



R.O.C.A. digest

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April, 1978

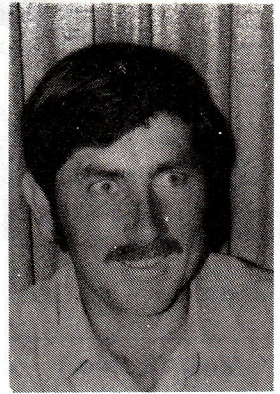
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**President of the
R O C A,
Ross Dawkins
presenting
Des Habel with the
Award of Merit
Medallion and
Certificate**

From the President...

ROSS DAWKINS



The New Year has got underway and this is the first opportunity to introduce the new faces on the Committee. Bruce Wigney, as Treasurer, replaced Doug Clifford and Keith Cowley, now at Roseworthy Agricultural College replaces Dave Suter, a staunch supporter of R.O.C.A. for many years.

As those of you present at the Annual General Meeting dinner last September, will remember we had a very successful evening. It will not be long before we will be looking for the 25 year ago group to organise themselves for this year's dinner. Mark Babidge has already made preliminary preparations for the 10 year ago group.

We will also be looking for nominations for the Award of Merit. With many old Collegians worthy of this Award; what about putting pen to paper and nominating someone who you think is worthy of this Award.

I must once again say Thanks to those people and organisations who so generously donated wines and fruit juices for last years dinner. Some wine has been retained for the Eyre Peninsula Branch Reunion this year.

Award of Merit 1977

JOHN DESMOND HABEL

Des attended the College during 1937-40, the war intervened and he completed his diploma in 1946-47.

During the war Des was a member of the Veterinary Corp attached to the 9-23 Light Horse. In 1941 he transferred to the AIF and served in Darwin and the Pacific Islands. In 1950 he was appointed District Stock Inspector at Port Lincoln where he still lives and works as Animal Health Adviser with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Coultaw-Wangary Agricultural Bureau awards the P.L. Puckridge Shield annually to the person who has made the greatest contribution to Agriculture in the preceding 12 months - Des Habel has been a recipient of this award.

Des has been a member of ROCA Eyre Peninsula Committee for twenty six years, many of these years as secretary of the branch.

Des' activities are not only confined to his work and ROCA - he is a member of St. Thomas' Church of England, Port Lincoln, a successful breeder owner and trainer of thoroughbred horses, a member of the Breeders, Owners, Trainers and Reinsmen's Association and an active member of the local branch of the R.S.L.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held last September at the Princes Berkley Hotel.

The President of the Association, Mr. Ross Dawkins, presided over an attendance of 50 members.

The proposed amended Constitution was debated but no vote was taken, further corrections and clarification of some points were requested.

The President in his Report made mention of the Anderson enquiry and the Association's submissions to this enquiry into Post Secondary Education in South Australia.

R.O.C.A. has two Members on the Roseworthy Joint Committee which was formed to study the implications of amalgamation of the College with the Institute of Technology or other tertiary institutions in South Australia. The present findings of this Committee is that Roseworthy should remain an autonomous body.

Ross mentioned that the death of the following Old Collegians had been recorded by the Association during the year. Bob Cowley, Bill Keany, Wyn Gilchrist, Kim Pike and Bill Aldridge and expressed the Association's sympathy to these former members' families.

The President concluded his Report by announcing that Desmond John Habel was to be presented the 1977 Award of Merit at the Dinner.

The meeting carried unanimously a motion from the Committee that John A. Jones be made an Honorary Life Member of the Association. John has served the Association as Secretary, Vice President, President and Editor of the Digest. He has been on the R.O.C.A. Committee since he joined the Staff at Roseworthy in 1970.

A minute of appreciation was recorded to David Suter and Doug Clifford for their service to the Association. David has been on the Committee for many years and has served as President for two terms. Doug has been a Member since he graduated in 1974 and acted Treasurer in 1976/'77.

Officers Elected for 1977/'78

The following were elected as the Officers of the Association for 1977/'78.

President:-	R.M.G. Dawkins
Vice President:-	W.A. Michelmore
Secretary:-	A.B. Eastick
Treasurer:-	B. Wigney
Immediate Past President	J.A. Jones
Graduating Year:-	P. Turley
1-10 Year	B. McCallum
Ordinary Members:-	I.M. Rice
	H.V. Stephen
	K. Cowley
	P. Lewis
Auditor:-	B.C. Philp

Summary of Treasurer's Report

A brief summary of the Treasurer's Report as at 30/6/77

Net surplus for the year \$337-93

Total Income \$1,549-59

The publication of the Digest is the largest expense the Association has to meet in 1976/'77 \$675-19

The Annual Reunion and Dinner

The Annual Reunion followed the Annual General Meeting 120 Members and guests having gathered by the time the meal commenced. Des Habel was presented with the 1977 Award of Merit by the President. In his response Des proposed the toast to the College, to which Dr. D.B. Williams, Director of the College responded, Dr. Williams made further mention of the Anderson enquiry and the likely effects of amalgamation of the College with another tertiary institution. The College is planning on a least two new courses to commence in 1978. A three year Diploma course in Natural Resources and an Associate Diploma in Horse Husbandry. The R.D.A.T. is to be replaced with a Graduate Diploma.

