



R. O. C. A. DIGEST

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 1972 reunion looks as though it could be the biggest ever. As part of the association's drive to attract young members and increase interest, it has been decided to extend the guest list and invite 1971 and 1972 third year students to this year's AGM and dinner.

The list will also include students who were at the College for at least 12 months in either of those two years. R.O.C.A. will pay the cost of the dinner for these guests.

This move is expected to swell the numbers at our dinner to at least 200. It will also increase the number of potential members who may never have thought about joining the association.

While the committee realises this move will involve the association in extra expense, the returns it could bring in increased membership will more than justify the outlay. Such a move was further justified by the present financial position of R.O.C.A.

As well as attracting new members to the dinner, we will also encourage regulars and not-so-regulars to come along and make it the most successful ever held. With the large numbers envisaged, we have had to look at a new venue for the reunion. While this had not been finally decided at the time of writing, tentative bookings have been made with the Hotel Enfield and the Angle Park greyhound racing complex (full hotel and dining facilities have been incorporated in the centre on Days Road).

While on the subject of the AGM, I would like to remind members about nominations for the 1972 Award of Merit. Nominations have to be completed and sent to the Secretary immediately.

RICHARD FEWSTER

1972 AWARD OF MERIT NOMINATIONS

The award is made to any member of the Association who has made a meritorious contribution in any field of agricultural activity, including Association affairs. The following information must be supplied with each nomination: name, address, age, period at R.A.C., supporting data, academic qualifications, proposer and seconder.

COLLEGE CHATTER (From Cliff Hooper)

We started 1972 with the following enrolment—first year, 64; second year, 35; third year, 25; fourth year, 15; Oenology, 18. In first year, there are 57 students, with seven repeating first year. Of the new entries, 27 have matriculated, 40 have attempted matriculation, and 34 have farming backgrounds.

Roseworthy can consider its position very satisfactory; as in Victoria, entrants to both Dookie and Longerenong could all have been accommodated at Dookie, and at Glenormiston (which can take 70 students) there were 50 first years, 17 of them from interstate.

The 15 students doing fourth year include 11 from last year's third year, and four diplomates who returned after a year away. The oenology group includes two of last year's third years and 10 second years who have transferred, so there are only six from outside the College doing this course.

My wife and I recently spent a few days in the South-East. We stayed for a night with Fay and Brian Wesley-Smith. They were very fit, and we spent much of the night talking Roseworthy, Roseworthy staff and football. We also saw Ron Teakle, who I had not seen for many years, so there was quite a bit of ground to cover.

For those who know Kybyolite, I will mention the day spent with Peter Giles, who has just retired.

Blue Lampe has left Minnipa and transferred to the Turretfield Research Centre. He seems to still have as much energy as ever, and is very keen on breeding sheep dogs.

Once again, I write a few things from the 'Dungey Rag'—

Barry Mortimer, after several years teaching, is returning to Adelaide University to do the Arts course. Spike Jones had a very successful first year of the Science course, and now goes on to Queensland to do the veterinary course. John Kohnke successfully completed another year, and now enters the third veterinary year at Sydney University.

Rowan Nicholls (Mini Nick) also scored well in the Melbourne vet. course, and if you follow the football from Melbourne and the name Nicholls appears in the Collingwood line-up, it is Rowan.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From G. T. Brookman, 8 Hillside Road, Springfield, S.A. 5062.

I have discovered an agricultural exchange programme which I believe will be new to most 'Roseworthians'. It will give an excellent opportunity to travel and assimilate overseas agricultural methods and foreign ways of life with people who are interested in our field.

The International Agricultural Exchange Association, based in Denmark, is the organiser; and Australia has only recently been included in the scheme.

The tours begin in April each year, and the itinerary runs like this:- Auckland, N.Z. (five days with families); Fiji; Honolulu; Vancouver (two days stopover); Olds College, Alberta (five-day seminar). Then the participants spend six months with Canadian families, netting about \$175 a month from wages. Then to Europe via New York, and another five months with families there before returning to Australia via Bangkok and Manila.

The tour thus lasts about 12 months, and the cost at present is about \$1,500, which I am guessing could become cheaper as a result of air travel changes. Considering that the cost is only a little over \$100 a month with an earning capacity of \$175 a month, I view the scheme as a remarkable opportunity, and one that should be taken up by anyone who is undecided about his future.

