

Frank Hilton RDA (1942) interviewed by David Spencer (RDA 1971) on Tuesday the 6th of August, 10.30am. We are recording this in his home at Happy Valley.

Now Frank you were there at Roseworthy from 1939 to 1942 and graduated with a RDA and you got the Gold Medal at the beginning of 1942. Would you like to tell us about how you came to go to Roseworthy, why did you go there and what were your first impressions.

I was at Urrbrae....no I went through Urrbrae for three years and they did not have a Leaving so I did my Leaving at PAC. And then from there I sat for the entrance exam and got the Adelaide Scholarship. There were six scholarships and one was for Adelaide. We did the scholarship exam two days after Christmas when the college was vacant and err...we had an exam as well as a practical and we went out and talked to various heads of departments and that sort of thing.

And you started in what about March of 1939, did you start about March 1939?

Yes and the war broke out in September that year.

And what were your first impressions of going to Roseworthy?

I was very keen and very scared (laughs). We were terrified of the initiation ceremony but we needn't be worried because there was a master in charge. But I was in a double room at the top of the stairs with a Dave Mack and err...he and I were quite good pals but err...my best pal was a boy called David Barlow who was killed in the air force. I was very very keen and err...my very first job was a boy called Kellet. The first day of practical, we went up to the poultry and we cleaned out all the single hen testing pens. Rows of them. Course they no longer use them you see. We had to clean all these out and I was so keen I had them finished by dinner time (laughs). I used to work too hard and too fast and I made mistakes, and that's why I never got good work marks.

You talked about your initiation. What was involved in the initiation when you went to Roseworthy?

I...err...it was some rather rude questions. It involved just a series of questions and things. We were stuck up on these tables with all these kids around us...all these students...it was really in the end all quite harmless. The master in charge would not let anything rough go on.

Did you have a steeple chase?

Oh yes we were in the steeple chase and err...I was quite a good 220 (yards) runner and I was one of the favourites in the steeple chase but I ran too fast and err...I was worn out by half time... (laughs) and err...didn't finish up too well. But I always remember... (Track 4 ends abruptly due to technical issue)

[We are resuming the tape with Frank Hilton at 10.45 with his time when he was at Roseworthy Agricultural College.] Now Frank we were talking about the initiation and your work around the college and so forth. You err...you talked about your accommodation in the main building. Only two of you in that room there. Can you tell us a bit about the accommodation, what the beds were like and that sort of thing?

The accommodation

Yes

Oh that's right. I was in a little room at the top of the stairs on the right with a boy named David Mack (laughs). One little interesting tale if I can tell it....during the foaling season, from my bedroom window I could see this stable groom with one of the mares. I could see that he was tending to a mare and I went down there with him and helped him. That was a great thrill for me to see a mare born. I was watching through the window until it happened.

Frank you err...you talked about the horses and how there is two groups of students, one which went down to look after and feed them in the morning and then those who went to work at seven o'clock as a change-over. Could you tell us a bit about that?

Yes...the day...well in the...the first thing in the morning you had to be up at 4.30, the dairy boys had to bring the cows in and the stable boys had to get the horses in, there was about a hundred horses all together, they all had to be tied up and fed and groomed, they had to be ready by seven o'clock when the teamsters arrived and the Farm Manager had a lot of little slips with teams on them and you had to go around and who ever was... (get the teams together)...there was a lot of following going on of course...every day there would be 3 or 4...8 horse, occasionally 10 horse teams went out following or....that was one of the big jobs going right through every year.

Were the ploughs out in the paddock already or did you just have to walk the horses out there and couple them up?

Yes...they were walked out in 2 rows of 4 and then you brought them around and you coupled them in a single row except when you were doing the fences...generally when you started you did the fences...the workmen came and did that in case you hit the fence (laughs)...but err you find the err...in some of the big paddocks it would take a half an hour to get around the paddock and the assistant farm manager he was very...he came out to see us every day but he would turn up at your shoulder, you never knew he was coming (laughs) we were always conscious of him but err...the err, but we did do an awful a lot of work with horses and of course during the hay making we were carting in big loads of hay with 5 horses, 2 in the shafts and 3 in the outer hames and err...and if you had to drive it around the implement shed and finish up on the scales, exactly on them and if you missed them you had to go around, and everyone was watching (laughs). It was...you just got one wheel off and there was nothing you could do...you had to circle and go around again because every single thing that was harvested was recorded you see in the books there.

