



R. O. C. A. DIGEST

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

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F. B. Pearson
W. S. Edge
R. S. Norton
J. Ryan

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FROM THE PRESIDENT – Ray Norton

As a body of men, with a common background of education; a strong bond with the leading agricultural college in Australia; as well as the interest of agriculture in general at heart, the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association has a lot to offer, not just to other graduates in succeeding years, but to the community.

It is my belief, that of latter years this Association has tended to exist for itself alone. It has been a gradual drift to a situation through circumstances in some spheres, outside the control of members. We offer a scholarship, but there are not any takers because so many better ones are available; we would work for "the swimming pool" but unless this is commenced and people see something for their money, donations will be light and enthusiasm lacking. Both these projects are however, directly concerned with the college itself. Why not work beyond the College and the Association?

A look at our assets will show a state wide membership with the type of person, who by his chosen vocation must have ability for organisation and because agriculture is a collective state enterprise, all with an interest in the progress of all sections of the rural community.

With these qualities at our disposal, we as an Association could easily put them to work.

To this end, at the Annual General Meeting, I moved that the Committee for 1968 be empowered to look into the possibility of R.O.C.A. developing a scheme to foster an interest in agricultural education among aboriginal youths in our community. As President of your Association I have now therefore the opportunity to initiate some investigation and the sanction of the members at the A.G.M., for the committee to act on it during the current year. I envisage this scheme aimed ultimately at having an aboriginal youth one day leave Roseworthy with a Diploma and perhaps, if he so desires, to work with it among Aboriginal communities in an attempt to further train others.

The sub-committee now elected consists of Ross Ford, Andy Michelmore and myself. We have Roger Inglis elected as a representative of this Committee in the Upper Murray area, but would welcome a person with whom we could work in the South East and West Coast. I trust members will give it some thought.

If in the first few years, we as a body only encouraged youths to attempt another grade; aim at an Urrbrae Certificate, or complete an Area School training we would be helping to take the Aboriginal cause a step in the right direction. It is to be hoped that all branches of R.O.C.A. would see fit to establish a small committee with whom we from the parent body can work.

A scheme of this sort would have a three fold purpose. Not only would the underprivileged youths of this section of our community be assisted, but it would give our Association an outward look and a quiet publicity which could do nothing but create goodwill.

POSITIONS FOR DIPLOMATES

The Department of Agriculture is seeking Roseworthy College Diplomates for appointment to a number of positions in the Department.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The positions available are in the Dairy, Animal Health, Agronomy, Soils, Horticulture and Research Centres Branches, and cover both extension and research activities.

LOCATION

Successful applicants would be based at Adelaide, Northfield or at a country centre, depending on the nature of the work.

ENQUIRIES

Any Diplomates interested in any of the Branches mentioned above and who wishes to obtain a position in the Department should contact:

Mr D. E. Packer (Personnel Officer)
 Department of Agriculture,
 133 Gawler Place,
 ADELAIDE, S.AUST. 5000 (Telephone 28 3029)

He will be pleased to supply further information regarding salaries and specific details of the work available.

ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

144 Members attended a very successful dinner again this year. Guests included the Director of Agriculture (a member of the Award of Merit Selection Committee), Sandy Haywood (who received the Award on behalf of Denis Muirhead) and Pop Inglis (who has recently retired from the farm staff).

The notable year groups were well represented with the 25 year group ably lead by Bob Baker and the 10 year group by Jack Goode.

The "old" brigade seems to be getting stronger each year with the notables in this group being Roy Richardson (1899-1902), J. W. Aldridge (1904-07), Stewart Bruce (?), Ed Clarke (1905-08), Rowland Hill (1909-12). It's very good to see their interest and activity.

The committee would appreciate any suggestions for improvements to our annual reunion and make it even more successful.

