



Roseworthy Old Collegians Association Inc.  
**ROCA DIGEST**

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Summer 1992

Joint Editors: Dale Manson and Lindsay Wright

## 1992 AWARD OF MERIT Rex Athol Anderson

Rex Anderson has been named as the recipient of the 1992 R.O.C.A. Award of Merit, for outstanding achievement in the field of practical agriculture.

Rex was raised on the Booborowie property of East Bungaree, where his father was Studmaster.

He completed his secondary education at Burra High School, where he was Dux of school in his final year, and graduated from Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1952 as Gold Medallist with II Class Honours.

At Roseworthy, he also won prizes for Agricultural and Animal Husbandry subjects as well as outdoor work.

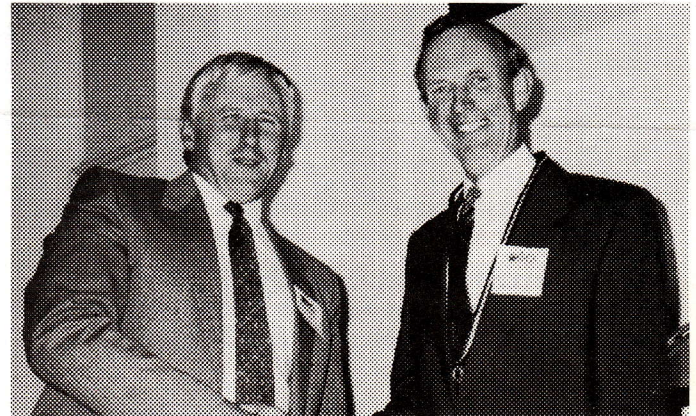
Upon graduation in 1952, Rex commenced employment at Roseworthy College as Field Officer - Sheep and Beef Cattle.

After this, he spent a year as Field Officer - Animal Husbandry with the S.A. Department of Agriculture, and a further three years as Project Officer- Animal Husbandry at the Kybylite Research Centre.

In July 1958, he took up the Manager's position of the 13,410 hectare properties, Pitlochry, Cortina and Kendal Stations, at Kingston S.E.

At this stage, only 9,700 hectares were developed, with the remainder being water course and scrub land country.

During his first year as Manager, Rex developed 1,890 hectares of land, with a further 12,370 hectares being developed during the period until 1974, when Cortina Station was sold.



*R.O.C.A. President, Bardy McFarlane, presenting the 1992 Award of Merit to Rex Anderson.*

From 1981-83, a further 890 hectares were developed on Kendal Station.

Rex based his developed pastures on Hunter River lucerne, and conducted comprehensive property layout in respect to fencing, water points, buildings, and stock handling facilities. Livestock under Rex's management comprises 25,500 sheep, and 2,700 Poll Hereford cattle.

He has co-operated with the Department of Agriculture on various on-property research projects, and hosts an annual visit by the Urrbrae Agricultural Certificate students.

His property is also regularly visited by Roseworthy Campus and Adelaide University Agricultural Science students, as well as T.A.F.E. On Farm Training Scheme students.

Rex has been widely involved in community service, including Salt Creek Area School, CFS, Kingston Uniting Parish, and the Kingston Tennis Club.

He is a foundation member of the S.A. Branch of the Australian Society of Animal Production, and has served as President and Vice President of this organisation.

The contribution by Rex Anderson to practical agriculture has been quite outstanding.

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## R.O.C.A. Dinner & Reunion

Nearly 100 Old Collegians and their partners enjoyed a wonderful evening at the 1992 R.O.C.A. Dinner held in the Roseworthy College Dining Room on September 26th.



25 Year reunion Group - Graduates of 1967

During the evening, President, Bardy McFarlane, presented Rex Anderson with the Award of Merit, and bestowed R.O.C.A. Life Membership on former Director of R.A.C., Barrie Thistlethwayte.

The 25 Year Group led by Ian Pickett and Robert Osborne kept everyone in laughter for quite a while.

Member of the 25 year group, David Pannach, flew from Hong Kong, however hold-ups in Singapore and Sydney saw him arrive just as the formal part of the dinner was ending.

The following day saw around 50 people gather on the lawn of the Director's residence at Roseworthy, for an informal family BBQ picnic.



R.O.C.A. President, Bardy McFarlane, awarding Life Membership to Dr. Barrie Thistlethwayte

## Peter Dunn

### R.O.C.A. President for 1992 / 93

The new R.O.C.A. President is the Honourable Peter Dunn M.L.C. Peter is currently a member of the Legislative Council in the South Australian Parliament.

