

M. J. S.



# R.O.C.A. digest

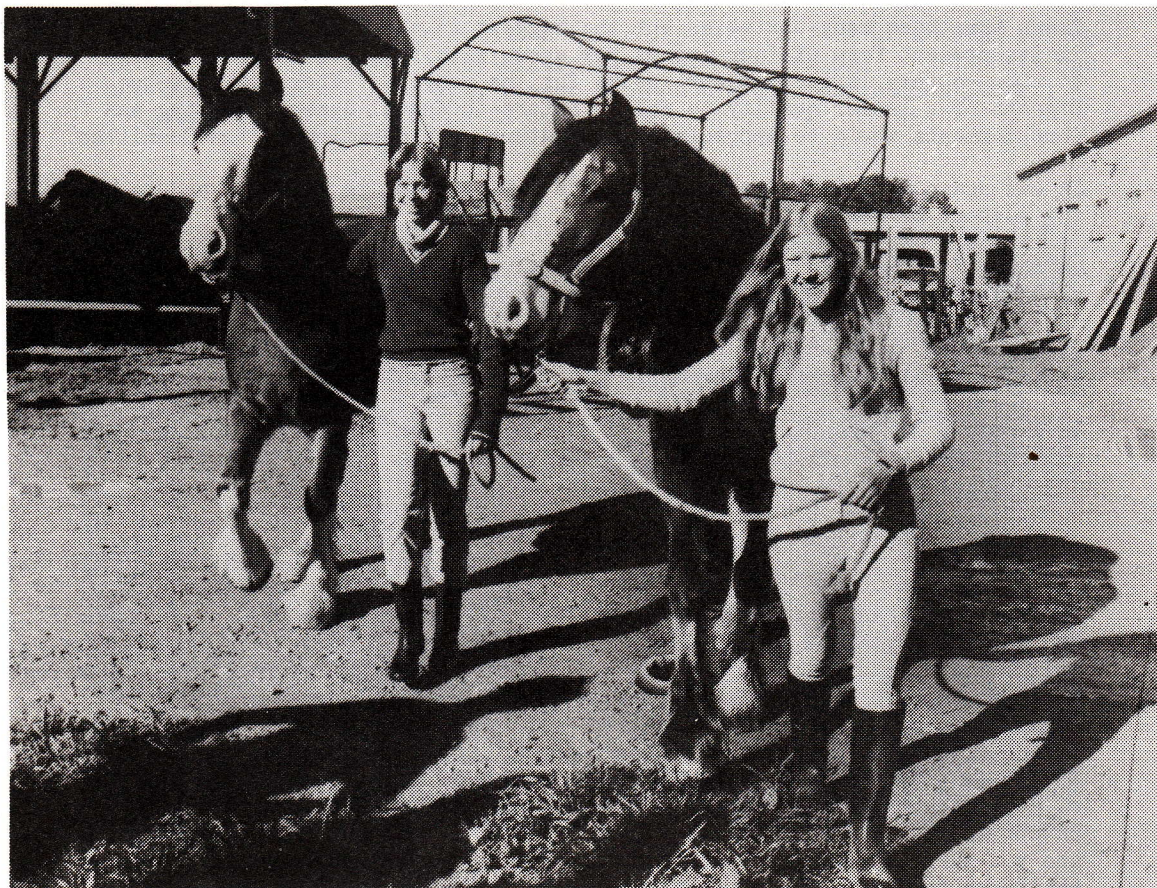
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*M. J. Seeliger*

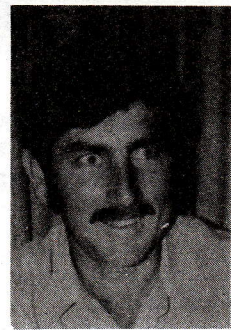


Annabell Trott and Janet Lawler with the College's recently purchased Clydesdales Pandora and Suzie.

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## From the President...

### ROSS DAWKINS



After many problems we have at last been able to produce the first Digest for this year.

