


Roseworthy Old Collegians Association Inc.
ROCA DIGEST

Print Post Approved PP539022/7
Editors: Bardy McFarlane and Dale Manson

Spring 1997

Redevelopment of Main Building



The Roseworthy Campus Development Advisory Committee has recommended to the University that the Main Building at Roseworthy should undergo a major redevelopment to be phased in over 4 stages with each stage costing approximately \$500K.

The main aim behind the refurbishment is to highlight the central and historical significance of the Building as the focus and hub of the Campus. The building is heritage listed and therefore the works must maintain its integrity. While the facade and main structural feature will not change, there will be significant internal changes and upgrading.

More specifically it is intended to:

- * provide accommodation for reception, administration and student service functions for the Roseworthy Campus, the Faculty ANRS and Roseworthy College in one appropriate and convenient facility.
- * provide high standard facilities with proper access to all parts of the building, adequate heating and ventilation and improved services.
- * preserve the architectural integrity of the building and restore of some areas to their former condition.
- * create the broadest possible use options for the building within the existing building fabric.
- * ensure the refurbishment links into academic objectives for the Campus and the Faculty.
- * affirm the Main Building as the focus of the Campus for visitors, staff and students.

As part of the redevelopment it is proposed to realign the main entrance road so that the Main Building is the predominant feature as people enter the Campus.

Ed: Hopefully the first stage will have been completed in time for ROCA's centenary celebrations in 1998 (see the story next page).

Celebrating 100 Years of ROCA

In the autumn of 1898, a group of Roseworthy Agricultural College graduates met to discuss the formation of an Old Collegians Association. It was decided that organisation should provide a link between the College and its past students. The group also decided that the Association would be there as an independent adviser to the College. Set out below is the text of an illuminated address given by ROCA members to William Lowrie on his departure in 1901. The original framed and illustrated document was purchased for the College by the late Harold Woollwise at auction in Perth in October 1993.

To William Lowrie Esq
M.A., B.Sc Edin., F.R.H.S.
Professor of Agriculture and Principal of the Agricultural
College Roseworthy South Australia

Dear Sir

On the occasion of your departure from amongst us, we, the members of "The Agricultural Old Collegians Association", representing the old students, most of whom have studied at the Agricultural College, Roseworthy, while you have been its Principal, desire to express to you the affectionate regard in which you are held by us all, and to thank you for the kindness and consideration you have at all times shewn us.

We feel that in losing you, we are separated from the true and tried friend who has always had our welfare at heart. As President of our Association since its inauguration, we have had many pleasant reunions with you; of which we hope you will retain as happy memories as we enjoy.

We trust that prosperity will attend you in your new home, and though confident that you will earn the good wishes of all with whom you are brought in contact, be assured that none will be more sincere than ours.

We are, Dear Sir, Your old students,

On behalf of "the Agricultural Old Collegian Association",

H.A. Parsons

H.B. Robson W. Birks

C.F. Heyne A.M. Dawkins

Adelaide, 13th September 1901.

J.H. Muecke (Hon Treas.)

T.E. Yelland (Hon. Secy.)

Committee

It is just one example of the rich history which ROCA has to celebrate.

In 1998, we commemorate the centenary of service provided by ROCA to the College and all those who have graduated through the doors of RAC and the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy Campus.

The ROCA committee is currently preparing a range of activities to celebrate this occasion and is planning the events for the spring of 1998. All past graduates and their partners are invited to attend.

More details will be in future digests and selected rural publications. So contact your old classmates and be ready to "Celebrate 100 in '98". For more information please feel free to contact James Holland on 018 806 474.

Committee Phone Numbers

Some additional phone numbers for committee members inadvertently omitted from the last digest:

David Taplin	Home	83037883	James Holland	Home	8359291
	Fax	83735102		Fax	83735102
				Mobile	018806474
Peter Fairbotten	Fax	83888455	Brian Hannaford	Fax	83510773
David Cooper	Work	83634371			
	Fax	83633880			

Obituary

It is with sadness that we record the passing of the following old scholars:

Hugh Bray OAM RDA 1945

Ken Arnold RDA 1937

Memorabilia

The University welcomes gifts of memorabilia from Old Scholars and their families. They serve to illustrate the rich heritage of the Roseworthy Campus.

