

M. J. Sealiger

R.O.C.A.

Digest



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE
ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION



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August 1963

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EXTRACTS FROM THE PRINTED ANNUAL REPORT — SPEECH DAY, 1963

In many ways, 1962-63 has been a difficult year for the College. We never quite knew how the season was going to turn out until harvest was upon us and on the education front we have had many gaps in the staff ranks.

Out of our difficulties, however, there has arisen a spirit of staff and student co-operation that has allowed us to triumph over adversity, and I think the year must go down as a successful one for the College.

Looking forward to the new year, we can, at the moment, see the end of most of our staffing troubles, and there is also a full quota of first year students with much higher basic academic standards than is usual. Many Interstate applicants have been excluded because there is no room for them.

Because of a good pass rate in this year's First Year, we will also have a full quota of Second Year students (probably 31). Third Year, however, will be the smallest group for some years and total only 17.

In the special Oenology course we will have a full quota (6) in Second Year; but, on present showing, the First Year Oenology class will be very small. This is a matter of very special concern and calls for some special negotiations with the wine industry.

Today, 17 students will receive their R.D.A. and five will receive their R.D.Oen. We congratulate them on their success and send them on their way knowing that all, or most of them will, in due course, make their marks in their chosen occupation or profession.

Six more may be awarded their diplomas on the results of supplementary examinations. We would have wished that they were in the present list, but unfortunately that was not to be.

Renovations.

The main administrative task of 1962-63 has been to overhaul living conditions within the College and I am glad to report that in this project I have had tremendous support from the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Brookman) and Mr. Slade, Director Public Buildings Department.

We are now well into Stage 1, which includes an almost complete replacement of the old furniture. The old corridor block is being thoroughly reconditioned and will be ready for occupation in a week or two. The library is being re-furnished and student lounges have been developed to serve their proper functions.

I am hopeful that Stages II and III, which include the enlargement of this hall and the development of modern washrooms and laundry facilities, will not be long delayed.

Coupled with this general improvement of living quarters, I should also mention that we are also making structural improvements around the farm.

We have, this year, employed a tradesman builder and each day students are allotted to him to assist with, and learn something about, farm building construction. An excellent Hammer Mill and feed

mixing shed, extensions to the grandstand at the oval, five new poultry sheds and three staff garages have been built in this way. **This is part of a general policy for farm engineering practical work whereby we aim to get the necessary training and experience out of making things we need.**

Library.

Apart from re-furnishing the library, there has also been an extensive re-stocking programme. In the process, it has been necessary to carefully review existing books. Several hundred were judged to be hopelessly out of date and were removed from the shelves.

New textbooks and others are being added as rapidly as appropriate material can be located.

Along with the general improvement in farm machinery, the re-stocking of our library is a top-ranking project for College funds at the moment. This will continue until this indispensable facility is made fully functionable.

Animal Production Laboratory.

Work in the Animal Production Laboratory has been severely handicapped during the past twelve months, firstly through the resignation of the Research Officer (Mr. A. D. Carey), and later through the resignation of Mr. K. J. Hutchinson, who has joined the staff of C.S.I.R.O. at Armidale, N.S.W.

The longer range work of the Laboratory consists of fleece testing in association with the Department of Agriculture; a Merino selection experiment, working on the College Flock, and a survey of seasonal wool production in different areas of South Australia.

Plant Breeding.

This and the Animal Production Laboratory are the main research units at the College and together they have a long and distinguished record of assistance to primary industry in South Australia.

An enlarged wheat improvement programme is now under way and this year, for the first time, the College conducted plots for testing new hybrids and further selection at Stow and Farrell Flat. These were in addition to continuing work at Palmer and on the College.

The season was a difficult one and much valuable experience, particularly on the adaptability of varieties to varying conditions, was obtained.

The development of a new plot stripper in our own workshop and the purchase of a new plot seeder, designed at the Waite Institute, is allowing much more intensive testing programmes to be undertaken.

Seed Production.

