

THE ROCA DIGEST

AUTUMN 2019

ROCA COMMITTEE REPORT



L-R Mark Rodda, Dick Turnbull, Dale Manson, David Coyner, Fiona Hill, Kate Forrest, Melissa Rebeck, Andrew Dennis



Travel anywhere across this wide brown land and you're likely to come across someone who either studied at Roseworthy, or knows someone who studied at Roseworthy.

Many of us can name ROCA folks in every state and territory, engaged in some really interesting careers. Think about this network in the context of having a ready supply of tour guides to new and interesting places, or simply using the network to suss out prospective job applicants for your organisation. Everyone seems to know someone associated with Roseworthy.

Aside from the 'here and now' usefulness of the ROCA network, there is also the preservation of the past. Many Old Collegians take an interest in days gone by and are keen to reminisce about their time on campus. Recently a terrific Old Collegian, Harry Stephen, sadly passed away. Harry dedicated a lot of time to this organisation over the years. His family kindly donated his Roseworthy blazer and collection of annual 'The Student' magazines to ROCA. Many things have changed through the decades, but I was amazed when thumbing through the pages of Harry's old "The Student" mags to learn how many traditions have stayed the same.

Aside from the various rundowns of sporting groups, courses and extracurricular activities, 'The Student' from 1969 listed an R.M. Williams advertisement, showing a pair of R.M. Williams Gardener boots, which are somewhat more expensive now than the \$13.60 they cost back then (including postage!) We currently have a submission in to R.M. Williams for sponsorship, to help us cover a portion of the costs of producing the printed version of our biannual ROCA Digest. If you currently receive a hard copy of the ROCA Digest but are able to receive emails, you can help ROCA by contacting us at roca.committee@gmail.com and advising us of your email address so we can send it to you electronically.

As for the present, there are some exciting things happening at Roseworthy Campus. The University of Adelaide has just established a new three-year degree B.Sc. Animal Behaviour. It is also now possible to do a four-year double-degree in B.Sc. Animal Behaviour and B.Sc. Animal Science. This is just one more way that the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy Campus is staying at the cutting edge of agricultural education.

The ROCA Committee is pleased to have finalised the details of this year's ROCA AGM and Reunion Dinner in Adelaide. Although everyone is welcome at this event on the third Friday in October, the focus is especially on those who graduated 10, 25, 40 and 50 years ago from Roseworthy. Please see the official invitation for details, and for year-group coordinator contacts for your cohort.

www.adelaide.edu.au/roca/news/annual-general-meeting/190422_2019_ROCA_DINNER_INVITATION_220419_002_.pdf

Keep an eye out for the next round of Roseworthy Graduate Profiles on social media, thanks to funding from the University of Adelaide's Alumni department. We are pleased to showcase a few of our achievers from a range of demographics and agricultural industries, so feel free to share these far and wide if there's someone amongst them that you know.

For now, let's all keep up the rain dances and hope the skies open up soon, to allow good broadacre crop establishment while the soil is still warm. Be it irrigated ag. or dryland ag., there sure are plenty of challenges out there for us at present – all the best to everyone helping to make agriculture a great space to work and play in!

Fiona Hill, ROCA President

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DAVID COYNER RECEIVES UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE ALUMNI FELLOW AWARD

On 11 April, friends, family and ROCA members attended the 2019 Alumni Fellow Awards Ceremony. David Coyner was one of only three Alumni throughout the University to be bestowed an Alumni Fellow Award.

David has been actively involved in the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association (ROCA) for the past 7 years and having just completed his two year term as ROCA President, is the Immediate Past President of this very active and flourishing Alumni group.

Whilst the constitution of ROCA allows a maximum 2 year term for its Presidents, David continues to lead the "History of Roseworthy" book organisation committee (a team determined to raise sufficient funds (circa \$200,000) to employ a researcher / author to capture the history of Roseworthy College / Campus.

David is also involved as a committee member in the 1999-2003 University of Adelaide Agricultural Alumni reunion, and has willingly offered his time to present at the recent Alumni Council Summit and volunteer 'photo shoot'.

Our current ROCA President resides in rural South Australia and David regularly stands in for the President at various functions where our President is unable to attend.

The ROCA Committee is extremely pleased that our nomination for David was successful and we congratulate and thank David for his ongoing dedication and commitment to ROCA.



David Coyner with Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Peter Rathjen



L- R: Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RAN, Chancellor of the University; Ray Reid, Kelly Coyner, David Coyner, Maggie Reid, Vice Chancellor Peter Rathjen

DALE MANSON RETIRES FROM ALUMNI COUNCIL

At the recent University of Adelaide Alumni Fellows Award, Dale Manson was also recognised for his significant contribution to the Alumni Council.

Dale was a member of the Alumni Advisory Committee from 2011 – 2013 and then the Alumni Council from 2014 -2019, when his term recently expired.

It well known that Dale has contributed enormously to the ROCA Committee, having been a member of the Committee since 1978 – current (41 years). During that time, some of Dale's other notable contributions included chairing the Roseworthy 125th Anniversary Commemoration Committee in 2007 and 2008 and Chairing the Distinguished Alumni Award selection committee for three years.

In recognition of Dale's ongoing efforts to the Alumni, Dale was honoured as an Alumni Fellow in 2013. On behalf of the Committee, we recognise and thank Dale for all that he has done in representing Roseworthy and Waite Campuses on the Alumni Council over many years.