You said that err...earlier on they always had 2 years of fodder conserved ahead of time, like silage and hay, why do you think that was?

Yes. Dr Callaghan was a great believer in fodder conservation. He liked to store enough for the next year and another year in reserve, so when we had a good year which we did in our first year we had this huge harvest which started with the silage and then the paddock silage which was done in stacks and then also cereal hay was cut and chaffed and blew up to that big silo by the dairy. One day when I was up there I put a pitch fork through my toe (laughs). I had to be taken into Gawler to have an injection (laughs). That was one of the incidents I made a boo boo! But, err then...course then we did the oaten hay and that all had to be stooked by hand in the upright stooks and err...they finished up storing a lot of grain as well and that went into the grain sheds, and then of course the main harvest took place.

And did that...did you...was that before Christmas or after Christmas?

No that...we tried to get it done before Christmas because if we could get it done before Christmas we would get an extra day for Christmas. The Christmas holiday, Christmas was not really part of the holidays but if we could only get the harvest done and everyone was on their toes to try and get the harvest finished before Christmas and then we could come back and after that finish off and do the straw and that sort of thing.

When were the exams?

Well...the exams were after you had your Christmas holidays and err...we all came...that was more less in February...that was the end of term exams, there were 2 exams, one in mid-year and one in early new year you see.

When were your last lectures? Was that before harvest started?

Well...right up...it all depended on the rainfall, fodder and everything cause sometime they cancelled all the lectures during the harvest and you had all the routine work to as well as extra harvest work

Were you still able to get through the academic work required for that year?

Well I think a certain amount of academic work we certainly missed (Laughs) cause err...which why is we think...we had a whole degree, we did an enormous amount of practical work there must have things we missed out on...but err I liked the system of one day in and one day out. One day you were in at lectures, and you went to sport after that and then the rest of the...say the second years, they were doing practical. But when you were out you were in the charge of the third years and the third years were really in charge you would not dare disobey them err...especially when there was a big group working in the paddock the third year was in charge and you did what you were told.

So...take us through the routine of the day, was it a seven o'clock start or what was the...?

Yes, if you were on farm work or V&O (vineyard and orchard) or anything like that you started at 7, you had to be in at breakfast sharp on half past six and then be up at the farm by seven, that was say for V&O, the farm, sheep, poultry but err...if you were on early work you had to be ready to start at five o'clock, the machines started at 5 in the dairy and the stable boys had to be grooming their horses by 5 o'clock so that everything...a good team met the others coming back, that was the big aim, each day if you were on early work you tried to meet the day people coming to work, you were a good team (laughs)

Would you have a break for lunch?

Oh yes, unless you were way out in the paddock and the lunch was brought to you and the horses had their nose bags brought and err...it was a cold lunch but err...we had a thing full of tea, cold tea, cake and fritz and sauce and things like that, sometimes if we could work it, make a little fire and warm the tea up but would only be in the dry weather err wet weather.

Do you think you were well fed while you were there?

Yes, the food was good, nearly all the food was produced on the college except I think for the bread, that came in with the baker but all the milk and the eggs, the meat...butter and cheese, everything was produced on the college and err they killed their own meat and err...

What sort of meals did you have, what sort of meals did you have in the dining room?

Well err...course we did have the servants...what do you call them...the err...

The orderlies?

The orderlies, they served...they waited on us and err...that was one of the wonderful things about the college, we did not make our own beds or swept our own rooms but we still had to be at work early you see. No the meals were good...of course there was a big vegetable garden...we had a turn at helping them...and err I always remember them...they lived at Gawler and err...at about ten to five they would have all the tools cleaned and put away sitting on their bikes and they're waiting for the big bell to go (laughs). We could hear the big bell all over the college and they'd be off, into Gawler.

Where was this bell?

In the kitchen, just outside the kitchen

Oh yea

I think the kitchen staff operated the bell you see (laughs). Another interesting little sideline, at the kitchen we had cats, they were the kitchen cats, on the farm we had dogs but they never met (laughs)...the kitchen cats were very savage! (laughs) but err...