He is also an active farmer, having a mixed cereal / sheep property at Rudall on Eyre Peninsula.

Peter has been followed through Roseworthy by his two sons.

### Roseworthy Old Collegians Association

As the new president of R.O.C.A. I believe we are facing changes to the Association with the merger of Roseworthy College and the University of Adelaide.

Because Roseworthy is now part of The University of Adelaide, some Graduates will perhaps change their allegiance to the College and for many the bond will not be as strong. The student who lives on campus may indeed retain a close affinity with the College, as has been proven from the period when all students had to reside there. Now that many students travel to the campus on a daily basis I think that for those students their affinity to the College will weaken.

What then of R.O.C.A., can it remain a viable Association by attracting enough members? There is no doubt that this Association is useful to not only the ex-students but to the changing mode, as Roseworthy becomes part of Adelaide's oldest University.

The alternative is for future Roseworthy graduates to become members of ALUMNI, what do you think? At the moment R.O.C.A. offers a number of benefits to graduates - a newsletter, ongoing friendships, dinners throughout the State, trophies to successful students and advice to the Roseworthy management etc.

I believe this is a crossroads in our proud Association. We need to address the direction that R.O.C.A. will be taking in the future with the emphasis on the types of services and benefits we can offer future graduates. Your ideas may help future students and it is important that we canvas the views of you, our members.

**Peter Dunn**

*(R.O.C.A. President 1992 / 93)*

## Your Support is Needed

Tertiary level teaching of graduate and under-graduate courses in the subject areas covered at Roseworthy are now clearly under threat. Not because of anything which Professor Woolhouse or the Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor might do, but because of the way in which the new University of Adelaide was formed and governed. (There has been a merger of some Colleges and the old into the new University of Adelaide and the decision making structure.) The Governing Council of the University has complete and absolute control of finances and other things such as; which faculties will change how they will change; and what assets will be retained or sold off.

In recent years some faculties based on the North Terrace Campus have been over-spending. The University now finds that it has a huge current account deficit.

Quite clearly, the University Council at any time could decide to simply REDUCE THE OFFERINGS in the new Faculty of AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCES. This would or could make the Roseworthy Campus surplus to need (in whole or in part).

As a member of the Governing Council (I am elected by the House Assembly), I would strongly oppose any such proposal, as would the current Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty. However, if we don't have the numbers on the Governing Council we get rolled. Moreover, even if the assets and facilities are not flogged, the Faculty itself could be starved of funds (quite unwisely and improperly).

As it happens YOU and everyone else who has ever GRADUATED FROM ROSEWORTHY or any other institution of which the new University is now comprised ARE ENTITLED TO JOIN THE 'CONVOCATION OF ELECTORS' WHICH ELECTS MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL. (See clause C.3)

IT WILL COST YOU NOTHING - ABSOLUTELY FREE.

Fill in the enclosed form ENROL YOURSELF TO VOTE. AND MAIL IT BACK TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE, NORTH TERRACE, ADELAIDE, SA 5000 IMMEDIATELY SO THAT IT WILL GET THERE BY THE 31ST OF OCTOBER - which effectively is next Friday morning mail.

WE MUST ENROL SO THAT WE CAN ELECT PEOPLE FRIENDLY TO OUR SURVIVAL, and who will make responsible rational decision about faculty offerings etc. and eliminate waste.

I have been increasingly disturbed by the increasing numbers of faculties which are unnecessarily duplicating courses and subjects which are available from our faculty, and obtain approval for them through the Governing Council.

Any Queries call our new President Peter Dunn or myself at Parliament House 008 182 097 or Barty McFarlane at Piper Alderman on 08 205 3333

**Peter Lewis,**  
*Member for Murray-Mallee,  
Past President R.O.C.A.*

### CONVEYANCING - VALUATIONS

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*Contact:*

**Malcolm Dixon A.R.E.I.**  
26 Sherwood Terrace,  
Glen Osmond SA 5064  
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Roseworthy Old Collegians Association Inc.  
C/- The University of Adelaide  
Roseworthy Campus  
ROSEWORTHY SA 5371

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## Salt Bush - Our Saviour?

Wind erosion was a huge problem in the Mallee country of Australia in the earlier part of this century, 1940's and 50's.

Our problems arose from over-cultivating and over-stocking the fragile sandy soils after the natural vegetation had been cleared. They were compounded by two factors which had a very serious impact; seasonal rainfall was very variable and totally unpredictable (rain didn't follow plough); and, rabbits rapidly bred to plague proportions when ever there was a good season.

