



R.O.C.A. digest

Registered at the GPO Adelaide for transmission by post as a periodical - category B

VOL. 13 NO. 1

FEBRUARY 1979

PRICE 10C.

AWARD OF MERIT 1978



PRESIDENT'S NOTES...

Andrew Michelmore.

Firstly, thank you, members for giving me the honour of being your President 1978/'79. And thank you to the Committee members and the Digest Team.

Andrew Eastick has found the pressure of his work at Second Valley too much to continue as Secretary. When you read this, I hope that we will have a volunteer Secretary from the 'within 50 miles of Roseworthy' area. All you need is just a little spare time, and the will to help ROCA. Let's know!

The 1978 Reunion and Dinner was at near capacity again, and a great success. Thanks, again to all donors of wines.

The 10 and 25 year groups have been popular for many years. Some of the Re-hab. boys have asked for a group at the next Dinner, Yes, why not. Bill Edge is the contact man. Watch this space for further details.

Another first. Ruth Robinson was at the Reunion Dinner, and accepted nomination to ROCA Committee. How many in the over 40 year groups would have thought it possible.

While holidaying recently, I met Stan Klose (1933-36). He is now retired and living in Toowoomba. He recalls that he too spent many hours re-writing the Constitution.

Letters from Old Students are always welcome. At least a dozen or twenty old students will be interested in your activities.

The E.P. Branch re-union on the last weekend in February will be a 'must' for me again. Why not make it a date and see if the 'mainlanders' can out-number the Coasty ones.

On Open Day I met A.L. Warren, who was wearing ROCA Badge No. 48. He graduated in 1919. Also Jumbo Ninnes, Doug Mellor, Tom Gepp, Reg. French, Dave Purser and many others.

Thanks again to Arch Bevis, who put the finishing touches to the Constitution. We knew what it was all about before, but now we know the Constitution will be sound for a few years.

STOP PRESS

Alan Hoey has volunteered to do the Secretary's job.

1978 AWARD OF MERIT...

Henry Reeves Day

Henry Day graduated from Roseworthy with Second Class Honours in 1942. Immediately after graduation he enlisted with the AMF transferring later to the RAAF during which time he was awarded the DFM.

After the war Henry commenced an outstanding career with the Department of Agriculture, initially as Manager of the Minnipa Seed Wheat Farm where he showed keen interest in research which had a direct practical application.

In 1958 Henry became Manager of Parndana Research Centre and in 1966 was appointed Manager of Turretfield Research Centre.

In 1974 Henry was appointed Team Leader of the first group from the South Australian Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to go to Libya. This team commenced the development of the Australian Demonstration Farm at El Marj and advised the Jabel El Akhdar Development Authority on Southern Australian Dry Land Farming methods.

On his return to South Australia, Henry was appointed Acting Superintendent of Research Centres and has since been appointed Senior Agronomist with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

In 1976 Henry Day received the Order of Australia for his outstanding service to agriculture.

The President Ross Dawkins presented Henry with the Award at the Annual Reunion.

MEMBERS, PLEASE NOTE

The Committee reminds you that now is the time to start working on your nominations for the 1979 Award.

Contact Andrew Eastick or Andrew Michelmore for nomination forms which must be returned by the 31st May.

ANNUAL REPORT... Ross Dawkins

It is with pleasure that I present to you the Annual Report for 1978.

During the year many things have happened and probably the most important was at this year's Graduation Ceremony where we saw the last of the RDA as such. This has ended a 95 year era and of course the associated courses at the College have been replaced by either a Diploma of Applied Science Ag. or in the Oenology course a Bachelor of Applied Science Oenology.

There have been many associated courses set up and one may now receive an Associate Diploma in Winemaking, Farm Management etc.

I attended this years Graduation Ceremony where Peter Filsell was presented with the Old Students Cup and Bill Horwood was presented with the Sports Award. Our congratulations go to these two people.

The enquiry into Post Secondary Education revealed that as far as RAC is concerned the College will continue as at present. The report recommended close liaison with other educational bodies in South Australia.

In February my Wife and I attended the Annual Reunion of the E.P. Branch of this Association. The highly successful weekend was a credit to those who organised it and is a good model for other branches of the Association to follow.

Also we attended the Annual Dinner of ATA at which Bert Kelly was speaker.

During the year we noted the deaths of Old Collegions namely Hocking, Pownall, Conway and Richardson, and extend our sympathy to their families.

The memorial drinking fountain at the site of the old swimming pool has been preserved and will be relocated at some future date.

This year's award of Merit goes to Mr. Henry Day. Henry is a very worthy recipient having spent most of his working life with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Henry was the first Manager of the Libyan Demonstration Farm at El Marj and since his return to Australia received the Order of Australia.

I want to express my thanks to my Committee for their help during the last year. Also to Arch Bevis for his work on the Constitution and to Ian Rice who has been plagued with difficulties with the Digest through the year.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Constitution - as circulated to all members was accepted with two minor amendments and now becomes the Association's Constitution. The document is currently being retyped and will be available to members wishing to have a copy shortly.

