



Roseworthy Old Collegians Assoc. Inc.

R.O.C.A. Digest

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Editor:

DALE MANSON

Summer 1984



OPEN DAY 1984 - JUNIOR BEEF CATTLE
JUDGING SCHOOL IN ACTION

Editorial

I was pleased to meet so many Old Collegians at the Annual Dinner and Annual General Meeting in Adelaide last September.

It will never cease to amaze me what a wide range of vocations R.A.C. graduates select for their life's work.

The elections and presentation of awards are over, and I am sure congratulations are in order.

However, I would like to offer special praise to the co-ordinators of the 10 year & 25 year groups.

It is always a highlight of the Reunion Dinner to hear the stories from these two year groups (even if the presence of ladies does have a taming influence).

The falling off in attendance by the 10 year group worried the Committee, and this year, Greg White must be commended on the improved representation from his group.

Next year, the co-ordinator for this group will be Greg Sheehy. A co-ordinator for the 25 year group is still required.

Harry Stephen is our new President for the 1984/85 year. R.O.C.A. has been grooming Harry for this position for the past 36 years, and he brings a wealth of knowledge with him.

The need for minute books at Committee meetings is eliminated when Harry can recite a motion from the 1957 A.G.M. by heart.

As in the past, correspondence for R.O.C.A. should be addressed C/- Agricultural College, Roseworthy, S.A. 5371.

However, I can be reached directly at the Department of Agriculture, Murray Bridge S.A. 5253 (085 322266) (085 325624 - a/h)



Dale Manson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you for the honour of being President of R.O.C.A. for 1984/85.

I have been on the Committee and held all positions since 1948, and feel we are now entering into an exciting and challenging period of change in society, and R.O.C.A. must change and adapt to meet the needs of Members - new & old.

At our first Committee meeting, it was apparent our younger members had ideas, ability and enthusiasm which I am sure will be of benefit to the Association.

As the College changes to courses of degree status, we are concerned that graduates of previous courses should be given the opportunity to upgrade their qualifications. I hope we will have some useful information for the next Digest.

I am concerned that our change to inviting spouses to the reunion has had a mixed reception from members. Obviously, those whom attend do not disapprove, but there are some who will not attend because spouses are included. I would like to hear from those who feel strongly about the issue, with constructive ideas for improving the Reunion.

I felt that the 1984 Reunion was an excellent function in the best venue we have had, but unless we can increase the attendance, it is unlikely the Renaissance Centre will have us again.

I and the Committee are all anxious to serve you the membership of R.O.C.A.. We can only do this effectively if you let us know your ideas and needs so that we can consider them and act in the best interests of members. Please make yourself known to me whenever you have the opportunity.

Harry Stephen

ROCA - PRESIDENTS REPORTANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7-9-84.

It is with pleasure that I report to you on the Association's activities for 1983/84. With the College Centenary behind us, this year has to me, been, as your President, somewhat of an anticlimax.

I represented R.O.C.A. at the following events:-

- Graduation Day - Luncheon and Ceremony
- Launching of the Book - Centenary of Service
- Eyre Peninsula Branch - Dinner & Reunion
- A.T.A. Annual Dinner Meeting
- Dinner in honour - Andrew Michelmore

Graduation Day

The following awards were made by the Association.

The Old Students' Cup to the student with the second highest aggregate mark in the Diploma of Agriculture Course - Greg Mitchell

The Roseworthy Old Collegians Graduation Award
- Greg Mitchell

Trophy to the student making the best contribution to sport, not necessarily on the field - Phil May

Eyre Peninsula is the only branch of the Association which continues to function, and it has now become traditional to have a Dinner and Picnic during the last weekend in February each year. These were most successful events again this year.

At the A.T.A. Annual Dinner meeting, our Treasurer, Peter Fairbrother, was elected South Australian President.

Dinner to honour Andrew Michelmore - To mark Andy's retirement from the Department of Agriculture, Stan Fulton (Member of the Advisory Board of Agriculture), Barrie Thistlethwayte (College Director) and I jointly arranged a dinner in his honour. This was a most successful occasion, with a wide cross section of the community attending, particularly farmers from many areas of the state.