A recent example was a parcel sent to Glenn Uzzell, Campus Registrar from Mr Roger Blood of Gladstone, Queensland.

The memorabilia include a silver cup, a medallion and certificates awarded to Roseworthy College student, Henry Edward Laffer, who graduated in the year 1900 in the subjects of Agriculture, Viticulture, Fruit Culture, Winemaking, Elementary Science, Chemistry, Surveying and Bookkeeping. In 1897 he had won a Roseworthy scholarship for three years. Laffer joined the College staff as Assistant Viticulturist in 1902 and became Superintendent of the Vineyard and Orchard in 1907 and afterwards also was appointed Lecturer in Viticulture and Fruit Culture. He filled this dual role until 1915.

In 1918 Henry Laffer was appointed Viticultural Expert to the Government of New South Wales. In 1920 he left to join Penfolds Wines Pty Ltd in NSW. He was then closely involved with the establishment of the Wine Overseas Marketing Board, later known as the Australian Wine Board. From 1930 to 1949 he was the Australian Wine Board's representative in London.

Among his publications are: *The Pruning of the Vine*, Department of Agriculture, NSW, 1921; *Australian Wines-A Survey of the Wine Industry and Wine Growing Districts*, London, 1941; *The Wine Industry of Australia*, Australian Wine Board, Adelaide 1949. A bound copy of the 1941 publication is among the memorabilia received, as is a number of old photographs of the College, one of which is reproduced below.



Ed: If you do have old photographs and other memorabilia which you are prepared to donate please contact the Campus Registrar, Glenn Uzzell on 08 303 7402, Fax (08)83037106 or PMB I Glen Osmond SA 5064

Reminiscence Ross Solley

Ed: This is the fourth part of a series of memoirs written by Ross Solley who began at Roseworthy in 1955.

Ross continues

A sport I was able to achieve something was table tennis. Thus Peter Gratton and I soon worked out, that even though the actual competition was pathetic, it did mean you could "mingle" with girls from the other team. It wasn't the same as playing tennis with them on a hot summer's afternoon, this was far better being night time! Girls were a rarity at the College and this was a wonderful situation. While on this subject, I remember a comely lass in Gawler called Sally. She had practically every able bodied lad at College lusting after her and she led them all a merry dance. The profound shock that was felt when she had to marry a local jockey, whose physique resembled a riding crop, was monumental. She lost a few Brownie points and friends that day.

In those days, not many people had cars. Motor bikes were popular and massive organisation had to go into obtaining a partner for the College Ball. Coming up by train or on the back of a bike, was not entirely suitable for young ladies, even in the mid-fifties. A certain intimacy was lost when you had to fit 4 couples in a car. The lack of transport meant many weekends were "wasted" at College when one had so much more to do. It meant many a long night playing cards though in those days there was a 3d limit per bet. You didn't win much but again you didn't lose much.

The people who came from out of the State really suffered in this enforced isolation. however, they made their own fun. They had to do their own washing and when the copper was boiling we used to raid the Garden. I remember once, we had buckets of sweet corn, peeled them and put them with Big Tim Robinson's shirts etc. He objected to sweet corn bubbling around his washing, so we put some potatoes in to starch them. He gave up and joined in the feast. When the Sputnik made its appearance the boys phoned "The Advertiser" with some cock and bull story. Next day the paper said some sharp eyed fellows near Roseworthy had spotted a small red star shaped object following the satellite. Rather gullible!

One could not go past the various Trips you had to go on - River, Mid-North, South East etc. These usually took a week and were eagerly awaited by the students. At the

start of one we were lectured by our Principal on not taking alcohol. An hour later, a staff member's case fell off. On retrieving it, he had a problem as his shirts were awash with the contents of a broken bottle of whisky. It was decided to dry them in the bus which soon smelt like a mobile brewery!

