



ROSEWORTHY
CAMPUS ASSOCIATION

THE ROCA DIGEST

WINTER 2026
Editor: Dale Manson



Back Row: F. Polley, C. Elliott, G. B. Pallant, W. J. Martin, J. Stanford, C. Halloran, B. W. Gransbury,
D. W. Russell, T. E. Dunstan, F. C. Clucas, C. R. Aleock
Middle Row: F. M. Hilton, D. H. Harrison, J. W. Vereo, P. V. Monk, M. G. Kellett, J. A. Searson, J. V. Mertin,
D. B. M. Mack, K. L. Kenny, P. A. Tod, S. K. Reid, F. M. Feuerheerdt, F. N. Garrett
Front Row: Cpl. P. Bagenal, Cpl. E. J. Snook, Sgt. H. R. Day, Staff-Sgt. R. M. Butterfield, Captain W. S. Smith,
Sgt. H. C. Nourse, Sgt. R. M. Feuerheerdt, Cpt. S. G. Williams, L. Cpl. J. W. Goldney

We are reminded about the long history of service by Adelaide University's Roseworthy Campus to the veterinary profession. Formerly Roseworthy Agricultural College, the 6th Cavalry Mobile Veterinary Section attended the needs of the Australian Army's mounted cadre in the 1930s and 1940s.

Continuing the veterinary legacy, in 2026 Roseworthy Campus graduated 92 fully qualified veterinary surgeons. Of note in the photo is Staff-Sgt. R.M. Butterfield (front row, 4th from left), who after graduating from Roseworthy Agricultural College went on to a career as Professor of Veterinary Anatomy at the University of Sydney. (Photo donated by the family of Jack Mertin - middle row seventh from left)

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

ANDREW EASTICK



At the beginning of my term as President of our Association in October 2024, I indicated that Members and Money would be an important focus of your Committee. In early 2025 I referred to the minutes of our Association's meetings (Annual General and Committee), going back to our Association's first meetings in 1898, which indicated Members and Money were frequent concerns, and that the aim of your current Committee would be ensure that for the foreseeable future Committees will not have to maintain an urgent focus on either. I'm pleased to be able to report good progress with both Members and Money.

Through a range of initiatives over the past twelve months, the take-up of membership of our Association by current graduates has improved, albeit not yet to the level desired.

Through a solid effort many our Association's significant list of so called 'lost' members, members for which our Association had no current email address, have been found.

Our Association's two Facebook pages, the Members page at www.facebook.com/groups/1816673755819158, and the Public page at www.facebook.com/rocagrads, have been of great assistance in the effort to establish contact with 'lost' members. The next task is to encourage the estimated 3,500 Roseworthy graduates who have not joined our Association, primarily graduates of the last 25 years, to do so.

In this edition of the Digest a further Members initiative is being launched, Operation Three Thousand, to increase membership of our Association over the next twelve months by 900 to 3,000, being 50% of those estimated to be eligible for membership. To achieve the Operation Three Thousand target, our Association is seeking the assistance of at least ten members who are able to set aside several hours each week to seek out the location and the potential means of contacting non-members, using the methodologies described in the How To Find 450 Lost Members article in this edition of the Digest.

For Money, our Association's Target 100 Campaign has so far received \$36,000 in donations from 90 members. Whilst the basis of the Campaign was for members to donate \$100 each year for the three years of the Campaign, many members have donated the full \$300 in the first year. Those members making \$100 donations over three years have already commenced making their second annual \$100 donation, with several members making extremely generous donations.

CONTRIBUTIONS

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FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONT.)

The Target 100K Campaign aims to increase our Association's financial reserves to at least \$100,000 by the end of 2027. That amount of reserves will enable our Association to earn sufficient interest each year to cover our Association's fixed annual costs - website hosting, Digest and Newsletter production and distribution, insurance and the annually awarded Award of Merit Medallion. To donate to the Target 100K Campaign go to: www.roseworthy-roca.com.au/campaigns/roseworthy-old-collegians-association-target-100k-campaign

In addition to its focus on Members and Money, your Committee has been active on a significant number of other matters.

1. Liaising with the University about the significant repairs required for the currently closed Campus Oval Grandstand;
2. Reinstatement of the original style of brass lettering on the concrete plinth at the main entrance to the Campus;
3. Initiating the successful search for the missing Diploma in Dairying graduate board;
4. Arranging the installation of photographic replicas of the Gramp Hardy Smith Memorial Prize Plaque and the Professor Perkins Illuminated Address, both taken to the Waite Campus many years ago;
5. Arranging the recognition of the Ralph Baker Memorial Clock, which for decades summoned students at mealtimes by activating a siren.

Your Committee is currently looking for the missing framed maps of the then College Farm, donated to the College in 1988.

The ROCA Committee has also successfully negotiated with the University an amendment to the Rules of the Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund (RCSF), an initiative of our Association in 2001, such that our Association will be consulted on any changes to the RCSF the University may wish to make in the future.

At last reported, the capital in the RCSF was \$204,000 and \$10,000 was available each year for our Association to allocate. Our Association allocates \$1,000 each to the top student in each of the five academic programs currently delivered at the Campus (see article on those Programs in a future edition of the Digest), \$1,000 to the recipient of the Old Students Cup. The Old Students Cup is now awarded to the Residential College student at the Campus who has made the most significant positive contribution to College culture and College life, including in areas such as College sport, social events, student support and wellbeing and student mentoring.

In association with Ag Institute (SA Division), ROCA awards \$1,000 to a student selected as the recipient of an Roseworthy Residential College Bursary, assessed on the student's contribution and engagement with professional associations and primary industries.

Your Committee is currently engaging with the University to establish an additional annual Prize utilising the RCSF, to be awarded to the best overall graduating student at the Campus each year. Titled the T E Yelland Prize, after Thomas Elliott Yelland, the founder of our Association, the Prize is proposed to have similar criteria and standing to the Gramp Hardy Smith Memorial Prize, the predominate Prize at Roseworthy from 1940 to 1998.

Nominations for our Association's annual Award of Merit will be received up until 30 June. Information about the Award of Merit and the nomination process can be found at: www.roseworthy-roca.com.au/recognition-awards/roca-award-of-merit Nominations must reference the specific criteria set out in the Rules. Broadly, the Award is for a member who has made a meritorious contribution to any field of activity relating to their studies during the College era or the Campus era of the Institution, and/or for their contribution to the Association. Saturday 17 October 2026 will be an important day for the Roseworthy Campus with, amongst other activities, the opening of the Time Capsule placed in the ground adjacent to the Chapel on 23 February 1976, and the installation of a further 50-year Time Capsule.

Your Committee has given thought to the management of the many historical items that members have donated to our Association over the years, currently stored in a dedicated room at the Campus near the rear of the Main Building. Work will commence later this year on recording each item in a searchable database.

FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONT.)

Following the recent manufacture of our Association's new pull-up banner, incorporating our Association's new name, logo and branding, our Association's Style Guide has been finalised, ensuring that all our Association's communication media follow the Guide.

Steps to bring about the publication of a comprehensive history of Roseworthy has advanced with discussions commenced with a potential publisher. ROCA has established a small group of volunteers who have commenced inspecting the extensive Roseworthy Agricultural College documents held at State Records. Members who would like to assist this important work should contact Peter Philp (RDA 1976: RDAT 1977) on 0419 654 245 or peterkphilp@hotmail.com.

Following a successful application for \$1,500 to the University's Alumni Funding Scheme our Association's series of four Lunch 'n Learn presentations will continue this year. In early 2026, the Committee appointed Richard Inwood (Dip App Sc (Ag) 1985; B App Sc (Ag) 1986; Grad Dip (Ag) 1986) to the Committee position left vacant at the 2025 Annual General Meeting.

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 Campus Association honoured the five most outstanding living graduates who contributed to the benefit of World Humanity.

David Lithgow Lewis OAM (RDA 1976; RDAT 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)



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)

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 Web: www.roseworthy-roca.com.au

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

Public Facebook page: www.facebook.com/rocagrad



ROSEWORTHY CAMPUS ASSOCIATION'S 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 Campus 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)

OPERATION THREE THOUSAND

Whilst it has been estimated there are currently 6,000 Roseworthy graduates, the Roseworthy Campus Association currently has only 2,200 of those graduates as members. The majority of those 3,800 non-members are graduates from the past 25 years.

Recent work by our Association to locate and re-establish contact with many members for which our Association had no contact details ('lost' members) indicates locating and contacting many of the non-members for the purpose of encouraging their take-up of membership is entirely feasible. All that is required is, as was our experience in searching for 'lost' members, is the internet, time and perseverance.