There have been many obstacles but the biggest is the cost with the Digest in its present form of four issues per annum with budget at approximately \$1,200 - a very large % of our income for the year. There will be two Digests of a lesser quality to follow before the Annual General Meeting and your comments would be appreciated for future consideration by the Committee.

It was again my privilege to attend the E.P. reunion in February and to have the support of members from this side of the Gulf!

Last Digest I made mention of the Award of Merit. As you are well aware time is close at hand and nomination should be in the Secretary's hand promptly.

It is only by your support that we are able to justify the meeting of the Selection panel who most generously give their time.

As I have mentioned before there are many worthy members of R.O.C.A. who are eligible and it is with your support that their names can be forwarded for selection.

#### EDITORIAL

The President has mentioned the effect continual rising cost in the printing industry is having on the Production of the Digest. However as this issue is about to go to print we have had an offer from a member's son in the Printing business to print the digest for us at a very reasonable price, which will allow us to continue to print on an offset printer.

Delays in production of this digest has meant that the deadline for the Award of Merit nominations is past. The Secretary has nominations which will be considered by the Selection Panel for 1978. If you have any member who you think is worthy of consideration for the Award nominate him now in readiness for 1979. Nominations are to be in the hands of the Secretary by the 31st of May in the year in which they will be considered.

I.M. RICE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REUNION

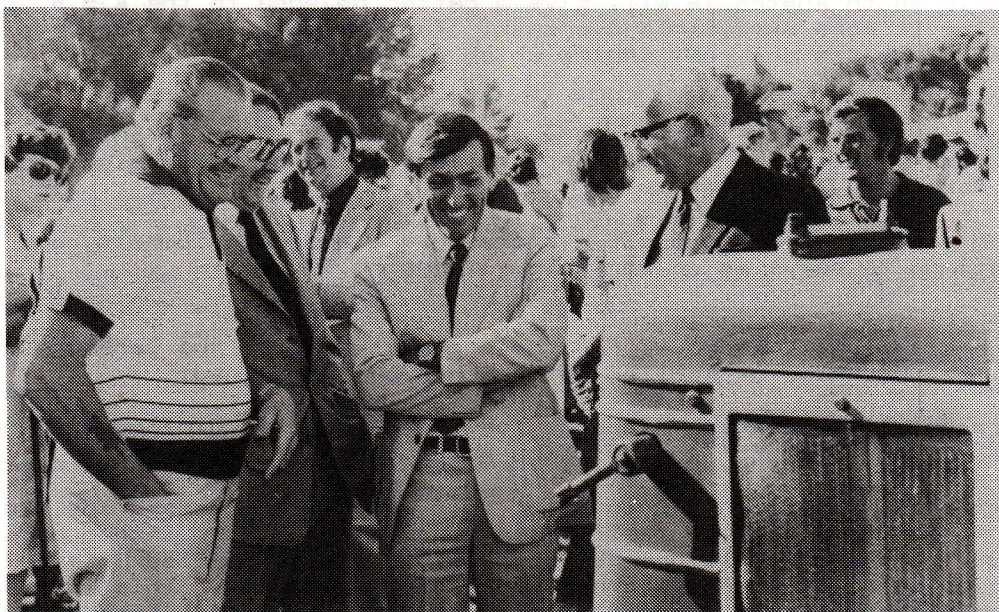
FRIDAY 8th September, 1978.

PRINCES BERKLEY HOTEL  
Hindley Street.

A.G.M 6.15 p.m. followed by the Reunion Dinner at 7.30 p.m.

25 Year ago group. (This includes all people who entered the College in 1950 and graduated in 1953) is being arranged by Barry Graham - if Barry has not contacted you please contact him at 74 Rossall Road, Somerton Park. Phone 2968991.

10 Year ago (All those who received their diplomas in 1968 or entered College in 1963) This group is being organised by Mark Babidge. If Mark has not been in contact with you, please contact him at 36 Brightman Street, Flagstaff Hill. 5159 - Phone 2701052.



