

THE ROCA DIGEST

AUTUMN 2026

Editor: Dale Manson

INTER-GENERATIONAL FAMILY DYNASTIES SUPPORT ROSEWORTHY

Throughout its 143 year history, Roseworthy Agricultural College and Roseworthy Campus have proudly hosted numerous multi-generations of individual families as students.

These family dynasties sometimes span three or four generations, proudly serving the valuable role of weaving the influence of a unique Roseworthy agricultural education into the very fabric and history of South Australia and beyond.



L-R: Dr Jack Reddin (RDA 1962), Bill Close (RDA 1976), Hon John Sydney Dawkins AO (RDA 1968), Rev Bill Reddin (1965 student), Ross Dawkins (RDA 1968) at the 2015 Roseworthy College Centenary of Anzac Commemoration Service. All descendants of Samuel Letts Dawkins – arrived Adelaide 1839.

One such family dynasty is that of Samuel Letts Dawkins (1836-1924) who arrived in Adelaide in 1839. Many descendants of Samuel across the generations studied at Roseworthy Agricultural College, subsequently going on as key influencers of farming technology and governance of the nation.

Other multi-generational family dynasties who have supported Roseworthy since its inception include Burne (two generations), Wishart (two generations), McCallum (two generations), Seppelt (three generations), Pocock (three generations) and Hardy (three generations).

The story of Samuel Letts Dawkins' family dynasty can be found on Page 2 of this digest.

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DAWKINS FAMILY DYNASTY SUPPORT FOR ROSEWORTHY

The family dynasty of Samuel Letts Dawkins (1836-1924) who arrived in Adelaide in 1839 and the generations of descendants who followed him and studied at Roseworthy Agricultural College, subsequently went on as key influencers of farming technology and governance of the nation.

Due to his age, Samuel Letts Dawkins did not have the opportunity to attend Roseworthy Agricultural College himself, however he did send two of his five sons, John Howard (J.H. – known as Howard) and William Joseph (known as WJ) Dawkins OBE. Howard was a student at Roseworthy in the late 1800s, but had to cease studies prior to completion of his diploma course due to a pressing need to work back on the home farm.

William Joseph (WJ) Dawkins OBE commenced his Roseworthy studies in 1900, graduating with a Roseworthy Diploma in Agriculture (RDA) in 1903. In recognition of WJ's contribution to agriculture and Roseworthy Agricultural College, WJ was honoured with the ROCA Award of Merit in 1964. WJ's grandson and great-grandson of pioneer Samuel Letts Dawkins, William Joseph (Bill) Close graduated with an RDA in 1976.

WJ's son-in-law, John Willard (Jack) Reddin OBE graduated with an RDA in 1940 and was also honoured by ROCA in 1969 with a ROCA Award of Merit for outstanding contribution to agriculture, ROCA and Roseworthy Agricultural College. His son and WJ's grandson Dr John Phillip (Jack) Reddin graduated with an RDA in 1962. Another son of John (Jack) Reddin OBE and grandson of WJ, the Reverend William Dawkins (Bill) Reddin attended Roseworthy College as a student in 1965.

A further son-in-law of WJ, Donald William Barkley AM served as Chairman of the Roseworthy Agricultural College Governing Board during the mid-1990s.

In another branch of Samuel Letts Dawkins' family, one of his sons Albert Maynard Dawkins became Chairman of the Roseworthy Agricultural College Governing Council during the 1930s. Grandson Hon Maynard Boyd Dawkins MBE MLC (known as Boyd) was a student during the 1933-1934 period and Samuel Letts Dawkins' great-grandson Ross Maynard Gordon Dawkins graduated with an RDA in 1968. Another great-grandson of Samuel Letts Dawkins, the Hon John Samuel Letts Dawkins MLC was a student in 1972.

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DAWKINS FAMILY DYNASTY SUPPORT FOR ROSEWORTHY (CONT.)

In a third branch of the pioneer Samuel Letts Dawkins' family, another great-grandson, Hon John Sydney Dawkins AO graduated from Roseworthy Agricultural College with an RDA in 1968.

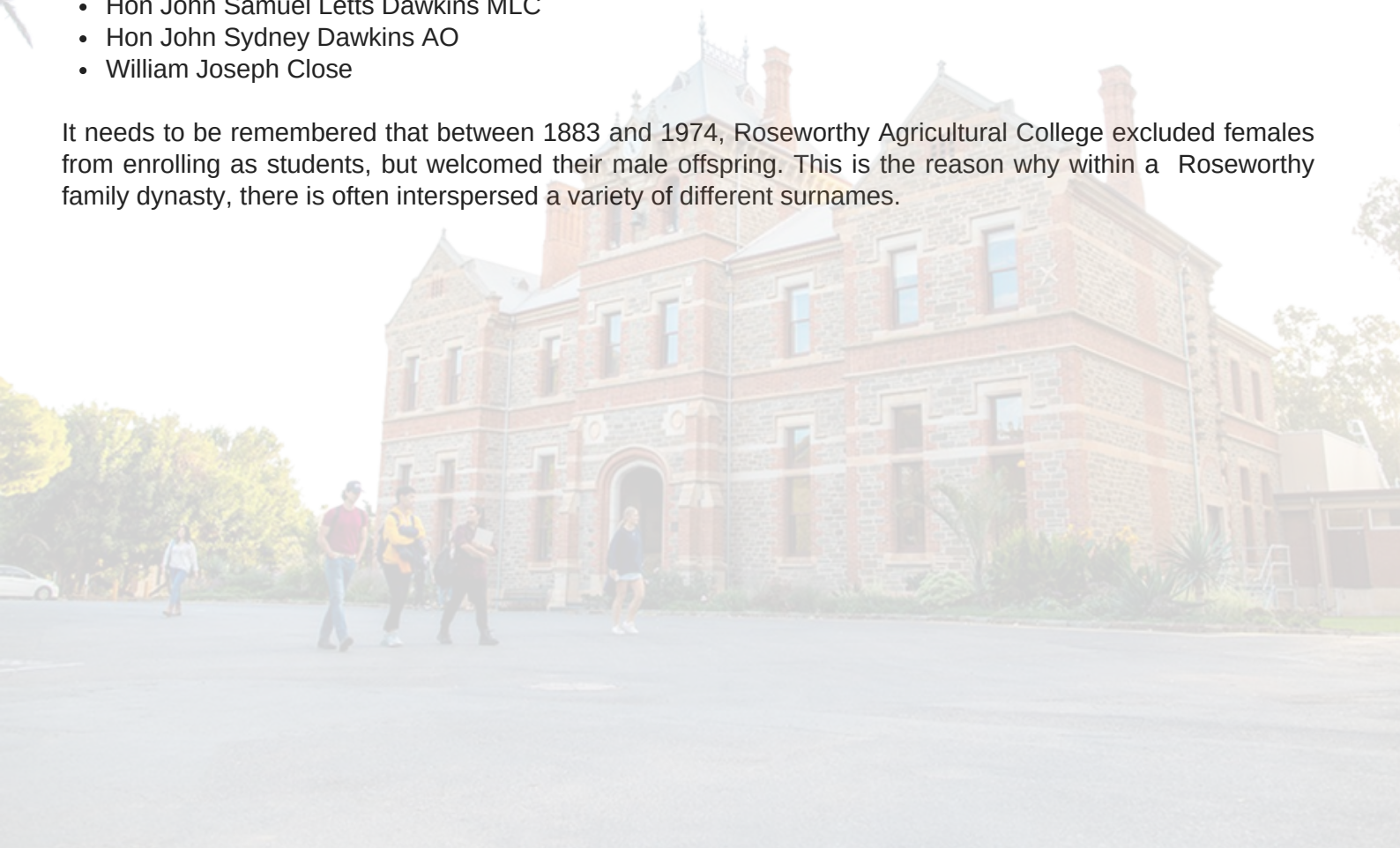
Pioneer Samuel Letts Dawkins' youngest brother William also had one of his descendants attend Roseworthy Agricultural College as a student. Ernest William Laban (E.W.L.) Dawkins was a student at Roseworthy College during the 1929-1930 period.

