



# R. O. C. A. DIGEST

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION

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## EDITORIAL MATERIAL TO:

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## LAST EDITION AS EDITOR

It is with some regret that this will be my last edition as Editor of the Digest. I would like to take the opportunity of thanking the Association for allowing me the honour of handling the publication, a task which I have enjoyed and which has allowed me to meet many more members than I would normally have met.

After nearly 8 years as Editor I feel that the introduction of 'new blood' should add quite a boost to the publication.

Under some circumstances it is perhaps regarded as poor manners to single out and thank individuals however I cannot allow the opportunity to pass without mentioning a few who have helped to make my job that much easier.

The members of the Digest Committee have always been of valuable assistance and to the four men listed at the head of this page must be added the name of the late Mr Don Stacey whose guidance was invaluable when the existing form of Digest was commenced. Ian Fry must also be mentioned. Ian was the member who first started the Digest.

Des Habel and the E.P. members have always been of considerable support both financially and with material. Peter Lock has kept us well informed on affairs in the Upper Murray region and the Oenology Section has been well looked after by Phil Tummel. Brian Hannaford and members of the Dairy Technologists group have kept us well informed on items of interest in their sphere.

At the College Cliff Hooper has kept us up to date on College matters and Ray Norton's efforts with Philpy's Memoirs created much interest. Christine Turner and Sandra Elsdon, formerly of the College office staff, have also assisted greatly in regard to typing.

Frank Pearson, who has been on the Digest Committee since its inception must rate a special mention. Frank has taken a tremendous interest in the publication and his assistance to me has been invaluable. As for providing material, Frank has always been happy to supply volumes of interesting reading for all members.

To the above, and all those others who have written to me I say thank you and trust that our combined efforts have provided interesting reading for all. I hope that you will continue to support the new Editor when one is appointed. To those who have not contributed material I ask you to seriously consider the matter because any news items that you can provide will broaden the field of interest.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Staff of Commercial Printing House for showing more than a normal business interest in our publication and I hope our association with this firm will continue for many years.

ROSS FORD.

## 1971 AWARD OF MERIT NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the 1971 Award of Merit are due with the Hon. Secretary, R.O.C.A., C/- Roseworthy College, no later than 31st May, 1971.

This Award is to any member of the Association who has made a meritorious contribution in any field of agricultural activity including Association affairs.

Information to be supplied with each nomination:-

1. NAME
2. ADDRESS
3. AGE
4. PERIOD AT R.A.C.
5. SUPPORTING DATA
6. ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

PROPOSED BY:

SECONDED BY:

DATE:

Previous recipients of this award are:-

1961 – Rowland Hill	1966 – Dr A. R. Callaghan
1962 – David Riceman	1967 – Bob Herriot
1963 – Len Cook	1968 – Dennis Muirhead
1964 – W. J. Dawkins	1969 – Jack Reddin
1965 – Frank Pearson	1970 – Ron Badman

## A.T.A. SEMINAR – 15th and 16th MAY

To be held at Roseworthy College and an impressive line up of guest speakers have been arranged and will be predicting what will happen in agriculture in the next ten years.

The Saturday afternoon seminar is to be followed by a Dinner that night at which a prominent politician will be guest speaker. Sunday morning will provide a chance for a College inspection. The first members to apply will be accommodated at the College.

For further details contact the Chairman of the Seminar Committee:

Mr Ray Taylor, C/- C.D.B., 96 King William Street, Adelaide.

## UPPER MURRAY NEWS FROM PETER LOCK

### 1970 Upper Murray Branch Re-union Dinner

Twenty-four members and guests attended the 19th Reunion Dinner held at the Loxton Hotel—Motel on 23rd September, 1970.

President Dave Suter, Past President Ross Ford and Secretary John Jones made the trip from Adelaide and during the evening they enlightened us on various ROCA activities and changes taking place at the College.

Our very able guest speaker was Dr W. Forrest, Director of the Wine Research Institute, who spoke on the work of the Institute and its relationship to the wine industry in the future.

The 1971 Re-union will be held at Renmark with Alan Emerson succeeding Bruce Hall as Branch President. As last year's family day was small but very successful it was decided to hold another this year with the hope of a larger attendance.

The evening finished quite late with Members staying on after the meeting really enjoying the fellowship.

## ARRIVALS TO THE UPPER MURRAY:

Tony Bass	– Field Officer, Loxton Research Centre
Hans Sluiter	– Shell Chemical, up in Berri
Kevin LeLeu	– Teaching at Loxton High School.