The purpose of Operation Three Thousand is to increase our Association's membership to at least 3,000 over the next twelve months. To achieve this our Association is seeking the assistance of at least ten volunteers able to allocate several hours each week to search for non-members and identify possible means of making contact.

It is intended to commence the search from those 1977 graduates who are non-members and progressively move to more recent graduates. Experience has shown that the more-recent graduates are easier to find due to having an online presence and because of still being of working age.

Once the contact details of a non-member are known, the person receives an invitation to join the Association. Volunteers assisting will receive the names of five non-members to search for each week.

Operation Three Thousand is proposed to commence in July.

Members able to assist Operation Three Thousand are asked to contact ROCA President Andrew Eastick on 0419 208 102 or andreweastick@outlook.com.

ROCA PRIZES FOR ROSEWORTHY STUDENTS

Earlier this year, the School of Animal & Veterinary Sciences at Roseworthy Campus staged its Prize Night recognising the academic achievements of the top graduating students in each of the five courses offered at the Campus.

As in past years, ROCA was privileged to be the sponsor of the Prizes awarded to the Dux or Gold Medallist in each of the five Roseworthy based courses.

The Prize provided by ROCA to each of the five high achievers was \$1,000 cash, drawn from the Association's Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund (RCSF).

Established by ROCA many years ago specifically to support Roseworthy students, the RCSF seed funds were originally sourced from member and corporate donations. These seed funds now remain untouched in investment accounts managed by the University's Scholarship Office, with only the yearly interest generated used to fund ROCA's Prizes.

Each year, ROCA supports a total of seven Roseworthy Student Prizes, five based on academic achievement in the School of Animal & Veterinary Sciences and a further two supporting students in the Roseworthy Residential College. Plans are in place to offer an eighth Prize later in 2026, bringing ROCA's total yearly contribution for student Prizes at Roseworthy to \$8,000.

On behalf of ROCA, granddaughter of the late Hon Dr Bruce Eastick AO, Lara Clifford presented the prestigious Hon Dr Bruce Eastick Prize for the most academically outstanding student completing the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine course to the recipient, Emily Anderson.

ROCA's Immediate Past President, Dale Manson presented the other four Prizes which were for the:

- Most academically outstanding student completing the Bachelor of Science (Animal Behaviour) course – Adam Herrmann;
- Most academically outstanding student completing the Bachelor of Science (Animal Science) course – Lindsey Ould;
- Most academically outstanding student completing the Bachelor of Science (Veterinary Bioscience) course – Vainavi Rosunee;
- Most academically outstanding student completing the Bachelor of Veterinary Technology course – Tuvshinzaya Batjargal.



ROCA PRIZES FOR ROSEWORTHY STUDENTS CONT.



Most academically outstanding student completing the Bachelor of Science (Veterinary Bioscience) course, Vainavi Rosunee.



Most academically outstanding student completing the Bachelor of Veterinary Technology course, Tuvshinzaya Batjargal.



Hon Dr Bruce Eastick Prize for the most academically outstanding student completing the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine course, Emily Anderson.



Most academically outstanding student completing the Bachelor of Science (Animal Science) course, Lindsey Ould.



Most academically outstanding student completing the Bachelor of Science (Animal Behaviour) course, Adam Herrmann.

KARL JOSEPH SEPPELT AO (RDA 1952)

26 JANUARY 1930 – 11 NOVEMBER 2025



Karl Seppelt AO

Karl Seppelt, a Baron of Barossa inducted in 1986, was one of a long line of members of the Seppelt family who attended Roseworthy Agricultural College.

Camillo Pedro Seppelt (RDA 1897) was an uncle, as were Udo Waldemar Seppelt (RDA 1900) and Xavier Arno Seppelt (1902).

Peter Stokes Seppelt (RDOen 1939), son of Camillo who died on the HMAS Perth which was sunk during the Battle of Sunda Strait on 1 March 1942, is a cousin; Gerold Benno Seppelt (RDA 1954) was Karl's brother; and Malcolm James Seppelt (RDA 1962: RDOen 1964) is a distant cousin.

Francis Edward Seppelt (B App Sc (Ag) 1986) is also a distant cousin; and Peter John Seppelt (A Dip App Sc (Ag Prod) 1987: A Dip Wine Mkt 1990) is Karl's son.

All are descendants of Joseph Ernest Seppelt (Karl's great grandfather) who arrived in South Australia from Hamburg in 1850 and took up land in the Barossa Valley in 1852, initially for mixed farming with some vineyards and winemaking as part of the mix.

Shortly before Joseph's death in 1868 a full-scale winery commenced to be constructed, the operation of which fell to Joseph's son, Oscar Benno Pedro Seppelt, known as Benno, (Karl's grandfather), leading to the original Seppelt company later becoming B Seppelt & Sons.

Karl's father, Joseph Gerold Seppelt (1888-1974), known as Gerry, enlisted whilst in London studying architecture at the outbreak of WWI, served in the British Territorial Army in England and returned to Australia at the end of the war. Gerry practiced architecture in South Australia and Western Australia where Karl was born, joined the part of the Seppelt business operating at Fremantle rising to manager, and later transferred to Sydney to manage the business there.

After moving from Sydney to study at Roseworthy Agricultural College Karl commenced working in the Seppelt's business, initially managing the Company's vineyards. With post-war immigration bringing European migrants to Australia with a culture of wine consumption, Seppelt's recognised the need for vineyard expansion of varieties suited to table wines.

Karl led Seppelt's expansion, initially to the Riverland and the South East (Limestone Coast), and was instrumental in influencing the Company's take-up of emerging viticultural practices, from vine selection through to harvesting techniques.

In the 1970s Karl transitioned from viticulture (Chief Viticulturalist from 1954 to 1972) to management, becoming the General Manager of B Seppelt & Sons from 1973 to 1979, and Managing Director from 1979 to 1985.

B Seppelt & Sons had become a publicly listed company in 1970 and was taken over by the South Australian Brewing Company in 1984.

In addition to his roles with the Company Karl had numerous State and Commonwealth industry roles, including Chairmanship of the Australian Wine Research Institute.

In 1981 Karl established Grand Cru Estate at Springton, an initial nine-hectare vineyard planted to chardonnay, riesling, pinot noir, cabernet sauvignon and merlot. Operated now by Karl's son Peter, and Peter's wife Roz, the Estate has expanded to include accommodation and a restaurant.

In 1983 Karl was awarded a University of Adelaide Centenary Award of Achievement for contribution to viticulture in South Australia and his service to the wine industry and community, and in 2006 received an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) award for service to the Australian wine industry through pioneering viticulture initiatives and as a contributor to a range of industry organisations.

DR. ALEXANDER DAVID MCDONALD (RDA 1975) - A QUIET ACHIEVER

BY ALF RAPISARDA (RDA 1975; RDAT 1976)



David McDonald was part of the 1972 RDA intake where he went mostly unnoticed, unlike most of the sixty odd student rabble. From the Naracoorte district, he arrived with his head in the right place. Mature for his years, he understood what he needed to do to achieve success.

I didn't have much to do with David apart from some fleeting conversations where he expressed his routine of getting up at around 4am each morning to do a couple of hours of study before breakfast. As expected, he did well before becoming a secondary teacher beginning at Renmark High in the mid-70's.

David later moved to Urrbrae Agricultural High in 1980 where he stood out, arriving in a suit and briefcase conducting his lessons in an exemplary manner. I was teaching there at the time and was in awe of his teaching abilities. He was transferred to Urrbrae in order to undertake treatment for Hodgkinson Disease.

In that same year he was offered postgraduate study in statistics at the University of North Carolina. When David completed his doctorate, he returned to Australia where he took up a position with the CSIRO located in Hobart. His role was to monitor wild fish populations in Southern Waters for sustainable fishing.

David's good friend and assistant principal at Urrbrae, Dean Creswell held David in high esteem as a capable and dedicated teacher. He first met David when at Renmark High School in 1976 where a condition of David's employment was to complete a Diploma in Teaching by correspondence in his first couple of years.

In 1977 they purchased a 15 acre fruit salad property growing grapes for winemaking and apricots for the fresh fruit market and drying, peaches for drying and canning and pears for drying. They were one of the first growers in the Riverland to purchase a fruit cutting machine.

David had two boys with his first wife Robyn and after she passed away, he married his second wife Lyn. David was dealing with pancreatic cancer which he unfortunately caused his demise and while his life was cut short, his outstanding achievements should be acknowledged. He went under the radar at Roseworthy but shined throughout his career.

David passed away in February 2017 but he achieved much under difficult circumstances.

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.

RDA 1976 50-YEAR "GOLDEN JUBILEE" GROUP LUNCHEON

Many members of this year's "Golden Jubilee" RDA 1976 group held a luncheon during February at Gawler's Willaston Hotel as a prelude to their big 50-Year Reunion Weekend next October.

