



R.O.C.A. digest

VOL. 16 Nos. 2 and 3

MARCH/JUNE 1982

Registered by Australia Post publication No. SBH0253

Editor:

Tim Prance

Editorial Committee:

Peter Lewis, Lindsay Wright, Dale Manson, Ian Rice

Dates to remember (for more details - see inside)
30th June Closing day for Award of Merit Nominations
10th September R.O.C.A. AGM and Dinner
12th September R.O.C.A. Reunion at R.A.C.
December - Eyre Peninsula Branch Christmas Dinner.
26th February, 1983 Eyre Peninsula Branch Annual Re-union.

Application For R.O.C.A. Membership

I wish to join Roseworthy Old Collegians Association:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

COURSE ATTENDED.....

YEAR GRADUATED:.....

Chegue enclosed for LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$25

ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP \$ 3

Signature:

Moving? Writing to the Editor? Paying your subscription?

Please forward ALL correspondence to:

R.O.C.A. C/- Roseworthy College, Roseworthy 5371

College Notes by Ian Rice

The **1982 academic year** is now well under way. The number of students enrolled has fallen slightly at the college this year. This is in common with most tertiary institutions in Australia. However, the Agricultural and Wine courses have managed to almost maintain their numbers. The most disappointing enrolments have been in the Natural Resources course and students undertaking the Graduate Diploma in Agriculture.

The **reorganisation of the college** as recommended by the Michael and Dillon committees in 1980 is now entering its second year of operation. This new organisation is basically the formation of the college into three faculty areas—Oenology, Agriculture and Natural Resources — for academic purposes. The management of the college now comes under three areas — General Services, responsible for central administration; Field Services, whose responsibility it is to manage the farm and grounds; and Halls of Residence, which provides student accommodation, catering and cleaning services. Each of these areas is under control of a Manager.

Centenary

1983 is the college centenary year and, as a lead up to this, two functions have been arranged to set the stage for 1983.

On **Sunday 13th June** this year there will be a reunion for any person that was employed at the college prior to 1976.

The **ROCA reunion** will be held in Adelaide on Friday **10th September**. This year it is planned to **continue the Reunion on Sunday 12th September at the College**. Will you make a special effort to be present at one or both of these functions, and encourage any other old students you know to be there also. It is hoped that this reunion will be the lead up to an even larger gathering of Old Collegians next year for the centenary.

College to **feature for Telecom**. The fine old main building will feature on the 085 Area Telephone Book cover in 1983. Telecom will also choose agricultural topics relating to R.A.C. for the other country covers. The centenary symbol will appear on all the South Australian Telephone books.

College Council

Reappointed are:

Wayne Barnden

Dean Campbell

Kim Kelly

Keith Smith

Ray Taylor

Agricultural Science Consultant with the Department of Education

Senior Lecturer in Physics at S.A.I.T.

Farmer, Tarlee

General Manager Production, Penfolds Nuriootpa
Property Management and Valuation Consultant,
Adelaide

“New” faces are:

Bruce Eastick

Barbara Hardy

Oliver Mayo

Peter Trumble

Speaker of the house of Assembly and Member for Light

Advisor to the S.A. Minister of Environment and Planning

Reader in Charge, Biometry Section, Waite Agricultural Research Institute

Deputy Director General of Agriculture, S.A.

Elected Members:

Ken Edwards

Noel Richardson

Rod Jamieson

Dominic Cavallaro

Brad Butler

(Academic Staff) — Senior Lecturer Management and Marketing

(Academic Staff) — Senior Lecturer Applied Science

(Ancillary Staff) — Technical Officer Energy Crops Research

Student Rep — Year III RDAG

Student Rep — Year III RDAG

and not forgetting:

Maurie Zobel

Barrie Thistlethwaite

Secretary to Council — Manager General Services

Director, R.A.C.

Mr. Kim Kelly has been elected as President for another term, with Mr. Keith Smith as Vice-President. Council meets on the first Monday of each month.



ROSEWORTHY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

One hundred years of service to Agriculture and Education.

