



R. O. C. A. DIGEST

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION

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A DIGEST CHANGE

In the February, 1971, edition of the R.O.C.A. Digest, Ross Ford wrote: 'It is with some regret that this will be my last edition as Editor of the Digest.' It is also with some regret that we, as readers, see Ross go.

He has done a wonderful job in building this publication into something that is looked forward to by all who receive it.

I have been asked to take over as Editor of the Digest, and hope I can keep up the standard that Ross has set. I would like to take this opportunity to ask you, as you read this edition, to spend a few moments thinking about the Digest. What would you like to see in it? Should it be restricted only to R.O.C.A. news and events, or should there also be news from A.T.A.?

A journal such as this needs thoughts and contributions from its readers; so try to let us know what you think of it. Let us know what you are doing; whether you have come across any long-lost Old Collegians lately; or anything else that may be of interest. Whatever you can do will be greatly appreciated.

RICHARD CAMPBELL

(For those of you who are wondering just who Richard Campbell is: I was at Roseworthy from 1962 until 1965, then spent a year jackarooing in the North-East, followed by three years soil survey work with the C.S.I.R.O., and have been working for 'The Chronicle' as an agricultural journalist for the past two years.)

EYRE PENINSULA BRANCH A.G.M. AND REUNION from Ray Alcock

Another successful A.G.M. and Reunion dinner was held by the Eyre Peninsula Branch at the Great Northern Hotel, Port Lincoln on 27th February.

Thirty-five members and guests were welcomed by the amicable president, Pat Marrie, who made special mention of the mainland visitors, R.O.C.A. president David Suter, 'young' Snowy Philp, Andy Michelmoré, Tom Haney, and our guest speaker, Alan Archer. Seven guests from local wine and dine clubs were also present.

Pat paid tribute to the work of his committee, and in particular to secretaries Des Habel and Peter Thyer. Amid friendly banter and other pleasantries, toastmaster Ken Hayman most capably attended to the formal proceedings.

The highlight of the dinner was the presentation of the Honorary Life Membership Award to Des Habel for exceptional services to R.O.C.A. and the Branch. 'Well merited,' declared Dave Suter in presenting the award and badge. A standing ovation reflected the feeling from the floor. In response, Des thanked the Branch and the parent body. 'It is a great honour,' he said, and spoke of other helpers such as the late Worsley Johnson, who re-formed the branch in 1951.

'Do foster interest in, and give support to, R.O.C.A.,' appealed Dave Suter in his response to Allan Lawes' toast to the Association. Ken Holden, proposing the toast to the College, stressed the values of the social aspects of student life at RAC. In reply, Snowy Philp outlined the many changes taking place at the College, and student Grant Hayman supported him.

'The Wine Industry In Australia' was the subject of an address by Alan Archer, the proprietor of Chesser Cellars. 'RAC Oenologists are rendering invaluable service to the wine industry,' were his opening remarks. Alan then traced the history of Australian wines, and detailed present factors affecting production.

Present over-production would allow quality selection and a build-up of depleted stocks, he said. Winemakers could stress quality before quantity; new plantings and husbandry would improve grape quality; and promotion during the next 10 years was expected to double the present consumption of two gallons a head each year.

'Alan proved not only well versed in his subject, but an engaging and competent after-dinner speaker,' Peter Thyer said, voicing the thanks of all present.

A background to the evening's pleasant enjoyment was the excellent table and extra services provided by our considerate host and hostess, John and Gwynne Marmion.

So another memorable reunion closed. (We did miss you Bob Horne, and we trust you are fit again Mr Vice-President). All were reluctant to leave, but happy for having the company of old and new friends, and the promise of next year's reunion.

EYRE PENINSULA FAMILY DAY from Pat Marrie

On Sunday, 28th February, our gang once more assembled at Billy Light Point for the family picnic day under overcast, but warm, and sultry conditions. These in no way detracted from the attendance, which was up to previous years, nor the enjoyment, which was quite evident amongst those who attended.

It was nice to see our snowy haired senior citizen, Mrs Chewings Snr, with us again and quite evidently enjoying the company: especially that of our president, with whom she was exchanging witty repartee, much to the amusement of her grandchildren. The younger generation were extremely prominent, and it was nice to see them there with their parents, and having lots of fun scoffing ice-cream, cool drinks and sweets. Little Miss Daniels sat President Pat back on his haunches with a polite, but firm refusal of sweets, as she informed him they were not good for her teeth.

The young marrieds were also well-represented this year. Barry Lawes, John Sheppard, Jack

McFarlane and Ken Holden with their respective wives. Andy Michelmore, with Elizabeth and the kids, were with us once more; and Andy, to my way of thinking, made the classic retort of the year to a somewhat irate boatowner who wanted to know his (Andy's) name. His reply, 'I don't know, I don't live here,' rather non-plussed the bloke. The cause of his wrathfulness was that the youngsters were having a marvellous time with his boat, and were certainly doing no damage.

Alan Archer, our guest speaker of the previous night, and his wife showed evident signs of enjoyment of both food and company. Des and Joyce were, as usual, well to the fore, and our thanks go to him once more for the work he puts into making the show go. Bob Stirling and his helpers erected a huge edifice which was not used much, but had it decided to rain would have been really magnificent.

There was a small bevy of bathing beauties seen cavorting in the warm water, surrounded by enthusiastic kids who joined in the fun. Judy Thyer and the two Elizabeths were well to the fore. Ian Holman, Tom Haney and others were very popular as they valiantly tackled the cooking, and they were kept well and truly busy for quite a while supplying the voracious appetites of the assembled populace.

Thanks also to Ken Hayman, who was present with his wife and son, for bringing his boat, which unfortunately was not made use of. Philpy and his wife were also seen parading and peddling gossip with all and sundry, and once more renewing old and not-so-old friendships.

It's hard to mention everyone in an article such as this, so please forgive my sins of omission. We missed Bob Horne at the dinner, but he had recovered sufficiently from his indisposition to join us for an hour or so with his wife.

Must away now, and in doing so, once again say thanks to all those willing helpers whose efforts made this day so enjoyable. We hope to see you all again next year—the gaiety, laughter and colourfulness of the whole affair is sure to be repeated next February, 27th.

1971 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REUNION

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, 4th September, at the Earl of Zetland Hotel, Flinders Street, Adelaide.

Nominations for the election of officers are required to be lodged with the Secretary not later than Friday, 27th August, for the following positions on the Committee (names of the present Committee are shown in brackets).

President	(D. D. Suter)
Past President	(R. J. Ford) No nomination required
Vice-President	(R. W. Fewster)
Secretary	(J. A. Jones)
Treasurer	(C. W. Hooper)

One Committee Member of Graduating Class of 1971 (C. Goode)

One Committee Member who left College between one and 10 years ago (M. Babidge)

Four ordinary members (R. S. Norton, H. V. Stephen, G. Eckersley, G. Norman)

Honorary Auditor (B. C. Philp).

The charge for the reunion dinner will be \$4.80, payable in advance to the Treasurer. Please fill in the form on page 4 and return not later than Friday, 27th August. Your co-operation in this will assist the Hotel and the organisers.

Mr C. W. Hooper,
R.O.C.A. Treasurer,
Agricultural College,
Roseworthy, S.A. 5371

I will/will not attend the reunion on 4th September. I enclose \$4.80.
I do/do not require a receipt.

NAME

ADDRESS

..... Postcode

COLLEGE CHATTER from Cliff Hooper

Well, the wine cellars did operate, even if the electricians were working just ahead of the grape juice. It must have been a very difficult job for Bob Baker to manage, especially with the troubles that always occur in getting a new plant operating. As one old student remarked (he was in the wine industry until 15 years ago), 'I would not know how any of the set-up worked.' Still, that's progress.

The pillar foundations for the new accommodation block and kitchen were completed by the end of March, so when you read this there should be buildings taking shape. At present, accommodation is supplied by six temporary buildings housing 60 students.

The 1971 year commenced with 14 fourth years, 27 third years, 40 second years, 59 first years and 16 oenology students, so we have quite a full College. As mentioned previously, third years do not appear on the work list, so the planning of their year has been given great thought. Practical application is to a great extent in the hands of Ray Norton, who intends visiting various properties in the district to demonstrate certain aspects. Also included is a 12 day trip travelling through Broken Hill to Bourke, and then down through NSW and Victoria, inspecting different aspects of agriculture and visits to research centres.

I do not seem to have much news of Old Collegians. Posted to me is 'The Dungey Rag', edited by Mark Babidge, with doings of their year. With six weddings from New Year until 13th February, and 20 out of 48 married, they consider that their group will take some beating.

Trevor Twigden had his honeymoon in Hawaii on his way to a job in Yuma, California, as an assistant to an orchardist-nurseryman. Ian Watt, on leave from New Guinea, paid us a visit. He appeared very happy with his position, and was quite keen to return for another two years. Ashley Barnes writes from the Kimberley Research Station at Kununnurra, W.A. He and Tim Prance moved up there after graduation this year. Also at the station are Jim Hughes, working on cotton agronomy, and Tom Green on peanuts.

College staff and students were stunned to hear of the death of Max Burton on 19th March. To older members of the staff who had known the Burton family for many years, it did not seem possible that he could be taken so suddenly; and it has taken some of us quite a while to realise that this has happened. As you should be aware, Max had just returned after attending the Melbourne University, where he successfully completed a course in extension. With this newly gained knowledge, plus his previous training, he was ready to fill a very important part in the training of students

Unfortunately, he has left a big gap in the lecturing staff which will be very difficult to fill. Max was always bright and willing to help, no matter what the field. He had always been a keen sportsman and an active church worker. I am certain that you all join with me in extending our deepest sympathy to Mrs Burton and family on this very sad occasion.

