



R. O. C. A. DIGEST

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION

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EDITOR: Ross J. Ford

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

EDITORIAL MATERIAL to:
Editor, "Roca Digest"
Agricultural College
Roseworthy, S.A. 5371

R. J. Ford, Chairman
F. B. Pearson
W. S. Edge
R. S. Norton
J. Ryan

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1969 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REUNION

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, 6th September, at 5.00 p.m., at the Earl of Zetland Hotel, Flinders Street, ADELAIDE.

Business: President's Report
Treasurer's Report
Recognition of Diplomates by Employers
The Association of Agricultural Technologists
Any other business
Election of Officers.

Nominations are required to be lodged with the Secretary not later than Friday, 29th August, for the following positions on the Committee. (Names of the present committee are shown in brackets.)

President	(R. S. Norton)	
Past President	(H. V. Stephen)	(no nomination required)
Vice President	(R. J. Ford)	
Secretary	(J. Gursansky)	
Treasurer	(C. Hooper)	
One Committee Member of Graduating Class of 1968	(G. C. Eckersley)	
One Committee Member who left College more than one and less than 10 years ago		(B. Wigney)
Four ordinary Members	(J. Gore), (W. Edge), (T. March), (R. Fewster).	

Reunion:

This will be held at the Earl of Zetland Hotel, corner of Flinders Street and Gawler Place, following the Annual General Meeting.

The charge will be \$4.00, payable in advance to the Treasurer. Please fill in the form on page 2 and return not later than Friday, 29th August. Your co-operation in this will assist the Hotel and the organizers.

Bill Magarey will contact the 1959 group.

John Southwood will contact the 1944 group.

Mr C. W. Hooper,
R.O.C.A. Treasurer,
Agricultural College,
ROSEWORTHY, S. Aust. 5371

I will/will not attend the reunion on the 6th September and enclose \$4.00 to cover cost of dinner.

I do/do not require a receipt.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

..... Postcode

We have quite a large list of addresses unknown. Can you help??

K. M. Horwood 1921-23; J. S. Phillips 1923-26; N. J. Mitchell 1962-64; W. J. Oliver 1962-63; R. S. Coleman 1910-11; R. J. Bishop 1943-46; P. D. Crompton 1953-56; B. W. Geansbury 1940-43; J. G. Heaslip 1951-54; C. F. P. Irwin 1937-40; J. J. Jones 1936-39; D. Lawrence 1961-64; W. A. MacGillivray 1950-51; A. N. McLeod 1940-41; E. C. McNally 1959-62; F. Macrow 1919-21; F. Riggs 1914-17; W. R. Sands 1950-53; R. P. Sexton 1951-54; M. F. H. Sexton 1954-57; K. M. Woods 1965-68.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Below is a section of a letter received from Dick Flower, who has always been a strong supporter of our Association. Thanks for your letter and donation towards Digest funds, Dick.

"Last year I held a Half Time Release Scholarship with the Education Department which enabled me to study at the Adelaide Uni. and complete my B.A. I spent the other half of my time teaching at Urrbrae Agricultural High, where considerable changes are taking place. Probably the most important advance is the introduction of the 2 year Certificate Course. John Flynn has had a lot to do with the Course, especially looking after the Sheep, Pasture and Cereals Sections.

This year I am a Senior Master at Willunga High and am in charge of Agricultural Science and Geography. Tom Guerin (R.D.A.) was here for a week but the Department decided we had too many teachers and transferred him to Christies Beach.

I enjoy getting the Digest and read it right through. I find all material interesting but especially like to hear diplomates talking about their work, e.g., I would like to hear more about John Kohnke's work in Vietnam, about Agriculture in New Guinea and throughout Australia. I have shown some of the articles to my students as it gives them an idea of what is going on in Agriculture. Frank Pearson's article on Iran was interesting and has whetted my appetite to hear more.

I would also like to know more about the work diplomates are carrying on because ideas can be passed on to students who can get an idea of some of the opportunities and challenges that there are in Agriculture. I would like to hear how Allan McArdle has achieved his success in raising India's egg production - his work is something which is both exciting and challenging, I hope to us all and to the students of Agriculture, whether at University, College or school.

On the home front it has been encouraging to have 4 or 5 R.D.A. men come into teaching because we really need them. Agricultural Science cannot be taught in more schools without extra teachers who are qualified to take the subject."

DAIRY TECHNOLOGISTS' NEWS By Robin Steed.

Brian Hannaford has recently been appointed Chairman of the Metropolitan Milk Board in Adelaide. This is possibly one of the most Senior positions in the industry that a graduate could hope to attain in South Australia. Considering Brian is in his early thirties this achievement has received hearty congratulations from his fellow R.D.A. diploma holders.

