



# R.O.C.A. digest

VOL. 17 No. 4

AUGUST 1983

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*Editor:*

**Tim Prance**

*Editorial Committee:*

Peter Lewis, Lindsay Wright, Dale Manson, Ian Rice

## 1983 A.G.M. and REUNION

The 1983 A.G.M. and Reunion will be held at the Adelaide University Staff Club on 9th September. The A.G.M. will start at 5.30 p.m. with the dinner following at 7.30 p.m.

The cost will be \$16 per person for a three course dinner, pre dinner drinks with wines and fruit juices on the tables.

This years dinner will be mixed and spouses or friends of old students are welcome to attend. The Adelaide University Staff club is the two storey red brick building behind Elder Hall.

**Parking:** Safe car parking is available in the University car park by inserting 60 cents in the coin operated gates.

Drive in through gate 22 on the eastern side of Bonython Hall, then turn right. The lower level closes at midnight so use the upper level if you think you will be late!

**1983 A.G.M. and REUNION — R.S.V.P. 2nd September**  
(See back page)

## From Your President — IAN RICE

The College Centenary celebrations on May 26, with the Convocation and the Oration delivered by Sir Allan Callaghan C.M.G. Sir Allan was Principal of the College from 1932 - 1949. He titled his talk "From Sickle and Scythe to Silicon Chip" and in it traced the history of Roseworthy College from its beginning to 1983. The other highlight of this night was the presentation of Centenary Awards of Achievement to the following Old Collegians.

Ronald Hallam Badman for his contribution to Agriculture through the Seeds Industry and his service to associated organisations.

Arthur Reginald Ninnes for his contribution to Agricultural Education, especially at the Secondary level in South Australia.

Donald James Peacock in recognition to the Sheep Breeding Industry and his service to Agricultural Education Research and Extension.

Karl Joseph Seppelt for his contribution to Viticulture in South Australia and his service to the Wine Industry and the Community.

On behalf of all old students, I extend congratulations to these five distinguished Graduates.

## From the President, Continued.

The Centenary celebrations were brought to a fitting close with a Thanksgiving service in the Chapel. The Rev. Ian B. Tanner presented the Occasional Address "What are you going to do with your history?" This was followed by the unveiling of a Centenary Plaque by the then Chairman of the College Council, Mr. Kim Kelly and a Ceremonial planting of trees.

Copies of Sir Allan Callaghan's Oration, Rev. Ian Tanner's address and Rev. Brian Polkinghorne's address given at the staff and student reunion can be made available to those wishing to have a copy by contacting me at the College.

Mr. Ken Leske, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture discussed the new degree course with the committee at a recent meeting. He outlined the Philosophy and content of the course, the necessary criteria which have to be met to satisfy TEASA (the accreditation and funding body for tertiary courses). The amount of time devoted to Farm Practice in the new course was also discussed at length.

The committee has included in this Digest a summary of this discussion and hope you will take time to read it constructively and without bias.

## 25 YEARS AGO GROUP

These students entered Roseworthy College in 1955 and graduated in March, 1958.

The co-ordinator of this group is Peter Mowatt, 6A McRae Street, NARACOORTE, 5271.

Phone: (087) 62 1855

Any students associated with this group are most welcome to join them at the Reunion on Friday 9th September, whether or not they are R.O.C.A. Members.

## 1958 GRADUATES

G.P. Ballantyne, Collinswood.  
I.M. Donald, Boroka P.N.G.  
B.M. DuBois, Adelaide  
S.R. Fletcher, Uralla, N.S.W.  
J.W. Goode, Marion.  
P.R. Gratton, Cranbrook, W.A.  
D.J. Hatter, Ravensthorpe, W.A.  
T.W. Hemer, Underdale  
I.E.B. Jones, Address Unknown  
R.G. Latimer, Tilpa, N.S.W.  
J.A. McKirdy, Hamilton, Vic.  
R.M. McMahon, Black Rock, Vic.  
P.J. Mowatt, Naracoorte.