## DEPARTURES:

- Jeff Anderson — Left Renmark Growers' Distillery, now at Griffith, N.S.W.  
David Pannach — Left Renmark, with Commonwealth Valuation Department, and lives at Parkside  
Tom Usher — From Renmark to P.O. Box 260, Naracoorte  
John Eyre — Address now: 29 Leader Street, Goodwood.

## OENOLOGY NEWSLETTER from Phil Tummel

1970 has drawn to a close and big things occurred and now, early in 1971 the take-over of Orlando Wines has occurred. A few pessimists are painting dark pictures of the future, but this follows a pattern of life. Personally, I feel the wine boom is still in its infancy, but the word QUALITY should be the password of all reputable winemakers, as we have been inclined to bypass this word over the last few years.

Most pleasing to see our younger generation winemakers seriously settling down to a life of married bliss. Congratulations Mr and Mrs Mark Babidge, Mr and Mrs Ian Scarborough, Mr and Mrs John Glaetzer, Mr and Mrs Brian Falkenburg.

Flashback — In 1936 the Oenology Course commenced with four students: Max Hackett (Manager, Tarac), Noel Burge (Wilsford Wines), Charles Kelly (Emu Wines, Western Australia) and Malcolm Allen (Department of Lands). The following year was, as stated in last edition, headed by Ben Chaffey, etc.

Congratulations to Jamie Sobels of Quelltaler, who became a daddy in January.

Best wishes to David Crosbie on his Hungerford Hills appointment.

## COLLEGE CHATTER from Cliff Hooper

With examinations over and harvest completed we can say that another year is finished.

Examination results followed the usual pattern with five second-years failing and twelve first-years plus the usual number of supplementary examinations to be done. Third-years completed a very satisfactory year and rumour has it that quite a lot of them will be returning to do fourth year. With the possibility that the R.D.A.T. will shortly receive its proper recognition, probably they are doing the right thing.

At present, there are 120 applicants for entry to first year. Although not all of these will qualify, there should be no trouble in filling the proposed quota of sixty-five.

1971 will see a further change in the curriculum with third year students not being on the work list. They will still do a certain amount of work, e.g., shearing and wool classing, plus many aspects of agriculture covered by practical demonstration and farm visits. Because our laboratories cannot handle a group of 65, first year will be halved to give, with second year, three groups as a work force, so that lecture time to these two years remains the same.

January 1971 saw the retirement of Bun Mackereth, after nearly 20 years employment at the College, first in the kitchen and then at the piggery. We can only say of Bun 'Well done, you have tackled all jobs with the same energy and ability, maintained that sense of humour and you will be difficult to replace.' I am certain that you join with me in wishing Bun and Mrs Mackereth many years of happy retirement.

Max Burton and family have returned to the College after his completion of a successful course at the Melbourne University.

We still have vacancies on the staff for Senior Lecturer in Horticulture and Senior Lecturer in Agricultural Engineering.

At the piggery a new Progeny Testing shed is now in operation — 38 pens each pen to hold four pigs. With a slatted floor it is claimed that only two hours' cleaning is required per year. With a 75 sow unit they have turned out 82,000 lbs of pig meat in six months with a conversion rate of 4.23.

In the sheep section we have mated just over 1,000 Merino ewes which may be another record. Experimental Ewes — 422, Commercial Ewes — 286 and 294 purchased Flock Ewes mated to Dorsets.

You will also see a few Border Leicesters running around the College. No, I am not in the stud game. These are being used by David Rounsevell in trial work.

The Dairy is now milking 47 cows and will increase to 55 later in the year.

The winery is gradually reaching completion and they hope to have it ready for vintage. On your next visit an inspection of this building will be a must — even if it has given Bob Baker a few headaches.

**HARVEST 1970.** Although rainfall for 1970 was only 15.74 with a dry October, we experienced a good harvest.

Firstly, our hay reserves were minimal and all that remained, being cereal, was mouse damaged. The shed was cleaned out and filled with 550 ton of top quality medic hay and 50 ton cereal hay. In addition 250 acres were windrowed and used in the paddock. An indication of quality is given by the weight gains of up to 2.6 lbs/day of the young Poll Shorthorn bulls in one windrowed paddock.

Some yields of grain on fallow were outstanding — grazed Swan oats — 58 bush/acre, Halberd wheat 51 bush/acre and Clipper barley 49 bush/acre.

