The First Roseworthy Diploma in Dairying Graduates

The prospect of Roseworthy Agricultural College offering a Diploma in Dairying was first indicated at the College's 1946 Speech Day, when the Principal, Dr Alan Callaghan stated: *Certainly a strong demand for trained dairy technologists exists at the moment, but the College, before consenting to give this training, must be assured that the industry is in sympathy with the standards, and gives a clear assurance that employment will be available for the men so trained*.

Later that year, the 1946 edition of The Student, indicated the course would commence in 1947, with the: *aim to meet the demands in South Australia for men technically qualified to undertake the management and control of factories or depots associated with the handling and processing of milk and milk products and for men qualified to undertake laboratory controls and studies associated with the commercial handling of milk and milk products*.

At the 1948 Speech Day Dr Callaghan announced: *This is the first year we have presented candidates for the Roseworthy Diploma in Dairying. The full quota of four, all of whom have passed the examinations for the Diploma, are ex-servicemen and holders of the Roseworthy Diploma in Agriculture. Because of the latter fact, they received exemption from the first year of the course in dairy technology, and have been able to proceed to the Diploma examination in one year. Before the Diploma is actually awarded, however, our regulations require that they should obtain six months practical experience in an approved dairy factory. This being the case, we have decided today to present to each successful candidate certificates entitling them to supplicate for their Diplomas in Dairying as soon as they produce satisfactory evidence of having completed their required six months experience in a commercial factory.*

At the 1949 Speech Day Dr Callaghan referring to the four Diploma in Dairying graduates from the previous year stated: *Last year we set forth the first four of our holders of the Roseworthy Diplomas in Dairying. Believe it or not three out of the four were "snavelled" up by dairying factory interests outside of South Australia. Of course, they offered more money and better prospects! Might I ask what the dairying interests of South Australia are going to do about it? If these men are so sought after elsewhere surely it is in the interests of the State that they be retained here*.

John Arnold

John Arnold, born in Adelaide on 21 July 1919.

Following the outbreak of WWII, whilst a student at the University of Adelaide and spending time at the College where he had served in the veterinary unit attached to the College, John enlisted on 3 March 1941.

John served in the RAAF as a navigator, including in New Guinea, and had attained the rank of Warrant Officer when he was discharged on 13 September 1945.

John then went on to complete his Roseworthy Diploma in Agriculture, graduating in 1947 before proceeding immediately into the Diploma in Dairying course, graduating in 1948.

John married Mavis Pinch. John and Mavis had two sons. Mavis and a son, Edwin, died in a car accident in Melbourne on 8 July 1962.

Following graduation with his Diploma in Dairying John worked initially with the South Australian Farmers Union at Mile End before moving to Victoria where he managed dairy factories at many rural locations in the State.

John retired to Noojee in Victoria where he died on 24 February 2004.

Geoffrey Chapman

Geoffrey Chapman, born at Unley on 29 February 1924, entered the College to undertake a Diploma in Agriculture in 1940, aged 16, and graduated in 1943.

Geoffrey immediately enlisted (15 March 1943), served in the Army in South East Asia and was discharged on 19 August 1946.

Geoffrey re-entered the College in 1947 to commence the Diploma in Dairying course, graduating in 1948.

Following graduation, Geoffrey took up a position at Murray Bridge, and in 1950 he moved to Tasmania to an Advisor position with the Department of Agriculture at Smithton. In 1971 Geoffrey was appointed as the Senior Officer within the Department for the North West Coast of Tasmania.

Geoffrey married Monica Brodrick in Adelaide on 3 January 1950. Geoffrey and Monica had six children. Geoffrey re-married following the death of Monica in 1986.

Geoffrey died, aged 98, at Ulverstone in Tasmania on 25 April 2022 and is buried in the Ulverstone Cemetery.

Max Kellett

Max Kellett, born at Unley on 10 April 1921, was awarded a scholarship to attend Roseworthy Agricultural College and in 1939, aged 17, commenced studies, graduating in 1942.

Max enlisted on 26 June 1942 and served in the Army until his discharge on 18 October 1945.

Max married Olive Elson at Wallaroo on 15 December 1945.

Max re-entered the College in 1947 to commence the Diploma in Dairying course, graduating in 1948. Following graduation Max took up a position at the Yahl Cheese Factory near Mount Gambier.

Max's career then took him to dairy factories at Leongatha in Victoria, to Kybybolite and to managing dairy factories in the Adelaide Hills. In 1954 Max was appointed to the

position of Dairy Advisor with Metropolitan Milk Board and promoted to Senior Supervisor in 1956.

After receiving serious injuries in a vehicle accident on the Princess Highway at Monarto on 1 September 1962, Max succumbed to his injuries on 15 September and is buried at Centennial Park Cemetery in Adelaide.

Gordon Pallant

Gordon Pallant, born at Strathalbyn on 25 April 1922, entered the College to undertake a Diploma in Agriculture in 1939, aged 17, graduating in 1942.

Gordon had enlisted on 20 December 1941, listing his occupation as farm labourer, served as a craftsman, and was discharged on 23 April 1946.

Gordon re-entered the College in 1947 to commence the Diploma in Dairying course, graduating in 1948.

Gordon married Freda Tregenza at Victor Harbour on 18 October 1947. Gordon and Freda had three children.

Following graduation, Gordon took up a position at a dairy factory at Alvie near Colac in Victoria and then with United Cooperative Dairies in Adelaide. In 1955 Gordon commenced working for the Metropolitan Milk Board and the following year moved to a position at Waikerie with Hi-Cliff Dairy.

Gordon died, aged 87, at Happy Valley on 5 January 2010 and is buried at the Mount Compass Cemetery.