coonawarra winemaker, winery owner and outstanding sportsman, Pat Tocaciu.

Pat and his family generously allowed ROCA to use their excellent cellar door facility at Coonawarra last year for the South East ROCA dinner. They were generous and helpful hosts.

At the time Pat was battling a brain tumour and he fought that battle valiantly until earlier this year.

Patrick was raised in Mount Gambier. From an early age he showed talent as an outstanding sportsman and was recruited in 1969 by North Adelaide Football Club into their junior ranks.

He decided to study Oenology at Roseworthy Agricultural College in the early seventies and graduated in 1975. While at the College, Pat was an outstanding footballer. He played in key positions on the ball. He possessed an unusual combination of weight, speed and athletic skill that could break open a game. His long kicking and high marking were at times spectacular.

Pat returned to the "Roosters" football club after graduating, and played 16 games for the Reserves, then debuted as a league player at the age of 24 in 1977. That year he won the club trophy as team's best first year player. He went on to play 51 league games for the Roosters.

His winemaking career included being senior winemaker with Penfolds and chief winemaker at Tollana at Eden Valley, Hollicks (at Coonawarra) and Heathfield Ridge in the Wrattobully district. Pat was responsible for designing and establishing the large, state of the art Heathfield Ridge winery in fact.

In 2004, Pat and his family decided to make and sell wine under their own brand, "Patrick T", now "Patrick of Coonawarra". More recently they introduced the successful "Mother of Pearl" range of wines. The business owns 41 Ha of grapes in the Wrattobully area and 38 Ha at Coonawarra and have won a number awards for their wines... not just for their reds (as you'd expect from a Coonawarra winery!) but also for some outstanding white wines.

Pat's family, his wife Jenny and their two sons Matthew and Luke will ensure the business continues. Luke is in fact winemaker at Patrick of Coonawarra). Pat will be remembered for his outstanding wines and by his many friends and admirers associated with the wine industry, plus numerous friends and associates in the sporting world, where Pat was very well known and well-connected.

## GETTING READY FOR THE ANZAC CENTENARY

ROCA has a proud tradition of commemorating the military service of ex students who served their country in time of war. This tradition is evidenced by the memorial to Alexander Nicholas and Fredrick Tothill killed during the South African Campaign 1899 – 1902 mounted in the wall at the front of the dining room. The great WWI mahogany honour roll in the main foyer of Roseworthy Hall (the main building) was researched and erected by ROCA as was the chapel and the brass honour roll containing the names of the 499 Roseworthians who serviced in the South African War and the two World Wars.

There is now a little bit of unfinished business for ROCA. We need to update the brass honour roll in the chapel with the names of all those Roseworthian who served in the post WW2 conflicts. As we approach the centenary of WWI it seems appropriate we do this. Also a group of ROCA national servicemen have organised a commemorative plaque for the ex students who were conscripted for military service 1964 to 1971. We now need to gather the names of those ex-students who saw active service in the other post WW2 conflicts. If you know of any one contact me, Dick Turnbull on 84316618 or e-mail me at: [randcturnbull@bigpond.com](mailto:randcturnbull@bigpond.com)



Roseworthy Memorial Chapel

On Anzac day 2012 over 80 students and staff attended a ceremony at the chapel, which demonstrated a surprising degree of interest amongst the current student and staff. This year Anzac day fell in the middle of the term break and it was felt that a ceremony would not work. However the campus authorities and student leaders would like to see one next year as a prelude to the major ceremony on Anzac Day 1915. I expect ROCA will take the lead in organising a major event to mark the centenary of the Anzac landing on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915.

The University is about to complete the restoration and upgrade of the Tassie Memorial Library, a project that has cost over \$250,000. I visited Roseworthy with Bill Watson a few weeks ago and was impressed with the work being done on the Tassie library but even more impressed with the work currently being carried out on the Main Building (Roseworthy Hall). The whole front and sides of the building were shrouded in scaffolding and the earth around the outer walls removed to expose the stone foundations. This expensive work is testament to the value the University is placing on the heritage of Roseworthy. ROCA need to make a contribution to maintaining our heritage and one way of doing this is to update the honour roll and take a lead in organising an event at Roseworthy on Anzac Day 1915.