Congratulations also to Eddy Van Hoof on his appointment as Manager of the Myponga Co-op Dairying Society. Eddy, for several years, has been employed at Myponga as Production Manager, and has recently completed a successful year as South Australian President of the Institute of Dairy Factory Managers and Secretaries Association.

Bob McMahon has taken a bold step in resigning from his Managerial position at Glencoe East Cheese Factory, and has set himself up in a cheese marketing business in Melbourne.

Michael Lucey is busy playing around with his "new baby", a \$30,000 milk cartoning machine, with which he hopes to increase milk sales in Adelaide.

ROCA AND ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

It may be interesting to members to know that some progress has been made by the sub-committee formed "to foster the interest of aboriginal youths in agricultural education". We have been doing quite a bit of investigation into the area in which we, as an organisation can work.

As Chairman of this sub-committee I have made a number of contacts, the most fruitful of which was with the Director of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr C. J. Millar and Mr A. J. Whitlaw, Assistant Superintendent of Primary Schools.

What is lacking today is not finance but interested people. Individuals in ROCA can well fit into a scheme by making some time available to a selected aboriginal youth in their area to help him become interested in a vocation in Agriculture. We envisage trips to Roseworthy by selected groups. We will know their scholastic background; we will be in contact with education authorities and Department of Aboriginal Affairs officers who understand them. If an independent person of ROCA would take the time with a selected youth to perhaps show him his farm, talk agriculture and education with him; attempt to help him to see the benefits which are so obvious to us in taking another step in the educational system, then we would be performing a worthwhile community function.

If you feel there is merit in this scheme and would be willing to give a little of your time, sometime, if called on, would you write to The Editor. Some people already have!! With a bit more organisation I feel we will have a workable and lasting scheme into which many Old Collegians would fit admirably.

It would be gratifying if it were you!!

RAY NORTON.

ROCA SUBMISSION TO THE COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY INTO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN THIS STATE.

A sub-committee consisting of Cliff Hooper, John Gursansky and myself have spent some time compiling what we feel was a well considered submission to this committee.

It covered our views and those expressed by others in our Association on what we consider are the future needs of agricultural education in this state. It also covered what we consider is the role of the graduate and diplomate with their differently orientated training including comments and suggested improvements on the present Diploma course at Roseworthy. In addition we expressed our views on Agriculture as taught in Secondary schools and Colleges; the establishment of further agricultural colleges; post-graduate training for both diplomates and graduates in administration and extension where required, adult education and the function of agricultural bureaux.

As chairman, I have been elected to appear before the investigating committee should they request a representative. If others are interested in expressing an opinion or reading our submission I will make copies available at the Annual General Meeting and be pleased to receive views in writing or in person.

RAY NORTON.

OENOLOGY NEWSLETTER from Phil Tummel.

On behalf of all Oenologists I offer our deepest sympathy to Bob Baker on the death of his mother.

Recently I travelled on an interstate wine trip with our Nuriootpa Manager, Wolf Blass, and at Griffiths we had a R.A.C. re-union, those present being Scotty Ireland, Jim Jenkins (McWilliams), Roger Blacke (Wynnes), Chris Hancock (Penfolds) and Ross Turkington (Viticultural Adviser). A good night was had by all.

Another R.D.A., not R.D.Oe., encountered was Viv Thompson at Great Western, who has overcome the 'A' stigma, and is now a very enthusiastic and capable winemaker.

Looking at the development in the Eastern States, there will be a shortage of oenologists for many years to come.

PHILPY'S MEMOIRS By Ray Norton.

It is interesting when talking about the College, to find out about a certain person in its history, of whom one has often heard, yet not realised just where they fit in the scheme of things. Bill Spafford was one person whom I, as narrator of this story, believed was somewhere before Dr Callaghan's time, yet find he was here as a cadet well before that, in fact, before "the reign" of Colebatch.

Bill was the person who planted the forest of eucalyptus trees on the golf course, as a young staff member. All the pine planting was not his effort but that of Professor Perkins. It was he who planted all the alepoes that graced the old drive to the Principal's house. He has spent much time in Egypt and felt they were a part of that life and planted them as a reminder.