The Committee

We have again looked into the "Practical" content of courses presented by the College. Currently a letter is being prepared to be forwarded to the College Council and the Tertiary Education Authority in South Australia, expressing concern lest there should be further reductions in the practical content of courses - in particular the Bachelor of Applied Science in Agriculture.

Your Committee has also continued to seek provision to be made for recent diplomates to convert their qualifications to a degree by undertaking an appropriate course of study.

Research Centres

Concern was expressed to the Minister of Agriculture regarding the proposed closure of a number of Agricultural Research Centres in South Australia, particularly those centres with long term records.

R.O.C.A. Digests

Dale Manson accepted the position of Editor of the Digest this year. He has published four issues which meets the requirements of Australia Post to retain Category B status for reduced postage rates.

This year, the printing has been done at the College, and this has enabled the cost of printing to be reduced considerably. Thanks go to Barrie Thistlethwayte, Maurie Zobel and staff at the printery for their co-operation and assistance which has once again allowed the printing to be done on College. Thanks must also go to the College Graphic Artist, Graham Lavis, for his design of the new R.O.C.A. logo now being used on the Digest.

Membership Lists

The membership list has continued to be maintained on Bruce Wigney's computer facilities, and the Association thanks him and John Winckel, his computer operator for their assistance.

Auditor

Mr B.C. Philp resigns tonight after being auditor of this Association for more than 50 years.

We sincerely thank him for undertaking this job over such a long period of time. Treasurers of the Association, both past and present, have expressed how much they have appreciated his helpful assistance and advice in keeping the Association's accounts in order. "Philpy", in his usual efficient manner, has made sure that we have a successor to take on his job. Thank you Philpy for a job well done.

Award of Merit

David Driffield Suter is the recipient of the Association's Award of Merit for 1984, and I congratulate him on behalf of the Association.

I would like to thank the Committee members for their support by attending meetings regularly this year. In particular, I would like to thank:

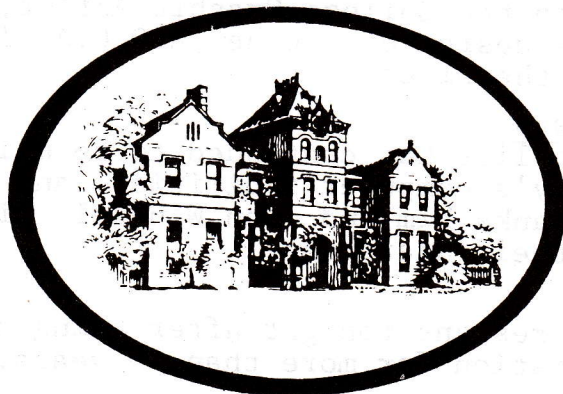
Andrew Michelmore - the Secretary
Peter Fairbrother - the Treasurer
Dale Manson - the Digest Editor

and

Peter Lewis for again this year, making a room available at Parliament House, and providing the Committee members with a meal at each meeting.

Ian M. Rice

President - 1983/84



* WORK WANTED *

Over 150 R.A.C. graduates will be unleashed into the real world of competition for employment in the near future.

Graduates will come from the whole range of courses offered by the College - Horses, Natural Resources, Wine, Agriculture etc.

If any Old Collegian can assist in the placement of these young Graduates, Graham Brookman at R.A.C. would be very pleased to hear from you (085 248057).

Holiday work is also needed. Many students will find it extremely hard to proceed through their course at R.A.C. unless they are able to acquire a paying job during vacation.

Graham Brookman is again the contact person for temporary job offers.



* FACE LIFT FOR NO. 3 BLOCK *

Many pleasant memories no doubt flood the minds of graduates when they think of No. 3 accommodation block.

The shared rooms with the open verandah were modified many years ago by enclosing the verandah and turning it into a room.

In the near future, the entire building will be completely renovated with new carpet and various refurbishments.

It will be ready for the reception of the 1985 first year group.