To this end and as a personal project I have begun researching the biographies of the 228 Roseworthians who served in WW1. Their stories will be told in a website I will be constructing, entitled "Tales from the Honour Roll". I am also acutely aware that we have many WW2 veterans in our midst and I would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be prepared to write their biographies highlighting their war service. We should not have to wait to 2039 to record their stories. Rob (RB) Stirling from Cummins and now Tumby Bay has given me his story, he was an RAAF Flying Officer with bomber command in the UK.

Dick Turnbull

### ROSEWORTHY TOUR DOWN UNDER 2013

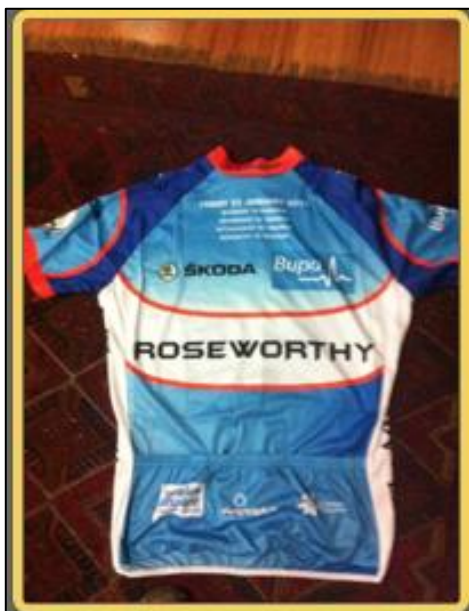
The 'Roseworthy' inaugural TDU Team made its debut on 25 January in the Community Ride between Modbury and Tanunda. Riders for 2012 were Brian Ashton, Chris O'Donnell, David Spencer, Ian Black and Peter Rumball.



Peter Rumball, Tom Yeatman, Brian Ashton and Ian Black in the back row, and Chris O'Donnell and David Spencer in the front row.



The Tour Down Under Team, proudly showing the Roseworthy name on the back of their jerseys.



We are hoping to radically reduce the average age of the team participants by handing the management of the team over to the Roseworthy Student Union Council (RACSUC) who will promote the ride as a fundraiser for the Campus. The next TDU Community Ride will be held on 25 January 2014. All levels of riders can be accommodated as there is a 30, 60, 90 or 120 km option that can be selected.