Mr. Ron Smallwood (Technical Officer - Museum) Mr. Nankivell and Dr. Williams look on as Dr. Hopgood starts the restored Field Marshall tractor after the Graduation Day ceremony.

## DIRECTOR'S GRADUATION DAY ADDRESS

Drought: Development of the College has been hindered by the devastating drought. The third year in a row. Yields from cereal crops were less than half of the average and allowing for lost income and extra feed purchases the drought has meant a loss of the order of \$80,000 to the College.

Sheep numbers have been halved and beef and dairy cattle numbers reduced. The piggery has been temporarily closed down partly to avoid the high cost of feed and partly to improve disease control.

Lance: The College has retained the tradition of using weapon names for wheat varieties.

Lance is the name of the new variety seriously known as RAC266. It is a result of a cross between Raven and a Chi'ian semidwarf variety Collafen [pronounced coyafen].

Lance has outstanding balance between hardness and protein content and in South Australia will give a better balance to the A.S.W. class making it more marketable overseas. The variety is not rust resistant, but it resists the rust strains which attack Halberd.

Anderson Enquiry: The outcome of the Anderson Enquiry into Post Secondary Education in South Australia will be of great significance to Roseworthy.

Much depends on our capacity to preserve a separate identity and to continue to serve as an agricultural centre.

Accreditation: Approval for the accreditation of the Oenology course to be a Bachelor of Applied Science has been obtained.

This year's graduating students for the Roseworthy Diploma in Oenology will be the last for that Diploma introduced in 1936.

Similarly the students graduating this year in the Roseworthy Diploma in Agriculture will be the last to receive the R.D.A. introduced in 1883. The award will now be known as Diploma of Applied Science in Agriculture, it is now a three year tertiary course. This is also the reason that today's group of Diplomats in Agricultural Technology will be the last.

The first graduates in the Graduate Diploma of Agriculture and the Graduate Diploma in Natural Resources will receive their awards today.

Farmers: A new course, an Associate Diploma in Farm Management has been introduced to provide training in farm management for farmers.

Entry to this course requires students to have had some farming experience. This course starts mid-year and requires that students are absent from their farms for only part of each year.

We hope that co-operation with the Department of Further Education, the use of short courses, the Associate Diploma in Farm Management and the Diploma in Applied Science will provide different kinds of training to meet the different needs of different students who want to work as farmers or graziers.

Flexibility: Students no longer enter the first year of a course and either pass or fail the year as a whole. Students now enrol in subjects and their progress depends on maintaining standards in individual subjects, which together add up to a Diploma. The subject Farm Practice has been kept in the curriculum for Agricultural Courses, students must learn basic skills in husbandry and farm operations.

Staff: Student numbers have doubled since 1974, 324 now being enrolled. This doubling of numbers has been achieved with no new teaching areas, the need for new buildings is now more than urgent.

These changes have made heavy demands on the staff and tribute is recorded to staff members for their service to the College.

During 1977 Mr. Allen Footer retired after 14 years at the College, most recently as Administrative Secretary.

Industry: Course advisory committees draw on industries experience to specify needs and comment on the College's progress. Farmers and commercial firms continue to have visits from Roseworthy students in groups, or individual students who need experience in farm practice, wine making or marketing.

We thank all who have assisted the College.

International: The Graduate Diploma in Agriculture (International) is attracting increasing attention.

Roseworthy has been honoured by visits by the Ambassadors from several countries, including the Crown Prince of Jordan. Discussions have been held with State Government with relation to training courses, proposed as a part of the new Trade and Development Programmes

being developed in Middle East countries.

Research: Several staff have received grants from the Australian Research Grants Committee. Dr. Richardson and Dr. B. Williams for research into the phenomones of the Heliothis moth, Dr. Yates a co-operative programme on the effects of copper and zinc deficiencies on arterial diseases in pigs. Dr. Taylor has obtained support from the Rural Credits Development Fund for almond research. Mr. Sheahan an Australian Extension Service Grant for a project on the use of media by farmers.

The State Government has provided funds for the College to continue to develop wheat breeding research, sheep selection research and begin research into small lot winemaking. These funds allow Roseworthy to continue these activities which are so important to the State.