We had to solve the rabbit problem before we could do anything about the drift which was taking hundred of thousands of acres of land out of production.

Myxomatosis fixed the former, and outstanding research work undertaken by practical scientists, many of whom were Roseworthy graduates, soon demonstrated that we needed to widen our Totations, reduce our stocking rates (de-stock during drought) and incorporate legumes in the pasture, with cereal rye in the cropping cycle where sandhills needed to be stabilised.

Wanbi and Minnipa were amongst the most important research and demonstration farms in proving this technology and cultural husbandry practices. Much of the Mallee was stabilised.

However, occasionally when government policy combined with depressed world markets to reduce incomes, we have a drier year which compounds the problem and the drift takes off again!

This happened in the north Mallee just last year.

Enter the Murray Darling Basin Commission with the cash, more Roseworthy Graduates (some of them women this time), some gusty Mallee farmers with true grit and their local Landcare groups together with their local Department of Agriculture, drift has again been stabilised.

Most important of all is the establishment of a number of trials using salt bush as a perennial, deep-rooted

fodder species rich in protein. Preliminary results looking at 4 species - River salt bush, Wavy Leaf salt bush, Quail brush and Old Man salt bush are producing very interesting results. It looks like we are on to something.

Trials of seeding rates, reproductive (reseeded and re-establishment) rates, and fodder production rates in sites which are either or both very sandy and salt affected are showing considerable promise. We should all respect the enormous accomplishments of the past and the continuing good work of the Murray-Mallee Soil Conservation Board, I am sure we will produce yet another first in understanding the complex factors essential for a sustainable management regime for our drier rain-fed agricultural lands, which we will be able to apply ourselves and sell to the world.

Mr Peter Lewis, AIMM, MATA, RDA (Hort.), JP, MP,  
*Member for Murray-Mallee*

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## ROCA Diary of Coming Events

1993

**Saturday, February 27th**

Eyre Peninsula Branch A.G.M. & Dinner,  
Port Lincoln

**Sunday, February 28th**

Eyre Peninsula Branch Family Picnic BBQ Day,  
Port Lincoln

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### ADVERTISING

Due to rising costs to the production of the Digest, we seek expressions of interest from companies wishing to advertise in the Digest.

Here is an opportunity to promote your product or service to a wide market.

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Dale Manson

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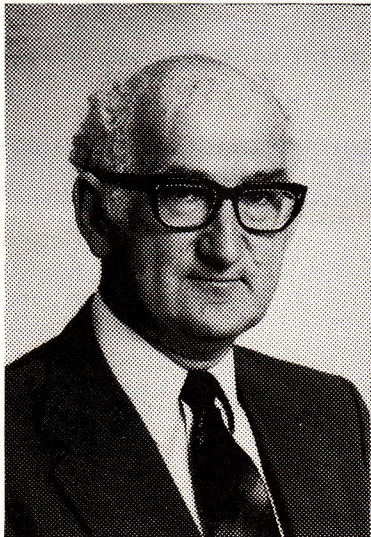
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## Vale - Donald Birtall Williams

Former Director and one of the major builders of Roseworthy Agricultural College, Dr Don Williams, died as a result of a massive heart attack on 17 September 1992.



Dr Williams' association with Roseworthy began in 1946 as a rural economist. He went to America as the Booth Fellow at the University of Illinois to complete a PhD in 1950. He then served with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in Canberra from 1957 to 1963, part of that time being as Assistant Director, and moved to the CSIRO to head up its agricultural research liaison section.

Between 1964 and 1970 he was Professor of Agricultural Economics and Director of Agricultural Extension at Melbourne University. From 1971-72 he was Principal Research Scientist with the CSIRO.

Immediately before his appointment to Roseworthy in 1974 he was Assistant Secretary in the Department of Primary Industry.

Dr Williams edited the well known book 'Agriculture in the Australian Economy' and contributed to many other books and publications.

He became Director of Roseworthy at a time when the College had decided to take on the status and responsibilities of a College of Advanced Education. He steered the institution through that transition with skill and flair, recruiting well qualified staff to run new courses which saw the number of students more than double during his term of office and establishing foundations for Roseworthy's 500% growth over the last 15 years.