Twelve RDA 1976 graduates and five partners enjoyed getting together after a full decade since their last reunion event. Normally held every five years, the one planned for 2021 had to be cancelled at the last moment due to Covid.

This particular group of graduates commenced their Roseworthy Diploma in Agriculture course in 1973, the last year of the Roseworthy Agricultural College administration's prohibition on accepting females as students. This 1973 all-male student cohort also saw the retirement of the notorious RAC Principal, Bob Herriot during their first year.

With most members of the group now aged around 70 years, much of the talk around the tables focused on the varied careers of their progeny and the relief they felt at being above retirement age themselves.

Most expect the "Golden Jubilee" 50-Year Reunion Weekend next October to be one of their personal highlights of 2026.

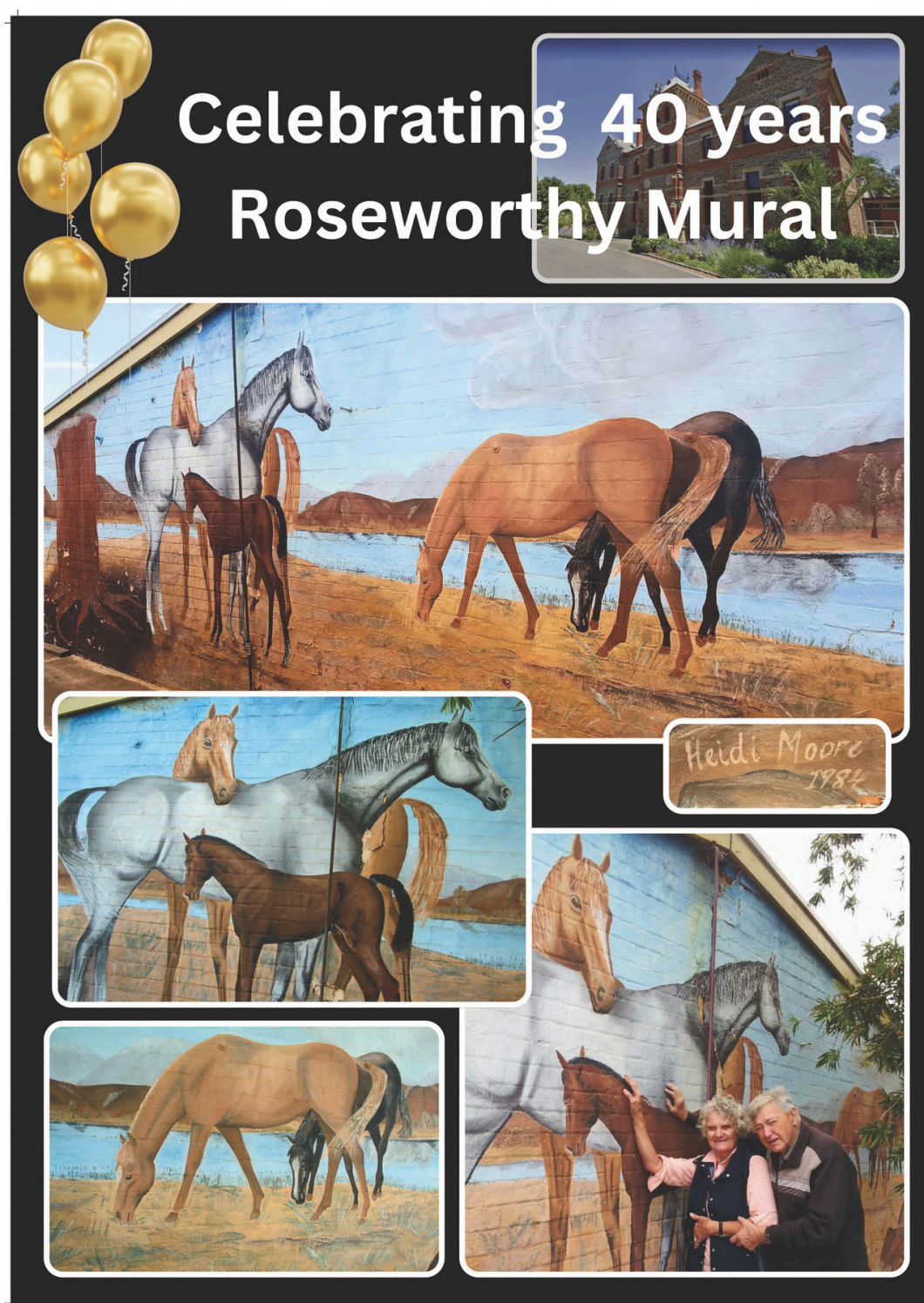


HEIDI MOORE-HALLIDAY'S WALL MURAL IN HORSE STABLE AREA

A wall in the horse stable area of Roseworthy Campus is adorned by a beautiful horse mural hand-painted in 1984 by student, Heidi Moore-Halliday (Assoc.Dip.App.Sc. Horse Management 1985).

The mural is painted on the end wall of a historic 1800s stable that originally housed the College's working Clydesdales. Although the wall itself is slightly crumbling, the mural remains in reasonable condition forty-two years after being painted by Heidi.

In 2024, Heidi Moore-Halliday and her family visited Roseworthy's historic horse stable area to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the mural's unveiling.



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 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.

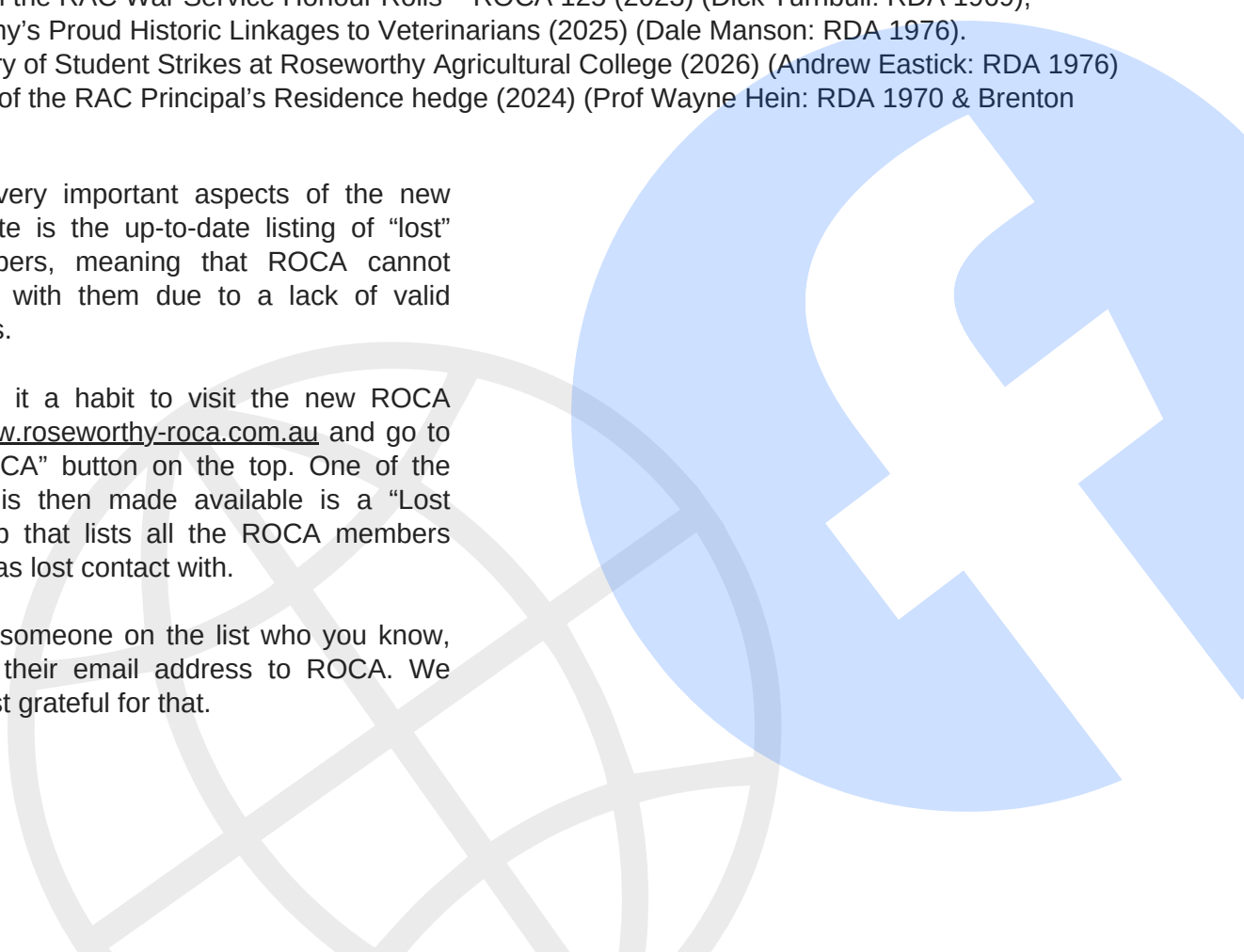
Also available on the new ROCA website are historic documents written by ROCA members:

- 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.



DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE VALEDICTORY CEREMONY

Following the completion of six hard years of study at Roseworthy, late last year 92 final year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students swore the Veterinary Oath at a University of Adelaide Valedictory Ceremony held at Roseworthy Campus.

Head of the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, Professor Rob Woodgate led proceedings, which provided authority for the 92 students to practice as fully qualified Veterinary Surgeons during the period leading up to their receipt of formal graduation parchments in Adelaide University's Bonython Hall during 2026.



Valedictory Ceremony 2025

School of Animal &
Veterinary Sciences



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Graduating Class of 2025

Kaitlyn Alder	Kimberley Coulter	Kimberley Handley	Si-En Ruth Khaw
Charles Allan	Sahara Craig	Ruby Hickman	Michaela Knowles
Emily Anderson	Manaswini Dasari	Kelvin Ho	Lok Hei Ko
Carrie Arbon	Matilda Dent	Tiffany Holzer	Sophie Ladd
Sara Azzam	Charlotte Dibbens	Rhiana Hooker	William Lanes
Nicola Beaumont	Li Li Du	Ainsleigh Howard	Emma Lawson
Mariana Beraldin	Emily Edwards	Tessa Hurley	Guan Tao Lee
Shannon Black	Lillian Ekins	Timo Ingle	Jiawei Lei
Alice Brownrigg	Gypsy-Rose Entriiken	Luke Janssen	Chaonan Li
Alana Bushnell	Connor Ewen	Jackson Judd	Ga-Yi Lin
Jianbin Chen	Erik Franks	Evangelia Kalfoglou	Sze Wing Jamie Lin
Hiu Ming Cheung	Xiaomeng Gao	Sanduni Karunaratne	
Kwan Ting Alyssa Chow	Khai Yang Goh	Jazmin Kehagias	
Tan Wei Chow	Natasha Green	Caitlin Keller	



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE



DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE VALEDICTORY CEREMONY CONT.

Veterinary Oath

'I solemnly swear to practise veterinary science ethically and conscientiously for the benefit of animal welfare, animal and human health, users of veterinary services and the community.

I will endeavour to maintain my practice of veterinary science to current professional standards and will strive to improve my skills and knowledge through continuing professional development.

I acknowledge that along with the privilege of acceptance into the veterinary profession comes community and professional responsibility.

I will maintain these principles throughout my professional life'.



Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Graduating Class of 2025

Hoi Kwan Iolanthe Lo	Madeleine Pearn	Harry Standish
Carmel Maher	Carly Pontifex	Mitchell Starr
Jessica Manson	Candice Prior	Nicole Staykov
Rachel McCready	Donata Raschella	Maddison Tamasi
Sophie McCulloch	Tegan Rehfish	Yi Xin Tian
Alex McEvoy	Isabella Robinson	Dylan Yue Ho Tsang
Lexie McKay	Megan Routley	On Yung Haley Tsoi
Taylah Meneses	Paula Rowlands	Wing Hei Abbie Tu
Sophie Miller	Pavani Samarakoon	Elena Waring
Jessica Murray	Holly Sanders	Taylah White
Chi Hui Keith Ng	Paris Sanderson	Tsz Him Wong
Rebecca Nicholson	Killian Sharkey	Caitlin Wringe
Patrick O'Donoghue	Jiyoung So	Long Fung Yu



2026 ROCA AGM & REUNION DINNER

The 2026 ROCA AGM and Reunion Dinner will be held at the Feathers Hotel, Burnside on the evening of Friday 16th October 2026.

The Feathers Hotel will once again be going all out to make the Reunion Dinner enjoyable, affordable and something to really remember.

Primary reunion groups will be the graduates and those who were part of the respective courses 50-Years ago (1976), 40-Years ago (1986) and 30-Years ago (1996).

A representative from each of the principal reunion groups will provide a snappy five minute summary of their fellows.

It is also hoped that as many 60+ year graduates will also attend the Reunion Dinner. These people are living gems of Roseworthy Agricultural College's history and their memories of time spent studying at RAC in the 1950s and 1960s will never be replaced.

An important aspect of the evening will be the presentation of the 2026 ROCA Award of Merit.

ROCA members and others associated with Roseworthy are warmly encouraged to be accompanied by their partners, companions, carers and friends.

Further information and a registration form can be found in this issue of the ROCA Digest. Reunion Dinner bookings can also be made online via the ROCA website:

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

Retrieval of the 50-Year Time Capsule

On Saturday 17th October 2026, the day following the 2026 ROCA Reunion Dinner, there will be the retrieval of a Time Capsule that was entombed fifty years ago at Roseworthy Agricultural College on the same day as the 1976 Graduation Ceremony.

All will be welcome to attend and further details will be provided as planning for the day proceeds.

CHANGING EMAIL ADDRESS?..... PLEASE LET ROCA KNOW

As the Roseworthy Campus Association (ROCA) now primarily communicates with members via email, anyone without a current email address in our database is considered to be a 'Lost Member'.

ROCA is unable to communicate with 'Lost Members' and often these people remain disenfranchised from ROCA for the remainder of their lifetime.

If you change email contact address, please let ROCA know as soon as possible.

We do prefer members to use their ongoing private email addresses, as email addresses linked to members' employment often cease to work with job changes or retirement.

ROCA does maintain a listing of 'Lost Members' on its ROCA website (<https://www.roseworthy-roca.com.au/join-roca/lost-members/>) and it is always helpful when members check this list to discover 'lost' friends or year-group course peers.

The best way to communicate with ROCA is via email: roca.committee@gmail.com

ROCA MEMBERS HONOURER 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, RDA 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, RDA 1977, Grad.Dip. Ed 1990, MAppSc Ag 1998)

Mr Alistair (Bardy) McFarlane (RDA 1972)

Mr Alan Richardson(RDA 1972, RDA 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, RDA 1972)

Mr Milton Spurling(Roseworthy Staff)

Mr Harry Stephen (RDA 1948)

Mr Raymond Taylor(RDA 1952)

Mr Richard Turnbull(RDA 1969)

JIM CHEWINGS MEMORIAL BBQ AREA – ROSEWORTHY CAMPUS OVAL PRECINCT

Jim Chewings was a student at Roseworthy in the 1970s and was awarded his Roseworthy Diploma of Agriculture (RDA) in 1976, completing the Roseworthy Diploma in Agricultural Technology (RDAT in 1977).

At Christmas 1987, Jim died after a car accident near the Coorong in which mercifully, his wife Jane (also a Roseworthy graduate) and his young family were spared.

As an act of great charity, Jim's RDA 1976 Roseworthy mates contributed to a fund that could have been used to care for his children. When it became evident that it would not be required for that purpose, the Chewings family approached Roseworthy College and offered to fund a suitable memorial.



After a lengthy period of careful consideration and consultation, the Chewings Memorial Barbecue and an architecturally coordinated pergola were constructed on the perimeter of the Roseworthy Agricultural College Oval.

These facilities brought a much needed venue for informal gatherings, being serviced with power, water and lighting. With toilet and washroom facilities in the near vicinity, they provide a venue that is an appealing alternative to gathering in a room or house.

The building was designed to be robust and easy to maintain. Loud parties were not a problem as no-one resided in the near vicinity. It was possible for Campus residents and their friends to relax and enjoy good company without the usual concerns - disturbing others, damaging property and making a mess that would take a lot of time and effort to clean up.

The Property Services Branch of the University assisted Roseworthy College to bring this project to fruition.

Still in active use, this area honoured the memory of past students (Jim Chewings in particular) and ensured that future students also enjoyed the benefit of the generosity of the Chewings family and Jim's RDA 1976 colleagues.

THE CLASS OF 1972

BY: ALF RAPISARDA (RDA 1975; RDAT 1976)

The class of 1972 arrived at a time of change. The principal was clamping down on unruly initiation practices along with a push to raise academic standards. As well, the college was soon to be co-educational.

We looked different. Among our intake of around 60 students we didn't have tattoos, piercings, studs or rings. We lived in an insular world in close proximity, but most got on well.

The student who stood head and shoulders above the group was Pat Tocciciou, (front centre in Photo) a leader and sportsman who was respected by his fellow students. Greg Sheehy was involved in everything, a diligent student and photographer. Warwick Shipway was the resident nice guy who set the world record for playing the Rolling Stones song 'Angie' endlessly at the Roseworthy pub.

