



# R. O. C. A. DIGEST

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION

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EDITORIAL MATERIAL to:  
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Agricultural College,  
Roseworthy

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## A TRIBUTE TO A GREAT HELPER AND FRIEND

Mr. F.D. (Don) Stacy, a member of the R.O.C.A. Digest Committee and Editor of Publications with the Department of Agriculture died suddenly several weeks ago and R.O.C.A. lost a good friend and valuable helper.

Don, aged 57, collapsed while chairing a Rostrum Club mid-day meeting.

After 20 years in various clerical capacities Don became Acting Editor of the "Journal of Agriculture" in January 1943, and was largely responsible for developing and improving the Journal during the following 21 years.

Blessed with tolerance, ability, patience and an understanding of other peoples' thoughts and desires, Don will be sadly missed both in R.O.C.A. and the Department.

Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Stacy, and their two sons, two daughters and grandchildren.

As one of the original committee of management I know how much Don did towards getting the Digest into being, and how greatly in his debt R.O.C.A. members are for his help and guidance in this way was a labour of love.

F. B. PEARSON

## SWIMMING POOL APPEAL

This appeal has been brought to your attention by way of the "R.O.C.A. Digest", "The Student", "The Principal's Circular", the 1962/63 reunions and Gala Days at the College.

Thanks to the generosity of the public and some old Collegians who have sent along donations or supported the Gala days, the fund has topped £1200. The bulk of this amount has been raised at the Gala days which could not have been successful without a lot of hard work and sacrifice by all those good people who were responsible for the organisation and stocking of stalls, etc.

The South Australian Government has agreed to subsidise the venture, but some progress must be made and actual work on the pool done before subsidy can be claimed. Therefore, more money is needed to get on with the job.

Your committee wishes to directly identify R.O.C.A. with the project and believes that you, as old Collegians, would gain considerable satisfaction by supporting an appeal with that end in view.

Consequently, it has been decided to launch an appeal to all old Collegians to raise at least £1500 over the next two years. Present students are being levied £5 each per year to go towards the cost of the new Pool.

Old Collegians responded magnificently to an appeal for funds in connection with the Memorial Chapel and I am sure you will agree that we should support the Swimming Pool Appeal as much as we are able to.

The donation slip below tells you where to send your donation. It can be large or small, sent in a lump sum or by way of instalments according to your particular circumstances.

J.W. GILCHRIST  
President

C.W. Hooper,  
Hon. Treasurer,  
Agricultural College, Roseworthy, S.A.

Herewith please find £     /     /     , as a donation to the Swimming Pool Appeal.

Address { .....  
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RICHARD MAXWELL MEMORIAL PRIZE

The Richard Maxwell Memorial Prize was awarded this year for the first time on Speech Day. Richard "Dick" Maxwell commenced his course at Roseworthy in 1955 coming from Western Australia and during his course at College he displayed all the attributes of a fine stockman and sportsman. His affection for horses was a strong characteristic of his make-up.

As a result of a motor accident Dick's life was suddenly terminated and came as a great shock to his many friends who have sought to perpetuate his memory in establishing a prize, "For the third-year student who has exercised the best all round stock sense and ability as a stockman!"

Dick's mother and other close relatives from Western Australia were present at Speech Day for the first presentation of this memorial prize. Two of Dick's close College friends in Bob Latimer and Viv. Thomson were also present.

The prize was won by Ian Holman, who proved himself to be an outstanding student and stockman during his course at College.

REPORT ON EYRE PENINSULA BRANCH R.O.C.A.

The Eyre Peninsula Branch of R.O.C.A. held its 1964 Annual General Meeting and Dinner at the Great Northern Hotel, Port Lincoln, on 7th March, when 19 old collegians met to continue the successful run of these West Coast yearly functions.

As well as discussing the past and present, the evening was mainly concerned with the future of the College. This theme was promoted and assisted by having as the 1964 Guest Speaker, Mr. R.I. Herriot in whose hands now rests College responsibility, its prestige and future standing in Agriculture.

Mr. Herriot with his sincere determination and understanding, instilled confidence in all the old students present. The choice of Guest Speaker was most appropriate at this critical stage of College existence.

