



R. O. C. A. DIGEST

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION

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Roseworthy, S.A. 5371

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EDITOR'S PAGE

Another year is almost past as far as the Association is concerned, with the Annual General Meeting and Reunion less than a month away. In recent years the Reunion has been extremely well attended and a great success. Attendances at the A.G.M. however have been very few compared with the Reunion.

This year, as has been the case during the last two years, the A.G.M. and Reunion will be held in the same building which has in the past resulted in an increased attendance at the former function, but still only a relatively small percentage of those who attend the Reunion Dinner.

Many who do attend the dinner only, have valid excuses for not being at the A.G.M., but there are possibly others who could be in attendance but just do not bother. I feel sure that it would be a great encouragement to your committee to see more present and join in discussions and add to the meeting.

This is your Association and as such a greater participation by members should take place at the business session.

* * *

If you are unable to attend the Annual General Meeting you are still urged to return the nomination form for members of the 1968-1969 committee by the due date, August 30th.

* * *

At a recent committee meeting, members expressed their desire to see a larger number of Associate members along on September 7th, and take part in this annual function. Many of these members of our association have spent some time at the College on the staff and their attendance would be welcomed by all.

* * *

1968 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of R.O.C.A. will be held on Saturday, 7th September, 1968 starting at 5.00 p.m. at the Richmond Hotel, Rundle Street, Adelaide.

The Agenda:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| (1) President's Report | (5) Diplomates Honour Roll at the College |
| (2) Treasurer's Report | (6) Social Function Alternatives |
| (3) Digest Report | (7) Any other business |
| (4) Australian Diplomates Association | (8) Election of Officers. |

Nominations must be returned to the Secretary by 30th August, 1968.

	<u>Present Holder:</u>	
Immediate Past President	J. GORE	H. V. STEPHEN (No nomination required)
Vice-President	R. NORTON	_____
Hon. Secretary	J. GURSANSKY	_____
Hon. Treasurer	C. W. HOOPER	_____
Member Graduating last year	B. WIGNEY	_____
Member Graduating 1-10 years ago	R. FEWSTER	_____
Four Ordinary Committee Members	R. FORD	_____
	W. EDGE	_____
	R. RYAN	_____
	G. ROE	_____
Hon. Auditor	B. C. PHILP	_____

**A MESSAGE ABOUT RURAL VALUATION
FROM ONE OLD COLLEGIAN TO ANOTHER**

Dear Old Collegian,

I wonder whether you are aware that there is an acute shortage of qualified Rural Valuers throughout Australia and that the qualification of Diploma of Agriculture constitutes ideal basic training for this profession. The work is both interesting and challenging and the variety encountered in this occupation is stimulating.

If you should be interested in the idea of becoming a rural valuer, I would be pleased to assist you toward that goal.

Yours sincerely,

S. E. Whicker, D.D.A.

(Member of Staff R.A.C. Stock Branch 1928-37)
President, S.A. Division of Commonwealth Institute of Valuers.

Address: 259 Shepherds Hill Road, EDEN HILLS, S. Aust. 5050 Tel: Office hours 50 2359
Private 78 1122

1968 REUNION

The 1968 Reunion will be held on Saturday, 7th September, 1968 at the Richmond Hotel, Rundle Street, Adelaide. The dinner to start at 6.45 p.m.

The sum of three dollars (\$3.00) must be sent to the Treasurer before 31st August to ensure a place at the Reunion. Catering and service to others is difficult and inconvenient for members not catered for so **please** help us to help you by paying by the due date.

The 25 year ago group will be organised by BOB BAKER and the 10 year ago group by JOHN GOODE.

Accommodation is becoming more difficult each year so send your money early.

FILL IN AND RETURN TO TREASURER BEFORE 31st August, 1968:

Mr C. W. Hooper,
Agricultural College,
ROSEWORTHY, S. Aust. 5371

* I will/will not be present at the 1968 Reunion on Saturday, 2nd September, 1968. Please find enclosed \$3.00 to cover the cost of the dinner.

* I do require a receipt.

(*Strike out as required)

_____ (print name)

_____ (address)

OENOLOGY NEWSLETTER – by Phil Tummel

I have been rather reluctant to continue the R.D.O. notes since the complete failure to organise a Society of Oenologists in Australia. It goes to show that enthusiasm does not mean a thing if not accompanied with straight out work.