The accreditation committee has sat and its findings are expected shortly for the accreditation of the Oenology course. The Award for this course if granted will be known as a Bachelor in Applied Science in Oenology. Accreditation for the Diploma in Agriculture is also being sought and if granted this Award in future will be known as Diploma of Applied Science in Agriculture.

There was a good representation by both the 25 year ago group organised by Rex Anderson and the 10 year ago group organised by Tony Clancy. It is quite obvious that Roseworthy training in the past has fitted its Diplomates for a wide variety of professions. In these two groups we had from a proprietor of old folks home to an Agricultural Journalist and all that fit between - teachers, property managers, owner operators, public servants, agri-business etc..

Digest

A Report from the acting Editor of the Digest Committee was presented by Mr. Ian Rice. The problems of getting an Editor and the rising costs of printing were outlined in this Report.

However it was further emphasised that if R.D.C.A. is to continue the Digest is the only communication with the Membership of the Association and it must
5 therefore continue to be published.

A.T.A. RURAL STUDY TOUR OF NORTH AMERICA

I have a quantity of Brochures received from A.T.A. advertising a Rural Study Tour of North America in July 1978. The tour is being organised by Grace Bros. Travel and the details are briefly set out below.

Dates 9th - 29th July, 1978

Twin share accommodation \$2,140

It had been hoped to forward the full details to all R.O.C.A. Members but due to the size of the brochure this has proved impractical. If you are interested contact:-

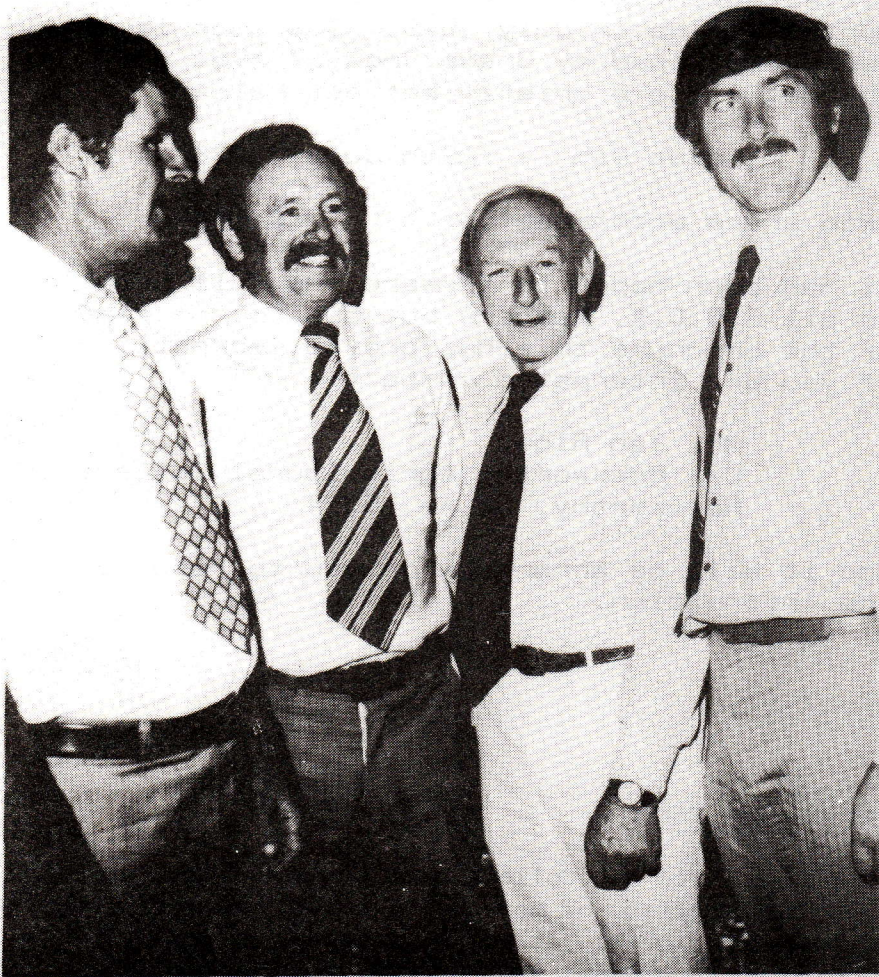
Mr. Ian Rice,
C/- Roseworthy Agricultural College,
Roseworthy, S.A. 5371

and it will be arranged for you to receive the information.