You said you used to have one days lectures and one day's work so the lectures started at 8 o'clock?

Um...no...the lectures started round about 8 o'clock I suppose, we had to wait until the staff had their lunch...their breakfast, we had our breakfast with the...oh no...the early workers who came back, they had their breakfast with the staff, that's right, but everybody else had breakfast at half past six.

Even when you were on lectures?

Mmm

So lectures started at 8 and what was the routine, every hour or...was there a lecture every hour? What was the routine?

Yes there was a lecture every hour and a smoko in between and err...the common room was used for first year lectures but the big lecture room was used for third years you see and err...course we had a routine of lectures during the week, there was visiting lecturers, the most boring person was the wool classer he err...his name was Coddington and he gave us wool classing for a big station and it was very boring and err...the Veterinary Surgeon he was also our army vet.

Who was that?

Dr Smith...Mr Smith, major...he became Major Smith when we went into the Calvary camp

So he stayed there during the war?

He...yes he was...I don't think he had to join up, he was the vet for the....he came sort of one day a week, he lectured to the First years and the Third years in turn you see

Oh yes, so he was also the vet for the army, the horses and stuff?

Yes. The army cavalry

Now the lectures you said started at eight and changed every hour and then they went from eight to twelve and one o'clock to four o'clock, is that what happened?

Yes, one till five.

Five o'clock and that was, you had a routine of what, 2 days one week and 3 days the other?

No, it was sort of 3 days, Saturday morning err...we had carpentry (laughs) by a visiting carpenter, but err...often that used to fall on the week-end you had leave so sometimes you missed that, but err...if we had leave we could go into Gawler with the mail man, he always used to go in twice a day and you catch the train at Roseworthy Station you see and so it was only possible to get leave once a month.

That started what Friday, that started Friday night did it?

Yes you could go Friday night and could come back Monday morning so you miss the first lecture Monday morning.

And you went home for that leave, is that what you did? When you are on leave you went home?

Yes

Right oh. With the lectures you said they were every second day and you had exams in err the middle of the year, what about a study period, did you have a study period during the day? At night time?

Yes, the study at night was very strict err...it was from 7 to half past eight, you had to sit somewhere, you could sit in the common room, sometimes (laughs) we would sit in the museum or you could go into the lecture room or you could stay in your own room but you had to sit still, they did not care what you did, you could read a book (laughs) but the officer on duty used to come around and tick you off and that was a chance to...for a bit of tutorial to be done if you wanted to ask him questions you see but err I think that was a wonderful idea, you did not have like at high school you got set homework but there the homework was what you wanted to do, during...

What was your favourite, what was your favourite subject that you did?

I was very good on biology, it was rather funny, in the biology exam I knew every bit of it off pat and the biology lecturer said to me if you had read your paper you would have got 100%, you answered the whole 3 questions when you only answer one (laughs). But err...I found the vet, I found agriculture very interesting because Dr Hutton took first year agriculture and he went all the crops in the world and er...he was the plant breeder you see but he was a lovely bloke.

You took your own notes during...

Yes...we didn't have any text books apart from the Journal of Agriculture and err...I enjoyed the Journal of Agriculture, it was sad when they eventually cut it out.

Did you visit other farms, other places to learn how other people did things?

Visits?

Did you visit other farms?

That was something we did not do, we had no petrol and err...we...at the end...during third year we went down to the Southern hills to a...a two day trip and err...we saw the Molybdenum experiments at Meadows where they had Lateritic soils and the clover did not respond to super (superphosphate) so they set out these trials, to try to find out was it loam, was it....or was it a missing element? and (laughs) it's an interesting story that somebody noticed where a steel tyred dray had driven over the ground there was a response and they guessed it was Molybdenum and so they tried it out and they finished up that 3 ounces of Molybdenum trioxide I think it was used per acre and that was mixed in with the super and it made a marvellous result and that was a world first. Roseworthy...not Roseworthy yes...the experiments were carried out by the Waite Institute of course.

So what about other, what other aspects, did you have animal husbandry lectures like on pigs, poultry, beef and sheep?

