Roseworthy Campus Association Inc - ROCA

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Dr Robert McCulloch MBE

Principal of Roseworthy Agricultural College: 1949-1961

Inducted as ROCA Honorary Life Member - 1961

Dr Robert McCulloch MBE was elected an Honorary Life Membership of the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association at the Association's 1961 Annual General Meeting, with ratification of the decision being made at the 1971 AGM.

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

- **Ssustained support of the Association throughout the period he was Principal of Roseworthy Agricultural College.**

Robert McCulloch was born into a farming family at Urana in New South Wales (NSW) on 8th April 1904. Following secondary education at Albury and Sydney, Robert McCulloch attended the University of Sydney as a NSW Department of Agriculture trainee, graduating in 1925 with a BSc Agriculture (Hon.) and winning the 1926 NSW Rhodes Scholarship.

He attended New College at Oxford, gaining a degree of Bachelor of Science (Oxon) researching the classification of sheep blowflies and biology of aphids and ticks. Returning to Australia in 1929, Robert McCulloch took up duties as an entomologist in the NSW Department of Agriculture, studying insect and mite parasites of domestic animals, in particular researching the sheep blowfly problem.

In June 1942, Robert McCulloch enlisted in the Australian Army and became O.C. of the 3rd Mobile Entomological Section with the rank of Major, working on mosquito repellent and mite control for prevention of scrub typhus. This included the discovery of mite fluid, dibutyl phthalate, which when applied to clothes, reduced the incidence of scrub typhus by 90%.

After serving in North Queensland, New Guinea and Borneo, Robert McCulloch was discharged from the Army in December 1945 and appointed Lecturer in Charge of Entomology in the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at the University of Sydney. In March 1947 he was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (Military) (MBE) *for distinguished service in the South West Pacific*.

To support the Principal of Roseworthy Agricultural College Dr Allan Callaghan, in 1947 Robert McCulloch was appointed Vice-Principal of the College. In addition to his College responsibilities, Allan Callaghan had significant Land Development Executive responsibilities. In 1949, Robert McCulloch was appointed Principal.

In 1950 the University of Sydney awarded Robert McCulloch a Doctor of Science in Agriculture. He resigned as Principal in 1961 to take up the position of Director of Tick Research in NSW, a position he held through to his retirement in 1970.

Robert McCulloch died in Adelaide on 7 April 1993.