

# Fact Sheet

Roseworthy Old Collegians Association Inc.

Roseworthy

## ROCA AWARD OF MERIT 1975 – Kenneth Pike

Ken Pike (RDA, 1926) graduated as Dux of the Agriculture course and began his 46 year career at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute as Field Officer, then as Farm Manager, retiring from that position in December 1972.

'Lumen', magazine of the University of Adelaide, 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1972 refers to Ken Pike's farewell in the following way:

*"Waite Farm Manager, Ken Pike, retires at the end of the year after more than 46 years' service with the Institute. Ken, a former dux of Roseworthy Agricultural College, was appointed Temporary Field Officer at the Waite – at £25 per month – in April 1926 when he was 19 years old. This was two years after the establishment of the Institute. His appointment was made permanent in 1927 and in 1938 the title of Farm Manager was conferred although it was not made official by a letter from the Registrar until 1950. In 1955 the University recognised his outstanding merit by giving him the status of Lecturer."*

Ken was farewelled at a function at the Waite on 14 December 1972 attended by more than 200 friends and associates. During the ceremony he was presented with an impressive pictorial record of his time at the Institute.

During the ceremony the Vice-Chancellor said that the grounds, arboretum and entire estate bore testimony to Ken's outstanding competence.

Later, 'Lumen', of 3 October 1975 acknowledges the ROCA Award of Merit to Ken Pike thus:

*"Former Waite Farm Manager, Mr Ken Pike (68), has been given the Award of Merit of the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association. Mr Pike, a former dux of Roseworthy, was the Waite Farm Manager for more than 46 years till his retirement in 1972."*

Staff and associates remember Ken as being "quietly efficient, his willing helpfulness, unruffled calm and good humour", whilst at all times requiring precise and accurate workmanship.



## Fact Sheet *continued*

### Roseworthy Old Collegians Association Inc



## Kenneth Pike - 1975

*In addition to the cereal and pasture improvement programmes of the Waite, he established and maintained two experimental orchards and a large glasshouse complex with soil sterilisation facilities. He landscaped the gardens and lawns and set out roadways, water reticulation systems, drains, buildings and animal facilities. In fact, little went on outside the main laboratory itself that he was not involved in."*

As Ken Pike joined the Waite Institute just two years after its inception, and was integrally involved with just about everything that involved the land: from the buildings to the plant breeding plots, he had a most significant influence on how the Waite looks today (2006), and how the field research was carried out during his period of nearly half a century.

Thirty years after his retirement, his former staff and colleagues speak most highly of his exactitude, the scrupulous manner in which he undertook his duties and that he "was very efficient, (and a) well liked manager of the farm, and held in high esteem".