

Fact Sheet

Roseworthy Old Collegians Association Inc.

Roseworthy

ROCA AWARD OF MERIT 2007 – Kenneth Wilfred Bowen

Wilf Bowen (RDA 1950) was born 26 August 1930. Following his primary and secondary education he studied at Roseworthy and graduated in 1950 with Second Class honours. He married Barbara Solly in 1953.

Services to Agriculture

Wilf managed a farm at Gawler during 1954-56, then joined the Dairy Branch of the Agriculture Department in 1956. He was appointed District Dairy Adviser for the Mid North, based at Jamestown from 1956-67 where he assisted both dairy farmers and dairy industry businesses. In 1968 Wilf was appointed District Dairy Adviser for the Lower South-East and ultimately became President of the South-East Society of Dairy Technology.

In 1972 Wilf attended Hawkesbury Agricultural College and was awarded the post graduate Diploma in Rural Extension. He then became a catalyst for cooperative team work in the Mt Gambier office of the Agriculture Department, motivating the staff to operate as a team in an integrated holistic approach to extension. This was a new approach within the Department and was subsequently adopted more widely.



Services to Rural Training

In 1973 Wilf was appointed Senior Dairy Adviser at Mt Gambier and concurrently acted as part-time lecturer at the TAFE, Rural Studies section.

In 1976 Wilf transferred to the South-East College of TAFE as Campus Manager of the Rural Studies section. He played a significant role in the development of the new Timber Studies courses in 1979 and was appointed Deputy Head of the School of Rural and Timber Studies. He also served on numerous industry, and training and education committees and attended the Australian Society of Dairy Technology Federal Conferences from 1980 to 1990.

In 1984 Wilf transferred to Noarlunga College of TAFE as Deputy Principal and Deputy Head of the School of General Studies, remaining in those positions until retirement.

He then joined the Rural Studies Section of Adelaide College of TAFE as a part-time lecturer where he closely involved with the writing of course materials for the highly successful National Rural Studies Certificate Course program. As well he undertook several visits to Queensland to support TAFE staff offering the Rural Studies Certificate.

Services to the Community

In Mt Gambier, Wilf became an active member of the Gideons and was the Charter President of the Gambier West Rotary Club.

Wilf and Barbara went to South Africa in 1989 for five months to work at a Christian Training College. In 2004 they moved to the Churches of Christ Lifecare retirement village at Everard Park where Wilf is active on residents' committees.

Services to ROCA

During his term as President Wilf achieved some meritorious tasks, as reported by former ROCA Secretary, Dale Manson:

"Most significant is the creation, for the first time, of an historic listing of all Roseworthy Graduates, cross indexed according to graduation year and course. This is a permanent and readily accessible asset."

"Wilf guided ROCA through the establishment of the "Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund" dedicated to collect donations for the benefit of Roseworthy Campus and its students.

Fact Sheet *continued*

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KENNETH WILFRED BOWEN 2007

"As ROCA representative on the Adelaide University Alumni Board he successfully campaigned to have the Alumni's constitution re-structured to reflect ROCA's status as an independent, autonomous, incorporated body within the Alumni structure."

"Wilf facilitated the voluntary involvement of ROCA members in the University of Adelaide Archives section to ensure that the collection of historic records relating to ROCA and Roseworthy Campus, are correctly handled through appropriate identification, cataloguing and storage."

"He established close ties with the Vice Chancellors' Office and has overseen improvements to the ROCA website."

Ms Kim McBride of the University of Adelaide has detailed some of Wilf's involvement with the Alumni Association's Alumni Board:

"Wilf has been an active member of the Board since February 2003 participating on several committees and subcommittees. He was also a member of the Board Member Selection Committee which reviews and implements the processes involved with the nomination and selection of Board Members. "

Two long-time associates of Wilf, have provided these testimonials.

Mr. Ross Solly RDA (1958):

"Wilf Bowen has always been an ardent agriculturist and was involved in the industry as a Dairy Adviser. As a TAFE lecturer, he developed courses in Agricultural Education that were eventually introduced in the supposedly academically superior Eastern States! His life-long involvement with ROCA led to his election as President.

Mr. Bill Bagley, former lecturer in the School of Wool of TAFE:-

"Wilf has been an excellent communicator and has had the gift of sharing his expertise with colleagues and members of the rural community."The importance of educational material being correct, well written, to be understood by external and internal students, was a

hallmark of Wilf's academic career. Wilf was highly respected throughout rural education in SA and Interstate."

Summary

Wilf Bowen was a highly competent Dairy Adviser and also materially assisted the industry through his leadership and innovative approach to extension methodology and through involvement on industry committees. Wilf also made a great contribution to Rural Training, both state and federally, and to ROCA.

