

# THE ROCA DIGEST

AUTUMN 2016

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE



BY MARK RODDA



ROCA President Mark Rodda

**A hearty welcome to all ROCA members and supporters as we bring you this Autumn 2016 edition of the ROCA Digest.**

In this, the 25th Anniversary of the amalgamation of Roseworthy Agricultural College with the University of Adelaide, I appreciate there remain mixed feelings amongst some about the circumstances of the merger. I commenced my studies at Roseworthy a year or two after the merger, so have only ever known the current structure.

However, what I do know is that the level of investment that the University has made, continues to make and plans to make to agricultural education and research within its three campuses is quite breathtaking. By year's end, the University's campuses will house the national research centers for the grain, seafood, pigs, poultry and grape industries, to name just a few.

Thus, it is no wonder that the University of Adelaide is considered amongst the top two Agricultural research and education Universities in the world. Personally, I am extremely proud to have been educated through this institution and the fact that ROCA continues to play a pivotal role in pressing for this agricultural focus to increase even further.

May I take this opportunity to thank the ongoing financial support of our national sponsors – Piper Alderman Lawyers and William Buck Accountants and Advisors – two firms who are seriously committed to the agriculture sector and ROCA. I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the year and then at the ROCA AGM and Annual Dinner on Friday 21 October. As always, the Committee is always on the look out for members with energy and ideas to advance ROCA, so please ponder how you might be able to contribute to your great organization.

**Mark Rodda**  
ROCA President



ROCA President Mark Rodda & Jordy Kitschke, President of the University of Adelaide Agricultural Students Association at their "Marketing in Ag" night at Waite Campus

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# DEAN OF ROSEWORTHY REPORT



Professor Wayne Hein

## Pinery Bushfire

The Pinery bushfire burned over 82,000 hectares in a matter of hours on 25 November, 2015, and was an extraordinary period for the Roseworthy campus community.

Staff in the Companion Animal Health Centre began receiving patients within hours of the fire front moving through the district. Seriously injured cats and dogs requiring intensive and ongoing complex care, in addition to a busy regular caseload, stretched resources to the limit. Staff also fielded hundreds of calls from the local community seeking advice as people returned to their homes and farms to find pets and wildlife needing assistance.

The Equine team also worked around the clock managing some of the most challenging patients they will ever see. Horses with major burns are particularly difficult to treat even with best practice care and it was wonderful to see two of the more serious cases eventually return home three weeks after the event and this was an important milestone for the owners and a great credit to the dedication and care provided by the team.

The Production Animal Centre team were on the fire ground almost immediately after the fire front had passed. The devastation they encountered on nearby properties can only be described as horrific. Sadly, much of their work involved humane destruction of animals, with thousands of sheep lost due to the sheer speed and force of the fire.

The University became a centre for the bushfire recovery efforts—a fitting role given our location and strong connections to local community. In the days after the fire, South Australian Veterinary Emergency Management Inc (SAVEMS) quickly set up their command centre in the Companion Animal Health Centre, establishing extra resources to aid the veterinary response. BlazeAid also moved onto campus, coordinating a small army of volunteer teams to assist with fencing and property repairs. There are still many BlazeAid volunteers living on Campus and working very hard around the community, with fencing and property repairs. In addition, the Region Two CFS Headquarters relocated to the campus after their Gawler command centre was damaged in a freak storm in December.

## RSPCA Appeal/Donations

The RSPCA appeal set up to raise funds for treating animals injured in the Pinery fire raised over \$84,000, which was an outstanding result and covered the cost of treatment of most of the animals. Of particular mention was the \$800 donation from primary school children at Alawa School in Darwin. Students at the school had been following the aftermath of the fire via various websites and decided to raise the funds via a sport sponsorship program, with matching support from the school council.

## Recent School/Campus events

- The 25th anniversary of the opening of the Library in the Eastick Building was held on 19th February. The event included a talk by Margaret Emery, Former Campus Librarian, and David Taplin, Project Manager for the Eastick Building. Paul Wilkins, the Acting University Librarian, then reflected on how libraries are changing and described the developments for the library of the future.
- The Australian Veterinary Student Conference was held at Roseworthy Campus from 24th-28th Jan. It was very well attended and enabled us to showcase the Campus brilliantly to both national and international guests, with many staff holding seminars and workshops.

**Professor Wayne Hein**  
Head of School/Dean of Campus



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"These farmers grow so much of our food. We need to help them however we can"

By Zara, 6, Unley Primary School.  
#citykidscare

Following the devastating Pinery bushfires in Nov 2015, ROCA President Mark Rodda's daughter Zara mobilised her Year One class at Unley Primary School to draw pictures and messages of support for those affected farmers and communities. The ABC's Caroline Winter interviewed the class and each child's drawing was posted on social media to show that #City Kids Care.

# ROSEWORTHY CAMPUS UPDATE

**Roseworthy Residential College -- Its early days, but the signs are positive for another wonderful year at the Roseworthy College with a very excited and enthusiastic bunch of animal and veterinary science students commencing in 2016. The college is again at capacity, with around 160 students residing on campus in 2016. We have students from a diversity of backgrounds, greatly enriching the cultural experience on campus.**

We have students choosing to study at Roseworthy from each state of Australia, and the nationalities represented on campus this year by our international student cohort include New Zealand, Canada, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore and China. The year started in traditional Roseworthy style - with the usual O'week "get to know you" activities, designed to build morale and camaraderie amongst the student group and help everyone settle in, make friends and feel at home. These activities included the stud auction and UV party, the famous "Iron Guts" eating competition, a wine tour in the beautiful Barossa Valley, a pool party and a game of touch football.

We commenced the academic year with our traditional "pink and black" welcome dinner in the Roseworthy College Hall followed by Rose'ball. We again have had a very enthusiastic bunch of students this year with great energy and optimism. Their willingness to engage and support one another has been pleasing and already many new and hopefully long lasting friendships have been formed. As we know, the Roseworthy community is truly something special and my hope is that students will cherish their time and experiences on campus and look back with great fondness at a place that supported their educational success as well as providing a little fun along the way.

