



R. O. C. A. DIGEST

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am deeply honoured to be elected to the position of President of this Association, and I hope I will be able to maintain the high standard set by our immediate Past President, Dave Suter, and those who have gone before him. Over the years the Association has gone from strength to strength both financially and numerically. With the formation of ATA, many of the Association's activities have changed. Most 'industry' matters are now handled by ATA, allowing ROCA to become more involved with its own activities and the changes taking place around it.

It was disturbing to note a marked decrease in the number of young members at the annual general meeting and dinner. This was made even more evident at the AGM when the meeting was unable to fill the position on the committee for a representative of the graduating year. While your new committee had not met before this report was written, the question of attracting more young members will be well up on the list of topics for discussion. The Association has much to offer both young and old.

I had the honour of attending the Upper Murray reunion at Renmark recently and was pleasantly surprised at the attendance and enthusiasm of members. The branch is planning a Family Day for Sunday, 7th November, the venue of which will be decided at a later date. During the business section of the reunion, a proposal that the branch be known in future as the Riverland branch was unanimously supported. Michael Harwood and Greg Botting were elected President and Secretary respectively for the following 12 months.

Much of the credit for the success of the evening goes to Roger Inglis and Ross Ford, who stood in as Chairman for the evening. While on the topic of reunions, the West Coast branch will be holding its annual get-together on the last week-end in February, and hopes to have this year's Award of Merit winner, Dr Rex Butterfield as guest speaker.

Once again I thank you for the honour you have bestowed upon me — I will endeavour to do my best over the next 12 months.

RICHARD FEWSTER

1971 AWARD OF MERIT WINNER – Dr REX BUTTERFIELD

Dr Rex Butterfield, a man whose name has become synonymous with beef carcase composition and appraisal, was this year's recipient of the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association's Award of Merit.

Dr Butterfield has contributed an enormous amount to Australian primary industry in the form of research into practical and economic factors of the beef cattle industry. His works stand as classic reference for beef carcase appraisal, and his research findings are gradually changing the whole concept of beef type in relation to economical production.

Included in his findings is a method of calculating the fat to meat ratio in beef cattle which has brought a more economical production outlook to systems of appraisal.

Dr Butterfield, who is Professor of Veterinary Anatomy at the University of Sydney, has published a total of 30 papers and one book, mainly on the beef cattle industry. In 1967 he was awarded the Brodie prize for published research work on the beef cattle industry. The prize was awarded for the economic and practical value of the work. In 1968 he was made a Doctor of Veterinary Science, the highest degree a University can bestow on a veterinarian.

1971-72 COMMITTEE

President:	R. W. Fewster
Vice-President:	G. Norman
Immediate Past President:	D. D. Suter
Treasurer:	R. Hutchinson
Secretary:	J. Jones
Hon. Auditor:	B. C. Philp

One member who left College more than one and less than 10 years ago: M. Babidge

Five ordinary members: R. S. Norton, H. V. Stephen, G. Eckersley, C. Goode, R. G. Campbell

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Honorary Life Membership of ROCA was awarded to Mr Cliff Hooper and Mr Ross Ford at the 1971 Annual General Meeting. Both are well known to all members for their many years of hard work in various positions on the committee. Although Cliff has now retired from the position of Treasurer and Ross is now living in Renmark, we can be sure of the continued support for many years to come. On behalf of all members, congratulations to you both.

Honorary Life Membership certificates and badges were also presented to past recipients of the award at the meeting. They were: Ralph Jones, Rex Krause, Rowland Hill, Harry Stephen, Dave Suter, and our Honorary Auditor of many years, Mr B. C. Philp. Other members who have been awarded honorary life membership, but who were unable to be present, were Messrs S. R. Close and D. Mellor and Drs Callaghan and McCulloch.

COLLEGE CHATTER from Cliff Hooper

There are two main features of interest at the College at present—the excellent season and the reconstruction of the College staff set-up.

Like many other areas of the State we are enjoying what is probably the best feed year on record. If you think of West 5 carrying 600 ration sheep and 30 head of beef cattle for three weeks and then pulling the rations out and still having cattle feed left in the paddock, you will know what I mean. We have 3,500 sheep on the place, and the feed is still getting further ahead.

Most of you would be aware that applications have been called for five positions as Senior Lecturers at the College. An announcement on these can be expected at a fairly early date, then the positions of lecturers will be advertised. All these positions are only available to graduates with experience in the field in which they will lecture. This plan is to fit in with Roseworthy's position as a College of Tertiary Education, where all lecturers must be graduates.

There may be positions for some diplomates under the above scale as managers of the various sections. These appointments are expected to apply from the start of the scholastic year in 1972, so we could see great alterations to staff and to lecturing in that year.

The football season is over and has been reasonably successful. The B grade was defeated in the first semi-final, but the A grade came out premiers when they beat Willaston by more than five goals.

