

THE ROCA DIGEST

AUTUMN 2020

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the ROCA Digest.

Have you ever heard the famous Chinese curse 'May you live in interesting times'? Not a truer curse could apply to life at the moment. Since the last Digest, we've had ongoing drought in some regions, fires the likes of which haven't been seen in decades, and now we find ourselves living an abbreviated existence due to COVID-19. Life sure is throwing some curveballs at us.



L-R Mark Rodda, Dick Turnbull, Dale Manson, David Coyner (retired), Fiona Hill, Kate Forrest, Melissa Rebbeck (retired), Andrew Dennis

To each and every one of our Old Collegians affected by various adversities, we wish you well and hope you are receiving appropriate support to get through these difficulties. Droughts don't just end suddenly and landscapes ravaged by bushfires don't recover quickly...it can be a long road to recovery.

Wasn't it nice to receive rain around the traditional ANZAC timing? Whilst not every corner of SA received it, it's a more promising start to the broadacre cropping season than we have experienced in a few years.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Colin Hopkins whilst on Kangaroo Island. I probably shouldn't tell tales out of school, but Hoppy is a fantastic supporter of our ROCA Shiraz fundraising wine. I soon discovered another little-known benefit of being a Roseworthy Old Collegian - Hoppy was leading a small convoy of Elders ute towing Field Bins from the ferry terminal at Penneshaw to Kingscote so I gave him a quick call to let him know we were approaching from behind...before I knew it they had pulled over so the vehicle I was travelling in could easily pass - thanks Hoppy. When the COVID restrictions are lifted, please make an effort to visit KI (and of course the Adelaide Hills) to drop a few bucks into the local economy. In fact, all of our regions could do with visitors when you can afford some time.

This issue of the ROCA Digest contains some great historical articles, a summary of the annual 2019 Reunion Dinner and an article on our Award of Merit winner from 2019. Please don't forget to nominate a worthy Old Collegian for a ROCA Award of Merit. This is presented at the ROCA Reunion Dinner. At this stage the Reunion Dinner will go ahead as usual on the third Friday night in October. Please stay tuned for more details.

For now, please stay safe and please enjoy the content of the Autumn edition of the ROCA Digest.

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ANNUAL REUNION DINNER WRAP

OCTOBER 2019

Around 120 Old Collegians gathered at the Stamford Plaza in Adelaide last October to celebrate the 121st ROCA Annual Reunion Dinner and AGM. It was fantastic to have a room full of old mates gathered together to reminisce about their scallywag days at Roseworthy and on a more serious note, to celebrate the enormous amount of graduate accomplishments in the room.

Of note was the surprise announcement of the 2019 Award of Merit recipient, Allan Piggott in the presence of his 40-year reunion cohort. It is not the norm to announce the Award of Merit winner on the night, however the 'surprise' was at the request of Allan's 40-year Grad group assembled for the event. Please refer to separate report for Award of Merit recipient.

Thanks must go to the Year Group Co-ordinators who worked hard to pull their respective cohorts together: 25-year group Kym Thiel, 40-year group Ron Shattock and Mark Secker, 50-year group Dick Turnbull, 36-year group Brad Butler, 49-year group Graham Mitchell.



Thank you also to our very valued senior members for their attendance – completing a table of 60+ year grads!

Winner of the Memorabilia Competition was Barney McCallum, with his 1st Year Steeplechase trophy (circa 1967, donated by Shell Co.), carrying it all the way from WA for the reunion.

Photos from the night can be viewed by clicking the link below:

www.flickr.com/photos/adelaidealumni/albums/72157711529343958

The next ROCA Annual Reunion Dinner and AGM will be held on Friday October 16th. If you would like to register a year-group cohort, please contact the ROCA Committee roca.committee@gmail.com



Photo Captions

Top left - 25-year Grads. L-R Martin Harvey, Kym Thiel

Bottom left – 60+-year Grads L-R Richard Downward, Hon. Dr. Bruce Eastick AM, Bruce's son Andrew Eastick, Andrew Brown

Top right - 36-year Grads L-R (Back row) Russell Meade, Max Young, Brad Butler, Dominic Cavallaro, John Stuchbery (middle row) Renee Butler, Geoff Axford (front row) Suzie Austin, Steve Brown, Philip Roberts, Kathryn Roberts

ROCA AWARD OF MERIT 2020

Nominations are now open for the 2020 Roseworthy Old Collegians Association (ROCA) Award of Merit.