In week two of term we held our now traditional "Barn Dance" and this was followed up the next week with our annual 'Staff vs Students' T20 cricket match. The gloves come off in this hotly contested match where staff reputations are fairly and squarely on the line. The students were gunning for their 4th victory in a row and the staff were hoping for a maiden victory. Unfortunately, it was the students cruising to an easy victory after making 133 from their 20 overs and then bowling out the staff for a measly 82 runs. Youth again prevailed and its back to the drawing board for the staff but it's a special place where staff and students can engage in a game of cricket, a bit of friendly banter and the obligatory cold beer afterwards. Sport continues to be a big part of the campus experience for students. Basketball and Netball are the most popular sports with students starting to put together teams to compete in the Gawler competition each week. The 2016 campus tennis competition is now in full swing and the new gymnasium (located in the old tavern) is proving very popular with students.

There once again is a couple of exciting student facilities projects on campus which are due for completion in 2016. The Roseworthy "Student Hub" is now in full swing with construction and demolition works occurring in Roseworthy College Hall. This exciting new open plan space which involves the removal of walls in the "non-heritage" section of the building will open up the ground floor as a student hub, a lively place where students will congregate to study in small groups, access computer and internet services and socialise and partake of food and beverage services. This project is due for completion in July 2016, ready for student use in semester II.

For the past few months, the campus has been home to a number of Blazeaid volunteers who have set up camp in response to the Pinery fire in late November last year. There have been a number of caravans, camper trailers and tents sent up near the old collegians grandstand and parts of the campus have been used as a base to store materials and provide meals to those who volunteer to rebuild fences for farmers effected by the blaze.

This fire came extremely close to the campus and we were very fortunate to have a wind change in the afternoon of the fire that pushed it in the opposite direction from the campus just in the nick of time. This was quite a frightening experience for a number of our students and staff with the whole campus being evacuated. The veterinary clinic staff should be commended as they worked around the clock to treat horses and livestock injured as a result of the fire.



'Staff VS Students' T20 Cricket Match

The year has started full of promise as the campus continues to build on the great legacy and traditions of those that have gone before them. I hope to meet a number of old scholars during the year as you are most welcome to visit the campus at any time. I really do value the important role that ROCA plays in engaging with current students and promoting the history of this beautiful campus

With best wishes,

**DAVID PURDIE**  
**MANAGER, STUDENT SERVICES &**  
**HEAD OF COLLEGE (ROSEWORTHY)**



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# ROCA COMMITTEE FILE DAVID COYNER

**While growing up in Port Augusta, David earned his passion for agriculture from time spent on the family farm near Kimba, with his Grandfather Bill Scott, who was from a pioneering farming family in the region. This led him to the halls of Roseworthy; with university holidays spent working on Stations around Port Augusta.**



David Coyner

After graduating with a bachelor of Agriculture in 2005, David was successful in securing a trainee role with Elders in their wool department followed by some time as a livestock agent based in Murray Bridge. An opportunity to work as an agronomist for CGS led David to Goondiwindi QLD. Naturally, being a South Australian living in the Sunshine State he felt the need to join the local Aussie rules footy team. The closest away game was 200kms with the farthest travelled for a game being 400kms one way, making for some great bus trips home and some long lasting friendships!

David then started his career in finance, working within the Agribusiness team at CBA. While based in Adelaide, David still had a keen interest in country life, so joined the Uraidla Show society as a committee member and was chosen as their Young Rural Ambassador in 2009. The main pillar of him being the Ambassador was bridging the gap between the farmer and the city where he saw some great opportunities for education between the two groups. 2009 was also the year that he became one of the youngest Agribusiness Manager's at CBA when, at age 25, he accepted a role in Naracoorte. With extensive livestock and agronomy knowledge and developing his understanding of farming practices around the region, he was soon able to obtain a role in the Clare Valley. At the end of 2011, bitten by the travel bug, David spent 6 months travelling the world with time spent in New Zealand, Cuba and ultimately throughout the USA.

Having met his now wife in Clare just before his travels he returned to South Australia and worked as a farm hand for a family near Burra. With his wife Kelly working in Adelaide, David then found work as Regional manager Asia Pacific

with Sentek Technology, which took him all over the Asia Pacific region training and selling soil moisture probes to resellers. After success in this role he then moved to Topcon Precision Agriculture to work as an OEM Manager, working with some of the leading air seeder and sprayer manufactures across Australia and New Zealand to develop and test the electronics used to control the machines. However, David's interest in the finance industry proved to be strong and he joined Suncorp Bank as an Agribusiness Manager based in Adelaide. This role worked closely with the Suncorp Broking team and it was from this position that David spotted an opportunity in the market place for an Agricultural broker.

Tin Roof Financial Services was then established, a financial broking business providing services for predominantly for Agriculture along with various other industry sectors. After observing brokers work successfully within the home loan market, David identified that there was a gap in the Agribusiness and Regional sector for a similar service. Tin Roof Financial Services provides service to customers for new land purchases, refinancing existing debt, equipment finance and other facilities were the most appropriate loan is found to suit the client's needs. With David's experience within various agricultural sectors he has found that this provides a great platform between the farmer and the bank, where more often than not the bank doesn't have a complete understanding of what goes on around the farm.

After being invited to join the ROCA committee by Mark Rodda in early 2015, David was elected as Treasurer at the last AGM with his finance knowledge and background standing him in good position to fill the needs of the role.

**Mark Rodda**  
ROCA President



# EYRE PENINSULA SCHOLARSHIPS

## FREE Eyre continues EP Rural Scholarship

### FREE EYRE

FREE Eyre Limited is pleased to announce that its Agricultural Scholarship for an Eyre Peninsula student studying an agricultural related degree with the University of Adelaide is now seeking applications.

