



R.O.C.A. digest

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Editor:

DALE MANSON



Editorial

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The qualification we received on graduation day probably enabled us to get a good start in the employment stakes, or on the farm.

However, our involvement with R.A.C. does not stop there. In our everyday lives, we come across products of Roseworthy that shape the way we live.

It is strange how you always seem to get tangled up with fellow graduates somehow.

In my own life, Roseworthy has probably been of more benefit since graduation, than when I was actually a student.

People such as Brian Jefferies have contributed so much to my own appreciation of agriculture.

The veterinarian I get out to my horses, Howard Mortimer, is a fellow graduate, and is widely respected as one of the best in his field.

At various times I have met other Roseworthy graduates such as Rex Butterfield and Lex Walker. People such as these pin point how humble we should be, and just what opportunities R.A.C. can open with a bit of effort.

I will always remember my first country posting after graduating a number of years ago. It was in Jamestown, and still as green as grass, I faced my first talk to a farmer group with a fair amount of trepidation. Things started to fall apart until a local farmer, and Old Collegian, Phil Redden, lent his moral support. After that, things went a lot smoother, but I will always appreciate the assistance given by Phil on that night, and right throughout my time in that area.

I suppose the moral of this story is that the Roseworthy connection can even come to your aid in the most inconspicuous form.

It is easy to see what Roseworthy has done for you. The question is, what can you now do for Roseworthy.

Perhaps the answer is simply to be proud of your association with the College, and maintain the highest standards in your rural endeavours.

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* FROM THE PRESIDENT *

The Annual General Meeting and Reunion were both successful events. A motion passed at the AGM again emphasised to the Faculty of Agriculture and the Course Advisory Committee, that if the new Degree course is going to be viable, it must contain a sufficient amount of farm practical work of a high standard.

Two new members were elected to the Committee for 1983/84. Reg Hutchinson replaces Bardy McFarlane, and Phil May is the representative of the students who will graduate early in 1984.

Approximately two thirds of the members attending the Reunion were accompanied by their spouse/friend, and most who did so were in favour of this continuing in the future.

Tim Prance was unable to accept the position as Editor of the Digest for the coming year. The position was not filled at the AGM, but I am very pleased to be able to advise members that Dale Manson has offered to take on this job for 1983/84.

I must sincerely thank Tim for the work he did during his period as Editor.

The Committee met recently and have gratefully accepted Dale's offer. To help him, will you please send him any information that you think may be of interest to old students.

Post any written material to: Editor ROCA Digest,
C/- Agricultural College,
Roseworthy S.A. 5371

If you want to make a verbal contribution, phone Dale at the Murray Bridge office of the Department of Agriculture.

Recent Graduates have been offered 12 months free membership of the Association. In fact, those students who graduated in 1981 have received two years free membership.

This is the last issue of the Digest the 1981 & 1982 graduates will receive unless they have become financial members of ROCA. If this applies to you, I urge you to send in your membership applications (back cover of this issue) together with your money.

1983 Graduates, could I also coerce you into becoming a member of the Old Collegians Association if you have not already done so.

This is the best means you have of keeping up to date with what is happening at the College, and what other Old Students are doing.

In the last digest, Ray Kidd's name was omitted from the list of Old Students who were presented with Centenary Achievement Awards. I apologise for this omission Ray.

Ian Rice

ROSEWORTHY HONORS PIONEERING TEACHER

(From Teachers' Journal)



Acclaimed as the most influential person in the teaching of agriculture in SA's secondary school system – Mr. Arthur Reginald Ninnes (above) has been honored by Roseworthy Agriculture College.

Mr. Ninnes, a graduate of Roseworthy in 1926, received a special centenary Award of Achievement from the college for his contribution to agricultural education in SA.

The college's director, Dr. Barrie Thistlethwayte, said Mr. Ninnes was the first person to be trained as a teacher of agriculture by the SA Education Department.

“He pioneered the teaching of agricultural science studies in secondary schools, introducing the first course at Clare High School in 1927.

“In 1939 he was appointed

as the first Advisory Teacher in Agriculture, later Inspector of Agriculture, for SA.”

Dr. Thistlethwayte said Mr. Ninnes was responsible for courses in agricultural studies in secondary schools and nature science in primary schools over a period of 27 years.