On this trip Dr McCulloch (Principal) was intrigued by a large tunnel in the side of a large silage heap. On being told that sheep find some sweet silage and burrow in, he stooped down and peered in. Suddenly a large woolly wether, startled by this, charged out and knocked him backwards. I'm somewhat ashamed to tell you that we lay on the ground with him and laughed. He didn't. On another occasion at a land clearance demonstration, he talked some crawler drivers into proving which of their machines was the most powerful. A heavy chain was provided and the Doc climbed up a stump heap to supervise the tug of war. In the excitement, our Principal fell off. Again, we students collapsed.

A new piggery was built when I was there and one day I was assigned to paint the gutters etc on the new shed. Even then, going up ladders was not my strength but I set forth. I was doing well until I unhitched the tin of paint from the gutter on one side of the ladder and delicately passed it over my head to get to the other. Unfortunately I forget I was wearing my slouch hat, the can hit it, knocked my hat off and green paint went all over me. This was before "plastic paints" - it was not washable in water! It was in my hair, on the new shed and path. Not a pretty sight. I tried to find some turps and being alone ran back to College, hoping no-one would see me. Of course someone did and I again became a celebrity. Last time I visited the Piggery, the paint stains were still on the bitumen path. It was lucky the College didn't charge for hot water used in showers. This brings back another memory, that of carting coke for the kitchen. In this a group, equipped with large coal shovels, were sent to Roseworthy. There at the station was a railway wagon laden with coke, to be shovelled off, bagged and delivered to College. There was strong competition amongst the students to beat the "record" set yonks ago by some young tyros (it was probably a fabrication set up by past Principals to get the stuff in). We failed by hours - it was a task that could have been used against Hercules and was to be avoided at all costs.

A new Dairy was also built by the students and it provided one of my most unforgettable moments at the College. Rows of trees were planted and had to be watered in summer. I was wandering around with a hose as we had a surface water pipe with taps every so often running the length of the row. Just as I bent down to attach my hose to a tap, it suddenly jumped 3 feet sideways. I was stunned. It was most unusual behaviour even for a College tap. I moved sideways to it, bent down and it did the same thing again. I looked for a solution and found it. Some distance away, Melton Mowbray (a paragon of virtue, who had never set one foot wrong) had driven trailing disc harrows over the pipe. He thought they would run over it. They didn't and pulled the pipe into a series of S bends! The pipe didn't bust and it was decided to leave sleeping dogs lie. The tangle is probably still there.

The new Dairy brings to mind an unfortunate episode. When I was endeavouring to put the cups on a cow one hot day, it kept flicking its tail in my face. Exasperated, I tied the tail securely to a rail. With milking finished, I released the animal, it lurched forward and left behind its fly swatter. The herdsman could not fathom why a healthy cow should have lost its tail! I did not enlighten him. I recall once a cow trod on my rubber boot. I couldn't shift the animal and eventually managed to wriggle my foot out and left the boot standing. While I was absent attending to my wounds, a sympathetic student poured into it some liquid manure. I would have preferred salt as it would have been more pleasant.

I remember an episode with Viv Thompson outside the grain shed. We were unloading bags of wheat from a cart and being students, unloaded the bags from one side. Suddenly there was a terrible noise. We rushed out and the four wheeled cart had tilted sideways, throwing bags on the ground. The horses luckily didn't bolt. They just turned with the supreme indifference and looked at us, as if to say, "Idiots - couldn't you see that was going to happen". Horse teams were being phased out by 1956 and I never drove more than two horses at once - for which I give thanks. One could spell trouble as I found out when mowing hay. The mower blade suddenly jammed on, then cut through some old wire hidden in the grass. "Betty ", ever so lazy, pricked her ears and was off. The mower blade was doing 4 million revs/min as she belted across the paddock. However this sudden burst of activity didn't last and the usual listless gait soon followed. My pulse rate didn't slow as fast as Betty's.

