

Fact Sheet

Roseworthy Old Collegians Association Inc.

Roseworthy

ROCA AWARD OF MERIT 1989 – Raymond Norton

Ray Norton (RDA, 1947) first worked as an Animal Husbandry Cadet at the College, then as Technical Officer with CSIRO at Armidale before gaining practical skills on a variety of properties and being appointed Assistant Farm Manager at the College for four years, Poultry Superintendent for two years and Farm Superintendent for 14 years, managing the College's 1200 ha educational farm. During this time he lectured to Diploma and Degree undergraduates in Farm Management, Agricultural Practices, Agricultural Engineering and Aviculture as well as developing courses in Rural Land Utilisation for the Valuation and Town Planning courses conducted by the South Australian School of Mines and Industries.



In 1973 Ray was appointed Farm Manager at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute with responsibilities for the management and associated planning to maintain the Waite Institute campus and associated lands as a farm and research facility. This involved the planning of all the farm inputs of land, plant, animals and personnel for both undergraduate and postgraduate research teaching and research programs. He was also responsible for the management of the two orchards and arboretum on the

Waite campus, as well as the glass houses and facilities that service them.

Subsequently Ray also oversaw the management of the Davies bequest properties, Munduney Station of 6,600 hectares and Moralana Station of 62,000 ha, together with the Mortlock Estate of 3,800 hectares. Management of these estates accounted for half of Ray's time as Farm and Rural Estates Manager.

Ray was always invited to participate in student tours and often assisted in the teaching programs; he had a remarkable rapport with the students. Ray also provided advice and help to the CSIRO Divisions of Soils and Horticulture with respect to their field experiments and programs.

A former Director of WARI said: *"Mr Norton has to deal with a wide range of people. He obviously has the respect of his own staff and that of the academic staff, but it is true that his informed and cooperative manner in dealing with everyone provides not only an efficient performance in all areas but an unusually harmonious one. He is well informed on the literature impinging on his responsibilities----- he is a man who is resourceful, informed and imaginative in dealing with the diversity of problems and people".*

In addition to his professional duties, Ray took great interest in student activities and professional affiliations. He produced "The Student" (Roseworthy) magazine for many years, was involved in student concerts, conducted intrastate and interstate student tours for Roseworthy and Waite undergraduates and was elected "Patron of Students" at the Waite.

Ray's professional affiliations involved maintaining both the ROCA and Agricultural Technologists of Australia (ATA) membership records and soliciting membership for both organisations, as well as being committee member, President, Digest Editor and Membership Chairman of ROCA. He was also a foundation member of ATA and a delegate to the national committee of ATA for a number of years.

Ray gave outstanding service to the College over a period of nearly 20 years and to the Waite Institute for 16 years and to the students prior to his award in 1989.