FREE Eyre along with generous Eyre Peninsula farmers and key business partners came together in 2015 to launch the Scholarship and fundraising effort. The inaugural scholarship is valued at \$5,000 and is aimed to assist a first year Eyre Peninsula with costs associated with accommodation, travel and university fees.

FREE Eyre and its partners came together again to enjoy this year's Clipsal 500 race in Adelaide. Around 130 growers and agribusiness representatives came together over the weekend at FREE Eyre's Adelaide office for the event. The 3-day event saw the annual target of \$5,000 almost reached, enabling the EP Agricultural Scholarship to again be offered in 2017.



(L-R) Tristan Baldock, David Coyner, Mark Rodda



(L-R) Mike Wake & Chris Wakelin



(L-R) Rosanne Curtis & Mark Rodda



(L-R) Ben Trengove (William Buck), Simon Venus (Piper Alderman), Paul Finn (Uni of Adelaide)



(L-R) Mark Harvey (S+W Seeds), Jason Oster (Colliers), Duncan McKay (Paskeville), Sam Bussenchutt (Paskeville)

### FREE Eyres Event Partners:

Telstra Store Whyalla, Clear Grain Exchange, Profarmer Australia, William Buck (Chartered Accountants and Advisors) Piper Alderman Lawyers, Michell Wool, and MaxiPlas (tanks and water storage solutions)

"We were thrilled with the response we received from our business partners. It is clear that these companies also appreciate the need to encourage and support the Eyre Peninsula's students in gain greater skills that can be applied to the future growth, productivity and prosperity of the region.

Farmers and businesses on the Eyre Peninsula are an extremely generous group and we encourage them to consider becoming involved in the foundation of this scholarship.

**Mark Rodda**  
CEO, FREE Eyre

# RCSF REPORT

## The Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund - The University of Adelaide Agricultural Education Fund

Note the name change - it was felt that the original name was perceived to limit the scope of donations to Roseworthy Campus students only. The new name eliminates any confusion and allows and hopefully encourages support for students at either Roseworthy or the Waite. The revised document makes reference to the part played by ROCA in establishing the initial scholarship which has been in operation for 10 years and under its umbrella many other scholarships have been established.

There are 3 new scholarships available this year and they are:

1. The ROCA Award of Merit Winners Scholarship – for a third year student undertaking a degree course in viticulture
2. The Free Eyre Scholarship for a student from Eyre Peninsula studying agriculture
3. The ROCA Scholarship for a first year student studying and residing at the Roseworthy Campus

In respect to the ROCA Award of Merit Winners Scholarship efforts are to be made to encourage more recipients to participate in the awarding of scholarships many of whom are likely to have been scholarship winners which enabled them to attend Roseworthy College.

Applications for scholarships have been received by the scholarships offices and are in the process of being examined by the selection panel.

The scholarships office has advised that Amanda Blaxland the 2015 recipient of the Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund Scholarship, has successfully completed her second year of the year Bachelor of Science (Animal Science) program achieving 4 High Distinction and 4 Distinction grades, therefore receiving a Grade Point Average of 6. I congratulate Amanda of her excellent results and trust that her high standards will continue.

The committee is now a less formal group than in the past and will meet only twice yearly. Our next meeting is on the 8th April at the Waite Campus and in September/October the following meeting will be at the Roseworthy Campus. In each instance we intend to invite more staff together with other interested parties to attend the meeting. Despite the reduced number of meetings individual committee members continue to fully support the aims and objectives of the group and I thank them for all that they have done and are doing to help so many needy students. I also thank Paul Finn for the very honest commitment that he has to the objectives of the committee.

**Ray Taylor**  
Chair

# ROCA WINE FUNDRAISER 2015

## ROCA WINE SELLING LIKE HOT CAKES! ROCA's Wine Fundraiser is powering on!

It's great to see so many ROCA members, and their extended family and friends, taking advantage of sourcing high-quality Clare Valley wine. Every dollar of profit from the sale of these wines goes directly to funding the new ROCA student Scholarship. The Shiraz, Riesling and Sparkling wine is crafted for ROCA by O'Leary Walker Wines in the Clare Valley, and carries a distinct pink and black Roseworthy Old Collegians label. When possible, ROCA committee members deliver your order free of charge in SA to save you freight costs. Please phone Fiona Hill on 0438 864498 prior to placing your order to see if this can be done. So don't delay, order your next bottle of sanity now, before current stocks are exhausted. Thanks to everyone who has already purchased ROCA wine to support the fundraising endeavours of the organisation.

### An update on the next batch:

The next vintage is being prepared now for future ROCA wine batches. At the time of preparing this article, Keeda Zilm, Winemaker at O'Leary Walker, said the fruit coming into their winery was pristine. The ripening of the reds was delayed due to rains in early January, but this ultimately has resulted in increased quality. Riesling is shaping up fine, clean and delicate. O'Leary Walker are expecting a brilliant year with this variety, and are very excited with "both reds and whites looking fantastic in the tank", according to Keeda.



ROCA Committee member Fiona Hill studiously applying labels to the ROCA wine



# ROCA ANNUAL DINNER 2015

The 117th Annual ROCA Reunion Dinner held in October last year at the Glenelg Golf Club once again turned out to be an outstanding success.

Over the course of history this annual event has evolved from one where attendance was restricted solely to RAC graduates, with partners forced to either remain at home or convene their own separate gathering, to the present day where graduates and partners are able to enjoy the ROCA Reunion Dinner celebrations together.

Old Collegians celebrating their Golden Jubilee Year (graduated 50 years previously in 1965) were joined by fellow Roseworthy graduates of 40, 25 and 10 years ago to outline their career pathways since leaving Roseworthy.

A highlight of the evening was the announcement that one of the Golden Jubilee group, Richard Fewster had been named the 55th recipient of the prestigious ROCA Award of Merit.