We had on occasion to use riding hacks. Most of the fun was in trying to put a halter on one of these animals, it could take hours! It was exciting to bring the horses from an outlying paddock. A fast gallop was permissible and was an event to partake in, unlike coke duty! Some of the lads went crazy on rodeos. I remember Dick Maxwell rigged up a 44 gallon drum, put a saddle on it and hung it from 4 trees. If you could last more than 5 seconds with him swinging it, you had done well. Dick was from Meekatharra, was always yelling out "brumbies". He was unfortunately killed in an accident shortly after leaving College.

We had to produce a weed and insect collection at College. The weed one posed no problem, even the most gormless of students could find and press a weed, as they grew everywhere. With insects, it was a bit more challenging. These had to be purchased from those above you, carefully disguised and passed up. There was a problem in that those before you had bought theirs and some specimens had been around 10-20 years. The lecturer concerned had developed pet names for some of these and was delighted to dock you marks when they turned up. Obviously the best collections went to the highest bidder. Being destitute, as I was, had its affect in this aspect. It was a bit similar when we shifted into the "Corridor". It was a long narrow dormitory with single bed cubicles on either side. Trouble was, the original building had no ceilings in the rooms. Over the years, students had built ceilings for their comfort and when vacating, the newcomer had to pay for this initiative. With allowance for inflation etc., the minimum asking rate was \$10. This in 1957 was about equivalent of two and a half trips to the moon! I was duly installed without a ceiling in Room 7 and nights were spent waiting for rubbish,, water and clothing to be tossed over the wall. Being poor does have disadvantages. The toilet was outside and the urinal area did not have a roof! The weather played a large part in the functioning of the bladder. Consequently it was absolute luxury when we shifted into the new accommodation, in late 3rd Year. We were each given a room with a ceiling, cupboards and an inbuilt dressing table with a mirror! The toilets were inside and so were the showers. As Senior Students, we had arrived!

To be continued

Letters to the Editor

Dear Bardy, I graduated in RDA in 1937 (I think). I have not visited the College since the day Denis Muirhead and I were present when the plaque on the Swimming Pool to Claude Hay was officially blessed by Claude Hay's daughter who came from Queensland for the ceremony.

I had my own irrigation farm in the Deniliquin district which was sold in 1993 having purchased it in approximately 1949. An irrigation farm in this area in particular was becoming very difficult to manage and remain profitable. My family of four children have all shifted to Melbourne and established a real estate business. I have shifted to Sydney where I am now living a very enjoyable life in retirement by the sea.

I have lost touch with all those in my year at the College and if you are able without too much effort to give me a list of those still surviving I would be grateful. It is my intention at the moment to visit South Australia and RAC for the 100th year.

I was hoping that perhaps there will be a dinner for the 100th and that somebody will be able to contact the members of my year and then we can try and organise a trip over for the celebrations.

Regards, Michael Butler

Dear David, I thought that this might be useful for ROCA. I'm enjoying my lecturing at ANU, (Environmental Policy & Planning) and am always glad to be kept posted on Roseworthy fellows.

Warmest regards ... Lynette Liddle

Ed. Reproduced below is part of the text which appeared in the ANU campus newspaper.

The ANU's first Aboriginal science graduate, Lynette Liddle, received her degree at last month's conferring ceremonies. She graduated with a Master of Environmental Management and Development from the National Centre for Development Studies.

Ms Liddle was the first ANU student to receive the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship Award. She also won the Outstanding Woman of the Year Studying in a Non-traditional Area Award from the National Centre for Women.

Originally from a cattle station near Alice Springs, Ms Liddle is interested in agriculture and the issues facing rural farmers. The title of her master's thesis is "Communication between Scientists and Aboriginal Land Managers".

Last year she worked to improve understanding between farmers and Aboriginal people with a series of talks in rural NSW.



