



R. O. C. A. DIGEST

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION

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EDITORIAL MATERIAL TO:

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT — ROSS FORD

During the past three months I have had the privilege of attending two ROCA reunions and meeting many of our members. The Eyre Peninsula Re-union was held at Port Lincoln on March 14th and the South East Reunion on April 10th at Naracoorte.

The Eyre Peninsula members again provided a full weekend of activities with everything organised to the finest detail. Much has been written about these weekends at Port Lincoln but you have to actually attend one to really appreciate the spirit in which they are held. President Pat Marrie, Secretaries Des Habel and Peter Thyer, and committee must be really proud and pleased with the way these functions run and are to be congratulated for their efforts. The same committee has been returned to office and plans are being made to make next year's reunion on February 27th, 1971 even bigger and better. Guest speaker at this year's reunion was Ken Leske and his topic — 'Economic Principles and Practical Farm Management'.

The new look South East reunion held at the Naracoorte Hotel was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. Rex Anderson gave a very enlightening address on the Beef Cattle situation and gave some interesting comparisons with sheep. President Lewin Robertson and Secretary Brian Hayman are to be congratulated for their efforts in organising this reunion dinner, and they were unanimously elected to carry on for the next year.

It is hoped to have reports on the above two functions in subsequent issues of the Digest.

Another meeting held recently was the A.T.A. dinner in March. 106 were in attendance and there appears to be considerable interest in this new association. Representatives from N.S.W., Victoria and West Australia attended. To those ROCA members who have not already joined I again commend this association to you.

We are extremely proud to have Mr Marshall Irving, Director of Agriculture, as a member of the Award of Merit Selection Committee. Mr Irving is representing the Public Service, and is filling the vacancy created by the death of the former Director of Agriculture, Mr Strickland.

REMINDER — AWARD OF MERIT NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the 1970 Award of Merit are due with the Honorary Secretary, R.O.C.A., c/- Roseworthy College, by 31st May, 1970.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REUNION DINNER

Date: Saturday, 5th September, 1970.

Place: Earl of Zetland Hotel.

Further details regarding the above function will be included in the next issue of the Digest, however note the above date in your diary now.

FROM PRESIDENT OF A.T.A. IN S.AUST. — JOHN GORE

The South Australian Branch of the Agricultural Technologists of Australasia was formed in February.

The following officers were elected. Mr J. M. Gore, President, Mr R. W. Fewster, Vice-President, Mr P. J. Ryan, Secretary and Messrs R. S. Norton, G. K. Robinson, and R. J. Taylor were elected to the Committee.

The Executive has met once and will be meeting again shortly. South Australian Branch membership is now more than 150 including a number of Roseworthy College student members.

Tribute must be paid to Messrs F. B. Pearson and W. S. Edge for their untiring and effective efforts during the difficult negotiation and formation period which has now led to the formation and establishment of A.T.A. throughout Australia. Both Bill Edge and Frank Pearson must be given much credit for the success of A.T.A.

A general meeting of the South Australian Branch is proposed in June when a prominent guest speaker will be attending. It is proposed that a number of suggestions put forward by the Committee will be discussed. These suggestions will be aimed at determining a policy and programme for the South Australian Branch.

Members will be advised of the date and venue after our next Committee Meeting on 22nd April. It is hoped that other suggestions will be brought to the meeting by members.

The Committee feels it is important that the South Australian Branch of A.T.A. acts on the behalf of its membership in a manner which the membership itself wishes.

REPORT ON EYRE PENINSULA BRANCH R.O.C.A., REUNION DINNER BY BARRY LAWES NOW FARMING AT WANILLA

If the 1970 A.G.M. and Dinner of the Eyre Peninsula branch of R.O.C.A. is any indication of the agricultural season to follow, then we can expect a near record year, which will of course do little to ease our over-produced commodities.

With forty-six members and distinguished guests meeting at the Great Northern Hotel on 14th March, the success of the dinner was assured, and it was largely due to the untiring efforts of the President (Pat Marrie) and the secretaries and their committee, all of whom were unanimously re-elected, that this reunion maintained the high standards of previous dinners.

It is always pleasing to see visitors from outside of Eyre Peninsula, and this year was no exception with John Williams, John Redden, Tom Hanney and of course 'Snowy' Philp all honouring us with their presence.

In response to the toast to the Association and The College given by Hans Sluiter and Peter Thyer, the R.O.C.A. President, Ross Ford, was able to inform us of the latest developments at Roseworthy.

