



Roseworthy Old Collegians Assoc. Inc.

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# R.O.C.A. Digest

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*Editor:*

DALE MANSON

*Autumn 1984*





# Editorial

The photograph on the front cover of this Digest illustrates how the history of R.A.C. is meeting the changing needs of our community. It is the College museum's 1949 Field Marshall tractor on display at the 1983 Royal Adelaide Show.

By getting out amongst the community at large, the College is proving that it is capable of providing a 1984 education, yet is still proud of its heritage.

The new front cover on this Digest maintains this same feeling.

It is a chain linking the old with the new - the traditional with the innovative. In the centre is R.O.C.A., providing the vital link.

The new College logo (the right hand link) is rather controversial, but has finally gained acceptance. I will explain this logo more fully in a future issue of the Digest.

Both the College logo and the ROCA Digest banner were designed by the College's graphic artist, Graeme Lavis.

In this issue, we are calling nominations for the ROCA Award of Merit. I would urge all members to look at the achievements of their fellow Old Collegians throughout the community, and consider nominating anyone they feel may be worthy of such an honour.

The A.G.M. and Reunion Dinner will be conducted at the "Renaissance Tower" in Rundle Mall on Friday September 7th. Spouses are once again welcome to attend the dinner with members. I look forward to meeting many of you once again on this night.

*Dale Manson*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am writing this in Port Lincoln, having come over to this great spot for the Eyre Peninsula reunion. This branch of R.O.C.A. has been in existence for 33 years. It is a credit to those West Coast members who have put a lot of time and effort into the organisation of this branch.

Andrew Michelmores retires from the Department of Agriculture in March, and as a mark of appreciation for his service to Agriculture in S.A., Roseworthy College and the Old Collegians Association have arranged a dinner at the College. This will be held on April 13th at 7.30pm. Details for bookings appear elsewhere in this Digest.

The accreditation of the Degree in Applied Science in Agriculture course has yet to be finally approved by the Tertiary Education Authority. The College administration is confident that this will be obtained so that the 1983 intake of students will graduate with degrees.

Student numbers at the College in 1984 will be over 500 for the first time. This will stretch the accommodation to the limit. It is the first time for 10 years that share room accommodation has had to be offered to students.

*Ian Rice*

PRESIDENT





REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Unit 50 Argyle Square,  
1 Allambee Reid,  
A.C.T. 2601

My reason for writing is to seek information about a distinguished ex-student, the late Mr Gerald Gustave Masson.

Gerry Masson was awarded a Roseworthy Diploma in Agriculture in 1911. Prior to enlistment in the AIF on 11/9/14, he was a farmer at Kulde, S.A. After serving at Gallipoli and being wounded, he was with the 9th Regiment Aust. Light Horse in the Sinai-Palestine Campaign. Enlisting as a private soldier, he rose through the ranks to be commissioned as a Lieutenant in June 1918.

On January 13th, 1919, while his Regiment was still in Syria, Masson left the Army to take up a position with the Palestine Government as Deputy Assistant Administrator (Ag.) Thus started a remarkable career which played an important role in the rapid development of an agricultural economy which probably has no parallel in this century. In 1931, he was appointed Chief Agricultural Officer.

Gerry Masson and his staff arranged a number of agricultural inspections for Second World War soldiers who were interested in the subject. I was one of those men.

I seek information about any living relatives of Masson, his descendants, or any other person who may have information or records which would be of assistance in preparing a short biography. All correspondence will be answered. I have written to Mr W. Keith Tamblyn of Renmark who was at Roseworthy when Masson was there.

I was Director of Conservation & Agriculture for the A.C.T. before retiring in 1975. I knew some senior officers in the S.A. Department of Agriculture, and it is possible that some of them may have had contact with Masson while he was in Palestine.

Yours sincerely,

J.J. Huston



## ANDY MICHELMORE'S RETIREMENT

Andy Michelmore is to retire from the Department of Agriculture in March this year. As a result of his work in the Department of Agriculture and many other activities, Andy has earned the respect and the friendship of a wide range of people.