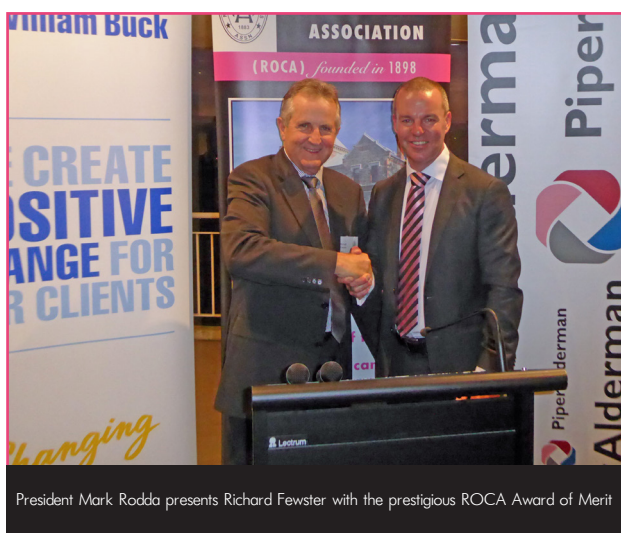
In his response to the Award of Merit recipient's Toast to ROCA and the Campus, Dean of Roseworthy Campus and Head of School of Animal & Veterinary Science, Professor Wayne Hein provided all assembled with a very positive outlook for the future of Roseworthy Campus and its enormous contribution to the general community.

Professor Hein is himself an RDA graduate of 1970 and a long-time member of ROCA.

Recognition must go to ROCA Committee Member, Ray Taylor who organised the venue for the 2015 Dinner.

**Dale Manson**

**ROCA Committee Member**



President Mark Rodda presents Richard Fewster with the prestigious ROCA Award of Merit



ROCA President Mark Rodda presents former ROCA President & Treasurer Dick Turnbull with his Alumni Fellow Award, for his significant contribution to the advancement of the University of Adelaide's Alumni Relations program

## PASSING OF MEMBERS

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

- ALCOCK, Charles Raymond DFC (RDA 1942)
- BROOKMAN, Nigel Peter (RDA 1941)
- CROMWELL, John Victor (student 1940/50's)
- CUNNINGHAM, Bruce William (AssocDipWineMkt 1994)
- DITTER, Donovan John OAM (RDO 1950)
- GILLMAN, Michael Hill (student in late 1950's)
- HEYSEN, Michael Rudolph (RDA 1938)
- McFARLANE, John Heath (student in 1960/61)
- MILLER, Brian Anthony Kenneth (student in the 1950's)
- PAECH, Grant Lester (RDA 1960)
- NASH, Harris Mawdsley (RDA 1961)

# EYRE PENINSULA REUNION

On the evening of the 20th of February around 45 ROCA members (including partners) gathered at the Kimba Golf Club for the EP AGM and Annual Reunion.

The AGM kicked off the evening with no changes to office bearers and few issues being raised. After the formalities it was time for a catch up with mates and meet some new ones.

As the entrees were being served ROCA president Mark Rodda gave the group an insight into what ROCA had been up to though out the state before EP President Lyndon Masters replied.

Following this guest speaker Ken Lamb spoke about his journey from the Buckleboo Store to Roxby downs with a truck and a caravan to establishing Olympic Dam transport and eventually selling it to Toll holdings. It was an amazing story with a lot of insight into the mining industry. Ken also spoke about his amazing relationship with the local indigenous people and the relationship they have with the country. Throughout his talk it was also obvious of his generosity with about \$1 million being raised and donated to the Royal Flying Doctor Service!!

The night concluded with plenty of networking and fellowship.

The EP committee would like to thank ROCA president Mark Rodda, Treasurer Dave Coyner and Committee Member David Spencer for making the journey from Adelaide to attend the event.

They would also like to thank the Kimba organising committee of Tristan Baldock Amy Murray, Brett Francis and Hayden Whitwell for organising a great event.

## Hayden Whitwell



L-R Hayden Whitwell, David & Kelly Coyner



Back: Niel (Fish) Cordon, Mignon and Matt Dunn  
Front: Jim Lambell, Rodger Inglis, Mark Rodda



Back: Peter Rumball, David David Spencer, Brian Ashton  
Front: Maria Spencer, Jenny Smart, Linden Masters



L-R Ken & Val Lamb and Abby Richards



Back: Angus Gunn, Jess Crettenden, Nigel and Candice Turnbull.  
Front: Sarah Traeger, Zack Myer, Mick and Sarah Nobel



# THE 25 YEAR JOURNEY

## Lead-up to the first 25 Years of Roseworthy Campus (Dale Manson, ROCA President 1989-1991 & 2008-2010)

Often referred to as being “the jewel in the crown” amongst all campuses of Adelaide University, Roseworthy’s long journey to becoming part of the University on 1st January 1991 followed a path that was not as straightforward as some imagine. Quite a number of Old Collegians reflect fondly on their student days at Roseworthy Agricultural College during a time it was administered by the State Government under the guidance of the Department of Agriculture.

Reflecting back on the 25 years since Roseworthy first became part of Adelaide University, many may think the transition to what we now know as Roseworthy Campus was a direct leap from RAC to University. However in reality, the journey from Agricultural College to University Campus was a far gentler transition over many decades in line with the changing face of tertiary education across Australia.

Roseworthy Agricultural College forewent that formal title in the mid-1970’s when it was transformed into a College of Advanced Education, known as Roseworthy CAE. This was in line with the transition of other similar tertiary institutions such as Teachers Colleges into the CAE system. During the 1980’s, Roseworthy graduate Hon John Dawkins MHR (RDA 1968) became the Federal Minister for Education, Employment and Training in the Hawke Labor Government.

