

ROCA AWARD OF MERIT 1998 – Ian Young

Ian Young (RDA, 1960) dedicated his life to the teaching of agriculture to young people. Following graduation from Roseworthy Agricultural College, Ian Young share farmed at Bumbunga and did further study at Adelaide University. His agricultural teaching experience was quite extensive, having taught at Oakbank Area School (1963), Orange (1964-1969), England (1967), Navuso Agricultural College in Fiji (1970-1971), and Westminster School since 1972. As Head of the Agricultural Studies course at Westminster College in Adelaide since 1972, he proved himself to be an outstanding agricultural teacher. His leadership and teaching style enabled students to cope with the continued series of changes they would encounter and provided them with the confidence to face the inevitable changes of the 21st Century.

Ian had an all-consuming passion to help others to realise and develop their potential interest in food production and the Australian environment. Ian was able to assess young people and encourage them by example. He used both lateral thinking and objective rational thought processes to lead his students through the process of responsible actions.

The highlight of Ian Young's teaching methodology at Westminster College was the establishment of "Sturt Grove", a small self-sufficient farm with diverse enterprises run by the students. From an initial seed funding of \$3,000 in 1978, the value of the property (excluding land) in 1998 was in excess of \$400,000.



"Sturt Grove" was a practical model farm aimed at teaching Year 9 to 11 students how to produce food for their own survival. The farm provided added incentive and motivation for students to study Agricultural Science at tertiary institutions and to become successful farmers. The farm also carried out research for the University of Adelaide, CSIRO and poultry feed companies. The "Sturt Grove" shop sold agricultural produce on a weekly basis to gross in excess of \$60,000 per annum.

Outside of his agricultural interests, Ian was also sailing coach for Westminster School, Brighton & Seacliff Sailing Club and at State and Olympic levels. He consequently received life membership of the Brighton & Seacliff Yacht Club and of the International 470 Association. In 1992, Ian was awarded the National BHP Science Teacher Award for Innovation & Breadth of Vision, Excellence of Educational Programs and Commitment.