The College, R.O.C.A. and the Advisory Board of Agriculture are combining to arrange a dinner at which Andy's friends can wish him well in retirement, and wish Elizabeth success in coping with Andy's presence around the house for 7 days a week instead of 2.

The dinner will be held at 7.30 p.m. on April 13th, 1984, in the Dining Room of Roseworthy Agricultural College. This venue will bring many happy memories to Andy and Elizabeth and to many of their friends.

The cost of the dinner will be \$25 per double, or \$12.50 per person, for a fine 3-course meal followed by coffee, after-dinner mints and port, including carafe wine and orange juice provided on the tables.

During the evening, a presentation will be made to Andy on behalf of all people present at the dinner. Please contact the College as soon as possible if you wish to attend.

### J.L. MANN

Mr J.L. Mann, Librarian at R.A.C. from 1948 to 1960, passed away on December 15th, 1983, at the age of 86.

John, a batchelor, will be remembered by many as a benefactor to College sporting teams.

He also helped many individuals at College by his acts of friendship and support when it was needed.

He retired to Rest Haven, Mitcham, and continued his association with young people as much as possible.

COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF OVERSEAS STUDENTS  
(S.A.) INCORPORATED

CWOS is involved in a wide range of activities to assist students from overseas countries to settle in to the Adelaide and South Australian environment. Volunteers to assist CWOS with two activities are being sought. These activities are contact families and country hospitality.

Contact families are families resident in South Australia, usually in Adelaide and suburbs, willing to offer friendship to overseas students, such as invitations for overseas students to participate in family-based evening and weekend sport, entertainment and other forms of relaxation.

Country hospitality is provided by people in country centres of South Australia prepared to host overseas students on country holidays, ranging from a couple of days to many days.

Any members of ROCA able to assist in either or both of these capacities are asked to contact CWOS, telephone (08) 51 3651, or write to GPO Box 1750, Adelaide, S.A. 5001, or call in to the 10th Floor, 45 Grenfell Street, Adelaide. Mr Rick Abbott-Griffiths, the Immediate Past President of CWOS, would be pleased to provide additional information.

LEN LAFFER

Well known ROCA member, Leonard Hughes Laffer passed away recently.

Len graduated from R.A.C. in 1933, and then obtained a Bachelor of Ag. Science in 1934 in Adelaide. He was awarded the ROCA Award of Merit in 1976.

Len was a lecturer at R.A.C. for many years, as well as a chemist at the Berri Co-operative Packing Union, Production Manager at the Barossa Canneries Pty Ltd, Chairman & Managing Director of Basedow Wines Pty Ltd, and a practising land valuer.

Len will be sadly missed by ROCA, and the entire agricultural community.



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

To the Editor,

The vigorous discussion on the importance and priority of practical work in courses such as the Associate Diplomas of Agricultural Production and Farm Management and the proposed Degree in Applied Science (RBAG), has inspired me to write of my experience.

When I attended Woodville High School in the early 1940's, it was possible to Matriculate in three years without going onto Leaving Honours.

Therefore, I was only 15½ years of age when I Matriculated and therefore was too young to go to either Roseworthy College or the University.

Indeed, I was too young to go out in the shearing sheds as part of the Diploma in Woolclassing. However, the war was on and shedhands were in short supply, so I was asked if I thought I could keep up with the other students of the then School of Mines.

I assured them that I would be able to cope, so I went out into the sheds at 15½. It was possible for me to complete the five year course in four years, when I realised that I would need to gain wider training and experience if I was to settle down to a regular job.

After four years away from school and study, I feared that I would not be able to cope with a University Course, so I applied to go to Roseworthy, and have never regretted that decision.

The four years out in the working world broadened my outlook, gave me a little more maturity and motivated me to work hard for a goal. One of our year said in first year he was going to get the Gold Medal. I never imagined that such a goal was attainable, but aimed high to ensure a pass (unlike Peter Linklater who aimed at 51% and got it!) At the end of my R.D.A., I decided to go onto the Adelaide University, and these three courses fitted together to fit me for my life's work in sheep & wool.