A total of 4,880 bush oats, 12,330 bush wheat and 25,380 bush barley were reaped. For the first time we were able to sell malting barley (Clipper) as usually we are beaten by high protein analysis.

With minimal wheat quota of 1,000 bush, over-subscribed to the extent of 5,500 bush the 12,000 bush of wheat, mostly Halberd will be an embarrassment if farmers don't buy the pure Halberd we anticipate. With the yields we experience, even though classified F.A.Q., they cannot afford not to buy it!

The last acquisition of 188 acres on the left of the road going to Gawler, will occur on 1st March. This puts the farm acreage at 3,000 acres and with less students in the field in 1971 most will be kept busy on essential work. A new system of Farm Records will be introduced at 1st March also, in an attempt to more usefully use paddock operations as a teaching medium.

Barney McCallum called in during November while on leave from the Army. He is putting up with the Army even though there are a few faults which can be seen. Clean shaven with an Army haircut rather alters the appearance.

I saw Curly Hill at a party in the early hours of New Year's Day. Unfortunately we did not have much chance of a yarn but he promised to visit the College while on leave from the Northern Territory.

#### Recent marriages in the College Chapel:

Julia Phelps and Trevor Twigden  
Sandra Perry and Wally Elsdon  
Patricia Nayler and Phil Letherby  
Fay Brammy and Trevor March  
Sue Bagshaw and Ross Dawkins

Also married: Meryl Longmore and Mark Babidge  
Susan Fulton and Peter Ryan.

Births: Fay and Reg. Hutchinson — a daughter.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Theo Stiller, Bishop Museum, Field Station, Box 77, Wau, T.P.N.G.

News for you at last. By the new address above you will see that we have been successful in getting the position in which I was interested.

This last week Dr Gressitt, from the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Hawaii, called on us here at Banz for an interview with me. After talking with us about our principles and ideas and looking at the work I have been doing here at the Agric. School, Banz, it was quite clear that I had the position if I wanted it. The following afternoon after his arrival, we both flew to Wau via Lae, so that I could see the field station and plantation and what my work would be at first hand, without or before committing myself. I accepted the position after having seen the 55 acres of coffee (Arabica), the residence and factory, the labora-

tory and residences (6) of the field station, and also a part drive and then walk to the top of Mt Kaimbi, about 8,000 ft overlooking the town of Wau. Here the Government has a repeater station (for broadcasting) and next to this a substation for the field station is planned. I then flew back to Lae and Banz, where not only Ulrike had missed me but also our dear Nina. She was really smiles when I walked in the door.

Dr Gressitt, who is the director of the field station, and my only authority, is known to be one of the leading entomologists in the world, having collected and studied insects as far as South America and the Antarctic. Presently he is working in the Pacific and mainly in New Guinea, because this island is the richest source of insects in the world, having his home and library at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu. He spends a few months each year at the field station at Wau, doing a great deal of walking into mountain ranges in the Territory for his collecting and studies.

Working at the field station more permanently are entomologists, ecologists (study of plants and their families), and zoologists (study of animals of New Guinea), who stay from time to time, for periods of 3 months or 1 to 2 years. On retiring, Dr Gressitt and family will live at the field station at Wau.

My position is Field Station Manager, the first position of its kind there. This has been created due to a number of things. Firstly, a decrease in grants from the U.S. Government for research of this type for the Bishop Museum in Honolulu (the Vietnam war, etc.), has forced the field station at Wau to try to become self-supporting. Dr Gressitt has just purchased a coffee plantation of 55 acres with factory, this property adjoining the field station. Within the next months the plantation, the field station, and all land and residences will be consolidated into a Corporation — non profit one, and it will be given another name, separating it largely with the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, although the present ties will not be dissolved. So that my job is to firstly make this Corporation self-supporting. The salaries and expenses for research of the visiting scientists will continue to come in part from overseas grants, etc. Later, with the purchase of more land, I will help establish a zoo, containing only animals and birds native of this country.

So, I shall be fully occupied for quite some time. Ulrike has also been offered a part time job, which includes the book-keeping, correspondence, allocation of residences to new scientists, and the accommodation of tourists and visitors.

Wau is 90 miles South-West of Lae, in the Bulolo Valley — the very famous gold mining area of New Guinea. Mining is still of economic importance, and so a week-end of prospecting may prove quite interesting! The average annual rainfall is 80 inches, altitude 4,600 ft, average temperature 80°F, and very low humidity, so the climate is very likely the most ideal in New Guinea — much the same as here at Banz.