1968-69 R.O.C.A. COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Ray Norton
PAST PRESIDENT	Harry Stephen
VICE-PRESIDENT	Ross Ford
SECRETARY	John Cursansky
TREASURER	Cliff Hooper
MEMBER GRADUATING LAST YEAR	Trevor March
1 - 10 YEAR GROUP	Gavin Eckersley
FOUR ORDINARY MEMBERS	Richard Fewster, Bruce Wigney, Bill Edge, John Gore
HONORARY AUDITOR	B. C. Philp.

EYRE PENINSULA REUNION - FEBRUARY, 1969

The Eyre Peninsula Branch, R.O.C.A. are holding their renowned Reunion Dinner and Family Picnic at Port Lincoln on 22nd February and 23rd February, 1969.

The Branch Annual General Meeting will start at 5.00 p.m. sharp in the dining room of the Great Northern Hotel and will be followed by the Reunion Dinner starting at 6.30 p.m.

Formalities will finish at 10.00 p.m. to allow old boys to mingle and mix.

Guest Speaker: Mr D. E. Symon, R.D.A., B.Ag.Sc., Botanist at "The Waite". His subject, "The Importance of Alien Plants in Southern Australia" will be of profound interest to all.

Special entertainment and a dinner has been arranged separately for the ladies.

Sunday, 23rd February, The Picnic and Barbecue, O.C. Peter Thyer. In previous years this has been the highlight of the Reunion Weekend. This is Family Day in all its glory.

Full details will be published in the next issue of R.O.C.A. Digest.

All R.O.C.A. members along with wives, children, girlfriends, etc. are welcome. Any old scholar unable to make the trip can still send girlfriend. Eyre Peninsula care and attention is guaranteed.

Plan your arrangements now !!!

NOTES FROM THE UPPER MURRAY BRANCH – By Steven Hogg

Another successful Annual Reunion was held by the Branch on Wednesday, 2nd October at the Berri Hotel. About 30 members and guests attended. The visit by the President of the Association, Ray Norton, was well appreciated by the members of the Branch. His constructive comments enhanced the value of the meeting. Also from the College were Ross Ford, John Gursansky, Ian Watt and Ross Dawkins.

Tom Sims was elected President, Roger Inglis Secretary, and I, in a weak moment accepted the task as correspondent for the Branch.

After the meeting of both old friends and Collegians, and much imbibing by the majority, the meeting gradually faded out at a late hour. All will, no doubt, be looking forward to next year's Reunion, which will be held at Barmera.

There has been quite an exchange of Collegians between Loxton and Jamestown. Bruce Hall, formally District Agricultural Adviser with the Department of Agriculture at Jamestown has come back to one of his earlier Districts, the Murray Mallee, with headquarters at Loxton as Top-WML Representative. Peter Mowatt has left Loxton and filled Bruce's old position with the Department of Agriculture at Jamestown. Peter, I understand is going to form a R.O.C.A. Branch at Jamestown. Also from Jamestown to Loxton is Alan Hincks who has been promoted by the Department of Agriculture from Hills Improvement Officer to Agricultural Adviser for the Murray Mallee. Jim Cawthorn from Wanbi Research Centre has taken up duties with the Department as a soil conservation officer at Jamestown.

We wish these Collegians every success in their new fields.

OENOLOGY NEWSLETTER – By Phil Tummel

Oenological movements are once again in the fashion; Gordon Nilsson has left our Nuriootpa branch to join Wynn's at Coonawarra, and Neil Lindsay has transferred from Southern Vales Co-operative to Mildura Winery Pty Ltd at Merbein, Victoria. Good luck Gordon and Neil.

The death of John Fornachon was a bitter blow, as John always had a sympathetic ear and a good answer for our problems.

The annual dinner at the Richmond was not well attended by the Oenology fraternity but it was pleasing to see Phil Laffer from New South Wales in attendance.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sirs,

I wish to draw your attention to the R.A.C. Graduation Ball. It is to be held on 4th March, 1969 in the Red Leg's Club, Norwood.