The ROCA Award of Merit is bestowed upon a member of ROCA who has made a meritorious contribution in any field of agricultural activity, including Association affairs. It is regarded as the highest honour ROCA can bestow on one of its members.

Nominators are to provide details of their nominee's career since leaving Roseworthy, plus details of their service to industry, the community or ROCA. As the background detail may take some time to collate, ROCA urges nominators to start this important process as soon as possible.

ROCA Award of Merit nominations close on 31st August 2020 and must be received at: PO Box 503, Kent Town SA 5071 or roca.committee@gmail.com

Further information on the ROCA Award of Merit can be found on the ROCA website:

(<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/roca/recognition/award-of-merit>)

The 2020 ROCA Award of Merit will be presented at ROCA's Annual Dinner on Friday October 16th.

For further information or assistance in this nomination process, please don't hesitate to call ROCA President Fiona Hill on 0438 864 498, or email roca.committee@gmail.com

2019 ROCA AWARD OF MERIT WINNER

ALLAN PIGGOTT

The 2019 winner of the ROCA Award of Merit is Allan Piggott. Allan was presented with his Award of Merit medal at the 121st annual ROCA Reunion Dinner at the Stamford Plaza in Adelaide in October. Allan is a farmer and grazier on the family farm at Moorlands in SA.

Since graduating from Roseworthy Agricultural College with his Diploma IN Agriculture in 1979, he has been the President of Sheep Producers Australia (formerly Sheepmeat Council of Australia), SA Chair of the regional committee of the Southern Australia Meat Research Council and Life Membership of the Australian White Suffolk Association.

Life Membership of the Australian White Suffolk Association is awarded to people who have provided leadership and contributed to the establishment and growth of the breed. The Illoura White Suffolk stud is acknowledged as one of the foundation studs and Allan served on the AWSA committee for 14 years, including two years as President.

Additionally, Allan has played a pivotal role in a variety of agricultural organisations in both his local farming area and at a state and national representation level. These roles include Board Member on the Murray Darling Basin NRM Board, five years on the SA Sheep Advisory Group, Chairman of his local NRM group, Chairman of his local Soil Conservation Board, and 16 years as a Councillor with the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural society of SA. Allan has also had life long involvement with local groups, including the local Agricultural Bureau, Landcare at local, state and national representation level and his local CFS.



Allan with his family (L-R) Tommy Scott, Kaitlin Piggott, Sue Piggott, Allan Piggott, Chelsea Donnelly, Colin Donnelly

Allan was a very popular winner on the night, with many of his 40-year graduate anniversary cohort present to see him receive his Award of Merit. His wife Sue and two daughters were also in attendance. His prowess wearing a pink and black RAC guernsey on the football field was also valued. Allan is very highly regarded by his Roseworthy class cohort: "We as a group are very proud of his achievements, respect him immensely and feel privileged to know him".

As Allan moves forward he will continue his industry involvement as SA Sheep Industry Blueprint chair, with Livestock SA and the Royal Adelaide Show, but also plans to spend time travelling Australia with his wife Sue and maintaining close contact with daughters Chelsea and Kaitlin and extended family.

"I have been very fortunate with the opportunities that I have been given over the years, but more importantly, I've been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with some great people in the industry. My time at RAC was instrumental in broadening my horizons and giving me an understanding of the important role of industry advocates."

VALE - PASSING OF ROCA MEMBERS

It is with our sympathy and condolences to their families, colleagues and friends that ROCA notes the passing of the following members:

BARRY, Brian Joseph (RDOen 1948)
 BOTH, John Edward (RDA 1972)
 BROCK, Frank Douglas deLisle (RDA 1956)
 CARTER, Richard John (DipAppSc Ag 1981)
 DONALDSON, John Graham (RDA 1946)
 FLAVEL, Peter (RDA 1973)
 FREUND, Roland Paul (RDA 1959)

GEPP, Thomas Leslie Wyburn (RDA 1939)
 HALL, Roxley James (RDA 1959)
 SAINT, Robert Greenslade (Attended RAC in late 1950s)
 STANLEY, Donald Neil (RDA 1955)
 WOLLASTON, David
 YOUNG, Philip John (RDA 1939)

2020 DINNER

FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER

The ROCA Committee are bullishly planning for the 2020 dinner to go ahead as usual on the third Friday in October, assuming Covid restrictions continue to ease. What better way to celebrate the opening up of life again than getting together with some old Roseworthy mates.

Whilst it will be a time to recognise the usual anniversary of **10, 25, 40 and 50-year Graduates**, the annual reunion dinner is open to **EVERYONE** who attended Roseworthy. Probably the most raucous and exuberant table at last year's dinner was one put together by Brad Butler from the 1983 mob. Not a special anniversary year, just a good excuse to get together and have a catch up over a meal and a few glasses of wine.

So get a table together from your cohort and find out what life has been like for them during the past year. We all too often see someone at a conference, at a saleyard or passing in the street – have a quick chat and promise “to catch up soon”....Do something about it this year!

VENUE: STAMFORD PLAZA, North Terrace, ADELAIDE

DATE: Friday 16th October 2020

FORMAT: 3-course meal

Thank you to those who have already put their hand up to be Group Coordinators for their cohort.

The official invitation will be released soon – please stay tuned!



BLAST FROM THE PAST

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ROSEWORTHY BLAZER

A recent donation of a 1937 College blazer to ROCA from Alf Humble RDA 1940 (Yes, he is still going at 100! The blazer and he himself are in very good shape) spurred me to do a bit of research on the College blazer as it changed over the years. The following information was sourced from a number of "STUDENT" magazines. There may be other information that was not evident at the time so if any readers have seen other sources ROCA would be pleased to know about it.

Looking at class photos in THE STUDENT gives us perhaps the best progression of style and design. The first blazer appeared in the 1930 STUDENT in sports team shots. The blazer was black with pink piping around all the edges, pockets and lapels. There were not many photos if at all in THE STUDENT prior to 1930 so it is uncertain if they were used before that time. In most class photos seen in the archive collection before 1930 the students are generally wearing suits that were the common garb of the time for men.

The black blazer with pink piping lasted until 1934 when the eye-catching pink with black stripes blazer was introduced. In Alf Humble's second year (1938) there was another change. This time the colours were reversed with the blazer being black with pink stripes, giving it an overall darker look.

There was a reference in the ROCA section of the 1938 STUDENT that the present blazer (1934-37 pink with black stripes) did not suit the more mature members of ROCA so perhaps they may have influenced the change to a darker version. ROCA, from the late thirties, used a plain black blazer with an altered pocket monogram as their reunion garb. I am not sure how common they were among the members. Photo shows Wilf Bowen's 1950s ROCA blazer.

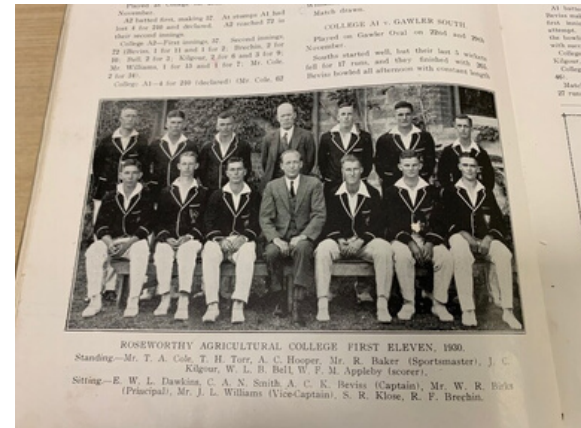
All through the thirties the blazer was only seen in sports team shots. The 1936 and 1937 STUDENT have some very clear shots of the cricket and football teams in their pink and black blazers.

Then came the war. John Martins probably stopped making any blazers due to rationing of fabric at this time.

In 1948 the blazer reappeared but this time the design had moved to an all black blazer with pink piping just on the cuffs and pockets. Photo shows Dick Flower's 1960s ROCA blazer.

This design then lasted until the 1970s. Initially the adoption of the new blazer was slow, looking at the class photos from the STUDENT, but by 1961 all of the first year cohort were wearing the college blazer in their group photo. In the 60s the year group photos showed all students wearing the blazer. This could have been a reflection of Herriot's influence of control as Principal and conformity or the fashion was accepted by the student body.

In the 1971 STUDENT (my final year in the RDA course) no one was wearing a college blazer in the group photos. Dale Manson started in 1973 and bought one of the last blazers (still made by John Martins) as the College became a College of Advanced Education and went co-educational In 1974.



Below is a reprint of an article by Douglas Telfer (RDA 1932) from THE STUDENT Vol 27 No 1 May 1931 in which he traces the development of the College blazer pocket monogram and the notation of sport achievements. Note in Fig 3 the kangaroo has a flat tail, sometime in the 60s the kangaroo developed a curl to fit into the monogram boundary. This may have been a John Martins liberty of manufacturing or came with a change to a more mechanical method of monogram sewing.

“OUR BADGE”

The College Badge has in past years had a somewhat unsettled existence, changing its form from time to time and now that it seems to have become at last more stable it becomes a matter of considerable interest to trace the history of its development.

In the early years of the College it was customary for the First Football Eighteen to take an annual trip to Adelaide to play against city schools and in 1905 it was suggested that this team should have a distinctive College badge on their guernseys.

As no badge existed, designs were called for and a meeting of students selected the one which, without alteration, was for some twenty-two years the recognized College badge. [Fig. 1.]

The background is black and bears a pink monogram set in a gold-edged shield, this being surmounted by a golden sheaf.

For the first few years it was used exclusively for Football purposes, but when the annual Adelaide trips ceased, the badge was awarded to players of the First Eighteen who were considered to merit distinction. Later when College blazers were introduced its use became less exclusive, badges being awarded to members of any First Team who were considered worthy. The figures “XVIII” or “XI” or the design of crossed rackets were introduced to distinguish members of the different teams.

The next progressive step was the suggestion in November 1927, of the higher sporting honour now known as the Blue. The actual motion was that “colours” be awarded to outstanding players and the ordinary badge to all members of the First team, the maximum number of “Blues” being fixed at six footballers, four cricketers, and two tennis players. The matter was put before a general meeting of students in January 1928 and they decided that the new scheme should be adopted.

Designs were sketched by several students as suggestions which were submitted to another general meeting. Three of them were sent to an Adelaide firm and samples obtained. In February the students finally decided on the design to be adopted and on the sixteenth of that month the first Blues were awarded. The design is distinctive. [Fig. 2.] There is a gold-edged shield with sheaf and pink monogram; above this is the gold lettering or design of the specific team; on either side is a gold wreath, the whole being set on a background of Royal Blue.

Until now the wearing of a badge denoted inclusion in one of the various First teams, but this rule in turn was to suffer alteration. In October 1928, it was moved that any student or Old Scholar should be entitled to wear the ordinary badge, minus the teams mark. This suggestion was adopted, with the amendment that the gold-edged shield be removed, leaving only the monogram, “R.A.C.”

The form of the actual badge had not altered since its inception in 1905. It seemed firmly established as the recognized College badge, but now we find a blow aimed at its seemingly solid foundations.

The introduction of the Intercollegiate Tennis Shield in 1929 necessitated the selection of a design to represent Roseworthy College on that shield. Then was it realized that the existing badge did not fulfill all the requirements of a College coat of arms and out of the difficulty arose the idea that the coat of arms on the Tassie Memorial Library might well be substituted for the old badge.

Unfortunately, the origin of the new design is somewhat obscure. The erection of an honour roll in 1919 apparently made felt the need for a suitable coat of arms. To Mr. Colebatch or students of this day is probably due the credit of introducing the excellent design which we now have. [Fig. 3.]

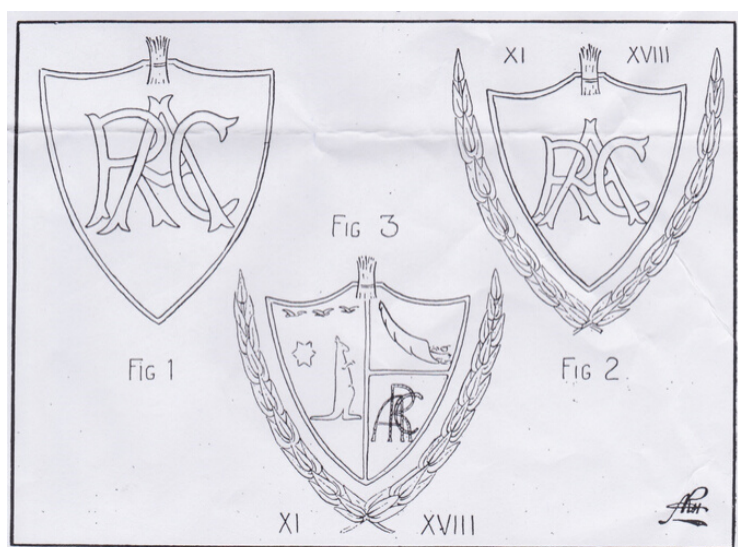
Despite the official adoption of the new badge, the old one continued to be used on guernseys and blazers for more than a year. The final change was made in October 1930, when students met and voted unanimously in favour of the alteration. The details of the design were settled by the Sports Union and before the end of the year several blazers bearing the new design appeared about the College.

Thus after twenty-five years of development and change, the College seems to have made up its mind on this matter. We look forward with keen anticipation to the days when Old Students will carry our name and badge with honour and respect before all men. *“Et conflagunt gladios suos in vomeres et lanceas suas in falces.”*

D I TELFER

Editors Note:

Translation “The lancers swords into plowshares and their spears into sickles”. (ISAIAH CHAPTER 2)



“BLAZER BACK TO THE FUTURE”

The 1971 graduates are celebrating their 50 year anniversary in 2021 and to mark the occasion there was a suggestion that the old blazer could be reproduced and worn on the occasion and at other reunion opportunities.

We have Alf Humble's blazer to make a very accurate copy but it will only happen if we have about 50 people willing to make an order. The blazer can be made in Adelaide, the cloth made in Geelong and hopefully wool donated by ROCA members can be spun and dyed into the required thread.

In the SPRING DIGEST there will be a full costing to test the level of interest. There will be a certain amount of custom sizing to fit our various dimensions but as we have to weave a minimum of about 240m it will necessitate a money up-front arrangement to make the project a reality.

If you have any further questions please contact David Spencer by email, spencers@adam.com.au

DAVID SPENCER (RDA 1971, RDAT 1972)



ROCA COMMITTEE MEMBER SHOUT-OUT!

Do you have a small amount of spare time on your hands? ROCA needs you! (well just for a year if that's all you can manage).

The University of Adelaide Alumni office provides some great support to us, but to ensure ROCA stays an ongoing entity in its own right, we are looking for some fresh blood on our Committee.

We are looking for:

- Old Collegians who have a little bit of spare time on their hands.
- Live anywhere in Australia and can either attend six meetings over a twelve-month period, in person or over Zoom electronic platform.
- Our main focus is the Annual Reunion Dinner. We are also involved in memorabilia collection, putting people in touch / tracking down lost members, administering the ROCA Award of Merit, producing two Digests per year, administering the wine fundraiser and attending the annual Roseworthy Campus student awards ceremony, among various other things.

If you are interested in joining us, please send an email to roca.committee@gmail.com or phone Fiona on 0438 864498. Thanks!