This week we shall be packing, then next week-end, 31st, we will drive first to Lae then on up to Wau. As soon as the present plantation owner and his wife have packed and moved, we shall be able to move into the plantation residence, one of the highest houses, overlooking the Wau Valley, a magnificent view. We are certainly looking forward to this busy future.

From Geoff 'Jungle' Fromm

Dear Sir,

After working with CSIRO for eight years on a research station at Humpty Doo, south east of Darwin, I resigned last October as the first step of a prolonged working holiday overseas. I then worked, with my brother, on a cotton farm in the Wee Waa area of N.S.W. for four months. It was quite an experience and I gained some valuable knowledge concerning cotton growing. I then spent the month of March at home helping to paint the house — home being Gomersal, via Tanunda. Not much painting was done as I spent quite a bit of time going to various functions associated with the Festival of Arts. I had hoped to visit Roseworthy College again before departing for overseas but time did not allow me to do so.

I travelled on the Castel Felice to England, via the Panama Canal, the trip taking 6½ weeks. I spent six weeks in England visiting various people I knew and staying in London for almost four weeks. Amongst the people I visited was Brian Evans who is living in Cresselly, South Wales, where I stayed for five days. I also made a very quick trip to Glasgow and Edinburgh. At the beginning of July I travelled to Hanover, in Germany, by way of Paris, where I spent two days. I have now been living in Hanover

for two months and working for six weeks. Getting a suitable job proved to be a bit of a problem and I finally accepted one as a Storekeeper with the British Army Supply Depot but unfortunately it pays a very low wage. My work includes working out rations for each Army Unit and giving out fresh vegetables and fruit three times a week (also eggs) and bread five times a week. I am also responsible for the 'Compo Rations' – these being tinned food for Army exercises. It is a five day a week job working from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and at the moment I spend an hour in the morning and another hour at night travelling to and from work. I have been finding it rather difficult to find a job concerned with agricultural research as Hanover is an industrial city.

I will probably change my address in the next few weeks so, as I would like the Digest forwarded to me, it would be best to send it to me C/- The Overseas Visitors Club, 1–3 Templeton Place, London S.W. 5. They have my address and will forward it to me. The first landlady I have had the experience of renting a room from has turned out to be a most unusual person and I could write a short story about her.

I had intended making my trip an around the world working holiday but I don't think I will get very far. Once I have obtained a job with a reasonable salary I'll be settled in Germany for a few years, but I intend returning to Australia for a holiday in about two to three years' time.

Learning to speak fluent German is taking a bit longer than I expected. I attended night classes in Darwin for a couple of years and they have been a great help to me. I have found the German food excellent and the German way of life is rather different but very enjoyable. I would say that, in general, the German people are the most curious people I have met and they are forever mending everybody else's business; be it in the tram, walking down the street or buying something in a shop. Licencing hours are very liberal and they say Germans love their beer. I would say that this is a bit of an understatement after some of the things I've seen. Wages and living costs are quite different to what I expected to find in Germany; wages being lower and living costs higher, contrary to what I expected.

Summer has been and gone and autumn is already here. I am looking forward to experiencing my first European winter. Winter is the time for theatre and opera and I hope to see quite a few shows even though it may be a bit difficult at times to understand what is being said.

The German Government (or maybe it is only the Lower Saxony State Government which is so industrious) could give the Australian Government a few easy lessons in how to get things done. Hanover has been practically completely rebuilt since the last war and at the moment building is in progress for a new underground railway.

I could also give you my impressions of German girls but perhaps suffice to say that I think they are much better than the Australian girls. This may be due to the fact that there are something like five or ten girls to every boy so they might just have to be nicer to catch themselves a man.

Later on, when I am more financial I hope to make an extensive tour of the Mosel and Rhine areas to gain a better knowledge of German wines. I would also like to tour the French wine growing areas as well but I would prefer to learn French first. This may take a few years as German is proving difficult enough.

From what little I have heard from Australia since I left I believe conditions agriculturally are not too bright, particularly in N.S.W. where over half the State has been declared drought stricken again. The wet season in Darwin (October 1969 – March 1970) was also very poor with rainfall being the lowest recorded in the last eight years.

Germany has a system of modern autobahns to cater for the large numbers of cars but these are proving to be inadequate. During the last summer, there were delays of up to three or four hours whenever a new lot of people started their holidays. I have found travelling by train to be a fast and efficient way of travelling in Germany. Almost all trains are electric and the express trains usually travel at 70–80 mph. All the track is welded giving a smooth and quiet ride and the prices are very reasonable.