“During that time, much of the curricula, text books, teaching resources and the underlying philosophy that form the foundation of present day teaching in agriculture in high schools and area schools throughout the State were developed.

“Even after his retirement, Mr. Ninnes was retained by the Education Department for two years to produce text books, student manuals and teacher guides for secondary agricultural and primary science studies.”

C/- Para Quad Centre,
Selby Street,
Shenton Park
Western Australia.

To the Editor,

Thank you for letters and other advice concerning the centenary celebrations being held at the College and its surrounds. Also of considerable interest is the steps taken of late by the College as a centre of learning, and its expansion in numbers of students causing further the need for more buildings and equipment generally. It would have been my desire to see all this and more.

But circumstances make this impossible - I am a quadriplegic, having had both legs amputated - at a stage when health generally was poor. Now because of help given by Sir George Bedbrook who founded the Centre, I am in a happy position to record my health as being quite good, but it being necessary to have help at hand at all times.

Both yourself and many other students of my own years may be interested to learn of my doings since graduating in March, 1925.

Upon arriving home, which was with my parents on their orchard and general farm at Donnybrook, I proceeded to spend the next three years helping my father to round the corner financially, when in 1928, I took my leave and started to have a look around.

I soon realised that it was a hard world I was in, Until one day a couple of weeks later, I called on the Agricultural Bank of W.A.. After a chat with the manager who took me to the Managing Trustee who immediately was impressed with the fact that I held a Diploma from R.A.C.

He then told me they wanted an inspector East of Newdegate, but that they were not quite ready to appoint one. So as my finances were becoming meagre, I got a job tractor driving on a farm recently acquired from the Agricultural Bank as an abandoned farm.

I spent three months in that job until receiving a telegram from the bank confirming the offer of the job. Upon calling on Mr. McLarty (Managing Trustee) and then being told of pay etc., I gathered together a motor car and camping gear, and

set out for Narrogin Branch, where I met Mr Charles Mitchell, Manager, a Boer War veteran and younger brother of Sir James Mitchell, then Premier of W.A.

"Mitch" and I left then to have a look over my new district - 170 miles east of Narrogin. I found it to be a belt of fertile land generally on the eastern side of the valley of what had been, in more ancient times, the Phillips River, and marked now by a chain of salt lakes. Survey had concluded only a matter of a month or two, and some settlers had arrived and commenced clearing. Thereafter, my job was to classify the land, make inspections of development and pay settlers where loans existed.

The next six years were spent in the Lakes District, when I was transferred to the Kulin area, where I spent 12 months.

Then I was appointed Manager at Katanning covering the districts of Katanning, Kojonup, Nyabing, Pingrup, Ravensthorpe, Ongerup, Gnowangerup, Tambellup, Cranbrook and Mt. Barker. There were six field inspectors plus office staff under my control. Agriculture involved wheat and sheep, sheep farming, fruit, dairying plus such minor items as vineyards and the like.

My eleven years at Katanning also included the years of World War II. Although I was requested by Colonel Mosley, Commander of the "Z" Force, I was prevented as a key personnel, but gained some satisfaction as I.O. of the 6th Bn. V.D.C. for a period of 4 years.

My real work of value came immediately after the war, and with the passing of the Rural and Industries Bank Act by the W.A. Government. The new Bank was set up as a Trading Bank and with an Agency section.

The Rural section was divided into Overdraft and Long Term. The balance of indebtedness being held under Agency. Agency then provided for advances in future from the Government; eg. drought relief, and other special advance from Government sources.

I was transferred to Head Office with the position of Senior Valuer in charge of reconstruction of securities in wheat & sheep areas, and to aerially photograph salt affected areas of Lake Grace, Pingrup, Newdegate and Lake Magenta, and to inspect and value farms in Ravensthorpe,

Lakes District, Karlgarin and Hyden. I had an assistant in the field at all times, and all became officers of senior rank.

That work completed, I was given the managership of Fremantle Branch. After 9 years, I was transferred to St. George's Terrace, then as Deputy Manager, Perth. Then I became plagued by ill health. Before I retired in 1968, at the request of the Commissioners, I was able to write the history of the Agricultural Bank from its foundation in 1891 with a capital of 200,000 pounds.