*Brian Jefferies*

"Rathe",  
 Box 1,  
 Bothwell Tas 7411

To the Editor,

I am writing to thank you for the editions of the Digest which I read with pleasure. It is good to see some names in it which I remember. ie. the list of 3rd years when I was in 1st year. I have made another move and am now at the above address.

Almost 18 months ago, we purchased a property "Grantham", at Bothwell, and we also lease two next door properties, "Rathe" & "Logan". At the moment we run about 4,000 breeding ewes, and have 80 cows & calves, 14,000 wethers plus replacements.

We also grow oats, barley and triticale. In the past, Rathe has grown good wheat crops, but summer & spring frosts have on occasions wiped wheat crops out.

We are about 1,100 feet above sea level, and have snow as well as frosts during the winter, and also at other times on occasions.

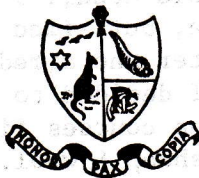
The Ramsay family number 6 at the moment with number 7 due shortly. I enclose membership fees, and look forward to the 25 year reunion of my year, which I hope to attend.

Saw Phillip T. Loney recently, and heard he is entering public life (or hopes to) as a local councilor. He is campaigning vigorously, so should get in with a little luck.

Best wishes to Roseworthy, ROCA and the Digest.

R. J. Ramsay

(RDA 1960)





43 Ashford Road,  
Helensvale Qld

To the Editor,

Taking a hint from Alan Martin, I will now write a few of my memories.

I was born at Oodnadatta in April, 1895, and my father having lost Dalhousie Springs Station through drought around 1890, invested in two camel teams to carry stores for the inland stations etc.

Unfortunately, my father died in July 1895, so Frank Marsh whom father had taken into partnership with one of the camel teams, took over. Mother decided to live in our home in Oodnadatta until we were old enough to go to Adelaide to St. Peters College, that is my brother & I, and my sister to Miss Jacobs.

We both left college at the end of 1913 and I got a scholarship to Roseworthy, and received my Diploma in March 1916. My brother went to the Varsity studying Engineering, but enlisted in 3rd Light Horse and was killed at Gallipoli in October 1915.

I took an office job with H.V. McKay, Sunshine Harvesters, for 18 months or so, and then enlisted in the Field Artillery, however the war ended, and in September 1919 I got a dairy farm at Monteith, on the Murray with Billie McNeil, another Roseworthy Old Scholar. After 12 months, Billie wanted to get married, so we split and he bought a property at Teal Flat.

After that, I carried on until May 1923, when I had to let my farm and return to Oodnadatta to take over the Camel business for my mother, as this was her means of support. Owing to the mines closing, business fell away, so it took me 5 years to work, hire & sell before returning South.

I fitted out a team, two buggy camels, five riding camels, and I had to make the iron frames at the old forge, & several pairs of tuckerboxes & water barrels for Dr Bazedow, looking for Laceters Reef.

I returned to Monteith, and after a few months, I decided to sell and bought a property near Echunga, which was mostly timber country, but freehold with less rates.

I bought at the end of 1929, and 1930 went dead as we all know, and I got one shilling a pound for dairy butter from eight cows. When I squared up with the Soldier Settlement Department, I was congratulated on being one of a few who had paid his way.

Things were tough at Echunga in the 1930's, and just when I was raking my first sub-clover seed in 1939, the bushfire took the lot putting me 3,000 pounds behind.

Well, the 1940's came good and I took heavy cuts & crops off some of my paddocks, which created a stir, 80 tons of ensilage off 7 acres, clovers & mixed rye grasses, 40 tons of white turnips to the acre, 2nd year & eight tons to the acre dry grown potatoes 3rd year, same paddock.

One of the well to do farmers in the district asked if he could come and see my farm, as the early settlers thought that my side of the Range wasn't any good.

In the 1939 fire, 4 of us, including my wife, saved our home and our sheds, through filling 9 foot troughs ready for the bucket & napsprays.

It was hard work clearing bluegum, redgum, stringybark & mountain gum with a Digger Winch and a Trewella Horse Puller.