The other...yes...well...you know you took it in turns in each department you did a week on poultry, a week on gardening a week on V&O you had to do all the pruning and that err...you helped a little bit with the winemaking when it was on and of course shearing was a big occasion and err...everybody had to help with that another interesting happening when I was first there, they had one old mare there it was past her time, she was...she had a big fat belly and err...every boy in the college came out to see the dissection of this horse and when they opened her up she had a bag full of sand (laughs) and err...but that was the only time when every student in the college was called in. They did it around about half past ten, eleven o'clock so that they could get every...so that all the other work was finished you see

Did you err...did you enjoy err...working with particular staff members on...when you were on outside work?

Yes, mostly, mostly, I didn't like the stableman he was a nasty man (laughs) he gave me naught for it one day because I swore at him (laughs) and err... he could not stand any nonsense, he reported me and I got naught and err...it was very unfair, we had to groom down to the hocks, each horse and I had left a tiny little bit down lower, I said bullshit to him (laughs)

With the meals, back to meals again, err...did you...was there a routine? Did you have certain things on certain days or did it just depend on what was in the garden or what was being killed in the...

Yes, occasionally we got fish on Friday cause we did have a few Catholic boys and on Sunday, course we had compulsory church every Sunday and they took the farm managers sulky into Gawler, that was a big privilege and err...(laughs) because of them we occasionally had fish on a Friday but otherwise it was products of the...you know like chops and that sort of thing...products of the farm

Where did you go to church? You said you all had to go to church, where was that?

In the common room

Oh the big common room?

Yes...the chapel was built after I left, we all donated towards that and err...I have been there and seen the list in there and err my best mate err David a boy named David Barlow...we were real pals, he was killed in the air force.

Yes the chapel was finished in the fifties wasn't? Built in the fifties, early fifties

Yes

Um...what about sport? I think you said you were a bit of a cricketer and rifles.

Yes...I...I mainly was a...got the job of being a marker in the riffles down the pit but I did...I did always had a shot at the end and err...(laughs) when I got in the army up in New Guinea when we were moving camp the CO found a box of ammunition, he said lets go down to the range and shoot these off and I did very well, course I was the radar mechanic you see and I was neurotically known as Sparks, "Sparks can shoot"(laughs) and err they were most surprised, they did not realise I had been in a rifle shooting club!

What about your cricket?

I err...I got a pocket (embroidered badge) for cricket! (laughs) That was my only achievement with sport and err I was on the cricket committee you see but I was a slow leg break bowler and err...it was rather funny...years later I was playing cricket with some boys and the inspector said to me "Drop your left shoulder!" you know...I always...when you are bowling a leg break you got to get your arm over you see, and why didn't they tell me that before, why didn't they tell me that at P.A.C (laughs). Drop your left shoulder!

With the cricket, was that...you used to...what was it like during the summertime with harvest going on and people being on leave and that sort of thing.

Yes we all...on Saturday afternoon we err...we went out...played the district cricket like Salisbury and Gawler, Wasleys...and we were allowed to have the Sharaband thing that was pulled by 2 horses, they had 2 Percheron Horses which could trot you see and there was one boy Tufty Tod he was called, he was a wizard with horses, when they...when you went to the pictures or anything they put seats on the back of the wagon and Tufty drove the 2 Percherons and no one else was allowed to touch them and when we got into Gawler Tufty put the horses in...a lot of the hotels still had stables you see, if we were going to a dance he would go up there to see if his horses were alright (laughs) I always remember once when the horses turned inside-out and they were looking at us, he wasn't worried! He just whipped them up, got them back in and away we went (laughs). That was Tufty Tod!

Um this is during the war so how did the war impact on college life in terms of, I guess...you talked about petrol...other...how did it affect the college?

Yes...well you see um err...we did have tractors but we could not use them, everything was done with horses and err...we err...they had the one utility that used to go into Gawler every day and err...but...there just wasn't...well the dairy of course was run on the...electricity and err...to begin with the dairy was in the old stables, an old English design stables with a big silo and everything and err...half the cows were milked by hand and half milked by machine and then they separated the milk.

You talked about having electricity, was there...was there a lights out time...was the lights...was that from a generator or was it from the mains power?

Yes from the mains, I don't think there was any lights out, I think most boys were keen to get to bed because err...you know we had to be up early. Everybody had to be at breakfast by half past six, if you did not get there you did not get breakfast, you got jam and cream (laughs)

And err...Was it cold in your rooms? Was it cold, there was no heating in your rooms was there?