Our well overdue congratulations to Brian Barry (Technical Manager, Berri Co-op Winery) on his desertion of Bachelor-hood. Dickson Morris has come out of retirement and is now winemaker at Quelltaler, Watervale.

Pity no society of Oenologists because it is a great thing to realise if one has problems there is an experienced R.D.O. in practically every major winery in Australia, and each one (I would be very disappointed if otherwise) is willing to help in each other's problems.

I visited the College last Sunday and after viewing new Engineering and Science Blocks, it is about time they gave the wine boys an advancement. Good on you, Bob Baker.

The College on Sunday – I saw one student, sorry three, two were on penalty, otherwise the place was dead, not like the good old days when beautiful girls, Colin Leitch, and bronzed athletes strode throughout the grounds.

I hope to see a big gathering of Oenologists at the Annual Dinner.

R.D.T.A. NOTES – from Brian Hannaford

The annual picnic and barbecue will be held on Sunday, December 1st, 1968 (please note in diaries). The venue has not been decided and final arrangements are in the hands of Mesdames Steed and Hannaford.

R.D.T.A. NOTES – continued**1968 Dairy Factory Manager's Conference**

Old scholars were prominent in this year's conference. Michael Lucey did a very capable job as President, assisted by Eddie Van Hooff Senior, Vice-president. Tom Bartholomew (Cobden, Victoria) and Ken Buckley gave excellent papers which stimulated some good discussion.

Others seen at the conference were Gordon Pallant, Ian Waugh, Bob McMahon and Geoff Norman.

Mechanisation

As forecast in the last issue the first piece of mechanised cheese equipment has been installed in a South Australian cheese factory.

Naturally the factory is managed by an old scholar and it is pleasing to see Bob McMahon of Glencoe Co-op. show the way. Bob will welcome all visitors to his factory as the signs on the highway forecast.

LADIES' NIGHT, R.O.C.A. PORT LINCOLN, FEBRUARY 1968

Having given the boys their instructions for the night, and having thought they would be adhered to, the girls arrived at the Tasman Hotel where they met Mrs Macaulay, wife of the guest speaker for the boys dinner. Like girls everywhere, the appointed time of meeting was stretched a little to their convenience.

Once gathered the gossip started, it's twelve months since some of them met, but everyone was brought up to date in no time.

The dining table was set under the Tasman's well known mermaids in the dining room which set the mood for the evening. The excellent choice of food and large wine list was sorted out, and the girls settled down to enjoy themselves.

Tina – seen on T.V. at Tunarama – soon found herself a dancing partner, not Barry, he was with the boys. A Cowell gentleman proved a suitable partner for several of the other girls as the lights on the floor were dimmed.

Later in the evening the girls were honoured by the presence for a short while of the dashing Secretary of the Eyre Peninsula Branch, who assured them that all the boys were behaving well.

As the evening drew on, no one wanted to leave, but someone mentioned that the boys were still at the Northern, so having parted rather easily with their husband's money, they rallied together to make a combined assault on the Northern and take their not too willing spouses home in preparation for the barbecue next day.

Some wives found hostility from the boys at the thought of going home and had difficulty, the boys were enjoying themselves, but by various and devious means eventually succeeded.

Those present were:–

Miss Tina Stace

Mesdames:	Hodge	Mesdames:	Hull
	Stirling		Harvey
	Horne		Alcock
	Rogers		Daniels
	Day		Hayman
	Tuckwell		Habel
	Southwood		Dunne
	Ritchie		Lawes

THE NEW CHUM'S DIARY – by "Scavenger"
(from "Student" Magazine 1904)

The following are the contents of a leaf of a diary found in rubbish heap at the back of the College buildings:

April 21 – Got into train at Adelaide; journeyed to Roseworthy. Got a ride out to College in milk-cart, or pagnell, I believe, is the toffy name for it here. Took with us College supplies – a case of jam and bag of spuds. Cheers rent the air as we drew up at the steps, and a ragged whiskery crowd gathered round. (I thought the cheer was mine, so puffed out my chest and looked important, but found out afterwards it was the "welcome home" of a new case of jam.) Saw a lot of chaps smoking in reading room. Rushed in and gave "knit" when I saw a master coming. They grinned, and, receiving a nasty knock on the head from behind with a rope quoit, I decamped. Crept off to bed at last not feeling too gleeful.