With fifty-five new agricultural students and nineteen plonkies this year and the possibility of one hundred and ninety students in the near future, Roseworthy is approaching an era unknown to Old Collegians, but we all know that there is definitely no better training ground for these agriculturally minded young men.

Indeed, the highlight of the evening occurred when Mr Ken Leske, who is well known to the younger members present, as senior lecturer in Agricultural Economics at Roseworthy, addressed us on 'Economic Principles and Practical Farm Management.'

Based on the fact that the Australian Economy has become considerably less dependent on agricultural products as an export earner, and as this trend will continue even more so, Mr Leske very conclusively pointed out the need for farmers to become more efficient for the benefit of themselves and the Australian Economy.

All members certainly enjoyed the evening and we will be looking forward to seeing as many visitors as can possibly make the journey next year.

MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR

An innovation that is here to stay is a Saturday morning get together started by Pat Marrie.

Pat as President of the Eyre Peninsula Branch thought that the morning of the West Coast A.G.M. and Reunion Dinner would be an opportunity for any visitors to meet the locals over a beer and/or coffee, cheese and biscuits as his guests.

The Port Lincoln Hotel came to the aid of the party and provided the gear and the jazz in the Viking Lounge with one long table for everyone to gather around and be introduced – if necessary.

Ross Ford and Ken Leske with wives, Athalie and Doris, took the chance to meet their hosts, although with the Leskes staying with the Rus Daniel family and the Fords with the Peter Thyers the introductions were minimised.

After the 'getting to know you' bout the President entertained the visitors to lunch with committeemen Ray Alcock and Rus Daniel as escorts. All the others went home apparently to have a sleep so they would be fit and well for what lay ahead that night.

Nevertheless, as everyone enjoyed this year's impromptu session so much Pat has very definitely decided to make it an annual event to break the ice for the night's festivities so all mainlanders visiting the Coast for the day of days – 27th February, 1971 – remember that you are invited to come along to the Viking Lounge at 11.30 a.m. on 27/2/71 to meet the President, members of his committee and their wives.

Don't say that's not enough notice!!!

A.T.A. MEETING

S.A. members are invited to attend the second State meeting of A.T.A. in the auditorium, lower ground floor of the Government Administration Building (next to Reserve Bank), Victoria Square.

The date is Friday, 5th June – The time is 7 p.m.

The Guest Speaker, Mr Story (Minister for Agriculture), now on a world tour, has been invited.

It is considered essential to bring together S.A. members to discuss the expected aims of this State Branch and how to achieve them.

If you are a member, please make an effort to attend.

If you are a diplomate but not yet a member, you are most welcome to attend and join.

The Association was formed by you and will be only what members make it.

MEMBERSHIP OF A.T.A.

Some members have not been notified of membership and do not appear in the recently published list of S.A. members as at 1st March, 1970 in the first A.T.A. Journal, The Agricultural Technologist.

If you have been omitted from this list published below please contact the State Secretary: Mr Peter J. Ryan, Agricultural College, Roseworthy, S.A. 5371.

INFORMATION

If you have any enquiries or suggestions for the State branch of A.T.A. contact the State Secretary (address above).