Oh no no

Was it cold at night time?

During summer we put our beds out on the veranda, the Corridor (accommodation block) got big verandas on it, they used to make our beds out there and err...but err...oh no we didn't used to worry about the cold in bed.

They talk about the Corridor not always having a ceiling, did it have a ceiling...the Corridor Block, did it have a ceiling when you were there?

Oh yes, a ceiling and a veranda you see and you could sleep outside if you wanted to

Some before you said that when it was built there was no ceiling

Was it

Used to get pretty cold in there

I'd say

They changed it...Now err...Frank I noticed you used to be on the Student Magazine every year you were there, you were on the committee, can you tell us a bit about the student magazine?

Yes I had to encourage people to produce something, we had one boy, he was killed during the war, a boy called Bagenal (P). He came from England I think, he used to write...he wrote some poetry which was extremely good, but err...I did a series about each of the students, something like you have in the book (The Roseworthy College Legacy and the '68 Group). I think I started that idea? I photographed everyone and put them in.

I noticed that, that's the first time I'd seen it in the Student magazine, it's quite a good way of all the portraits and a bit about what they are going to do, a bit of...a bit of fun sort of!

I had a dreadful surname (nickname) of Botch (laughs) I was called Botulism (laughs) and err...yes well uh you see about half way through the war some of the boys joined up and err I think we only had 14 on final day and of course speech day came after we joined up, we got permission to have err...to have the day off you see. But err I got in as an electrician and I was stationed to a mobile workshop at Warradale and one day the CO called me up, he said "Did you see the notice on the board?" I said "No" he said "Well you should have, I've posted you to Melbourne to do a Radar course" army volunteer you know! (laughs) and within a couple of days I was on the train to Melbourne doing the Melbourne Technical College in electricity and magnetism and so on and that was a beautiful course, beautifully designed, all the text books, everything, highly skilled err lecturers, they were civilian lecturers

Did you meet up with any Roseworthy friends during the war?

I saw two...there were twin boys named Murray I think they were, officers on one of the ships they were up in the galley I was down the front doing guard duty (laughs). Most ridiculous thing being on a great big boat and I am way down the front, nothing I could have done (laughs) if I'd seen a submarine, shout my head off (laughs) it would be too late. But that was my most dangerous time in the war when...I sort of went to New Guinea around about the time of the Coral Sea Battle and we were lucky enough to get through.

Let's get back to the Roseworthy stuff, you did really well, you won the Bronze, the Silver and the Gold Medal while you were there so was that hard to do, did you work hard at it?

Very hard, all the time, I never stopped studying, err...in the second year and the first year we had book-keeping which the house master took and the boy who was second to me a boy named Dave Rowsley (H. R. Day?) a lovely boy, he had done Leaving Book-keeping and he got practically full marks and I was struggling and also we had...I didn't like Wool Classing, this old man Codrington, he beat me that term but I managed to pick up and still got that err... Silver medal that year err...but that was the only term I was beaten.

You were keen to get a scholarship at the end of your Roseworthy...

Yes, I wanted to get the John Ridley Scholarship and err...I was really keen to get that but they didn't give it to me until the war was over and err...an interesting story my wife and I were going up to Hilltown to see our relations there and we were sitting there reading the newspaper and she said "Look, your name's here" and down the bottom "Frank Hilton has won the John Ridley Scholarship" and err...I didn't know!

That was to do Agricultural Science at the Adelaide University was it?

Err...err, yes, it was only a small scholarship actually to help you with the Ag. Sc. degree, but err...when I finally got out (army) err... towards the end of the war things were really slack and they wanted to free a few university students who could be spared otherwise the universities would be swamped you see and I managed...my father (chuckles) pulled a few strings at Urrbrae and got me out to go to university, by the time I travelled from Queensland to Adelaide and been discharged I was a week late and it took me a long time to pick that up. But err...my wife met me...at the station (railway) there was an officer called a RTO, Railway Ticket Officer, he was stationed there to handle any troops passing through you see and we asked him to be a witness while we were engaged (laughs) and a week later we were married! I came out of a Zoology lecture and was married 2 hours later! (laughs)

Ah right, how did you find the University lectures compared to Roseworthy lectures?

Very hard because I was very poor on physics err...I was alright on chemistry, botany and zoology but I was very weak on parts of physics you see, I eventually got through it on a sup (supplementary exam) but old Ker Grant, I don't know whether you have heard of him, he was Professor of Physics, he had very little control in his lectures and the boys up the back used to mess around and err... there was a second set of lectures at night err...with another bloke who was much stricter and err if you could stay on and do the late lectures you would learn something.

Just getting back to err...your Roseworthy days again, what was it like for the seasons? Was it err...did you have dry periods? Was there a drought on? Was it very wet, or...What were the seasons like when you were at Roseworthy?

Well as I say that first year was a wonderful season, we had the big harvest and we worked and worked right through and didn't do any lectures but err...I set myself...you still had to study at night and I set myself a project to go right through a book on organic chemistry and taught myself organic chemistry (laughs) which is a big help when I got to the university.

Did you ah...did you do much chemistry practical work when you were at Roseworthy?

Very little, very little...err...um...Hickinbotham was the lecturer in chemistry as well as the wine chemistry you see but err...we didn't do much practical at all...um...which was a...was a bit of a struggle when I did practical in the first year at the uni.

With the ah...with the academic work you talked about you're got...you've got your final results here!

Yes

And err...we've got err...agriculture, animal husbandry, dairy err...fruticulture, viticulture and err...you did very...you got first in all those except outside work so you did very well academically and err...and so...when you got the gold medal the outside work didn't count towards that or?

Oh yes...it all counted...the whole lot added up

Oh yes

And err...I had the highest marks

The highest aggregate in the end and there was....

That was why we tried so hard at the work marks (laughs) I used to do all sorts of cunning things like...I'd do um...I'd try to get on pigs because the pig man liked me...things like that (laughs)

Alright...you've got here in remarks, it says here "He has completed a very meritorious course, awarded the Gold Medal as Dux of the College, The Old Collegians Cup in proficiency in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry and the Morphet Prize for Dairy "so you did very well...that was awarded on the 3rd of February 1942 signed by Dr Callaghan so that....

That's...we got leave from the army....now I think err...my CO saw this, I showed him my gold medal and he was quite interested and when I was stationed down at Warradale I think the Captain knew about my record and...cause they were calling for army trained err...officers and err I was chosen because of my record to do this radar course you see. It was an enormous amount of study in that...but err...I learnt those circuits backwards. It was rather interesting...when we were...we had study periods in the lecture room and I sat next to this nice boy, a gentle quite boy who was very slow and I used to help him, I used to go over and over and over it with him until I knew the stuff myself you see and low and behold he did not pass but they could not let him go because he'd been in all the secret stuff you see so they put him in the store room and he was quite happy...but err...there is no doubt about it if you want to learn something try tutoring someone (laughs) if you...I did it later when I was at Rose...Scotch College I did a bit of tutoring

With the...you went into Roseworthy, what was your goal, you wanted this scholarship and do Ag Science, did you have particular career goal in mind when you went to Roseworthy?

Um...no I imagined...I had the idea of being an Agricultural advisor...that was...but err...they cut them out in the end...they were sent to various parts of the state err to advise farmers but err...by the time I got right through they were starting to cut them out and they relied more on big field days and things like that.

And so you went and did Ag Sc and then you went teaching after that?

Yes

Was that...did you intend...did you go teaching because other jobs were not around or did you decide...because...

Well I was married, I had a child and a wife (laughs) I had to get a job and the education department let me in without going through the teachers college which was very rare and err...I was appointed to err Nuriootpa, there was a house there waiting for me and a job waiting and err...I enjoyed teaching those boys at Nuriootpa, boy they were conscientious, those Lutheran boys.

And you taught at Nuriootpa then Scotch College so your whole career was in teaching in the end in Agriculture?

I had...yes...yes I did have 2 years off as a university lecturer err...but err...I found I was not suited...I hadn't done enough biology and so on and I went back to teaching.

With your...with your teaching years did you have many other Roseworthy Graduates who were also teaching?

No I do not think so err...no I do not think so, they err...I never became a member of the old scholars, I went to the old scholars reunion at the end of 25 years I think it was, we had it in Adelaide but err I never carried on as a err...as an old scholar as I was out in the country you know.

What about your students, did any of your students that you knew of, went to Roseworthy, that you taught?

Did you.....

The students that you taught at school, did any of those go back to Roseworthy? Did the Course? Can you remember many of those?

Err some of them may of? When I was there, there was Roseworthy boys in each year and the Roseworthy boys did very well with the grounding they had and err...a bloke named Butterfield became a Veterinary Surgeon and err he went onto Sydney afterwards but err...Stewart...there was another one...yes

Let's just wrap up with your Roseworthy days, so err...in terms...that's a fairly big chunk of time in your life, 3 years spent there ...

Yes

...and err you did a really good academic result from working hard, what you think would be some of the main things you took away from Roseworthy that you feel as though changed, influenced your life?

Yes well err when I left there, my family was very religious and very, my father threatened to take me away if I ever had a drink (laughs) and err he did not like me smoking or drinking or anything like that but err...I never...err...I loved the three years I had there, I thought they were you know a wonderful time because I was a quiet, shy gentle little boy and err a bit nervous and err I think Roseworthy brought me out of myself you know because the comradery of the boys was marvellous...at meal times we all sat together and (laughs) mostly talked about the bolts of the horses and things like that (laughs). I noticed there is something in there (The Roseworthy College Legacy and the 68 group book) about one of your boys pulled up a line of fencing (laughs).

With the...because...I guess some of the other boys at the college were smokers and drinkers and so forth they had a different sort of background to you did you find that err...difficult...that they had different interests to you or..?

I did find for a while but err...the first dance we had I did not attend, I could not dance! And err I was never any good at dancing, I just could not do it! (laughs) I even went to a dance teacher in Adelaide, he taught me to waltz, he was brutal, he'd kick me and made me waltz but I could not do it afterwards! (laughs)

So you went to the next dance? Tell me about these dances that you had? Was this the dance err...every year?

Yes

Certain times of the year or..?

Yes

Was this in the shearing shed or the dining room?

Oh no no, it was in the main dining room!

Alright

And err...every night we had a bag of wheat and we used to tear around the floor with the polish they...crystals and we had the floor....and err...during that period you were not allowed in the dining room unless you had slippers on (laughs). Everyone had to wear slippers! They went to a lot of trouble for that. The girls, some girls stayed there and they stayed upstairs and had a matron up there looking after them. Some of the boys had to find somewhere to sleep (laughs). Those boys slept anywhere they could.

Was there...how many girls would come for the dances and stay overnight?

Yes some of them did.

So are you talking about a lot of them, like twenty of them, or..?

Eh?

Are you talking about a lot of girls coming to stay?

Yes, some...a lot of district girls came...girls from Gawler, Wasleys...one of our boys Henry Day married a Wasley's girl, she was a lovely girl but err...the second time they found me a partner from Wasleys (laughs) and err...I was never any good at dancing. The little boy who came bottom of the work list, he was a brilliant little dancer! And I said "How can you dance like that?" (laughs) He had a lovely little girl, they were whizzing around. I think you got to have to have a rhythm in you to be any good at it. But err a lot of these little local towns, they all had annual dances you know and the Roseworthy boys all used to turn up.

So you danced in Gawler and Wasleys and err...

The Gawler town hall had dances fairly often and err that was when we went with the horse and the two Percherons and the...the buggy thing, we took about twelve boys at a time

And what, you would just in and come back the same night?

Yes

What time would you get back?

Oh boy, if you were on...if you were on cows the next morning you would only get two or three hours sleep! Well after twelve before we got back, you'd have a few hours' sleep, you would have to get up and go way out in the paddock and get the cows (laughs)

You said the err...about going to church every Sunday was there anything during the meal, was there a...you know, saying grace, like that during meal times? Was there any sort of formal religious stuff during the...besides the church?

Oh...grace and that? We did not have grace or anything...no the err...but err...the various members of the local churches like the Salvation Army, The Church of England, the Baptists, the Methodists, they took it turns to come out to take the service and everyone had to attend.

So would the staff go there as well?

Only the err...only the house master, did you know he could stand up and look around and say someone is missing, he go down that corridor (accommodation block), find them and bring them up, he had a wonderful memory (laughs)

Err...Frank we are running out of time now so we might wind you up. I thank you very much for this interview and I'm sure our listeners will hear these stories you have told and will enjoy the history about Roseworthy...