Driven by the economic realities of the day, John Dawkins was convinced that transitioning the nation’s tertiary education sector from a binary system of research-oriented universities and teaching-oriented Colleges of Advanced Education, to a unitary system of Universities encompassing all aspects would be of benefit to stakeholders, including the Government funders. His series of reforms of the higher education sector, known as the Dawkins Revolution included expansion of Australian universities, the forced mergers of Universities and Colleges of Advanced Education, plus the re-introduction of university fees in the form of HECS. To remain as a separate autonomous institution was not an option for Roseworthy CAE. This would have meant economic starvation through disenfranchisement from essential Government funding sources and loss of academic accreditation for courses.

The only course open to Roseworthy CAE was to choose between merging with one of the two existing Universities of Adelaide and Flinders, or becoming part of a proposed third University to be named University of South Australia. Aably led by its Chairman Hon Dr Bruce Eastick, the Roseworthy CAE Governing Council agonised at length over the final decision. In the end, the Governing Council decided a merger with Adelaide University offered greater opportunity for Roseworthy to fulfil its core role of providing high quality tertiary education in natural resources management, oenology and agriculture.

However prior to this decision being made, ROCA felt a merger with the University of Adelaide was inevitable. In 1988, the Annual General Meeting of ROCA directed the Executive to investigate the future relevance of the Association and explore the various options open to it in light of the impending changes to Roseworthy CAE. A sub-committee of Bardy McFarlane, Peter Lewis MP and Dale Manson published a discussion paper in September 1989, exploring three possible options: Retain the current structure & functioning of ROCA; Become a Chapter of the University of Adelaide Alumni Association; Absorb into the Agriculture Chapter of Adelaide University Alumni.

The 1989 discussion paper also examined the core rationale for the functioning of ROCA, potential alternative names for ROCA, criteria for ROCA membership and potential funding models for the Association. ROCA opted to join the University of Adelaide Alumni Association as a separate Chapter, to be known as the “ROCA Chapter”. Following extensive discussions with Adelaide University Alumni Association executive officer Geoff Sauer and prominent Alumni advocate Prof Harry Medlin, ROCA was welcomed into that group as a fully-fledged Alumni Chapter in 1991. Geoff Sauer and the University’s Alumni Association provided enormous support for the new ROCA Chapter, including the production of Digest mailing labels and facilitating the printing of the ROCA Digest by the University’s internal print group.

Throughout the subsequent 25 year period, ROCA continued to receive enormous support from the University of Adelaide and its Alumni group. The highlight activity occurred in 2008, when University of Adelaide Vice Chancellor, Prof James McWha provided ROCA and the Alumni group with financial assistance and physical resources to stage a year-long celebration commemorating Roseworthy’s 125th Anniversary.

A quarter of a century down the track, ROCA and Roseworthy graduates not only protect the legacy of what occurred prior to the 1991 merger, but also actively work towards framing a positive future for the graduates yet to experience the unique collegiate environment of Roseworthy.

**Dale Manson**  
**Member, Alumni Council**  
**University of Adelaide**

# CHANGES IN THE AG INDUSTRY



There have been some recent changes and proposed changes within the agricultural industry. There has also been a recent announcement regarding funding available for technology used within agriculture.

## NEW LEGISLATION

### Agricultural Land Register

As part of reforms to increase transparency around foreign investment in Australia, the Government established the Agricultural Land Register on 1 July 2015. The purpose of the register is to track foreign ownership of Australian agricultural land. Affected taxpayers now need to notify the ATO of their land holdings.

This applies to "foreign persons" with an interest in "agricultural land". If you believe this may apply to your circumstances, please contact our office as soon as possible as reporting deadlines have recently passed. Penalties may apply for failure to notify the ATO.

## PROPOSED LEGISLATION

### Farm Management Deposit Changes

On 4 July 2015, as part of the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper, the Australian Government announced the following three changes to the Farm Management Deposit (FMD) Scheme, to commence 1 July 2016:

1. Doubling the cap on deposits from \$400,000 to \$800,000 per individual;
2. Re-Establishment of an early access trigger during times of drought allowing withdrawal of FMD's within 12 months without affecting the income tax deductibility in an earlier income year;
3. Allowing FMDs to be used to offset the interest on primary production debt.

### Early Access

The draft legislation proposes that the early access trigger will not be reliant on the area being drought-declared, rather that the primary producer can demonstrate that an area of their farming property has had a rainfall within the lowest 5% for the land for 6 consecutive months immediately prior to withdrawing the FMD. The amount withdrawn will be included in assessable income in the year withdrawal occurs. Certain primary production business (e.g. commercial fishing) do not qualify for this concession. An online rainfall deficiency tool will be available from 1 July 2016.

### Interest Offset

The draft legislation proposes that primary producers, who are sole traders or partners in a partnership, will be able to use their FMD accounts as an offset against money borrowed for their primary production business. Primary producers will need to hold their loan and any FMDs they wish to offset, with the same financial institution to take advantage of this change. It will be up to the financial institutions to determine how the offset accounts are actually setup and operated. The draft legislation does not extend to loans held by companies, trusts or a person who is not the FMD owner.

Tax Laws Amendment (Farm Management Deposit Reforms) Bill 2016 (Cth) was introduced to the Federal Parliament on 10 February 2016.

## AVAILABLE FUNDING

### Innovation Hub Sprout

In December, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull launched a new multi-million dollar fund known as "Sprout".

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) will partner with superannuation firms and banks to fund agricultural start ups and new agri-technology. The tech-incubator would identify, foster and promote the best new ideas in the food and agribusiness sector and match innovators with like-minded Australian companies to fund and develop the technologies and take them to the world. An expert panel will assess projects and look at various models of financing, including crowd-funding, investors buying shares in an emerging incubator-tested company or through very low interest loans. The first round of applications with ideas for technologies, such as farm robotics, sensor technology or new services, will open early 2016.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Agribusiness specialist Ben Trengove at William Buck on 0419 851 008 or [ben.trengove@williambuck.com](mailto:ben.trengove@williambuck.com).

## Proud National Sponsors of ROCA

### William Buck Understands Rural Businesses

As one of South Australia's largest locally owned and operated accounting and advisory firms with 17 Directors and over 150 staff, William Buck has been proudly delivering value and personalised results to South Australian agricultural and rural businesses for over 65 years.