April 22 – Heard a great ringing of bells at about midnight last night. Rushed into the corridor shouting "Fire!" and ran into the arms of a "cove" swinging a bullock bell as if his life depended on it. Begged his pardon and went slowly back to my room firmly resolved that I would see the house in ashes before I got my wind knocked out with a bell again. Found out that the bell was the "get up" signal, so I hurriedly slipped into a brand new set of moles and blucher boots and ran downstairs. It was a cold winter's morning. "First out!" I muttered to myself while my teeth rattled to the time of Cock O' the North. Sat on some stone steps for half an hour. Another bell rang. I followed another "new chum" into breakfast. Went out to work.

April 23 – Had a bad night. Dragged out of bed and out of room by string attached to my big toe. "Toe lining" they term it here. Bloke sold me a big book for five bob. Thought I'd made a good bargain till I was offered a similar book for 1/–.

April 24 – Went out to work again. Chased a funny little machine tied on to five horses with chains. It's just like a magnificent gridiron with spikes sticking into the ground to keep it from going too fast; harriz I think they call it.

April 25 – Glee Club organised. The playing of "Romeo and Juliet" brought forth roars of applause – and laughter. Went to Gawler on bike; chased by a bobby for riding without a light; escaped. Had a good look around Gawler in the dark. Couldn't see much, but thought a lot from what I saw.

April 26 – Went to church on a trolley with some long stools across it. Dodged the complexion plate.

April 27 – Twiggged a bobby on a horse in front of the College. I thought of my bike lamp and "mooched". Undue agitation caused by introduction of alarm clocks into lecture room for the purpose of waking up sleepy members of the class. Raided the kitchen in the night. Discovered two cold chops, a gnawed leg of mutton, a tin of plum jam, and a square foot of pastry. They were not to be found next morning.

April 28 – One of the chaps nearly scalped through trying to brush his hair with patent foot-powder bottle-washer.

April 29 – Cleaned out back room at request of third year students. I was told this is the work of every new student. On stables today. Set my alarm for 4:30 a.m. Bell rang, and I crawled out of bed and fed the horses, and on coming back found the time was 2.00 a.m. The hands of my clock must have slipped forward.

April 30 – Accidentally burned down a barn today. The fire brigade bolted. Lost a trouser leg during a hot encounter with a vicious pig with piglets.

Never go there any more !

(End of leaf)

COLLEGE CHATTER – by Cliff Hooper

What a change from mid-July 12 months ago – at the time of writing, less than half the seeding done and wondering what tractor will be bogged next. We are probably more backward with seeding than most as Ray Norton has been trying for that weed kill before sowing.

With dry sown barley running up to head and a couple of paddocks of oats not far behind it must be a big year for silage making. Soursobs have made their best growth for years, with the usual worry in the sheep section.

COLLEGE CHATTER – continued

The newly constructed laboratories are gradually coming into use as Chemistry, Plant Breeder and Animal Sections slowly move into residence. They are rather imposing and well worth that promised visit.

In addition the remodelling of the wine cellars will shortly commence, another new building at the piggery and a new shed at poultry are bringing the buildings more up to date.

It was mentioned previously that College student numbers were to be increased to about 170 – preliminary discussions are taking place about this and more news should be available shortly.

We will be only showing beef cattled at the Adelaide Royal – Alain Chartier is having a spell. I have quite a handy young bull and a good average team – so I hope for a ticket or two.

Sorry that the Mulga wireless gave the wrong news about the football team – the A's seem as though they cannot just make it. However the B's are showing steady improvement and with any luck could be in the finals.

Staff appointments

John Nicolson (B.Ag.Sc.) has been appointed Temporary Senior Lecturer in Chemistry. He had four years with the Soil Conservation Branch in the Department of Agriculture and is now completing his Ph.D. at the Waite Institute.

Andrejs Becis has been appointed Laboratory Assistant at the Chemistry Laboratory.

PHILPYS MEMOIRS

As you remember, we left Junior Philp newly initiated with a raw spot on the upper surface of his nose. We would have found him the following morning performing one of the old perennials – encouraging the fowls from the perch at 4.00 a.m. with kerosene bucket and stick; crowing from the top of the pine tree by the corridor, or perhaps cleaning the pig's teeth prior to its breakfast of kitchen swill from the rickshaw-cum-pig bucket.