Walter & Eliza Hall Institute,
Royal Melbourne Hospital,
Victoria 3050

29th August, 1984

Dear Dale,

Being totally out of touch with the College for so many years, I was delighted to receive 3 issues of ROCA Digest you kindly sent. It has been something of a memory test to recall life at Roseworthy in the years 1957 to 1960, but several references to events and people in the Digests helped enormously.

I noticed the name Jon Shipard amongst others - a room-mate in first year I remember who taught me the likes of "Ghost Riders in the Sky" on the guitar to while away the "quieter times" at weekends! The list of the 25 Year Group in the Winter 1984 issue I recognise as the dreaded third year, which can only mean that a 25 year reunion for my own graduating class is imminent.

I sure hope to make it to Adelaide when the time comes for this event and to renew friendships that years ago provided such pleasure. A trip back to Roseworthy, probably the first since graduation, would also be quite something. I was absolutely amazed to read that the student body now numbers 500 which must make the College a very different place from my years there.

In recent times, I have had a little more contact with the Australian agricultural scene than was the case for many years. After Roseworthy, I graduated B.V.Sc. in Sydney, and completed a Ph.D. at this Institute in 1969. The following 5 years were spent overseas continuing to work in basic biomedical research, Cellular Immunology in particular. On my return to Australia, I initiated a Laboratory of Immunoparasitology in this Institute with emphasis on the development of vaccines for the control of parasites of medical or economic importance.

This, of course, brought me into contact once again with veterinarians and agriculturalists, and I have been fortunate in being able to form several collaborative research programmes on various animal parasites. Our principal focus is however, on parasitic diseases in countries to the near north - malaria in Papua New Guinea and schistosomiasis in the Philippines.

Now that I am back on the mailing lists of R.O.C.A., I look forward to greater involvement in Association and College affairs. Many thanks for your efforts in getting me back on the lists and congratulations on continuing to provide a means whereby old collegiates can maintain some link with what I am sure for all of us is an important segment of our lives.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Graham F. Mitchell
(Head, Immunoparasitology Unit)



Established 1883.

* AWARD OF MERIT *

The recipient of the 1984 R.O.C.A. Award of Merit was David Driffield Suter.

Mr Suter was presented with his award at the R.O.C.A. Annual General Meeting on September 7th.

The following is a summary of Mr Suter's life leading to the Award.

EDUCATION:

Secondary schooling at Kadina Memorial High School 1937-39. 1940 awarded a S.A. Government District Scholarship covering three years tuition fees to undertake the course at R.A.C. Received Roseworthy Diploma in Agriculture - March 1943. Awarded the Albert Molineux Memorial Trust Prize for outside practical work at the end of the official year.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE & EMPLOYMENT:

C.S.I.R.O. Technical Officer, Soils Division's Survey Branch Nov. 1945 to March 1947.

Assisted with Land Use and Soil Surveys - Kangaroo Island, Loxton, Mildura and Tasmania. All of these areas have been developed under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme.

ROSEWORTHY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE:

Assistant Farm Superintendent, March 1947 - March 1950.
Farm Superintendent, March 1950 - June 1958.

Duties:

Prepare the programmes for cereal cropping, pasture management and fodder conservation for the livestock enterprises. Supervise and organise the day to day farm work carried out by the permanent farm hands and students working under instruction in Farm Management and operations and in the use of agricultural machinery.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS:

Supervisor of Settlements - Land Development Branch
June 1958 - June 1964. Stationed at Penola & Parndana.
Assistant Superintendent War Service Settlement Branch,
Parndana, June 1964 - September 1965.

Duties:

As Supervisor of Settlements responsible to the Chief Admin. Officer for the land development programmes which included supervision of scrub clearing, pasture establishment, farm sub-division and improvement of pastures.

The areas developed were leased for War Service Land Settlement, and some as Crown Land Development leases.

As Assistant Superintendent (64-65), he was the officer in charge of the regional office at Parndana (5 staff) and responsible to the Superintendent War Service Settlement Branch (Adelaide).

September 1965:

Appointed Assistant Superintendent Drylands - Land Settlements Division (Adelaide)

Duties now embraced the whole State including Kangaroo Island, and were concerned mainly with farm financial and budgetry control.

September 1971:

Superintendent Drylands.