Ken Hayman and Des Habel in their vote of thanks to the Principal were wholehearted in supporting his aims to raise College status. Quoting "Bob obviously knows where he is going" and at least has the assurance that this branch is right behind his objectives.

Pat Marrie, toastmaster for the night, introduced the Branch President, Jack Ranford, who in turn welcomed Mr. Bob Herriot to our midst, together with visitors and all attending members. Particular mention was made of members who had travelled long distances or who had made sacrifices in an endeavour to make the reunion a success. The mileage involved in getting members to a suitable meeting place, is the big problem of the West Coast branch. John McFarlane from north of Whyalla took the prize for the longest local journey.

Bert Solly, a past president and oldest member of the branch has a very vivid memory of very little College machinery of his day having seats and students driving teams had to walk making the wet years of '09 - '10 very hard to put up with.

Bob Horne once again took the "oscar" for the tall story. It involved the throwing of a number of chooks into Room 26 in the Corridor. Mr. Herriot in commenting said that if it happened today, a quick check would be made and he guessed Bob Horne would soon "chicken out".

The only argument of the evening developed concerning which years had the most outstanding sportsman. Jack Ranford spoke at length on Nip Pellew's all round ability while Hamish Patterson lauded Norm McBain's prowess as a boxer.

The question of the next Annual General Meeting arose, and it was decided after much debating and showing of hands that Cowell would be the gathering point on - note well - February 27th, 1965. As usual we count on as many of the local branch members to be present as is possible to keep the function alive. We also hope that a number of "overseas" visitors will be able to attend as a bit of "outside blood" is always welcome.

Everyone has 12 months notice so that there is little excuse for non-attendance.

At the election of officers, Jack Ranford was re-appointed President, Pat Marrie Vice-President, Ian Newland and Peter Minard are on the committee with Des Habel as Secretary.

Colin Chillingworth, who has been joint secretary for several years, is expecting a move to Adelaide shortly, so did not seek re-election. Pat Marrie spoke highly of Col's efforts expressing the gratitude of the Branch.

All in attendance spoke favourably of the Digest and as a mark of appreciation, it was decided that the E.P. Branch of R.O.C.A. would contribute a sum of £8 to the Digest for its continuance.

and in recognition of its past fine service to members.

It was with sincere regret that we received the word of Don Stacy's death. He will be missed by old students, particularly those connected directly with him in the Department of Agriculture.

During the entire evening, the name of the late Worsely Johnston was heard on numerous occasions. This was extremely pleasing to the older members as he is one old collegian who really deserves continued recognition for his work in the 50's towards the success enjoyed by these Branch functions, past and present.

At the conclusion of the Reunion, an invitation was extended to those present and their families, to attend a chop picnic at Louth Bay the next day, to farewell the Principal, Mr. R. Herriot.

Members were then free to move around for a yarn until midnight. Pat Marrie was the last to go home.

### THE GRAPEVINE

The Annual Meeting and Reunion of the West Coast Branch of R.O.C.A. must have been very successful and enjoyable for all present judging by the report which is given in brief elsewhere in this issue of the Digest. I would like to thank those present for the generous donation given to help the Digest financially. Your contribution is much appreciated and very encouraging to the Digest Committee and myself.

Incidentally Colin Chillingworth who is mentioned several times in the report, started his course at College exactly 40 years ago.

The West Coast Branch wish to convey their best wishes to kindred branches and to all R.O.C.A. members in general.

An interesting article appeared in the Sunday Mail during January concerning one of R.O.C.A.'s older members, Mr. J.W. Aldridge, of Brighton. Mr. Aldridge has one of the best collections of pheasants in Australia which was originally started off by a dingo pup. The Adelaide Zoo were particularly interested in the pup which was exchanged for a pair of pheasants, and so the collection began. Now it consists of some 70 pheasants from which are produced dozens of chickens each year.

Besides pheasants Mr. Aldridge has hundreds of finches, budgies, canaries, doves, parrots, cockatoos and a pair of kookaburras. As well as these he breeds a rare type of midget silky Australian Terrier.

John Obst who was to have gone to Struan Research Centre is now stationed at Pandana on Kangaroo Island with Henry Day and Ken Holden.