Roseworthy, South Australia, 5371. Telephone (085) 248057

Dear Old Collegian,

Roseworthy Agricultural College is celebrating its centenary year in 1983. During 1982 many activities need to be commenced so that the main aspects of the centenary celebrations can come to fruition. For example, the College is planning a series of centenary symposia in the week of 23-27 May 1983, a centenary oration on the night of May 27 1983, and a conference of Principals of Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges in Australia and the Pacific areas during the period May 28-31 1983.

Later this year the College will publish three books recording various aspects of the history of the College and the contribution its staff and its students have made to agriculture and education.

The Council of the College has agreed that centenary activities should be financed largely outside the Advanced Education funds made available to the College from the Federal and State Governments for approved courses and research projects. Finance is to come largely from funds generated by the centenary activities and from donations. At present the centenary organising committees are short of working capital.

Can you help us?

We would welcome donations, which are tax deductible if made payable to the College's centenary trust account. Alternatively, we would welcome interest-free loans which would be repaid about the end of 1983, when the centenary trust account is finalised and audited.

Any assistance you can provide in either of these two ways would be very welcome, and would help us do justice to this major year in the history of Roseworthy Agricultural College. If you can assist, would you please make it clear in your reply whether your contribution is a donation or a loan.

Yours sincerely,

BARRIE THISTLETHWAYTE
Director

Letters to the Editor

It is a pleasure to receive so many letters from Old Scholars. These letters add much interest to your magazine—please keep them coming! Editor.

Many Old Scholars are concerned about the dropping of the “R” from qualifications awarded at Roseworthy. Here is a selection.

“I concur; there is more than enough mediocrity in Australia without adding to it by devitalizing a meritorious qualification.” Barry R. JOHNSTON (RDA 1953 and proud of it!) Darwin.

“I agree too with Dr. Eastick and Professor Butterfield about the prefix “R” being used. I was proud of my late husband’s R.D.A. and have hopes that our son will have his R.D.A. in due course.” Mrs. E.Y. COWLEY, Daw Park

“...if Roseworthy has been cut off from our Agricultural College qualifications it is quite wrong, because on touring the world I have found Roseworthy Agricultural College to be well-known in many places.” Geo BAGOT, Miami. Queensland.

Dear Sir,

Although I’ve been out for 10 years and the Digest takes some time to drop onto my table, it is certainly interesting to know of new College happenings and old graduate wanderings.

I wandered up to Papua New Guinea in 1973 for a four year stint to get some tropical experience and seemed to have liked the work and the life style which sees me still here. I have recently signed another 3 year contract. Starting as an extension worker in crops (cocoa, oil palm, cocoanuts, chillie) and crocodiles—about which I know nothing—and then trying to get this no-knowledge over using Pidgin English—was an interesting situation.

In 1979 I moved to Vudal Agricultural College as an extension lecturer, The training branch didn’t get a qualified teacher but I had a little bit of knowledge of the problems and methods of field extension work to fall back onto in trying to get the message across to students.

The Deputy Principal here travelled to Gatton in 1972 in the Vudal basketball team. I recognised him and so the stories began; however the whole team still have good memories of the Roseworthy boys—especially Wilbur Wilson’s antics and the Gatton pub’s activities.

The College, of 260 Ha. is a pretty one set in rolling hills 40 Km. S.W. of Rabaul. With 180 students (15 female), the College offers a 2-year Certificate Course and a further 1 year for field workers (not just Department of Primary Industry) who have a Certificate of Agriculture and who have been working in the field for at least 3 years with good reports; a Diploma in Tropical Agriculture results. The Whole training system is under review and it may revert to a straight 3-year Diploma.

I have now decided to get back to a field position and I will start duties in West New Britain as the Oil Palm Field Co-ordinator in February 1982. For further information on my happenings, as well as all 1970 Roseworthy graduates, I recommend R.O.C.A. members read the yearly magazine produced by the 1970 graduates. After 10 editions it is still informing, entertaining and educating our year and our families.

Our ten year reunion at R.A.C., to which I flew down, with a formal sit-down dinner for 200 plus, was a great success. Bouquets to the organisers.