I am proud to think that I had so much to do in guiding an institution from its humble beginning towards the giant of today with over \$2 billion assets.

I look back on my days at old Roseworthy with a certain affection, and recall my efforts on the cricket field, and the day I took 8 wickets for 5 runs. The gold medal recalling the incident was lost in a fire in 1929.

In 1931, I married Doreen Helier, whom I met while at R.A.C., and we have two girls and a son with 10 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

I have called at the College twice since graduation, in 1954 and 1956; the former when I travelled with a friend who had a sheep brander for sale. Then in 1956, my wife accompanied me on a visit to South Australia and Victoria. That was the year of the Flood of a Thousand years as described in your newspapers. We called on Dick Wilson who took us to Dandenong, where I renewed our College days with the late Walter Colebatch, who demonstrated his memory by his greeting with, "Martin the Bowler".

During the course of work in W.A., I have run across Bill Whitfield in Manjimup, George Purser (whom I see weekly visiting his wife, a resident of the Centre here), the late Frank Fels, Jack Curlewis, both of whom were valuers in the bank.

Well now, I hope I have related sufficient information to allow interest among members, particularly those of my time at College, to write of their efforts since graduation.

Alan Martin

R.O.C.A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 1983

It is with pleasure that I report on the Association's activities for the year 1982/83.

To be elected President of the Old Collegians Association during the College's Centenary year was indeed a great honour.

I was privileged to represent ROCA at the following Centenary events:

- Graduation Day
- The Old Students & Staff Reunion weekend including the opening of the Robert Claude Hay Memorial Pool, and to be the host at the Reunion Dinner.
- The Centenary Ball
- The Convocation and Centenary Oration.
- The Thanksgiving Service and tree planting to mark the conclusion of the Centenary Celebrations.

At the Convocation, ROCA presented a restored photograph of Professor Custance and the first graduation of the College, taken outside the Main Building in 1885.

The following Old Students received Centenary Awards at the Convocation. Ronald H. Badman, Raymond H. Kidd, A. Reginald Ninnes, D. James Pocock and Karl J. Seppelt, in recognition for being graduates from the College whose careers were essentially based on their training at Roseworthy, and who have made outstanding contributions to Agriculture and served their community with distinction.

ROCA extends its congratulations to these Old Students for their achievements. Sir Allan Callaghan's Oration - "From Sickle and Sythe to Silicon Chip", summarised the work of Roseworthy Agricultural College over the last 100 years.

During the year, I renewed acquaintances with many old students, and also met many for the first time. However, it is of some concern to me that many of the Centenary functions were rather poorly supported by the College's old students, and it is my belief that ROCA should endeavour to work with the College to overcome this problem in future.

I suggest that one way of doing this would be to form a College Alumni.

This method of maintaining contact with former students is being used by some Australian Universities, and Universities & Colleges in Canada and the U.S.A.

The Association made the following awards on Graduation Day.

The Old Students Cup - to the student in the Diploma in Agriculture Course with the second highest aggregate mark.
 Andrew Slater

The Roseworthy Old Collegians Graduation Award.
 Garry James

Trophy to the student making the best contribution to sport, not necessarily on the field.
 Michael Blake

This year, the main business dealt with by the Committee concerned the decision of the Faculty of Agriculture to have the Diploma of Applied Science in Agriculture accredited as a Degree, and not as a Diploma.

Many old students have discussed this decision with me during the last year, and there are many differing opinions on this matter.

Committee, at its last meeting, asked Mr Ken Leske, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, to discuss with us at some length the proposed degree course.

As a result of this discussion, the Committee summarised the proposals and philosophies for the course in the Digest for your information. A notice of motion regarding the Farm Practice content of the course has been received, and this will be discussed later at this meeting.

It is of significance to note that the Committee has been able to have the need for a bridging course to be included in the accreditation document. This will allow recent graduates the opportunity to update their Diploma to a Degree.

The Digest Committee has not been able to function this year, mainly due to the geographic separation of the members, but I must thank Tim Prance for his work as Editor.

The maintenance of an up to date address list of members has always been a problem of the Association, as many members fail to notify us when they move, and many old students who have left their parents' address many years ago have failed to notify us where they currently are.

