



Print Post Approved PP539022/7	ROCA Contact Details	
Newsletter Editor: Locky McLaren	Mail: P.O. Box 503, Kent Town S.A. 5071 Phone: 0437 755 034 (Dick Turnbull, President)	E-mail: roca@alumni.adelaide.edu.au Web site: www.adelaide.edu.au/roca/

Spring 2011

“Pay attention you jokers” – this is your President speaking

It seems the membership is getting revved up for a big reunion this year, with the 40 year group producing a book and the 1971 Roseworthy grand final team organising a reunion to coincide with the dinner in October. Numbers are looking good so you may have to get in early to get a guernsey. Included with this newsletter is an invitation for the dinner and AGM to be held on Friday 21st October 2011.

Your committee has been facing a perplexing issue with the move of all the agricultural agronomy (soil and crops) subjects and other non-animal science subjects to the Waite campus under the one degree. The changes made over the last 10 -15 have made this a 'self-fulfilling prophesy'. The dilemma we face as an association is to confine our support and activities to the Roseworthy campus alone, which effectively means the animals and veterinary science students, or do we also provide some tuition support for agriculture students in general when they may not be studying at Roseworthy.

It was interesting to note from the Autumn newsletter, that of all the students who enrolled for the first time in School of Agriculture, Food and Wine courses in 2011 (in the traditional agriculture courses of agronomy, agriculture, plant and animal), 90 enrolled in Animal Sciences, a Roseworthy based course, and only 35 in the new combined Agricultural Science course based at the Waite. This is somewhat the inverse of what many would generally regard as the “natural balance” between plant and animal sciences. The emerging view in your committee, and it is certainly my view, is that we should support agricultural education in general, at a tertiary level, as we have always done. The implication is that we may support students studying at the Waite. We will of course keep a firm eye on activities and programs at Roseworthy and any infrastructure support will be confined to Roseworthy, as this is our Alma mater.

Dick Turnbull
ROCA President

ROCA Dinner & AGM 2011

Please don't forget the upcoming Annual ROCA Dinner and AGM, to be held at the Glenelg Golf Club on Friday 21 October 2011. The dinner is always a great event, filled with riveting and revealing stories from the 10, 25, 40 & 50 Year Reunion Groups. Year groups should be well into organizing things for the night.

Contact people are:

50 Years (1961) Denys Slee 08 8353 4067 0417 081 378 denyss@ozemail.com.au	40 Years (1971) David Spencer 08 8449 4044 0401 124 697 spencers@adam.com.au
25 year group (1986) Nick Kentish 0429 673 070 nick@kentish.biz	10 year group (2001) Group to coordinate themselves



Three heritage proposals –

- **National Servicemen's Commemorative Plaque,**
- **Updating the Honour Roll in the Chapel with the names of those who saw active service post WW2, and**
- **Assisting with the renovations of the interior of the Tassie Library**

In the last newsletter mention was made of three heritage proposals which ROCA presented to the University. Paul Duldig Vice-President, Services and Resources has formally written to ROCA approving these three initiatives, so ROCA will now start implementing them. The implementation process is summarized below under separate headings. First will be the National Servicemen's plaque which is well underway thanks to the efforts of Peter Winter and John Eyre and it is hoped to have this ready by the end of the year. The other two proposals will become our major activities leading up to the commemoration of the centenary of WW1 and the Gallipoli landing 2014/15. This will require a fund raising effort which Dick Turnbull will lead.

Leading up to the centenary of the Great War and the landing at Gallipoli, some of us who are interested in the history of that time will publish "Tales from the Honour Roll". These will be stories about those Roseworthians who joined the AIF and how people at the College reacted to the exploits of "our soldiers". We will look at this from a number of points of view, as the Great War affected the lives of all Australians in those days. The descendents of many of these men have attended Roseworthy over the years and if you are one of them, we would like very much to hear from you. Write to the ROCA Secretary at PO Box 503, Kent Town 5071, or contact Dick Turnbull on 0437 755 034 / 84316618 or e-mail randcturnbull@tpg.com.au

There will be too many stories to publish in the ROCA Digest, so it is envisaged a website will be constructed and/or a CD will be published. This will be done over the next two or three years and will be a “softening up campaign” leading to a full scale fund raising effort. The Australian Government has established a National Commission for the Commemoration of the Anzac Centenary, made up of prominent Australians. They have already made firm recommendations to the Government, which is due to make a series of decisions in November this year. It is expected that competitive grants will be offered. As an association it is entirely appropriate that we honour further, the military service of our fellows, by adding the names of those who saw active service post WW2 to the honour roll in the chapel and more importantly assist the University with renovating the interior of the Tassie Memorial Library.

~~~~~

### **Lt Col David Fulton’s swords**

We are still hunting. It appears they went missing at or about the time the library was transferred from the Tassie Library to the new library in 1975. It could be that in the confusion of moving they were misplaced, or somehow went missing. Theft is still a possibility.