Professor Colebatch (Coley) was away from College from 1923 to approx.'27, being appointed to the South-Eastern Drainage Commission. "Bulldog" Pritchard was Acting Principal. At this time too apparently there was a student "Kidman Cox" whose father was an Indian Army Officer. Young Kidman was a dab hand with the brush as well as being a "real character" and one day proceeded to decorate one complete wall of the companion room, now the billiard room, with a caricature of another friend of ours, Bill Fairlie. Done in charcoal it was a masterpiece, but "Bulldog" didn't quite appreciate its artistic worth, and assigned the budding artist to a repaint job on the common room.

Art and artistes were abounding around this time and although they never inhabited the Left Bank they did perform on the banks of Coopers Dam. An orchestra was formed, led by one of the stewards on piano, with various students manning "cornet", clarinet and a big trombone". It was an orchestra of some class, as was the whole performance. The comedian of the group was an Ike Liedemann from W.A.

Somehow in my discussion with Philpy, the subject of the erection of the tower silos came up. They were built by two Richardson brothers – One, the boss, earning approximately \$3 a day and keep, his brother, a laborer receiving \$1.90 and keep and Jack Daly who worked beside the laborer getting 94 cents a day. A photograph came to light recently, taken while these silos were under construction. Much of the cement was wheeled up a plank and poured into the mould, a very risky business. Bert Nourse of the old Workshop fame came to the rescue by rigging a block and tackle. Without it Jack and his well-paid friends would have started up the plank somewhere near Graingers Road before they were finished.

These modern units were built to supersede brick-lined pit silos situated west of the tower silos. These pits were not drained and about 12 or 14 feet deep. One can imagine why Philpy says that anyone working in them wasn't allowed in the college buildings. The material was forked in and forked out except for the juice, I guess. The rim of these pits is still apparent today.

Mr Pritchard, going back to the earlier days was considered a good administrator and his handling of college affairs in the absence of Colebatch, brought favourable comments in Parliament at the time from a Mr Robinson, M.P., father of one of the students, Hugh Robinson of S.E. land development fame.

In 1923 or 1924 there were a few motor bikes owned by students, and a large assortment of push bikes. Philpy used a treadle machine to propel him to the Roseworthy station. At one time

he was about to mount it when a student, by the name of Dunn who had just missed the Football drag, leapt on it, caught the team half-way to Gawler, leaving young Snow the well known "Schanks' pony".

It was in this era, that Rations were issued to staff, the conditions of employment being Salary, House, Fuel and Rations. No matter the size of the family, each staff member received the same amount: 7 lb potatoes, flour, sugar, tea, Tapioca, Sago or Rice, Meat 3 times a week, Vegetables and 7 tons of firewood a year.

Before Philpy's family arrived, I imagine he used to set up a roadside stall to get rid of the tapioca, sago or rice, as apparently some of the amounts were overwhelming. This ration probably set the limit on family size, when there was nothing left over the family was large enough. Of course Philpy's appetite limited him to three.

Board at the time was free for single staff and laundry was thrown in for good measure. Some of the houses were very rough, having no damp course, etc. Fred Hillman's house in the now East 7 was another staff house which was no mansion. Another was situated where the entrance to the piggery is now and although condemned used to suffice as farm workmen's home.

THE GRAPEVINE

Congratulations to Frank Pearson who was awarded the O.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours List during June. I am sure that all members of the Association who know Frank will agree that he is a very worthy recipient of this award as he has done a tremendous amount of work, not only in the agricultural field but in other fields.

Another of our members to be in the headlines recently is Bruce Eastick, who has been elected Mayor of Gawler. Bruce has been extremely active in community work in Gawler and we congratulate him on his recent election win.

Peter Mowatt who recently shifted to Jamestown, has indicated that he is interested in forming a branch of ROCA in this area. Peter will be contacting Old Scholars in the district in the near future to get such a branch under way. Peter has taken over Bruce Hall's District Agricultural Advisor position. Bruce has shifted back to Loxton and is working for a fertiliser company.

Trevor Willison who shifted to Western Australia 18 months ago, now gives his address as "Burra Burra, Darkan, W.A. 6392". Trevor spent two seasons contract super spreading with Jack Woodhouse at Esperance. Earlier this year they were joined by Colin Turner. Trevor is at present managing a property which has only been developed over the past three years. The oldest of the pastures is in its third season and is carrying three young wethers per acre. This stocking rate will be increased over the next two years to approximately five wethers per acre or the equivalent.

Jim Hughes who recently left the Department of Agriculture, is now working at the Kimberley Research Station, Kununurra, W.A. Jim Laffer is also living in Western Australia and gives his address as Box 46, Kellerberrin.