During his directorship courses such as the Bachelor of Applied Science (Natural Resources), Bachelor of Applied Science (Oenology), Associate Diploma in Wine Marketing, Associate Diploma in Horse Husbandry, Associate Diploma in Agricultural Production, Associate Diploma in Farm Management, Graduate Diplomas in Wine, Agriculture and Natural Resources were established.

The Graduate Diploma (International Dry Land Farming Systems) which ran from 1976 - 1980 was provided for students from the Middle East, North Africa and the Indian sub-continent who had been selected by F.A.O. Some 50 students graduated from the course and have been influential in land management policy in their home countries.

A major building program gave the campus its Student Union Building, Swimming Pool, the Custance Centre Student Village, Winery Extensions, redevelopment of the stables, and the Natural Resources building, now named after Dr Williams. He also created an Agricultural Museum on the campus which houses a valuable collection of historical machinery.

His ambitions for Roseworthy resulted in something of a cash crisis in 1980 and he retired in 1981.

His 1981 Graduation Day address told the story with the wry humour for which Don Williams was known.

"The College Council appointed as from 14th March 1980 had its first meeting in May 1980. It was faced with a deficit of \$656,961, and a Director of 59, neither of which would go away and, according to carping critics, each of which threatened to get worse....."

A memory many staff at Roseworthy would share of Dr Williams dates back to that Graduation ceremony and his words bear repeating.

"Graduates of 1980, you leave with our congratulations and best wishes. You have, each in your own way, spent important formative years here at Roseworthy. Our traditions, knowledge and

*Continued Next Page....*

experience have blended together to enable you to develop your vocational skills and your own characters. Now it is for you to go on to serve your fellow man as best you know how and with full effort. Rise above the petty tyranny of small men. Stand firm in your beliefs. Learn to keep on learning.

It is now time for me to go. As I have so often stood alone I have found much strength in the response of students, especially the magnificent student leaders with whom my contacts and confidences have been closest.

Mr President, it has been given to only 10 men to be Principal or Director of this great College over the 98 years of its existence, and given to only one to be Principal and then Director during the transition years since 1974 when Roseworthy began a new era.

My contribution is ended but my interest in and support for Roseworthy and its work remain part of me.

Mr President, I wish you and the College well in the future."

Since retiring from Roseworthy in 1981 he had been Chairman of the Telecom and Postal Commission Promotions Appeal Board in SA. and between 1985 and 1991 was a member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Dr Williams is survived by his wife Maureen, who herself was a major contributor to corporate life at Roseworthy, and his children Sonya, Deborah, Ross and Mark. We extend our sympathy and support to them.

### **VALE - Richard Leigh Winser (R.D.A. 1940)**

Richard Winser of Kalangadoo passed away in April 1992.

### **VALE - Ian Wilson (R.D.O. 1973)**

Ian Wilson passed away in early July this year.

He is best remembered for his partnership with fellow winemaker, Grant Burge, in the rise of the well known Barossa wine label, Krondorf.

Together, these two Roseworthy graduates became the youngest winemakers to ever win the coveted "Jimmy Watson Trophy".

## **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

M.C.C & S.E. Cotton  
P.O. Box 92  
OBERON NSW 2787  
2/9/92

Editor  
R.O.C.A. Digest

Dear Dale,

The Winter / Spring 1992 Digest was most interesting, particularly the article on the naming of Buildings, Roads and Walkways.

When Stella and I visited the College at the A.G.M. dinner in September 1990 I had a look next day at the new swimming pool which I understood was dedicated, when built, to the memory of Robert (Bob) Hay, D.F.C. & Bar, who was the dux of the school in 1934 and lost his life in World War 2 as the bomber leader in the "Dam Busters" squadron in the R.A.F.

There was no mention of his name anywhere and I was going to ask about this but time and memory wiped out my resolve.

Could you clear this up for me and, if it was dedicated to his memory, could this be recognised in the recent naming of the College facilities or at least on a plaque at the pool itself.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)  
M.C.C. Cotton D.F.C., O.A.M.  
(R.D.A 1937)

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## Editor's Reply

As R.O.C.A. was able to contribute only a part of the funding required for the construction of the new swimming pool, the College administration at the time felt the adoption of the name suggested by R.O.C.A. may appear to be unfair on the other bodies that also partially funded the pool.

However, the memory of Robert Hay has been perpetuated by the attachment of a brass plaque to the side of the pool.

Brown Hill P.O.,  
BALLARAT  
Vic. 3350  
8/9/92

Dear Dale,

Once again many thanks to you and Lindsay Wright for a very interesting R.O.C.A. Digest.