Cheers, Ashley BARNES, Vudal Agricultural College, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Dear Sir,

Name for Swimming Pool

I have made a request at two annual meetings that the new swimming pool be called “THE CLAUDE HAY MEMORIAL SWIMMING POOL”. On the first occasion I received a complete rebuff from Mr. Bob Herriot. On the second occasion (either last year or the year before) the request was favourably received and I think it was decided that some person or persons would investigate his very illustrious student record and also his now famous record as a Navigator attached to the RAF during the 1939-45 War. It comes to mind that there are quite a few old scholars in his year at RAC who could supply details, and I for one can nominate Mr. D.B. Muirhead who now lives at Sturt St. Dulwich. I would like the ROCA to take up this request and as well start a memorial fund to which I personally will give \$50 and a further \$50 when it is off the ground. Michael S. BUTLER, “ORO” RMB 43 DENILIKUIN 2710.

Members views of comments would be appreciated so that this issue can be resolved at this years A.G.M. Editor

Dear Sir,

After eleven years teaching in W.A. schools, the latter seven having been spent at Darkan District High School, we felt a move to the suburban area was in the best interest of our two daughters' schooling.

We have subsequently purchased a 2.8 hectare property with ready access to High Schools and suburban facilities at Gosnells—about 20 Km. from the centre of Perth.

After we moved in last year we spent five weeks rushing about S.A., N.S.W. and Victoria catching up with a few R.A.C. friends and many relations whilst on long service leave. I have been appointed to teach at Thornlie Senior High School this year.

We would like to have any of the old R.A.C. crew call on us if they are over this way. Trevor WILLISON, GOSNELLS. W.A.

Review of the Function of R.O.C.A.

As reported in the last Digest, the R.O.C.A. Committee is conducting a "self analysis" of our organization, because the number of new members has dropped by 70 per cent in the past five years and R.O.C.A. is now only receiving an income of \$200 from new membership.

To aid this self analysis, your committee must know what changes are required (if any) to your organisation.

If you are interested in your organisation please fill in the questionnaire below and add any ideas, thoughts or criticisms you have.

Should R.O.C.A.:

1. Stay the same as it is?
2. Disband altogether?
3. Change the annual R.O.C.A. dinner format?
The Eyre Peninsula Branch holds a very successful function each year. Should our A.G.M. and Dinner be similar?
For example —Friday night—A.G.M. over dinner with a guest speaker
—Saturday/Sunday—Family day at R.A.C.

(Editor's note: The College is booked for Sunday, 12th September 1982).

Our annual dinner in the present format has problems.

For example:

- the present A.G.M. is held in such a restricted time space that little discussion is allowed.
 - the dinner doesn't allow people to mix and socialise;
 - a mixed function where wives (or husbands) could attend would bring in Old Scholars who have no interest in R.O.C.A. at present.
4. Boost R.O.C.A. but make no major changes. Should we simply make a concerted effort to boost membership?

For example:

- Faculty groups could be encouraged to join. Include sections in the Digest for each group such as the Plonkies and Nat. Rats.
- Sub branches could have a section in the Digest to report on their activities and to let members know the branch contact person in that region.
- Graduating year. A special function, such as a dinner, could be held to tell graduating students about R.O.C.A. to give them a year's membership and perhaps sign up some life members.

5. Any other changes? Please make some suggestions.

Please fill in and return to the R.O.C.A. Secretary, Roseworthy College, Roseworthy 5371—Immediately—while you are thinking about it.

I agree with suggestion 1.
(YES/NO) 2.

3.

Have you any other suggestions to change the A.G.M. and dinner? Please attach details.

4. What suggestions do you agree with?

5.

Award of Merit nominations

Nominations for the R.O.C.A. 1982 Award of Merit are required. Please fill out the enclosed form and post to R.O.C.A. Secretary, Roseworthy College, Roseworthy, S.A. 5371

Name of Nominee.....

Address of Nominee.....

Age of Nominee.....

Period at R.A.C.....

Supporting data should be provided on employment, career and occupation since leaving R.A.C., papers published, honours bestowed and academic qualifications as well as any other organizations and committees' the nominee has served on.

The application should be signed by the person making the proposal and seconded by another person.

Eyre Peninsula Branch Activities

Annual Christmas Get-Together was enjoyed by an exuberant gathering of old scholars and partners on December 11th last year.