Students: It is important to be constantly reminded that our primary purpose is to develop a College to assist students at a formative stage in their intellectual and emotional development. Unless students have an interest in the work they are doing and are motivated then our efforts will be to little avail.

Peter Turley, President and Jeff Tidswell, Vice President of the Student Union Council are thanked for their leadership.

The student members of the Council were Geoff Lindon and Trevor Drayton illustrated the value of student participation in the highest level of government within the College.

Discipline: Much progress was made in 1977 especially with respect to matters of student discipline, which is being increasingly handled by students themselves.

The Council has resolved orientation will be restricted. Initiation, harrassment or intimidation are prohibited. Participation by new students in a programme of student activities is voluntary.

1978 Developments: Firstly, early estimates of new enrolments indicated that accommodation would not be available for senior students on College in 1978. These estimates were wrong, 79 in 220 deferred enrolment until 1979 and one quarter of the new students decided not to live in. Consequently accommodation is available for all students seeking it.

The second development is a compulsory accident insurance levy of \$5-00 on all students, the College paying a further \$5-00 towards each students premium. Roseworthy is probably the first tertiary institution to introduce this form of cover.

Third, the College has been divided into four schools for academic organisation and administration.

Dr. Bryce Rankine has been appointed Head of the School of Oenology and Viticulture, Mr. Hugh Reimers, Acting Head of the School of Agriculture, Dr. Noel Richardson, Acting Head of the School of Applied Science and Natural Resources and Mr. Ken Leske, Acting Head of the School of Management and Education.

Farewell: The graduating students have lived and worked at Roseworthy at a time of very great change and have had to adopt to new systems of government and staff/student relationships. Words of advice, of commendation and of criticism have not fallen on deaf ears but have influenced many of the decisions made.

It is hoped that graduates will remain in touch with the College and regard Roseworthy with affection, happy memories and as a source of inspiration.

#### DEATH

Bruce William Lancelot Hocking passed away 7th December, 1977, aged 86 years.

Bruce Hocking graduated in 1914. He was a former chief inspector of Lands Department, Past President 11th Light Horse Association A.I.F., member of the Rose Croix Masonic Lodge and Honorary Life Member of the Grange Golf Club and the Hawthorn Bowling Club.

The Association extends its sympathy to his wife Mary, and his three daughters.

## THE HISTORY OF HORSES AT ROSEWORTHY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

- Dale Manson

The idea of an agricultural college in S.A. was first mentioned in Parliament in 1879, but the first team of horses did not appear on Roseworthy College until 1882. One year after the opening of College on 3rd February 1885, the horse numbers had risen to twelve. The stables that stand at the college today, were built in 1911, and by 1914, the horse numbers had risen to seventy one. This was an extremely bad year, with a disastrous drought, and the start of war in Europe. The season of late 1919 and early 1920 was no better and the work horses were feeling the effects of the drought, their chaff rations being cut to about half.

Being rostered on stables meant rising at 5 a.m., feed all the horses, groom as necessary, then back for breakfast. After breakfast, all the stalls were cleaned out and yards swept. Nose bags for chaff and grain were prepared for all teams out for the day, and together with lunch for the teamsters, were delivered by spring dray. Any horses not working were turned out for the day or fed in their stalls. Students on stable roster then had a break of about three hours before returning to spread straw bedding in the stalls, put sheaved hay in the hayrack and feed up with chaff and crushed grain. The day was completed by feeding up for the night at about 8 p.m.

The main Clydesdale stallions used until 1932 were Lord Hopetoun and Bangaroo Laddie, and in the late 1920's the College could muster eight teams of eight horses at a pinch. In 1930, the Light Horse Troop was formed at College with twenty volunteers and was part of the 23rd Light Horse Regiment known as the No 2 troop of the Machine Gun Squadron. It was under the leadership of Captain A.S. Blackburn, V.C. and the College command was undertaken by the Assistant Farm Manager, Mr. A.E. Gurner.

