

Roseworthy Old Collegians Assoc. Inc.



R.O.C.A. digest

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AUGUST 1981

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DR. BARRIE THISTLETHWAYTE

NEWLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR

ROSEWORTHY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

*** Return the AGM Nomination Form and Dinner Acceptance enclosed, immediately, with your cheque please.

ROSEWORTHY APPOINTS DIRECTOR

The President of Roseworthy Agricultural College Council, Mr. Kim Kelly announced recently that Dr. Barrie Thistlethwayte, aged 43, has accepted the appointment as Director of the College.

Mr. Kelly said that the College Council is delighted to have obtained the services of a person with the proven ability and experience in tertiary education administration shown by Dr. Thistlethwayte.

Dr. Thistlethwayte is currently the Dean of the School of Agriculture in the Riverina College of Advanced Education, Wagga Wagga, New South Wales. Before his appointment to that position in 1976, he held other senior positions at that College. Prior to joining Riverina he was employed as a Lecturer at the Capricornia Institute of Technology in Queensland, and worked as a Horticulturist and Plant Pathologist with the Tasmanian Department of Agriculture.

In 1969 Dr. Thistlethwayte was awarded his Ph.D. at the Cornell University, Ithaca, New York U.S.A., having previously obtained degrees in Agricultural Science at Melbourne University and Economics at the University of Tasmania.

Roseworthy Agricultural College has recently introduced a new organisation structure and undertaken a major review of the role of the farm and winer in meeting the teaching needs of the College. The continued development of these issues, together with the task of developing South Australia's only Agricultural College which is producing graduates for Australia's agriculture and wine industries, and for the management of the nation's resources, will provide a major challenge for Dr. Thistlethwayte.

We all know that Roseworthy will celebrate its centenary in 1983, and the appointment of Dr. Thistlethwayte will enable the College to head into the '80s with confidence.

It is expected that Dr. Thistlethwayte will commence duties in early December.

We must place on record our gratitude to the former Director, Dr. Don Williams, and his wife and family, for the efforts they made on behalf of the College. During the time that he spent there, Dr. Williams had to administer the College through one of the most turbulent periods of change in the financing and the administration of tertiary education institutions of this type. The relationship between the College and the Government(s), and the ways in which it was accountable and responsible for the finances it obtained, the way they could be used and the people that were employed were all subjected to enormous change. Whereas the College used to obtain its finances almost entirely from the State budget as a lump sum vote, these days the majority of finances comes from pro-rata allocations from the Commonwealth, according to student numbers. None of this could have been anticipated at the time Dr. Williams first began considering the responsibilities of Director.

We wish him well in his retirement and trust that he enjoys better health now that he has more time to do those other things which he and Mrs. Williams will be able to enjoy together.

In the interim period between the time of Dr. Williams retirement and the arrival of Dr. Thistlethwayte, the College was fortunate to have the very capable and dedicated services of Mr. Milton Spurling, himself an old collegian, as Acting Director. We want you to know how much we have appreciated your efforts on behalf of the College at all times, Milton, but at this time in particular. We do appreciate the sacrifice you had to make to provide the extra time and effort during this period.

The College and the Council need to be congratulated on the success they have had in working through these times during which stringent financial management of limited resources has been necessary. Old collegians appreciate and express our gratitude to both Mr. Trumble and Mr. Kelly for their respective roles in achieving the outstanding results.

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ROSEWORTHY - IS IT WORTH REMEMBERING?

How do you feel about the fact that there is no longer any recognition of 'Roseworthy' in the qualifications obtained from our world famous College? Over the last century it has made outstanding contributions to the many facets of agriculture, but particularly to dry land farming technology and the wine industry (Oenology).

In April this year, two Roseworthy Old Collegians who graduated in the 10 year ago group were selected as Group Study Exchange members in the Rotary International Foundation G.S.E. Study Program between the districts in our part of Australia and Texas in the U.S.A. They were Bardy McFarlane and Locky McLaren, two of only five people selected from this Rotary district to participate in the Group Study Exchange. Their selection is a credit to both of them as outstanding young men, and a favourable reflection upon Roseworthy Agricultural College and all of us who have had the good fortune to attend the College.

Bardy is a farmer on the family property at Wellington on the Lower Murray in South Australia, and Locky is Livestock Marketing Officer with the Department of Agriculture. Here is the first of a series of articles from them about their six weeks in Texas. This one provided by Bardy.

SIX WEEKS STUDY TOUR IN SOUTH WEST TEXAS - AGRICULTURE

A great deal of preparation D-day arrived and after 18 hours flying we landed in the U.S.A. at Los Angeles. We had 3 days to relax, get over jet-lag and orientate ourselves to the American way of life.