Dale Manson receiving his certificate of appreciation from Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RAN, Chancellor of the University

GEOFFREY O'HALLORAN GILES - GRADUATE & PARLIAMENTARIAN

An omission from the Spring 2018 Digest article featuring Roseworthy graduates who served the community at the highest Parliamentary level was Geoffrey O'Halloran Giles (RDA 1949).

In 1959 he was elected to a Southern district seat in SA Parliament's Legislative Council as a Liberal and Country League (LCL) member. Geoffrey resigned from State Parliament in 1964 to contest the by-election for the Australian House of Representatives seat of Angas on behalf of LCL's federal counterpart, the Liberal Party.

He held Angas until its abolition in a redistribution in 1977, then serving as the Federal Member for the new seat of Wakefield until retiring in 1983. Geoffrey O'Halloran Giles passed away in 1990.

If anyone is aware of Roseworthy graduates who have provided Parliamentary service to the community, but have not already been included in the Spring 2018 or Autumn 2019 ROCA Digest listings, please send the information through to Dale Manson (manson.daga@bigpond.com).

VALE - PASSING OF ROCA MEMBERS

It is with our sympathy and condolences to their families, colleagues and friends that ROCA notes the passing of the following members:

FORWOOD, James Bower (RDA 1957)

GRANT, Richard Thorold (RDA 1950)

NANKIVELL, Brian Glen (RDA 1947)

STEPHEN, Harry Vernon (RDA 1948)

YOUNG, Gregory Bruce

WHERE ARE THEY NOW..? IT'S EWE TIME! – NARACOORTE, SA THURSDAY 28TH MARCH 2019

Roseworthy graduates out in force representing South Australia's primary industries and regions. Dr Jess van de Weyer, District Veterinary Officer, and Megan Willis, Animal Health Advisor, both based at Struan House in the state's South East, are just two of the many Roseworthy graduates whom attended the MLA event 'It's Ewe Time' on Thursday 28th March. It was a great opportunity for these two Roseworthy graduates to mingle with local producers at a professional yet social industry workshop event.



Megan Willis (left) & Jess van de Weyer (right)

Dr Jess van de Weyer graduated Roseworthy campus with Bachelor of Science (Animal Science) in 2010 before going on to complete her Veterinary Science degree in Wagga Wagga, NSW in 2016. Since then she has worked in mixed practice in South Australia and Local Land Services as a District Veterinary Officer in Dubbo, NSW, before returning back to SA for a job with Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) in early 2018. Jess always had her heart set on being a vet, and her time at Roseworthy confirmed the pathway to becoming a livestock veterinarian. Jess thoroughly enjoys working with producers to improve animal health and disease management, through property visits and producer workshops. She also has a keen interest in public health and disease surveillance.

Megan Willis, originally from Mannum, graduated Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences in 2018, focussing her final year of study undertaking livestock subjects at the historic Roseworthy Campus. She has now landed her dream job, Animal Health Advisor at the historic Struan House in the state's South East. In her two months at PIRSA, Megan has hit the ground running and enjoys all aspects of her role, from biosecurity, disease surveillance, to attending the weekly local sales at Naracoorte and Mount Gambier.

Jess and Megan have recently joined forces at the Struan office, working well together in promoting on-farm biosecurity through PIRSA's "One Biosecurity" program launched in August last year. These two Roseworthy girls may not originally be from the South East, but they have very much enjoyed settling into life in Penola. They hope to continue to build great rapport with local producers in the South East region. Say g'day to these two girls in navy if you see them out and about in the South East. At 5'8 and 6'0 tall, Jess and Megan aren't easy to miss!



2018 AWARD OF MERIT – JOHN CROSBY

On Friday 19 October the 2018 Award of Merit was presented to John Crosby.

There are very few people who have contributed to the immense success and prosperity of Australian agriculture to the extent that John Crosby has.

John has a long and prestigious history in both production and representation at the most senior levels.

He grew up on his family's farm near Alford on the Yorke Peninsula. After attending Kadina High School and Roseworthy Agricultural College, he moved to the family property at Naracoorte in the South East of SA where he farmed with his brother.



He then moved to Moree in northern NSW where the family cleared and developed a grazing property into a farm growing wheat, chick peas, sorghum, safflower and other crops, as well as cattle and sheep.

In 1994, John moved to a property closer to Canberra to fit with his growing interest in representing farmers within the National Farmers' Federation. In that same year, John led the National Farmers' Federation backed float of Elders, and after two years on the Elders Board, joined the senior management team where he acquired, developed and managed a diverse array of agribusinesses on behalf of Elders shareholders, farming clients across Australia and customers of Australian produce around the globe.

John has held many senior roles during his career – spanning livestock, grain, dairy, finance, technology and agribusiness advocacy. His thorough, balanced and proactive approach has and continues to assist many agricultural sectors and agribusinesses navigate their way through the challenges of domestic and international hurdles to increase the value and reach of their world class products.

John continues to be actively involved with the University of Adelaide's program to increase the importance of agricultural sciences, specifically with the Agricultural Education Fund, the Peter Waite Centenary Scholarship and as Chairman of the Agribusiness Advisory Board.

John Crosby is an extremely worthy recipient of the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association Award of Merit for 2018.

ROCA AWARD OF MERIT 2019

Nominations are now open for the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association (ROCA) Award of Merit 2019.

The Award of Merit is bestowed upon a member of ROCA who has made a meritorious contribution in any field of agricultural activity, including Association affairs.

The ROCA Award of Merit is regarded as the highest honor ROCA can bestow on one of its members.