~~~~~

Roseworthy Campus & Student Fund

Congratulations to the following students who were in winning the two scholarships offered this year:

- Chloe Warden-Flood from Cherry Gardens won the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society Award enabling her to continue second year studies for the Bachelor of Animal Science.
- Mark Stillman from Fulham Gardens won the Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund Award allowing him to undertake second year studies for the Bachelor of Science (Pre-Veterinary).

Unfortunately the Trevor Dillon scholarship was not awarded as no student qualified, however we expect that the criteria will be adjusted to allow more students to apply for next year’s award.

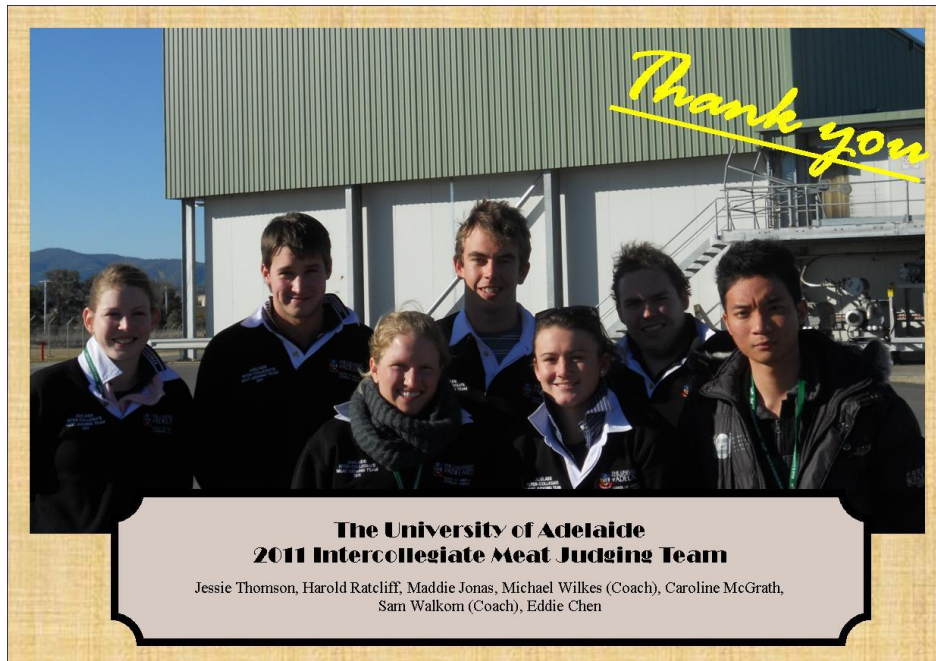
Financial support was provided to the University of Adelaide Intercollegiate Meat Judging Team (5 students) to travel to the University of New England, Armidale, to compete against other university teams from across Australia, Japan and USA. A 2.5 day meat industry workshop and a careers workshop with industry leaders was also involved.

Member of the Co-Patron’s Committee have been actively canvassing individuals and organisations with very encouraging results. Our Patron, John Crosby assisted by Paul Finn from Development and Alumni has met with interested parties who are expected to raise sufficient funds for an annual scholarship for \$10,000 for five years. To be known as the “Agribusiness Leaders Scholarship for Excellence”, it is designed to attract future leaders from first year students intent on agribusiness-agriculture programmes and various donor levels are proposed to encourage a club type atmosphere.

Greg Campbell and Paul Finn are continuing discussions with parties aiming to establish the “Lower Murray Lot Feeders Scholarship” – draft agreement is already in place. Thoroughbred Racing SA has advised of its inability to assist at this time; however our request for financial aid will receive further consideration at a later date.

Once again those of us on the selection panel were most impressed by the standard of all scholarship applicants; it’s a great pity that funds are not available at this time for more to be given assistance. However we remain optimistic that things will change for the better in the near future.

Ray Taylor
Chairman



Update on the proposed TAFE Diploma of Agriculture at Roseworthy

Bob Reid, training manager for the TAFE SA Agriculture program, says the proposed Diploma course to be offered at the Roseworthy Campus is still very much alive. However, because of a couple of issues, it has been delayed somewhat.

First, TAFE and the University of Adelaide are still working through the details of how the course will be delivered. Which subjects will be offered, who will deliver them and what facilities can be used for that delivery. Then there's the distraction of a major review at the federal and state level of all Agri-Food tertiary education offerings. This regular review has been delayed by two to three years, so there's a fair bit of work to put in submissions and sort out the final structure of who offers what courses and where.