The exchange began on the 20th of April in San Antonio and continued at breakneck speed for the next 6 weeks. Typically a day began at 8.00 a.m. and finished at 11.00 p.m. or later that night. For example in the first week in San Antonio we covered such diverse topics as education, law and order, Local Government, Air Force installations, health, technology research and power generation to name just a few; as well as attending "FIESTA" parades and parties every night. I must admit that I acted like a sponge the whole time - simply soaking up information and hospitality at an enormous rate.

(Eds. Note: Bardy claims to have gained an amazing amount of knowledge in a very short time, and I note having seen a distinct gain of about 1½ stone. Not only knowledge but also weight - 'soaked' you said?)

Perhaps one of the more unusual crops we had a look at was Guar Bean production. It is a summer legume which thrives in hot dry climates. In Texas it is generally used in a rotation rather than as the principal crop. With a seeding rate of 5-6 pounds per acre on a 6" row spacing, and yields of 750 pounds per acre at \$400 per ton, plus the grazing and soil building benefits, it may well be a crop with some future in our country. The beans are processed to produce Guar gum, which, when added to water causes flocculation. It is used as an additive in fire fighting water, mining muds, baking, textile dyeing and has many other applications.

The residue meal from the preparation of the gum is 30-35% protein.

Currently the world production of Guar is 125 million pounds, with India and Pakistan supply-
ing % of the world's crop raw material.

At a research centre south of Kenedy we had an interesting afternoon looking at course grain and pasture production as well as embryo transplants and reproductive ability in cattle. It is located in an area of grain sorghum production. Over one million acres are planted annually with most of it going to the domestic stock-feed market and the balance being shipped out through Corpus Christi to the E.E.C.

One of the pasture species they are really excited about is Mt. Barker sub-clover!! It is opening up a whole new sphere of research for them on rotations and the use of clovers in their pastures. Their principal pasture species at the moment seems to be Coastal Bermuda (we call it couch grass). It requires massive doses of nitrogenous fertilizers to sustain a satisfactory level of production.

The means of brush (scrub) clearing we saw on one ranch we visited was quite different to the technique used in Australia. Three cutting rollers, each 5' in diameter, 6' wide and grossing something over 20 tons were being pulled by a Steiger Bearcat through virgin brush. The operation is repeated one or two years later after which an application of 2, 4, 5-I in diesel

and water at the rate of 1 gallon per acre is used to kill any regrowth. Their so-called brush is equivalent to the mallee scrub in the Keith/Telopea Downs region, but with a 26" rainfall. The cost of fencing is staggering. Five barbs and posts one chain apart cost over \$4,000 per mile. A cyclone fence on the other hand with 2 barbs would cost in the vicinity of \$10,000 per mile! After having finished the clearing operation on the country they expect to run about one cow to 15 acres, which is fairly low considering the rainfall!

One of the most disturbing things I saw was the remains of a grain elevator (we call them silos such as can be seen at most rail sidings in the wheat belt) at Corpus Christi on the Gulf of Mexico. This "elevator", one of three in the port, having several cells similar to the installations at Port Adelaide, exploded on April 7th this year hurling chunks of re-enforced concrete hundreds of metres and killing 8 employees, injuring 10 others. The complex had a capacity of 5 million bushels. It exploded during a transfer operation of grain sorghum. The damage was amazing! The silos were literally blown to bits, steel girders twisted and the surrounding area littered with debris. This was the 5,000th elevator explosion in the U.S.A. in the last 15 years. From what I could gather it relates back to the fact that the company handling the grain in silos is required by environmental protection laws to collect all grain dust and store it with the grain. I feel that it is a sad reflection on the priorities of any society when it places more value on the collection of dust than on the lives of literally thousands of workers who have been killed as a result of such explosions. I only hope that such legislation is never introduced into Australia. Anybody contemplating it should be required to take a close look at the evidence of the experience in the U.S.A.

If it's acceptable to the Editor I will continue to make contributions (at his request) about such things as irrigation practices, crop rotations, grazing systems, pasture improvements, alternate crops, goat, sheep and beef management and production. I could go on and on.

I would conclude by suggesting to anyone who may be eligible to participate in an exchange like this that they should go all out to gain selection, as it is one of the most rewarding experience anyone is ever likely to undertake in a lifetime.

(Eds. Note: Yes Bardy, all contributions will be gratefully received and as objectively as possible, subjectively edited.)

BARDY MCFARLANE

AWARD OF MERIT

We need to be reminded that we are responsible to nominate our fellows who have been outstanding in their service to the College, agriculture, and the community for this Award. Further details can be obtained from the Secretary or the President, or the College itself if you can't remember. The number of nominations have been very low in recent times. It's up to you!

