



# The Wheatsheaf

September 2021

## Calendar of Events

### Barn Market

**Time:** 9am to 12pm

**Date:** 04 September

**Where:** Old Barn  
Urrbrae

### Barn Market

**Time:** 9am to 12pm

**Date:** 6 November

**Where:** Old Barn  
Urrbrae

### Yorke Peninsula Field Days

**Dates:** 28th –30th  
September

## The Campaign to save the 'Lodge' Waite Gatehouse

By Rebecca Faulkner

On the south eastern corner of Fullarton and Cross Roads is the Waite Gatehouse commonly referred to as the Lodge. The Lodge was built c1890 as a gatehouse to Urrbrae House and as part of the entrance to the Waite Estate. The gates that were near the entry and the Lodge have since been lost. It is one of the only remaining gatehouses in South Australia and as such it is State Heritage listed. It received state heritage listing on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1982(SA Heritage Places Database, n.d). This is the highest form of protection that can be given to a building under state legislation. The Gatehouse was originally protected via the Peter Waite Trust established with The University of Adelaide and the Education Minister as well as through the State Heritage listing. The Trust was established and land transferred from the Waite's ownership to the South Australian Government on 26<sup>th</sup> February 1914. The Trust when established had clear guidelines as to what purpose the land could be used. There was always a small proportion of the land in the estate to be used for roads.

It became public knowledge in late 2020 that the Gatehouse, in addition to 30 trees as part of the Waite Arboretum, were deemed for demolition as a result of the Department of Transport and Infrastructure's (DPTI) Fullarton and Cross Roads development. The reasoning provided was in order to save 20 houses on the eastern side of Cross Road the Gatehouse and trees must go. This development would involve widening the intersection to carry more traffic in particularly the freight traffic coming off of the South Road upgrade up to the free-way. This included adding two extra turning lanes from Cross Road off onto Fullarton Road. The funding for this project, is \$61 million from the Morrison Federal Government. Part of this funding is assigned to protecting local heritage places but was not going towards the Gatehouse.

In December 2020 Transport Minister, the Hon Cory Wingard, told the Advertiser that 'demolition of the distinctive, 1890 building was the only option as a government-commissioned feasibility study had found that relocation was not feasible, due to expense and concerns the shift would not be successful' (Eccles & Kelsall 2020). Wingard told the Advertiser that 'a report has also found the structural integrity of the gatehouse would be at significant risk if it were to be moved' (Smith 2020). In addition, John Wheelan the Director of the project delivery stated as quoted from Indaily 'So, there were the three scenarios we looked at: demolishing the gatehouse removes all of its cultural heritage value; deconstructing the gatehouse and rebuilding it in a new location will remove all cultural heritage value; relocating the gatehouse as a whole building would decrease the heritage value,' (Eccles & Kelsall 2020).

This argument was publicly opposed by not only the National Trust, City of Mitcham Council, Local Member Sam Dulac but also a number of building companies that specialise in moving historical buildings. Two public petitions were organized the first being on Change.org and the second a physical petition to be presented to parliament to petition for the protection of the Gatehouse via relocation to another site on the Waite Estate.

In addition, there is a Facebook page attached to the campaign and a number of rallies were organized on site that had speakers from the Waite Family, the National Trust, local member Sam Dulac and some members of the public. A rally earlier this year attracted over 1000 individuals and spilled out onto Fullarton and Cross Roads. over 1000 individuals and spilled out onto Fullarton and Cross Roads.



As a result of a strong community campaign and persistent work by those involved in the campaign sense prevailed on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 when it was announced that the future of the Gatehouse was secure. The compromise is the shifting of the building to the eastern corner of the Waite Estate on the Adelaide University campus. The building will be carefully pulled down and rebuilt brick by brick on the new site at Claremont Avenue.