Lynette Liddle receiving her degree.

Dear Mr Cooper, I am writing to thank you and the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association for your sponsorship of the Old Scholars' Trophy for the best contribution to sport made by a Roseworthy Student, presented at the recent Graduation Dinner. It was a surprise and honour to be recognised through such an award.

As a former resident of the college, I have an affinity with some of the long held sporting traditions that are an integral part of Roseworthy College history but sadly lament some of the changes that have occurred recently with the loss of certain courses and the shrinking of the student population. As a positive step, we formed the Roseworthy Campus Sports Club in 1996 to bring together all the sporting bodies on campus, so as to provide organisational support and attract major sponsors to a united body. The intention was to reinforce the aspirations of sporting clubs on campus by providing the funding with which they could achieve their goals (and in so doing, turn a few dreams into realities). It is an exciting venture and I hope it serves to enhance the success and longevity of the various sporting clubs on campus.

My other contribution to campus sport has been through the rugby club, where I have had a close association over the past four years as both captain and coach. The club had an outstanding year in 1996 which was capped off with our first ever premiership victory. This has certainly raised our profile and ensured another strong team in 1997.

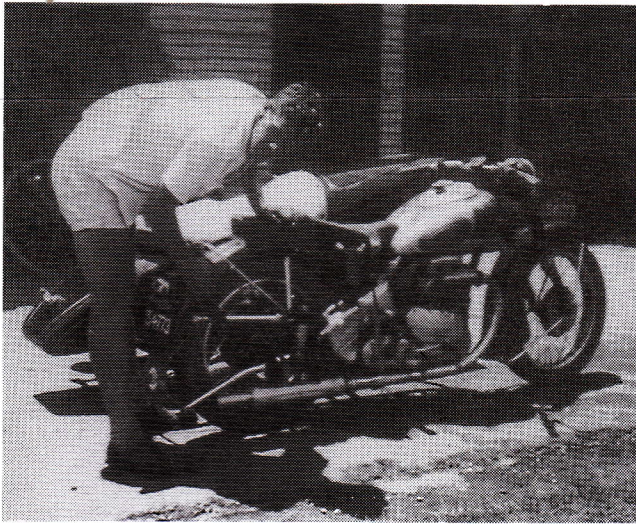
Letters to the Editor (Cont'd)

I have had great enjoyment and fulfilment from not only playing sport but also being a part of a larger identity - a part of college history. I am, however, concerned that these traditions have a future and only hope that our contribution

will enable future students to enjoy the same pleasures of sport and college life.

Through your award you are promoting that sense of history which I feel is so important and for that I thank you.

Yours sincerely David Sloane

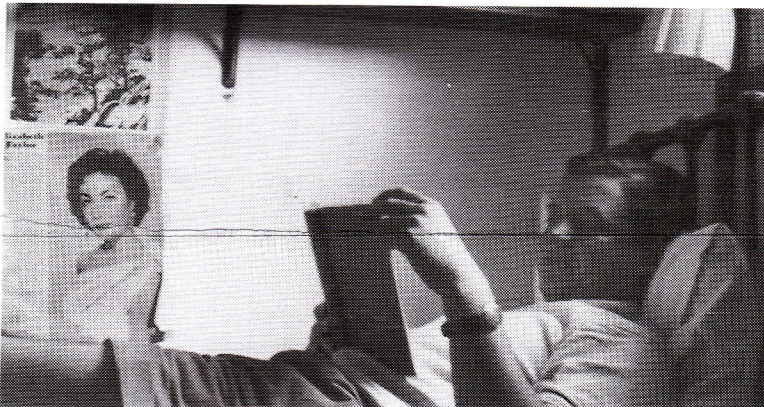


Student Malcolm Wright tinkering with his ariel square form outfit in front of the Rehab Huts - 1954