CENTENARIAN DR ALF HUMBLE DONATES 1937 RAC BLAZER

On the occasion of his recent 100th Birthday, ROCA member Dr Alf Humble (RDA 1940) generously donated his 1937 "Candy-Stripe" Roseworthy Blazer to the ROCA Archive Collection, in addition to a number of historic veterinary instruments passed on to the Roseworthy Veterinary Group.

Of particular significance was the Roman numeral "XVIII" embroidered below the RAC Crest on the Blazer pocket. This indicated that Alf was a member of the victorious 1938 RAC "A Grade" Football Premiership Team that participated in the Gawler Football League.

The 1938 Football Premiership was the first time that the Roseworthy Agricultural College team had won a Grand Final in 25 years. Alf and his team members were all awarded the honour of a "Sports Pocket" by the College administration.

Alf Humble gained a scholarship to Roseworthy Agricultural College in his final year studying at Urrbrae Agricultural High School, entering RAC in 1937. This was the start of his long journey to becoming the first Flying Vet in Australia.



Dr Alf Humble, RDA 1940 with ROCA Past President Dale Manson, presenting his 1937 RAC Blazer to the ROCA Archives collection

While a student at RAC, he became heavily involved with the South Australian Army Veterinary Corps (Militia), which at that time consisted entirely of Roseworthy students, apart from a permanent army warrant officer and the commanding officer, Captain W.S. (Brick) Smith BVSc. Brick Smith was also a lecturer in animal health at Roseworthy and a member of the staff of the State Government's Stock and Brands Department.

When war was declared in September 1939, the Veterinary Corps students were mobilised and went into camp with the two Light Horse regiments on the Gawler Racecourse. Eventually, the Light Horse was mechanised and incorporated into the Australian Imperial Force (AIF).

At the time, Alf was given a month's leave to finish his Roseworthy diploma and graduated as part of the 1940 RDA cohort.

He then joined the Royal Australian Air Force and trained as a pilot to fly Lockheed 4 Hudsons. After quite a number of postings, he flew on flying boats going to Port Moresby and Milne Bay at the most interesting time of the Kokoda battle. In No 7 Squadron (Beauforts), he operated mainly from Horn Island in the Torres Strait and Port Moresby on standing patrols and convoy duties.

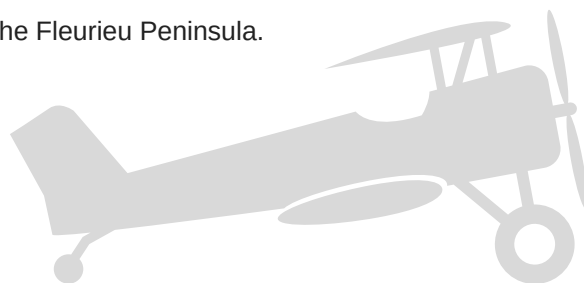
Following discharge from the RAAF after the war, Alf took up a cadetship in Veterinary Science awarded to him by Roseworthy. In 1950 he graduated with a Degree in Veterinary Science from Sydney.

Alf's career as a veterinary surgeon saw him initially serve as the on-site veterinarian for the 20th Century Fox film, Kangaroo being made at Port Augusta. At the conclusion of filming, he returned to the Stock and Brands Department, taking a special interest in the management of the mounted police horses.

He then became the SA Government's first District Veterinary Officer, based at Mount Gambier. After a period, Alf branched out into private practice in the town and purchased his first plane. He then took the plane to Alice Springs, the first stage of a noteworthy flying career as Australia's first flying vet in the NT, outback Queensland, northern parts of WA and pastoral SA.

The rest of Alf's career is firmly etched in the history of this nation's livestock industry history and its veterinary support sector.

Alf Humble turned 100 in December 2019 and is still in fine fettle, living on the Fleurieu Peninsula.



ONLY 19 DOZEN LEFT!



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natural acid,
intense length of
flavour. This wine
has great aging
potential.