At the end of February was played the long-awaited cricket clash between the Probert Prodders and the Staff Sloggers for the Galvanised Iron Shield. The match was played under the standard rules of—no batsman to be bowled first ball (Demon Hollamby took full advantage of this), each player to bowl two overs (just as well: David Rounsevell had three wickets for no runs), batsmen to retire after making 30 runs (Chris Weeks had to get out somehow).

Despite the Prodders having such noted players as Doggy Carter, Loper Loller, Plonky Carter and Bull Boughen, the Sloggers had a fairly easy victory. A pleasant afternoon concluded with the entertainment of players and wives on the lawns of Mr and Mrs Knocker Nicolson's home.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Ian Watt, Box 367 Goroka, T.P.N.G. (1962-65)

Since Claire and I left Roseworthy 22 months ago, we have had a very interesting life, not without its frustrations.

My first posting was at the Western Highlands Livestock Station at Baiyer River in New Guinea. Baiyer River is approximately 35 miles north of Mount Hagen, and is a valley of 20 odd square miles, with the station covering almost two-thirds of this. Altitude is about 3,500 ft above sea level, with a rainfall of 120 in. a year.

Like most land in New Guinea, drainage is a big problem, which is usually solved by digging miles and miles of 'barrets' (drains) by hand. These drains are quite expensive, but are a must before any agricultural development can take place.

Baiyer River is the largest of the departmental stations, and runs 3,500 breeding cattle of mixed blood. Shorthorns provide most of the British influence, and these are crossed with Brahmans, Afrikanders and Droughtmasters. Weaners are sold to a rapidly developing indigene cattle industry, and are in keen demand.

My position at Baiyer River, as officer-in-charge of the Farmer Training School which was established six years ago, was to give native producers some formal training in cattle husbandry and management. When you consider that before the introduction of cattle, the pig was the largest domesticated animal, you can appreciate the significance of the training schools.

The school had a maximum capacity of 85 to 90 students, who were drawn from the Highlands region and from Papua. Education qualifications varied from high school to illiterate; the only proviso being an understanding of Pidgin English. This provided problems for the raw 'Territorian' fresh from Australia, as you can imagine.

After spending 12 months at Baiyer River, I was transferred to Goroka as the Pig Husbandry Adviser for the Territory. In this position I travel throughout the country advising extension officers in pig husbandry and management, as well as advising on the establishment of commercial enterprises.

The pig plays a very important role in the society of Papuans and New Guineans, and is by far the most important animal in the country, with an estimated population of 1½ million. It is a valuable animal which can be used for the purchase of wives or land, settlement of debts and disputes, as well as being consumed on festive occasions.

The native pig is a short, squat animal on short legs, with a long snout, small ears and broad, strong shoulders. It walks on feet which appear to be weak in the pasterns by Australian standards, but which do not show signs of lameness when housed on concrete.

The female is an excellent mother in that she is very protective, and has nowhere near the mortality rate experienced by European breeds. In their natural environment, which usually consists of extensive grazing in the bush during the day and housing at night with the women, these pigs are perfect. They survive on a low-protein diet, and in adverse conditions where European pigs suffer very high mortality rates.

The Departmental piggeries at Goroka, Erap (30 miles northwest of Lae) and Kuakakal (nine miles from Rabaul) breed pigs for sale to native producers. Our breeding programme concentrates mainly on crossbreeding between European pigs (Tamworth, Berkshire, Large Black, Wessex Saddleback and Large White) and between European breeds and native pigs. A research centre operates at the Goroka piggery where research into foods and feeding, housing, management systems and breeding are undertaken.

We have just returned from leave for another two year term which we hope will be as rewarding as our first. I haven't run into many Old Collegians, but have seen Darryl Miegel (stationed at Kompjam in the Western Highlands), Peter James-Martin (at Konedobu, Port Moresby) and John Cooper (at Bereina in Papua). Before we went on leave I heard that David Kidd had arrived in the Territory and was posted to New Britain, and while in Adelaide, I heard that Phil Reddin was hoping to come to the Territory.

If any Old Collegians intend coming to New Guinea for a holiday, we would be only too pleased to have them stay with us, and show them as much of the Territory as we can.

From F. A. Wheaton, Box 14, Redhill 5521 (1908-11)

It was indeed a thrill to be present on Speech Day at the College this year.

My thoughts went back 60 years when I was one of the lads to be awarded a piece of parchment with my name on it; and know that I could write 'R.D.A.' after my name. So, in spirit, I went up with those young men.

But I could not help contrasting the conditions prevailing in 1911 and now. In those days, education past the local primary school was a privilege, made possible for me by a fine local headmaster who coached me to sit for a scholarship exam awarded to the sons of worthy parents who wanted their offspring to have a better start in life than they had.

It was a privilege to be a student when so much agricultural history was being made by Professor Perkins and Mr W. J. Spafford. Their wide range of experimental work and wheat breeding did so much for the future of agricultural productivity in this State. (I was very pleased to hear that new grain varieties so beneficial for the country, are still being produced.)

I cannot let thoughts on agricultural history pass without reference to the present principal, Mr Herriot; who, previous to his present appointment, stumped the country like a new politician soliciting votes, preaching conservation of soil, and how to go about it; which helped result in better soil management, increased grain yields and greater stock carrying capacities.

A contrast in the appearance of the College grounds, was the number of married staff residences. In 1911, just three; today, more than 20. Buildings of various types have made the place look like a small town. The Chapel is a beautiful acquisition, adding to the dignity and general character of the College.

The whole visit was a lovely experience for me, and I wish the College every future success. I have been to the College on various occasions over the years, but never was I thrilled as much as on this visit.

(A couple of months ago, E. J. Clarke (about 1907) passed on. He farmed in W.A. for some years and then returned to S.A. for his retirement. As far as we can gather, N. S. Fortheringham and myself are the only two still on deck. I spoke to him in March, but he is slipping back quickly. My brother Bob (1903-06) is still going, but keeps pretty quiet.)

ORIGINAL REGULATIONS

As an item of general interest which should appeal to all Old Collegians, we reproduce the original set of student regulations, issued in 1884 —

1. Students are to attend morning and evening prayers, and all services in the Chapel.
2. Students are not to be absent from meals, and are to attend all lectures, classes and examinations from which they have not express permission to be absent.
3. Whenever a Professor is unable to deliver his lecture or attend his class, the students are to devote the time thus left unoccupied to practical agriculture on the farm, no official order to the contrary being issued.
4. Students are required to be in the College when the doors are locked in the evening.
5. Students wishing to go beyond the boundaries of the farm, at any time not occupied by the engagements mentioned in Nos. 1 and 2, are to write their names in the porter's book when they go out, with the hour of their departure, adding, when they return, the hour at which they come back.
6. Each student is required to keep a farm journal.
7. Order and quiet are to be observed in the College at all time.
8. No game of any sort is to be played during the hours allotted for lectures or classes.
9. All students are required to be in their own rooms at 10 p.m. Lights are not allowed after 10.30 p.m.
10. The introduction into the College or on the farm of wine, spirits or fermented liquor, of playing cards, firearms, gunpowder or explosive materials of any kind, renders the offender liable to expulsion.
11. Students are not permitted to bring dogs or other animals on to the College or farm.
12. The practice of smoking is discountenanced, and is prohibited in any building on the farm, the farm premises, and grounds, also during working hours.
13. Students excused from a portion of their duties on account of indisposition are not to go beyond the College paddock (No. 9A) without permission.
14. Every student damaging any part of the College, the windows or furniture, is required to report the same to the College porter, that the value of the repairs may be charged to his account.
15. Visitors are to be received in the library and are not, without permission, to be admitted to other parts of the building, nor received during lecture or class hours.
16. Each practical student must, every Monday, furnish a return of work performed by him during the previous week.

17. Work will be paid for as far as possible by piecework, but when a rate cannot be fixed, payment will be made by the hour, at the following rates—First class, 6d per hour; second class, 4d per hour; third class, 3d per hour. Payment will not be made unless the work be properly performed.

18. Hours for meals &c:- first bell, 6 a.m.; breakfast, 8 a.m.; dinner, 12.30 p.m.; tea, 6 p.m.; supper, 9 p.m.

19. Practice upon musical instruments will not be allowed during hours of lectures or classes, nor after 7 p.m., except on Saturdays.

20. Students are forbidden to enter any cottage or premises occupied by persons employed on the farm.

21. Each student is required to perform the farm work for which he is appointed.

22. All tools used must be returned to the toolhouse when done with.

23. During the first session in each year, students shall elect three of their number to form a Council. The students so elected shall hold office until their successors are appointed. It shall be the duty of the Council to make enquiry into any complaint that may be made and, if the members think fit, to bring the same, or any suggestion tending to the comfort and convenience of students, under the notice of the Principal.

Notice will be given on the notice board at the porter's lodge of the hours of lectures, classes, meal-times, examinations, &c, and any change in these hours will be notified in the same manner.

JOHN D. CUSTANCE

PRINCIPAL

Remember the A.G.M. and reunion on 4th September. If you have not attended before, or have not been for some years, we would be pleased to see you.