**References**

Eccles. D and Kelsall. T, 2020, Urrbrae gatehouse demolition preferred as moving would ‘decrease the heritage value’, *Indaily*, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Smith. M, 2020, Adelaide University Gatehouse to be demolished for Fullarton, Cross road upgrades, *The Advertiser*, 3<sup>rd</sup> December.



## Urrbrae Agriculture and Farm News 2020

The widespread rains received over the last few months have resulted in significant pasture growth and improved potential yields for many crops across much of SA. This is a very welcome positive for all those directly or indirectly involved in agriculture particularly given the many challenges of 2020! The Urrbrae Farm and Agricultural programs have continued to prosper highlights include;

### **Sorghum Crops Flourish**

The pasture improvement program is showing excellent results with three paddocks of sorghum providing abundant summer green feed for or stud cattle and sheep. Thank you to our 2019 Crop Science students and Farm staff who managed the establishment of these crops that offer quality feed and minimises hay usage. During 2020 we plan to establish the same three paddocks to Lucerne for ongoing hay production and grazing.

### **Urrbrae Vintage in Full Swing**

Since the start of Term 1 the Year 10 and 11 Viticulture have been regularly monitoring sugar content of our grapes by maturity testing across the main varieties including Shiraz, Grenache, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The seasonal conditions of mild summer temperatures with minimal rainfall has resulted in the production top quality fruit which students and staff have been harvesting over the last 3 weeks with the final harvesting occurring this week (Week 8 of Term 1). Students are directly involved of all aspects of the wine making process such as crushing, pressing and barrelling. Thank you to all students involved and also to our key Viticulture and Winemaking staff James Anderson and Kym Naulty who predict this vintage to be the best on record for Urrbrae, so don't miss out on purchasing the 2020 wines when they become available.

### **Piggery Eco-Shelter Renovation**

Urrbrae is very fortunate to have a commercial piggery on-site to educate our students in this important agricultural industry. The eco-shelter section required significant upgrading and has been a special project over Term 1 for our students, Farm Manager, Neil Harris and Pig Enterprise Teacher, Steve Mason. The result has been fantastic with new grating, feeders and gates being installed. The piglets are very appreciative of their new environment!

### **Sheep, Goats and Alpacas**

Recently a Veterinary Surgeon visited and tested all of our Suffolk Stud sheep, Boer Goats and Alpacas for Johnes disease with two classes present to observe and ask questions. The rams were also tested for Brucellosis and all animals had faecal samples taken for worm counts. All results returned negative to any exposure. Twelve of the Suffolk Stud Ewes were artificially inseminated with semen from one of the top Suffolk rams in Australia, this will improve our genetics immensely. The Merino wethers have arrived for the school's competition of the Royal Adelaide Show, they are looking very impressive at this early stage.

## “Urrbrae on Show” day

The cancellation of this year’s Royal Adelaide Show has been disappointing for Urrbrae and the wider community, however, in true Urrbrae fashion our students and staff have shown resilience and creativity through the development of the **Urrbrae on Show** event. This special day will provide many opportunities for our students to display and promote their skills and enthusiasm in a show type environment. Staff, led by Ms Larissa Tallent, have spent many hours planning for and organising this massive event. There is a real buzz of excitement around the school and we are all very much looking forward to the unique Urrbrae on Show day!

## Urrbrae Wines excel at the 2020 National Wine Show



The Urrbrae Estate wines just keep getting better and better! This is evidenced in the outstanding results received at the National Wine Show this year, including;

- Gold Award for the 2019 Grenache
- Silver Awards x 2 for the 2019 Merlot and Shiraz
- Bronze Award for the 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon

Our wines are produced on-site by Urrbrae students, guided by Wine and Viticulture teacher, Mr James Anderson, and Farm Staff member, Mr Kym Naulty, from grapes grown exclusively in the Urrbrae Estate vineyard. Congratulations to all students and staff involved in this vintage. Urrbrae wines are available for purchase (over 18 only) at the Urrbrae Barn Markets (first Saturday of each Month) or through the school canteen. Please keep in mind that stocks sell out each year so be quick to enjoy this great wine, and in so doing supporting the wine and farm enterprises of Urrbrae.