Dave Smith provided lots for the magazine and Tim Cartledge represented us in the Student Union. We survived the Franco-Irish war between Gilles Garson and Mick Flaherty and Bruce Mosey stubbornly displayed his feminine side despite the heckling.

Two outstanding students slipped under the radar. David MacDonald went teaching and later achieved a doctorate in statistics while Wayne Falkenburg, a wine student was highly academic, a good sportsman and his family had the best ever dill pickles!

Among the staff, Dr. David Taplin was liked. He lectured in animal science and scared the crap out of us during our second year exam when he asked about the digestive system of the quokka, an animal he described during an 8am lecture when no one was listening. None had a clue about that animal and the average mark for that exam was 23%.

Dr. Hardy the vet won over the students even though none could understand a word he said and in the field Ray the rat Norton was popular, but everyone hated Balls Brady the animal science assistant. Balls liked to throw his weight around, but one day when he harassed a hapless student in the animal science lab, Dr. Hardy mumbled loudly, "Leave him alone you insignificant little man!"

Spring chickens in 1972, we are now in the winter of our lives and our final sunset is near. Each has a story but it's the journey that made us what we are, having learnt some of life's truths.

The idea of truth is well-described by the Scottish pastor Dr. Bonar in a sermon titled 'How we learn.' Some lines include; Great truths are greatly won, not found by chance, nor wafted on the breath of summer dream, but grasped in the great struggle of the soul... Truth springs, like harvest, from the well-ploughed field, and the soul feels it has not wept in vain.

What are some of the great truths we've likely encountered since our student years? One I suggest is that life isn't fair. Looking at the unfortunate fate of some of our best students that's evident.

For those still addicted to sex, drugs and rock and roll, the Rolling Stones gave many streetwise truths. When searching the song that had Warwick mesmerised, "Angie," I discovered a range of truths.

THE CLASS OF 1972 (CONT.)

For example in their classic, "Sympathy for the Devil," they sang, "Just as every cop is a criminal and all the sinners saints," suggesting we all contain good and bad in our nature. In another classic they sang, "You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometime, you'll get what you need."

I liked the ending to Angie. Regardless of life's ups and downs, twists and turns, "They can't say we never tried!"

The year photo was taken in our second year--1973.



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:

BLANKS, Ronald Francis
BOWEN OAM, Kenneth Wilfred (Wilf)
FAHEY, Gerald S.
GODDARD, Wayne Noel Graham
HOVERS, Mary Theresia Cecilia
KNIGHTS, Peter Andrew
LONEY, Philip Thomas
MURRAY, Phillippa Micheltmore
PITMAN, Ashleigh
RAYNER, Kym Patrick
RICE-MURPHY, Michelle Anne
SEPPELT AO, Karl Josef
SHORT, Ian Robert Aitchison
SQUIRES AM, Victor Roy
TSACONAS, Con George
WEBBER, Glyndwr David
WILLIAMS, Brian
WRIGHT, Maureen Beatrice Bertha
YATES, Neville Geoffrey

(Grad.Dip.Wine 1991)
(RDA 1950)
(B.App.Sc. 1985)
(B.App.Sc. Oen. 1985)
(ADipAppSc Hrs Husb Mgmt 1990)
(B.App.Sc. Ag1991)
(RDA 1960)
(AssocDip AP 1989; AssocDip FM 1990)
(B.App.Sc NRM 1994)
(RDOen 1976)
(AssocDipWineMark 1992)
(RDA 1952)
(RDA 1957)
(Member of Roseworthy Staff)
(AssocDipWineMark 1985)
(RDA 1953)
(RAC Staff Member 1970s onward)
(AssocDipWineMark 1990)
(Member of RAC staff 1970s onward)

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.

HOW TO FIND 450 LOST MEMBERS

BY ANDREW EASTICK – ROCA PRESIDENT

During 2025/2026, ROCA's 2,200 members included 700 'lost' members who had no current email address on ROCA's file and therefore no means of communication. In the lead up to the 2025 Annual Dinner, I started searching for 'lost' members, commencing from the earliest 'lost' members in the list.

With the assistance of the internet using Google, LinkedIn, Facebook and my My Heritage subscription, I was reasonably successful in the initial search for 'lost' members. Regrettably however, amongst the earliest 'lost' members I became aware of a number who were deceased and that had not been known to the Association. It has been the practise of the Association since its inception in 1898 to acknowledge the passing of members when known, so finding 'lost' members who were deceased is enabling that acknowledgment.

Initial work searched for 'lost' 1985 graduates and that early work indicated that it was possible to find 'lost' members. However, finding references to them is one thing, finding the means to contact them, particularly to obtain an email address and/or phone number, was another matter altogether.

Members' personal email addresses are much preferred to work email addresses as a move in employment can result in the member becoming 'lost' again. Having the personal mobile number of a member is also helpful in guarding against the member becoming 'lost' again. The searching in 2025 accounted for about 60 of the 700 'lost' members.

Members still in employment were the subjects of the next search, albeit many were approaching retirement. In some cases, places of employment were cooperative in passing on the contact details for recently retired members. Identifying places of current employment enabled an email to be sent to the generic email address of the business.

This was generally successful in gaining a positive response due to the administration staff receiving the email being co-operative in passing the email onto the 'lost' member. As each 'lost' member was found, their contact details were mailed to Dale Manson, the keeper of our Association's membership records, who added the email address to the membership records and emailed the newly found member the latest ROCA Digest. Many 'lost' members were found only by following obscure leads.

Roseworthy graduates are scattered far and wide throughout Australia or overseas. Many have careers a long distance from their Roseworthy studies and finding each 'lost' member was a cause for brief celebration, with some finds being memorable.

David Cant (Dip App Sc (Nat Res Mgmt) 1981)

Finding that David Cant was living in the Clare Valley but nothing else I made an enquiry on the Clare Valley Community Facebook page.

Almost immediately, the following posts started appearing on the page.

- You're wanted;
- You're in trouble;
- Report to the Principal's office IMMEDIATELY!;
- David Cant Oh no! I haven't been in this much trouble since I was at Roseworthy! And that was in 1980!;
- Does he need a lawyer?;
- David Cant all okay, I'm in custody now...;
- Do you need a bail out?;
- David Cant I'm out on bail now.

HOW TO FIND 450 LOST MEMBERS (CONT.)

Susan Powell (B App Sc (Nat Res Mgmt) 1990)

Googling indicated a Susan Powell worked as a Senior Manager with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, and Environment and Water in Canberra. I then took the approach of ringing the Department and, having introduced myself and the reason for ringing, was immediately transferred to Susan.

Philip Tubb (Grad Dip Wine 1990)

Googling indicated that Philip Tubb lived in the Southwest of Western Australia. No current email address or phone number revealed itself, but further Googling indicated Philip was a volunteer with Marine Rescue Augusta. As a volunteer Senior Radio Operator with Marine Rescue Fremantle myself, I emailed the Secretary of Marine Rescue Augusta for help to contact Philip.

Melanie Goehr (Ass Dip App Sc (Hrs Husb Mgmt) 1991)

My first research revealed a Melanie Goehr had been a professional firefighter in Darwin, a dead end surely. Then there was a Melanie Goehr who had lived for some time in on Magnetic Island off the coast of Townsville and was a keen kayaker, another who'd played for the Australian Women's Rugby Union 'Wallaroos' team, plus a Melanie Goehr on Facebook. Finally, it dawned on me there were not multiple Melanie Goehr, but the one person who was our 'lost' member. A message to Melanie via Messenger brought a quick response with an email address and phone number.

It is important that I acknowledge the valuable assistance received in the search, resulting in a number of finds, through the progressive posting of the names of 'lost' members on the Association's two Facebook pages, its Members page - www.facebook.com/groups/1816673755819158, and its Public page - www.facebook.com/rocagrad. Members and Followers have provided valuable leads, particularly in identifying female 'lost' members with married names not known to the Association.

Generally, 'lost' oenology, wine science and recent Doctor of Veterinary Medicine members were easier to find. Wine companies and veterinary clinics are very good at promoting their practitioners on the business website. With just one exception, all the 'lost' members who were found were delighted!

The Association's 'lost' members list also included 120 names where no qualification details were indicated and in some cases names were incomplete, with just a letter for the Christian name. Following the careful consideration of each name it was found that many were not and had not been members of the Association. Only a few were determined to be members, generally because of eligibility resulting from employment at the Campus, with examples such as Andrew Polkinghorne (Farm Manager) and Marie Kozulic (Librarian).

As a result of the efforts described above our Association's current list of 'lost' members has now been reduced to 250. An annual review of the list of 'lost' members will I am sure will reduce the number further.