LIST OF S.A. A.T.A. MEMBERS

Alcock, C. R.	Crosby, R. B.	Hagley, R. E.	Marrie, M. C. K.	Russell, D. W.
Armstrong, J. G.	Davidson, T. R.	Hall, B. G.	Martin, G. J.	Sangster, R. M.
Badman, R. H.	De Caux, A. F.	Hayman, K. W.	Matz, N. R.	Seeliger, M. T.
Bald, P. G.	Dillon, T. J.	Hayward, L. T.	Mayfield, G. R.	Seppelt, B. G.
Bannister, H. W.	Edge, W. S.	Hicks, D. J.	Merckenschlager, M.	Seppelt, K. J.
Bicknell, K. G.	Emerson, A. M.	Hodge, R. J. R.	Messenger, J. J.	Shipard, J. J.
Bond, I. P.	Emery, R. E.	Hogg, E. S.	Milne, M. L.	Sluiter, J. D.
Bowen, K. W.	Evans, B. B.	Honey, H. M. W.	Moore, S. D.	Smith, B. C.
Brooks, N. M.	Everett, R. A.	Hooper, A. T.	Mowatt, P. J.	Solly, R. G. R.
Brown, A. L.	Eyre, J. R.	Hooper, C. W.	Murray, R. A.	Steed, J. N.
Bussell, B. W.	Fewster, R. W.	Johnston, A. A.	Nash, H. M.	Stephen, H. V.
Campbell, R. G.	Flynn, J. L.	Jones, J. A.	Nicholls, D. L.	Taylor, R. J.
Carty, R. I.	Ford, R. J.	Jones, J. J.	Noone, L. J. M.	Tod, P. A.
Chapman, F. R. H.	Fromm, G. P.	Jones, R. H.	Orchard, E. H.	Tuckwell, D.
Chartier, A. H.	Fuss, G. H.	Kohnke, J. R.	Patterson, H. R.	Usher, T.
Clancy, A. J. R.	Gibbs, K. B.	Lampe, R. J.	Pattinson, K. W.	Ward, W. P.
Cochrane, M. J.	Goode, J.	Lock, P. G.	Pearson, F. B.	Whiting, A. J.
Colbey, B.	Gosse, H. A. E.	Lowe, R. G.	Pfeiffer, K. A.	Williams, S. G.
Condon, B.	Green, R. L.	McDonald, I. N.	Pocock, D. J.	Wishart, S. G.
Cooper, J. P.	Guerin, L. R.	McEwin, G. G.	Prance, J. A.	Wishart, R. L.
Crawford, E. J.	Habgood, R. H.	McGowan, C. J.	Reddin, J. P.	
Crawford, D. M.	Hackett, W. M. C.	McKechnie, C. H.	Reddin, J. W.	
Crompton, P. D.	Hagerstrom, R. C.	Mack, K. J.	Richards, J. A.	

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

To read the 'Student' magazine of Roseworthy College is a privilege. A pity if the privilege is abused. The 'Student' is local and personal, not a public periodical. Reading it is really a form of eavesdropping if we start criticising it. It is not like going to a football match to barrack.

In 1969 'Student' there is a particular contribution which deserves the highest honour that can be bestowed, even higher. If any care to guess which contribution, we may outnumber those who criticise.

Yours faithfully, H. R. Patterson (1930-33)

DISCONNECTION - CORRECTION

Jon Shipard, member, Penong,
Travelling alone each year,
To the branch A.G.M. came along
For a taste of Port Lincoln beer

When his mate McFarlane got hitched,
Wooing Pam with an old college song,
Poor Jon felt as though he's been ditched
And just had to right such a wrong.

It did not seem fair, to be sure,
At the reunion to be all alone,
So Marlene has just evened the score.
Jon now has one of his own.

It was rumored that John McFarlane delayed his wedding to wife Pam a week last year, so he could attend the reunion at Port Lincoln with his friend of many years, Jon Shipard.

As John attended the 1970 weekend with his wife, the story going around is that Jon felt so out of it at this year's gathering that he married Marlene Thomas of Joslin a fortnight after the reunion, so that next year the Shipards and the McFarlanes can all be together as a foursome. This may be far from the truth.

Anyhow whether they like it or not they are all booked in at the 'Great Northern' for the A.G.M. weekend beginning 27/2/71.

All on Eyre Peninsula sincerely hope that Pam and Marlene get along together as well as John and Jon.

PHILPY'S MEMOIRS

The strike!! A lot has been talked about with regard to the student strike of 1932, and I guess much of it is myth for all tales of past doings tend to become embellished with ideas that improve the story. We all know the army message of 'send reinforcements we're going to advance' becoming 'send three and fourpence we're going to a dance'. In this case however we have some of the happenings right from the horses mouth, although I can remember some students acclaiming Philpy once as 'Hooray for them, Hooray for us, Hooray for Philpy, he's the horse's other end'.

Still!! We are not concerned at this juncture with a comparison of our good friend and the anatomy of a horse but with his veracity and on this there is just no debate.

Can you picture him scurrying to work one Monday morning, a large ledger under his arm. He always took one home, for one kitchen chair leg was shorter than the rest. Up the garden path, down the garden path, past the possum hut, turn right, top gear now to make use of the down-hill run between the pines and on making the last sprint past the old chem lab, to be met by Mr Birks with 'Philp - we have a strike on our hands!' 'Domestic or Farm Staff?' enquired Philpy showing how much he had his ear to the ground; not that he had far to bend, but he just didn't have the time. 'The students! What do you recommend?' Drawing on his previous experience when Mr Colebatch dealt with dissenters separately Philpy suggested that it was prudent to deal with individual. This time, the students were more efficient in their approach to the problem and would only arbitrate through a committee. It was well organised.