The Principal, as I mentioned once before, who does interest people, was Mr Birks who came from Dookie. He had unusual ideas to say the least. Apparently he lacked the ability to communicate with and handle young men. His idea of discipline lacked reason, which built up resentment unnecessarily and this eventually led to "the strike". An instance Philpy quoted was when in charge of a light horse unit in World War I, he was on an exercise, when it came on to rain. The normal thing for an Australian soldier was to unroll his great coat from the pommel of his saddle and don it. This is what the troops did. Officer Birks, however, didn't see it this way, made them remove the coats, ride along in the rain until drenched then gave the order to put on greatcoats. One can imagine a horde of smiling and joking, saturated Australian soldiers donning greatcoats amid shouts of "bless you, Colonel". Of course, blessings are always directed "up", and tears of rage would have passed unnoticed in the rain.

Another trick was that students were recalled to College on the 29th December to spend New Years' Day getting ready for work in the New Year. It is an interesting coincidence that on the night a makeshift toilet facility in use upstairs at that time was whisked by a freak wind and overturned in the main hall. In the cleaning up process, sensibly carried out by hygiene conscious students after a lecture on the subject by our Mr Philp, some of the contents found their way under the Principal's door. It was locked and therefore out of reach of the keen young sanitation men, but I understand it was for some obscure reason noticed and attended to eventually.

Anyone who has ever been at Roseworthy has been underneath one of those almighty crashes upstairs. To hear a First Year's story, a sock dropped from bed height can cause this. I might add here too that if you haven't heard one in the 1960's you haven't heard anything. They affixed directly under each upstairs bed, a fluorescent light containing four tubes suitably decorated with a loose cover that rattles when a fly lands.

Anyway, this was a pet phobia with Mr Birks, who waged a constant war on First Years over the racket. One thing I do side with him on is the favourite student pastime of leaving gates open. Even if the Principal was coming directly behind a student, the student was obliged to shut the gate. To courteously leave it open would cost him all his marks for the day.

He was a bachelor of a bit over 40 at this stage and it would appear, perhaps not so gay and somewhat frustrated. So let this be a lesson to some of our younger, unattached men. Remember to go round the bend you start in a gentle curve —

So, watch it !!!

* * * * *

METRIC MEASUREMENTS By Frank Pearson.

In May, 1968, the Senate Select Committee on Metric Measurements recommended to the Senate that "the use of Imperial units of measurement be discontinued over a period, and that at the end of that period the metric system of units become the sole Commonwealth legal units of measurement".

In general the Commonwealth Government has appeared to accept the suggestion that we in Australia should convert over to a metric measurement system, and agree that this should be done -- but to date no official announcements of the necessary preparatory educational period or of a change-over date have been made.

Almost without exception every organisation in Australia, including most of those representing our primary industries, have supported the introduction of metric measurements here, and suggested that in the interests of Australian primary industry the metric system should be introduced into this country as soon as economically possible.

This most certainly brings up the question -- Why? Conversion to the metric system will not increase our production at all. It will not produce one more bushel of grain, one more fat lamb, or one more pound of butter -- so why should everyone be so much in favour of it.

Let's look briefly at the metric system and see what we can find out about it.

A product of the French Revolutionary Government, it became law in France in 1801 and later became the basis of measurement in many countries of the world.

Australia discussed the advisability of changing over to the metric system at Federation, and in typical Australian fashion, we are still discussing whether we should actually take this step in 1969.

The major, in fact probably the only good, reasons why we should change over are:-

- (1) That it is much easier to use and calculate in tens than with any other division and so the metric system would be infinitely simpler to learn and use than the Imperial system of twelves of inches and fourteen and one hundred and twelves of pounds and such like.
- (2) Most of the countries of the world other than the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand and Australia already use it and
- (3) already many of our measurements within Australia and overseas have to be stated in metric figures.

We can all remember the conversion of our money system from pounds, shillings and pence to dollars and cents and our fears beforehand about how slow and difficult it would be. But, I think, very few, if any people today would want to go back to the harder to calculate pound currency.

In exactly the same way, I am sure, that once the change over to the metric system is made we will all wonder why on earth it wasn't done many years before.

COLLEGE CHATTER

Perhaps to older members the main point of note would be the demolition of the old workshops building; as it comes down I am reminded of Bert Nourse, Bill Hayden and Bill Daly, but that is going back many years. The older section would have been one of the earliest buildings on the College and possibly dated back to the same period as the "Harem".

Further building has taken place at the piggery where permanent shelters of brick have been constructed for pigs running in the paddocks. Referred to by students as the Motel system.

Alain Chartier has purchased the rising four year old bull, Randers Surmise 2nd, from M. and J. Eckerman of Eudunda. This bull comes from a long line of high producers and show winners.

Of interest should be the final harvest return for 1968 -- 47,000 bushels of grain, 20,000 bales of hay and 1,100 tons of silage. Halberd averaged 54.5 bushels, Avon 58.9 bushels and top paddock of barley 64.7 bushels per acre. This year Ray Norton expects to sow 1,200 acres and most of the paddocks are in good order for seeding.