The College, by maintaining stocks of wheat and oat varieties true to type, also provides a service indispensable to the future of cereal growing in South Australia.

Seven wheat varieties and four oat varieties were offered for sale this year. The season was not

favourable to high yields and this, coupled with a very strong demand for seed, has led to a total clearance of all seed available.

With the registered grower scheme, sponsored by the Department of Agriculture, now gaining momentum the College is maintaining its part by supplying nominated growers with pedigree seed.

The Farm.

The 1962-63 season was one of alternating hope and almost despair. It started quite well for us in mid-May, but the winter generally was dry and things faded very badly in September. At the end of September we decided to give certain paddocks another week before feeding them off. We had 50 points of rain that week and it continued wet for another three weeks. This was a life-saver and crops that we were ready to wipe off eventually yielded ten bags of barley per acre.

Apart from the general business of growing crops, much attention has been given to fencing during the past year. Using copper treated pine posts and a driver, we have replaced 4½ miles of fencing, mainly along our western boundary and in the northern paddocks.

College roads have also come in for re-alignment and repair, as a result of which we now have much better access to the Animal Production Laboratory, the Wine Cellars and westward from the single staff quarters.

Numerous unsightly buildings, notably the "rehab" huts, have been demolished and we have also sold about 30 tons of scrap iron, thus not only removing unsightly dumps, but also clearing accident hazards.

Machinery.

Routine maintenance and repair work to farm machinery is an important part of student training in farm engineering and, wherever possible, students are given these jobs to do. On major repairs they work alongside the workshop permanent staff.

During the past year the following equipment has been purchased—one utility truck for farm use, one Land Rover, 3 wheeled tractors and one used crawler tractor. In addition, a Massey-Ferguson 65 tractor on loan from that company has been replaced with a new machine.

A new bulk header was purchased and a second new header was made available to us by David Shearer Ltd. to replace an older machine loaned some time ago.

In the farm workshop, many existing machines were modified to suit our conditions and quite a range of new machines were also designed and produced.

Farm safety is also receiving much attention. Meticulous care is always taken see that machinery is properly guarded. Other safety devices are also fitted where necessary.

Livestock Production.

The College, with its 1,600 sheep, 100 Jersey cattle and 60 Poll Shorthorn beef cattle, 300 Berkshire pigs and 1,800 poultry, is well equipped to provide adequate practical instruction in animal husbandry. It has also an enviable record for the standard of its livestock. This, of course, is maintained by adopting good breeding programmes and the judicious introduction of new animals as required.

In the past twelve months the following introductions have been made:—

2 Jersey heifers.

1 Berkshire boar—Lynjoleen Prince Reza 10th.

2 Berkshire sows—Maccalbyn Dot 396th.

Maccalbyn Pamela 406th.

Artificial breeding has been practised in the dairy herd since 1959 and the first heifers are now in production.

Tribute.

In conclusion, I would like to pay a tribute to the loyal and hard-working band of staff members that we have here at Roseworthy. We have done what has been done only because they have shouldered responsibilities well and accepted many extra duties with enthusiasm that had to be seen to be believed.

Their wives, too, have worked along well and helped a lot with even less room for putting themselves out. For this, Mrs. Herriot and myself are extremely grateful. I hope they have found their extra effort rewarded.

The Student Councillors, led by Nick Hutchins, have co-operated well and made a far greater contribution to the smooth working of this place than they have perhaps realised. To them and the student body as a whole I offer my congratulations.

And last, but by no means least, a special thank you is due to the Ministers' Fraternal in Gawler, who have provided us with our regular Sunday morning chapel service. This service means a lot to this place and I can only hope that each of the ministers in his turn has felt the extra effort worthwhile.

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Kangaroo Island and its settler's problems have been in the news a lot in recent months. Jim Cowell, of mid 1950's vintage, is secretary for a keen group of settlers, old and new, who are tackling their problems a sound way through the—

KANGAROO ISLAND FARM MANAGEMENT ADVISORY SERVICE

When the Editor asked me if I'd write an article on why Kangaroo Island needs a farm management club, I said, but in more polite terms, "You're a bit off the beam! This is not a need peculiar to Kangaroo Island; it is a common need to the majority of farms throughout Australia." On second thoughts, however, perhaps Kangaroo Island does have a special need.