Over the three generations that followed the original pioneer Samuel Letts Dawkins, twelve individual members of the extended family had close links with Roseworthy Agricultural College as students or members of the Governing Council.

The Dawkins dynasty associated with Roseworthy Agricultural College:

- Albert Maynard Dawkins
- John Howard Dawkins
- William Joseph Dawkins OBE
- Hon Maynard Boyd Dawkins MBE MLC
- Ernest William Laban Dawkins
- Donald William Barkley AM
- John Willard Reddin OBE
- Dr John Phillip Reddin
- Reverend William Dawkins Reddin
- Ross Maynard Gordon Dawkins
- Hon John Samuel Letts Dawkins MLC
- Hon John Sydney Dawkins AO
- William Joseph Close

It needs to be remembered that between 1883 and 1974, Roseworthy Agricultural College excluded females from enrolling as students, but welcomed their male offspring. This is the reason why within a Roseworthy family dynasty, there is often interspersed a variety of different surnames.



ROCA COMMITTEE

The 2025-2026 ROCA Committee represents a considerable range of Roseworthy and ROCA experience, with a diversity of insights to expertly manage our Association's affairs.



President:
Andrew Eastick (RDA 1976)



Vice President:
Bruce McCallum (RDA 1976, RDAT 1977)



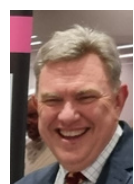
Immediate Past President:
Dale Manson (RDA 1976, RDAT 1977, M.App.Sc. Ag 1998)



Secretary:
Andrew Dennis (B.App.Sc. Ag. 1987)



Treasurer:
Mark Egarr (B.App.Sc. Ag. 1989)



Campus Director:
Prof. Rob Woodgate (Head of School of Animal & Veterinary Sciences)



ROCA Public Officer:
Richard Turnbull (RDA 1969)

Committee:



Prof. Graham Hall (RDA 1974)



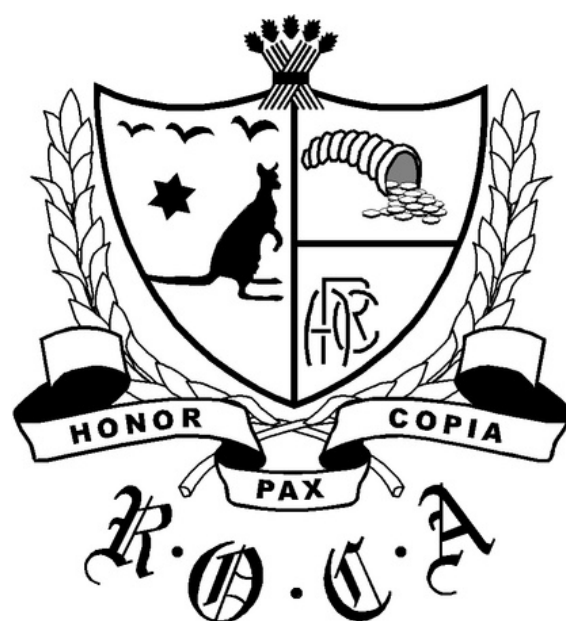
Prof. Wayne Hein (RDA 1970)



Ian Oliver (RDA 1957)



Richard Inwood (Dip.App.Sc. Ag 1985; B.App.Sc. Ag 1986; Grad.Dip.Ag 1986)



ROCA Contact

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Members Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/1816673755819158

Public Facebook page: www.facebook.com/rocagrad

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

THE YEAR JUST PAST



2025 was a year of significant achievement for our Association.

The change of name from Roseworthy Old Collegians Association to Roseworthy Campus Association at the Annual General Meeting was very significant.

But there was much more.

The launch of the Target 100K Campaign, with the objective of increasing the Association's financial reserves to at least \$100,000 by the end of 2027 has been well supported but needs more support if the target is to be achieved.

Through a series of initiatives, including the introduction of the first of four annual Lunch 'n Learn presentations at the Roseworthy Campus, the Association has, for the first time in many years, achieved a significant uptake of membership by graduating students.

A consequence of the change in Association's relationship with the now Adelaide University, from internal to external Alumni Network, has seen the need for the Association's web presence to change from University-hosted to self-hosted (roseworthy-roca.com.au). Whilst a result of self-hosting is an ongoing annual expense, the University, through its Alumni Funding Scheme, provided initial financial support to establish the self-hosted site.

The changed hosting arrangement has provided the motivation and the opportunity to ensure the accuracy of the content on the site, and a number of important corrections have occurred. In addition, a significant amount of new content has been added to the site, and the site facilitates donations to the Target 100K Campaign.

Another important initiative in 2025 was the reactivation of the History of Roseworthy project, the writing and publication of a comprehensive history of the Institution. Initial work on the project in 2019 floundered due to the twin impacts of COVID and the unexpected death of the proposed historian/writer, Rob Linn, but not before a seeding contribution of \$25,000 was received from the University, funds that remain available.

The progress of the project is now in the hands of a Sub-Committee tasked with bringing about publication by 2033, the 150th anniversary of the 1883 purchase of Olive Hill Farm by the South Australian Government as the site for the Colony's experimental farm and the future site of an agricultural college.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONT.)

THE YEAR HEAD

2026 will see the finalisation of a number of important initiatives identified as priorities by the Committee during 2025.

Soon the Rules of the Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund will be amended such that it is the Association that will be consulted in the future should Adelaide University wish to change the Rules that govern the use of the Fund. The Rules currently indicate a requirement to consult with the Co-Patrons of the Fund, a group that ceased to function in 2016.

The Association will soon have a new logo to go along with the new name and branding.

Saturday 17 October, the day following the 2026 Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner, will be a special day at the Roseworthy Campus. In addition to the raising of the Time Capsule installed 50 years ago on Graduation Day, 23 February 1976, and the possible installation of a further 50 Year Time Capsule, the Association will be unveiling in some form a replacement of the lost Diploma of Dairying graduate board, and photographic replicas of the Gramp Hardy Smith Memorial Prize Plaque including the timber frame that holds the individual shields with the year and the name of the recipient of the Prize when a Roseworthy Prize (1940 to 1998), and the Professor Perkins Illuminated Address that was presented to Professor Perkins during the period of his Principalship of the College, on 25 January 1911.

The Plaque and Illuminated Address were taken to the Waite Campus many years ago and are now displayed in the Reception Foyer of the Hickinbotham Roseworthy Wine Science Laboratory.

The opportunity will also be taken to provide information about Ralph Baker and the lost Ralph Baker Memorial Clock that was once located above the door to the Dining Room adjacent to the base of the stairs in the Main Building, on the wall next to the door. The clock, a memorial to Ralph Baker in recognition to his long service to the College, was funded from the donations of Association members following Baker's death. The clock and a plaque, also lost, was unveiled by Baker's widow on 11 September 1948. The clock, for many decades, operated an electric mechanism that sounded a siren located under the eave at the front of the Main Building to announce mealtimes.

The Roseworthy Campus Oval and Grandstand will also be a focus in 2026. The condition of the Grandstand has again deteriorated to the point that is currently fenced off and University's Infrastructure Branch is determining the most appropriate means of repair. In addition, the University and the Association have recognised the appearance of the Oval, leading to its more frequent use, would be assisted by the installation pickets around its perimeter.

The possibility of launching an appeal to Picket the Oval is also being considered for Saturday 17 October.

ROSEWORTHY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE 125TH ANNIVERSARY 2008

ROCA HONOURS PRESENTED FOR

Outstanding Contribution to the Benefit of World Humanity

In Roseworthy Agricultural College's 125th Anniversary year of 2008, Roseworthy Old Collegians Association honoured the five most outstanding living graduates who contributed to the benefit of World Humanity

David Lithgow Lewis OAM (RDA 1976; RDA 1977)

Anthony Francis John Petch (Grad.Cert.Agron.Farm.Sys. 1997)

Reverend Brian Trevor Polkinghorne (RDA 1970)

Paul Anthony Kevin Symonds (RDA 1973)

Richard Keep Turnbull (RDA 1969)



Left to right

(Back): Dean Polkinghorne on behalf of The Reverend Brian Polkinghorne, Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha, Paul Symonds.