The same search approach can identify and provide contact details for many of the estimated 3,800 Roseworthy graduates who are yet to join our Association, most of whom graduated over the past 30 years, and are still in employment, aiding the search. In this Digest I have set out how I think the task of reaching out to those graduates could and should be tackled.

This is a summary of Andrew's original article. To read the full unabridged article on locating 'Lost' ROCA Members, log onto the ROCA Website's working files page at:
<https://www.roseworthy-roca.com.au/archives/working-files/>

THE ICE CREAM CO. LIMITED

54 THE STUDENT. December 21, 1934.

The Ice Cream Co. Limited

(Limited to Director and Auditor.)

Room 13 à la Corridor



When it's hot or when it's cold,
Ice Cream's easy stuff to hold.

“Come up and see me sometime.”
—Mae West

This original remark was made to our Manager AFTER
he started the Ice Cream Co.

Solicited Testimonial:
“Some train on beef and some on beer,
I train on Ice Cream.”
—Willie Turner.

This unusual The Ice Cream Co. Limited Ad advertisement was published in the Vol. 30 No. 1 edition of The Student in December 1934.

In the same edition, the final paragraph of an article headed News and Comments, written by G. C. K. (second-year student Gerald Cobden Kay - RDA 1936), states: “In conclusion our second cricket team won by six wickets and our tennis team by eight rubbers to one. A few weeks ago, a record harvest is forecast and a thriving ice-cream firm has appeared in our very midst. What better auguries could we wish for a happy and successful summer.”

The principals of The Ice Cream Co. Limited were second-year students Laurence Sinclair Mann (RDA 1936) and Denis Butler Muirhead (RDA 1936), who would have occupied adjoining rooms in the Corridor accommodation block.

Following graduation, Laurence Mann farmed Lake Albert Station near Tailem Bend, retired in Victor Harbor, died 10 July 1982 and is buried in Centennial Park Cemetery.

Denis Muirhead was raised on a farming property at Eudunda and had a distinguished career in the livestock industry including with the Australian Meat Board in the UK and USA.

He was the recipient of the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association's 1968 Award of Merit. Denis, who lived in Adelaide on retirement, died on 23 November 1985 and is buried at the Kapunda Cemetery.

JOHN ROBINSON: A FAMOUS SCULPTOR WHO WAS A ROSEWORTHY COLLEGE STUDENT

BY ANDREW BROWN (RDA 1956)

John Robinson was a British sculptor and co-founder of the Bradshaw Foundation. Among other distinctions he was the Official Sculptor for the British Olympic Committee in 1988 and a University of Wales Honorary Fellow.

He was also a Roseworthy College student for nine months.

I first met "Robbie" in 1953 on the steps of the main building of Roseworthy College where I was rostered on to prepare a fire for the 3rd year students in a notoriously cold lecture room. Robbie came to the front door looking lost and after very brief introductions I showed Robbie to the rooms where he was to sleep that night in the company of Peter Dunn and Austen De Caux. In Robbie's own words from his life story: "These two companions turned my time at Roseworthy College into an unforgettable experience."

Forty years later Peter Dunn visited Robbie in the UK and renewed acquaintances.

John Robinson was born in London in 1935. His father was Australian and mother English. He left school at the age of 16 and joined the Merchant Navy but left the Navy upon arrival in Australia. His adventures ranged from jackerooing and cattle droving to serving on a mounted patrol in the Kimberley region.



JOHN ROBINSON: A FAMOUS SCULPTOR WHO WAS A ROSEWORTHY COLLEGE STUDENT (CONT.)

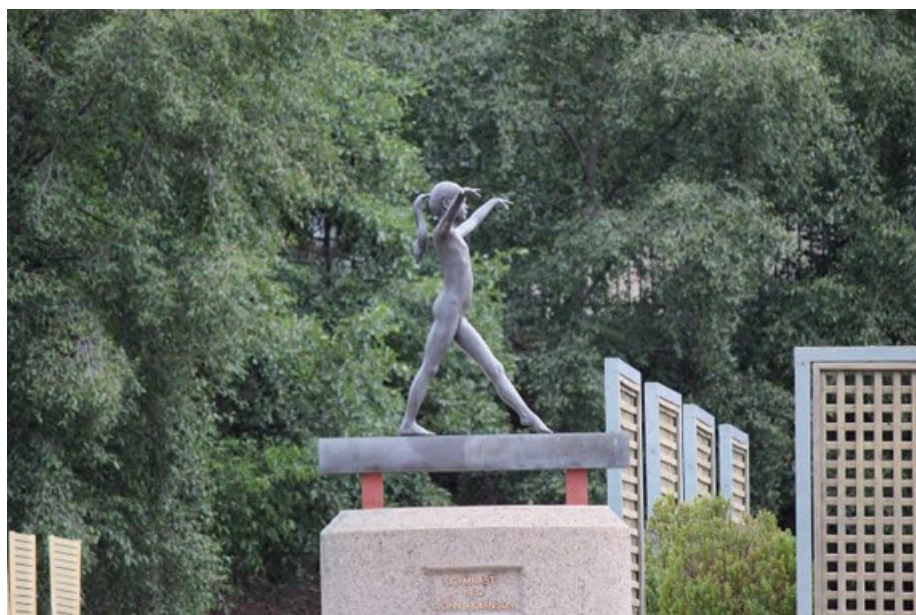
In 1953 and with some help from family friend Professor Hedley Marston (Head of the CSIRO), Robbie decided to enrol at Roseworthy.

Aside from attending (most) lessons at College, he managed to accompany Dunn and De Caux to various parties in Adelaide where his Australian experience was expanded in unexpected ways. Robbie was able to do this, in part, through owning a (temporarily) shiny new Ford Prefect.

Robbie's time at Roseworthy came to a premature end courtesy of an infatuation with a girl who he escorted to a Coming Out Dance at Gawler. Unfortunately, Principal McCulloch had cancelled all leave for a fortnight at that time due to a "minor infringement" of a College rule. Come the night of the dance, Robbie was spotted at the dance by a Roseworthy master, but anticipating expulsion and seeking new horizons, Robbie walked into the Principal's office the next morning and resigned.

From the brief time I spent with him at Roseworthy, I recall Robbie being an impressive person who took an interest in other people. It was no surprise to me and my classmates that Robbie went on to be a success in other fields. In the 1950s, he married, bought a 1,600-acre virgin scrub block in the Ninety Mile Desert of South Australia and for ten years developed a sheep farm.

In the late 1960s, he bought some modelling clay and started modelling friends and children, working in his shearing shed at weekends. His sculpting became so consuming that Robbie returned to England with his wife and three sons to begin his sculpting career in earnest.



JOHN ROBINSON: A FAMOUS SCULPTOR WHO WAS A ROSEWORTHY COLLEGE STUDENT (CONT.)

Robbie first made a name for himself as a sculptor with figurative bronzes including a commissioned bust of Queen Elizabeth and another of the Queen Mother. There are another seven examples around the world, one of which is located outside the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra, Australia and another in Queen Victoria Gardens, Melbourne, Australia.

Robbie was Official Sculptor for the British Olympic Committee in 1988. His "Gymnast" is at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, donated by the Australian Olympic Committee. John Robinson passed away in March 2007.



ROCA WEBSITE CONTAINS A WEALTH OF HISTORIC INFORMATION

It may surprise some people, but due to continuing efforts of ROCA, our website now contains a wealth of historic information freely available for retrieval by anyone.

In addition to listings of Awards and Honours, the ROCA website now contains:

- ROCA Committee Meeting Minutes 1898-2026;
- Listing and biography of ROCA Presidents 1898-2026;
- ROCA Presidents' Annual Reports 1989-2025;
- Roseworthy Principal & Director listing and biography 1882-2026;
- 'The Student' Magazine 1897-1991;
- ROCA Digests 1962-2026;
- Listing of every Roseworthy Graduate 1886-2025;
- Listing of every ROCA Committee Member 1898-2025;
- ROCA Honorary Life Member listing and biography 1901-2025;
- ROCA Financial Statements 2015-2025;
- ROCA Annual Reports 2014/2015-2020/2021;
- ROCA AGM Minutes 1898-2025;
- ROCA Social Meeting Notes 1899-1905.

GENERAL SURVEY OF MEMBERS

During February the Association conducted an online survey of members.

The survey commenced on 30 January and concluded on 20 February, with 76 members taking the opportunity to participate.

The earliest responding member graduated in 1951, and the most recent responding member graduated in 2007. Most graduating years in between had at least one member participating in the survey. The 1976 graduating year had nine members participate in the survey.

As a result of the broad range of graduating years participating in the survey the Committee, in assessing of the results of the survey, felt the responses were a reasonably fair representative sample of the whole of the Association's membership.