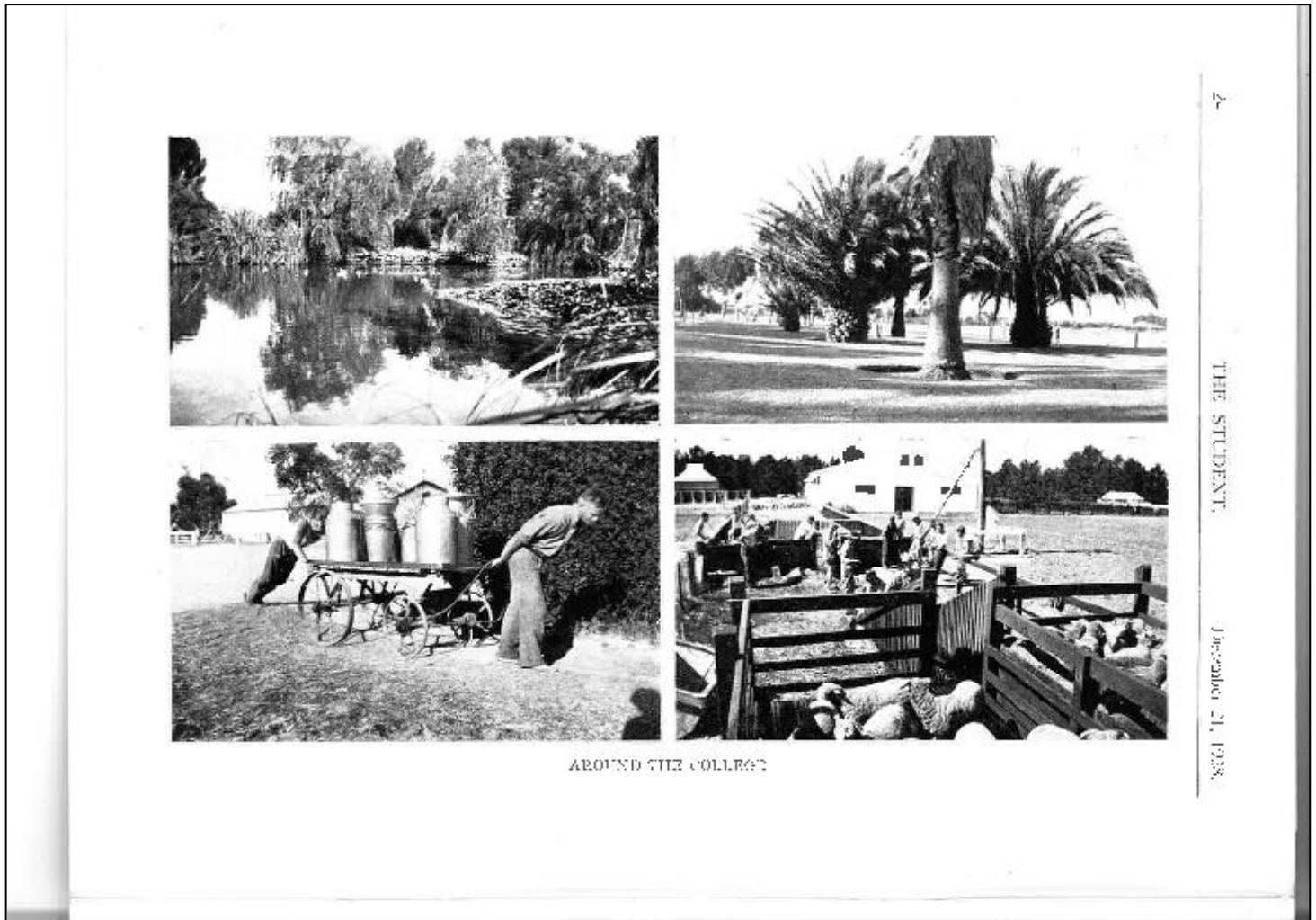
If you want to join the Roseworthy Team you need to register with a special Team Code before November. More details will be available later in the year.

**CAN YOU HELP IDENTIFY THESE PHOTOS FROM THE 1938 STUDENT MAG?**

A lot of buildings have come and gone since 1938.

Perhaps you would like to offer an opinion as to where these photos were taken on the Roseworthy Campus?

If you can help please use the email address on the ROCA web site ([roca@alumni.adelaide.edu.au](mailto:roca@alumni.adelaide.edu.au))

**ROSEWORTHY CAMPUS STUDENT CHARITY BALL: CAN YOU HELP?**

This is a cocktail event held towards the end of the year involving a raffle of donated goods. Money raised is donated to a charity chosen by the student body, in previous years raising up to \$5000. Revenue generated from ticket sales allows the production of merchandise printed with sponsor logos, a popular addition to the event.

If you have any enquiries or would like to negotiate a special sponsorship package please contact Alicia Rochler, President, Roseworthy Agricultural Campus Student Union Council Inc. by email [racsuc@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:racsuc@adelaide.edu.au)

## EYRE PENINSULA BRANCH REUNION

The annual reunion, AGM and dinner of the Eyre Peninsula Branch of the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association, was held on the 16th of February at the Boston Bay Winery. There was an excellent roll-up of 47 people who enjoyed a magnificent gourmet barbecue, the quality of which more than equalled the Winery's reputation for fine food and wine.

This was followed by a talk from guest speaker Linden Masters, a Wharminda farmer who is now at Minnipa Agricultural Centre. He spoke of his two years working on an Indian reservation in the Navajo country of New Mexico.