(Front): Anthony Petch, Richard Turnbull, Locky McLaren (ROCA President) and David Lewis.

ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION 125TH ANNIVERSARY 2023

ROCA HONOURS PRESENTED FOR

Beneficial Impact and Influence on World Society and International Community Change

In its 125th Anniversary year of 2023, Roseworthy Old Collegians Association honoured the three most influential living graduates who beneficially impacted and influenced world society and international community change

Peter Barnett Clark (RDA 1973)

Hon. John Sydney Dawkins AO (RDA 1968)

Dr Graham Frank Mitchell AO (RDA 1961)



Left to right

Governor of South Australia, Her Excellency, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC; Dr Graham Mitchell AO; Hon John Dawkins AO; ROCA President Dale Manson; Peter Clark

ROCA PAYS TRIBUTE TO HON DR BRUCE EASTICK AM (RDA 1947)

The Roseworthy Campus Association pays homage to the lifetime contribution of the late Honourable Dr Bruce Eastick AM to Roseworthy Agricultural College, ROCA and the University of Adelaide.

Honoured with the ROCA Award of Merit, ROCA Honorary Life Membership, University of Adelaide Alumni Fellow and the only person to have ever been elevated to the esteemed status of Roseworthy Icon.

A genuine person revered and respected by ROCA members and all associated with Roseworthy Agricultural College over a period of eight decades.

Roseworthy Graduate; Staff Member; Community Contributor, President of the RAC Governing Council, Pioneer Veterinarian; SA Political Leader, Mayor of Gawler; Untiring Supporter of Many.



*The Honourable
Dr Bruce Charles Eastick BVSc AM
25 October 1927 ~ 5 December 2025*

DAVID LEWIS (RDA 1976) RECEIVES RARE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE HONOUR



David Lewis OAM (middle) with three of his RDA 1976 peers, (LtoR)
Dale Manson, Bruce McCallum, Bill Close

ROCA is extremely excited to announce that the University of Adelaide has bestowed one of its highest alumni honours on RDA 1976 fellow, David Lewis OAM.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is rarely bestowed by the University. After intense scrutiny by a group of high level professors, recipients generally come from the ranks of Supreme Court judges, International Ambassadors and elite world-renowned surgeons..

The honour bestowed on David Lewis OAM is in recognition of his five decades of personal sacrifice and dedicated humanitarian work for the Christian Blind Mission organisation, often in war torn areas of Africa such as Sierra Leone.

In a packed invitation-only ceremony, as a lasting memento of his esteemed status within the wider University of Adelaide community David was presented with a fine hand-blown glass vase produced at Adelaide's Jam Factory. The presentation was made by University of Adelaide's Chancellor, Hon Catherine Branson AC SC and Vice Chancellor, Professor Peter Høj AC.

David's address in response paid tribute to his fine education at Roseworthy Agricultural College and its emphasis on coping with change. During all periods of David's work in the humanitarian field, change was a constant.

This rare award compliments the other honours bestowed on David over the years. These include RAC 125th Commemoration honour for "Outstanding Contribution to the Benefit of World Humanity" in 2008, Medal of the Order of Australia in 2014 and the ROCA Award of Merit in 2016

Supporting David on the evening were three of his RDA 1976 peers, Bill Close, Bruce McCallum and Dale Manson. His two brothers, their wives and David's partner were also in attendance.

ROCA's heartiest congratulations are extended to David Lewis OAM, University of Adelaide Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.



Presentation of fine hand-blown glass vase produced at Adelaide's Jam Factory by University of Adelaide's Chancellor, Hon Catherine Branson AC SC and Vice Chancellor, Professor Peter Høj AC.



AV introduction to David Lewis OAM prior to presentation of Distinguished Alumni Award

1930S RAC CUFFLINKS ARCHIVE DONATION

ROCA has been very fortunate to be the recipient of a set of 1930s Roseworthy Agricultural College cufflinks donated by the family of the late Thomas Leslie Wyburn Gepp.

Thomas Gepp attended Roseworthy between 1936 and 1938, graduating with a Diploma in Agriculture in 1939.

Prior to his passing, Thomas Gepp also made a financial donation to Roseworthy's School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences to support the yearly presentation of a Prize for Veterinary Pathology within the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine course.



JOIN ROCA OR UPDATE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Any Roseworthy graduate or final-year Roseworthy Campus student can join ROCA free of charge by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.roseworthy-roca.com.au/join-roca/>

Existing members who would like to notify ROCA of a change in their contact details can also do this via the same link:

<https://www.roseworthy-roca.com.au/join-roca/>

As a reminder to everyone, without a current valid email address, a ROCA member becomes completely uncontactable by ROCA. It is crucial that ROCA has everyone's current email address on record.

This is particularly important where a ROCA member has used their employment email address for contact, then retires or leaves that employer.

JOHN KOHNKE “LUNCH ‘N LEARN”

The final very successful 2025 "Lunch 'n Learn" convened by ROCA and Roseworthy Campus admin for final-year Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine students featured renowned veterinarian John Kohnke (RDA 1968).

Also present promoting ROCA were ROCA members Dale Manson (RDA 1976), former IMVS scientist Richard Turnbull (RDA 1969) and former Federal Treasurer and Minister of Education, Hon John Dawkins AO (RDA 1968).

As a result of the “Lunch ‘n Learn” sessions throughout last year, ROCA gained quite a number of new members who are due to graduate in 2026.



Supporting John Kohnke at his 'Lunch 'n Learn' session were (LtoR) Mrs Gail Manson, Dale Manson (RDA 1976), Dick Turnbull (RDA 1969), Dr John Kohnke (RDA 1968), Hon John Dawkins AO (RDA 1968) and Mrs Maggie Dawkins.



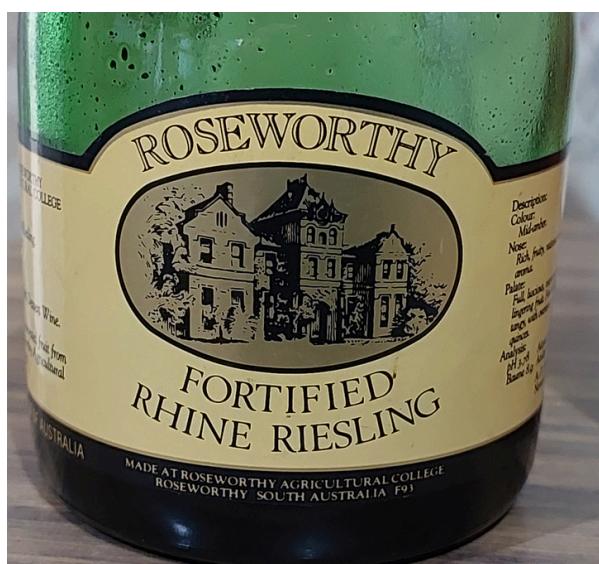
A group of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students listening to Dr John Kohnke's 'Lunch 'n Learn' presentation

RARE WINE DONATION TO ROCA HISTORIC ARCHIVES

A generous donation to the ROCA Archive Collection arrived by post from the Estate of the late Andrew Michelmores (RDA 1940).

These extremely rare and unique items were presented to Andrew in 1985 to commemorate his membership of the Roseworthy Agricultural College Governing Council.

The two fortified wines were made at RAC - vintage 1985. In the near future, these items will be prominently displayed in a glass-fronted cabinet within Roseworthy's Main Dining Room.



ROCA'S FACEBOOK PAGE AND WEBSITE

Don't forget that the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association now has a Group Facebook page in addition to its Public Facebook page, established a number of years ago.

The Group page is at www.facebook.com/groups/1816673755819158.

The Public page is at www.facebook.com/rocagrad.