Nominators are to provide details of their nominee's career since leaving Roseworthy plus details of their service to industry, the community and ROCA. As this background detail may take some time to collate, I urge nominators to start this important process as soon as possible.

Nominations close on 30 June 2019 and must be received at either PO Box 503, KENT TOWN, SA 5071, or roca.committee@gmail.com.

The 2019 Award of Merit will be presented at the ROCA Reunion Dinner in October.

Nomination forms are available on the ROCA website www.adelaide.edu.au/roca.

Please don't hesitate to call ROCA President Fiona Hill on 0438 864498 or email roca.committee@gmail.com for further information or assistance in this nomination process.

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
SPEECH MADE BY HON. Z.L. BETTISON MP
28 NOVEMBER 2018

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (11:52): I rise to support this motion and to talk about the contribution that women have made to agriculture in South Australia. South Australia was the first Australian state to establish an agricultural college, and it was a momentous event in the history of agriculture. Roseworthy Agricultural College opened in 1883 under the guidance of Professor John Custance. Many may not know that for the first 91 years of the college, from 1883 to 1974, its graduates were exclusively male. Many of these men went on to become the backbone of South Australia's agriculture, farm management, wine and rural business sectors.

In 1974, something happened to change the history of women in agriculture in this state. The first female graduate of Roseworthy Agricultural College was recently honoured and recognised by the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association, and I would like to share part of her story. Pam Dunsford entered Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1972, already possessing a degree in biochemistry and horticulture from the University of Adelaide.

At that time, Pam fancied her chances of entering her fourth and final year in Roseworthy's diploma of oenology (winemaking) course; however, the principal at the time did not see it that way. In fact, during her initial entrance interview the principal said she would never get a job in the wine industry, they would not employ a woman and a woman could not do the job, but she went on to prove him wrong.

At age 22, she was a residential student at Roseworthy, surrounded day and night by 180 young men. She said that she felt intentionally isolated because of the leadership, who hoped that she would fail. She went on to graduate in 1974 and was ultimately the first woman to occupy an important winemaking position in a large company, the first Australian female winemaker to become a wine show judge and among the first women wine educators and winemaking consultants in this country.

While there were several obstacles in her way, she worked and talked hard. She developed bravado designed to "bluff, tame and intimidate colleagues", as she says. Pam Dunsford went on to win a Churchill scholarship to France to study champagne production, and she was the first woman, French or otherwise, to be employed by Krug at vintage time, and she made some fine chardonnay and shiraz at Chapel Hill in McLaren Vale. Now she has retired from winemaking and, in 2007, she was honoured by the Australian government with an OAM for service to the wine industry as an oenologist, a judge and a promoter of the role of women in the fields of business development and tourism. She was also awarded a Centenary Medal by the Australian government in 2001.

In the 44 years since Pam Dunsford graduated from Roseworthy, much has changed. The college has accepted more and more female students into agriculture, wine and specialist programs like natural resources management and horse husbandry. In 1991, the college merged with the University of Adelaide and became the Roseworthy campus. In the last 15 years, the campus has developed an important focus on animal industries, including the new veterinary school and the new Bachelor of Science (Animal Science) course. Both these courses have been embraced heavily by female students. Many of these industries are seeing active contributions from Roseworthy graduates, both male and female.

As many in this house would know, I grew up in Kapunda, which is a farming community. When I was growing up, the contribution of women to farms was that they were often seen as a provider of a second income. They were often the local teachers or the nurses at the hospital, or perhaps they worked in administration at the council. Indeed, for many of the farmers they were blessed to have a stabilising regular income from a non-seasonal source.

This did not mean that women did not work on farms, but I would say that often they were considered the silent partner. Often they worked particularly around harvest time and supported their husband as he managed the farm. Today, many women are what I call public partners, acknowledged partners or they are leading farming businesses.

In South Australia, we also have a number of key organisations that have a strong role in supporting women in rural areas and in agriculture. Already we have heard today reference to the iconic Country Women's Association, which is still a powerful and resilient support and advocacy group for rural areas. There is Australian Women in Agriculture, a not-for-profit company advocating for women's roles in influencing the agenda of the agricultural sector—and can I acknowledge the South Australian director, Simone Kain.

There is the Women Together Learning Group in SA, with their catchphrase 'growing and inspiring women in agribusiness'. They are a group of women supporting each at the highest levels of agribusiness in this state. Women in Agriculture and Business of South Australia Inc., known as WAB, is a 101-year-old organisation. It is the oldest rural women's group in Australia, with a dynamic statewide branch network. It is an organisation for women interested in rural and agricultural business issues and offers an education, leadership opportunities and skills. I understand they have a very active branch here in South Australia.

I would also like to acknowledge the Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA), particularly under the previous Labor government, where they developed the Women Influencing Agribusiness and Regions Strategy, a strategy to grow women's influence and engagement. PIRSA also developed the Stepping into Leadership program to assist women in agriculture to grow their skills. In the six years since its inception, 82 women have completed the program, going on to fill important roles, including board positions and management roles. Participants have come from a wide range of regions and represent industries such as grain, livestock, dairy, fisheries, wine and horticulture.

I have always spoken about the importance of primary production, but it helps to remind ourselves how important this is to our state. In 2016-17, the food and wine industry generated \$19.97 billion for this state. Our agricultural commodity exports are valued at \$7.4 billion. One in five South Australians is employed in food and wine industries. These figures are significant, and as a state we cannot ignore the significant contribution that women have always made in agriculture and continue to make into the future.