Orders for tickets at an approx. cost of \$5.00 per double will be received by me at the College.

Yours faithfully,

J. C. Womersley

DETAILS OF FRANK PEARSON'S TRIP TO IRAN

Below is a section of a letter received from Frank Pearson while in Iran. I am sure all Old Collegians are proud of Frank who was chosen as the Commonwealth Government's representative to advise the Government of Iran on dry land cereal growing.

"Some three months ago the Director rang me up while I was staying in Naracoorte, and said the Commonwealth Government have had a request from the Government of Iran to provide somebody in 6-7 weeks time to spend 6-7 weeks in Iran to look at their dry land cereal growing, and offer them any suggestions that might develop from Australian knowledge and conditions. The Commonwealth have asked me to provide such a man and I've suggested you. Will you go?

After talking with my wife and daughter I said yes 24 hours later. And on August 1 I left Adelaide on my way to Iran via Darwin, Hong Kong, New Delhi and arrived at Teheran at 2.10 a.m. on August 5.

On the way through I spent 48 hours in Hong Kong — had some useful tourist look at the place, got a chance to see some of their intensive vegetable, pig and duck raising in the New Territories and spent some very pleasant hours with Dow Chemicals, Hong Kong based Pacific Area Manager, Harry Ferguson, whom I first met in Adelaide in 1962, and his wife.

I don't know how you poultry people treat intensive duck rearing in Australia, although I've got some idea. But in the New Territories outside of Hong Kong city I saw several thousand herded together in small ring fenced wire yards, perhaps 30 yards or less square, with a roof, but no weather protection on any of the sides — each bird appearing to have perhaps 2 square feet of standing and feeding space and mobs, herds, flocks or whatever you might call them, of ducks in such numbers were repeated in cultivation patch after cultivation patch in close proximity to each other for several miles in one place.

I arrived in Teheran early in the morning without a passport visa, but feeling very snug because I'd got the External Affairs Department to advise ahead that I didn't have time before I left to get one. Two different concerns, the Iranian Ministry of Agriculture, and the Iranian Oil Operating Companies (because they were providing the money for my trip) were interested in me and they both independently sent representatives out to meet me. The Ministry man knew all about my lack of visa and had everything under control to handle this. So of course in the hurley burly of arrival the Ministry man missed me and retired 7 miles away to the Hotel where I was to stay to wait for me to arrive. The Oil man took me in tow, and after keeping me hanging around the airport for nearly two hours managed to get my passport confiscated; get me served with a notice to leave the country within 48 hours; and then well after the 'plane had got in the air, that part of my luggage was on its way to London.

The Ministry man met me at the Hotel. Briefly and quickly told me that day was a National Holiday — and that I would be picked up at 7.30 a.m. next morning and taken to the office. And on schedule I was, and then the big "game" got to work on my passport and luggage and within a short while I had my passport back with visa, my luggage put in my car, and my notice to quit the country cancelled.

Early next morning I took off on a 6 day information tour which took me west 200 miles from Teheran, south west and then 200 miles to Sawanday, and 150 miles South East to Hamadan, which still occupies the site of the Edanite capital which was established some time before 3000 BC.

Then another 350 miles to Ispahan, and after a couple of days there, another 350 miles, north to Teheran.

While in Ispahan I stayed in the Shah Abbas Hotel, which is reputed by many international travellers to be the most ornate hotel in the world. It well could be. The entrance hall is about 80 feet square, and 35 feet high, with walls highly decorated with mosaics and Persian scenes reminiscent of their palace decorations of 400 or 500 years ago. The ceiling is made up of 2-3 inch long pieces of mirror of all sorts of different shapes, set in gold, and all at slightly different angles of bedding so that light flashes and scintillates all over the place. And hanging from the ceiling are 3 wonderful chandeliers lamps, each 6-7 feet in diameter, with glass drops of which some extend downwards, distances of upwards of two feet long — and 5 feet from the top. It would be amongst the most expensive in the world too, and I thanked my lucky stars that all my expenses were being paid, because I ordered 2 less than half inch deep Ispahan sherries, which came to us in two very small wine glasses together with a bill for 300 reals — about \$3.57 Australian at the current rate of exchange.