To join the Group page, available to all Roseworthy graduates (not just ROCA Members), two questions will need to be answered - the year of graduation and the qualification. The Group page enables all registered Group Page users to post on the page, or comment on the posts of others.

ROCA is also excited about its new website: www.roseworthy-roca.com.au.

Considerable effort has gone into ensuring the accuracy of the content on the website. For example, citations for all ROCA Honorary Life Members, Award of Merit recipients and Alumni Fellows have been loaded on the website in Fact Sheet format.

A range of historic Roseworthy and ROCA documents are also accessible for people to view. These documents include ROCA Digests going as far back as the very first one published in July 1962 and the Roseworthy Student magazine going back to the first one in 1898.

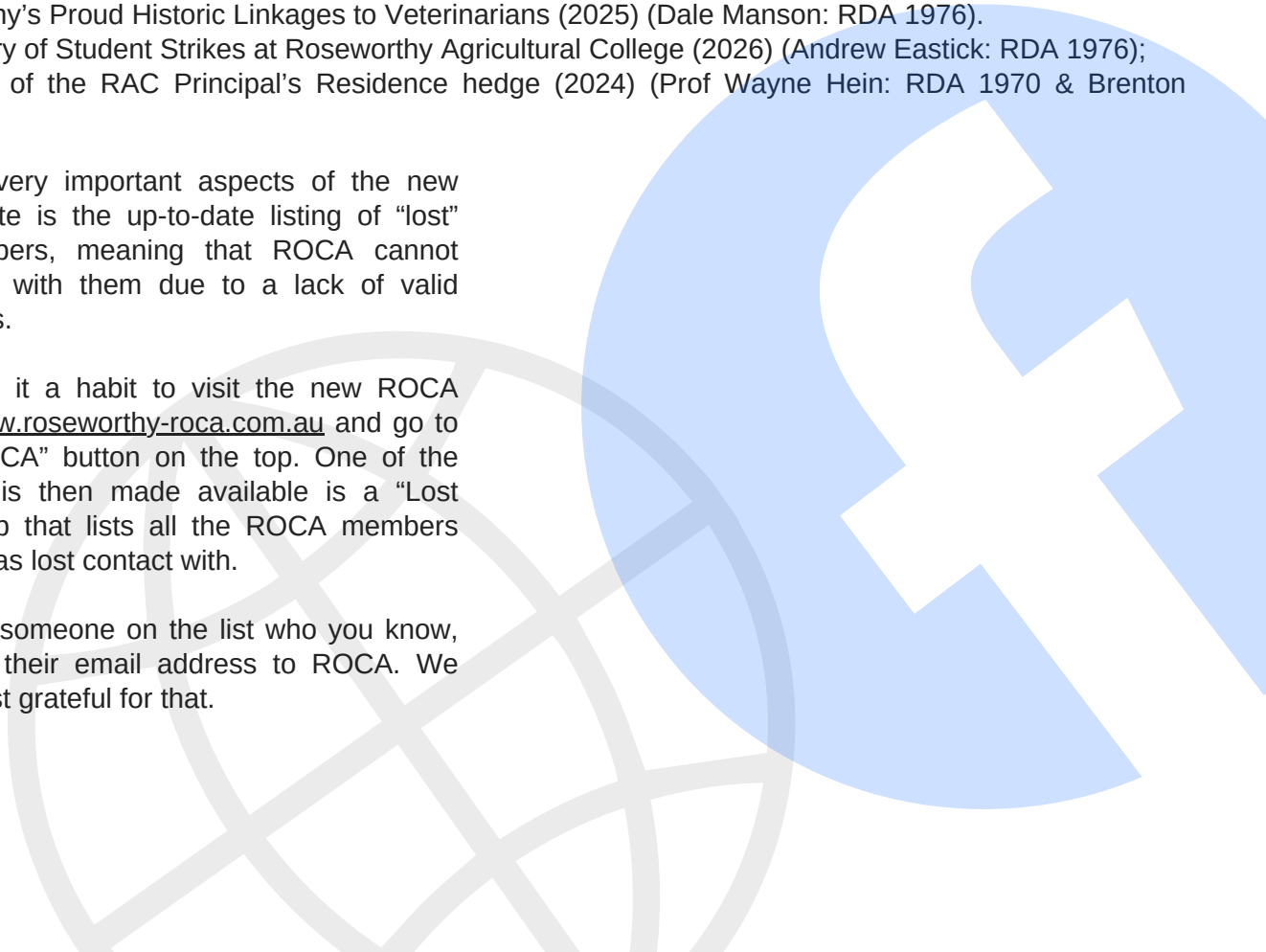
Also available on the new ROCA website are historic documents written by ROCA members:

- RAC – Historical Development of the Land (1988) (Denis Harrison: RDA 1947);
- "The Doc" – Sir Allan Callaghan (1997) (Gavin G. McEwin: RDA 1937);
- History of Horses at RAC 1879-1976 (1976) (Dale Manson: RDA 1976);
- Tales from the RAC War Service Honour Rolls – ROCA 125 (2023) (Dick Turnbull: RDA 1969);
- Roseworthy's Proud Historic Linkages to Veterinarians (2025) (Dale Manson: RDA 1976).
- The History of Student Strikes at Roseworthy Agricultural College (2026) (Andrew Eastick: RDA 1976);
- The story of the RAC Principal's Residence hedge (2024) (Prof Wayne Hein: RDA 1970 & Brenton Kortman)

One of the very important aspects of the new ROCA website is the up-to-date listing of "lost" ROCA Members, meaning that ROCA cannot communicate with them due to a lack of valid email address.

Please make it a habit to visit the new ROCA website : www.roseworthy-roca.com.au and go to the "Join ROCA" button on the top. One of the options that is then made available is a "Lost Members" tab that lists all the ROCA members who ROCA has lost contact with.

If you notice someone on the list who you know, please send their email address to ROCA. We would be most grateful for that.



ROSEWORTHY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE MASTER AXEMAN'S ASSOCIATION

Students at the Roseworthy Campus today will probably have no knowledge of the Roseworthy Agricultural College Master Axeman's Association, founded in 1968.

The inaugural members of the Association were five students who were gated and put on hard labour for a month as a result of excessive noise at the swimming pool.

Gating, for those not familiar with the term, is to confine a student to a college or school for a misdemeanour.

The swimming pool in question was the dam that served as a swimming pool and in later years was used as the aquatic resource for the natural resource management students.

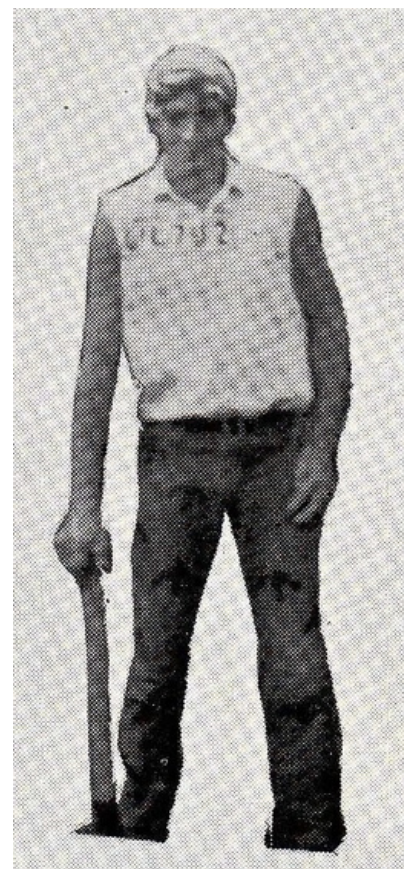
The hard labour was the clearing of a patch of scrub on the College farm, yes, with axes!

In 1969 the membership of the Roseworthy Agricultural College Master Axeman's Association swelled with the admittance of almost the whole of the student cohort. An off-College party at Templers on 4 May that year drew the ire of then College Principal, Bob Herriot, and resulted in one week's gating during the May vacation period for each of the students who had attended.

Tasks were allocated to each student the during the period of the gating.