In 1932, Dr. Allan Callaghan took over control of the College, and immediately implemented a plan to upgrade the Clydesdale breeding stock and horse facilities. The Clydesdales were run as a stud and in 1933 through some rather swift dealing with the government, the top sire Cyrus was purchased for £500 from New Zealand. He was joined in 1937 by the stallion Harviestoun Earnest. By 1941, the College was able to dispose of all draught horses not in the Clydesdale Stud Book or its Appendices and that year Mr. O.H. Woodward of "Marana" Stud, Gilles Plains donated the top Clydesdale Stallion Beneficence to the College. The first tractor appeared on the College in 1939 and in 1943 the decision was made to reduce the Clydesdale population by half, from 100 to 52 horses. The horse population dwindled until there were only five horses left by the end of 1964, the last of the Clydesdales, Baron, being sold during the year. In 1973, a group of interested students formed the Roseworthy Light Horse Club and late that year, Willomurra Quarter Horse Stud became involved with loaning horses to the college for riding and breeding. Out of this and the donation of free services by Willomurra stallions, the College increased horse numbers by one colt and three filly foals, as well as the purchase of four riding horses.



In 1978, the College will run a full time two year Associate Diploma in Horse Management, the first course of its type in S.A. and one of the first in Australia.

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This is a summary of a publication entitled "The History of Horses at Roseworthy Agricultural College 1879 - 1976" by me. Much of the information included in the history was obtained through a request printed in the August 1975 R.O.C.A. Digest.

I especially wish to thank the following people for the valuable information they supplied me with. Mr. Ken Pike (1923-26), Mr. M.J. Camac (1926-29) Mr. H.R. Patterson (1930-33), Sir A.R. Callaghan (Principal 1932-1949) Prof Rex Butterfield (1938-40) and Mrs. D.S. Lehman. Until his death in 1976, Mr. Camac owned a purebred Clydesdale mare (Topsy) which he purchased from the College in 1961. This was probably the last living Clydesdale horse bred at Roseworthy College.

The printing of the publication was very limited, but I still have a few copies to give away to anyone interested. I will gladly lend my copy to anyone when these copies are gone. The history of College horses holds great interest for me, and I would still be very pleased to hear from anyone with memories of the by gone days at R.A.C.

DALE MANSON (RDAT 1976)  
54 Cockburn Road,  
Jamestown. S.A. 5491.

#### ANDERSON ENQUIRY

The recommendations of the Anderson Enquiry have now been released. The recommendation as far as Roseworthy is concerned is that the College will continue as at present. The report did recommend closer liaison with other educational bodies in South Australia.

"..... and a good time was had by all"

The most recently held R.O.C.A. E.P. Branch weekend was probably one of the most successful ever held. Must have been an overall record attendance with the weather again kind to us.

The Saturday morning coffee "get together" at the Lincoln Hotel was well organised by Ken Holden and patronised by a very satisfactory gathering of locals and visitors.

The afternoon was left to one's own devices. Gavin Eckersley went to the races and he and Josie had a cost free weekend - we'll be thinking of you both in May.

Henry Day as guest speaker at the dinner gave us a verbal and pictorial insight into Libya, while his wife, Sally, with her views of Africa was the drawcard to the biggest ever gathering of wives and girlfriends.

Next day the sun shone and Wally Goulter and Philby were soon putting up the tents, Andy Michelmore was opening the claret, Geoff Eime and helpers were "Grilling", Mathew Stirling was modelling with the margarine and the women only had to look on.

Noticed "Joe" Lake, Alf Humble and Johnny Prance reliving their aircrew days. Really good to see them as a group again.

Mo. Barry collected the money and charged for the meat so that the books will balance. Always handy to start the new year with confidence.

The branch president, Geoff Eime and his "Vice" Basil Walters were seen in urgent conversation already planning for bigger things next year, while the good ship "Maybe" with Ken Hayman at the helm and Hamish Patterson controlling the passengers put out to sea.

Ken was an energetic president during his term and we certainly trust that he and Beryl will again be with us next year - with or without the boat.