With regard to the last issue of the Digest, there are a few small items that are not quite correct.

On page 11 under "Hickinbotham", it is stated that he was involved in the development of "biology" teaching.

Perhaps this should be "oenology". ("Hick" had little to do with biology)

With respect to the early teaching of oenology, I was disappointed that Jock Williams' very long association with that subject was not remembered.

He was responsible for the optional subject oenology, for many years before the R.D.O. was started in 1936.

Jock was also an outstanding sportsman.

On page 12 under "Chambers", the year 1926 is not correct.

Best wishes,

Harvey Hooper  
(R.D.A. 1930)

Flat 13, Student Village  
Murdoch University,  
P.O. Box 1055 Canning Vale  
W.A. 6155  
24/8/92

The Editor  
R.O.C.A. Digest

Dear Sir

I have just received the Winter / Spring edition of the R.O.C.A. digest and application form for the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science. I notice on the form that people holding Diplomas are directed to see Section 2 which is "To be completed by applicants who are not graduates" where they must justify their contribution to agriculture. Although since receiving the Dip.App.Sc.(Ag.) in 1985 (the last class of Diplomas), I have completed a B.Sc. and will complete a B.V.M.S. this year, I find it extremely offensive that a so called Professional Association of Agriculturalists should not recognise the century of Roseworthy Diplomas or, for that matter those who received Diplomas from the other Australian agricultural colleges. Needless to say, I won't be joining on principle.

Yours faithfully

(signed)  
Justin Bulling

P.S. I would also like to express a very belated but sincere thankyou to R.O.C.A. for the R.O.C.A. Old Student's Cup and Prize which I received on graduation.

**WHY NOT  
BECOME A  
LIFE MEMBER!**  
it's good value at \$40.00

3rd October, 1992

The Editor  
R.O.C.A. Digest

Dear Sir,

I recently graduated from the Bachelor of Applied Science Agriculture at the Roseworthy Campus, The University of Adelaide and I was fortunate to win the Old Students Cup and prize presented by your organisation for second aggregate score.

During the three years of study to achieve my degree, I, along with my fellow student colleagues worked extremely hard. To be recognised for the work with prizes such as those donated by your organization confirms that the extra effort to achieve high scores was worth it.

I thank you for your interest in the students and course at Roseworthy Campus and the prize you have donated. I hope you will continue to support and encourage students that follow me in the future.

Yours faithfull,

(signed)  
**D.G. Washington**  
B.App.Sc.(Ag.)

Benno Seppelt,  
34 Commercial Road,  
HYDE PARK  
S.A. 3061  
24/9/92

The Editor,  
R.O.C.A. Digest,

Dear Sir,

Re: Malcolm Revell's letter, R.O.C.A. Digest  
Winter/Spring 1992 - "Roseworthy Revisited".

I have to agree 100% with his observations and sentiments.

Dear "Old" Roseworthy has certainly been caught up by the 'progress' we have to have.

But there will never be an acceptable substitute for pride, discipline and deep litter!

His comments re. the outlawing of initiations.

I recall the interruption to the initiations in 1954 - perhaps the first act in the gradual disintegration of old Roseworthy and its traditional down to earth character.

Along with Malcolm Revell, I found the 'End of an Era' function in 1990 and associated visit, something of a sad let down.

Kindest regards,

**BENNO SEPPELT**  
(Roseworthy 1951-54)

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## 25 Year Reunion Group

The 25 year reunion group spent their final year at Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1967, and graduated in early 1968.

The people who graduated from this group are:

### Diploma List

### AGRICULTURE

John Russel KOHNKE

John Sydney DAWKINS

Robert Wayne BROWN

Christopher Roy CAUDLE

Martin John COCHRANE

Ronald Bruce CROSBY

Ross Maynard Gordon DAWKINS

Gavin Campbell ECKERSLEY

John Warren EVANS

Graham Murray FROMM

Robert Stewart HAY

Robert Edgumbe HOLLOWAY

Christopher Ross HURN

Reginald Colin HUTCHINSON

John Alan JONES

Peter Innes JONES

Peter Lindsay JONES

Trever MARCH

Barry Keith MORTIMER

Nicholas Paul NEWLAND

Michael Rohan NICHOLLS

Jock Develin NICKOLLS

Robert John OSBORNE

David Donaldson PANNACH

Russel Earl PARTINGTON

Peter James RYAN

Geoffrey Lawrence SCHRAPEL

Phillip Leslie SHAW

Trevor Kingsley TWIGDEN

Kim Malcolm WOODS

### OENOLOGY

Richard Douglas BALDWIN

Brijinda Nath KHURANA

Warren William WARD

Jeffery Kenneth ANDERSON

Colin Bruce CAMPBELL

Robert Godfrey CARTWRIGHT

Alan William HOEY

Ronwyn Eric LIEBICH

Philip Knies WALDECK

For quite a number of years, several members of this group have violently refused to participate in R.O.C.A. Dinners because of the presence of wives and partners. Hopefully sense will prevail at their 25 year reunion during the 1993 R.O.C.A. Dinner.