Further information from Mr Richard Honis, Unit 8, 18 Essex Street, Epping, N.S.W. 2121.

(From C. J. McGowan, c/- Dept. of Agriculture, Box 81, Keith, S.A. 5267)

I have a few comments to make about the employment possibilities for diplomates. It appears that today, the key thought in the mind of Agricultural College administrators is to get as many diplomates as possible out of the Colleges each year.

Little or no thought is given to the number of job opportunities open to them once they graduate. Already in Australia there is a surplus of Bachelor of Arts graduates and agricultural Ph.D.'s, and many recent graduates of Roseworthy found it hard to get suitable jobs.

If the present trend of many Agricultural Colleges to drastically increase student numbers continues, the glut of diplomates will be inevitable. The result will be an inability to obtain jobs of sufficient standard and salary, compared with that for which they are trained.

It is a pity some means cannot be found to rationalise that student intake before it is too late.

(From Bob Osborne, c/- Mt Gambier High School, Brownes Road, Mt Gambier, S.A. 5290)

I am teaching at Mount Gambier and am in the process of establishing a resource centre for Agriculture at the school. I have plenty of written material available, but am lacking audio-visual material in the form of slides.

I am attempting to set up a series of coloured slides dealing with any agricultural topic, and I thought if any R.O.C.A. members had slides I could copy, it would allow me to set up the collection in a fairly short time. All slides would be returned as soon as copies were made. Any help you can give will be very much appreciated.

RIVERLAND NEWS (From Peter Lock)

There have been several changes amongst Old-Collegians in the Riverland area recently. Among the arrivals are— Kevin LeLeu, teaching at Loxton High School; Ross Ford, at the Commonwealth Development Bank, Renmark; Dave Yeo, Department of Agriculture livestock officer at Barmera; Richard Stewart, at Tolleys Nurseries, Renmark; and Gordon Nillsen, winemaker at the Loxton Co-op. Winery.

Among those who have departed are— Colin Krause, now teaching in Victoria; Alan Emerson, with the Commonwealth Development Bank at Mount Gambier; Kevin Pfeiffer, with Fitzpatrick Bros., vineyards, Seymour, Victoria; and Trevor Twigden, who is in the U.S.

While the student magazine was not published in its usual form late last year, a similar version is now available from the Student Representative Council at the College for a cost of \$1.

John Jones reports that the magazine, which has been produced by the students alone, is well turned-out and makes good reading.

EYRE PENINSULA WEEK-END — 1972

FAMILIARISATION (From Des Habel)

There wouldn't be a better way to start the week-end than the present method—All who can (blokes, wives, girlfriends, and so on) gather at the Port Lincoln Hotel around 11 a.m. on the Saturday, just to get to know each other over a cup of coffee, spiked or otherwise.

The publican, a most considerate type, makes a secluded portion of the pub available, and furnishes it with one long table and plenty of chairs. Coffee and biscuits is the main issue after introductions, but a drink waitress was also kept busy—very thirsty work, being introduced.

Branch President, Pat Marrie, was first on the scene and kept up with the names as the distinguished and not-so-distinguished participants arrived. He had guest speaker, John Bromell, and his wife, Jill, well under his wing after they were delivered from the aerodrome by Maurice and Margaret Barry.

My wife and I were present when the balloon went up, but it was race day and there was a horse to saddle up, so I had to leave early (may as well have stayed and shouted everyone champagne for the rest of the day—it would have been cheaper).

Amongst those in attendance were the two Johns—Evans and McFarlane. They were escorted by Jenny and Pam, and under strict surveillance just to make sure they behaved. The first thing the Johns asked was, 'Where's that bathtub, Shiphard?' Answer, 'Still at Penong; be here next year'.

The Andrew Michelmores of Nuriootpa were the week-end house guests of Mr and Mrs Ken Holden. They all came along to be introduced to one another—like the rest of us.

Anyhow, after a couple of schooners and a plate of biscuits, I had to go and see if the battery in the whip was still operating, but the gathering was developing into a really good show, with everyone talking at once and getting primed up for the evening.