Bob thinks it may take until mid 2012 to bed down all the changes so it may not be until early 2013 that the Diploma course at the Roseworthy campus enrolls its first students. However, to quote Bob Reid, despite these distractions, "We're still very keen to get it done".

~~~~~

## **Students engage solicitor Arthur Blackburn VC to represent them against College Principal - 1931**

A few weeks ago ROCA received a card and a significant donation from a 98 year old ROCA member and retired west coast farmer Robert Stirling. In his card he mentions he was at Roseworthy in 1931 with Ray Beckwith our 2009 Award of Merit winner. He also recalled an incident when he was tossing sheaves of wheat onto a cart piled high with his endeavours, perhaps in a rather casual manner. Along came a car with the Principal WR Birks and his wife in it. Birks stopped, got out, strode over to our hapless student, took the pitchfork from him and said "this is how you do it lad – put your back into it" and proceeded to toss the sheaves with so much energy that they sailed over the pile and landed on the other side on the ground. His wife called out plaintively "don't bother the boy dear, he has been working all day".

Dick Turnbull sent Robert a thank you letter and he phoned a week or so later and talked for over 45 minutes. Robert expanded on the story. Birks was a hard task master who did not know how to manage young men in a tertiary institute in peace time. The work hours had been increased, with students working 6am to 6pm (refer The Student 1931 edition of the magazine) and he was universally disliked by the student body. This culminated in the famous student strike of 1931 which made the papers and resulted in a government investigation into the running of the College. The students engaged a very prominent solicitor of the day, Arthur Blackburn VC to put their case. Blackburn was a very famous South Australian who was awarded a VC in the opening stages of the Pozieres battle in September 1916. During the first day of the Gallipoli landing he and another private went the furthest inland on a scouting sortie of any Australian during the whole campaign. The student probably engaged Arthur Blackburn because of his reputation in helping the "under dog" and because he happened to be the OC of a squadron of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse based at Roseworthy and Gawler. Robert's share of the legal costs was £87. This was a hell of a lot of money, as in those days a year's full board and tuition at Roseworthy was £15/5s. The figure may be wrong but anyway it was a lot of money!

Birks was a good agriculturalist; he was also a war hero having been mentioned by his Commander to the Australia Corp Commander Lt Gen Birdwood for a very brave action on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1917. General Birdwood recommended him for MID:

*“For is conspicuous service during an enemy attack near Lagincourt, when he placed two howitzers on the road in order to bring direct fire to the advancing enemy, this providing much assistance.”*

Unfortunately like many such acts of bravery, it was not awarded. Often this was because some arbitrary quota for bravery awards had been reached that month. At the end of the war in 1919 he was appointed Assistant Director of Education, Agricultural Section, for the Australian Forces and was based at Cambridge. This was part of Monash’s post war education employment and education strategy to occupy the army while it waited repatriation to Australia. Birks was given a grant of £100 to travel home first class via American to study wheat breeding. He graduated from Roseworthy in 1909 with an RDA and had been working in the NSW Department of Agriculture before the war. Returning to Australia in 1920 with the rank of captain he rejoined the Department in NSW. Perhaps it was his war experience and its deprivations, arduous work and difficulties that had hardened his attitude to the students in 1931 and the amount of work expected of them.

Robert Stirling was no stranger to hard work and hardship, as his father, a member of the Australia Army Medical Corps was killed in WW1. He, as a boy had to help his mother and siblings run the farm at Cummins on the West Coast before he went to Adelaide for his secondary education under a legacy scheme. He was a champion athlete and doing well enough at school to win a scholarship to Roseworthy. He also enlisted in 1942, joining the RAAF and doing over 30 missions in Bomber Command with RAF 158 Squadron at Lisset, Yorkshire, flying in four engine Handley Page Halifax mark III heavy bombers. He returned to Australia with the rank of Pilot Officer and resumed his farming at Cummins, moving into dairy cattle and establishing a very successful stud.

~~~~~

National Servicemen’s Commemorative Plaque

It is intended that a commemorative plaque with the names of the 28 or more Roseworthians who were conscripted under the National Service Act 1964, be placed in a prominent place on the wall in the main foyer of Roseworthy College Hall, adjacent to the stairs. The purpose of the plaque is to acknowledge the service of these old scholars, who were compulsorily conscripted into the Australian Army. This was at a time when the Government required more soldiers so it could meet its commitment to provide a force of sufficient strength to meet the perceived Communist threat in Vietnam and SE Asia as a whole. This was the first time compulsory conscription for war service was enacted by law on the Australia people. It had been rejected in two referenda during WW1 and was never seriously considered in WW2. It was a significant interruption to the careers of the 1 in 12 men who turned twenty between 1965 and 1972. Their names were drawn in a ballot and they were given no choice but to serve two years in the regular army.