Our firm genuinely understands the complexities involved in agricultural and rural business. We are often in the area so contact Agribusiness Specialist Ben Trengove on 0419 851 008 for a no obligation chat to see how William Buck can improve your business performance or wealth position.

Visit our website to learn more about our full range of services [williambuck.com](http://williambuck.com)



# NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

## Oral History:

The Archives has a number of Audio files of interviews with past Students and Staff. These will be available on our web site soon so that if you are interested you can listen to a bit of reminiscing on times at Roseworthy.

For some Old Collegians the following names will be quite familiar and many will enjoy hearing those voices once again.

- Jack Daly started as a farm hand in 1915 and retired in the 60's
- Cliff Hooper graduated in 1928 and later returned as a staff member retiring in the 70's
- Frank Hilton graduated in 1942 and taught Agriculture in various High Schools.
- Rex Krause graduated in 1944 and later returned as a staff member and also retired in the 70's

We hope to add more files so that we can have a glimpse at the past through others recollections.

Memorabilia Display at Roseworthy Campus:

ROCA has made a submission to the University Collections for photographs, old uniforms, memorabilia and other items to be displayed in the College Hall. As the renovations of the old building are progressing well we thought it would be good to encourage the display of some items to reflect the depth of history Roseworthy has in South Australia. Just in case you have a particular RAC gem that would have broad appeal you are encouraged to let us know.

**David Spencer**  
ROCA Committee Member



## COWS FOR CAMBODIA

**Andrew Costello (Cosi), a BAg graduate of 2000, has embarked on a Cow loan scheme in Cambodia. His aim is to build up to a 100 cows, lending a pregnant cow to a family that keeps the calf and returns the cow. In this way he is able to assist many families to boost their income.**

Each cow costs about \$1000 and I was wondering if Old Collegians would like to help him out by sponsoring Roseworthy Team members of the 2017 Tour Down Under (TDU) community ride.

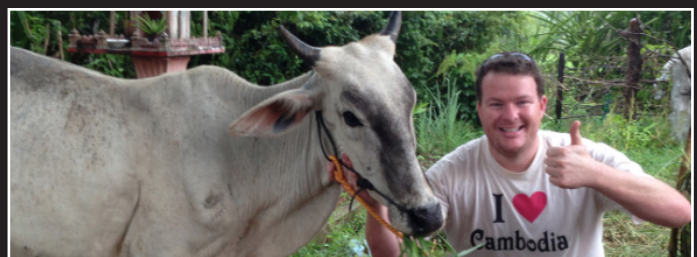
This fundraiser will close at the end of January 2017 but first we need some riders to prepare for the event so if you are a bike rider and are interested in participating in the next TDU community ride please make contact. The ride varies from 140, 90, 60 to 30 km so all levels of fitness are accommodated.

If you are keen to support in some way there will be more details in the Spring Digest.

To find out what Cosi is up to google 'Cows for Cambodia' and you will be impressed with his humanitarian "can do" action that actually delivers real help with long term benefits.

*On ya bike, or get your wallet out, to help Cosi get more Cows for Cambodia!*

**David Spencer**



South Australia's very own Andrew "Cosi" Costello with one of his Cows for Cambodia



# SINO AUSTRALIA AG RESEARCH JV

## University launches joint Australia-China centre

The University of Adelaide today launched a joint Australia-China centre for agriculture and health at its Waite campus with leading 'China 9' university, Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

The two universities are working together to contribute to the national food, water and health targets of their respective countries under four themes: agriculture and wine; land and water; food safety and quality; and health and nutrition.

The emphasis is on the development of new technologies, new skills and new trading opportunities.

A delegation from Shanghai Jiao Tong, led by Deputy President Professor Lin Zhongqin, joined Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Leon Bignell, Chief Scientist of South Australia Professor Leanna Read and senior personnel from the University and research partners to launch the centre and associated research laboratory.

Initiatives and early successes under the new University of Adelaide and Shanghai Jiao Tong University Centre for Agriculture and Health include:

- Establishment of the University of Adelaide and Shanghai Jiao Tong University Joint Laboratory for Plant Science and Breeding researching key problems in food security, including the generation of more environmentally resilient and productive crops also launched today
- The joint professorial appointment (in January 2015) between the two universities of Professor Dabing Zhang, distinguished Chinese plant scientist, who is leading the joint laboratory and dividing his time between Adelaide and Shanghai Jiao Tong
- A postdoctoral researcher appointed to the joint laboratory and two PhD students from Shanghai Jiao Tong University with more to come
- A research project just starting with University of Adelaide wine scientists to develop wine specifically suited to the Chinese market in collaboration with Australia's wine industry and Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- Agreement to establish a collaborative research centre into healthy grains to: enhance sustainability of Chinese and Australian agricultural development; produce healthy grain products free of contaminants; assess market potential for healthier grain products; and to improve human health outcomes.

University of Adelaide Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Mike Brooks says the partnership is off to a wonderful start with significant research, broader collaborations across the University and industry, and new trading opportunities underway.

"Shanghai Jiao Tong University and the University of Adelaide have a range of mutual research interests and complementary research capabilities," Professor Brooks says.

"Working together to advance development in these areas of agriculture and wine, natural resources, food and nutrition, will enable us to make significant contributions towards healthy populations, food security, clean environments and sustainable industries in both countries."

## The University of Adelaide



ROCA President Mark Rodda has been involved in agribusiness trade with China for the past 15 years.

"Yes, the Chinese people well know of the quality of Australian agricultural produce, but at day's end, a successful long term business is all about forging close relationships with your partners of choice" Said Mark, after his most recent visit to Shanghai and Harbin in January 2016

## Agri Update

*Piper Alderman has carved a niche as a leading Australian law firm advising clients operating and investing in the agribusiness sector, from the establishment of commercial agriculture in the 1800s until the present day.*

Since the ROCA Spring Digest we have been busy serving our agribusiness clients in rural and regional Australia. Here's a snapshot of what we have been up to.