Can I acknowledge all the women who have been there, often beside their husband, but who are now stepping out of their shadow to be more publicly a partner or leader in this field. We know that it takes a woman each time to make a difference. We have in South Australia our first ever Deputy Premier as a woman, who has brought this motion to the house. When women take these leadership roles, younger women recognise that they can, too, and that when the opportunity presents, because they certainly have the talent, they will go forward in these leadership roles, whether it be in politics or business.

The reason I talk about Pamela Dunsford's story today is that she had to break down barriers to take this leadership role. She is obviously in the world's best class in her abilities, recognised by Australian governments and by winning a Churchill Fellowship. These leadership roles are important. It is important to recognise the role they play and I support this motion to the house.

THE END OF THE ANZAC CENTURY FOR ROCA

By Richard (Dick) Turnbull

For the last five years I have been writing articles in the Digest about WW1, providing some stories of Roseworthians who fought in that conflict.

Being the only member on the ROCA Committee with some experience in the military and having developed an interest in this area, I felt I should be the one to lead ROCA through some of the commemorative events that took place during this period, badged by the government as the "ANZAC Century".

The 228 Roseworthy old collegians who enlisted did more than their fair share in that terrible conflict. I am no flag waving nationalist, regarding it as the cradle of fascism and xenophobia. However the efforts of our fore-fathers and mothers do need to be recognised and commemorated. While writing their biographies I gained a wider insights into the causes, sacrifices and consequences of that terrible war. Like many after the Vietnam War, I became very cynical regarding war and politics. I still am. However things are never straight forward. I attended several commemorative events in Europe over this "ANZAC Century", which for the most part were conducted in the right spirit, spoilt only slightly by the few flag wavers who still didn't get it.

I have felt the historical record needs to be corrected a little in many of our minds regarding WW1. The great efforts put in by our old collegians, their comrades and their families one hundred years ago, were not futile, as many still believe.

Richard Turnbull RDA 1969

Were Their Efforts Futile?

In recent years the volume and quality of the historical dissertation on WW1 has grown almost exponentially in this digital age. This is changing some of the popular but understandable reactions to the Great War, such as "the soldiers were - lions led by donkeys", and that the "Blackadder" view of military leadership was typical of the time. This is all very entertaining, however I am certain our returning Roseworthians in 1919 would not have appreciated this humour, as it tended to trivialize their actions in that horrendous war. Personally I think they were proud of their efforts and one side of their character would not have appreciated the popular glib satirical attitude that has arisen. Perhaps it is time to give these old Collegians and their fellow soldiers proper credit for their deeds and not bury it in the great satire that came out of WW1. However I am certain the lighter side of their personalities would have seen the humour in this satire. As a soldier in Vietnam, I was greatly amused when at Vung Tau, I watched the brilliant British satirical anti war movie "Oh What a Lovely War" and later laughed heartily at Rowan Atkinson's Blackadder TV skits. The humour, satire and pathos were spot on. However truth is more complicated than this.

It is now clear from the historical record, these returning Australian soldiers were particularly proud of their successes in battle and the major role they played in ending the war, and did not want us forget it. By time the war ended the initial sense of puffed up Nationalism, had well and truly left them. To understand their service we need to look beyond the common myths. They were not "lambs led to slaughter" and their efforts were not futile. Once Germany had decided to activate the Schlieffen Plan (first drawn up in 1906), Britain had no choice but to enter the war when massed German forces invaded France via Belgium, even if there was no Triple Entente treaty. Behind the bravado and nationalist jingoism, most soldiers could see the dark intentions of Germany and believed in their cause, even in their darker moments.

The testimony to this is the almost super-human effort that they put in at the end of that long war. One could argue if they had no belief in the virtue of the allied cause, they would not have fought so hard. On the 21 March 1918, Germany launched Operation Michael, the long anticipated spring offensive. 63 German divisions stormed over a 100 km front held by 26 British divisions. The Germans had been bolstered by 50 fresh divisions brought in from Russia, putting them at a numerical advantage. The government in Paris was preparing to evacuate to Bordeaux.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E03895

Above: AIF Headquarters, Bertangle France, 12 August 1918 - Investiture of Lt Gen, Sir John Monash by the King, four days after the great Australia victory in 8th August.

The weakest point was in the Somme River area 15 Km east of Amiens and 80 km north of Paris. In desperation the British moved 4 of the 5 Australian divisions from south from Flanders to help blunt the German advance east of Amiens. Essentially the Michael Offensive ended when the Australians took back Villes-Bretonneux on 25th April, but they were not finished.

After four years of war the Australians had mastered the skills of the battle field and their morale was substantially intact. Morale in the British army which was almost entirely made up of conscripts in 1918, was at its lowest ebb. Historians attribute the relatively high morale in the Australian Corp to a more a egalitarian and less class driven structure in the all volunteer Australia army. An army, which was better led in 1918 with a young officer corps that had risen by attrition through the ranks and had learnt their lessons the hard way. In May 1918 the British high command promoted the engineer, lawyer and citizen soldier John Monash, to Lieutenant General, placing him in command of all five Australian divisions in France. For the first time all the Australian divisions were under a unified Australian command. Monash's planning and execution of the highly successful Battle of Hamel on 4th July, winning in 93 minutes with few casualties, demonstrated to the British high command they had made a good choice in selecting Monash. His "all arms" approach became the model for the British Army in future successful engagements. He was no donkey and his soldiers were proud to be lead by him.