I told Dick Fewster to get here early with Ann for a free feed on our 'Big Chief', but the bomb he drives could only average a bit over 80, so he missed out—he'll have to do the 420 odd miles in four hours instead of five next time.

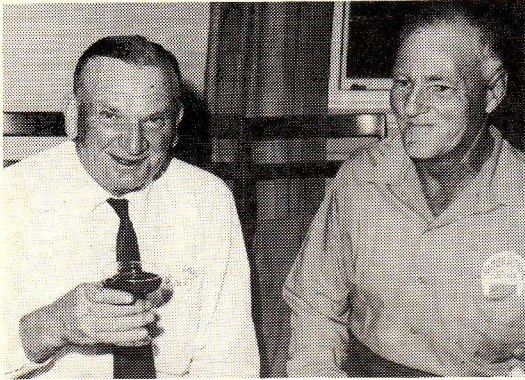
BRANCH A.G.M

The President, Pat Marrie, opened the meeting by welcoming all present, mentioning particularly R.O.C.A. President, Richard Fewster, and thanked all members for their support during the previous twelve months. He expressed appreciation to committeemen Peter Thyer and Ray Alcock for their efforts in connection with the Branch. He was sorry to lose their support and wished them well in their new places of residence.

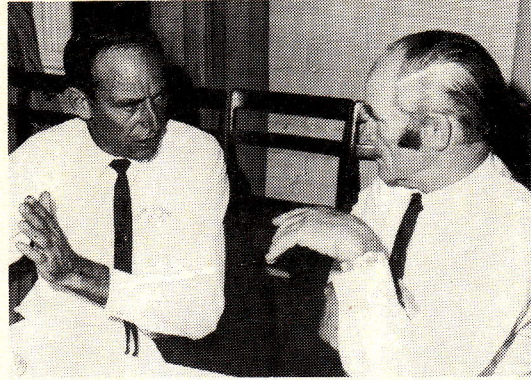
Pat congratulated John McFarlane, John Evans and Jon Shiphard on the start of their families during 1971, and expressed sympathy to the Provis and Hull families on the deaths of Mrs Provis and Mrs Hull.

He also explained that Professor Rex Butterfield, who had been invited to be guest speaker, was on his way to Scotland and was unable to attend, but would 'do his best to make it next year if the invitation was still open'.

The election of officers resulted in unopposed, unanimous votes for—president, P. Marrie; vice-president, R. Horne; hon. secretary, D. Habel; treasurer and assistant secretary, M. Barry; committee, I. Holman, R. Stirling, J. Chewings, R. Daniel, B. Lawes, K. Holden.



Alan Lawes of Wanilla, and Hamish Pattison of Port Lincoln are regulars at the reunion.



Peter Minhard of Cummins and Bob Stirling of Tumby Bay, were also at the dinner.

DINNER (From Ken Holden)

Needless to say, the Old Collegians' dinner at the Great Northern Hotel was enjoyed by all. For those of you who were unfortunate enough not to make it, we had a jug for you.

Numbers were down on last year, and only 31 were able to attend. We would like to see a larger gathering next year, by which time the Great Northern will have replenished its stocks. Those from the mainland included Dick Fewster, the President of R.O.C.A., Andy Michelmore, Dennis Harrison and John Evans—all came with their families for what was to be a most enjoyable week-end.

Bob Horne proposed the toast to the Association, and Dick Fewster, in response, briefly discussed the current activities of R.O.C.A. and A.T.A. He urged all those eligible to join A.T.A. to do so.

Barry Lawes proposed an excellent toast to the College, and Andy Michelmore in response gave us an outline of present College activities. Reminiscing, he told us of the fair Gawler girl who saved pocket knives. I wonder how many of today's old students have nice new pocket knives.

We heard some more reminiscences during the annual Roll Call. Des Habel told of the student who, in answer to an exam question, 'What is a cryptorchid?' said 'A horse with one testicle in its scrotum and the other up his rectum.'

Bob Stirling gave the 'Ode of Remembrance' while a slide of the College Chapel's Altar and Cross was projected on to a screen. Earlier, about 60 slides of last year's picnic day, taken by photographers Hayman and Haney, were screened. Some of these included Hayman in the sandhills (by Haney) and Haney prostrate on the sand beside an empty bottle of red (by Hayman). The 'Belle of Billy Light Point', Mrs Elizabeth Michelmore, also starred.