Congratulations to Don and Diana Moyle of Keith, who announced the arrival of a daughter during mid May. This gives Don and Diana three sons, and at last a daughter.

Dick Ramsay has written from Tasmania saying that he is off to Japan and hopes to call in and see Charlie Tan and his wife while in Malaya. Dick is really going to make a holiday of it as he plans to see the Sydney Show, from there to Hong Kong via Malaya and then to Tokyo in time for the Olympic Games.

"Drew" Findlay is now back with us in South Australia and is managing Quondong Station which is one hundred miles north east of Burra, which is his postal address.

Keith Lawson has also returned to SA, and is living at Naracoorte for the time being. Keith is building a house in Bordertown and gives his address as Box 269, Bordertown.

All old students who were at College during Norm McKeown's period on the staff as Senior Lecturer in Agriculture between the years of 1948 and 1959, will be pleased to note that Norm has become an associate member of our association. He is keeping himself very busy at the University in Perth and is apparently taking quite an interest in swimming in which his daughter is excellent herself.

Ross Solly has shifted from Eudunda Area School where he has been for some years and is now teaching at Wudinna Area School on the West Coast. Ian Young, another of our teaching old scholars has shifted camp and is now Agriculture Master at Wolaroi College, Orange, in N.S.W. According to Ian the College is set in very pleasant surroundings on about 50 acres of land.

Trevor Dillon has transferred his activities (I believe work and social) to Western Australia.

Ron Suckwell called in at College one day while on holidays. Ron is studying at a Theological College in N.S.W.

John Bartlam who was married in Sydney during January is now living in Adelaide. He has been seen about the College on several occasions since the College invested in a David Brown tractor; John is working for this firm.

Harry Stephen reports that Denis Muirhead will be in Adelaide about show time and hopes to be at the Reunion.

It was with deepest regret hearing of the passing on of recent graduate Robert "Rob" Bennett who died in hospital only two days before he was to have been married on 25th April. Rob graduated in 1961 and worked as a journalist with the "Chronicle." Someday we will understand why at such a young age (23 years) his life had to be terminated.

#### COLLEGE CHATTER

Once again we can report several changes on the staff front. Geoff Norman has left his position in the Dairy and Piggery section to take up a job in Tasmania with the Government there. Geoff will be missed on the staff here at College as he was a very active member not only in the Dairy section but also in the sporting field and the community of the district as a whole.

Doug Parry has been appointed lecturer in Chemistry. Doug is a graduate of the Melbourne University and was teaching with the Victorian Education Department in Western Victoria before coming to College.

I feel sure that all old Collegians will join with me in congratulating Rex Krause on having been awarded the Farrer Memorial Research Scholarship. Rex leaves in July with his family and will spend one year at the Washington State University, Pullman, where he will do advanced studies in wheat breeding and allied subjects.

Nick Hutchins, assistant Horticulturist, was married to Rosemary Gosse-Hay in April. Nick and Rosemary are at the moment living in Gawler but we hope to see them join the College community in the near future.

Intercollegiate Rifle and Tennis competitions will be held at Roseworthy this year commencing on 10th August. If any old collegians think that they may be visiting the College during these competitions and feel that they could help with tennis umpiring their assistance would be greatly appreciated. For further details on this matter would you please contact Ross Ford, Tennis Manager, at the College.

Football is well into swing again with only two matches remaining in the first round. As mentioned in the previous issue of the Digest the College teams are back into the Gawler Association. The 'A' team have won 2 out of the 5 matches played, and as yet Brian Evans' 'B' team are undefeated. The odd scattering of ex-league players amongst the other 'A' grade sides is making the going hard for the College team. However they have by no means been disgraced in any match.

#### R.D.T.A. NOTES

The Annual Reunion and Dinner will be held at the Oriental Hotel on Wednesday, 10th June at 6.00 p.m. As many members as possible are asked to make every effort to attend. An interesting guest speaker is being arranged. Please notify Robin Steed, phone 79.5872 by at least one week beforehand of your intention to be present, so that dinners can be booked.