We have just recently purchased another 65 acres of land -- the paddock opposite V & O East on the corner of the Roseworthy road. It has been planted with Jemalong medic to build up fertility.

Peter Ryan, R.D.A.T., has joined the staff as Assistant Dairy Instructor, and Miss E. Lykke commenced duty in May as Laboratory Assistant.

Our football teams are both near the top of the lists and we have hopes in both cases of reaching the finals.

COLLEGE CHATTER (continued)

Mr and Mrs Simon Pitt visited the College during May. Simon, a graduate of 1956, gives his address as "Stockwell", Ouse, Tasmania, and this was his first look at Roseworthy since graduation. On the family property they are running 14,000 grown sheep including a Saxon Merino Stud (bulk 70s quality) and a Polworth Merino Flock of 64s quality. They also carry 700 head of Hereford beef cattle. Simon has a family of two daughters.

GRAPEVINE

I hope all members have thoroughly read the details of the "Memorandum of Association" — Agricultural Technologists of Australia. If you wish to make comments about any matters please forward these to John Gursansky as soon as convenient. A complete copy of the "Memorandum of Association" will be forwarded upon request by writing to John at the College.

Congratulations to Keith Pattinson and Darryl Hicks who both represented South Australia at the recent football carnival. Darryl has lined up with the State squad on quite a few occasions and I'm sure that we'll be seeing Keith in the side for some time to come.

Brian Hannaford — Chairman of Adelaide's Metropolitan Milk Board. Congratulations on this recent appointment Brian. We are really proud to see this position filled by one of our members.

Engagement — Peter "Lofty" Jones to Rosaline Tillbrook; Tony Aitchison to Suzanne Engel; Phil Shaw to Dianna Spencer; Geoff Paltridge to Rosalind Beck.

Marriage — Theo Stiller to Ulrike Lehmann; Jock Nickolls to Mary-Lew Gordon.

Births — Jasper and Janet Bowering — a son; Brian and Noeline Dubois — a son; Peter Winter and wife — a son.

I have received a letter from Peter Gallasch, who now gives his address as 22 Traeger St., LOXTON. Peter is a Research Officer, Horticulture Branch, Department of Agriculture and is specialising in Citrus Production research. Peter mentioned Theo Stiller in his letter. Theo is now Principal of the Banz Agricultural College, Western Highlands District, New Guinea. The College has 30–40 students and Theo is rapidly converting the establishment into a little Roseworthy. Peter was in New Guinea recently for five weeks and was very impressed with the College, which includes training in beef, poultry and dairy production plus pasture management. On the horticulture side subjects in vegetable, coffee, tea and banana production are taught. Theo also lectures in farm engineering, welding, etc., and in all a comprehensive training in agriculture is given. If you get time, I'm sure all members would be interested to hear much more of the work you are doing in New Guinea, Theo.

At the beginning of this year I joined the Rural Officer staff of the Commonwealth Development Bank. Our association is well represented in the bank with such names as — Ray Taylor, Tony Summers, Ron Postle, Ian Short, Peter Thyer, Allan Emerson, Malcolm Woods and Maurice Barry. Other members on the staff, coming from the Eastern State Colleges are — Bob Fraser, Ian McLennon, Bob Nunn and John Armstrong.

John Evans (1965-68) writes giving his address as Watervalley Station, Kingston, South East. On a property of 27,000 acres with 7,000 acres developed, three should be enough even to keep John out of mischief.

"Speed" Campbell has changed jobs and is now on the Staff of the Chronicle.

Darryl Miegel (1966-68) called in just prior to his departure to an appointment in New Guinea.

Ian Bidstrup has arrived in Queensland and gives his address as Birralea, 12 Mile, Collinsville 4804.

Ian Watt gives his address as D.A.S.F., Baiyer River Livestock Station, via Mount Hagen, T.P.N.G. Instead of pigs he is Officer-in-Charge of the Livestock Training School specialising in beef cattle. The property carries about 4,500 cattle, mainly exotic breeds crossed with shorthorns. They run three schools of four months duration each year with classes of eighty and include some pigs and poultry in the course.

Don Golding writes giving his address as Kwikila High School via Port Moresby. Stationed 60 miles east of Moresby with a 60 inch rainfall followed by a 7–8 months arid dry, with a leaky dam and 20 buckets for irrigation. He is full of enthusiasm but admits the establishment of the course will be slow.

GRAPEVINE (continued)

Dr Graham Mitchell gives his address as C/- Department of Genetics, Stanford University Medical Centre, Stanford, California.