Among other themes that we continue to see being played out is a focus on agricultural technology and innovation. We have been pleased to continue to work with Sundrop Farms on their innovative solar desalination glasshouse project at Port Augusta as they near the first crop planting. A world first, this project will see fresh tomatoes grown from seawater and sunlight in one of the arid regions of the world.

Succession planning also presents many challenging issues and we continue to advise clients on the development and implementation of strategies for intergenerational business and farm succession. Recent clarification of stamp duty relief for transfers of farm land between family members has proved a helpful tool in several of the succession planning structures we have helped clients with.

Some other interesting projects we have been working on include:

- an export hay joint venture with significant potential for growth
- a distribution arrangement for Australian wine to China
- trade mark protection for branded food products
- the acquisition and divestment of a range of rural property holdings.

Women play a significant role in agribusiness and there is enormous potential for the sector and our regions to benefit even more from female industry participation and leadership. Piper Alderman is proud to be partnering with PIRSA on the "Women Influencing Agribusiness and Regions" strategy. The outcomes of the strategy are:

- women occupy an increasing number of diverse roles in agribusiness
- women are skilled, capable and confident influencers and decision-makers in the agribusiness sector
- the barriers that currently hinder women in agribusiness are understood and addressed.

Piper Alderman have hosted the first of a four part "Agribusiness Masterclass" series focused on supporting skill set developments for women in agribusiness. Keep an eye out for further sessions, including the forthcoming masterclass, Branding & Social Media: Tips & Traps on Tuesday 12 April 2016. For details contact Bianca Battistella.

To find out more about the "Women Influencing Agribusiness and Regions" strategy and to get involved, visit the PIRSA website.

We were proud to see our leadership in the agribusiness sector recently recognised when we won the Finance Monthly Law Awards in the category of "Agribusiness Law Firm of the Year – Australia". Simon Venus was also named for the sixth year in a row in the peer awarded "Best Lawyers" list in Australia in the category of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Please contact Simon or Bianca for more information or for an obligation free chat about any legal issues.



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# AWARD OF MERIT RICHARD FEWSTER

**Richard W Fewster announced as ROCA 2015 Award of Merit recipient --  
We were thrilled to announce Richard Fewster as ROCAs Award of Merit winner at the 117th ROCA Annual Dinner.**

Graduating with an RDA from Roseworthy College in 1965, Richard excelled in leading the agricultural, agri-political, marketing and communications industries for the past fifty years. Whilst pursuing a highly successful career as a leading journalist, and public relations and marketing consultant for Australian and global agricultural companies, Richard has also had an immense influence on South Australia's horticultural and tourism industries.

Raised on a mixed horticultural property at Renmark and an RDA diplomat, Richard has a broad-based knowledge of all horticultural and agricultural industries. During his public relations career and as founder and Managing Director of Porter Novelli Adelaide, Richard consulted to a broad range of companies and organisations in the area of agriculture and horticulture, environment and resources management, corporate public relations, strategic planning, issues and crisis management, marketing and media liaison.

For those who know Richard, one of his greatest strengths is understanding how primary producers and landowners think and react to change, and new technologies, and how messages need to be packaged to achieve successful outcomes.

The South Australian Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Show (RA&HS) has been one of Richard's greatest passions. At the RA&HS, Richard has been a member of the Council since 1976, a member of the Board of Management since 1997, a representative on the Executive Committee since 1997 and President since 2011.

Richard has been a key instigator of the proposal by the RA&HS, the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia for the establishment of a collaborative SA Food Research & Innovation Institute, which is presently before the State Government for consideration. Richard is a member and past president of ROCA and is a former vice-president of the Agricultural Technologists of Australia. The enormous contribution made by Richard, and the plans he has to continue the advancement of agriculture and agribusiness to this state, make him a highly worthy recipient of this Award.

We were thrilled to bestow the ROCA Award of Merit to Richard and befittingly congratulate him on his Golden Jubilee graduation from Roseworthy.

**Mark Rodda**  
**ROCA President**

## ROCA DIGEST GRAPHIC DESIGNER

**Just a small town girl.** Chanel Li is the small town girl that spent most of her life on the Mid-North Coast in Grafton, NSW. After graduating highschool she chose Adelaide for her next study endeavours at the University of Adelaide. She has grown her roots here in SA and will be graduating with a Bachelor of Media at the end of July. She is humbled to be apart of the ROCA Digest as she wants to share her creative flare with the wider and local communities of SA.

Over the time that she has spent here in Adelaide she has been apart of a similiar college community to ROCA, she is a proud collegian at St Marks College and has been involved in various college roles such as an art curator for the Marksenfeast for the Eyes art show for the annual St Marks College Open day. Her latest achievement at St Marks is being awarded the W F Wehrstedt Prize for outstanding academic achievement in the Humanities or Social Sciences.

Her accomplishments also recently include a six-month study exchange program at the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom. This is where she was able to learn more about her studies in Media but also meet and socialise with people from all around the world. The University of Leeds environment provided her new found passion for publishing and graphics whilst she worked with a student magazine. From this experience she has gained the travel bug, which has given her another opportunity to travel to Kyoto, Japan this coming Winter to complete another study tour and represent the University of Adelaide once again. She hopes that the ROCA community will enjoy reading the 2016 Winter Digest that she has helped put together.

**If the ROCA community has any opportunities for similiar work please feel free to contact her through email at:  
Channel5li@hotmail.com**



Member of the St Marks Council - Mr James Harvey & Chanel Li



# PETER WAITE SCHOLARSHIP

James Walter has commenced his PhD at the Waite Campus in the grains area following support from SAGIT to initiate the Peter Waite Centenary Scholarship for Excellence in Agriculture. He will be followed by an impending appointment of a recipient of a second Peter Waite Scholarship supported by GPSA for a PhD aimed at developing economic benchmarks for grain farms. The University is looking to develop the support to offer the scholarship in perpetuity over the next 4 years. Enquires are welcome to Paul Finn on 0405036941.

