

ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION INC

Minutes of the Committee Meeting

held on Monday, 23rd March 1992

At Roseworthy College commencing at 7.45pm

PRESENT:

Messrs Peter Dunn, Don Chambers, Peter Fairbrother, Paul LeLacheur, Harry Stephen, Harold Woolhouse, Allan Alcock, Peter Lewis, Dale Manson, Bardy McFarlane.

APOLOGIES:

Richard Carter, Steven Ball, Andy Mitchelmore, Ray Farrelly

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday, 25th February 1992 read and confirmed. Moved Peter Dunn, seconded Peter Lewis.

BUSINESS ARISING:

Archival Material

Prior to the meeting the Committee inspected the archival material presently stored in the attic of the main building. It was obvious that this needs to be re-housed and properly catalogued. The Committee also looked at the Old Tassie Library. After considerable discussion the following course of action was decided:

- Harold Woolhouse to arrange the control of insects and rodents in the attic while the collection remains there.
- Allan Alcock will arrange for the University Archivist to look at the materials and give advice on storage and cataloguing.
- Allan Alcock will arrange to have the archival material shifted to a more appropriate work room.
- It was resolved to make up to \$100.00 available for the purchase of goods recommended by the archivist - moved Dale Manson, seconded Paul LeLacheur carried.

- It was resolved to give Allan Alcock discretion to acquire some storage facilities up to \$100.00. Moved Peter Lewis, seconded Harold Woolhouse carried.
- Paul LeLacheur agreed to provide a spare filing cabinet - Allan Alcock to arrange collection.
- It was agreed that the Committee have a working weekend to clean up the collection and catalogue as far as possible. The weekend of April 11 and 12 was chosen, Allan Alcock will arrange catering and any accommodation if needed. The following Committee members indicated they would be available for at least part of that weekend:-

Jack Richards one day, Dale Manson two days, Paul LeLacheur one day, Peter Dunn one day, Don Chambers one day, Peter Fairbrother one and a half days, Harry Stephen one day, Allan Alcock two days, Bardy McFarlane one day.

- It was proposed the working bee start at 10.00am on Saturday. A notice will be sent to all members of the Committee advising details. It was also decided that current students should be encouraged to assist.

Annual Dinner

The quotation for the annual dinner at Roseworthy is \$25.00 per head. This includes a three course meal, cheese and greens, tea and coffee and some initial drinks on the table. It was decided that Bardy McFarlane and Dale Manson should further consult with the dining room manager with an aim to getting a meal price of \$23.00 per head. This will allow a \$2.00 loading (to bring the price to \$25.00) which will be used to pay for guests at the dinner.

Mini Diplomas

The Student Union Council have accepted the contract to prepare and plasticise the diplomas. Unfortunately it will not be done in time for graduation and so diplomas will have to be posted out. As a result it was decided that a one page letter from the

Association, congratulating the students on their graduation and pointing out the features of ROCA and the value of life membership should be put in with each mini diploma. The design of the mini diploma will have to be changed. Dale Manson will contact the Faculty. Registrar, John Haig, to re-design the front of the cards. The reverse side will remain unchanged.

Congratulation Day Prizes

Dale Manson has arranged for the purchase of the two prizes. The Association also provides the gold medal for Dux of Natural Resource Sciences. The Faculty arranges this and then forwards the account to ROCA for payment.

Honorary Life Membership

The question of Honorary Life Membership was still under consideration by Harry Stephen and Dale Manson.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer reported that three life memberships have been received. The following accounts were approved for payment.

Postage of digest : \$636.00
 Printing : \$650.00
 Type Setting : \$112.00
 President's Travel Expenses to attend Pt
 Lincoln dinner : \$85.00

Moved Peter Lewis, Seconded Harold Woolhouse.

After some discussion regarding the state of the Association's finances it was requested that the Treasurer look at the financial position and present a critical report at the next meeting.

One of the major ongoing expenses is production and posting of the Digest. A positive sponsorship arrangement should be sought.

DEAN'S REPORT:

Professor Woolhouse responded to the rumours which had been circulating regarding the axing of practical work and sale of portion of the College farm. In particular he made the following points:

- The Faculty is under extreme financial pressure and accordingly they have been looking very carefully at the farming

operation of the Faculty. They have closed Bolivar and are making the research operations pay for Charlicks and Glenthorne.

- There is a considerable debate in progress as to how the farm at Roseworthy should be run. Professor Woolhouse is taking advice from outside the University (Grant Mayfield and Jim Pocock) regarding the best method of utilising the farm. There may be a case for experience to be gained off the farm.
- Before any changes would occur they must be approved by the Advisory Group on Agricultural Technology, the Faculty Committee (headed by David Taplin) and the Faculty Board.
- One of the problems is that the Department of Agricultural Technology which theoretically should utilise the farm the most as a teaching tool do not have control of the Faculty. By the same token, they do not utilise the farm properly as it presently stands.
- The farm is running at a \$300,000.00 loss because it is over staffed. The argument is that it is over-staffed because it needs to provide an educational facility. Currently the intensive industries (Piggery, Poultry and Dairy) are all in balance and contributing to cash flow. It is the broad acre farming that is "behind the eight ball".
- The Ag. students at the WAITE have to do 16 weeks of practical work on farms during their course and this must be verified by certificate. All this work is arranged by the students, not by the University.
- The Faculty currently spends about \$1,000.00 per student on equipment and consumables in the under-graduate practical area.
- The Roseworthy farm is currently 3,000 acres with a further 1,000 acres being leased.

- It is estimated that the income from the sale of the Northfield land will be in the order of \$90 million. \$50 - \$60 million of that will be spent on the WAITE campus with \$30 - \$40 million going to Treasury.
- The aim of the Faculty in the future is to get the production side of agriculture on to the Roseworthy campus.
- The Department of Agriculture are being encouraged to bring their piggery and poultry facilities on to the campus. In conjunction with this the Adelaide University's Technology Company is being encouraged to put some of their genetic development into the college piggery. This would allow establishment of a research piggery and poultry unit with funds derived from other than the Faculty. The trade off is a peppercorn rental being offered.
- It may well be that the experimental work on sheep currently on campus may ultimately go to Turretfield.
- The various departments are now offering an honours year (4th year) with the research facilities located at Roseworthy being utilised.
- The Faculty has a commitment to the practical orientation of courses as well as scientific and research components.

Committee members then made a number of comments including:

- On the assumption that the farm is used for training, the quality of education should not be influenced by fluctuation in the enterprise prices and popularity.
- The farm should be retained as a show piece of agriculture in South Australia.

In summary, no part of the farm was to be sold off (in fact the contrary had occurred recently with the purchase of a further 18 hectares) and there would be a continuing commitment to the practical aspects currently on the farm. However it was important that the organisation remained dynamic and encouraged discussion in a rational environment. If this did not occur, there is

a chance the courses would stagnate and become irrelevant. In that situation, the things ROCA were fighting against, may become a reality.

It was resolved that the President prepare a press release on behalf of ROCA making sure that ROCA's stance is clearly understood but emphasising the need to continually review what is going on. Moved Harry Stephen, seconded Dale Manson. Carried.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, 5th May 1992 at Piper Alderman at 6.00pm for a 6.15pm start.

BM.J.MAR.