John Hardy called in at the College during June while on holidays from Chile. He has travelled via England where he purchased some Herefords and Suffolks to go to Chile. John has been in Chile for three years and gives his address as Fundo Sanbuis, Casissay, Allipen. John's position in Chile is a Farm Administrator and is also an Animal Husbandry Advisor for a group of farmers. He did mention Mick Frost's marriage in Spain later this year. Also that Jim Breakwell was in South America with the World Bank.

Neil Stanley is working as a Stock Inspector with the Northern Territory Administration and gives his address as Animal Industry Branch, Northern Territory Administration, Darwin.

Jon Lawton has recently purchased a property in N.S.W. in partnership with his father. The property consists of 1600 acres with a two mile frontage to the GWYDIR River. Most of the land is at present uncleared but the property was carrying an ewe to the acre on the natural vegetation. Jon has at present fifty head of cattle on the property plus a few lambs for fattening. He gives his address as "Beverley" Bondarra, N.S.W. 2359.

Mick Harwood has left the Lands Department and is now an Inspector for the Department of Agriculture at Berri.

Dick Flower shifted from Mt Barker earlier this year and is now teaching at Urrbrae. Dick is on a Half Time Release Scholarship from the Education Department so that he can complete his B.A. this year.

In the matrimonial field, the following engagements and births have been noted:

ENGAGEMENTS: Allan Hoey Kelvin Westbrook.

THE GRAPEVINE – continued

BIRTHS: Dick Flower – a son; Bill & Liz McGown – a son; Bob & Jenny Jeffery – a daughter; Jan & Bill Magarey – a daughter; Brian & Anne Merrigan – a daughter.

It is with regret that we note the death of one of our members, Mr Malcolm Hunter, who died on the 20th May.

ROSEWORTHY YOUNGER SET have planned to hold a Cabaret on September 6th. At the time of going to press details of the time and place were not available, but further enquiries could be made to either Bill Watson or Mark Babidge.

STATUE TO RIDLEY

(from "Student" Magazine 1906)

The committee has had under consideration for some time the celebration of the 25th year of existence of the College, which will take place in February, 1907. As our College was the first institution of its kind established in Australia, it was thought that a festival might be held to commemorate the occasion. With this idea, and prompted by a suggestion from Professor Perkins, it has been decided to erect a statue at the College to the memory of Ridley, the original inventor of the reaping machine, and unveil it on that occasion. Mr Ridley, by this machine, made farming easy and practicable under trying conditions, and for the first half century of our State made it possible for farming to be carried on in a large way, and for us to build up a big grain trade, and to make Australia known to the world as the finest wheat producers in existence. All Mr Ridley's work was done without reward, for he handed his invention down to posterity without taking out a patent for it. He is dead now, but his works live after him. It redounds to his credit that the same principle, with very little detail alteration, forms the most important part of the now popular complete harvester.

It is most fitting that the College and old students who have been trained to the highest class of agriculture, should be the movers in recognising the services of one who has done so much for South Australia.

We expect that all old students will give something towards the fund. The Agricultural Council and the Bureau are interesting themselves in the matter, and we intend to solicit subscriptions from all farmers and those in the city who are more or less connected with the farming industry.

POINT PEARCE MISSION STATION

Point Pearce Mission Station, which is approximately 13 miles south-west of Maitland, is to hold its first Field Day and Open Day on Monday, September 2nd.

This will be the first field day ever held at Point Pearce and possibly the first to be held on any Aboriginal Mission station in South Australia.

Out of a total area of 13,600 acres there are some 4,500 acres in crop, and with the good rains that we've had some of them are all reported to be looking really magnificent. Not only are they well grown, green and dense, but the people at the station have done a very good job of preparing the land and seeding it down.

As with the crops, so with the pastures. They are well grown, dense, and prolific in their growth.

The Mission station is meeting an important need – it is doing a very good job and the aboriginal people there have a wonderful show this year – and they would like to see people attend to see what they can do.

It will give them a big lift to have people show an interest, and will certainly surprise those people who do not know what this Station can do.

The Station will be open for inspection at 10.00 a.m., and it is planned to put on a barbecue lunch before the Field Day is opened by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs – Mr Millhouse, M.P., at 1.00 p.m.

Members who can get away from their normal work on Monday, September 2nd, are urged to attend this Field Day and Open Day.