The Committee also found useful the comments of those members who took the opportunity to comment.

The survey asked members to rate the Digest. 27% rated the Digest Excellent; 55% Good; 5% Average. A number of members made positive comments about the Digest.

Members were also asked to rate the regular Newsletters that were introduced in 2025. 30% rated the Newsletter Excellent; 57% Good; 4% Average. The Newsletter also received a number of positive comments.

The responses to the question about the content of the Digest and Newsletter indicated 74% felt all topics were of interest; 16% had a particular interest in historical topics; 8% had a particular interest in graduate topics; and 2% had an interest in contemporary topics. From these responses the Committee is confident the current format and content of the Digest and Newsletter is meeting the needs of members.

In relation to the Association's Facebook pages, 23% of the respondents follow the Association's Public Facebook page; 35% indicated they have joined the Association's Members Facebook page; and 42% indicated they do not use Facebook.

The Association was keen to know more about how often members attended Annual Dinners. 10% said Frequently; 53% said only at significant graduation celebration years; and 37% said Never. Comments indicated that distance from Adelaide, and particularly living Interstate, was the primary reason for those indicating they had never attended an Annual Dinner.

The responses of the question about the frequency of visitation to the Roseworthy Campus were of particular interest. 14% of respondents indicated that they visit the Campus Frequently (every one to three years); 22% indicated Occasionally (every four to ten years); 50% indicated Rarely (every 11 to 20 years) and 14% indicated they had never visited the campus following their graduation.

Also of particular interest were the responses to the question about the current level of interest by members in happenings at the Roseworthy Campus: 33% indicated Strong Interest; 54% indicated Some Interest; and just 13% indicated Little Interest.

In relation to the question about the Association's Target 100K Campaign, 30% of respondents indicated they had donated to the Campaign; 26% indicated they had not yet donated but intend to do so; 30% indicated they would not be donating; and 14% indicated they were unaware of the Campaign. The Committee noted that a significant number of respondents indicated that whilst they have not yet donated to the Campaign they intend to do so.

In responding to the final question, whether the Association's current activities are meeting the expectations of its members, 12% said Strongly Agree; 45% said Agree; 40% said Neither Agreed Nor Disagree; and 3% Disagreed.

The Committee found the responses to the questions that indicated limited visitation of the Campus following graduation but a high level of interest in happenings at the Campus, of particular interest, suggestive of an opportunity, and worthy of further consideration.

THE FIRST ROSEWORTHY DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURE (RDA) GRADUATES

The first students at Roseworthy Agricultural College entered the College in February 1885 and graduated in December 1886. The initial Diploma in Agriculture course was a two-year course which became a three-year course in 1893. What is remarkable is the age variation of the ten students when they entered the College, from 14 (on the cusp of 15) through to 25.

An additional number of students also commenced in February 1885 but did not go on to graduate. The most prominent of these was Albert Maynard Dawkins, who became a Member and Chairman of the Governing Council of the College from 1932 to 1938.

The following ten graduates from Roseworthy Agricultural College were the initial group of students to receive a Diploma in Agriculture.

William George Treloar

William George Treloar, born at Watervale near Clare on 20 August 1864, entered the College aged 20, finished first and was the first Gold Medalist. He farmed at Mannahill and Truro, also serving as Clerk of the Truro Council, a general commission agent and Commonwealth Electoral Registrar for 30 years.

Thomas Allen Wilson

Thomas Allen Wilson, born at Trial Hill overlooking the Barossa Valley, on 18 June 1862, entered the College aged 22, finished second and was the first Silver Medalist. In 1889 he moved to Victoria to work under the Conservator of Forests at Fern Tree Gully and then spent five months as the Farm Foreman at Longerenong Agricultural College at Dooen in Victoria. After returning to South Australia and farming for several years near Port Pirie, Thomas sold and took up land in the Franklin Harbor district in order to make room for two growing boys.

Milton Eastwood

Milton Eastwood, born at Aldinga on 3 January 1860, entered the College aged 25, and finished third. Following graduation, he was employed as the Farm Manager at the College where he participated in the College's early super experiments. In 1889 Milton took up a position in Western Australia in connection with an agricultural development before moving to Coolgardie where he established an auctioneering business.

In 1912 Milton sold his business interests in Western Australia and moved to Tamworth in New South Wales where he established a cash and carry and carrying business, the Tamworth Carrying Company.

Richard Hill

Richard Hill, born at 'Glenburn' near Yankalilla on 18 April 1862, entered the College aged 22, and finished fourth. Following graduation Richard went to Gorokey in the Victorian Mallee and then Warracknabeal, where he farmed and was prominent in public affairs. After retiring into Warracknabeal, in 1920 Richard's health resulted in a move to Portland where he became a director of the knitting mills and was again prominent in public affairs including local government.

Allison Bedford Robin

Allison Bedford Robin, born at Kent Town on 30 September 1860, entered the College aged 24 and finished fifth. Following graduation Allison purchased a block of land at Nuriootpa and commenced planting an orchard, producing vegetables and seeds with considerable success while waiting for the orchard to come into bearing. He helped to found the Angaston Agricultural Bureau branch in 1886, was its first Secretary, and was the Secretary and driving force of the Fruitgrowers Association.

THE FIRST ROSEWORTHY DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURE (RDA) GRADUATES (CONT.)

Henry (Harrie) Brock

Harrie Brock, born at Wallaroo on 19 October 1865, entered the College aged 19, and finished sixth. Following graduation Harrie was the long-time Port Pirie manager for wheat merchant and flour milling company John Darling & Sons until taking up farming at White Hut near Clare in 1921.

Edward Ernest Stuckey

Edward Ernest Stuckey, born at Dashwood Gully on 13 June 1870, entered the College aged 14, and finished seventh. Following graduation he joined the Woods and Forests Department, initially stationed at the Wirrabara Forest Reserve before appointment as the Officer-in-Charge of the Mount Burr Forest Reserve. Following resignation from the Woods and Forests Department in 1906, Edward remained in the Millicent District until 1910, when he purchased a grazing property near Balladoran in New South Wales.

Edward was a member of No. 3 Squadron of the 16th Regiment, Australian Light Horse, with the rank of Captain and established a State-wide reputation as a Squadron Leader. He left Balladoran during the WWI to take charge of a transport, conveying reinforcements of light horsemen to Egypt, spending time in Egypt and on Gallipoli. After a serious illness in Egypt, Edward returned to Australia and engaged in recruiting work in New South Wales. After the war he purchased "The Ranch," a mixed farming property at Condobolin.

Robert John Young

Robert John Young, born in the Barossa Valley on 29 March 1870, entered the College aged 14, and finished eighth. Following graduation Robert returned to the family property, Mount Templeton Station, between Balaklava and Lochiel. He owned a property near Young in New South Wales, in a partnership of Young and Raleigh but was forced to sell in the drought of 1917.

In 1918 Robert travelled to England via America and became agricultural advisor on the staff of Marshall Lyoutey, from 1912 to 1925 the French Resident-General in Morocco, where he was commissioned by the French Government to enquire into the possibilities of establishing Merino sheep in North Africa. Later he worked in the London office of Elder, Smith & Co. and then managed the Waldershare Estate of the 8th Earl of Guildford, Frederick George North, in Kent.

Edward Witherage Cotton

Edward Witherage Cotton, born at Adelaide on 1 March 1870, entered the College aged 14, finished ninth. Following graduation Edward moved to Western Australia and farmed at Northam on a property that in 1925 was purchased by the Western Australian Government to establish Muresk Agricultural College.

Albert Edward Amand-Wright

Albert Edward Amand-Wright, born at The Olives at Glenelg on 16 May 1861, entered the College aged 23 and finished tenth. Nothing is known of Albert following his graduation, apart from him being admitted to Parkside Mental Hospital in 1907, with his admission notes stating that he was suffering from alcohol and financial stress. At the time of admission, his occupation was recorded as gardener.

This is an edited version of the original article. To view the full article, visit the ROCA website at:
<https://www.roseworthy-roca.com.au/archives/historic-documents/>

TARGET 100 HONOUR ROLL

'Target-100' is a perpetual fund comprised of specific donations contributed by ROCA members and others. All donated funds are maintained permanently in a special account, with only the annual interest being withdrawn for use by ROCA.