The five founding members of the Roseworthy Agricultural College Master Axeman's Association thought it was therefore only fitting the gated 1969 students should be admitted to honorary membership of their Association.

The 1969 issue of 'Student' magazine subsequently carried an advertisement from the Association offering Free Scrub Clearing.



R. A. C. M. A. A. FREE SCRUB CLEARING



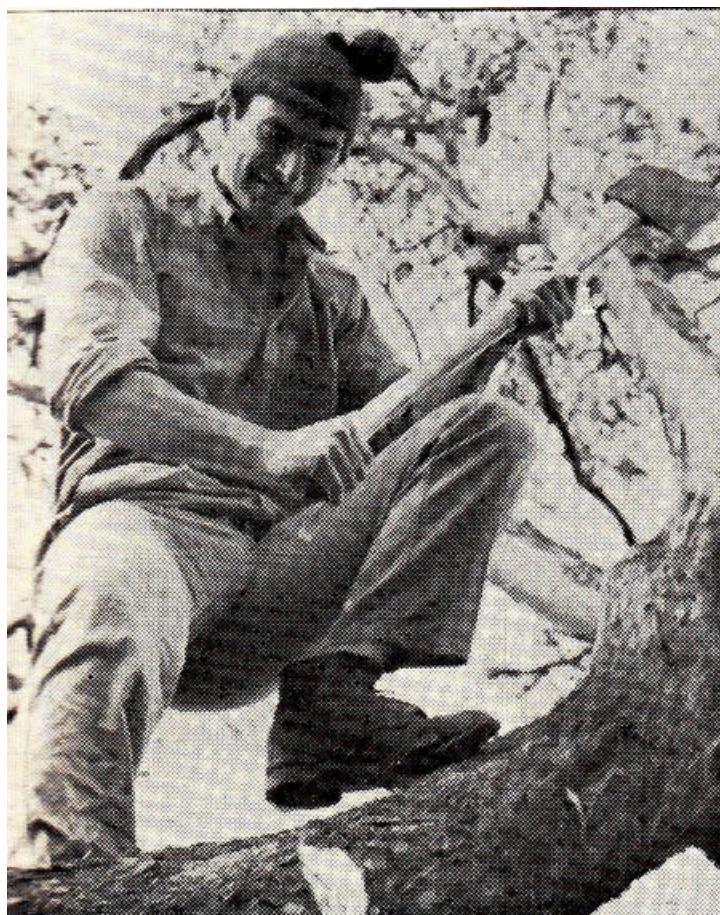
Many Hands Make Light Work

With the benevolent purchase of many dozens of modern axes by College authorities and our quick retirement scheme (5 this year) we now have 100 axemen making . . .

Scrub Clearing - Cheaper Than Cheap

CONTACT YOUR R.A.C. MASTER AXEMAN'S ASSOC. AGENT TODAY!

ROSEWORTHY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE MASTER AXEMAN'S ASSOCIATION (CONT.)



UPCOMING EVENTS

2026 ROCA Dinner & AGM

Friday 16th October

Feathers Hotel, Burnside

2026 Opening of RAC 50-Year (1976)

Time Capsule

Saturday 17th October

Roseworthy Campus

ROCA MEMBERS HONoured BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

As a network within the University of Adelaide Alumni since 1991, the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association has had a number of its members honoured by the University through the bestowal of Distinguished Alumni Awards and appointment as Alumni Fellows.

Bestowal of Distinguished Alumni Awards recognises extraordinary contribution to the wider community by individuals, while appointment as Alumni Fellows recognises outstanding contribution to the University of Adelaide Alumni and its networks.

ROCA Members who have been honoured with Distinguished Alumni Awards

1997: Mr John James Messenger (RDA 1957)

In recognition of his distinguished service as an alumnus to the students, staff and graduates of the University and to the extended community through his Chairmanship of Unibooks.

2011: Dr Arthur Ray Beckwith OAM (RDA 1932, D Univ 2004)

In recognition of his highly significant contribution to the field of Oenology and to the wine industry in Australia and internationally.

2014: Mr Philip Laffer AM (RDA 1961, RDOen 1963)

In recognition of his outstanding leadership and contribution to the Global Wine Industry.

2017: Mr John Crosby AM (RDA 1971)

In recognition of his advocacy for farmers and the Australian farming industry.

2024: Mr Peter Clark (RDA 1973)

In recognition of his contribution to sustainable agricultural production in third world countries, conservation and environmental education.

2025: Mr David Lewis OAM (RDA 1976, RDAT 1977)

In recognition of his contribution as a globally respected leader in international development who has spent five decades working to alleviate poverty and advocate for those living with disability. From community-based programs in Africa to shaping Australia's disability-inclusive aid strategy, his compassionate leadership has transformed global health, informed inclusive aid, and helped to change lives.

ROCA Members who have been honoured as Alumni Fellows

A/Prof Wayne Boardman (Roseworthy Staff)

Mr Kenneth (Wilf) Bowen OAM (RDA 1950)

Mr Martin Cochrane (RDA 1968)

Mr David Coyner (B.Ag. 2005)

Mr Ross Dawkins (RDA 1968)

Hon Henry (Peter) Dunn (RDA 1956)

Hon Dr Bruce Eastick AM (RDA 1947)

Mr Peter Fairbrother (RDA 1961, GradDip Ag 1981)

A/Prof Paul Grbin (GradDip Wine 1990)

Prof Simon Maddocks (Roseworthy Staff)

Mr Dale Manson (RDA 1976, RDAT 1977, Grad.Dip. Ed 1990, MAppSc Ag 1998)

Mr Alistair (Bardy) McFarlane (RDA 1972)

Mr Alan Richardson (RDA 1972, RDAT 1973)

Mr Mark Rodda (BAGBus 1996)

Dr Louisa Rose (B.App.Sc.WineSc 1993, Dr.Univ. Honoris Causa 2024)

Mr Mark Seeliger (RDA 1961)

Mr David Spencer (RDA 1971, RDAT 1972)

Mr Milton Spurling (Roseworthy Staff)

Mr Harry Stephen (RDA 1948)

Mr Raymond Taylor (RDA 1952)

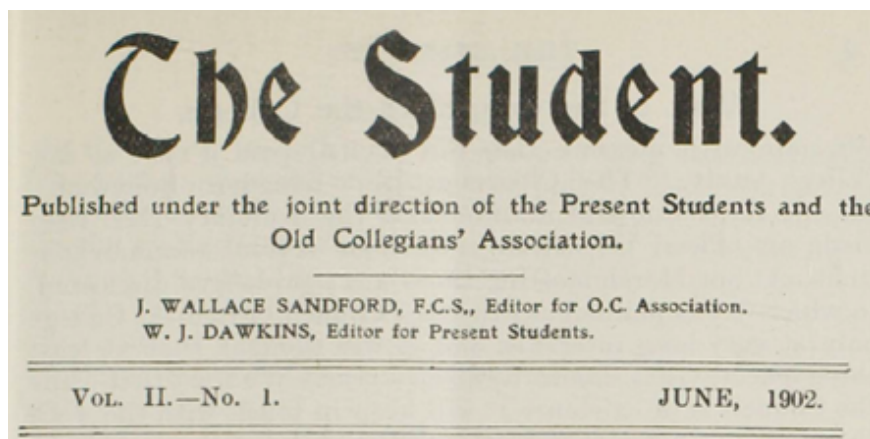
Mr Richard Turnbull (RDA 1969)

ORIGIN OF THE ROCA DIGEST

From soon after the establishment of the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association in 1898, the Association's primary means of contact with its members was through the pages of *The Student* magazine, first published in July 1897.

Over time the Association significantly increased its reliance on *The Student* to communicate with its members and the Vol. 1. No. 12 edition of *The Student*, published in February 1902, reported in an Editorial that the Association and the students at the College had agreed to share the responsibility for publishing further editions.

The masthead of the subsequent Vol. 2 No. 1 edition, published in June 1902, indicated that shared responsibility.



In the late 1950s the rising cost of producing *The Student* resulted in a significant increase in the contribution required from the Association and several appeals were made to members for funds to cover the extra cost. Whilst the appeal had some success it was not sufficient to address the concern of the Association's Committee, which commenced looking at other options for communicating with its members.

At a meeting of the Committee on 12 July 1961 it was proposed that the Association should publish a monthly newsletter and it was agreed the proposal be investigated for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

It was reported at meeting of the Committee on 28 February 1962 that a letter of engagement as publisher had been sent to Charles F Brown and Associates. Also at this meeting the newsletter commenced to be called the ROCA Digest. It was also reported the publication of the first Digest was delayed because sufficient advertisements had not yet been obtained.

With a Forward by the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable David Brookman, and an Editorial by the Association President, Roland Day, the initial 30-page ROCA Digest, with 11 pages of advertising, was published in August 1962.

This is an edited version of the article. The full article can be found in the Historic Documents section of the ROCA website at:

<https://www.roseworthy-roca.com.au/archives/historic-documents/>

By Andrew Eastick RDA 1976



TRAGIC DEATHS OF FOUR STUDENTS IN THE EARLY DAYS OF ROSEWORTHY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

In the early days of Roseworthy Agricultural College, students were occasionally rocked by the death of a fellow student at the College.

Thomas Bruce Giles - 27 April 1892

Tragedy struck at Roseworthy Agricultural College just a few short years after its commencement with the death of student Thomas Bruce Giles on 27 April 1892. The 29 April 1892 edition of the (Gawler) Bunyip recorded:

***"SAD DEATH AT ROSEWORTHY COLLEGE** – A sad death occurred at the Roseworthy College on Wednesday morning, one of the students named Bruce Giles, son of Mr Henry A Giles JP of Mount Pleasant, succumbing to the effects of an apparent trivial injury he received three weeks previously.*

The injury consisted of a blow on his forehead with the point of a spade accidentally inflicted by a fellow student whilst they were loading a dray.

..... the immediate cause of death was abscess on the brain. The deceased parents were with him at the last, and everything was done at the College that was possible. The occurrence cost quite a gloom over the institution, the deceased being very popular amongst his fellow students."

Walter Le Page Muecke - 15 March 1894

The next tragic death occurred just two years later, on 15 March 1894, when Walter Le Page Muecke, a son of H C E Muecke, Consul for Germany, fell from a load of hay and sustained concussion of the brain which proved fatal.

The 17 March 1894 edition of the Advertiser (Adelaide), quoting their Gawler correspondent, recorded:

Mr. Muecke was loading bales of pressed straw on the waggon along with some other students, and while the last bale was being hoisted he slipped into an opening between two other bales. His companions thinking there was some possibility of danger called to him – "Lookout, or the bale will be on top of you." Forgetting that he was near the edge of the load, he placed his feet against the bail and pushed, when he was precipitated over the side, and falling on the shafts struck his head severely.

Walter Le Page Muecke, born on 16 July 1875, is buried in the North Road Cemetery at Nailsworth in Adelaide.

Bernard Owen Lynch - 23 June 1921

A further student death occurred on the 23 June 1921 when Bernard Owen Lynch died as a result of an accident. The 24 June 1921 edition of the (Gawler) Bunyip recorded:

***"A FRACTURED SKULL** -A tragic accident happened at Roseworthy Railway Station on Wednesday evening, when Mr Bernard Lynch, eldest son of Cr. M Lynch, of Gawler, sustained head injuries that left little hope of his recovery. The lad, who had become a student at Roseworthy Agricultural College in the present term, was taking his arranged turn of driving to the railway station with horse and cart to receive the College food supplies.*

TRAGIC DEATHS OF FOUR STUDENTS IN THE EARLY DAYS OF ROSEWORTHY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE (CONT.)

..... it is believed that after getting his parcels Bernard made ready to return, and the horse must have made off before he was properly in the vehicle. The crash was heard by the station folk, who, going outside, saw the lad lying on the roadway, and unconscious. It was found that he was suffering from severe fracture of the skull. Mr Lynch supplemented the doctor's efforts by securing Dr Smeaton from the City, but no hope was entertained, and the boy died yesterday afternoon."

Howard Richard Kemp on 22 June 1934

Yet a further tragedy occurred with the death of Howard Richard Kemp on 22 June 1934. The 27 June 1935 edition of the Chronicle recorded:

"STUDENT CHOKED - Orange Fragment in Lung - An autopsy has revealed that a large piece of orange had stuck in the lung passage caused the death of Howard Richard Kemp, 20, a promising third-year student at Roseworthy Agricultural College, between 4.30 pm and 4.55 pm on Saturday. Kemp was found dead on a lawn behind the dormitory section."

Roseworthy Campus Association President, Andrew Eastick, came across mention of the death of Howard Richard Kemp in the 1935 edition of The Student. Andrew recalls becoming aware of the incident when a first-year student at the College in 1973 and believes that it may have been a question in the first-year test that occurred at that time as part of Orientation.

This a summary of the full article which can be found in the Archives Historic Documents section of the ROCA website at:

<https://www.roseworthy-roca.com.au/archives/historic-documents/>

VALE – OLD COLLEGIANS

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

CROME, Geoffrey Charles	(RDA 1965)
DOWNWARD, Richard John	(RDA 1959)
EASTICK AM, Hon Dr Bruce Charles	(RDA 1947)
EMERSON, Allen McArthur	(RDA 1956)
FLETCHER, Grant Bollen	(RDA 1955)
FOLLIOTT, Kenneth Hugh Finigan	(RDA 1956)
MILNE, Michael Lancelot	(RDA 1964)

ROCA apologises if it has accidentally omitted someone who has passed during the period since the publication of our previous Digest. If you are aware of anyone, please contact ROCA.

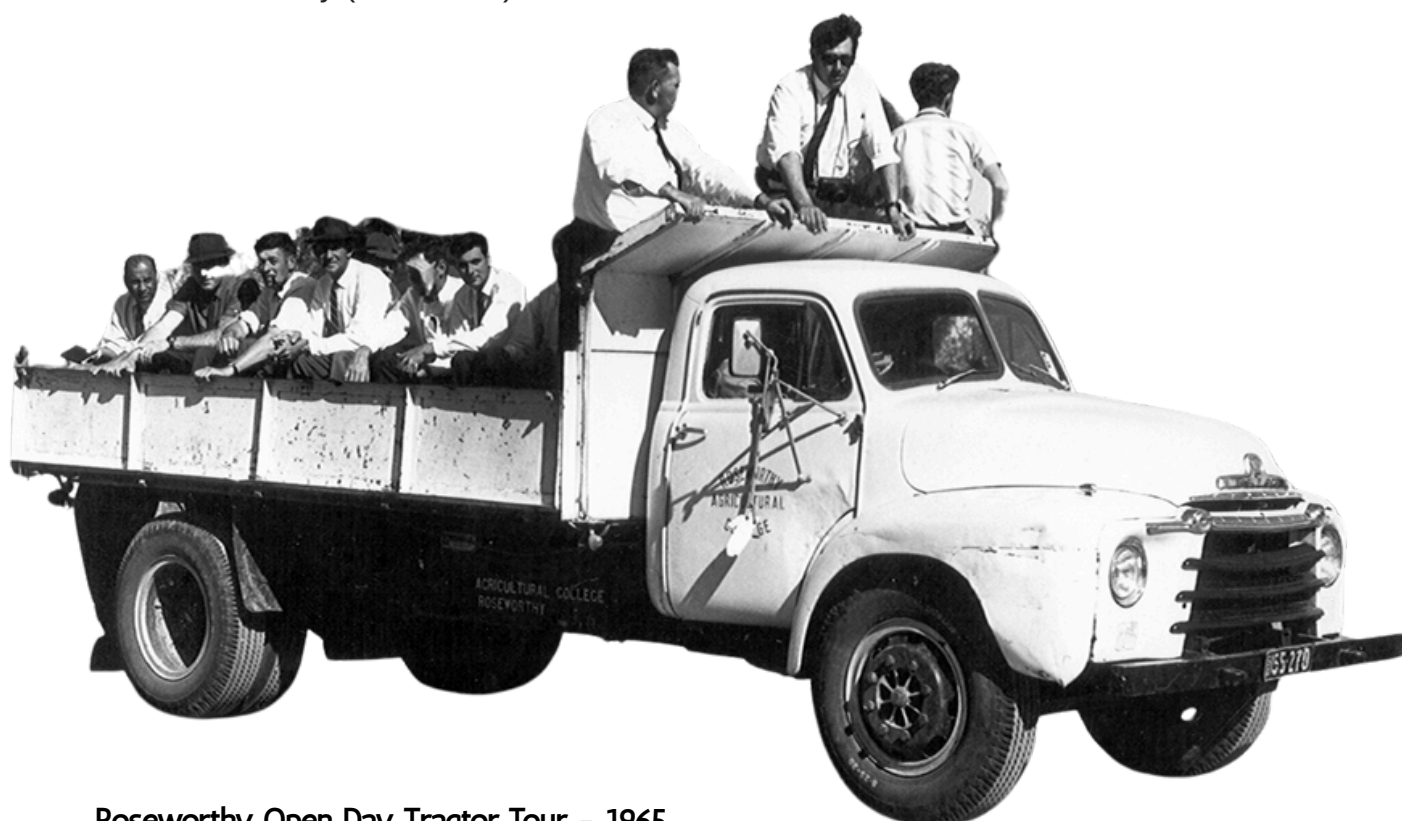
TARGET 100 HONOUR ROLL

ROCA honours the following people who generously contributed to the TARGET 100 initiative to ensure the welfare and ongoing functioning of the Association:

- Dr Michael Aldridge (B.Ag.Sc. 2012; B.Sc. Hons. 2013; PhD Vet.Sc. 2018)
- Simon Ballinger (B.App.Sc. Ag 1991)
- David Bateman (RDA 1973; RDAT 1974)
- Graham Brookman (RDA 1970)
- David Brown (RDA 1972)
- Elizabeth Burns (B.App.Sc. Ag 1995)
- Martin Burns (Assoc.Dip. F.M. 1995)
- Michael Camac (Dip.App.Sc. Ag 1982)
- Peter Clark (RDA 1973)
- Doug Clifford (RDA 1973; RDAT 1974)
- Keith Cowley (Dip.App.Sc. Ag 1982)
- Bruce Crosby (RDA 1968)
- Jane Cunliffe-Jones (RDA 1977)
- Malcolm Dixon (RDA 1955)
- Andrew Eastick (RDA 1976)
- Mark Egarr (B.App.Sc. Ag 1989)
- Irene Filsell (Dip.App.Sc. Ag 1983)
- Peter Filsell (RDA 1978)
- Dr Peter Ford AM (RDA 1965)
- Dr Annabel Forrest (Assoc.Dip.App.Sc. Horse Husb 1980)
- Henry Foster (RDA 1961)
- Sue Franke (Assoc.Dip.WineMkt. 1985; B.Ag.Sc. Oen Hons. 2000)
- Bryan Fry (B.App.Sc. Ag 1993)
- Neville Gilbertson OAM (RDA 1959)
- Colin Glaetzer (RDA 1969; RDOen 1972)
- Prof Wayne Hein (RDA 1970)
- Keith Hentschke (B.App.Sc. Ag 1990)
- Robert Hodge (RDA 1961)
- Richard Inwood (Dip.App.Sc. Ag 1985; B.App.Sc. Ag 1986; Grad.Dip. Ag 1986)
- Kevin Keanin (RDA 1967)
- Andrew Kennett (B.App.Sc. Ag 1988)
- Philip Laffer AM (RDA 1961; RDOen 1963)
- David Lewis OAM (RDA 1976)
- Brian Light (RDOen 1974)
- Michael Lucey (RDA 1954; RDD 1955)
- Dr Keith McCallum (RDA 1969; RDAT 1970)
- Dale Manson JP (RDA 1976; RDAT 1977; Grad.Dip. Ed 1990; MAppSc Ag 1998)
- Trevor March (RDA 1968)
- Robert Maczkowiack (RDA 1970; RDAT 1971)
- Dr Graham Mitchell AO (RDA 1961)
- Peter Mowatt (RDA 1958)
- Rohan Nicholls (RDA 1968)

TARGET 100 HONOUR ROLL (CONT.)

- Geoffrey O'Grady (B.App.Sc. Oen 1979)
- Ian Oliver OAM (RDA 1957)
- Dr. Geoff Page (RDA 1976; RDAT 1977)
- Victor Patrick OAM (RDA 1963)
- Rev Brian Polkinghorne (RDA 1970)
- Malcolm Revell (RDA 1972; RDOen 1974)
- Alan Richardson (RDA 1972; RDAT 1973)
- Dr Richard Riedel (RDA 1957)
- Peter Russell (Ass.Dip.F.M. 1988)
- Christopher Sharpe (RDA 1973)
- Phil Shaw (RDA 1968; RDOen 1970)
- Andrew Sneyd (B.App.Sc. Ag 1987)
- Andrew Solomon (RDA 1976)
- Andrew Staniford (RDA 1976; RDAT 1977)
- Kym Thiel (B.App.Sc. Ag 1994)
- Richard Thomas (RDA 1959)
- Stephen Tidswell (RDA 1976)
- Travis Tobin (BAg 2007)
- Peter Turley (RDA 1976; RDOen 1978)
- Richard Turnbull (RDA 1969)
- David Washington (B.App.Sc. Ag 1992)
- Kelvin Westbrook (RDA 1967)
- Bruce Wigney (RDA 1967; RDAT 1969)
- Martyn Wilkinson (RDA 1978)
- Brian Wilson (RDA 1961)
- Jon Womersley (RDA 1969)



Roseworthy Open Day Tractor Tour - 1965

HISTORY OF ROSEWORTHY CAMPUS ENTRANCE MONUMENT

The Roseworthy Campus main entrance on Mudla Wirra Road that runs between Wasleys and Gawler is graced by a large triangular solid concrete Entrance Monument greeting visitors.

Over a period of nearly sixty years, this unique looking monolith has become a feature of the area and owes its presence to the generosity of the 1968/1969 graduating Roseworthy Agricultural College student cohort. Its design is entrenched in the late-1960s history of Roseworthy College when the new two-story accommodation block incorporating reinforced concrete stairwells was being built.

In the 1960s and 1970s it was customary for the final year graduating students to hold an end of year dinner and invite the staff of the College as their guests. Soon after commencing their first year of study in 1966, this group of students who were due to finish their Diploma in Agriculture course in 1968 and graduate in 1969 were informed by older students of their responsibilities with respect to the dinner. Taking to heart those responsibilities, the first years earnestly undertook fund raising for the dinner throughout the whole of their time at Roseworthy College.

Their fund raising turned out to be extremely successful, aided by periods of grape picking by the group in the Riverland. After they had held the dinner in 1968, a considerable amount of money (\$1,600) was left unexpended and with meritorious altruism, a meeting of the students resolved to recognise and express appreciation for the great influence that the College had made to their lives by expending the surplus funds on something worthwhile for the College.

In recognition of the then inconspicuous entrance to the College which frequently resulted in visitors missing the entrance and needing to perform a U-turn further up the road leading to Wasleys, the group of final year students decided to create a prominent Entrance Monument to mark the main entry. After consultation with the then College Principal Bob Herriot, the project was agreed to and the Public Works Department became involved, resulting in an architect coming to the College with a cardboard model of the proposed Entrance Monument.

The students met and approved the design, duly receiving a fair degree of ridicule from the 1968 first- and second-year students for spending good money on a concrete block with solid brass letters stating ROSEWORTHY COLLEGE.

The Entrance Monument was constructed during 1969 year, with no official recognition of the students' contribution other than a bronze plaque attached to the rear of the feature stating "A Tribute from the Third Year Students 1968 – 1969". This brass-lettered Entrance Monument proudly stood untouched at the head of the Roseworthy Agricultural College driveway until the 1991 merger with the University of Adelaide.