But first of all, for the benefit of those who don't know, and I apologise to those who do, a little explanation. A farm management club, or whatever you choose to call it, is an association usually of up to fifty farmers who together employ the services of an agricultural adviser, to advise them on all technical and business aspects of their farming pursuits.

Farm clubs were first established in New Zealand in 1949, and the first in Australia was at Bombala, in New South Wales. In 1958 the Brunswick and Districts Rural Advisory Service (Inc.) was established in Western Australia, which State has since become the stronghold of Farm Clubs in Australia.

There will be thirty-five such clubs operating in Australia by the end of this year, including probably six in South Australia. There are at present three operating in South Australia. The need for a farm management club arises principally from two considerations: the need for technical information and the need for sound economic advice. These two must go together.

To obtain the best possible return from the resources available to him, the farmer must have the latest technical information and be able to apply this in the most economic way to suit his particular set of conditions.

The Department of Agriculture Adviser is able to supply the technical information to farmers who seek it, but because the present adviser to farm ratio is so low the adviser is quite unable to acquire the intimate knowledge of the farm's financial, physical and managerial resources necessary to give "whole farm" advice on a sound economic basis.

The Farm Management Club overcomes this disability by employing an adviser to forty or fifty farmers. This adviser can acquire an intimate knowledge of each farm and is able to advise the farmer on how he can best utilise the information and resources available. In this way the adviser is complementary to the Departmental Adviser. It is likely that members of farm clubs will see more of the Departmental Adviser as the farm club adviser seeks answers to the technical problems which arise.

If Kangaroo Island has in fact a special need of a farm management club, then it arises in two ways.

Firstly and obviously, the Island is physically isolated from Departmental Advisers, and technical advice may therefore be more trouble to obtain. Against this there is the Research Centre at Parnadana, managed by Henry Day, who is always ready with sound advice for those who seek it.

The second reason, and this is more important, lies in the fact that, although some of the earliest settled farm land in this State is on Kangaroo Island (the Deputy Chairman of the K.I. Farm Management Advisory Service, Ian Gilfillan, claims to live in the oldest inhabited house in S.A.; portion of it was built in 1830), a very large percentage of the Island is relatively recently settled, and within this area there is no heritage of farming practice. There are many farmers who would have to travel many miles to find land settled before 1945.

This means that these farmers have to find the best methods for their various operations by experiment. There is no previous experience to draw on. But if a farmer becomes a member of a farm club, then he has the experience of many other farmers available to him. The value of this may well be much higher than it at first appears.

At the time of writing, Kangaroo Island has had a Farm Management Advisory Service for one week. It has twenty-five members, and will take steps to engage an adviser when there are thirty. This is considered a minimum, as the total annual budget amounts to something over £3,000.

Experience in other clubs has justified this expense. At Brunswick twenty-two farms have shown an average increase in net income of 27%, and in the Franklin district of New Zealand dairy production over three years on member farms was increased by 43%, whereas non-member farms showed a 17% increase.

It is hoped that ultimately the demand may be such that there will be two clubs operating on Kangaroo Island.

SECRETARY'S NEWSLETTER

The only real news I have this time is covered elsewhere in this Digest, and that is this is the last of the Digests in its present form. I can only repeat that the Digest has done a lot of good for the College and the Old Collegians' Association, and we will investigate all alternative ideas to help something going, but there must be a lapse of some months.

The cost of printing a 24-page plus cover Digest is £108, plus all the costs of collecting advertisements, postage and general administration charges. The appeal to advertisers is small, we are too few in number and not a specialised group.

Any comments and ideas would be appreciated by the committee, and these could be thrashed out at the new committee meeting. As one of the Old Collegians' Representatives on the College Swimming Pool Appeal Committee I would say this is a worthy cause, and hope that when the time comes you will think likewise.