Much of the country is 5000-6000 feet above sea level, with the surrounding mountains going up to 10-12-14-15 thousand, and in one case nearly 19,000 feet. It's said to be the highest country in the world, not excepting Tibet, and they get high summer temperatures and very cold winters.

On the 8th day after I left Sydney with its midwinder maximum of just over 50°F, I was in Sananday at 2 o'clock in the afternoon when the temperature hit 112°F. Quite some change, believe you me.

They do some of their farming with tractors, discs and combine harvesters — and some of it in places 7-8000 feet above sea level on ground sloping at angles of at least up to 45° — ploughed with oxen drawn wooden ploughs, hand broadcast, and harvested with sickles and threshed either with man and animal feet, with discs, with flails, in fact with anything that will separate the grain from the head — and then winnow it on the windy days by tossing it up in the air.

Work 6 days a week, with Friday off for the local religious observance, except when you are in the country and don't get the day off. Office hours 7.30 to 2.00 p.m. without a break except on Thursdays when they finish at one o'clock — but four days I've been on have started 4.30 a.m. and not finished until 10.30 p.m., but I'm thankful to say, only that long very occasionally."

COLLEGE CHATTER — by Cliff Hooper

1968 continues its wet way and, at the time of writing, the College has registered over 20 inches. We have over 100 acres of what was high quality clover hay gradually changing to a mouldy black mess. However, silage making was successful and six pits, one bunker and one mound have been completed. This should give a reserve for a few years.

Although the rain has been a worry in some ways, it will be of great benefit to late sown crops which still have a long way to go.

Shearing has just been completed with quite a good clip considering the past season — grown Merino Sheep would average almost 16 lbs. At the Burra Bungaree Sale, we purchased 56 twin born Bungaree Ewes. Sir Richard Hawker then presented to the College a twin born ram to mate with the ewes. A very nice gesture from Sir Richard and we thank him very much.

At the Adelaide Show our bulls in the 15-18 months class finished 1st and 3rd. As we gained 1st and 2nd placings in the same class at the 1967 Royal, the two years have been a very satisfactory result for the College Stud.

My thrill was the Gawler Show where we entered two Poll Doreset lambs and finished first and third.

John Gursansky reports hail damage in V & O South, where it is anticipated ¾ of the crop has been lost. He is growing potatoes for the first time in College history. Another job on his plate is renovation of the oval — it has been worked up and sand is being spread. This season cricket will be played on the old oval.

Tim Luckhurst at poultry is gradually increasing numbers and now has 1200 on Deep Litter, 1000 in the Cage Unit, 1600 chickens and 100 turkeys.

Mr and Mrs John Nicolson are now in residence at the College and we welcome them to the College community. John holds a B.Ag.Science Degree (Adelaide) and fills the position of Senior Lecturer in Chemistry. He spent four years in the Soils Branch of the Department of Agriculture (two years at Nuriootpa) and then four years at the Waite Institute completing his studies for a possible Ph.D.

By the time you read this, Farmers Day and Open Day will be over. I hope that many Old Collegians took the opportunity of visiting the College and inspecting for themselves the alterations made in recent years.

R.D.T.A. NOTES — From Brian Hannaford

The Annual Picnic and Barbecue will be held on Sunday, 1st December in the National Park, Belair, commencing at midday.

Please contact Michael Lucey at Metro Milk, 97 2211 for the exact location of the tennis court.

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PHILPY'S MEMOIRS – By Ray Norton

We were discussing houses on the property in the last issue, one of them being old Bill Crouch's house. It would be interesting to most readers to know that we have his grandson, a young Bill Crouch in First Year this year.