## Making hay while the sun shines



The Year 12 Plant Production class (pictured left) have assessed the oats and vetch hay crop as part of their course work, which has been established in the Creek paddock. Students evaluated the potential yield of the crop and examined the effects of any weeds, pests and diseases on the overall production of hay. The crop has recently been mown and raked and will be baled as soon as practicable to produce high quality fodder for our livestock.

Year 10 student, Henry Gill, (pictured right) is operating the newly acquired hay mower that has proven to be a great asset to our farm machinery range. We are anticipating that over 200 hay bales will be produced this year from the Creek paddock crop.



### Special visitor to Urrbrae

In Term 3, Mr Wayne Barden visited Urrbrae to donate his library of Agriculture and Biology books and beautiful photographs of Urrbrae that he has collected over many years. Mr Barden was the inaugural Urrbrae Deputy Principal for Agriculture (1968 – 1979) and he is recognised nationally as a high achieving educator of Agriculture, some of his career highlights include:

- Led the establishment of the Urrbrae Certificate of Agriculture
- Author and Editor of numerous Agricultural text books used extensively across Australia
- Managed the process of the Urrbrae farm land being transferred from Waite University use to Urrbrae school use

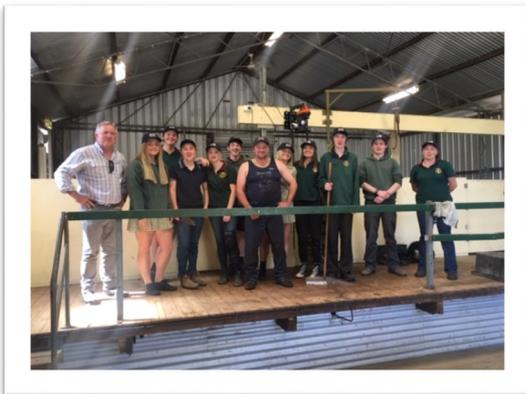
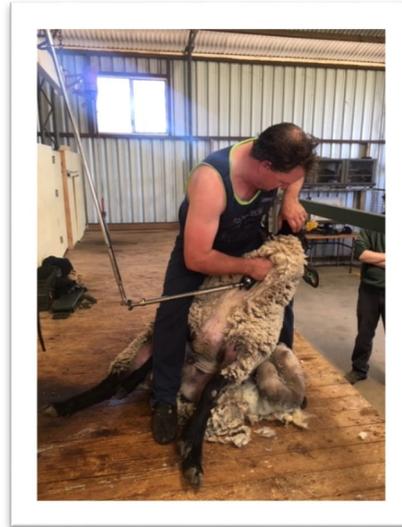
On behalf of the wider school community, thank you Wayne for visiting the school and donating your special books and photos and sharing some of your cherished memories of Urrbrae. You certainly made a positive difference to our school.



**Mr Fleming, Assistant Principal – Agriculture (2020 ongoing ) and Mr Wayne Barnden Deputy Principal – Agriculture (1968 – 1979)**

## Shearing the Urrbrae Suffolk sheep is always a popular farm activity

Recently the Year 11 Sheep and Goat Management class were involved in the shearing of the school Suffolk rams. Students assisted in catching and shearing the sheep and also the various tasks associated with wool handling, such as fleece throwing and classing. Later this term we will be shearing the ewe flock and the 2020 lambs. The wool produced is baled and sold with the proceeds being allocated to improve the Sheep farm enterprise.