At first quite non-plussed Mr Birks felt he would, for starters, just not feed the brutes. However B.C.P. pointed out that this was not very positive thinking and a meeting to talk it out was a first step — not out and out resistance. The essential services to feed livestock, milk, etc., were being carried out but nothing else. The committee consisted of, among others, a Tom Torr — now a medical practitioner, Peter Brechin's father, who was later killed in New Guinea, and other strong leaders.

This drastic step of a strike was triggered by an unfortunate rumour it seems. There had been a general difficulty of communication along with many unreasonable decisions and disciplinary measures. One example being that though smoking at the farm was prohibited a staff member, one John Oldham 'a kind of Plant Breeder' smoked a cigarette walking from the farm one cold wet wintry night. He was apprehended by Mr Birks and asked to write out, in full detail, his misdemeanor, to be filed and therefore could be used against him at some future occasion. A friend and adviser who shall remain nameless suggested he refrain from putting pen to paper.

Mr Birks did marry while at College and when being congratulated by both staff and students, made it known that his attitude would not change. Mrs Birks tried, it appears, to temper his decisions, but with little success.

The rumour, which acted as a catalyst to the strike, was of alterations made to examination marks by the principal, but the allegations apparently were unfounded in that a staff member had marked papers placing one student at the top through an error, in addition to which the principal duly altered, thus placing another in first position for that subject. The disgruntled staff member did nothing to correct the rumour, in fact assisted it along. Philpy considers Mr Birks had a lot of staff disloyalty to contend with during his term of office and puts this forward in his defence.

It was a situation of general antagonism all round and particularly, of course, emanating from the students who 'were catching it more than anyone else'. Student demands were voiced through the appointed committee, for an enquiry to be held before they would go back to work. An enquiry was eventually set up.

The Students had representation through Mr Blackburn, V. C., a prominent lawyer; the staff by a Mr Millhouse as King's Counsel. Mr Birks had a number of counsellors representing him including one King's Counsel; Mr Menzies, one of Birks' counsellors had been a former Housemaster who had turned to law. I guess he considered he had met the best of bush lawyers as students of Roseworthy and he might just as well formalise his education. The enquiry was presided over by a Justice Kelly from the Arbitration Court, held in Adelaide, and conducted over a number of weeks. The event naturally was given much publicity in the press. The outcome of the report produced by Justice Kelly was that Mr Birks was just not suited to the position to which he had been appointed. He would be no orphan in this regard but was unfortunate, I guess, to be in a situation where such publicity could be given to the whole affair. He was, of course, the head of a Government Department. As an individual in a private firm he would have been quietly let down or moved to more suitable employment. He apparently refused another job offered him and went farming at Meadows, never returning to College, which is understandable, although a visiting friend said that he would dearly like to. In Mr Philp's words 'there would have been no grudge against him and he would have been welcome as a visitor.' Being miscast, as he was in his position, seems to be his main crime for which he must have paid very dearly through extensive adverse publicity. In listening to Mr Philp, one's sympathy lies with the individual, but I can imagine in the emotional event this view would be very hard to take by many. To my mind this was, to coin a cliché, 'a very unfortunate incident'.

NEWSLETTER FROM CLIFF HOOPER

After a delay of twelve months my trip to Tasmania took place in February and I was able to look up a few old Collegians. Perhaps news of their doings may be of interest.

Our first call was on Peter Cocker (1963-66) of Ulverston. Peter is Managing Director of Vecon. With contracts with Edgell they plant and harvest beans from Queensland to Tasmania. The beans are a special stringless variety for canning evolved in the United States. A short trip allowed us to see one machine in operation, harvesting four rows at once.

The next night we dined with Amy Matthews (ex-Roseworthy staff) — Clive was away in Hobart on military matters. Amy gave us our introduction to Launceston — a rather pretty city.

NEWSLETTER FROM CLIFF HOOPER (continued)

This was followed on the following day by a trip up the Tamar with Mick Tandy (1959–62) and his charming wife and daughter to their shack, where a barbecue tea and a long yarn took us fairly late into the evening. Mick is now stationed with the Department in Launceston.

During the evening the name of Terry Klug (1961–64) was mentioned and he joined us for dinner the following day. Terry is also with the Department in Launceston, being mainly tied up with beef cattle production. Pity that there was not time to spend a day looking around with him.