Similar, but broader duties to above, but still involved with War Service Land Settlement projects.

September 1978:

Assistant Regional Manager.

Responsibilities remained much the same as for the above classification, except that the emphasis was transferred from War Service Land Settlement to general land administration as required under the Crown Lands Act.

Retired from the Department of Lands - June 1982.

WAR SERVICE:

Enlisted in Aircrew, January 1943. Completed one tour of operational flying with Bomber Command over Europe during the period August - November, 1944.

Granted Commission, January 1945.

Appointment terminated November 1945.

Total active service, 2 years 10 months.

OTHER INTERESTS & ACTIVITIES:

David Suter was actively involved in the affairs of the Roseworthy Old Collegians Assoc. over a period of 18 years, firstly during the period 1951-58, and then from 1967 to 1976 following his return from country postings.

He held the offices of Secretary (Treasurer) 5 years, Vice President and President (1958 & 1972) during this period.

As Secretary, he was actively involved in fund raising ventures connected with the building of the Memorial Chapel at the College.

He was made an Honorary Life Member of the Association in recognition of these services.

He was a member of the Mudla Wirra District Council Fire Control Board of Management during 1957/58. He established a unit at the College and trained staff and students in the operation and use of the equipment.

He was active on various school committees.

eg. Parndana Area School 1961/64

Daws Road High School, where he was on the Council during the period 1967/72, and was Secretary for five of these six years.

He has also been actively associated with ex-Servicemen's groups.

eg. Parndana Returned Servicemen's League 1962/65, where he held the office of both Treasurer and Secretary.

Airforce Association, Mitcham Branch 1970/81. Treasurer 1970/72, and currently is Auditor.

In May 1977, he organised a National re-union of the 463-467 R.A.A.F. Squadron's Association in Adelaide.

In retirement, David is actively involved in Lawn Bowls, and is currently an accredited coach in this sport.

David's willingness to assist students at any time and his offers to make any contribution within his capacity towards improving the quality of life at the College was an inspiration to all who came in contact with him during his period of employment at the College.

His wife, Majorie, supported him in all of his activities beyond normal duty, and of course, deserves full recognition for her part in shaping David's fine career in Public Service.

It is perhaps fitting to round off this summary of David's life by quoting the words of Mr. R.C. Taeuber, the ex Director General of Lands, who upon David's retirement wrote:-

"Since joining the Department in 1947 from Roseworthy (and after War Service with the R.A.A.F. in R.A.F. Bomber Command) you have served in a number of capacities, but your name will always be associated with your work on the War Service Lands Settlement Scheme. The success of so many settlers is due in no small measure to your contribution."

44 Ferguson Ave.,
Myrtle Bank,
S.A. 5064

7/10/84

Dear Sir,

It was in the early 1960's that Mr Ian Downie asked for help in the establishment and development of the new Cormo breed of sheep resulting from crossing 30 Corriedale rams on some 1,200 Saxon superfine Merino ewes. It was a breeding programme aimed at fixing one of the better comeback sheep types and improving wool and meat production rather than continuing with a complex criss-cross breeding programme between two alternate breeds to produce first cross comebacks (coming back to the Merino).

In the late 1960's, Japanese wool buyers, over on the lookout for outstanding, soft handling, clean comeback wool, purchased the whole Cormo wool clip at auction. Then around 1970 when wool prices collapsed, they paid a premium of 6 to 8 cents per kilogram for this wool. Some skilfull sheep breeders are able to estimate the price which their wool will bring at auction by multiplying clean wool price from the Australian Wool Corporation for wool of known mean fibre diameter and yield, obtained from core samples.

I was recently invited to address the Sheep & Wool Refresher Course in Tasmania. On our way down from Launceston to Hobart, Mr David Wilson R.D.A. was driving. We were following a small car which pulled over to the left, then the driver turned his car towards the lane of following traffic. He proceeded to make a U turn just as we came upon him.

David Wilson showed great presence of mind and swung the car, laden with 5 people and luggage, violently to the right and then to the left. I heard a faint click as our back bumper must have touched his front bumper as we swerved past.