Anyone else wishing to donate to the 'Target-100' initiative can do it online at the following address on the ROCA website:

<https://www.roseworthy-roca.com.au/campaigns/roseworthy-old-collegians-association-target-100k-campaign/>

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

- Brian Ashton - (RDA 1971; RDAT 1972)
- 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)
- Terry Byrne - (RDA 1973; RDAT 1974)
- 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)
- Ross Dawkins - (RDA 1968)
- Andrew Dennis - (B.App.Sc. Ag 1987)
- Malcolm Dixon - (RDA 1955)
- Andrew Eastick - (RDA 1976)
- Gavin Eckersley - (RDA 1968; RDAT 1969)
- Mark Egarr - (B.App.Sc. Ag 1989)
- John Evans - (RDA 1968)
- Irene Filsell - (Dip.App.Sc. Ag 1983)
- Peter Filsell - (RDA 1978)
- Richard Flower - (RDA 1961)
- 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)
- Alison Hamann - (Assoc.Dip.App.Sc. Horse Mgt 1980)
- Rod Hamann - (Dip.App.Sc. Ag 1981)
- Graham Hatcher - (Dip.App.Sc. Ag 1980; Grad.Dip.Ag. 1994)
- Kym Heidenrich - (RDA 1975)
- Prof Wayne Hein - (RDA 1970)
- David Hentschke - (Assoc.Dip. F.M. 1986)
- Keith Hentschke - (B.App.Sc. Ag 1990)
- Brian Hill - (RDA 1965)
- Robert Hodge - (RDA 1961)
- David Hodgson - (RDA 1976)

TARGET 100 HONOUR ROLL

- 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)
- Alison Lacey - (B.App.Sc. NRM 1996)
- Philip Laffer AM - (RDA 1961; RDOen 1963)
- David Lewis OAM - (RDA 1976)
- Ron Liebich - (RDOen 1968)
- 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)
- Max Merckenschlager - (RDA 1967)
- Dr James Meyer - (B.Sc. Pre.Vet 2010; DVM 2013)
- Dr Graham Mitchell AO - (RDA 1961)
- Barry Mortimer - (RDA 1968)
- Peter Mowatt - (RDA 1958)
- Tim Moyle - (B.Ag. 2005)
- Anthony Murphy - (RDOen 1978; B.App.Sc. Oen 1981)
- Rohan Nicholls - (RDA 1968)
- 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)
- Graham Pearce - (RDA 1970)
- Allan Piggott - (RDA 1979)
- Rev Brian Polkinghorne - (RDA 1970)
- Malcolm Revell - (RDA 1972; RDOen 1974)
- Alan Richardson - (RDA 1972; RDAT 1973)
- John Richardson - (RDA 1955)
- Dr Richard Riedel - (RDA 1957)
- Peter Russell - (Ass.Dip.F.M. 1988)
- Robert Ryan - (RDA 1963)
- 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)
- Dr Stephen Tidswell - (RDA 1976)
- Travis Tobin - (B.Ag 2007)
- Peter Turley - (RDA 1976; RDOen 1978)
- Richard Turnbull - (RDA 1969)
- David Washington - (B.App.Sc. Ag 1992)
- Stuart Weckert - (RDA 1976; RDAT 1977)
- Kelvin Westbrook - (RDA 1967)
- Bruce Wigney - (RDA 1967; RDAT 1969)
- Martyn Wilkinson - (RDA 1978)
- Brian Wilson - (RDA 1961)
- Jon Womersley - (RDA 1969)





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 Michelmore †	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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ROCA Award of Merit Nomination Form



The Award of Merit is regarded as one of the highest honours ROCA can bestow on a member.

The Person Being Nominated:

Name:	
Address:	
Mobile Phone:	
Email address:	
Period at Roseworthy:	
Qualification Gained:	

Proposed by:	Seconded by:
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
Mobile Phone:	Mobile Phone:
Email:	Email:
Period at Roseworthy:	Period at Roseworthy:
Signature:	Signature:
Date:	Date:

Please attach supporting data outlining the nominee's career since leaving Roseworthy, including details of major published papers, achievements, academic qualifications, awards & honours received and service to industry, community and ROCA.

Nominators and nominee must be current ROCA members. If physical signature is difficult, email validation will be sufficient

Nominations are to be sent by mail to: ROCA, P.O. Box 503, Kent Town SA 5071

or by e-mail to: roca.committee@gmail.com Nominations must be received no later than 30th June.

Rules governing the ROCA Award of Merit

1. ROCA shall annually award a medal to a member of the Association who is made a meritorious contribution to any field of activity relating to their studies during the College era or the Campus era of the Roseworthy Campus of Adelaide University, and/or their contribution to the affairs of the Association.
2. Nominees for the Award must be a Member of the Association, and the nomination shall be signed by two members of the Association.
3. Nominations must be made on the Standard Form.
4. Nominations should include a resume detailing the nominee's career and, as appropriate, details of published papers, other qualifications, awards and honours and achievements. Nominations should also include details of the nominee's broader service to industry, government, the community and to the Association. References from colleagues familiar with the nominee's career and achievements should be included.
5. A Selection Committee, comprising four members, plus the President of the Association, shall be appointed annually by the Association Committee. The four appointed members shall be broadly representative of the fields of activity of the courses delivered during the College era and the Campus era of the Roseworthy Campus of the University of Adelaide.
6. Nominations must reach the Secretary of the Association by 30th June each year.
7. On the recommendation of the Selection Committee, nominations not selected for the Award may be carried forward for consideration in the following year.
8. The President of the Association, who shall have a casting vote only, shall be the Convener of the Selection Committee.
9. Three members, one of whom must be the President of the Association, shall form a quorum.
10. In the event of a member of the Association Committee or the Selection Committee being nominated for the Award, that member will stand down from all discussions and deliberations pertaining to the Award for that year.
11. The Selection Committee shall select the recipient no later than four weeks prior to the date of the presentation of the Award.
12. The members of the Association Committee and the Selection Committee are not to, in any circumstance, disclose the names of nominees for the Award.

INVITATION

128th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and 2026 REUNION DINNER

President Andrew Eastick and Committee cordially invite you and your partner/guest to attend the 128th AGM and 2026 Reunion Dinner of the Roseworthy Campus Association Inc.

DATE: Friday 16th October, 2026
AGM VENUE: Doulton Room, Feathers Hotel, 516 Glynburn Road, Burnside SA
DINNER VENUE: Greenhouse Restaurant, Feathers Hotel, 516 Glynburn Road, Burnside SA
TIME: 6.30pm (sharp) Annual General Meeting
 7.00pm Pre-dinner Informal Gathering
 7.30pm Reunion Dinner
DRESS: Jacket & Tie or Smart Casual for gents. Smart Casual or Eveningwear for ladies
COST: \$90.00 per person
MEAL: Marinated local olives & sea salt grissini on arrival
 Entrée; Main Course; Black Forest Cake Dessert; Tea & Coffee. (refer below for dietary needs) Drinks - cash bar

KEY GRADUATE REUNION GROUPS

- **50 Years** (1976) – Contact person: Dale Manson 0418 811 233 / manson.daga@bigpond.com
- **40 Years** (1986) – Contact person: Richard Inwood: 0428 606 420 / rji7@bigpond.com
- **30 Years** (1996) – Contact person: Mark Rodda 0417 414 123 / mark_rodda@bigpond.com

General enquiries to Dale Manson 0418 811 233 (manson.daga@bigpond.com)

RSVP: Wednesday, 7th October, 2026. (Bookings received after this date may not be accepted.) Seating is limited.

Bookings & Payment:

- Online via the ROCA Website:

<https://www.roseworthy-roca.com.au/128th-annual-general-meeting-and-2026-reunion-dinner/>

- Via electronic funds transfer (EFT) to ROCA Society Cheque Account BSB#105-146 A/c No 027 009 540 (include name in description);

- Via cheque mailed to the address below. This return slip needs to be included in the envelope with payment.

Everybody not paying online must complete this return slip below. Mail or scan and e-mail to roca.committee@gmail.com without delay please, confirming name and other details.

 Spouses, partners and guests are very welcome to attend.

TO: Treasurer – ROCA (if paying by cheque) or roca.committee@gmail.com (if paying via EFT)
 PO Box 503,
 KENT TOWN SA 5071

Please reserve seat(s) for the ROCA Reunion Dinner on Friday 16th October 2026 at the Feathers Hotel, Burnside

Any special dietary needs:

Dinner booking(s) (**\$90.00 per person**): \$ Donation for ROCA Digest: \$ **TOTAL PAYMENT \$**



Please circle your method of payment: Cheque | EFT (BSB#105-146 A/c No 027 009 540)

I am part of the following Key Graduate Reunion Group: 50 | 40 | 30 | (Course:.....)

(** Graduation year: The year of Graduation Ceremony)

My first Graduation Year** (if not one of those above) was(Course:.....) or Please put me with

NAME:(Course:.....)

NAME of spouse/partner/guest(s): (Course/year if Roseworthy student:)

ADDRESS:

MOBILE PHONE: EMAIL CONTACT: