

Roseworthy Old Collegians Association

Minutes of the meeting of the ROCA Committee held on 17th July 1995 in the Roseworthy College Boardroom.

The ROCA committee meeting commenced at 8 pm and followed a combined meeting with the College Directors where items of mutual interest were discussed.

Present

Peter Fairbrother, Harry Stephen, Allan Alcock, Mia Stephens, Andrew Michelmore, Jack Richards, Dale Manson, Brian Hannaford, David Cooper, Bardy McFarlane, Harry Stephen, Jennifer Schilling

Apologies

Prof Malcolm Oades, Ian Rice, Peter Lewis, Peter Dunn

Minutes accepted

The minutes of the meeting of 1 June 1995 were accepted subject to the restoration of the word "Digest" instead of "Newsletter". Moved Brian Hannaford seconded Bardy McFarlane.

Business arising from the minutes

Harry Stephen reminded the meeting of the intention to send a letter to the faculty expressing concern about changes to the practicum for the degree course in Agriculture.

1. President's report

The President's report took the form of a preliminary meeting for all committee members with the Directors of Roseworthy College.

Present: Don Barkley, Convenor, College Board; Oscar Jones, Treasurer, College Board; James Humphris, Residential Student on the College Board; Mark Rodda and Nadine Schiller, College Seniors; and Lucy Coward, Senior Resident.

The President spoke to a set of points outlined by Bardy McFarlane concerning the establishment of a fund or foundation to give focus for ROCA support for Roseworthy College which might come as gifts, bequests or donations. In response to a question from Brian Hannaford concerning whether or not ROCA has the legal power to set up such things, paragraph 3.3 of the Constitution was quoted:

" To provide a medium for exchange between Old Collegians and between the Faculty and Old Collegians".

Oscar Jones explained that the Board has a Development Fund which can magnify the importance of quite modest sums which are donated. This Fund is designed to amplify the normal finances of the College to meet the real needs of the current students.

A Foundation would have a wider function. It would embrace the needs of the college, but include other needs of the students and extend to the University itself. Trustees could include the Faculty, Roseworthy College and ROCA. For tax deductibility of gifts, a range of criteria would need to be separately identified. Harry Stephen pointed out that a specific project was more likely to attract funds and that there would need to be a lot of publicity to attract general bequests and gifts.

Mia Stephens emphasised the importance of recognising that the business of gift giving was a two way street; that those who contribute money or effort do so from a sense of community, and that Roseworthy College has a duty to respond to the overall needs of that wider community as a whole, by contributing to the health of the rural sector in more ways than simply funding university research. Peter Fairbrother made the point that it is difficult now to separate Roseworthy College from the campus and the old Roseworthy Agricultural College. He suggested that non-financial support by ROCA might be the way to go. Components of this kind of help might include:

- 1 work experience for current students
- 2 coaching and support of sporting teams
- 3 careers information evenings

Brian Hannaford spoke from his experience in another committee to warn that there can be no instant results, that we need to keep retelling the story and to keep it in front of members. Dale Manson supported this with the idea that the Digest is an opportunity to get the message out to the wide network of ROCA members, and that some members may be moved to make contributions in memory of particular past students.

Mark Rodda pointed out that there is a lot to be said for focusing on the College rather than the Faculty because people have identification and close ties with the College itself which may not be translated through to the Faculty. This perspective was supported by Bardy, Allan and Mia. Allan invited suggestions to make the Digest more informative about current College activities and responses included a column on what's happening around the College and articles by College seniors.

Don Barkley expressed his pleasure at having met the ROCA committee and put forward the idea that we should follow up with another meeting to address specific points such as the notion of a foundation, tax deductibility, and distribution of information. He thought that there was need to involve Faculty people as well.

It was resolved to reconvene the joint meeting at the date of the next ROCA meeting.

2. Treasurer's report

5,280

The Treasurer reported receipt of a cheque for ~~\$11,000~~ from money deposited by the 1994 incumbents of the College. \$8,000 of that has been invested at 7.35% for 2 years with Bank SA. \$3,777 remains for expenses relating to the Digest and the organisation of the Annual Dinner.

It was resolved that the report be received.

3. Digest Editors' report

Bardy MacFarlane and Dale Manson were congratulated on having produced a fine Digest. Dale reported that The Phoenix Society's Post Haste service had been good value for \$200 and Bardy explained that they intended to provide a leaflet in the next edition which would encourage readers to return update details.

For the next edition of the Digest Harry requested that short biographies of office holders be included and Allan is going to ring Graham Brookman to request photo coverage of the AGM. It was agreed that obituaries would be summarised and balanced with reports of births and marriages.

4. ROCA annual dinner and AGM report

Brian Hannaford moved and Mia Stephens seconded that committee members be provided with pink and black badges, produced by Badge-a Minute, to wear at the AGM and dinner.

Brian reported that the Feathers Hotel has been booked with \$100 deposit and that the Functions Co-ordinator has a running sheet for the night. He has requested an upgrade to the PA system for the evening.

Kell Burge of Hawkesbury has suggested a golf challenge for November and this should be announced at the dinner.

On advice from Andrew that press coverage would be enhanced by such a procedure, Bardy moved and Dale seconded that the Award of Merit be announced up to a fortnight in advance of the AGM. A reminder was given that the award should be retrieved and engraved in good time for the presentation. This is in hand.

5. Report from Faculty Board

Peter Fairbrother reported from the Faculty Board to the meeting that

.1 185 graduates and 37 post graduates received degrees on Graduation Day 1995 and that the Public Relations and Liaison Committee is progressing well in its plans to recruit undergraduate students.

.2 Technology 95 Open Days are to be held at Waite and Roseworthy campuses. In contrast to the former Gala day nature of Open Day at Roseworthy, the objective of the Open Day is now to promote the Faculty.

.3 a \$145,000 grant for the development of facilities for rural tourism has been provided to Roseworthy Campus by the Federal Government.

.4 under changes proposed for courses

.1 the Farm skills/Agricultural experience component will be streamlined and hours reduced. This is as result of student demand to allow more time for assignments and research.

.2 In the Bachelor of Applied Science [Agriculture] there will be 4 streams : Dryland Farming, Livestock Production, Horticulture, Irrigation and Extension. Students can study course subjects and appropriate electives from other courses.

.5 Professor Tim Reeves announced his resignation to take up a position as Director General of CIMMYT.

.6 Professor Oades will inspect the memorabilia in the attic of the Main Building at Roseworthy before deciding on what action may be taken. It was thought that some of the items could be included in displays when tourism gets underway.

There were questions from committee members concerning some of the heritage farm machinery under the care of Gawler Farm Machinery Restorers. Allan commended their work as responsible and dedicated.

Allan spoke of the provisions of Clause 4C which provide for the exclusion of students who are not performing adequately in their academic work. He commented on the fact that this clause is little used, and on the continual re-enrolment of irresponsible students who cause damage and disruption. Comment was invited from student observers who confirmed that there was a feeling among students that the passive attitude of the Faculty in this matter was having an adverse effect on the achievements of serious students and downgrading the value of their attainments. Student observers distinguished between students who lack a serious attitude but cause little disruption, and those who affect the study and progress of others.

Action required: it was resolved that there would be an indication to the Board that the ROCA committee would support any move to gain representation on the Faculty Board.

Allan reported that Professor Harold Woolhouse was in ill health and would return to England. It was moved by Harry Stephen, seconded by Andrew Michelmores and unanimously passed that a letter of appreciation should be sent to Professor Woolhouse for the help he has given to the College and expressing regret that he would not be able to continue the good work he had started.

6. Roseworthy College Report

Allan informed the meeting that Mark Rodda and Lucy Coward had attended the Tasmanian Conference of University Colleges and returned to report that our Old Collegians Association is the envy of other colleges. Representatives from other colleges had asked for suggestions about how to achieve what Roseworthy has. The students had returned from the conference with the proposal that it would be a good idea to have a careers evening with work experience information.

In other news, Allan reported that phones were on the point of installation and that the Assistant Principal position was at the interview stage.

7. Award of Merit

The committee commenced discussion about the Award of Merit but agreed that further discussion was required. The matters under consideration include:

1 Eligibility

In the past, the recipient has been a ROCA member. The question now is how that sort of eligibility should be interpreted - to include previous residents, a faculty-wide pool, or people demonstrating excellence in rural activities.

2 Field of endeavour

This has been in agricultural activity, but now there needs to be some extension to include efforts in the wine industry, in natural resources management, and perhaps also in ROCA association affairs.

3 Composition of the selection committee

The selection committee is at present composed of the ROCA president and representatives from agricultural research, public service, practical farming and industry. It was felt that it might be helpful to have representation from other fields of endeavour.

4 The form of the Award

Andrew Michelmores told the committee that the Award was formerly accompanied by a certificate and members were enthusiastic about reviving this practice. There was some discussion about the pricing of suitable certificates but Andrew and Harry Stephen are to find copies of the former certificates and the committee will work on the idea from there. David Cooper recommended Richard Miles of Waite for calligraphy.

8. Next meeting

Next meeting is the AGM at the Feathers Hotel on September 8 at 6.30 pm to be followed by the next committee meeting on Monday 16th October at Roseworthy College.

Items for agenda:

- 1 careers evening
- 2 names for plaques in the foyer