I sold out in 1946 and bought a caravan and spent 3½ years having a trip round each of the states. We ended up buying into business & house renovations in Penrith N.S.W. 1950.

I did so well that in Christmas 1958, we sailed for England, bought a Land Rover & 16' caravan to our requirements and toured England, Scotland & Ireland, then across to France & all the different countries.

We then bought a Daimler Sovereign & shipped across to Canada & America where we toured over 14,000 miles. Then back to Australia via New Zealand.

*George E. Bagot*

(R.D.A. 1916)



## EYRE PENINSULA FAMILY DAY 26/2/84

Ian Rice, President of R.O.C.A. is of the opinion that the West Coast Old Scholars must be a clean living lot - again blessed with perfect weather for the annual beach picnic at Billy Light Point.

In excess of 70 adults and children made the pilgrimage - started arriving at 11 a.m. and some were still there at 8 p.m. not wanting to leave. Besides the usual barbecue, delicious crayfish was on the menu - it proved so popular that orders for next year's big day are already in hand.

The two best fed dogs in Port Lincoln on the day were "Bonzo" Patterson and "Spot" Eime. Hamish had to carry his terrier to the station wagon so that the engorgement could be slept off.

Bob Stirling's grandchildren proved the best fishermen on the day, while Roger Lawes ably demonstrated his swimming ability. In the major league, Mark Langman and Tony Adams gave death defying water ski-ing demonstrations.

Julie Quirk has relieved Mo. Barry of his "treasurer" duties - seemed much easier to pay up in good humour with Julie dressed for the beach taking money, while sporting a bewitching smile.

Noticed Wally Goulter work his way through two plates of meat and salad, dessert, watermelon and icecream, then onto crayfish with a giant cigar to finish the exercise - not bad for 80 years young. He, like many others, including Geoff Robinson, finished the weekend with his fair share of sunburn.

Glyn Webber, guest speaker of the previous night, reckoned the curative powers of the sunny day, plus the various wines, carrying Taylor or College labels, helped to put him back on his feet after a bout of the 'flu.

Elizabeth Michelmore and Jerry Woodrooffe swam out to sea - looked as though they were eloping to Boston Island - while Andy breast-stroked along the shoreline dressed in bathers and hat with glasses firmly in place.

We would have liked to have heard what Hazell Jones was telling the ladies - something about a fire engine madly ringing its bell!!

We'll have to speak to Barry Lawes about his wife picking on Ken Holden all day - throwing sea water over him was the main complaint - said he won't come next year if there's any chance of repetition. Hope he stays away - she might pick on me!!

The shelter department was well catered for with Brian Ashton and mates constructing the main building, while Jeff Eime and wife, following lengthy discussions, finally got their circus tent sized shelter upright and secure. The Stirling family camped alongside where the youngest member thrived on a diet of shell grit and bottle tops.

Jim Egan and Don McCarthy didn't have much time for eating and drinking - were busy keeping their charges from getting into deep water.

Saw Jon Shipard (Penong) and Ian Holman (Cockaleechee) discussing harvests - both smiling up big. Marlene (Jon's wife) reckons Port Lincoln reminds her of the place of her childhood - Alawoona - the only thing missing there was the sea.

The Minnipa area was represented by Stuart Weckert. Think he enjoyed a day by the sea also - might lure him back next year.

The three youngsters of Grant and Helen Hayman made the most of the day - daughter looked smashing in strawberry decorated bathers.

Maurice and Margaret Barry had to give the picnic a miss this year. To look at ~~them~~ no one would think they're old enough to have a 21 year old daughter - she was celebrating her birthday elsewhere, hence the apologies.

Again all the effort was worthwhile - setting up and then clearing away the debris was made light by many willing helpers this year.

*Des Habel*



## 1984 A.G.M. AND REUNION

The 1984 Annual General Meeting and Reunion will be held at the "Renaissance Tower" on Friday 7th September.

The A.G.M. will start at 5.30 p.m., with the dinner following at 7.30 p.m.