M.T. Mowbray, Balwyn, Vic.  
R.P. Pfeiffer, Mt. Hagen P.N.G.  
C. Phillips, Clarendon.  
C.J.R. Raison, Oakbank.  
R.W. Robins, Wistow.  
T.J.L. Robinson, Mullaloo, W.A.  
T.K. Robinson, Casterton, Vic.  
D.W. Scales, Euroa, Vic.  
C.K. Shearer, Malvern, Vic.  
R.G.R. Solly, Highgate.  
R.J. Strachan, Renmark.  
E.V.H. Thompson, Great Western, Vic.  
L.D. Wallace, Kensington Gardens.  
T.J. Sobels, Watervale.



## 10 YEARS AGO GROUP

These students entered Roseworthy College in 1970 and graduated in March, 1973.

The co-ordinator of this group is Doug Clifford, 23 Arnold Street, Horsham, 3400,

Phone: (053) 82 4753

If you were associated with this group, as an Oenology student, you are most welcome to attend whether or not they are R.O.C.A. Members.

## 1973 GRADUATES

Allan Alcock, Loxton (Mallee Farmer and Machinery dealer)  
David Bateman, Canberra (Australian Bureau Statistics)  
Mark Biven, Esperance, W.A. (Clearing scrub and farming)  
Trevor Boehm, Salisbury East (Working overseas with Santos)  
Jim Bowden, Strokes Bay, K.I. (Farming)  
Terry Byrne, Morgan (Fruit block)  
Chester Jason, Robinvale Vic.(McWilliams Wines)  
Peter Clark, Bulolo, P.N.G. (Selling insects)  
Doug Clifford, Horsham (Machinery dealer and life insurance salesman)  
Andrew Craig, Mosman N.S.W.  
Bill Eckerman, (Farming)  
Richard Everett, Lane Cove, N.S.W.  
Peter Flavel, Parndana, K.I. (Managing Research Centre)  
Richard Flockhart, Darwin N.T. (Manager, Coastal Plains Research Station)  
Brian Gravestocks, Esperance W.A. (Clearing scrub and farming)  
Roger Haensel  
Robyn Haesler — recently sold property and moved to N.S.W.

John Hancock, Auckland N.Z. (Wine maker)  
Grant Hayman, Cummins (Farming)  
John Hill, Stirling  
Kym Hudson, Ramco (orange grower)  
Jon-Pierre Kerry, Pt. Vincent (Teaching)  
Brian Light, Clarendon (Wine maker)  
Chris Martin, Naracoorte (Dept. Agriculture)  
Kym Michael, Perth W.A. (Shell chemicals)  
Graham Mitchell, Mintaro (Farming)  
Paul Munn, Glandore (Munns Lawns)  
Neil Pontifex, Paskerville (Farming)  
David Wardlaw, Tanunda (wine maker)

Chris Proud, Watervale (Wine maker)  
Des Schebella, Yahl (Woods and Forests Dept.)  
Peter Schick, Murray Bridge  
Leon Schwarz, Riverton (Teaching)  
Chris Sharpe, Ferndale W.A. (Dept. Agriculture)  
Tom Sismey, Booleroo Centre (Red Polls)  
Bob Smith, Berri (Wine maker)  
Paul Symonds, Elizabeth Downs  
Greg Symes, Birdwood (Dairying)  
Mick Vowles, Lowton (Farmer and inventor)  
Ian Wilson, Tanunda (Wine maker)  
Don Walter, Bordertown (Teaching)

## A REPORT FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

### PRACTICAL WORK IN THE EDUCATION PROCESS—THE ABILITY TO DO THE JOB

Farm practical work has always been considered an essential part of the training of any technological course of education in agriculture at the post-secondary/tertiary level. This has been particularly so in the tradition of Roseworthy.