Just because Hazel Jones got some ice down the back of her bathers it was a shame to see that elderly gentleman forced to strip to his underpants.

Jack McFarlane, Jon Shipard and their families were missed - many comments - but they'll be back next year to carry on where they left off.

The difficult job of getting a count was done by Christine Holden - just under the hundred from toddlers to students of the "Birks era".

One person at least was seen to leave the picnic sober - Alf Humble. He had a plane load of passengers to ferry back to Adelaide. He and wife Bette are already booked in for next year.

Once more we were grateful for the presence of the Michelmore family and it was particularly pleasing to have Philip with us again.

Impossible to mention everyone, but local members really appreciated the effort made by all visitors to give the week-end a lift. R.O.C.A. President Ross Dawkins, Ian Rice, Gavin Eckersley, Henry Day, Jack Richards - thanks for being with us and bringing your wives along to keep law and order.

Don't forget that Geoff Eime, Basill Walters and committee have something special brewing for the last weekend in February 1979. Unity and good fellowship is the aim.

DES HABEL

## *Letters to the Editor*

Sir,

I have been teaching Agriculture Science at Westminster for some seven years, during which time we have developed both in facilities and percentage of the school pursuing the course, to the extent that now 50% of the students in years 9, 10 & 11 study Agricultural Science.

Even though we have commercial enterprises in laying hens, broiler chickens and vineyard, with some almonds, sheep and goats, I have found it beneficial for those students from the metropolitan area to get onto a property for at least one week per year.

I am now beginning to get a few students who have no contact with landowners and I wonder whether there are members of R.O.C.A. who would be interested in taking on a student for a short while during one of the school vacations - it should be of benefit to both the landowner and student and is no way an exercise in babysitting.

Should any members of R.O.C.A. be interested in helping me, I would be most grateful if they would contact me at Westminster School, Alison Avenue, Marion. (Phone 277-1266)

IAN YOUNG

c/- Zambia Christian Refugee Service,  
Box 2778,  
Lusaka,  
Zambia.  
16.4.78.

Sir,

I daresay some of the old collegians may be interested in my happenings since I have not seen many from my years at college for some considerable time now, taking up this position last August at Meheba Refugee Settlement on an initial contract for two years.

The Settlement is situated in the North Western Province of Zambia, approximately 70 kilometres WSW of the Provincial town of Solwezi. It was established in 1972 to cater for the influx of refugees from Angola. There are at the moment 13,000 refugees of whom 12,000 are Angolan. The settlement has an area of 580 square kilometres, of which only about 30% is being utilised.

Each refugee or family is allocated a 5 hectare plot. They are then required to clear an area for planting crops. For the first two years they are given free rations as well as free maize seed and fertiliser and thereafter they should be self sufficient. All cropping is done by hand so they are also issued with an axe, one hoe per adult in the family and free cooking utensils and clothing and blankets.

Meheba has an altitude of about 4,000 feet with a very pleasant climate. The only hot month is October and the rainy season extends from November to mid April and the dry season can be very cool but no frosts. Rainfall is in the vicinity of 60 inches per annum. The main crop grown is maize with cassava being somewhat more important for some of the people. As virtually all ground preparation is done by hand the average crop of maize consists of 1 hectare. Without fertiliser the yield from this one hectare is about 10 bags, which is barely enough to feed a family for one year. By using three bags of fertiliser it is possible to obtain 30 or 40 bags of maize from one hectare.

Groundnuts (peanuts to Australians) and beans are secondary crops to add extra protein to the diet. Other crops which have been tried and grow well are sunflower and soyabeans, but they have not become very popular with the refugees. Vegetables grow well and are being produced in good quantities. In February we transported 3.7 tonnes to Solwezi and last month 5.7 tonnes. The vegetables grown are tomatoes, cabbage, chinese cabbage, rape, sweet potatoes, sweet pepper, potatoes, okra and onions.