H. V. STEPHEN,
Hon. Secretary,
R.O.C.A.

R.O.C.A. DIGEST

This publication will probably be the last which you will receive in its present form, and we can only hope that another Digest will be in print at an early date. This is very unfortunate, as all comments received have been favourable.

Only your Committee and the members of R.O.C.A. Digest Committee know of the headaches associated with the birth and running of this publication. It was only the untiring work of Ian Fry which finally brought the Digest into being, and we are deeply indebted to Ian and his Committee for the work which they have done.

After preliminary discussions with the publisher, it was decided that the Digest would be a very minor cost to the Association after the first edition was published. Our commitments were to supply necessary printing blocks, material and articles for publication, and wrappers for despatch of the Digest from the printers. The publisher from advertisements would have sufficient funds to pay costs and make his profit. After many months of discussion between the parties an agreement was finally drawn up and signed, with the proviso that either party could break the agreement providing that two months' notice was given. Our publisher was very confident that the project would be successful, but the anticipated financial return has not been forthcoming. We have now been advised that he wishes to break the agreement and cease publication.

Prior to this he appealed to the Committee for help, either assistance to find advertisers or financial support. We decided that we would stand by the agreement, and the finances of the Association are not sufficient to supply financial support. Also we did not have authority to do this.

You will have noticed that the June issue was greatly reduced in size; this was the publisher's idea to cut his losses.

At this stage we have several questions to ask ourselves. Has the publication been too ambitious? Costs can be cut by using lower quality paper and making the publication smaller. What effect would this have on possible advertisers? Should we publish four, six or eight times a year? Can we publish it ourselves? Should it be turned into a roneoed news sheet? What financial support can the Association give? Do you as members wish it to continue in some form or other?

We must decide this by the Annual General Meeting, where the matter will be thrown open for discussion. By then I hope that your Committee will have some plans or ideas to place before you.

C. W. HOOPER,
President, R.O.C.A.

New Textbook on Dairying

Lamond, D. R.: "Dairy Cattle Husbandry".
Angus and Robertson Ltd., Sydney, 1961.
Price 36s.

The natural reaction of any dairy farmer to a new book on dairying is to compare it with Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry's handbook "Dairy Farming in Australia". When compared in this way Dr. Lamond's book is seen to be a valuable source of supplementary information to the more basic data given in the handbook.

This is not to say that "Dairy Cattle Husbandry" does not give the basic information. In very many ways it does this to an extent that makes it a comprehensive textbook.

But Dr. Lamond's book goes further. It discusses some of the technical aspects of dairy cattle management at greater length and in more detail. In doing so, it assumes a background knowledge of agricultural techniques and, in places, of scientific and mathematical terms. Although this may tend to limit its appeal to the dairy farmer, it makes the book very useful to students in agricultural colleges and universities. Moreover, it can be of great help to the dairy farmer who is seeking guidance in selecting and improving his herd and introducing better management practices.

It must be kept in mind that "Dairy Cattle Husbandry" deals with dairying from the Australia-wide point of view. Consequently some of the material is not strictly applicable to South Australian conditions. Perhaps the most noticeable aspect of this is the scant treatment given to feeding—a subject of greatest importance to the dairy farmer in this State.

Note.—This book is **not** available from Department of Agriculture.

Review :

This useful little table is passed on to you with an acknowledgment to the "New Holland Grassland News":

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College Chatter

Max Clark has been appointed manager of the Research Farm, Cressy, Tasmania. He is 25 miles from Launceston, back on the level country and into the lower rainfall. With pastures, sheep, beef cattle, pigs, poultry, etc., Max should have plenty to keep him occupied.

Brian DuBois writes from Woomera, where he is a Plant Officer (not the plant that grows) with the Weapons Research Establishment. Brian would like to get back into Agriculture, especially on the machinery side. He sends his compliments to the people who were instrumental in producing the Digest.