Subscription - with the acceptance of the New Constitution the subscriptions can now be reviewed and set at the Annual General Meeting. The Life Membership sub was set at \$25-00 and Annual Members will now pay \$3-00/year.

Committee

The following were elected to the Committee for 1978/79 and are listed for your information.

If you have any queries or suggestions to make about the Association please contact any of the Committee.

- President - W.A. Michelmore,
Box 245, Nuriootpa, 5355
Phone: (085) 63 2831 (Home)
- Vice President - I.M. Rice,
C/- Agricultural College,
Roseworthy, 5371
- Secretary - A.B. Eastick,
"Gorge Farm", C/- Post Office,
Normanville, 5204 - temporary
- Treasurer - B.L. Wigney,
Box 50, Riverton, 5412
- Immediate Past President - R.M.G. Dawkins,
Leamington, Gawler River, 5118
- Graduating Year - Miss R.N. Robinson,
C/- Dept. of Agriculture and Fisheries,
Jamestown, 5491
- Graduated 1-10 Years - D. Manson,
C/- Dept. of Agriculture and Fisheries,
Jamestown, 5491

Ordinary Members - K. Cowley,
C/- Agricultural College, Roseworthy, 5371
H.V. Stephen,
Mitchell Avenue, Murray Bridge, 5253
J.A. Jones,
C/- Agricultural College, Roseworthy, 5371
I.P. Lewis,
2 Everest Avenue, Athelstone, 5076
Eyre Peninsula Proxy:
J. Richards,
2a Kilbryde Road,
Torrens Park, 5062

25 YEAR AND 10 YEAR GROUPS

Both of these groups were well organised and represented at the Annual Reunion and proved to be a highlight of the night, when the dining room of the Princes Berkley was filled to capacity.

Barry Graham organiser of the 25 year group has provided the following statistics about his year. In 1950 thirty six started first year, three years later (1953) twenty eight graduated with their RDA's. In 1978 sixteen of these graduates attended the reunion, eight sent apologies, one is deceased and only three did not reply. Most of this group are still connected with agriculture either as owners, managers, agri-business or government departments.

The 10 year group have not provided a written report, but the "grapevine" report is that they carried on for the whole weekend and some may still be suffering.

DEATH

It is with regret that we noted the accidental death of Doug Steen some weeks ago and we extend the associations sympathy to his family.

Doug attended the Reunion as a member of the 25 year ago group.

THE CUSTANCE CENTRE

Mr. Philp was the guest of honour at the opening of this new block of 8 houses at the College, on Open Day 14th October, 1978. The Custance Centre has been named after Professor J.D. Custance who was the first Principal of Roseworthy from 1883-1886. Each of the houses has been named after a former Principal, i.e. Lowrie, Towar, Perkins, Colebatch, Birks, Callaghan, McCulloch and Herriot.

Each house will accommodate five students or can be used as a home for a family, depending on the ever-changing needs of the College.

Mr. Philp gave a summary of the work of each of the nine former Principals. A unique feature was that he had direct contact with 6 of these, and served under 5 of them.

Dr. Williams has announced that these houses will be available for Old Students or Friends of the College, for rental as holiday homes during College vacations.

THE COLLEGE MUSEUM

A couple of years ago, it was announced that there would be a Historical Section of the College.

This is now well established with many fully restored items of old machinery, including active and static displays to record the history of Australian Agriculture. These displays seek to show the development of machinery and farming techniques, including the role of RAC in Southern Australia.

Old Students must have a vast collection of note books, text books, diaries, photos. If these are donated to the Museum, the family name will be recognised if desired. If you wish to keep the originals, photocopies of appropriate parts are urgently needed to fill the many gaps in recorded History.

Do you know of any near complete machines of yester year - An Illman winnower, early model seed and fertilizer disc drill, hoc drill, or any small item of machinery or tools will be appreciated. Just write to the College and tell them where or who to contact.

EYRE PENINSULA

24th & 25th FEB.

The Eyre Peninsula Committee have plans well in hand for their Reunion and you can be guaranteed of a good weekend.

For further information contact the Organising Secretary - Ken Holden - C/- Department of Agriculture & Fisheries - Adelaide Place, Port Lincoln, 5606.

Last year 60 attended the Reunion dinner while a smaller number but just as enthusiastic wives had their own dinner. Henry Day and Sally Day were the speakers at the respective dinners telling of the experiences in Libya. The picnic on Sunday at Billy Light Point proved to be as successful as ever.

If you want a good weekend and good West Coast hospitality make sure you come to Port Lincoln on the 24th and 25th February, 1979.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

Dear Sir,

In July, 1978 I had the opportunity to spend a few days on the delightful island of Cyprus.

Many Old Collegians will remember that Roseworthy College trained a number of Cypriots in the 1950's. Among their number was Mr. Ayhan Suphi who graduated with the writer in 1956.

After 22 years we had much to talk about. However, first a thumbnail sketch of the island to bring readers up to date on the political situation.

Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean with an area of 9,282 square kilometres. The highest peak on the island is Mount Trados, 1,950 metres. The island at its widest part is 90km.