It is acknowledged as a valid and necessary part of education at this level in other spheres, apart from agriculture. Medicine, veterinary science, law, and even teaching itself, has always recognised the necessity for some instruction in and practice of the profession as an essential component in the training programme.

Roseworthy began training technological agriculturists as practising farmers by providing a diploma course which took two years when it was first commenced. Since its beginnings 100 years ago, the course has extended to become a three-year course and has always contained a substantial component of practical work experience.



Times change. So has the amount of available scientifically valid information. We all know about the information/knowledge explosion of the last century which has continued to increase at recent times at an exponential rate. Agriculture has been no exception to this. For a person who is seeking appropriate education at the post-secondary/tertiary level, the amount of instruction needed in other areas apart from practical work has increased in proportion to the amount of information available. This has resulted in a greater degree of specialization being necessary as it is simply neither possible nor relevant to train everybody to be competent in all things in one lifetime and enable them to be capable of applying that information. It would be wasteful of resources to even attempt to do so in that the need to have such an extended period of life spent learning, compared to the amount of time left to the individual to contribute to the improvement of society by applying that learning and at the same time obtaining their living by doing so, is reduced proportionally to the extent that it is both unnecessary and inefficient.

The people entrusted with the responsibility of determining the curriculum composition (the most desirable subject mix) of tomorrow's Roseworthy graduates have realized that unless the Roseworthy graduate has a qualification which, on paper, not only appears to be, but in fact is, the equivalent for better than what can be obtained in similar institutions, then the graduate will be, in some measure, disadvantaged. At the present time other institutions which are similar to Roseworthy have introduced and been given accreditation for the granting of Degrees in Applied Science (Agriculture). The Roseworthy graduate must at least have an equal chance when being considered by personnel officers acting on behalf of employers in determining the job opportunities of the graduate.

By accepting that the philosophy of providing a Degree in Applied Science is an essential feature of the Roseworthy of tomorrow, it therefore follows that it is necessary for the course to comply with certain guidelines established by higher authorities than those at Roseworthy. These guidelines have been adopted by an organization called the Tertiary Education Authority of South Australia (TEASA).

TEASA is presently considering a submission which has been prepared by the College for the accreditation of the award of the Bachelor of Applied Science (Agriculture) for Roseworthy graduates. By the time you read this, the accreditation procedure may have been completed.

In the last Digest the editor, Tim Prance, wrote an article which outlines the new proposed degree course practical experience component in hours and percentage terms as it related to the necessity for the "contact time" to be kept within the acceptable limit of about 27 hours per week. Whilst there are variations between the percentages referred to in Tim's article and the reality, they are close to the mark. The fact remains that the amount of practical experience required within the proposed degree course has been reduced somewhat from what it used to be. Many old collegians are concerned about this point.

The Roseworthy Old Collegians Association Committee considered this question in great detail and at length at the last meeting. The committee members considered that it was not appropriate for them to attempt to influence the College Council and/or the College itself to make changes to the submission being presented to TEASA at that late stage because they were assured by the Director, Dr. Barrie Thistlethwayte, and the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Mr. Ken Leske, that it was possible to vary any part of the accredited course by up to 30% after accreditation without the need to refer the changes back to TEASA. It therefore will never be too late for changes to be made of that order in the practical component (or any other component) of that course. An examination of the submission document shows on page 11, item 3:

#### **Objectives**

The nature and needs of a technologically and practically orientated course have been expressed in the following objectives for the degree course:

To provide training for persons intending to enter rural and related industries. The course provides training in scientific principles and their application to animal and crop production, farm management, agricultural extension and agricultural engineering.

Upon successfully completing the course the student will:..... Understand the routine operations associated with various farming enterprises and be able to carry them out.

**On page 12 we find the aims.**



## AIMS

The specific aim of the course is stated as being:

"To give a broadly based technological training with special emphasis on the scientific principles applied to agricultural production. To equip graduates for a wide range of activities, including employment in rural extension, agricultural production, farm management, agribusiness, applied agricultural research, agricultural education and in regulatory services.