John Bartlam stayed at the College overnight while travelling through from Western Australia to Sydney. Since leaving College he joined the I.H.C. Sales Staff, working in Victoria and northern New South Wales as sales representative, and in Western Australia as country truck sales manager. He is moving through to Sydney looking for another position, but I believe there is another definite attraction in that area. We hope to hear further from you, John, after you have settled in Sydney.

Ian Hay called in during early June while on a brief visit from Esperance, Western Australia. He and Jack Woodhouse have been working for a group of contractors called March and Reichstein, who have just completed seeding 24,000 acres since March. They use four 28 Row Shearer drills towed by four Champion Chamberlans, which start at the beginning of seeding and work around the clock seven days a

week for three months. The best 24 hours was 480 acres, and, incidentally, 24,000 acres is equivalent to one tractor and drill going half-way around the world (you check it). All wheat in the area is sown with a bag of super and 50 lbs. of urea; main varieties are Mengavi and Gamenya. Rust is a big problem, but many settlers have recovered all development costs in the first year. On the light grey sands and arid sands over gravel, Woogenellup and Dinninup Sub Clovers are used, and Balandó Brome has also met with fair success.

Ian and Jack are now going fencing, with plenty of work ahead of them. Prices range from £40-£60 per mile, but the digging is good, and they expect better than one mile per man per week. Perhaps the weeks are longer over there.

Hamish Gosse was married on the 19th July to Rosemary Verco, and will live in the Clare district. In the round of pre-wedding parties quite a few Old Scholars' names appeared in the social pages. We all wish both you and Rosemary all the happiness in the future, Hamish.

Rumour has it that Warwick Hack will be following close in Hamish's footsteps.

Don Golding writes to say he has settled down as Senior Master at the Lucindale Area School. Due to local demand he started classes in Agricultural Science in 1962, but is a bit hamstrung for animal husbandry projects until a piece of land adjacent to the school can be developed.

Don and Alma were pleased to announce the arrival of Robinne Elizabeth, their third daughter, on Anzac Day. Don writes: "I often pass the time of day with Trevor Dillon in Naracoorte, where he

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is stationed with Southern Cross. Bob Hagerstrom and his wife Kay spent a couple of days visiting. Aussie DeCaux blew in; he is doing land valuation."

Don would be pleased to see anyone staying at Lucindale. He recommends the teaching profession to any past or present students.

Ed. McNally is working as a Fruit Inspector with the Department of Agriculture. He is also going to night school, but does not say what he is studying.

He reports that Hans Sluiter (Dutchy) is planning to return from Holland (where he is known as "Aussie") in December.

George Woolmer has notified us that his address is now Box 25, Glossop, so assume he is teaching some of the vine boys now.

N. Hiles Pearse, one of our older members, in answer to a query, writes: "I feel quite sure that your statement that the original College was situated somewhere about where the present Principal's house is located is correct."

Andrew Beach has left Elders and is managing his father's property at Butler Tanks.

Don Puckridge, earlier reported to be going to England, writes that his Ph.D. project at Reading is on "Leaf Thickness of Wheat". I noticed in the paper the other day that the family had increased by one.

Peter Monger reports that after six years in the Kimberley region he has shifted to greener if not more congenial pastures of Western Queensland. Barclay Downs, via Camooweal, is the property of the Queensland National Pastoral Co. Pty. Ltd., a subsidiary of Swift Co., the American meat firm. It is 3,440 square miles, and is held in conjunction with four other large stations in the Territory and Queensland.

We were sorry to hear of the death of J. L. (Jack) Williams in August of '62. He was mechanic at Roseworthy for 25 years, i.e., 1896-1921. After leaving Roseworthy he was with the Soldier Settlement Department at Pooraka, and later carried on his own business at Pooraka.

Robin and Grace Steed announced the birth of a daughter on the 15th July — congratulations.

The engagement has recently been announced of Mr. W. S. (Bill) Edge, of Glenelg, and Phyl Sunlea, of Myrtle Bank. The wedding will take place in the Roseworthy College Memorial Chapel on 14th September, 1963.