John Bromell lived up to his reputation as a fine speaker with his address—'Slogans—Substitutes for critical thinking'. Many questions were fired at John; and Peter Dunn, our toastmaster, eventually had to call a halt. Maurice Barry thanked John on behalf of everyone.

The last of us left at about 2 a.m., with the last couple of hours taken up practising for the big picnic the next day.

Hope to see you there next year—the more the merrier.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT (From Rosemary Holden)

Once again, the wives went their separate way to wine and dine the evening away while the men had their meeting and dinner. Our thanks go to Joy Habel for once again organising the function at the El Toreador. We were pleased to be joined by Jill Bromell, Ann Fewster, Mallie Harrison, Elizabeth Michelmore and Jenny Evans.



*A cool, calm and collected President
Pat Marrie.*



*John McFarlane—keeper of law and order
at the picnic.*

FAMILY DAY (As spotted by C. Gull)

It is the exception rather than the rule to pick a winner, but we locals did it again this year. The day dawned bright and clear with a faint breeze—all the right prospects of a perfect day for the sun worshipper. Ideal for eating, swimming, boating, tanning, or just bending the elbow.

Hangovers from the previous night were forgotten as bikinis were anticipated (Ken Holden borrowed a special pair of dark glasses for the occasion and his wife Rosemary didn't catch him once).

The Billy Light Point camp was established without opposition, supplies were brought in by motor transport through the surging surf, and sufficient shelter was established for the company. By mid-day, the bottle tops were flying through the air so rapidly that camp commandant, Pat Marrie, had to take cover behind a flagon of red.

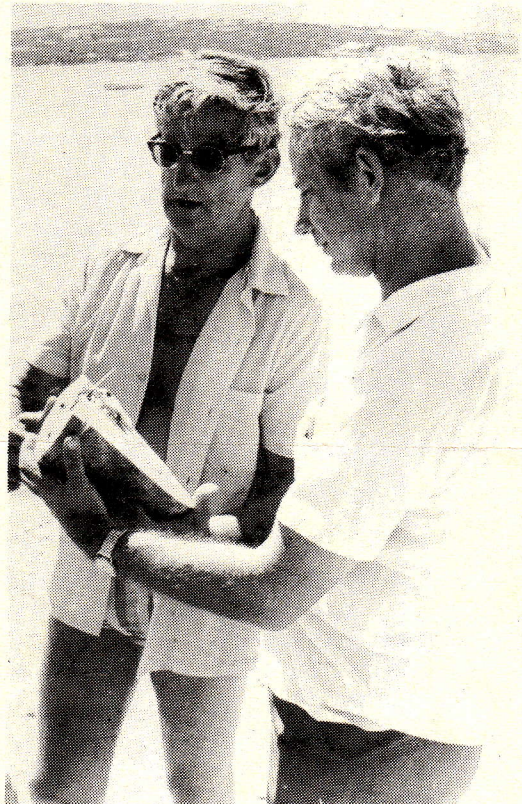
Fresh meat was rushed in by supply officer, Russ Daniell, and the O.C. Catering. Bob Stirling, soon had the youngsters with a chop in one hand, a sausage in the other and a hunk of bread shoved up their jumpers. Bob Horne asked Jack McFarlane if he would like a chop. 'No thanks, I roll me own,' was the blurred reply.

It was obvious the day was going to be a success. Dick Fewster was the official photographer, and the action soon became fast and furious. John tried to drown Elizabeth and Ken Holden went to the rescue, only to be attacked by drowner and drownee. Andy looked on, hoping for the best.

The branch committee took a vote, and it was decided that nothing should happen to our Elizabeth who has never, and never will be, beaten as 'Belle of the Beach'. We want her, Andy and the three boys back here as often as they can make it.



*Chief cook and bottle opener for the day,
Des Habel, arrives with supplies.*



*Andy Michelmore and Maurice Barry showed more
interest in a watermelon than in Des's bar.*

Visitors, Denis and Mollie Harrison, lent elegance to the conflict. How Denis can remain so spruce when attacking a sausage covered with 'haemorrhage' is beyond the E. P. comprehension.

