Fact Sheet

Roseworthy Old Collegians Association Inc.

Roseworthy

ROCA AWARD OF MERIT 2022 – Graeme Pope

Graeme John Pope (RDA 1977, GradDipAg 1985, A.Dip.WineMark 1995) graduated from Roseworthy Agricultural College and is considered to be one of the most respected pig industry experts and educators in Australia.

Over a career spanning nearly fifty years, nationally he has revolutionised the manner in which technology transfer within the pig industry occurs at the level of producer, tertiary educator, secondary student and across the general community. His leadership in pig industry education, producer empowerment and the use of community focused communications techniques to bridge the knowledge gap between industry and the general public has been recognised in many quarters.

Initially working in the 1970s with the SA Department of Agriculture as an animal health expert and pig industry consultant, Graeme Pope subsequently felt he could provide a far greater level of national leadership and structural change within the pig industry as a self-employed consultant. Within the tertiary education sector, his individual efforts have transformed pig industry education at Adelaide University's Roseworthy Campus to the extent where external industry sectors now integrate many of their initiatives on-campus, including financial input.

Specifically, Graeme Pope has spearheaded innovation within the pig industry, promoting reproduction and artificial insemination training with delivery to over five and a half thousand industry participants in Australia and New Zealand. He has also served key industry-wide roles as a director of SABOR Artificial Breeding Centre, the editor of quarterly publication Pig Industry News and deliverer of the pig industry's national ProHand pig handling program.

Within this consulting role, he delivered national pig industry extension and technology adoption programs on behalf of Australian Pork Ltd, in addition to industry liaison and biosecurity preparedness with Animal Health Australia. Locally, at the Royal Adelaide Show he served as a pig judging steward for nearly two decades and convened the yearly "Pigs & People" public showcase where the highest standards of nutrition, welfare and stock-handling practices used in the pig industry were communicated to general show visitors.

This also included a hands-on 'Pat the Pig' opportunity where the general public could have their emotional barriers greatly reduced simply by being able to touch and get close to the animals.

As a leading pig industry educator, Graeme Pope was personally responsible for delivering the Cert-3 Pork Production on-farm training skillsets, Adelaide University student mentoring and pig production teaching, plus support to agricultural studies students at thirty five South Australian high schools encompassing the areas of pig infrastructure planning and establishment, pig sourcing, industry advice and equipment sponsorships..