Roseworthy Campus Association Inc - ROCA

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Des Habel

Roseworthy Diploma in Agriculture 1947

Inducted as ROCA Honorary Life Member - 1970

Des Habel was elected an Honorary Life Membership of the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association at the Association's 1970 Annual General Meeting.

Whilst there was no published citation when Des Habel's Honorary Life Membership was awarded, it can be assumed the award was made for:

- **Being the driving force behind the Association's successful Eyre Peninsula Branch, including many years as Secretary, during which time he initiated the Branch Day Picnic and Ladies Dinner. (The election of Honorary Life Membership was at the recommendation of the Eyre Peninsula Branch.)**

The Honorary Life Member Award and Badge was presented to Des Habel at the Eyre Peninsula Branch Annual General Meeting and Reunion Dinner at Port Lincoln on 27 February 1971.

Des Habel graduated from Roseworthy Agricultural College with a Diploma in Agriculture in 1947.

Born at Loxton on 13 July 1920, Des Habel's secondary education was at St Peters College in Adelaide, from where he obtained a scholarship to Roseworthy Agricultural College, initially attending from 1937 to 1940.

Graduation was interrupted by WWII. Des Habel initially served as a member of the Army Veterinary Corp attached to the 9-23 Light Horse, a Citizen Military Force (CMF). Following enlistment in the second Australian Imperial Force (AIF) on 27 August 1941, Des Habel served in Field Ambulance units in Darwin and the Pacific Islands until his discharge on 19 November 1945.

In 1948, Des Habel joined the Department of Agriculture as a Soil Conservation Field Officer and in 1950 was appointed District Stock Inspector at Port Lincoln, where he lived and worked as Animal Health Adviser until 1972. Des Habel was awarded the P.L. Puckridge Shield by the Coulta-Wangary Agricultural Bureau in 1973 for the person who made the greatest contribution to agriculture in the preceding twelve months.

Des Habel was the recipient of the Association's ROCA Award of Merit in 1977. He died at Port Lincoln on 27th December 1994.