However, it has been possible to get many more up to date addresses this year because of the Centenary.

I would like to thank Bruce Wigney for the use of his computer facilities and operator, and for his assistance in maintaining these essential records for the Association.

As your President, I attended the ATA Annual Meeting and Dinner, at which Graham Brookman was re-elected South Australian President. Congratulations Graham.

The Eyre Peninsula Branch Reunion was a great success as usual, even though the numbers were down slightly.

This year, we are also making history by having spouses/ friends at the Reunion Dinner, and we hope this will meet with the approval of the majority of members.

I would like to thank all Committee members for their support during the year. I feel I must single out Andrew Michelmore and Peter Fairbrother, Secretary and Treasurer, as it is these two office bearers of any organisation, which get most of the work.

Thanks must also go to Peter Lewis for arranging a room for us to hold meetings in at Parliament House, and also for providing the food and refreshments at Committee meetings.

Finally, I must congratulate Ralph Hewitt Jones on being the recipient of the 1983 Award of Merit. This will of course, be presented later tonight at the Dinner.

Ian Rice



* 1983 AWARD OF MERIT *

The 1983 ROCA Award of Merit was presented to Ralph Hewitt Jones, at the ROCA Dinner on September 9th.

The following is a summary of Ralph's career, and I think we will all agree that it is quite impressive.

During a career which has spanned 46 years in agriculture, Ralph Hewitt Jones has made numerous meritorious contributions.

His main professional contributions have been at Roseworthy Agricultural College, and at Glenthorne Field Station, CSIRO.

Except for about one year at the Waite Institute, he held various positions at Roseworthy Agricultural College from 1934-47, the most important being that of Farm Manager for ten years.

During those years, he was probably the only agriculturalist in South Australia to manage a farm of such magnitude, 2,347 acres, that was composed of many diverse enterprises, which included sheep, dairy and beef cattle herds, about 100 Clydesdales with an associated breeding program, crop and pasture production, fodder conservation and pure seed production.

The success of all these individual enterprises was influenced by the cultural inputs and results obtained on the College farm, to which his management skills and ability were applied.

In addition, he was involved daily in the instruction of students in field work. Many of these young men are now leaders in agricultural and livestock production, and it was deeply moving at recent College Centenary celebrations to see mature farmers and graziers expressing their gratitude to Mr. Jones for the practical farming skills that they had learnt from his personal efforts in their education at the College.

At Glenthorne Research Station, he not only managed the farm, but also contributed technically to the varied and valuable studies with experimental animals, the results of which have had practical application and immense benefits in the animal industries in Australia, and overseas.

Also, because of the value which he placed on Roseworthy College training, he was instrumental in having Roseworthy graduates appointed as technical officers from time to time at Glenthorne.

As well as being a competent professional agriculturalist, he has given his time to various committees during his career, both at the College, and in the community.

The recognition of his services to the Roseworthy Old Collegians' Association is best indicated by the following extract from the Annual Report of ROCA in the College magazine, *The Student*, in 1942:

"Mr Jones resigned as Secretary and Treasurer, and as a mark of appreciation of his services, he was elected an honorary life member. Ralph has done a wonderful job for this Association, and no mere words of mine would be sufficient praise. He took over some years ago, when the Association was far from flourishing, and his efforts have not only placed us on a sound financial footing, but have increased the membership tremendously."

While living at Glenthorne, he made a meritorious contribution to the Emergency Fire Services in organisation, administration, and fire fighting operations in his district.

Ralph is a quiet and modest gentleman whose career has been characterised by service to others.

His conscientious and industrious efforts have brought great benefits to a very large number of primary producers, and his contributions to the Old Collegians Association, his efforts in employing Roseworthy graduates, and his service to the community make him a very worthy recipient of the Award of Merit.



Established 1883

* NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE *

OPEN DAY:

The College recently held its Open Day, attracting over 5,000 people.

This year, it was combined with the annual two day Horse Show, and this proved to be a real winner.

DIRECTOR'S WEST COAST TRIP:

Barrie Thistlethwayte spent an enjoyable three days on Eyre Peninsula at the invitation of ROCA member, Laurie Guerin.