So we can praise the Lord that we are all intact and alive. A sleeping passenger in the back did not wake up!



Brian C. Jefferies
(R.D.A. 1950)

* RESPONSE FROM DAVID SUITER *

President Ian, Distinguished Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Well what can I say but thank you.

It is a proud moment for my family and myself, and indeed I regard the recognition of my career by R.O.C.A. as a very great honour.

It seems to me this all started back in the May school holidays in 1938 when I was staying on a farm, and on this particular day, I was out with my host seeding wheat with a combine and eight horse team. As I recall, it was a miserable day and things weren't going all that well, when my host said, "How would you like to be a farmer?". I replied, "I think I would". On returning home, I told my mother and the September school holidays I found myself with my mother journeying to Roseworthy College and fronting up to the then Principal, Dr. Callaghan (now Sir Allan Callaghan). He suggested I sit for the scholarship exams in February 1939 for experience and see what I thought - if I was still interested come back again in 1940 and give it a go - that is what I did.

In reflection that September day in 1938, I must have looked a most unlikely prospective Roseworthy student - knee high to a grasshopper - Dr Callaghan was being very kind. I am sure he thought the third years would devour me before breakfast. I am very grateful to Sir Allan for giving me the opportunity to be a student of Agriculture at Roseworthy College.

As I worked for something like 24 years with War Service Land Settlement, I would like to say something about the Scheme. In February 1942, the Minister of Lands created Crown Land Development Committee consisting of Dr A.R. Callaghan (Principal, Roseworthy College), Mr J.N. McGilp (Cairman of the Land Board) and Mr Rowland Hill (Member of the Land Board) and an Old Student of Roseworthy. The function of the Committee was to report on the availability of Crown Lands suitable for the development, also advise on land development and settlement policy.

This Committee had a big input into the Crown Lands Development Act 1943 and the Land Settlement Act of 1944.

This legislation had a vital bearing on the smooth transition of land development projects already started to the War Service Land Settlement Scheme which came into operation with the passing of the War Service Land Settlement Agreement Act in 1945. I suspect the Commonwealth Authority was more than surprised with the rapidity at which land development and farm establishment progressed in this State after the signing of the Agreement because the Commonwealth were required to pick up the tab for development already commenced.

Perhaps I should explain - The War Service Land Settlement Act is an Agreement between the State and Commonwealth to develop suitable land and create farms for returned servicemen from World War II - the Commonwealth provided the money while the State provided the administration for the Scheme, which in addition to the farm establishment programme, provided loans to the eventual farmers for improvements, livestock, plant and working capital. Although the success of the War Service Land Settlement Scheme depended on the Soldier Settlers themselves as to whether they succeeded as farmers or not - the opportunity was provided by the solid foundations laid down by the Land Development Committee, which in 1945, was reconstituted the L.D.E. (Land Development Executive). Their thoroughness, sound planning and foresight stood the test of time, and was acknowledged by both the Settlers and Departmental Officers associated with the Scheme. In my opinion, the scheme was very successful.

Roseworthy College had close links with the War Service Land Settlement right from the beginning in 1942, and the association continued throughout the active life of the Scheme which spanned a period of more than 35 years, as a great number of Roseworthy Graduates were employed from time to time, and they served the organisation well.

By June 1958 when I commenced working with the Land Development Branch, formerly the L.D.E., the hurly burly of initial farm establishment was nearing completion and on Kangaroo Island the 1960's was a period of taking stock and checking whether the required development standards had been maintained. The Settlers on their own behalf and through pressure groups such as Settler Committees and the R.S.L. complained bitterly about certain aspects of the development programme, livestock problems, etc.

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 \$ 5.00

SIGNATURE:.....

PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN NOW.

At the 1984 Annual General Meeting, the fee for Life Membership was increased to \$40.

However, this will not come into force until the 1985/86 financial year.

Life Membership will continue to be available for \$25 until 1st July, 1985.

Mail all correspondence to:-

R.O.C.A. Secretary,
C/- Agricultural College,
ROSEWORTHY S.A. 5371

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

NAME:

ADDRESS:

.....

COURSE ATTENDED:.....

YEAR GRADUATED:.....