POST GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

This award is available at the discretion of the Committee to any graduating student who may wish to further their study and can be used to assist them in any way the applicant cares to nominate, so long as it meets with the Committee's approval. We are leaving the purposes to which it can be applied as open and general as possible, as no graduating student applied for it last year. Applications for it must be in the hands of the Secretary by the end of October in the student's final year of study.

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF VITICULTURE AND OENOLOGY INC.

The inaugural President of this new Society is Mark Babidge. Phil Tummell and Mark have managed to establish this group of 'Plonkies' at last. Congratulations!

Their first function is to be a seminar held in Melbourne on the 25th August, 1981. Further details about anything relating to this Society and its functions are available from their address at C/- Australian Wine Research Institute, PMB, Glen Osmond, 5064.

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EDITOR: Peter Lewis, Parliament House, Adelaide, S.A. 5000.

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EDITOR: Peter Lewis, Parliament House, Adelaide, S.A. 5000.

WHAT'S AN R.D.A.? - WHAT'S IN A NAME ANYHOW?

In my official capacity as Speaker of the House of Assembly, Parliament of South Australia, I often find myself described on programmes and in official listings as Bruce Charles Eastick B.V.Sc., F.A.C.V.Sc., R.D.A., M.P., and not infrequently the question arises, "R.D.A. - What's that?"

Within South Australia, particularly in matters agricultural, the letters require no explanation because the greater farming community - and by this I mean the broad family of farmer, country townfolk, and State-orientated trading organisations - know and respect the Roseworthy graduate. They have recognised the graduate's existence in farming, trading, banking, professional and organisational fields and, through contact with Roseworthy itself, have come to appreciate the value of the College. To the overall farming economy "value" in this context is measured by service to grain breeding, animal breeding, viticulture, oenology and more recently marketing procedures, natural resources and horse husbandry interests.

Possibly the R.D.A., in a State which is now less agricultural in its outlook than earlier, although still receiving 62% of its export income from agriculture, needs to join the era of more descriptive hieroglyphics, for example, R. Dip. Ag. or Dip. Ag. R. The preceding are not exhaustive, but I suggest worthy of consideration if we want to establish beyond doubt and easily identify the existence of our graduates throughout contemporary society. Through their contribution to today's society they play a very significant part in this State's economy.

To simply answer the question, an R.D.A. is a Diploma in Agriculture from Roseworthy Agricultural College, your Alma Mater and mine, and we can be justly proud of its significance.

BRUCE EASTICK

NOTE: Overleaf is a list of the 10 courses and their qualification nomenclature for your interest. Any comments? Let's talk about it at the AGM.

* * * *

The AGM will be held on FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 1981, at 6.00 p.m.
- THE TOWN HOUSE, 164 Hindley Street (Corner Hindley and Morphett Streets).

Fill out the coupon below (and overleaf) and return it to Alan Hoey, 45 Langmeil Road, Tanunda before the 4th September.

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The Academic Secretary of Roseworthy Agricultural College, Miss Hardy, whose family has a long standing association with the College, kindly provided the following information about the 10 courses now available from the College.

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|--|---------------------------|
| 3 year Diploma of Applied Science (Agriculture) | Dip. App. Sc. (Ag). |
| 2 year Associate Diploma in Agriculture | Assoc. Dip. Ag. (options) |
| 3 options - Agriculture Production | |
| - Farm Management | |
| - Horse Husbandry and Management | |
| 1 year (fulltime) or part-time (4 yrs. max.)
Post Graduate Diploma in Agriculture | Grad. Dip. (Ag). |
| 3 year Diploma of Applied Science in Natural Resources | Dip. App. Sc. (Nat. Res.) |
| 1 year (fulltime) or part-time (4 yrs. max.)
Post Graduate Diploma in Natural Resources | Grad. Dip. (Nat. Res.) |
| 3 year Bachelor of Applied Science in Oenology | B. App. Sc. (Oen). |
| 2 year Associate Diploma in Wine Marketing | Assoc. Dip. Wine Mark. |
| 1 year (fulltime) or part-time (4 yrs. max.)
Post Graduate Diploma in Wine | Grad. Dip. Wine |

* * * *

Our ROCA Dinner will be held in the Town House, 164 Hindley Street, (Corner Hindley and Morphett Streets) in the same place and immediately following the meeting on - FRIDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER, 1981 (evening).

If there is any demand, there will also be an a-la-carte menu for any wives (husbands or friends) who wish to accompany you.

* * * *

22/4/84
Jan Rice -
* Andy Brown
D.F.E.