ALC
14.5%

Have you tried ROCA Plonky's Pick Shiraz yet? (We know Hoppy has!) This great wine is produced by O'Leary Walker in the Clare Valley, owned and run by our very own ROCA 'Plonkies' Dave O'Leary and Nick Walker.

Money raised contributes directly to ROCA-sponsored prizes for students studying at Roseworthy Campus. So why not buy a modern piece of ROCA memorabilia with the distinctive pink & black label. They make a great gift to old mates.

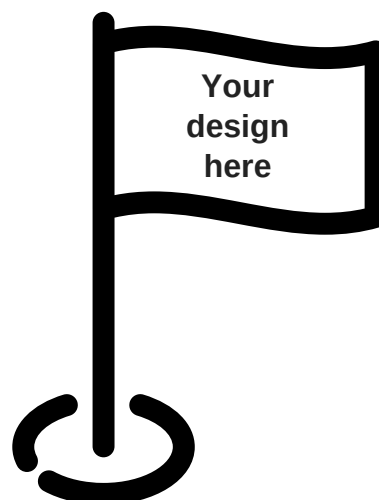
We only have 19 dozen cases of this current label left in stock. We'll make every effort to deliver for free within SA. An order form can be downloaded here:

http://www.adelaide.edu.au/roca/system/files/media/documents/2019-09/2019_Wine_Order_Form_ROCA_070519FINAL.pdf

DESIGN A ROCA FLAG

At last year's AGM, the question was asked as to the possibility of ROCA having its own flag. It appears the flagpole at the Chapel is not being used, so let's see how good your design skills are.

There is no particular brief – be as creative as you like. If you would like an electronic copy of the ROCA insignia, please contact us at roca.committee@gmail.com. You can submit your creation at this email address too.



ROCA AWARD OF MERIT *Past recipients*

The Award of Merit is regarded as the highest honour ROCA can bestow on one of its members.

1961 Roland Hill OBE †
 1962 Dr David Riceman †
 1963 Len Cook †
 1964 William Dawkins OBE †
 1965 Frank Pearson †
 1966 Sir Allan Callaghan CMG †
 1967 Bob Herriot OBE †
 1968 Denis Muirhead †
 1969 Jack Reddin OAM †
 1970 Ron Badman †
 1971 Prof Rex Butterfield †
 1972 Rex Krause
 1973 Rex Kuchel †
 1974 Lex Walker AM †
 1975 Ken Pike †
 1976 Len Laffer †
 1977 Des Habel †
 1978 Henry Day AO †
 1979 Dr Mark Hutton †
 1980 Cliff Hooper †
 1981 Andrew Michelmore †
 1982 Milton Spurling †
 1983 Ralph Hewett Jones †
 1984 David Suter †
 1985 Hon Dr Bruce Eastick AM
 1986 Dr John Obst †
 1987 Robin Steed †
 1988 Reg French †

1989 Ray Norton †
 1990 Tony Summers †
 1991 Scott Dolling OAM †
 1992 Rex Anderson
 1993 Bob Baker †
 1994 Brian Hannaford †
 1995 Grant Mayfield
 1996 Robert Knappstein †
 1997 James Pocock †
 1998 Ian Young
 1999 Don Moyle †
 2000 Grant Paech †
 2001 Brian Jefferies AM †
 2002 Dr Graham Mitchell AO
 2003 Philip Laffer AM
 2004 John Vickery OAM
 2005 Ronald Mertin AM †
 2006 Brian Wilson
 2007 Wilf Bowen
 2008 Philip Young AM †
 2009 Ian Hickinbotham OAM †
 2010 Dr Ray Beckwith OAM †
 2011 Raymond Taylor †
 2012 Vic Patrick OAM
 2013 Alan Richardson
 2014 Hon. Peter Dunn
 2015 Richard Fewster
 2016 David Lewis OAM
 2017 Rev Brian Polkinghorne
 2018 John Crosby
 2019 Allan Piggott

(† Deceased)

1999: ROCA Centenary Medal - Harry Stephen

2017: Icon of Roseworthy - Hon Dr Bruce Eastick AM



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