Rainfall is about 1,000mm per year, underground water is used extensively for agriculture. 18% of the island is covered with forests, while citrus, olive groves, fruit trees and carobs are plentiful. Grain, fodder crops and grazing of livestock take the remainder of the arable land.

The main towns are Nicosia, Famagusta, Larnana, Limassol, Paphos and Kyrenia, towns and villages number about 600 mainly based on agricultural pursuits.

The history of the island goes back to Egyptian times. In 1571 it was conquered by the Turks and stayed under Turkish rule for 307 years. Cyprus was occupied by the British in 1878 in accordance with a defence alliance and was annexed by England after the First World War. In 1960 the island was granted independence and the Turkish and Greek Cypriot Communities founded in partnership, the Republic of Cyprus.

However, the two communities found that living together peacefully was beyond them and after a civil and military conflict in 1974 the two communities have been geographically separated.

The Turkish Cypriots have founded the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus in the north of the island.

The capital city, Nicosia is physically divided with U.N. troops manning the border.

Nicosia is the seat of Government and administration. [One house of 40 seats, three political parties, 10 ministers].

The population of the Turkish Federated State is approximately 200,000 and the land area represents about 40% of the island.

It was in the Turkish Federated State that I visited Ayhan, coming to Cyprus via the Istanbul and Ercan airports.

Following graduation in 1956 Ayhan worked in the industry here in Adelaide to obtain more technical and managerial experience. On his return to Cyprus he completed in 1958 the first milking premises at Guzelyurt, built to what may be termed 'western standards'.

Later he built and was the first General Manager of the Koop Dairy in Nicosia. This is a factory which processes fluid milk, yoghurt, soft and hard cheese and butter for much of the urban population of Nicosia.

The dairy industry in Cyprus has been influenced by Ayhan's knowledge acquired both at Roseworthy and from his practical experience in South Australian dairy factories.

It was obvious that he is well respected in dairy circles in his own country.

He still enjoys swimming and his passion for fine motor vehicles has not diminished since his College days. He has asked that I pass on his kind regards to all those that knew him.

During my stay in Cyprus I also met Mr. Djevdet who now lives in retirement in the Village of Pergamos. Mr. Djevdet was at Roseworthy in 1955 on study leave before taking the position of Principal of a Cypriot Agricultural College.

B.D. HANNAFORD

Dear Sir,

My grateful thanks to you for the periodic Edition of the Digest, which I much appreciate.

It is good to keep in touch with some of the College doings.

There are sure big changes in recent years, the big change being the shift from Agriculture Dept. to Education. But when there are over 300 students instead of 50, it seems that the move is meeting the need of the times.

But there is really not much incentive for a lad to go on the land as a lifetime occupation in these times. So the Old Order changeth. And of course we Old Boys deplore the superseding of the Distinction RDA, a distinction we were proud to have.

A couple of Digests past, you had reference to the late Bill Keaney. A splendid fellow. He had a younger brother, Fred, also at RAC. Think he enlisted WWI. Later he went to W.A.. He and Bill pretty well drifted apart, except for a Xmas contact. About the last Annual Dinner I attended I asked Bill about Fred and he told me some years before no Xmas Card, so he wrote, no reply. Went to W.A. to find out, and learned that both Fred and Wife were killed in a motor accident the year before, and no one advised him. Their Father was Storekeeper in Roseworthy, name Kuhne then, Bill changed his to Keaney during WWI.

I have 3 old photographs here [1] End of year 1910; [2] End of year 1911 and [3] Tennis Team 1910. Mr. W.J. Colebatch was Acting Principal 1910 while Professor Perkins has a Trip abroad. Wondered if College has an Archive Department and if these old photos any good; photos are OK but the mounting a bit worse for the years.

You stated in Digest that Exes getting a bit strong so am enclosing \$10-00 to print a few words of College News.

F.A. WHEATON

Box 14, Post Office,
Red Hill, S.A. 5521

"Thanks, Fred, you'll note that the College Museum is calling for old photos etc. in this issue". - Ed.

The Editor,
ROCA Digest

From R. Dawkins

Whilst attending the recent Melbourne Royal Show it was my privilege to accept the invitation of the Victorian Old Agricultural Collegians Association to attend their 1978 Annual Reunion which was held at "Tudor Court" Kooyong Road, Caulfield, Victoria.

The VOACA is made up of 3 College old Collegians viz. Dookie, Longerenong and Glenormiston.

It was interesting to note that approximately 250 old Collegians attended the Reunion dinner which made me feel proud of ROCA which manages to muster about half that number from one College.

Some of the bright spots of the evening were presentations of small gifts of cigars to those who travelled furthest - to the oldest member present and to those who replied to the dinner first.

The highlight was the presentation of a Magnum of Champagne to the best represented year.

One further point of interest is annual membership is \$5 p.a. with Hon. Life Membership something which is awarded only.

Digest Management Committee,

- Ian Rice, Editor
- Reg Hutchinson
- Ruth Robinson
- Dale Manson

Editorial material to:-

The Editor,
ROCA Digest,
C/- Agricultural College,
ROSEWORTHY, S.A. 5371



STUDENTS. . . 1918 Adelaide Show Visit.