Bob Stacey has returned from Malaysia and is working with Southern Cross.

Bill Percy has returned from Vietnam.

R.O.C.A. MEMBERS

S. A. 'SANDY' MACKENZIE (1957-60), 47 Bade Street, NAMBOUR, QUEENSLAND.

OCCUPATION: Motor Dealer. International Harvester franchise at Nambour and Strathpine in partnership with Kevin Tuckwell 1957 graduate.

FAMILY DETAILS: Wife, two daughters and one son.

GENERAL: Sandy frequently sees Guy Ballentyne, 1958 graduate, on Channel 2 T.V. Also mentions John Greg who appears in the T.V. programme 'Homicide'.

C. G. SAMUEL (1916-18 and 1922-23), 69 Reservoir Road, MODBURY, S.AUST. 5092.

OCCUPATION: Retired journalist.

FEW DETAILS ABOUT WHICH HAVING STRONG VIEWS: I think there are too many of these "surveys". What we need is a few good strong men who will set out to mould public opinion instead of trying to conform to it. The man who runs the Digest is doing a good job. He need not worry about public opinion.

P. M. LINKLATER (C/- Department of Food Technology, University of N.S.W., P.O. Box 1, KENSINGTON)

OCCUPATION: Teaching and research in Dairy Technology.

FAMILY DETAILS: Wife and two children.

TONY CLANCY, 3 Hillary Avenue, MORPHETTVILLE PARK, S.AUST.

OCCUPATION: Journalist. Working on "Farmer and Grazier" and "Farm". Some public relations work.

FAMILY DETAILS: None yet! Ha Ha!

INTEREST: Natural History Society.

SUBJECT ABOUT WHICH HAVING STRONG VIEWS: Better recognition of R.D.A.

JOHN DAWKINS (1965-67), 14 Outram Street, WEST PERTH, W.AUST.

OCCUPATION: Student, Public Servant and Farmer. Young Polworth Stud. About to start large scale irrigation of sub-tropical beef fattening pastures. Studying for Economics Degree.

COMMUNITY INTEREST: A.L.P. Policies and fiscal policy as it effects agriculture particularly.

SUBJECTS ABOUT WHICH HAVING STRONG VIEWS: Deplore most of present Federal Agricultural Policy. Worried about the future of the family farm, as its security is affected particularly by enormous "factory farms".

G. P. FISHER (1954-56), Clover Ridge, Private Bag 66, NARACOORTE. S.AUST. 5271.

OCCUPATION: Grazier. Grazing cattle and some sheep on mainly dry lucerne country 45 miles North West of Naracoorte.

FAMILY: Wife and two children.

G. A. H. BREAKER (1946-49), Box 284, MILLICENT, S.AUST.

OCCUPATION: Grazier. Wool, meat and beef production.

R.O.C.A. MEMBERS (continued)

FAMILY: Wife, three daughters and one son.
SUBJECT ABOUT WHICH HAVING STRONG VIEWS: Wool marketing. Sale of meat on weight basis. Noxious weeds.

The following old students have been mentioned as living in the area —
 John Prance (Furner), John Rieger (Lucindale), Eric Snook (Beachport),
 W. G. Snodgrass (Lucindale) and Russell Paltridge (Nareen, Victoria).

BRIAN C. JEFFERIES, Naciones Unidas Programa De Deerrolo,
 CASILLA DE CORREO 2257,
 BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

OCCUPATION: Sheep breeding officer F.A.O. of United Nations working on "Sheep Raising Research". Project in Patagonia (1/9th the size of Australia).

FAMILY: Wife and three sons.

COMMUNITY INTERESTS: Local preacher in Methodist Church (I've preached twice in English and once in Spanglish!!)
 Methodist Church Choir and Municipal Choir.
 Entertaining numerous visitors to this very beautiful place.

OUTSIDE COMMUNITY: Interested in Agricultural school and College run by Methodist Church in Chile. Most interested in the proposed Aboriginal Education in Agriculture scheme. My wife worked for two years at the Aboriginal Mission run by the Methodist Church in W.A.

DETAILS ON SUBJECT ABOUT WHICH HAVING STRONG VIEWS: I have found that Christianity, as Christ taught it, works and God's promises can be accepted at face value. I believe the only way to the Power-full life is by spending time alone with God each day, relaxing completely, reading God's Word and expectantly listening for His guidance. When I do spend this time veritable miracles occur. When I fail to do so because I think I'm too busy personal relationships become more difficult and problems pile up.

(NEXT ISSUE I'LL INCLUDE A SHORT ARTICLE TITLED "AN EPIC TRIP" WHICH BRIAN HAS KINDLY FORWARDED).