Cost will be \$16 per person. Wives (or husbands etc) are extremely welcome to attend.

The "Renaissance Tower" may be better known to most of us as the former Cox Foys building in Rundle Mall. Late night shopping will be available until 9.00 p.m. in Rundle Mall if your spouse would prefer to do some shopping prior to the dinner. Ample parking and public transport are available.

R.S.V.P. for the dinner is Sunday September 2nd.

A list of the 10 & 25 year groups will be included in the next Digest.

If any other year groups would like to arrange a special table, please contact the Secretary.

We would like to issue a special invitation to graduates from the newer courses (Horse, Natural Resources, W.P. & M., etc).

Graduates from all of these courses are of equal standing in R.O.C.A., and it would be a pleasure to see some new faces at the meeting & dinner.

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### CO-ORDINATION IN APPROPRIATE AGRICULTURAL TRAINING

Department T.A.F.E. is looking for staff with agricultural and horticultural skills and an ability to present formal training, as well as managing physical projects for disadvantaged communities. Salaries range from approximately \$18,000 - \$28,000.

#### POULTRY JOB

Goldenlay Poultry seek Roseworthy Agricultural College Graduate as trainee unit manager at Angle Vale Road Branch. Currently run about 100,000 hens, must be prepared to work every 3rd weekend, good wage. Contact Mr. Mike Bressington (085) 243 159.

GRAHAM BROOKMAN (RAC) CAN PROVIDE MORE DETAILS.

## AWARD OF MERIT NOMINATIONS

The R.O.C.A. Award of Merit has been awarded since 1961.

It is an honour conferred on outstanding ROCA members in recognition of meritorious service to Agriculture, the Community or ROCA.

It is not awarded lightly, and the nominees are reviewed by a panel comprising people from the highest levels of Agriculture.

As an indication of the quality of recipients over the past 23 years, scan your eyes down the list below.

- 1961 - ROWLAND HILL
- 1962 - DAVID RICEMAN
- 1963 - LEN COOK
- 1964 - W.J. DAWKINS
- 1965 - FRANK PEARSON
- 1966 - A.R. CALLAGHAN
- 1967 - R.I. HERRIOT
- 1968 - DENIS MUIRHEAD
- 1969 - JACK REDDEN
- 1970 - RON BADMAN
- 1971 - REX BUTTERFIELD
- 1972 - M.R. KRAUSE
- 1973 - R.H. KUCHEL
- 1974 - A.J.K. WALKER
- 1975 - K. PIKE
- 1976 - LEN LAFFER
- 1977 - DES HABEL
- 1978 - H.R. DAY
- 1979 - MARK HUTTON
- 1980 - C.W. HOOPER
- 1981 - ANDREW MICHELMORE
- 1982 - M.B. SPURLING
- 1983 - RALPH HEWITT JONES

*Please put a bit of thought into the nomination of a ROCA member for this Award.*



\* AWARD OF MERIT \*  
\* NOMINATION FORM \*

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 1984 "AWARD OF MERIT" ARE  
REQUIRED NOW!!

Please fill out a form containing the details  
listed below, and post to the ROCA Secretary,  
Roseworthy College, Roseworthy S.A. 5371.

NAME OF NOMINEE:.....

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE:.....

AGE:.....PERIOD AT R.A.C.:.....

PROPOSED BY:.....

SECONDED BY:.....

Supporting data should be provided on career,  
employment, and occupation since leaving R.A.C.

Please list major published papers, achievements,  
academic qualifications and honours bestowed.

The selection panel consider the work done for  
Agriculture, the College, the Association, and  
the Community.

Nominees must be financial members of R.O.C.A.

Nominations must be proposed and seconded by  
financial members.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

A large number of Digests are being "RETURNED TO SENDER"  
because members shift house and fail to notify the Editor.

If you have changed your address, or know of a member who  
has ceased receiving the Digest, please fill in the form  
on the back cover.

**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.**

*1984 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 7th September, 1984

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

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

SPOUSE/FRIEND.....

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

COURSE ATTENDED:.....

YEAR GRADUATED:.....