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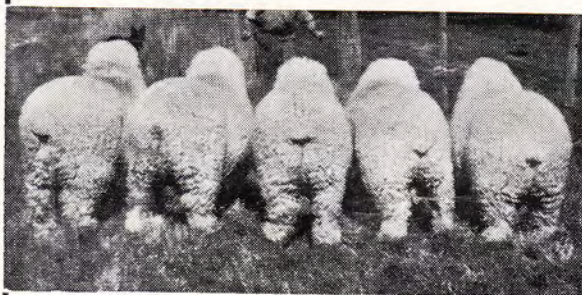
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THE MILKY WHEY

R.D.T.A.

The annual dinner and meeting were held as planned in the Oriental Hotel on Wednesday, 17th July. The number of members present was disappointing. I'm sure those present felt the evening worthwhile, but if this evening is to have any future it must have 100% support from members.

Five members were present, in addition to Mr. Herriot and Mr. Bussell as honorary members, and our guest speaker, Vic. Marceau.

After a pleasant dinner, members moved to an upstairs room for the meeting. Officers elected for the new year were: President, R. Steed; Vice-President, E. Van Hoof; Secretary, G. Norman; Executives, M. Timberlake and M. Lucey.

The President then handed over to Vic. Morceau, who gave an illustrated address on his recent trip to Manilla, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaya and Singapore.

This was a most informative period for us all, especially in view of the theme at the current Factory Managers' Conference, which stressed the need for new markets in Asia. Vic. left us with the impression that Japan was the country most likely to take any quantity of our produce in the immediate future.

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but, as their balance of payments improved, our nearer Asian neighbours could be regarded as probable customers in the more distant future.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Brian Hannaford was in Adelaide for a day recently, and sent an apology to the dinner, as did Gordon Pallant and Tom Bartholomew.

I was pleased to receive two very informative articles, one each from Dave Wilson and Viv. Hannaford. I will hold these over for future editions of R.O.C.A. Digest.

Dear Sir,

You have asked the question, "Why go to Roseworthy?" That is on page 24, R.O.C.A. Digest, February, 1963.

From the year 1932 that question could well be asked by many of us. Observations show that from that year the policy appears to have changed. (As good as Roseworthy diplomates had proved in the past and still were) the time had arrived when positions in the Department of Agriculture had to be filled by men with University degrees. Some considerable years later specialists have been acquired from outside (even overseas) for such special spheres of agriculture as rural economics. With foresight in the 1930's R.D.A.'s could have been given cadetships and then sent abroad to receive the same educational training and experience as was being done by those who eventually did come along to fill those positions. If it had been R.D.A.'s who had been encouraged and helped to do this, the Diploma would now be more highly regarded than ever.

Then, to top all this adverse policy, in more recent years cadetships in agriculture are being offered to boys having leaving certificates. No doubt this gives a wider range from which to choose. But surely the R.D.A. could have at least ranked as an equal qualification.

That is briefly the history of the overshadowing of the R.D.A.

Suggested remedies:

(1) Rank R.D.A. with Leaving Honours for cadetships.

(2) For assistants to specialists and for new spheres, select interested R.D.A.'s for special training. It need not be restricted to those recently graduated.

(3) Perhaps if all R.D.A.'s desiring training in teaching were given extra special terms to suit each individual it may have a widespread influence.

Have tried to make this concise, but by elaborating could fill many pages.

Yours faithfully,

H. R. PATTERSON.

R.O.C.A. DIGEST, AUGUST, 1963

AUSTRALIAN RECORD

Vynette Gadget's Dainty, who completed her 1962 lactation with 638 lb. fat, has established an Australian Jersey lifetime production record with 8,594 lb. fat from 13 lactations. This is only 341 lb. below the all breeds' lifetime record. Dainty was 14 years and 7 months when she finished her lactation on September 1. Breeders and owners are Messrs, M. R. & J. E. McKenzie of Tooperang, S.A. — stud breeders and holders of many Blue Ribbons and production records.



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