Shopping hours here are quite different to Australia. On Tuesday and Thursdays the banks are open till 6 p.m. and on Friday till 4 p.m. Most shops remain open till 1 or 2 p.m. on Saturdays and on the first Saturday of each month they remain open till 6 p.m. The reason for this is that wages are paid monthly here in Germany, usually between the 25th to the 30th of each month and by staying open all day Saturday the businesses can get a lot of money back again.

The German Post Office will never go broke because its rates are so high. So I'll have to close this letter as space has run out. Regards to everyone.

## ADVANCED TRAINING FOR DIPLOMATES – HAWKESBURY DIPLOMA OF RURAL EXTENSION

A significant development in professional training in Australia is the post diplomate course in rural extension. This course of one academic year, commenced in 1970 at Hawkesbury Agricultural College.

A prerequisite for admission is at least three years experience in a field extension position. The course offers for the first time advanced professional training in rural extension to Agriculture Diplomates, who comprise the majority of extension workers in Australia.

The Hawkesbury Diploma of Rural Extension is designed to develop a more complete understanding of the economic, social and cultural aspects of rural extension.

The course is focused on the farmer's changing technological, economic and social situation. Attention is given to the process of group decision making, and the educational role of the extension worker.

The twelve members enrolled in the 1970 academic year included nine practising rural extension workers and two rural extension administrators. The other member is an educator in nature conservation with the N.S.W. Parks and Wild Life Service.

The 1971 intake has been finalised and will include Diplomates from Departments of Agriculture, Soil Conservation, and Education (Rural Youth), from Tasmania, South Australia, and N.S.W. In future years it is anticipated that a wider range of adult educators will take advantage of this type of training.

### Course Objectives

The general objectives of the Hawkesbury Diploma of Rural Extension are to give the extension worker –

- + Increased competence to practise his profession.
- + A better understanding of the systems in which he works.
- + Desire for continued study and observation so that growth in knowledge and skill continue throughout his career.

### The Environment for Learning

Modern accommodation is provided with ample facilities for formal study, informal learning and social activities. The residential nature of the course, the experience of the extension workers attending, the interaction stimulated and the teaching situations created, permit unique opportunities for learning.

### Course Structure

The extension process of situation analysis, programme planning, implementation and evaluation is the basis of the course structure. A feature of the course is the degree to which course members organise activities, either through small groups or committees, who recommend internal and external activities.

The course draws on the social science disciplines of psychology, sociology and economics. The sub-disciplines of farm management, decision theory, group dynamics, are emphasised throughout the course. Course members also undertake a group extension project. However, as an integrated professional training course there is no strict separation of subject matter areas.

The behavioural sciences strand has two major areas of study –

- + Sociology – the understanding of communities and formal organisations in rural society, applied sociology, diffusion of innovations, and research on extension.
- + Social Psychology – motivation, perception, learning, defence mechanisms, role theory, communication, attitudes, group dynamics, and leadership.

The farm management economics strand embraces both macro and micro economics. An understanding of farm decision making, budgeting, farm planning, principles of production economics, and contemporary issues of farm management extension are developed. Other areas studies are supply and demand, adjustment forces, price theory and marketing.

### Field Project

All strands of the course are applied to a field project with a group of approximately 40 farmers in the Portland district, near Lithgow, N.S.W.

The aims of the project are to –

- + Assist the farmers to recognise, define and take steps to solve their own problems and in so doing, help the group of farmers to develop maturity and confidence in their approach to problem solving situations.
- + Give course members the opportunity to test, in a real situation, theories and concepts advanced during the course.

#### Other Activities

Specialists in fields allied to extension and adult education are invited to contribute to the course as seminar leaders. These seminars broaden the scope of course activities.

Visits to other institutions for conferences and seminars enable course members to participate in activities outside the resources of the course but allied to the fields of study.

Individual assignments requiring a search of the literature are undertaken in all areas of the course.

#### Learning Situations

The number of formal lectures delivered is kept to a minimum. Considerable emphasis is placed on workshop learning situations. These periods involve small group projects, individual work and large group discussions devoted to clarifying principles and to reviews of project work.

A high level of involvement is a characteristic of the learning situation. Group discussion enables field experiences to be related to the present learning situation.

The process of extension evaluation is taught by continuing application to the course. Course members accept considerable responsibility for evaluation of their own progress.

There is emphasis during the course to improve skills in working with other people.

Overall it is up to each individual attending to make the best opportunity of experience available throughout the course.