Another major victory on the 8th August, planned by Monash and spear-headed by Australians, lead to a series of victories that brought the war to an unexpected early end in November 1918. This victory on 8th August in the Australian sector was referred to by Ludendorff, the German supreme commander and effective dictator of Germany, as the "black day" for the German Army. Historians at the time never really credited these victories to the Australians and the Canadians, who were the only really effective large formations in the British Army in France of 63 depleted divisions. In those days most British and American historians just referred to the British Army or occasionally to the "Commonwealth Forces". The Americans with their over 1.5 million men in France were still in the training phase and were not planning to enter the war fully until 1919.

In August the French and British were planning their next big offensive to completely remove the German threat to Amiens. Monash was asked to plan and direct this offensive played a key role in its planning. He employed It was his 5 divisions of the Australian Corp, 4 divisions of the Canadian Corp and 1 British Division, that launching ed this offensive attack on 8th August 1918. The battle was over within 9 hours, again with relatively few casualties and huge German losses. Ludendorff, the German supreme commander and effective dictator of Germany, called this day the "blackest day" for the German Army. Historians refer to this day as the start of the 100 Day Offensive which culminated in the Armistice of 11th November. Sensing victory, Monash drove his soldiers on, resulting in a large increase in casualties, for which he has been severely criticised by some. The ensuing allied battles, often spear-headed by Australians, resulted in the first breaching of the Hindenburg line on 5th October, bringing the war to an unexpected and rapid end a month later. Hardly a futile effort.

Historians at the time never really credited these victories to the Australians and the Canadians, who were the only really effective large formations in the British Army in France of 63 depleted divisions. In those days most British and American historians just referred to the British Army or Occasional to the Commonwealth Forces. There Americans with their over 1.5 million men in France where mostly still in the training phase and were not planning to enter the war fully until 1919.

In his 21 March 1919 Speech Day address at Roseworthy, the principal, WJ Colebatch, remarked that since the previous speech day, 27 crosses had been added to the newly unveiled Honour Roll in the foyer of the main building, bringing the total deaths to 48. Thus well over half the Roseworthians killed in WW1 occurred during the last 7 months of WW1. This reflected the spike in the casualties rates in those final last three months of 1918, as Monash pressed his men. However even though near exhaustion they obeyed, as the end was in sight as success followed success. This point was not really appreciated by a war weary Australian public in late 1918, 12000 km away. These men when they returned home in dribs and drabs during 1919, probably expecting a better reception from the Government and the newspapers than they got. Instead they had to rely on their families for a proper reception, many of whom did not really know what they had been through and they did not want to tell them.

My feeling now is, because of a better understanding of history, the negative views of soldiers following WW1 and still widely held today, of lambs led to the slaughter by inept officers for a pointless cause, needs to be rethought. The 180 Roseworthy Collegians who returned out of the 228 who went, did not received proper the credit due to them from the public at large. As we near the end of this Anzac Century, we need to be reminded of their successes as well as their sacrifices. Through these experiences we still need to hold our leaders to account. Of current concern is the US President Donald Trump.

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Tin Tabernacle – blast from the past!

Many of us will remember the 'New Boys Test' as part of our initiation into life at the College in our first couple of weeks as First Years.

On a blank map of the college, among all the buildings, staff houses, landmarks, facilities etc to identify, there was an old galvanized iron hall at the very north of the staff houses along the road to Wasleys just short of the entrance to the old Piggery. This was known as the 'Tin Tabernacle'. The proper name was actually the Kangaroo Flat Hall but no one at College seemed to know that. There didn't seem to be much other information about it. It didn't belong to the College and I don't think any student had been in it for a long time when I started in 1968.

However, during two recent oral history recordings, one with the Hon Dr Bruce Eastick AM (RDA 1947) and the other with Brian Condon OAM (RDA 1946), they both talked about the Saturday night dances held every month, an important event on the social calendar for male students at the time.

Back to the beginning: In 1929, the local Girl Guides needed a hall, so a committee was formed. The College Principal at the time, Walter Birks, chaired the first committee. A loan was secured from the State Bank for a hall to be constructed on land (about ½ hectare) purchased from Bill Fairley for £25. The hall cost £270, built by Sidney Halford Pimlott, completed in 1931.

However, the Girl Guides and Scouts got into financial difficulties and could not service the loan. A group of locals came forward and took over the Hall that was then used for indoor bowls, table tennis, dances, wedding receptions, meetings and other events. The Kangaroo Flat Indoor Bowling Club was formed in 1934 and is still going! The Table Tennis Club started in 1953, an added activity enjoyed by the locals. I must say that so far in my research I have not found any reference to student participation in the bowls and table tennis. Perhaps they wanted these activities for the locals only and didn't want to get swamped by a mob of lads!

The dances were another matter though. Both Brian Condon and Bruce Eastick had attended these. Bruce ended up as MC in his last couple of years as a student. Bruce recalls that there was a fairly good supper laid on at the dance and to the young men at Roseworthy College, young women and good food were both attractive (especially as there was food rationing at the time). However, there was a bit of a scheme hatched by the senior students. Young women were chaperoned by their mothers who brought the supper. So to ensure a regular supply of supper, the First Years were directed to make sure all the girls had regular dances during the evening. There were to be no 'wallflowers' at this dance – if girls stopped attending it would decrease the supply of good suppers! The band was a simple ensemble of a pianist and a basic drum kit. A piano accordion or other instruments joined in on some nights. The dances waned as motor transport became more common and Gawler became the main attraction for socialising.