## Ten Year Reunion Group.

Graduates who spent their last year at RAC in 1992 and graduated in 1993 are welcome to join the 10 Year Reunion Group at next year's R.O.C.A. Reunion.

We have not had any contact from the reunion group coordinators to date, so anyone who may have graduated in 1983 (last year at RAC was 1982) should contact other members of their final year and course group.

The ten year reunion group is normally a feature of the Annual Dinner, and with the help of the graduates of a decade ago, we hope to make this year's reunion just as successful.

People who started their course with the graduating students, are also welcome to join the group.

## 'LIFE WAS TOUGH 27 YEARS AGO'

Notice:

re: The Water Fight of Friday Jan 8

- 1: My tolerance and blind eye have been strained to the limit. I have no objection to a water fight taking place - in fact had I been consulted I would have aided and abetted the performance. However, when the event is accompanied by blasphemy and foul language at a decibel level which makes it audible to my home I must rise in protest.
- 2: Leave for 1st and 2nd Year students is out of the question for the next 14 days. Please do not apply.
- 3: Those students of junior years not already rostered for work over the week-end will report to me at 8a.m. on Saturday Jan 9 to be detailed for general clean-up of the 1st and 2nd Year student quarters. I do not propose that the stewards should be called upon to remedy the mess you have made. An inspection will be made at 1pm on Saturday Jan 9 and further penalties will be awarded if accommodation is not up to standard.
- 4: The duty officer has given me these names as being exempt from the above strictures:

Baker Cooper M Herriot  
Liebech Wake Ellam Cook  
Klose.

Pickett and Piercy, both of whom were on approved leave must also be exonerated although I have no doubt they would have been in it were they here.

(signed)  
Housemaster  
8 Jan 65

# ROCA MEMBERSHIP

Why Not Become a Life Member?  
It is good value at only \$40.00

## Application for Membership

I wish to join Roseworthy Old Collegians Association Inc.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Course Attended: .....

Year Graduated: .....

Cheque Herewith: \$ .....

\$40 Life Membership/\$5.00 Annual Membership

Roseworthy Old Collegians Association Inc.,  
Roseworthy Campus, The University of Adelaide  
Roseworthy SA 5371

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Name: .....

Address: .....

Course Attended .....

Year Graduated .....

Old Address .....

## Roseworthy Old Collegians Association 1992 / 93 Committee

**PRESIDENT:** Peter Dunn,  
C/- Parliament House, North Terrace, Adelaide, SA 5000  
Telephone: (w) (08) 237 9281

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Mr Allan Alcock  
Roseworthy Campus, Roseworthy, SA 5371  
Telephone: (w) (085) 248 057  
(a/h) (085) 248 013

**SECRETARY:** Bardy McFarlane  
10 Winchester Avenue, Hove, SA 5048  
Telephone: (w) 205 3333  
(a/h) 298 3504

**TREASURER:** Don Chambers  
25 Young Street, Burnside, SA 5066  
Telephone: (w) 375 601  
(mobile) 018 841 482  
(a/h) 332 246

**GRADUATING YEAR:** Not filled at this stage.

**2-10 YEAR GROUP:** Stephen Ball  
P.O. Box 98 Riverton, SA 5412

**GENERAL COMMITTEE:** Peter Lewis  
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(a/h) (085) 323 455

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Brad Butler  
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(a/h) (085) 524 016

### Eyre Peninsula Reps:

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Torrens Park, SA 5062

Peter Dunn  
C/- Parliament House, North Terrace, Adelaide, SA 5000

### South East Rep:

David Brown,  
RSD, 'Gum Gap' Keppoch via Narracoorte, SA 5271  
Telephone: (087) 656 030

### Riverland Rep:

Not filled at this stage.

### Dean of Faculty:

Professor Harold Woolhouse PB 1, Glen Osmond, SA 5064  
Telephone: 372 2201

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Hove, SA 5048

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