THE COLLEGE FARM

"The Farm is to the College what the Chemistry Laboratory is to the Chemist, or more aptly perhaps what the workshop is to the designer. It serves as a very essential background to student instruction, for, to the students it affords a means whereby they may see, do and follow a classroom instruction."

Quote from S.A. Journal of Agriculture, from an article "Activities at R.A.C." 1935-35 by Dr. A.R. Callaghan, Principal.



Left to right: Ken Hayman (retiring President E.P. Branch)
Peter Dunn (Toastmaster at the Dinner)
Harry Day (Guest Speaker)
Ross Dawkins (President R O C A)



**Standing: Andrew Michelmore (Vice President R O C A)
Roly Day**
**Seated: Ross Dawkins, Gavin Eckersley,
Des Habel, John Prance**

DEATHS

Since the last issue of the Digest the following members have passed away and we extend to their families the Association's deepest sympathy.

WILLIAM ROY RICHARDSON [1898-1901] died 23/9/77
ROBERT ALFRED POWNALL [1931-1933] died 13/1/78
BARRY CONWAY [] died January, 1978

A letter from Mrs. Pownall is included with the letters to the Editor.

NEW VARIETY

A new Wheat variety to be released.
Mr. Gil. Hollamby - Senior Plant Breeder announced recently that the College Plant Breeding Department would be applying for registration of the Wheat crossbred R.A.C. 266.

This variety is Australian standard white quality and is being released as a replacement for Halberd and Oxley both varieties which are now considered too hard for the A.S.W. class.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Geoff FROMM () has left Wee Waa, and has been appointed Agricultural Project Officer at the Meheba Refugee Settlement in North Western Zambia - his new address - C/- Zambia Christian Refugee Service, P.O. Box 2778, Lusaka, Zambia, Central Africa.

Warwick SHIPWAY (1972-76)

Warwick left Australia in December 1976 to become North Indian Director - of Livestock-Rural Development Sponsorship and Child Welfare - Australian-Asian Livestock Society Ltd., his address is C/- Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission, Tanakpur (Nainital Dist.) U.P. India.

Warwick's letters indicate that he is having a most interesting time, but as with work in most developing countries, life can be very frustrating at times. Warwick also mentions that the Society has several jobs offering for anybody with a spirit of adventure. These jobs are not entirely voluntary, a small retainer is paid each month and all expenses are met by the Society. Some knowledge of dairy cattle and poultry is desirable but not essential. The main requirement is a head that can work out problems. (For further information contact Warwick direct or contact the Society at P.O. Box 265, Dandenong, Victoria 3175.)

The College donated dairy cows to the Society which went to the Tanakpur mission with Warwick.

Letters to the Editor

"Dear Sir,

I wish to advise that one of your old Members, namely Robert Alfred Pownall 1931-3, passed away on 13th of January.

Bob received his R.D.A. in 1933, was Dux of his year and was the Gold Medallist. He went to 'Ayreshire Downs', near Winton in Queensland as a Jackeroo, then came to 'Wallah Station', Narrabri as a Jackeroo/ Book-keeper and was there for 21 years, the last ten as Manager. He acquired a Soldier Settlers Block in 1954, being part of 'Wallah' resumed for Closer Settlement.

He was in the process of transferring the property to his sons and retiring when cancer struck him and he fought it for 12 months, but it won in the end. He made a wonderful success of his property, he grew wheat, soyhum, lucerne, had fat lambs, cattle and pigs and he also built a beautiful big house for us all, thanks to all he learnt at Roseworthy as he was not a country man, born and bred.

He served in 2/2nd Heavy A.A. Regt. in the Middle East and New Guinea from 1940-5. He was always actively involved in local organisations.

Yours sincerely,

Mary T. Pownall."

"Dear Sir,

I was interested in the letter on pages 15 & 16 of Vol. 11 No. 3 Digest, unfortunately unnamed. It brought back memories of early morning "Stables", groping round with a hurricane lantern, a bag of chaff and a kerosene tin full of oats and bran (no mean feat!) with "Bill Hook" urging us on.

More particularly, into Gawler on Saturday night leave, driving five in hand in the "big drag" at full gallop up Murray Street and a right angle turn into a narrow alley into the Stableyard of the "Old Spot" hotel where we left them in those days (1921-24). I felt being honoured to be trusted as one of the Drag drivers alongside such stalwarts as Vic and George Fairbrother. Maybe Murray Street was declared out of bounds for the Drag, since in 1928-31 the horses were stabled at the Bushman which was right at the northern end of Murray Street whereas the Old Spot was a little south of the middle. It wouldn't be surprising as I must say it was pretty hair-raising, although I don't remember any accidents and it was a point of honour not to check the horses or brake until the team had been made into the archway.