1982 A.G.M. and Dinner

Des Habel was elected President for 1982 with Ken Holden as Secretary and Maurice Barry Treasurer.

Also attending were Bruce Wigney, R.O.C.A. President, and Dr. Barrie Thistlethwayte, R.A.C. Director, who was guest Speaker.

Summary of Barrie Thistlethwayte's speech—R.A.C. in the 1980's.

Barrie said that changes in the past at the College had been necessary to maintain vitality and to fit in with the changing lifestyles in South Australia and Australia. He expected the 1980's to follow this trend as there would be a lower student intake from High School and more from other tertiary courses. In addition, student numbers were increasing at 3% in 1980 compared with 15% in 1972. Similar problems were also being experienced by other tertiary education institutions throughout Australia.

Dr. Thistlethwayte continued by stating...“we are now facing a marketing programme—for example external studies are a growth area in the tertiary education field.” He said “Agriculture only attracted two percent of tertiary students in 1980 compared to 10 per cent in the sciences, 18 per cent in commerce and law and 39 per cent in education. Agriculture needed to diversify its courses and attract more females into agricultural studies.”

Barrie outlined a number of predictions for the future:

- (1) Formal courses would remain static or have very little increase in student numbers.
- (2) Less people would be required for Education Studies so more students would be available for courses at other tertiary institutions such as R.A.C. New courses would need to be developed to attract these students to Agriculture. Possible examples were Agribusiness, Amenity Horticulture and Water Management.
- (3) Develop “non standard” courses, for example refresher courses, short courses, farmer field days and conferences.
- (4) Maintain financial responsibility by:
 - a. Operating the farm as a profitable enterprise
 - b. Sharing resources to make best use of facilities such as beds and laboratories.

Roseworthy had the highest per student cost of any tertiary body in Australia and it had to demonstrate clearly that it could operate at a reasonable cost level in order to maintain its independence.

In winding up his address, Dr. Thistlethwayte said the college would be endeavoring to put a new look Roseworthy before the public leading up to the 1983 Centenary Year.

R.O.C.A. should look at encouraging membership, probably by developing formalized membership of R.O.C.A. R.O.C.A. should push to get a formal member on the college board.

1982 Family Day, Port Lincoln

Our 1982 "Fun Day" at Billy Light Point started well and ended well weatherwise—in between the 44 adults, 33 children and 2 dogs really enjoyed themselves, (Statistics per favour Christine Holden).

Dr. Barrie Thistlethwayte, wife Judy and son were guests of honour—they promised us a return visit if and when pressures allow. They easily made friends and we hope they can stay around a bit longer next time they're in Lincoln. Wally Goulter missed Philpy's assistance when erecting the tarpaulins and the John Shipards were disappointed in the non appearance of Jack and Pam McFarlane due to a last minute cancellation.

Ken Holden and Jeff Eime ran the large portable barbacue down to the waters' edge for the convenience of swimmers, tiddler fishermen and stubbie consumers and the day was away to a good start.

Seemed to be something for everyone this year thanks mainly to the efforts of Tina Lawes, who organised a series of competitions, the highlight of which was the waterfilled balloon throwing contest—won by Tom Yeatman and Aileen Daniel.

An exclusive interview with the winners was obtained by the "Digest" sports writer covering training, hurling techniques and dishonest practises.

The Brian Danial family from Cleve and the Bob Sampson clan from Edillilie figured extensively in the prize taking.

The main event of the day, the Lincoln Gift (prize money 3 cents) was won narrowly by Neil Cordon from Brian Daniel after a disgraceful exhibition by Tom Yeatman, who fierely savaged Elizabeth Michelmores at the 50 metre mark. Elizabeth dominated the watersports, although Neil Cordon and Brenton Growden performed well at the deep end fully clothed. On the other hand Amy and Tom Growden preferred the nude scene.

Alf Humble was "teetotal" having the responsibility of flying the Michelmores back to Adelaide. Andy M. I believe has attended 15 out of our last 16 "get togethers" on Eyre Peninsula—a record very few of the locals can claim. It is impossible to name everyone involved in the success of the function, as many contributed to the value of the day with many travelling long distances to add to the companionship—the branch committee is grateful to the families who attended and made the "once a year" day so worthwhile.