David Spencer, President of ROCA, was present to represent the parent body in Adelaide. He said the ongoing success of the Eyre Peninsula branch was a credit to those involved. The example is being used to encourage past Roseworthy College students in other regions, such as the South East and Riverland, to have reunions.

The Eyre Peninsula reunions used to be held in Port Lincoln every year. However, lately they have been held alternately, in Port Lincoln one year and in a regional centre the next. This has worked extremely well with more people attending in the last few years.



Photo: Past Roseworthy College student Sean O'Brien thanks the guest speaker Linden Masters.

## PRESENTATION OF THE 2012 ALUMNI FELLOWS AWARDS

Presentation of the 2012 Alumni Fellow Awards was conducted at the University of Adelaide Alumni Recognition Ceremony in the Bonython Hall Monday 29th October.

Professor Warren Bebbington, Vice Chancellor of the University honoured ROCA Honorary Life Members Wilf Bowen, Ray Taylor and Mark Seeliger as "Alumni Fellows" in recognition of their various contributions to the Advisory Committee, Roseworthy Old Collegians Association and governance of the Alumni.



Photo: Wilf Bowen, Mark Seeliger, Ray Taylor and Professor Simon Maddocks (former director of Roseworthy Campus) at the ceremony.



## AWARD OF MERIT NOMINATION FORM

**Nominees Information:**

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Phone Number:</b>	
<b>Period at Roseworthy:</b>	
<b>Qualification Gained:</b>	

<b>Proposed by:</b>	<b>Seconded by:</b>
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Name:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>Address:</b>
<b>Phone No:</b>	<b>Phone No:</b>
<b>Period at Roseworthy:</b>	<b>Period at Roseworthy:</b>
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>

Please attach supporting data outlining the nominee's career since leaving Roseworthy, including details of major published papers, achievements, academic qualifications, awards & honours received and service to industry, community and ROCA. Nominators and nominee must be current ROCA members.

Nominations should be sent to Roseworthy Old Collegians Association, P.O. Box 503, Kent Town SA 5071 and must be received no later than 30<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

**Rules governing the ROCA Award of Merit**

1. ROCA shall periodically award a medal to a ROCA member who has made a meritorious contribution to any field of agricultural activity and/or ROCA community affairs. For the purpose of these rules, "agricultural activity" shall be given the widest possible meaning and will include all aspects of animal, land and natural resource management.
2. The award shall be considered annually and if, in the opinion of the Selection Committee, there is no candidate of sufficient merit, no award shall be made.
3. All nominees must be ROCA members and nominations shall be prepared and signed by two ROCA members. Nominations must be made on the Nomination Form and must include the information required thereon.
4. Nominations should be accompanied by a resume detailing the nominee's career since leaving Roseworthy. This should also include details of major published papers, achievements, other qualifications, awards and honours received, and details of services to industry, community, government and ROCA focusing particularly on impact and outcomes. References from colleagues familiar with the nominee's career and achievements should be included.
5. Nominations with the supporting data must reach the ROCA Secretary by 30 July each year. The Executive of ROCA shall review the nominations and has the right to reject any nomination deemed unsuitable before submitting the nominations to the Selection Committee.
6. The Executive of ROCA may, at its discretion, include for consideration any candidates previously nominated.
7. The Selection Committee shall consist of five members, one from each of the following fields:
 

Primary production research and/or extension	Public service	Primary production
Agricultural related industry	President of ROCA	
8. The Executive of ROCA shall appoint to the Selection Committee such persons who are, in its opinion, of sufficient standing and experience to be competent to assess the merits of candidates from any field of agricultural activity. The Executive of ROCA will review membership of the Selection Committee each year.
9. The President of ROCA shall be the convener of the Selection Committee and shall have only a casting vote. Three members of the Committee will constitute a quorum.
10. In the event that a member of the Executive of ROCA or the Selection Committee is nominated for the Award, that person will stand down from all discussions and deliberations for that year.
11. The Selection Committee shall make its recommendation to the Executive of ROCA at least four weeks prior to the date of presentation of the Award.
12. Members of the Executive of ROCA and the Selection Committee are required to hold the names of all nominees in strict confidence.