At the intercoll this year basketball replaced rifles for the first time and we had doubts about our inexperienced team. However, our worries were unfounded as they finished third, and in a combined team named by the referees, Dennis Allen was appointed captain.

The tennis team continued its run of success and did not lose a rubber in any matches.

Darryl Meighel called in while on leave from New Guinea. Calls himself a 'jack of all trades' as he is dealing with many different forms of agriculture. Len Snell paid a brief visit while over with two friends from W.A. They were on a fact-finding tour and intended looking at the Hamilton Research Station in Victoria for information on lot feeding of beef.

Dick Turnbull was another visitor. He is now back in civilian clothes and furthering his army experiences by studying at the Institute. Brian Jeffries terminated his contract with FAO on 7th February. After what was almost a world-wide sightseeing trip, and visits to N.S.W., W.A. and S.A., he joined the Victorian Department of Agriculture as a sheep and wool officer.

Mick Freeman writes advising that his address is now Parwan Park, Bacchus Marsh, where he works as a livestock controller for the Victorian Artificial Breeders' Co-op. Society. John Hardy is back in Australia after a number of years in Chile, where a Communist Government has brought about many changes. He will return to North America next year to get married.

Colin Krause made Roseworthy a place of call during school holidays. He is now teaching at Luther College, Croydon, Victoria, and has broken away from straight agriculture. Andrew Cumming and Ray Fehlberg were other visitors after a stint of working in the top end of W.A. Andrew expects to return to the cattle country, but Ray will try another line.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Tony Gerlach, Tully River Station, Euramo, Queensland, 4854.

I'm sure all old scholars would be interested in the property on which I am working in northern Queensland. It is one of the numerous King Ranch properties, and is situated in the tropical rain forest country 100 miles north of Townsville. There are 51,000 acres of cleared jungle and tea-tree swamps, sown down to the latest tropical pastures and used for fattening bullocks, mainly for the export market.

With ample funds to back them, King Ranch embarked on its unique venture in a big way, clearing, sowing and stocking the country within five years. In the 150+ in. rainfall, the tropical grasses and legumes grow rapidly and continually, supplying feed for more than 20,000 cattle, and allowing 10,000 fats to be turned off each year.

The pastures are basically Guinea Grass and tropical legumes such as Townsville Stylo, Puero and Centro mixtures. The use of Pangola and Para grasses, which are too vigorous to allow legumes to survive, has also proved successful although they need frequent nitrogen applications. Super is applied biennially at 3 cwt an acre.

The land is subdivided into about 800 acre paddocks, and six plunge dips are strategically placed for dipping against cattle tick every three weeks. Most of the cattle are sold on contract to the meat works, which at present demand a bullock which dresses out at 540 to 620 lbs. With increased production expected in the future, this new venture has already proved successful and appears to have opened new horizons for the beef industry.

From Phillip Redden, DASF Kerowagi, Chimbu, TPNG.

There are a few cattle projects up here in the highlands, based on Shorthorn and Shorthorn-Zebu females. Most of them are on a fairly small scale, comprising six to eight breeders on an average. All projects have been started with Development Bank loans, which usually take about three years to repay. One native we visited recently was a bit of an exception as he was running 23 breeders on some improved pasture, about one steer equivalent to three acres.

The annual rainfall is about 120 in., and the potential for beef in the area is phenomenal as there is a big shortage of meat of any description—2 to 2½ year old steers realise about \$200.

The Kerowagi district is situated midway between Goroka and Mount Hagen. It is the most densely populated area in New Guinea, and the main cash crop is coffee. There is plenty of coffee here, but so much of it has never been pruned and picked, that the natives lose thousands every year. From an extension point of view the job promises to be most rewarding.

From Keith Holder, PMB 5, Maitland, N.S.W., 2320.

I am now working for Hungerford Hill Vineyards Pty Ltd as assistant manager at Pokolbin in the Hunter Valley. The company is very well established and diversified, with interests in S.A. (Reynella wines and a property at Coonawarra), beef cattle at Grafton, N.S.W., and irrigated cotton and other crops at Wee Waa.

The property here comprises 600 acres, mainly of Black Shiraz grapes, with a further 200 acres managed under contract. South Australians are numerous in the area, and include John Gurzansky (managing Oakdale Vineyards), Geoff Schrapel (McWilliams Wines) and Norman Hanckel (general manager of Hungerford Hill, but living in Sydney). Also in the company from Roseworthy is Mike Greenfield who is presently at Wee Waa.

From N. S. Miles, 5 Jeetho St., Jindalee, Brisbane, Queensland, 4074.

I have retired from the Department of Agriculture in Fiji after 19 years following Constitutional changes in that country last October. As our children have been educated in Queensland, and the climate here is somewhat similar to that which we have become accustomed to in Fiji, we decided to settle here rather than return to S.A.

I hope to obtain a position with the Department of Primary Industries here when the State finances improve, but in the meantime keep myself occupied doing two correspondence courses in farm management economics and accountancy.