The Hall is a great survivor given its age and wooden structure. There is reference in the Club Minutes to the Hall being treated for white ants in 1956. Perhaps they used DDT which, with a shelf life of 50 years, would account for its resilience, given it's still standing on wooden stumps 87 years later.

Ms Evelyn Stanley, a descendent from one of the original families that started the Indoor Bowling Club, is now 'anchor person' for the club and has lived through its entire history. She very kindly agreed to show us around - the Hon Dr Bruce Eastick, David Purdie (Manager of Student Services) and myself. The Hall interior is a step back in time, well preserved with accompanying memorabilia of honour rolls, tournament pennants, photos, framed certificates etc. If those walls could talk, a lot of local history would be recalled.

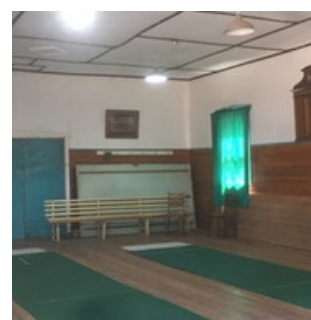
David Spencer (RDAT 1971)

Photos: Left: David Purdie and Bruce Eastick at Tin Tabernacle

Top Right: Bruce Eastick and Evelyn Stanley at Tin Tabernacle 2019

Middle Right: Kangaroo Flat Indoor Bowling Club TT 2018

Bottom Right: Outside the Tin Tabernacle



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT – BUY YOUR PLONKY'S PICK TODAY



Over many years, deserving students have received prizes and scholarships from ROCA to assist them with their studies at the Roseworthy Campus.

Everyone who attended this great place knows it is always tough being a student and surviving financially from day to day. The assistance provided by ROCA helps in a small but significant way to make their life a little better so that they can achieve their best potential.

How does ROCA provide this funding? Only by selling our fundraising wine to our members, friends and families.

So why not remember back to when you were a student and think how great it would have been to get a leg up and receive a little bit of assistance so that you could get on with studying and worry a bit less about how you were going to pay the bills.

All YOU have to do to help the current batch of students is buy some of our highly renowned Plonky's Pick wine and the ROCA committee will do the rest.

The win-win in this scenario is that the selected student gets a cash prize or scholarship, and you get some fantastic wine to add to your cellar.

As many a knowledgeable person has said, "life is too short to drink crap wine" and this certainly applies in this case. Plonky's Pick continues to be supplied by our Roseworthy graduates and generous supporters from O'Leary Walker Wine. This year we are selling their O'Leary Walker 2016 Clare Shiraz and it is a beauty.

To reiterate, all "Plonky's Pick" proceeds go towards ROCA prizes and scholarships. So please, do yourself a favour and fill out an order form today to grab some of this great wine, and do your bit to support the next batch of ROCA graduates.

Wherever possible, orders will be delivered free of charge within regional SA, or can be collected from 33 Hutt Street, Adelaide.

You will note that we have also changed our label so as to ensure that it stands out in your wine rack and when you take a bottle to that next important dinner !

For your Plonky's Pick orders, please fill in the order form in this Digest, or visit:

www.adelaide.edu.au/roca/support/plonkyspickwine

Alternatively, contact me directly on 0419 816 188 or **adrosewood@internode.com.au**.



R.A.C. "PLONKY'S" MEMORABILIA DISPLAY

Did you know that some of Australia's most awarded winemakers studied at Roseworthy Ag College?

Do you own a piece of Roseworthy wine history that you'd like to loan for a RAC wine memorabilia display at Roseworthy campus?

ROCA is currently seeking any interesting wines with a Roseworthy label, to construct a display of RAC bottles from across the years. The display will be secured in a locked glass display cabinet in the dining hall, meticulously cared for by the Manager of Student Services, and overseen by ROCA.

If you would like to contribute to this display, ROCA would love to hear from you! Call Fiona Hill on 0438 864498 any time.

PASSING OF HARRY STEPHEN - ROCA STALWART

Roseworthy Student, Staff Member, ROCA Committee Stalwart, Old Collegian

With the passing of Harry Stephen (RDA 1948) in February 2019, ROCA lost the longest serving contributor to the Association in its 121 year history.

Harry Stephen devoted his life to the ROCA Committee for a continuous period of 57 years, initially joining as Honorary Treasurer in 1951 and fulfilling all committee roles including three terms as ROCA President, until retiring from the committee in 2008 after a record stint.

However his association with Roseworthy Agricultural College was actually much longer. In fact it was a 74 year commitment that commenced in 1945 when he first entered the College as a student.