To achieve these objectives, and meet the primary aims of the course a number of criteria need to be met, namely:.....

That practical farm work experience should be a significant element in the total course structure. In order to achieve this objective more time should be allocated to such activities within vacation periods and include off-campus (i.e. commercial farm) experiences.

That the contact hours per week (including a component of practical farm work experience) should preferably not exceed 27 hours.

These principles have been endorsed by the Agriculture Courses Advisory Committee which is representative of the various sectors of the rural community and its service industries.

They did stress the need to keep the practical component of the course as high as possible.

The foregoing quotes illustrate the commitment in the submission to TEASA by the College to the principle and necessity for practical experience. On page 13 of the submission to TEASA we read:

### "A GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSED COURSE

An important consideration in the development of the course has been the philosophy that students shall be encouraged to pursue their own studies and to read as widely as possible. If this objective is to be achieved, then contact hours must be retained within reasonable limits. There is, however, the additional consideration that the course shall provide adequate opportunity for farm work experience and the development of practical farming skills. Given that such experience can best be achieved by time spent in the field, there is some constraint on the number of hours of contact time per week that can be regarded as an appropriate minimum in order to allow sufficient time for formal academic study as well as practical training.

A satisfactory balance has been achieved by accepting 27 hours per week as the maximum level of contact time, given that farm work experience (which is gained over a full day or half day at a time) is rated at either 8 hours or 4 hours contact time respectively. Thus the student is exposed to practical farm work experience each week during the first year of the course while at the same time receiving a solid core of science-based subjects.

As the student progresses through the second and third year of the course exposure to practical farm work experience on the College farm is reduced during the week-days to allow a greater concentration on other more academically-based studies which culminate in the opportunity to specialise in one of three streams (Extensive Agriculture, Intensive Livestock or Horticulture) in the final year of the course.

The desire to retain a strong practical component in the later years of the course is achieved through further farm work experience on the College farm both at week-ends and during vacations and also by vacation experience on approved commercial farms. The full range of farm work experience is detailed in the syllabi for individual Farm Practise subjects."

The ROCA Committee also considered some of the relevant fundamental reasons it believes people have for choosing to go to Roseworthy. Nonetheleast amongst these was the view that an R. Diploma App. Sc. and B. App. Sc. are good qualifications to have to "fall back on". This means that if a student, who becomes a practical farmer because of his aptitude and opportunity in life to do so, happens to have the misfortune to injure himself or otherwise find that he is unable to continue in farming - then he can "fall back" on his Roseworthy qualification and obtain satisfactory alternative employment based on his education qualifications and practical skill, knowing them to be acceptable to a wide range of prospective employers. The Committee also recognized that many students choose to attend Roseworthy because the qualification they obtained there, where it is not to be applied in the context of becoming self-employed, enhance their prospects of obtaining a job. Bearing these factors in mind, the Committee considered that it was essential for the College to continue with the proposal to provide a course for a properly accredited degree in applied science.

More importantly, it will also provide the opportunity for recent graduates to participate in bridging courses which will enable them to convert their present diploma to a degree. The Committee took particular note of this last point and commended the Director and the Dean (who were present at the meeting) for their foresight in having included this provision in the submission. Some similar institutions elsewhere have not done so.



Against this total background, the ROCA Committee decided that it should commend the concern which has been expressed by a large number of old collegians about the reduction in the amount of the practical work experience component containing in the submission to TEASA. Brian Jefferies, Jim Pocock and Reg Hutchinson have been particularly vocal about this point. Their contribution to the debate has ensured that this very vital area of training has not been either overlooked (or downgraded to the point of beminig irrelevant).

With the Annual General Meeting of the Old Collegians Association just around the corner, old collegians who are concerned to express a view about the practical work component in the course should come and do so. Remember the Committee has been assured that the course will be kept under review and that it is possible to vary any component by up to 30% before formal re-accreditation becomes necessary.