On arrival in Hobart we stayed with David and Nan Secomb (ex-staff) – David is stationed in Hobart and appears to enjoy his work with the Department. Of course, we talked of Roseworthy, footballers that David had coached, and Sturt's prospects for 1970 (they still follow the Blues very closely). In his job he does a lot of work for the Development Bank.

I managed to meet David Wilson (1945–49) for a short period – he lives in Hobart with the centre of his activities at Sorell.

Sunday evening was spent with Bill (1962–65) and Liz McGowan – although Bill is tied up in the Dry Cleaning Business – he has a property down the Hicon Peninsula, which keeps him well in touch with Agriculture.

John Davies (1966–68) picked me up for a run to his property about 20 miles from Hobart. With 2500 acres, some still requiring a lot of development, John has a lot of work ahead of him but the possibilities are there. Weaners looking very well and a line of heifers took my eye.

At Ouse we accepted the invitation of Mr and Mrs Wood and Michael (1967–69) to lunch and it was a very enjoyable interlude. Michael showed us around the property while the ladies yarned with Mrs Wood, who, amongst other things, runs several black sheep. After shearing Mrs Wood spins the wool and uses it for her knitting. We inspected a line of Hereford heifers which were rather impressive. They also get nearly 100% calving.

We had a very brief visit to Simon (1953–56) and Mrs Pitt – sorry that it was so short as I could have spent longer in that Saxon Merino Stud. Their stud Herefords looked very well.

I would like to say thank you to all for making our visit so enjoyable and apologise that we could not see everybody. I recommend the Cascade but was not so impressed with Boags, but Apple Cider is quite nice.

COLLEGE CHATTER

The past few months have been mainly notable for staff changes. John Gursansky and Tim Luckhurst have joined private industry in New South Wales and Wally Elsdon is managing a property in the South East. Max Burton has a 12 months scholarship to Melbourne University where he is doing a course in Extension.

Several appointments have been made.

David Rounsevell, B.Sc., Hons., Zoology, Adelaide University, has been appointed Research Officer, Animal Production. He comes from the Education Department, being a trained Secondary School Teacher.

Roy Fairfax fills the position of Lecturer in Science, mainly in Biology. Roy came straight to Roseworthy from England and holds a B.Sc. Hons in Zoology from the University of London, also a Fellow of the Institute of Animal Technicians.

The position of Pure Seeds Officer has been filled by David Curtis who came to Roseworthy from the Kimberley Research Station at Kununurra, Western Australia.

Jack Jones, after twelve months with the Department of Agriculture, came back to College as Assistant Horticulturist. Jack holds the R.D.A.T. (Horticulture) and found plenty to do with no Horticulturist on the staff.

On behalf of the staff, I welcome these new staff members and their wives to the Roseworthy Community.

Gillian Crook and Pat Heggie have just commenced duty as Laboratory Assistants.

Reg Hutchinson has been appointed Assistant Farm Superintendent and will be taking up duty early in May.

Recently we have seen the arrival of another ten room temporary accommodation building to house Oenology students. We are informed that the new accommodation block will not be completed until August 1971.

Most of you should have heard or read of the success of Halberd — another notable success to Rex Krause.

Ray Norton invested in a Horwood Bagshaw Clover Harvesting Machine and went into the business in quite a big way. He has found quite a ready sale for a lot of it and much more has been drilled back into the College farm. As we had five years' wheat quota in 1969, clover seed could be a useful outlet.

They tell me that the football team has possibilities, so watch for the results in the paper.

An unexpected visitor was Bruce Cree (1954—57) from Norfolk Island. He has been on the island for several years and runs a thriving, expanding Super Market.

John Dawkins (1965—68) writes from FORRESTDALE, Western Australia where they have experienced the worst drought on record. He has passed second year Economics and is looking forward to the continuation of the course.

Another letter was received from David Stanley (1956—59), Nairobi, Kenya, where they are also feeling the effect of squeezes and quotas. He mentions Simon Fletcher, Nigel Trent and Jim Sands. Both, John Dawkins and David Stanley, were joining the A.T.A.

Ian Anderson (1964—67) called in during vacation. He had just passed his second year Vet. at Brisbane (with two credits) and is enjoying the course. He reports that John Lawton has settled down on the property and is running Herefords and 800 sheep.