Ian Newland, with his sea transport craft made the day for the younger brigade by successfully navigating Boston Bay; and some of the older youngsters, i.e., John Evans and Dick Fewster, drew gasps of amazement from their many female admirers by performing spectacular gymnastics with, or without, the aid of a water ski.

The guy with the bottle opener suspended around his neck got a few 'knock-backs' during the day when opening stubbies for the girls. Still, if at first you don't succeed, try again in 1973.

John Bromell and his wife, Jill, had their fair share of the sun; and by the time they boarded the 'plane, the top of John's head appeared to be 'scalped'.

Maurice Barry had the hard job of the day—collecting the loot, while his wife, Margaret, hit all and sundry for sixes in the annual beach cricket match (probably be the Barrys vs. the Rest next year).

This year's bevy of attractive young wives gave a touch of glamour to the scene. We missed Marlene from Penong, but she'll be with us next year—have it in writing. We also missed Philpy and his wife, who just couldn't make it this year—perhaps in 1973?

Committeemen's wives—Mesdames Holden, Holman, Habel, Horne, Barry and Stirling, rallied to the cause with cake and other goodies, but we missed Di Daniell, who spent the week-end in bed. At least she had a restful day, with the children, the husband and the dog at the beach.

The children, young and old, put away 14 doz. dandies and drank 10 doz. bottles of soft drink. The quantities of wines and beer consumed will not be disclosed—we don't want to boast.

A VISIT OF INSPECTION TO THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

(From 'The Advertiser', September 13, 1897)

About 250 farmers, many of whom had come to Adelaide from distant parts of the colony to visit the September show, accepted the invitation of the Acting Minister of Agriculture (the Hon. J. G. Jenkins) to visit Roseworthy College . . .

It is felt amongst farmers, Professor Lowrie says, as well as by the Government, that if the place is to fulfil its functions in changing seed wheat with farmers, breeding a useful bull for dairy districts, and also giving the amount of practice necessary for the boys, it should be considerably extended.

With the new block, the area of the farm will be about 1,000 acres, but the professor says it should be 3,000 or 4,000 acres and points to the fact that the Dookie farm in Victoria has an area of 5,000 acres. Without more land the boys cannot have the experience and practice in sheep that is needed . . .

The Commissioner of Public Works said he felt sure all those who had attended must have recognised in what they had already seen the benefits of the Roseworthy Farm.

Professor Lowrie, who was received with cheers, expressed the honour he felt at having so many representatives from all parts of the colony present. He took the vast attendance as an indication that there was at least some interest, some curiosity, in the work that was being done by the institution.

Speaking for himself and his colleagues, he would say that what they had put before them, they had endeavoured to do to the advantage of the agricultural interests of South Australia. (Cheers).

He could look back half a dozen years—he had been there 10—and notice what a decided difference there was in the interest that was taken in the discussions that came before farmers nowadays to what there was eight or ten years ago.

When he spoke of the rise of sheep the farmers shook their heads and said they would not pay. The use of manures was considered a fad, and to talk of dairy cattle was thought to be out of the question. It was said there were no permanent waters and the climate was too dry, and other objections were made.

He was quite sure that the bare fallow and growing wheat must be the basis of their agricultural practice. It was impossible to have to plant 400 out of 600 acres and do that. That was about one fifth of what he should have at the farm to give the students the experience and training they required. He had asked to have them put before a practical examiner at the end of three years for the purpose of their obtaining a diploma in agriculture.

(From 'The Advertiser', September, 1898—Also on the annual farmers' visit to the College)

Some people attend it entirely for the free feed. They care no more about agricultural developments than agricultural developments care about them. They simply roost at the point nearest to the sandwiches and the drinks, and do execution which would shame a prize gormandiser.

One of these was asked whether he did not intend to go out and hear Professor Lowrie's explanation of what was going on at the farm . . .

'Not I,' said he, between his bites, 'That's not in my line, but these sandwiches are jolly good.'

I hear that the Government will not be so lavish in future in its invitations, and quite right. These jauntings and feasting under the patronage of the Ministry are only a means of advertising what good fellows Ministers are, and a general election is coming.

If folk want to see the Roseworthy College, why in the name of turnips and potatoes can't they pay their own passages to the site and take their own bread and butter in their pockets?