The horses were not the heady pure bred Clydesdales we used on the farm for ploughing and cultivating but were especially bred cart horses for the job. Also they were shod which the farm horses were not.

I still look back on my sojourn at Roseworthy as the three best years of my life, largely because of the friendships made then. Now, alas, nearly all gone, although George Fairbrother is as sprightly as ever. I spent 1926 and 1927 at Montpellier, Cognac, Bordeaux, Burgundy, Champagne, etc. plus 1927 vintage in Algeria but although intensely interesting there was not the "joie de viere" that I found at Roseworthy, in spite of food strikes, temporary expulsions, etc. (or perhaps because of!).

Yours sincerely,

Colin P. Haselgrove

P.S. Regards to "Snowy" Philp.

"Dear Sir,

STOP THAT BOLT!

There were two great ambitions in my earlier teenage life. One was to drive a team of horses down North Terrace which which I didn't achieve. The other was to stop a bolt which I did achieve at College. Peter Linklater and I were doing a 6 weeks Animal Husbandry course during our Degree course under the late Phil Schinkel (a great teacher and scientist). We were working in the then Animal Production laboratory when I heard the rattle of chains and suspected a bolt. It is amazing how much you can think of in a few seconds. "If I stand in front of them I'll be run over." "No, I'll try and run alongside until they run out of wind." (I was in training for long distance running and knew draught horses rarely gallop more than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.) So I ran alongside the leaders and grabbed the offside rein, intending to go around the block until they puffed out and to prevent them trying to turn in at the stable and taking the gate post with them. We negotiated the corner by the dairy and then the shafters nexus must have fallen on the ground and were long enough to reach right under the dray.

Someone came out of the Engineering shop (now lecture theatre), grabbed the reins and stopped the bolt.

Two letters on horses by Guy Wiese and the unknown writer prompted my memory.

Brian C. Jefferies."

" Dear Sir,

As a member of the 1967 year, I deeply regretted missing the 10 year reunion dinner at the Berkeley Hotel on Sept. 9th 1977. However, thanks to Tony Clancy, who carried a cassette player to the dinner, myself and Bill Piercy [another ROCA member] we were able to hear a variety of 'instant' interviews, wisecracks and comments from a large number of our collegemates.

Possibly you could find space in the next edition of the ROCA digest to send both Bill's and my regards to members of our year who attended. You can also print or pass on my address to any member who may be contemplating a visit to Hong Kong as it is always refreshing meeting someone from Australia particularly an old collegian. One other business matter, can you please pass my address onto the Treasurer regarding membership fee. Incidentally can the ROCA digest be airmailed to me as I am willing to pay the extra cost.

Since 1975 work has been in progress in Hong Kong on a 15.6 kilometre mass transit railway which is to link the Central District on Hong Kong to fourteen stations in Kowloon. This involves 11.5 kilometres of line underground; 2.4 kilometres of track above ground and a 1.6 milometre tunnel across Victoria Harbour: I am employed by the Mass Transit Office as an estate surveyor, and am partly responsible for all land matters involving the Corporation that is building the railway. This includes the resumption of buildings, compensation for loss of business; removal of balconies and neonsigns; clearance of street hawkers on proposed worksites and leasing of crown land. It is an extremely interesting job and a far cry from the valuation of rural properties in South Australia. However, I must admit that at times I do miss the wide open spaces associated with my former job.

May I extend my congratulations to those involved in compiling the Digest. The photographs and tales of past history of the College makes for interesting reading to those away from Australia. Finally continue the good efforts in preserving Roseworthy's role as the major educational institution for South Australian and International agriculturalists.

Yours faithfully, David Pannach."

"Dear Sir,

When I arrived home after 5½ months overseas I had a pile of ROCA Digests awaiting me. I found these of considerable interest, as I still remembered a number of the people mentioned, and also they indicated the significant progress R.A.C. has made over the last decade or so. This refreshing to see an important organisation going ahead instead of 'withering on the vine'.

I thought I owed you a note, as I retired in March this year from my job as Chief C.S.I.R.O. Divis. Tropical Crops and Pastures, Brisbane. I was Chief 7 years, and had 23 years altogether with this Division and prior to that was 12 years with C.S.I.R.O. Division of Plant Industry, Canberra. Altogether 35 years as a Scientist in Genetics and Plant Breeding with C.S.I.R.O.

Since retirement I spent three weeks in Colombia, South America with CIAT (Centre International Agriculture Tropical), two months in Brasil with EMBRAPA and other organisations and two months in northern Argentina as a consultant in sub-tropical pastures and cattle for FAO - UNDP. For the next few years I will be a visiting Scientist in tropical pasture legume breeding with CIAT, Cali. Colombia. Any old scholars would be welcome to look me up if they are interested in tropical agriculture.

Kind regards, E. Mark Hutton."