Rabbit production was introduced last year and broilers have been raised for four years. We buy the day old chicks and brood them to 4 weeks of age. The Market in Solwezi could absorb 2,000 broilers per week but

our capacity is only 200 chickens per week. Emphasis is also placed on introducing new techniques and new crops. 30% of the time required to grow a maize crop is taken up in land preparation so this year we hope to have a tractor to plough the land on a hire basis. I am also looking at ways to get the older refugees to use more fertiliser - the basic problem here is one of budgeting. They may have money in July when they sell their maize but come October when its time to buy seed and fertiliser they have spent all their money. I have also introduced small plots of rice and cotton. As a result I expect to have 10 - 20 hectares of rice next season and possibly  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 1 hectare of cotton. Cotton is still a doubtful proposition because of the high rainfall. In July - August I will start a coffee and tea plantation and next month I hope to be able to obtain enough seed to plant up to one hectare of wheat. In this area there are low lying seepage areas called dambos which have great potential for wheat and vegetables in the dry season and rice in the rainy season. The soils are highly leached and fertiliser must be used.

No animals are allowed because of the Tsetse fly. This means no oxen can be used for ploughing and the only animals one finds in the settlement are dogs and some goats. Malaria is endemic in the area and at the end of the rainy season there are a lot of cases amongst people. There are two health clinics in the settlement as well as two schools which cater for approx. 2,000 students, who attend in two or three shifts per day. We are very fortunate in now having a sealed road to the front gate and only two kilometres of gravel road into the main headquarters area of the settlement.

Other activities in the settlement include carpentry. We have produced quite a lot of school desks for the Ministry of Education and all the timber for carpentry purposes is cut in the settlement. Carpentry training courses are conducted and these have resulted in very good quality furniture being made and sold as well.

Living conditions are quite good although some essential commodities are in short supply because of the severe economic conditions Zambia is experiencing. But since a lot of vegetables can be grown almost all year round and top quality broilers are available in the settlement for \$2, living costs can be low. However if one wants to indulge in beer, wine or whisky then cost can be high. Beer is 50 cents for a small bottle, wine \$8-\$9 a bottle, when available and scotch was \$23 but has now gone up to \$27 a bottle.

GEOFF FROMM.

"Weavers Broom", 16 Wilguy Crescent,  
Buderim. 4556.  
28.5.78.

Dear Sir,

As a student (1918-21), the letter from Colin Haselgrove in Vol. 12 No. 1 brought back happy memories of my 3 years at R.A.C. I did not know Colin but his brother Ron was Gold Medalist at the end of my 1st year. That year there were only 2,3<sup>rd</sup> year students of a total of 18 because of the war.

Yes I remember Stables under the watchful eye of Bill Hook and Dairy with Rolf Baker and how we smuggled cream for our breakfast each day by half filling a pickle bottle and carrying it up to the kitchen floating like a hydrometer in the  $\frac{1}{2}$  can of skim milk. The froth of the skim covered the cork of the cream bottle so that Rolf never saw if it and when he looked.

In my 2nd and 3rd year I had a cubicle in the corridor. The acetylene gas light of those days gave us the opportunity to blow air into the pipe and then each light went out in turn as the air pocket passed along. You can imagine how blue the air was. I also remember Dixie Wood on his big Indian Motor Bike racing through the corridor. He had to let go the handles as he passed through the door at each end as his knuckles would have hit the jambs.

After leaving R.A.C. I went to "Woods Point" near Murray Bridge, the property of the late H.W. Morphett. The Morphett Prize in Dairying is a Memorial to his nephew, Arthur Morphett (Gold Medalist in about 1901) who was killed in World War 1.

Then in 1927 partly due to good reports on Sub-Clover from Bob Harkness at Eldersley, Victoria, I took up some land near Binnun, S.E. It was heavily Gum covered and I set about converting it from 20 acre per sheep to 3 sheep per Acre. Now 50 years later I have retired to Buderim in Queensland to a garden and golf clubs.

"Aparra" (Aboriginal for 'Many Gums') is being efficiently carried on by my Daughter and Son-in-law, Colin Hope Murray, whose name sake Alex Murray looked down on us from his picture in the Dining Hall.