In one of the houses a stableman nicknamed "Bill Hook", probably because a hook replaced one hand would you think? Anyway his constant request was for "extra men for extra work. Gotta bag chaaff!" His directions to strangers were also smattered with landmarks that "you don't take no notice to". One of these obsolete houses was offered to Philpy, but our canny friend decided the expense to restore it, which was to be his, wasn't worth the candle and graciously declined Principal Birk's offer.

At this stage of the interview, we retraced the years back to Principal Colebatch who as Philpy put it, was the old school-master type. He kept everyone at a distance, never entering a staff house or fraternising in any way. He tells the story of Mrs Orchard, the farm manager's wife, with young Hector probably held in a monkey strap. Thinking she would keep him out of Mrs Colebatch's hair she hitched him to a verandah post, but to see a child hitched like a horse was more than Coley could stand and in the modern vernacular, "he blew his cool".

He was in control at all other times apparently, and even once had a strike on his hands. Not the celebrated one of Birk's era, but another. Coley however, divided the rabble, handling them one at a time in his office, two giving each the alternative of returning to work or leaving. Each elected to return to work but one Paltridge, on hearing of the majority decision however, he saw the folly of his ways and returned to his chores.

Working on fat lambs at that time, Mr Colebatch received word-wide recognition. The lambs were slaughtered and judged here in Adelaide then shipped to England where both wholesalers and retailers representatives, judged them again. This determined the best cross for the English market. College lambs at that time received a three shilling premium in the abattoirs and many prizes at Smithfield in the U.K.

In this era, visiting days were held when the Agricultural Bureau Congress would come to Roseworthy. Horse drawn drags were hired from all over the district and farmers were shown the latest trends, fed for nothing and sent home, it was hoped, a little wiser. The implement shed was apparently well stocked in those days too, but Coley would suggest to the farmers that it was cheaper for them to pay a fraction of their tax for Roseworthy to assess an implement than each farmer to buy one and assess it. With this they agreed I should say he could have sold feathers to an ostrich.

Criticism of Roseworthy and what it was doing was as rife with the locals then as it is today. When they put stock in the Gawler Show, locals said "Its alright for Roseworthy, they can afford good stock and are only showing off".

The College dropped out of this field for a number of years and the cry was, "They're not game to come in".

On the theme of what the public generally thought of Roseworthy in those days, Philpy said his mother was horrified that he was going to work among such barbarians. He claims he can honestly say he has only ever seen one student really drunk on the College. Perhaps the only things this goes to prove is that either Philpy should have had stronger glasses much earlier or that working late as he did he always went home in the dark.

Mr Colebatch could only put up with young Philp for six years, when he transferred to the Lands Department and Birk was appointed Principal. However, that seems to be another story.

THE GRAPEVINE

In this issue there is a questionnaire that I hope members will fill in and return, as information from this could be used to increase the interest of subsequent issues of the Digest. It will also give the Digest Committee some idea as to the type of material that is read most by members.

Jack Fuss has sent on to me an interesting letter from David Stanley who is living in Nairobi, Kenya. Dav. mentions in his letter that he is engaged to a Jane Hopcraft and is to be married on 12th October. So by the time this issue is posted Dav. will be a married man, and we extend to him our congratulations and best wishes. Dav. also mentions a few old scholars on properties in East Africa, these are: Jim Sands, Simon Fletcher and Nigel Trent.

The 1967 Graduates are enthusiastically keeping together which is good to see and in just

under two years since leaving College, Tony Clancy has published seven newsletters, keeping them up with all the current news of those who went through the College with them. From their August newsletter, there are four of them in the Army and one just discharged. Bill Piercy is at present serving in Vietnam, and Chaz Gaitskell having just returned. Chaz has now finished his two years service in the Army and will be returning to his vineyard at McLaren Flat. The other three still in the Army are Dav. Pannach, Kelvin "Fritz" Westbrook and Bob Stacey.