John Kohnke (1965—68) gives his address as International House, University of Sydney, and has started his first year of his Veterinary Course, and about which he has mixed feelings at present: International House must be aptly named as residents are 50% Australian and the other 50% are from 25 different countries. John also mentions that half the first years are birds.

Dick Turnbull (1966—68) writes from the Pathology Department of the Ingleburn Military Hospital. As a qualified Pathology Laboratory Assistant he gets more pay and less messing about than the P.B.I. He expects a posting to South Vietnam.

Bill Watson (1966—68) is now a Second Lieutenant and enjoying the privileges at Singleton. We understand that their was an engagement at Easter. Congratulations.

R.D.T.A. NOTES FROM BRIAN HANNAFORD

At the South Eastern Dairy Factory Managers' Conference held in Mount Gambier on 17/3/70, Bob McMahon, Syndal, Victoria (Graduate 1958), Ken Buckley, Mount Schank (Graduate 1957), Tom Bartholomew, Cobden, Victoria (Graduate 1957), Malcolm Timberlake, Murray Bridge (Graduate 1958) and the writer were present. Bob McMahon was on the 'water wagon' convalescing after a recent illness. Bob, by the way, is now Manager of Lact-o-matic Pty Ltd, Victoria. Ken Buckley was his usual jovial self, sporting the best pair of mutton-chop whiskers at the Conference. Tom Bartholomew was looking fit and suntanned as was Malcolm Timberlake who had all the latest information on police radar traps.

R.D.T.A. members will next be assembling at the Adelaide Dairy Factory Managers' Conference which is set down for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th June, 1970.

— with kind regards.

OENOLOGY NEWSLETTER from Phil Tummel

The 1970 Vintage started with a big rush as the white wine varieties ripened at the same time. Quality this year should be good and also an increase in red colour was appreciated. A big vintage is expected and it is a good opening for the 1969 graduates, especially Ian Scarborough as unfortunately his chief Peter Lehmann of Saltram fame, had an emergency operation in St Andrews and this left Ian at the helm. Peter is progressing extra well, and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to Peter Wall (Yalumba), recently married at Sydney. Ray Ward was present to see Peter leave the bachelor ranks.

We all wish John Stasford (late of the Wine Bureau) success in his new venture as a private wine consultant.

OENOLOGY NEWSLETTER (continued)

Bill Battams' wedding, 14th March, was a true winemakers occasion. Riesling and champagne (Reynella, of course) flowed freely, and was dammed by John Glaetzer (escorting Wolf's secretary, female, from Nuri), Bob Baker and wife Marie, self and wife, and also Mark Babidge's fiancée Meryl. Mark was otherwise occupied at Yenda.

The nineteen new Oenology students commencing this year will really help the demand for wine-makers, but I feel the next intake will be scratching for first-class positions.

THE GRAPEVINE

For those R.O.C.A. members who are keen to learn the finer art of yachting keep the 27th and 28th February next year free. This is the E.P. reunion weekend and I believe efforts are being made to obtain the services of John McFarlane and John Evans to give instructions on how to sail a yacht. John McFarlane is the most experienced of the two, having been out one and a half times and his partner on half a trip. Unfortunately the breeze proved too great a problem out in the middle of the bay at Port Lincoln for the two Johns on family day this year as they decided to try out swimming fully clothed. I can't talk, however; I tried water skiing behind Ken Hayman's boat and the only thing I managed to do reasonably successfully was to get a stiff neck.

There have been several changes within the Department of Agricultural staff recently. Bob Haggerstrom has shifted from Mount Gambier and is now over the West Coast. His place is to be filled by Peter Marrett from Keith. Ken Holden is shifting to Port Lincoln, replacing Keith Bicknell who has transferred to Murray Bridge. Rumour has it that Tom Davidson will be off to Minnipa as Adviser. Tony Morris is now officer in charge of Minnipa Research Centre and his place at Wanbi will be filled by Gerry Woodrooffe.

Many of the more recent graduates will be interested to know that Dave Woodruff and family were down from Queensland recently. Dave is still enjoying his work at the Wheat Research Centre.

Talking of Queensland, Ian Bidstrup has written of his doings out from Collinsville, seeding 4,000 acres to Sorghum and its problems. Says he is looking for up to four fellows who understand cereal farming and are interested in a Queensland working holiday. If anyone is at a loose end, he can be contacted at Biralee 12-Mile, via Collinsville, Qu. 4804.