One of the old collegians who will certainly be commenting on this topical subject will be the President who has undertaken to prepare a report for the meeting. See you there in the Adelaide University Staff Club on 9th September.

## \* NOTICE OF MOTION \*

When considering the reasons for introducing a Degree Course, it must be remembered that there has also been an explosion of Practical Technology to at least match the theoretical knowledge explosion.

Practical instruction should never be sacrificed for theoretical instruction. (For example, in the second year of the proposed Degree course, a reduction in farm work from **30 days to 10 days** and reductions in skills training from **120 hours to 60 hours CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED**).

The **vital motion** is extremely important and needs **your support** at the AG.M. to restore Farm Practice to its firm standing within the Agriculture Course.

**Moved Reg Hutchinson, Seconded Ross Dawkins;**

- that in support of students and to retain the viability of practical farming in the Agriculture Course, the members of R.O.C.A. recommend that:—
  1. - formal time devoted to **farm work experience** consists of a minimum of **30 days in First Year** (2 days per fortnight) and **30 days in Second Year, additional** to and separate from vacation and weekend work.
  2. - practical farming operations and husbandry **skills training consists of a minimum of 90 hours in First Year** (6 hours per fortnight) and **90 hours in Second Year, additional** to separate personnel and property protection subjects like first aid, safety and fire instruction.
  3. - visits to farm and agricultural industries continue with a minimum of **12 day trips** during formal time in Third Year, and with **3 Tours** of 1 week's duration to more distant agricultural areas of the state being held during course vacations.
  4. - these resolutions of R.O.C.A. be submitted to:—
    - T.E.A.S.A. Accreditation authorities for the Roseworthy Agriculture Degree course.
    - Roseworthy Agriculture Courses Advisory Committee.
    - Roseworthy Faculty of Agriculture.
    - Roseworthy Agricultural College Council.
    - Roseworthy Student Union Council.



PROPOSER



SECONDER

**APPLICATION FOR R.O.C.A. MEMBERSHIP**

I wish to join Roseworthy Old Collegians Association;

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

COURSE ATTENDED: .....

YEAR GRADUATED: .....

Cheque enclosed for LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$25  
ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP \$ 3

SIGNATURE: .....

**PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN NOW.**

*1983 A.G.M. and REUNION.*

R.S.V.P. 2nd September to R.O.C.A. Secretary C/- Roseworthy College,  
Roseworthy. S.A. 5371, (or phone Andrew Michelmore on (085) 63 2831,  
Preferably 7.00a.m. — 8.00a.m.)

I will/will not be attending the A.G.M. and reunion on Friday 9th September, 1983.

I enclose cheque for \$.....being payment for.....persons at \$16 each.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

SPOUSE/FRIEND .....

**Nominations for 1983/84 Committee**

Nominations are required. Please fill in your nominations for the Committee and forward to R.O.C.A. secretary, Roseworthy College, Roseworthy, S.A. 5371.

The Constitution states that nominations may be received at the A.G.M. only if there are not enough nominations received beforehand.

Please be sure your preference is recorded by returning this page.

**POST NOW**

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Auditor  
Graduation year  
1 - 10 years  
Ordinary Members

**1982/83 Committee**  
Ian Rice  
Harry Stephen  
Andrew Michelmore  
Peter Fairbrother  
B.C. Philp  
Bob Mitchell  
Bardy McFarlane  
Jeff Tidswell  
Peter Lewis  
Dale Manson  
Jack Richards  
Ken Hayman  
Tim Prance

**Your Nomination**

Digest Editor



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## **STOP PRESS**

### **1983 AWARD OF MERIT WINNER RALPH HEWITT JONES**

Ralph was Farm Manager at R.A.C. for 1938 to 1947 and Farm Manager of the Glen Thorne Field station, C.S.I.R.O., O'Halloran's Hill for 1947 to 1980.

For a number of years whilst Ralph was at the College he was Secretary/Treasurer of R.O.C.A.