At that time, two very odd things happened to the Entrance Monument. The unique brass lettering that adorned the face of the Entrance Monument was removed and replaced by a painted University of Adelaide sign, with the removed brass letters being souvenired by unknown external parties.

HISTORY OF ROSEWORTHY CAMPUS ENTRANCE MONUMENT (CONT.)

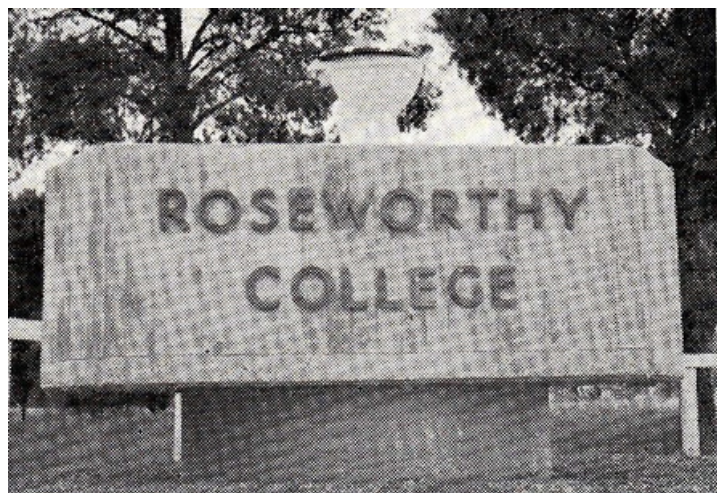
The other oddity was the placement of a plaque on the rear face of the Entrance Monument contained the wording, "On 1 January Roseworthy Agricultural College Merged with the University of Adelaide", without any indication that the year of merger was 1991. This oversight was quite clumsy.

With the 2026 merger of the Universities of South Australia and Adelaide to form a new Adelaide University, the Roseworthy Campus Entrance Monument will once again need to be changed, hopefully including a suitable plaque to mark the change and the year it occurred.

The Committee of the Roseworthy Campus Association is currently in discussion with the Infrastructure Branch of Adelaide University's Division of University Operations about the style of signage to replace the current and now outdated University of Adelaide signs attached to the Entrance Monument.



Plaques on the rear of the Roseworthy Entrance Monument. Note the absence of a date for the merger with the University of Adelaide in 1991



Original Roseworthy Agricultural Entrance Monument in 1969



The University of Adelaide painted sign that replaced the original brass Roseworthy College lettering.

NEW ROSEWORTHY VETERINARY HOSPITAL PORTABLE HORSE CRUSH

The Roseworthy Veterinary Hospital, part Adelaide University's Roseworthy Campus, kicked off the 2026 New Year with a big upgrade to their equine field services — introducing a new portable equine crush, now fitted with an in-built weighbridge for accurate horse weights.

This new crush was designed to improve safety, comfort and efficiency during examinations and procedures while out in the field. Secure handling combined with accurate, on-the-spot weights means better-informed decisions when it comes to medication dosing, sedation and treatment planning.

Being fully portable, it allows the equine team to provide high-quality veterinary care where it's needed most — on-farm, at events, or during field-based procedures. It also enhances safety for both horses and the veterinary team, helping field work run more smoothly and confidently.

With the New Year traditionally being one of their busiest times for equine work, this new addition was set to become one of our hardest-working pieces of equipment as the Roseworthy Campus Veterinary Team headed into the year ahead.

Smarter tools, safer handling, and even better equine care — that's how Adelaide University's Roseworthy Campus started the 2026 year at the Roseworthy Veterinary Hospital. The service is open to the public and bookings are now being received for horse dentals. Contact details are: 8313 1999 / vet.reception@adelaide.edu.au / 1454 Mudla Wirra Road, Roseworthy SA 5371

(Article adapted from Roseworthy Veterinary Hospital Facebook post)





ROCA HONOUR ROLL

Honorary Life Members



1901 Lowrie, Professor William †
 1921 Custance, Professor John Daniel †
 1921 Perkins, Professor Arthur James †
 1921 Murray, A Jack †
 1921 Jeffrey, Mr G †
 1921 Tassie, John †
 1922 Weigall, Sir Archibald (posthumous) †
 1923 Towar, Professor John †
 1936 Klose, Stanley Raymond †
 1940 Pritchard, Mr Alexander George †
 1942 Hewett Jones, Ralph †
 1949 Mellor, Douglas H †
 1949 Callaghan, Dr Alan R †
 1955 Suter, David Driffield †
 1957 Hill, Roland †
 1957 Fulton, Colonel D †
 1959 Philp, Burley C †
 1959 Krause, Malcolm Rex †
 1961 McCulloch, Dr Robert N †
 1969 Stephen, Harry Vernon †
 1969 Hooper, Clifford Wade †

1970 Habel, John Desmond †
 1971 Ford, Ross James †
 1971 Norton, Raymond Sidney †
 1977 Jones, John Alan
 1983 Williams, Dr Don †
 1992 Michelmores, William Andrew †
 1992 Thistlethwayte, Dr Barrie
 1995 Woolhouse, Professor Harold †
 2000 Michelmores, Elizabeth †
 2001 Manson, Dale Ashley
 2003 Maddocks, Professor Simon
 2006 Taylor, Raymond John †
 2009 Seeliger, Mark Trevor
 2009 Eastick, Bruce Charles AM †
 2009 Cooper, David John †
 2010 Bowen, Kenneth Wilfred OAM
 2014 Ashton, Brian
 2017 Spencer, David
 2025 Dennis, Andrew
 2025 Fairbrother, Peter
 2025 Turnbull, Richard

(† Deceased)





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 †	1994 Brian Hannaford †
1962 Dr David Riceman †	1995 Grant Mayfield †
1963 Len Cook †	1996 Robert Knappstein †
1964 William Dawkins OBE †	1997 James Pocock †
1965 Frank Pearson †	1998 Ian Young †
1966 Sir Allan Callaghan CMG †	1999 Don Moyle †
1967 Bob Herriot OBE †	2000 Grant Paech †
1968 Denis Muirhead †	2001 Brian Jefferies AM †
1969 Jack Reddin OAM †	2002 Dr Graham Mitchell AO
1970 Ron Badman †	2003 Philip Laffer AM
1971 Prof Rex Butterfield †	2004 John Vickery OAM †
1972 Rex Krause †	2005 Ronald Mertin AM †
1973 Rex Kuchel †	2006 Brian Wilson
1974 Lex Walker AM †	2007 Wilf Bowen OAM
1975 Ken Pike †	2008 Philip Young AM †
1976 Len Laffer †	2009 Ian Hickinbotham OAM †
1977 Des Habel †	2010 Dr Ray Beckwith OAM †
1978 Henry Day AO †	2011 Raymond Taylor †
1979 Dr Mark Hutton †	2012 Vic Patrick OAM
1980 Cliff Hooper †	2013 Alan Richardson
1981 Andrew Michelmores †	2014 Hon. Peter Dunn
1982 Milton Spurling †	2015 Richard Fewster
1983 Ralph Hewett Jones †	2016 David Lewis OAM
1984 David Suter †	2017 Rev Brian Polkinghorne
1985 Hon Dr Bruce Eastick AM †	2018 John Crosby AM
1986 Dr John Obst †	2019 Allan Piggott
1987 Robin Steed †	2020 Professor Wayne Hein
1988 Reg French †	2021 Louisa Rose
1989 Ray Norton †	2022 Graeme Pope
1990 Tony Summers †	2023 Neil Pontifex
1991 Scott Dolling OAM †	2024 Bardy McFarlane
1992 Rex Anderson †	2025 Ian Bidstrup
1993 Bob Baker †	

(† Deceased)

1999: ROCA Centenary Medal - Harry Stephen †

2017: Icon of Roseworthy - Hon Dr Bruce Eastick AM †

2022: Honoured ROCA Fellow - Professor Wayne Hein



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