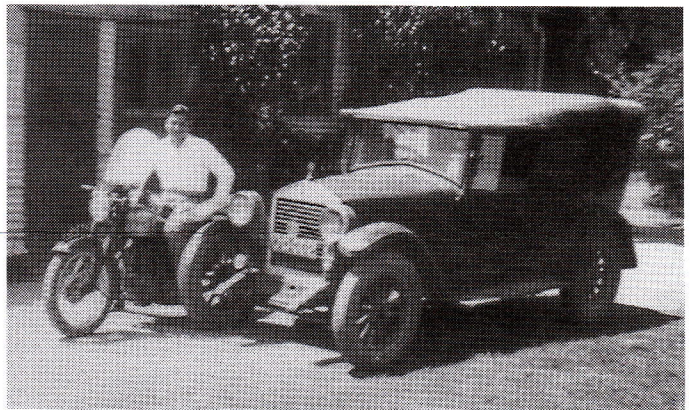


James Holland and Kath McGill at their wedding March 16 1997.

Photo courtesy of Tim Williams Photography



Student Ayham Subhi (Cypress) studying with Friends in Rehab Hut No 2 - 1954



Ayham Subhi astride his 350 BSA alongside Brian Hannaford's 1926 Essex Super Tourer

Ed: The photos of the Rehab students were kindly supplied by Brian Hannaford. Keep them coming.

Open Day

The University Open Day will be held at Roseworthy on Sunday 19th October 1997. It will cover work on both Roseworthy and the Waite Campuses. Further details can be obtained from the Campus Registrar on 8303402.

ROCA Members Badges

A limited number of san-pierced ROCA Badges are available from Andy Michaelmore for \$30 each. Andy can be contacted on 8336724 or write to 354 Glynburn Road Kensington Gardens 5068.

1997 Golf Day

Roseworthy Agricultural College Old Scholars v. Hawkesbury Agricultural College OBU South Australian Branch

Annual Golf Day and Get Together
at Gawler Golf Club
Williamstown Road Sandy Creek

The challenge will take place on Sunday **16 November 1997** and the aim of the day is for fellowship and to enjoy yourselves. We will need to field a team of at least ten (10) golfers, from ROCA (and likewise 10 from HAC) but you are welcome to invite a friend or two along and of course your partners and families.

Time - Lunch and limbering up 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm. Golf Tee Off 1:30 pm. For those not playing golf, you may wish to take in some local sights (the Barossa) during the afternoon and return around 6.00 pm to the clubhouse for drinks and presentations.

Trophy Assistance

We again seek your assistance if you can provide any trophies or prizes (e.g. company logo golf balls, bottles of wine or port, umbrellas etc) for presentation to the various category winners. It would be greatly appreciated. Please note this date in your diary now.

Entry Form

Please complete and return no later than 7 November 1997 to:

Barry Summer - 10 Athens Terrace Gawler 5118
Telephone: (08)85 224926
Kel Burke - 13 Rivett Road, Fulham Gardens SA 5024
Telephone (08) 8340 2411

Name Years at HAC/RAC
Circle College

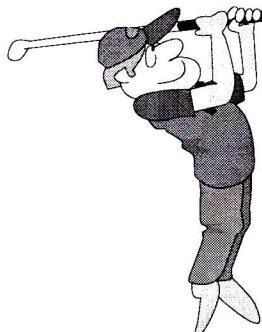
Golf Handicap Club

Do you need Golf Clubs: Yes/No *Please circle*

Visitors/Guests/Partners Names Handicap

BBQ Lunch, Desert, tea/coffee and golf People @ \$30 each
BBQ Lunch, Desert, tea/coffee and People @ \$10.00 each

New Golfers please note: You are most welcome to join us for a round of golf even if you do not play regularly or just enjoy a stroll around the course. Flat rubber soled shoes or designated golf shoes are necessary if you intend to play golf.



Ed. The convenors of the day are looking for support from old scholars by way of donations as prizes for the Annual Golf Day. If you are able to support the day please contact Barry Summer on 0885224926 or at 10 Athens Terrace, Gawler East 5108.

