



## ROCA AWARD OF MERIT 2011 – Raymond John Taylor

### **Mr Raymond John Taylor (RDA 1952)**

Following his graduation from Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1952 with second class honors, Ray Taylor had a distinguished career in both the public and private sectors. He also has been very active in services to the Roseworthy cause and the broader community.

Ray joined the SA Department of Agriculture after graduating from Roseworthy and following short stints as a Field Officer and Project Officer was promoted at age 23 to District Agricultural Adviser based at Murray Bridge. This was a multi-faceted role involving the provision of advice to those associated with both dryland and irrigated agriculture. He was transferred in 1955 to Adelaide as Agricultural Adviser for the Central District.

Six years later he moved from the public to the private sector joining the newly-formed Commonwealth Development Bank where he assessed the economic viability of proposed land development projects. During this period Ray studied Valuation, a discipline integral to the type of work he was undertaking.

In 1972 he formed his own company utilising his agricultural and valuation knowledge to assist clients such as the Primary Industry Bank of Australia. His work took him to all States and the Northern Territory, much of it centered on the pastoral and viticultural industries. Ray also became involved in assessment of compensation claims by landowners whose properties were compulsorily acquired or affected by natural disasters such as bushfires. Incorporated in this was his provision of expert testimony to Courts. He contributed a number of papers to conferences and directed the First International Dryland Farming Conference involving delegates from 42 countries held in Adelaide in 1982. In 1994 he sold his interest in the business to a partner.

Ray Taylor has spent many years promoting the Roseworthy cause. He is an Honorary Life Member of ROCA, a Member of the ROCA Committee, a former College Council Member from 1974 to 1986 during the formation years of Roseworthy as a College of Advanced Education; a former ROCA President and Chairman of the Co-patrons' group of the Student and Campus Fund.

He was inaugural State President and subsequently Federal President and Life Member of the former Agricultural Technologists Association; an Emeritus Member of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology, Fellow of the Australian Property Institute and Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. At the general community level he has been a member and president of the Oaklands Estate Residents' Association and a member of the Advisory