Another of our R.O.C.A. members serving in Vietnam is last year's gold medallist John Kohnke.

I have received a letter from Max Clarke and it appears that the number of bachelors in the 1966 group of graduates is rapidly diminishing. Chris O'Donnell was married recently to Diane Hack (Warick Hack's sister), Bryan Thomas was married in October, Adrian Smith is to marry Margaret O'Reilly on 18th January and Max is getting married himself to Chris Ellison on 5th April.

Nick Hutchins has left Dehy Fodders at Meningie and is now Production Field Supervisor with Yates, working almost exclusively with hybrid sorghum and maize. Nick gives his present address as Box 1025, Griffith, N.S.W. 2680, which is that of Arthur Yates & Co. Pty Ltd.

In the matrimonial field, the following has occurred:—

Engagements:

Iain Wintie
Brian "Curly" Hill

Births:

Jim and Sue Cawthorne — a daughter
Geoff & Meredith Crome — a son
Pat & Rodney Pfeiffer — a son
Gill & Jan Hollamby — a daughter
Lorraine & John Stain — a daughter

Marriages:

Geoff Pfeiler
Reg Hutchinson to Kay Light (November 16th)
Dave Stanley to Jane Hopcraft
Chris O'Donnell to Dianne Hack
Bryan Thomas
Adrian Smith to Margaret O'Rielly (January 18th)
Max Clark to Chris Ellison (5th April)

Reg Hutchinson and his wife Kay will be making Struan Research Centre their first home.

It is with deepest regret that we note the death of two of our well known members, Les Orchard and Stan Green. To their respective families we extend our deepest sympathies.

EXTRACTS FROM IAN WATTS' LETTER TO THE A.G.M

"We have a large association in number, but one which is inactive. Not since the Chapel project has this body stirred itself into any action."

Ian goes on to suggest, "A major project for the Association to band together and work as an organised team rather than a few interested individuals.

I suggest that this Association subsidise the amount already in hand so that a start can be made on the proposed new swimming pool."

"This contribution could be either a direct gift from the Association or concentrated fund raising within the body of members.

Most Old Scholars' Associations are involved in major projects of some sort or another but not ours. Why?"

As a member of the Digest Committee, I appeal to members to complete the section on page 8 of the Digest and return it to us. Better still, leave the Digest intact and write us on what you are doing, what's going on in your district; of other old collegians with whom you come in contact or a subject "near to your heart".

This is your Digest, run by our competent editor Ross Ford, but it is an impossible task even for him, if he has no material with which to work.

You enjoy the Digest? Well, set to and help us make it even better!

Ray Norton

A. DIGEST ENQUIRIES

1. Of the editorial material, do you read
 - (i) All
 - (ii) Selected Parts Only
 - (iii) None

2. Do you think the publication should be
 - (i) Shorter
 - (ii) Longer
 - (iii) Remain the same

3. Which type of material do you find most interesting to read?

4. Are you prepared to contribute material either
 - periodically
 - sporadically
 - once
 or on at least one occasion.

5. What improvements can you suggest that
 - (i) Would make each publication more interesting
 - (ii) Are you prepared to assist in this regard also by: -
 - a. Writing feature articles
 - b. A series of articles
 - c. Contributing small items of interest

B. PERSONAL DETAILS

1. NAME Years at College:
- Date of Last Visit:.....
2. ADDRESS
-
3. (i) OCCUPATION
- (ii) BRIEF DETAILS OF TYPE OF WORK
-
-
4. FAMILY DETAILS:
-
5. INTERESTS IN
 - (i) YOUR COMMUNITY:.....
 -
 - (ii) OUTSIDE COMMUNITY:.....
 -
6. NAMES & ADDRESSES OF OTHER OLD STUDENTS IN YOUR AREA:
-
-
7. A FEW DETAILS ON A SUBJECT ABOUT WHICH YOU HAVE STRONG VIEWS
-
-