A short course at R.A.C. for Dairy Factory Operatives was concluded in April. This course marked a positive step by the Dairy Education Committee towards improving the standard not only of the factory operatives of this state, but ultimately the dairy products as well. The course provided four weeks of lecturing and demonstrating, and a final week of exams.

One week was given to each of Testing, Grading, Cheesemaking, and Buttermaking. A pass at the final exam was regarded by the Department of Agriculture as a pass in the theoretical aspect of a certificate in that particular subject. 13 students attended the course.

Some interesting comments come from David Wilson who is an Agricultural Officer with the Tasmanian Government. Dave was stationed at Flinders Island when these notes were made, but is now at Oaklands, Tasmania. (Please excuse the editing Dave.)

Flinders Island is one of the Furneaux Group in Bass Strait. Development on this island has mainly occurred since 1954. Soldier settlement schemes have developed much of the land, and facilities for farming are as good as the mainland. The average rainfall is from 28-35 inches, frosts are rare, but westerly winds may blow for days. There are 170 farms (65 soldier settlements) with the main emphasis being on sheep and beef. 10,000 beef cattle are run, 2,000 dairy cows, and 87,000 sheep. (average cut 11 lbs.) Corriedale is the predominate sheep and Angus the cattle.

Marketing costs are a problem; sheep may cost 25/- per head to sell on the mainland, while £7 is spent to get a steer to market. Land values vary from £1 to £3 per acre for undeveloped areas, up to £35 per acre for well established pasture. 19 major soil types have been classified, each requiring different management. Phosphate and Potassium are major deficiencies, with Cobalt and Lime also required.

White-mark is the capital, 98 air miles from Launceston. Wild flowers, beautiful beaches, and green paddocks set in a silver sea make this island particularly beautiful.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In a letter to the Editor an Old Collegian raised some points which could be of interest to other old students who may have some feelings about the points raised in the letter received.

### Quoting from the Letter:

"R.O.C.A. should harness their enthusiasm more directly to the College. To coin a popular phrase 'It is time for a change'".

R.O.C.A. was founded to bind Old Collegians together and had no voice in College administration. We can only express a view if it is considered by the R.O.C.A. Committee that a certain proposal in Administration will be to the detriment of the College. Most likely in such a case the change will be in force before Old Collegians have knowledge of it.

Administrators of any business cannot be harried by any outside body; they are appointed to make a verdict which they consider will be most beneficial.

The letter mentions the proposed one or two year course which was discussed fully several years ago. This idea may have been as you stated "enthusiastically greeted by the Students." I can assure you that it was strenuously opposed by many Old Collegians and it was one case when your Committee asked permission to express their views to the Council. The value of the Roseworthy Diploma is based (against other Agricultural College Diplomas) on the practical background received by graduates. Such a proposed scheme lowers it to the level of agricultural instruction in High Schools. As one Staff member said at that time:

"Take one cow, one pig and one sheep and move the College to the Parklands."

Despite the above the whole idea of Agricultural College education is being fully discussed and investigated at the present time by all Colleges, and the next few years can probably see some drastic changes. The Council will decide, under the Minister of Agriculture, just what form of instruction is best for the State.

You say: "What does the outside know about Roseworthy College"  
More publicity would correct a lot of people's ideas".

I ask: "Did you attend the Open House held 15 months ago? Did you attend the Gala Day and Inspection of working sections held 9 months ago?"

If you did attend did you bring with you a group of those people who did not know anything about the College and its activities?

Did you know that during the past few months more bus loads of visitors have been through the College than ever before? Did you notice that both the above days were advertised over the air and included in the television news following the event?

For the 1964 scholastic year applications for admission were far in excess of our possible intake. Only two interstate students were admitted and educational requirements for entrance was the Leaving Standard. So your query re. alteration to the course can come up, most likely in another form. Higher scholastic standard for admission therefore raises the standard of the course. More applicants than we can handle; if these are admitted more accommodation and more staff. These are the points which the Council and Principal must decide.

REMINDER

Keep Saturday, September the 5th free for the Annual General Meeting and Dinner. Tom Gepp will be organising the 25-year group and Don Winn the 10-year group. Further details will be given in the next issue of "R. O. C. A. Digest."

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R.O.C.A. DIGEST



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