Of the 63,790 who were conscripted during the period, 30 served in Borneo and 17424 in Vietnam (27%) and saw active service. It is generally recognised that of all those National Servicemen who went to Vietnam, volunteered in one way or another. The process of volunteering in some cases was a bit dubious and peer group pressure played a big part. However if someone genuinely did not want to go to Vietnam there were a number of opportunities for them to opt out.

Peter Winter (1963-64) and John Eyre (RDA 1965) conceived the idea and first approached the University in 2008. They gathered the names of Roseworthians who attended College during the period and who were conscripted. The term Roseworthian is used rather than old scholar as they followed the tradition established for the WW1 Honour Roll, in that anyone who attended Roseworthy, either as a student, academic staff, farm hand or cook were eligible. We are not completely certain if we have gathered every eligible person, so if any one reading this know of someone who attended College and who was conscripted and their name is not on the list below please contact us. You are eligible if you were first conscripted and then attended Roseworthy. We have already been contacted by one such person.

The following is our current list of names:

Surname	Given Names	Entered RAC	Graduated RDA
Baker	Brenton Thomas	1964	1966
Brookman	Graham Thomas	1970	1970
Cochrane	Martin John	1965	1968
Crosby	Ronald Bruce	1965	
Dickson	Graydon D		
Eyre	John Robert	1962	1965
Fromm	Graham Murray	1965	1968
Harvey	John O	1996	
Hatherly	Winton		
Hicks*	Dennis		
Kaesler	Francis Edward	1967	1970
Kohnke	John Russell	1965	1968
Lykke	David	1963	
McCallum	Keith Arnold	1966	1969
O'Connell*	John	1963	
Pannach	David Donaldson	1965	1968
Piercy	William L	1964	
Sampson*	Robert John	1963	1966
Stacy	Robert Thomas	1964	
Suiker	Johannes Frederick	1980	1982
Tapely	Ian	1966	
Turnbull	Richard Keep	1966	1969
Watson	William Donald	1966	1969
Westbrook	Kelvin D'Hildred	1963	1967
Whyntie	Iain Michael Hudson	1962	
Wilkinson*	AJ (Sandy)	1963	
Winter	Peter	1962	
Young	Gregory B	1963	

*We still have not contacted these people as we have no address details for them.

If anyone knows or knows of, these four people please ring Dick Turnbull on 0437 755 034 or e-mail him at: randcturnbull@tpg.com.au

This National Servicemen's Commemorative Plaque project is an initiative of Peter Winter, John Eyre and Dick Turnbull, supported by ROCA but will be managed by these three Roseworthians. They will be writing to all on the list to seek their formal permission to have their names on the plaque and inform them about the project.

ROCA Digest – electronic and hard copies

The DIGEST will be sent out in electronic form to all members for whom we have valid e-mail addresses. These recipients will receive the "long version" which will contain extra material and more pictures. This version will be posted on the ROCA website which is located within the University of Adelaide website. www.adelaide.edu.au/roca/

Make sure your e-mail address is current to receive future ROCA Digests in their electronic form. To do this you have two options:

- Log in to Adelaide onLION to update your details yourself:
www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/adelaideonlion.

or

- Send an e-mail containing your full name, address and year of graduation to:
roca@alumni.adelaide.edu.au. (the Alumni automatically forward this onto our President)

Not an Adelaide onLION member? You can request an account at:
www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/requestanaccount/.

All members with e-mail addresses will receive their Digest and special occasional news briefs by e-mail.

For those of you without e-mail addresses registered on our membership data base you will automatically receive a hard copy of the ROCA DIGEST. Remember this will not contain the extra material of the longer electronic version.



<p>114th AGM 2011 Reunion Dinner</p> <p>Don't miss another memorable night. Bring your partner or guest</p> <p>Friday 21st October, 2011</p> <p>Glenelg Golf Club James Melrose Drive, Novar Gardens, S.A, 5040</p>	<p><u>Your 2010/2011 ROCA Committee</u></p> <p>President: Dick Turnbull Vice President: vacant Secretary: Tracy Parkes Treasurer: Dick Turnbull E.P. Rep: Mike Wake Student Rep: vacant Committee: Dale Manson – Immediate Past President Ian Rice Alan Richardson Mark Seeliger David Spencer Ray Taylor Richard Inwood Public Officer: Dick Turnbull Digest Co-ordinator: Locky McLaren</p>	<p>Will you be a ROCA Committee Member for 2011/12</p> <p>If you would like to join the ROCA Committee during this fascinating period of Roseworthy and ROCA's history, you can nominate yourself.</p> <p>ROCA needs you</p>
---	--	---