Happy Days at R.A.C.,

Sincerely,

Jim Ralph.

Thank you for the \$10 donation, your life membership is still current! Ed.

Box 174,  
Wongan Hills, 6603.  
13th May, 1978.

Sir,

Thanks to the producers of the R.O.C.A. Digest. As has been said so many times before it is a valuable communication link between widespread members of the Association.

The 1977 A.G.M. and Dinner was the first I had attended. It was a most enjoyable occasion and my only disappointment was that no-one else from my year attended. My thanks to the organisers of the dinner, keep up the good work. I will not be present at the 1978 gathering but hope to get to my 10 year re-union.

Life on a farm in the West is at present fairly quiet as we watch the skies daily for signs of follow up rains. There were good falls recorded in mid April but there has been nothing since. According to the locals there is still time for a good grain season but there is no stock feed available in the paddocks because of two dry years in succession plus cyclones and fires in some areas.

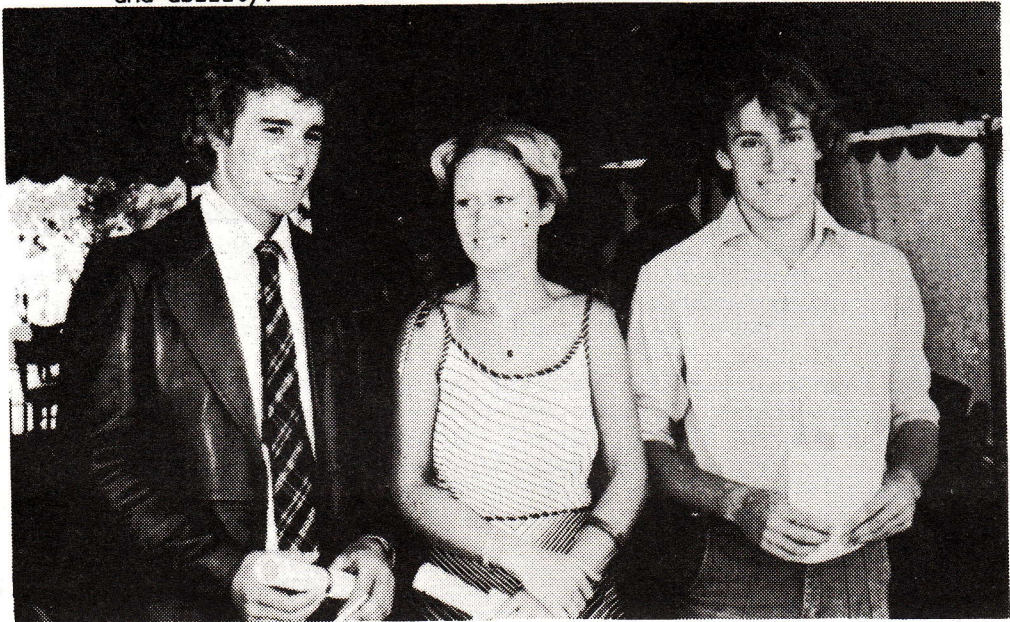
One interesting aspect of farm employment over here is a scheme which brings young New Zealanders (mostly male) over here to assist at seeding. The lads pay their own way over but after a minimum of 8 weeks they get their air fare home. Many do not return immediately to N.Z. but often spend their well earned pay either sight seeing in Australia or on Pacific cruises. As quite a number come over, this apparent using up of employment by over-seas visitors could cause some interesting discussion when one reads about the large numbers of Australian residents out of work.

IAN COOMBS

## Graduation Day 1978



Mr. W.F. (Bill) Nankivell (President, College Council),  
Dr. D. Hopgood (Minister of Education), Dr. D.B. Williams  
(Director) and Miss Ruth Robinson - recipient of the  
Gramp Hardy Smith Prize for best all round character  
and ability.



Mr. John Cooper and Miss Brenda Thorpe joint winners of the Richard  
Maxwell Memorial Prize for the best Stockman with David Morris  
Dux of first year.