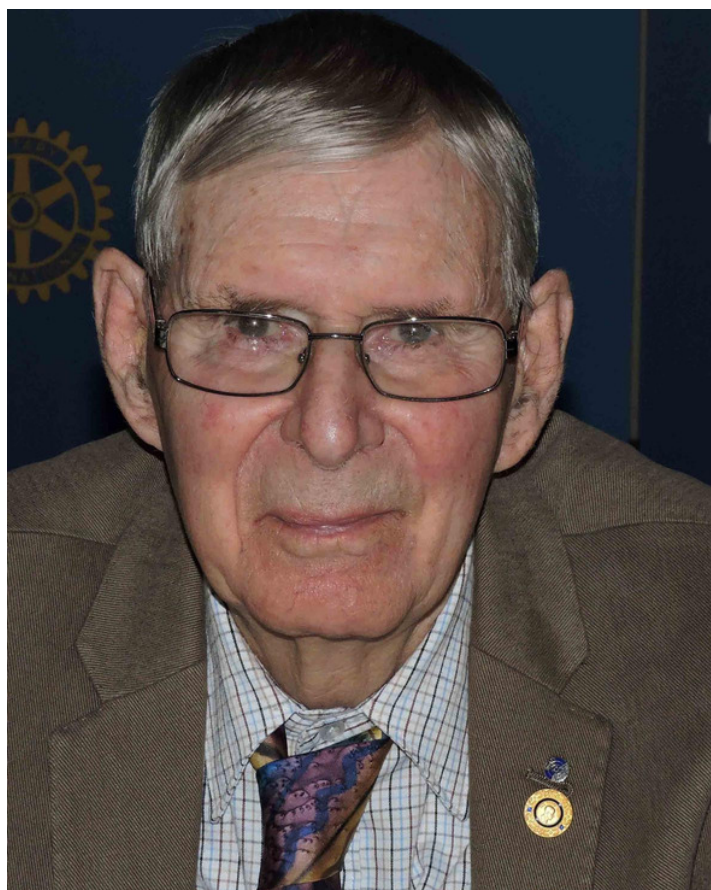
Following graduation with a Roseworthy Diploma in Agriculture in 1948, Harry immediately joined the College staff as a Sheep Research Technical Officer in the Animal Production Laboratory (AP Lab).

In 1958 he took on the College position of Instructor in Poultry, fulfilling this role until leaving to join the SA Department of Agriculture's poultry team at Murray Bridge in 1966.

At Roseworthy, Harry Stephen contributed in large measure to the Australian Government's thrust to ensure that returning World War II servicemen intending to take up Soldier Settlement landholdings were suitably equipped with the skills and knowledge to succeed.



Harry Stephen - at Roseworthy,
Manager of the 1949 Cricket Team



Harry Stephen, aged 88

Initially studying alongside three mature battle hardened post-war "Rehab Students" during his own student years, Harry then went on as a Roseworthy staff member to provide leadership and guidance for a large number of "Rehab Students". In 1947, 50% of the Roseworthy student intake comprised "Rehab Students".

Harry Stephen's role in the "WW II Rehab Student" years of the late 1940's and 1950's was very important to the nation, as the Australian Government was committed to not repeat the post World War I experience of having returning WWI servicemen intending to take up Soldier Settler blocks enter their future occupations without suitable training in agricultural production.

From the start of his life growing up in the country during the Depression years on farms at Ulooloo in the Mid-North of South Australia, Harry Stephen was determined to make his mark in the agricultural sector.

Harry undertook his secondary education during the early war years at Urrbrae Agricultural High School, receiving a scholarship as a 16 year old to enter Roseworthy Agricultural College during the final year of the war in 1945.

Harry Stephen's RDA course commenced with an intake of 39 students in 1945, but finished with only 20 graduates in 1948. The study and practical work were hard and extremely applied. Of the 20 RDA graduates of 1948, only one now survives in 2019.

In recognition of Harry Stephen's dedication to ROCA, he was the recipient of many honours:

- ROCA Honourary Life Member - 1969;
- ROCA Centenary Medal - 1999;
- Framed parchment (60 years in ROCA) - 2008;
- Inducted as an "Alumni Fellow" - 2014.

In his 90th year and ailing, October 2018 saw Harry Stephen attend his final ROCA Reunion Dinner in the grand ballroom of the InterContinental Hotel. At that occasion, Harry was invited to participate in a unique photo opportunity with other key players in Roseworthy's historic 1991 merger with the University of Adelaide. Accompanying Harry were former Federal Education Minister, Hon John Dawkins AO (RDA 1968); former Roseworthy College Governing Council President, Hon Dr Bruce Eastick AM (RDA 1947); former RAC Deputy Director, Dr Martin Andrew.

Harry Stephen was an integral part of ROCA and Roseworthy's history. To provide perspective, it must be remembered that he grew up in era of people such as Tom Roberts, Banjo Patterson, Rudyard Kipling, Sidney Kidman and Thomas Edison.



Above: Harry's ROCA life membership invoice



WANTED: R.A.C. "THE STUDENT" YEAR BOOKS

Do you have any R.A.C. Year Books in your possession?

We have a great collection so far (here's just a few of them), but we do have a few gaps. Pre-1945 is of particular interest, as is the 1980's period.

Whether you'd like to loan them to ROCA, or donate them outright, please contact Fiona Hill on 0438 864498.

WORLD RANKINGS: VET SCIENCE IS A NEW JEWEL IN THE CROWN

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2019 for the University of Adelaide underline its position as a world-class research and teaching institution.

Veterinary science, taught at the University's Roseworthy campus, is a stand-out result in a suite of impressive results, joining the top 50 for the first time.

"The University of Adelaide is ranked 43rd in the world for veterinary science and 4th in Australia," says Professor Wayne Hein, Head of the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences and Dean of Roseworthy campus.

"This is a fabulous achievement for an 11-year-old veterinary school, and I congratulate and thank all the staff for the hard work, dedication and professionalism shown over that short journey."



In 2008 the University of Adelaide's School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences admitted its first cohort of undergraduates to the Roseworthy campus.

"After just 11 years this result confirms that our research and teaching at the University's School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences is among the best in the world," says Professor Hein.

The QS rankings demonstrate strengths in other subject areas delivered by the University.