He covered a fair bit of territory, and met a large number of Old Collegians. At Wudinna, Barrie addressed an Agricultural Bureau meeting, and a third of the audience were ex. R.A.C. They ranged from farmers to Department of Agriculture personnel and teachers.

GRADUATION 1984:

The 1984 Graduation Day will be held on Friday April 6th.

STUDENT RETURNS:

Robin St. John Sweeting has returned to RAC as a lecturer in Plant Production. He studied at the graduate level at RAC, and worked with the Department of Agriculture following his RDA.

O.F.T.S. AT R.A.C.:

The Department of Technical & Further Education's Southern Mallee On Farm Training Course took advantage of R.A.C.'s facilities and staff recently, during a one week off-farm study block. The 20 trainees really got into the swing of the College, and were unbeatable on the volleyball court.

(Having had a fair bit to do with this group at Murray Bridge, I am proud that they have the opportunity to experience a part of R.A.C.Editor)

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

To the Editor,

Inspired by the obvious success of holding a dinner for ROCA members, with their spouses for the first time, I am writing to suggest that this be a regular feature.

There were 186 people at the excellent dinner at the University Staff Club, and the organisers are to be congratulated.

The concept of inviting those students who graduated 10 years ago to provide both a rallying call to bring whole years of students together again is excellent.

It is of interest to note that those who have graduated only 10 years ago are still finding their niche in society in a number of cases.

On the other hand, those who graduated 25 years ago have had many and varied experiences. Some try numerous activities before settling down to their life's work.

The maturity and the ability to reminisce seems to be greater. It is encouraging that so many ROCA members regard their three years at RAC as one of the best periods of their lives.

I would have to agree with them!

It would be good if graduates of other courses than RDA & RDAT (soon to become RBAG & RGDA), such as RAAP, RAAG, RAHH, & Bach. of Oenology, were to be seen in increasing numbers so that they feel part of R.A.C.'s heritage.

Brian C. Jefferies



* YOUR COMMITTEE *

PRESIDENT: Ian Rice (RDA 1957)

Ian is currently Farm Manager at R.A.C. after a number of years working in the Wheat Breeding Unit at the College.

VICE PRESIDENT: Harry Stephen (RDA 1948)

Harry is the Poultry Adviser with the Department of Agriculture at Murray Bridge. He has been on the staff of RAC in the Sheep & Poultry sections.

SECRETARY: Andrew Michelmore (RDA 1940)

Andy is the District Agronomist at the Nuriootpa office of the Department of Agriculture. He will be retiring early next year.

TREASURER: Peter Fairbrother (RDA 1961)

Peter is the Department of Agriculture District Agronomist based at Mount Barker.

GRADUATION YEAR: Phil May

Phil is currently studying in the Agriculture Course at RAC, and will graduate in April, 1984. He hails from the Blue Mountains in N.S.W.

DIGEST EDITOR: Dale Manson (RDA 1975, RDAT 1976)

Dale is the Livestock Adviser (Sheep) with the Department of Agriculture at Murray Bridge. Previously spent six years based at Jamestown.

1 - 10 YEARS: Bob Mitchell (RDA 1980, GDA 1981)

Bob is the Agricultural Science teacher at the Nuriootpa High School.

ORDINARY MEMBERS: Reg Hutchinson (RDA 1967, RDAT 1972)

Reg was acting manager of the Wanbi Research Centre, then spent over 10 years on the staff of RAC in various positions including acting farm manager. He is now managing the Coolawin Vineyards near Murray Bridge.

Ken Hayman (RDA 1943)

Ken previously farmed at Cummins on Eyre Peninsula, but is now retired to Adelaide, and describes himself as an investor.

Jack Richards (RDA 1950)

Jack is currently Manager of the Central, Northern & Yorke Peninsula Regions of the Lands Department. He is also a member of the Land Board.

Peter Lewis (RDA 1962)

Peter has been involved in a number of fields, including Farm Consultancy. He is now the State Member for the seat of Mallee in the S.A. Parliament.

Jeff Tidswell

Jeff is currently an insurance agent based in Adelaide.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Bruce Wigney (RDA 1966)

Bruce is a very successful Farm Consultant at Riverton.

EX OFFICIO: Barrie Thistlethwayte

Barrie is the current Director of RAC, having come from the Riverina CAE (ex. Wagga Ag. College)

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.