One problem that confronts the organisers each succeeding year is the rising cost factor. Maurice Barry as our collector of dues, reports a balancing budget,so it will be on again next year—same place, last Sunday in February 1983.

Early R.A.C. Principals—Milton Spurling

(Summary of speech given at 1981 Annual Dinner)

Professor Custance, as the first Director of the College, was in a position to make a very significant contribution to the determination of the college's future. Prior to his appointment there had been a lot of "experts" expressing views on what should be the form of the Agricultural College.

Professor Custance was recruited by the Agent-General in London, but in the six months that it took between that date and his arrival in South Australia, there had been a change in Government, and when he fronted up for duty is was only to find that no-one in authority at the time was aware of his impending arrival or what he was supposed to do. As a result, he was given a

free hand to determine where the Agricultural College should be established to best serve the needs of the colony.

Professor Custance came to Roseworthy from the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester in Gloucestershire, England. He had just completed a four year term in Japan, having been recruited as one of four world authorities to initiate and plan the establishment of an agricultural research institute in Tokyo. He was kept on after the other three had left because of the outstanding contribution he was able to make in that situation. That research institute has subsequently become part of the University of Tokyo.

Professor Custance had also seen service in the colonial service in Africa. He was well-qualified both professionally as an agricultural scientist and personally by his initiative and leadership qualities to assess the needs for agricultural research in South Australia and to advise the Government. He recommended that an experiment station should be established at the present site of Roseworthy Agricultural College, being located in the rapidly developing wheat producing area of the state.

A number of sectional interests associated with the establishment of the college favoured a site closer to the city and Custance showed considerable foresight in his recommendation. The other major emphasis of his recommendation is that a teaching institution should be established along with the experimental station on the grounds that research is wasted unless it is coupled with extension and teaching.

I believe that Roseworthy's subsequent 100 years' history has been very largely influenced by the leadership and direction given by Professor Custance in those early years. Custance was only at Roseworthy for two years but in that time he established a very good rapport with the farmers of the region, spending much of his time talking to farmers' groups and discussing production technology with them. He initiated the experiments with superphosphate at the college, which were later to demonstrate for the first time the need for phosphate in Australian Agriculture. He initiated experiments to evaluate new crops as well as a range of experimental plots to clarify fertiliser requirements and various aspects of soil management.

A.J. Perkins was appointed to the college as a senior Lecturer in Agriculture in 1892 and became Principal in 1904 and later Director of Agriculture of the newly-formed Department of Agriculture. He was probably even more significant in determining the future of South Australia's agriculture than was Custance. Perkins was a graduate of Montpellier in France, and arrived at Roseworthy at a time when phylloxera had destroyed a large proportion of the viticultural plantings in New South Wales and Victoria, and with his knowledge of the seriousness of this pest, was able to mastermind the phylloxera quarantine regulations for Australia. As a result of Perkins' contributions, South Australia was protected from phylloxera and rapidly grew to become the principal viticultural state in Australia.

Perkins introduced the teaching of viticulture and oenology as third year elective subjects in the Diploma of Agriculture course, and established the first winery at the college in 1895.

During the twenty years of Perkins' association with the college as a Lecturer and the Principal, the future role of the College as the centre for training for the vine and wine industries in Australia was cemented. The graduates of Roseworthy College interested in viticulture and oenology spread throughout Australia during this period and played a major role in the development of the industry.

During Perkins' time as Director of the college the academic standards of the course improved. The award of the college, The Roseworthy Diploma in Agriculture, the only professional training available in Agriculture in South Australia, played an increasingly important role in the development of agricultural education, agricultural research and agricultural extension in Australia. Perkins was a truly amazing person in a number of ways. He kept a duplicate copy of every letter that he wrote from the time that he wrote asking for more information about the College prior to accepting an appointment here. These letters were sometimes in French and sometimes in English and as one of our centenary activities the translated and transcribed letters will be printed in two volumes. They provide a very valuable source of information on historical aspects of viticulture and oenology.