- Mineral and mining engineering: 26th in the world;
- Dentistry: 31st in the world;
- Nursing: 42nd in the world;
- In the 51-100 band: medicine, law, engineering-chemical and civil, agriculture and forestry, anatomy and physiology, earth and marine sciences, environmental sciences, geography, accounting and finance, anthropology, philosophy;
- In the 101-150 band: architecture, English language and literature, computer sciences and information systems, electrical and electronic engineering, biological sciences, psychology, mathematics, physics and astronomy, economics and econometrics, education;
- In the 151-200 band: business and management, communications and media studies; chemistry, materials sciences, mechanical engineering, politics and international studies, sociology, history.

The QS World University Rankings by Subject are calculated according to a function of the University's academic and employer reputation, citations, and an index of research productivity and impact.

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DONATIONS REQUIRED FOR ROCA MEMORABILIA COLLECTION

ROCA members are being encouraged to consider donating items of historic interest connected with RAC.

The ROCA Committee is currently preparing an exhibition of memorabilia and historic items for public display in the Roseworthy Main Building.

Donation of items such as old RAC blazers, sporting mementos, trophies, buttons, medals, badges, student magazines and assorted memorabilia would be appreciated.

Old Collegians cleaning out stored material from their homes or that of relatives often find themselves

throwing interesting items in the bin simply because they don't know where else to store it.

Anything of interest to ROCA or relevant to Roseworthy Agricultural College would definitely be appreciated by the ROCA memorabilia collection.

If the items are located near a ROCA committee member, we will be able to arrange personal collection. For items located further afield, ROCA should be able to sort out a convenient solution for collection.

Anyone with items of interest can e-mail ROCA at: roca.committee@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATES

1999-2003 Roseworthy & Waite Reunion

Saturday 3 August 2019 | National Wine Centre

More information: Carolyn McLean, Alumni Relations Officer - 83136353 | carolyn.mclean@adelaide.edu.au
www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/reunions/upcoming-class-reunions/1999-2003-roseworthy-and-waite-reunion

121st ROCA Annual General Meeting and Reunion Dinner

Friday 18 October 2019 | Stamford Plaza Adelaide

More information included in this ROCA Digest or email: roca.committee@gmail.com

www.adelaide.edu.au/roca/news/annual-general-meeting/190422_2019_ROCA_DINNER_INVITATION_220419_002_.pdf

GRADUATE GROUP COORDINATORS

50 Years (1969) – Dick Turnbull (0437 755034 / randcturnbull@bigpond.com)

40 Years (1979) – Ron Shattock (0427 932293 / farmers3@activ8.net.au)

25 Years (1994) – Kym Thiel (0437 939 119 / kym.thiel@outlook.com)

10 Years (2009) – Corbin Schuster (0429 939 582 / corbinschuster@msn.com)

1985-1989 Wine Reunion

Saturday 5 October 2019 | National Wine Centre

More information: Carolyn McLean, Alumni Relations Officer - 8313 6353 | carolyn.mclean@adelaide.edu.au
www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/reunions/upcoming-class-reunions/1985-1989-wine-graduates-and-post-graduates-reunion

CONTACT ROCA

Feel free to contact us to advise news, Award of Merit nominations, member searches, wine orders, ROCA Digest articles, details of regional reunions, the Annual Dinner Reunion, or anything else ROCA related:

roca.committee@gmail.com or

PO Box 503

Kent Town SA 5071

"ROCA: Your link to Roseworthy"



ROCA AWARD OF MERIT *Past recipients*

The Award of Merit is regarded as the highest honour ROCA can bestow on one of its members.

1961 Roland Hill OBE †
1962 Dr David Riceman †
1963 Len Cook †
1964 William Dawkins OBE †
1965 Frank Pearson †
1966 Sir Allan Callaghan CMG †
1967 Bob Herriot OBE †
1968 Denis Muirhead †
1969 Jack Reddin OAM †
1970 Ron Badman †
1971 Prof Rex Butterfield †
1972 Rex Krause
1973 Rex Kuchel †
1974 Lex Walker AM †
1975 Ken Pike †
1976 Len Laffer †
1977 Des Habel †
1978 Henry Day AO †
1979 Dr Mark Hutton †
1980 Cliff Hooper †
1981 Andrew Michelmore †
1982 Milton Spurling †
1983 Ralph Hewett Jones †
1984 David Suter †
1985 Hon Dr Bruce Eastick AM
1986 Dr John Obst †
1987 Robin Steed
1988 Reg French †

1989 Ray Norton †
1990 Tony Summers †
1991 Scott Dolling OAM †
1992 Rex Anderson
1993 Bob Baker †
1994 Brian Hannaford †
1995 Grant Mayfield
1996 Robert Knappstein †
1997 James Pocock †
1998 Ian Young
1999 Don Moyle
2000 Grant Paech †
2001 Brian Jefferies AM †
2002 Dr Graham Mitchell AO
2003 Philip Laffer AM
2004 John Vickery OAM
2005 Ronald Mertin AM †
2006 Brian Wilson
2007 Wilf Bowen
2008 Philip Young AM
2009 Ian Hickinbotham OAM †
2010 Dr Ray Beckwith OAM †
2011 Raymond Taylor †
2012 Vic Patrick OAM
2013 Alan Richardson
2014 Hon. Peter Dunn
2015 Richard Fewster
2016 David Lewis OAM
2017 Rev Brian Polkinghorne
2018 John Crosby

(† Deceased)

1999: ROCA Centenary Medal - Harry Stephen

2017: Icon of Roseworthy - Hon Dr Bruce Eastick AM



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