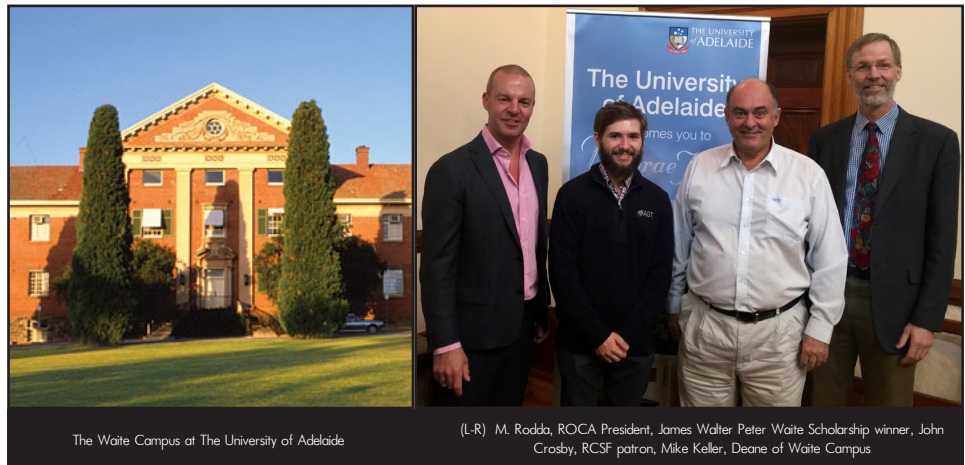
In other news the Thyne Reid Foundation has agreed to support 2 scholarships for commencing students at the Waite and Roseworthy campus giving a total of 4 scholarships to commence in 2016.

This with other recent announcements regarding new scholarships in Agriculture reflects the growing understanding of the need for more talented young people to choose Agriculture as a career.

**Paul Finn**  
Senior Development Manager  
External Relations  
The University of Adelaide



THE UNIVERSITY  
of ADELAIDE



The Waite Campus at The University of Adelaide

(L-R) M. Rodda, ROCA President, James Walter Peter Waite Scholarship winner, John Crosby, RCSF patron, Mike Keller, Deane of Waite Campus

## 118th AGM & ANNUAL DINNER

### SAVE THE DATE: ROCA 118th AGM and Annual Reunion Dinner

Planning is already underway for the 118th ROCA AGM and Annual Reunion dinner.

The Glenelg Golf Club will again host ROCA for this event on Friday 21st October, 2016

As is always the tradition with the Annual ROCA Dinner, all members are encouraged to attend, with a special emphasis on those in the 50, 40, 25 and 10 year graduation groups.

### Thank you to the following Reunion Group Year Coordinators:

#### Reunion Year Group Co-ordinators are:

**50 Years (1966)** Contact your year group peers

**40 Years (1976)** Dale Manson  
(manson.daga@bigpond.com/0418811233)

**25 Years (1991)** Contact your year group peers

**10 Years (2006)** Kerry Heinrich  
(kerryheinrichlive.com.au)  
Kiara Edwards  
(thomasnkara@hotmail.com / 0419533957)



### THE ROCA AWARD OF

**MERIT** is bestowed upon a member of ROCA who has made a meritorious contribution in any field of agricultural activity including association affairs. This award is regarded as the higher honour ROCA can bestow on one of its members.

Nominations are now open for the 2016 A.O.M. and nomination forms can be found on the ROCA website under the "news" tab or by calling / emailing a ROCA Committee Member.

Applications to be received by 15 July 2016. Please send them to:

[roca@alumni.adelaide.edu.au](mailto:roca@alumni.adelaide.edu.au)



# Roseworthy Old Collegians

## WINE ORDER FORM 2016

Please either E-mail this form to ROCA Treasurer, David Coyner: david.coyner@hotmail.com  
or Post this form to ROCA President, Mark Rodda: 47 Edmund Ave, Unley, SA 5061.

### WINE

### QUANTITY

ROSEWORTHY Old Collegians	2013	SHIRAZ	Full Dozen	\$216 / box (\$18/bottle)	.....	carton/s
ROSEWORTHY Old Collegians	2013	SHIRAZ	Half Dozen	\$108 / box (\$18/bottle)	.....	carton/s
ROSEWORTHY Old Collegians	2015	RIESLING	Full Dozen	\$192 / box (\$16/bottle)	.....	carton/s
ROSEWORTHY Old Collegians	2015	RIESLING	Half Dozen	\$ 96 / box (\$16/bottle)	.....	carton/s
ROSEWORTHY Old Collegians	2012	SPARKLING	Half Dozen	\$ 90 / box (\$15/bottle)	.....	carton/s
Value of wines purchased:						\$ _____

CONTACT DETAILS OF PERSON ORDERING THE WINE: Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### DELIVERY METHOD

1. Australia POST (cost \$15 / dozen, \$10 / half dozen) Total Postage cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Posted monthly)  
Postal delivery address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

2. Where possible, a ROCA Committee member will attempt to deliver your wine within South Australia, or arrange collection from Adelaide.  
Please call Mark Rodda (0417 414 123) or Fiona Hill (0438 864 498) to discuss logistics.

### PAYMENT METHOD (CIRCLE and complete)

1. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) - Preferred method  
Transfer money to: Roseworthy Old Collegians – Fund Raising Account (FRA)  
BSB: 105146 Account number: 027009540  
IMPORTANT: Kindly fill out the “receiver reference” on your bank transfer screen with:  
wine & your surname so we know what the money is for and who it is from on our bank statement.  
ALSO please E-mail David Coyner: david.coyner@hotmail.com when you have completed the EFT

2. Cash / cheque – upon pick up or delivery by or to a ROCA Committee member  
(Make cheques out to: Roseworthy Old Collegians Association - Wine Sales)