## Free-range Peking ducks trialled in the Urrbrae orchard

As part of the Year 10 Agriculture Production subject, students work in small groups to develop and initiate an agricultural enterprise, one of the projects has focused on the introduction of free-range Peking ducks to the Urrbrae orchard. Peking ducks are bred specifically for meat and are run as part of some horticultural enterprises across Australia. Old Scholar and current parent, Mr Carey Shultz, incorporates this production technique within his Lenswood orchard and he has generously supported the supply of the ducks to Urrbrae for the project. The Peking duck breed is sought after by restaurants and also at the same time provide important insect pest control when kept in an orchard situation. The Year 10 students involved have worked on all aspects of establishing the enterprise such as adapting an enclosure that is fox and dog proof (thanks to Mr Gary Bradshaw, Urrbrae Farm Mechanic, for his support in this aspect) and caring for the birds on a daily basis. The ducks will be processed towards the end of this term and will then be sold through the canteen ready for Christmas! This project is a trial for Urrbrae, and if successful, we will look at extending the concept in 2021.



### Promotion opportunities for Urrbrae

Urrbrae continues to receive excellent marketing exposure throughout the community such as:

- High-profile advertisements in the SA Life magazines for August and October.
- Aquaculture teacher, Mr John Marriott, was recently interviewed for the podcast “The Adelaide Show” which enjoys thousands of views each week. John explained how Urrbrae supports the conservation efforts of the endangered fresh-water fish species the Purple Spotted Gudgeon and produces a range of other species as part of the Aquaculture program at Urrbrae including Barramundi and Blue Yabbies.
- East Adelaide Herald paper will be highlighting the achievements of the Urrbrae wines at the National Wine Show in their next edition.
- Principal Tours have proven to be very popular with hundreds of prospective families attending a tour over the last few months.

The Presentation and Year 12 Graduation Evening later in the term is a highlight for the year and recognises the successes of students across a range of Agricultural pursuits including the Peter Waite Old Scholar Award and the McBride Pastoral Company Prizes. I look forward to reporting on the achievements of this year’s agricultural programs in the final School Council Report for 2020.

# Urrbrae Agriculture and Farm News 2021

The relatively mild temperatures and wetter than average weather patterns over summer have promoted excellent pasture growth without the need for substantial irrigation. Our school farm has been very well maintained by our Farm Staff over the Christmas holidays and is ready to go from day one for another busy school year. The reduced effects of COVID in SA have allowed us to plan ahead a range of agricultural and marketing events that unfortunately were unable to be offered during 2020 including:

- ◇ **Mortlock Scholarship Ceremonies (March)**
- ◇ **Yorke Peninsula Field Days (September)**
- ◇ **Country Shows and the Royal Adelaide Show**
- ◇ **Merino Weather Competition**

Early this term our Agricultural Staff have established a wide range of lunchtime Clubs in which hundreds of our students participate in. The Clubs provide a unique environment for students and staff with like interests to work together on the maintenance and improvements of various farm enterprises. This time is also valuable in preparing livestock for the 2021 Show Competitions.

## **Farm Enterprise meetings are being scheduled during 2021:**

- ◇ Meetings include Agriculture Teacher for enterprise, Farm Manager, allocated Farm Staff and Assistant Principal Agriculture
- ◇ Meetings assist in jointly identifying:
  - Key short, medium and long-term needs and priorities that pertain to each Farm Enterprise (12 Enterprises in total)
  - Aligning these priorities to the 2020-2022 Farm Strategic Plan (see next slide)

## **Farm management Meetings**

- ◇ Weekly meetings with Farm manager and AP Agriculture to prioritise projects, maintenance and improvements
- ◇ Details shared with all Ag staff and school Leadership

## URRBRAE AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL FARM STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2022



*In 1913 Peter Waite bequeathed the land on which Urrbrae Agricultural High School now stands.*

*His vision was to create an innovative educational facility that promoted agriculture and horticulture, producing well equipped students for the future.*

*Today, Urrbrae continues that proud tradition.*



**VISION :** To provide unique opportunities for learners and future innovators.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To be an innovative educational leader in Agricultural and Horticultural Science, Technology and the Environment. To develop engaged citizens, with creative and critical minds, a strong social conscience, and a love of learning. This includes fostering resilience, independence, personal responsibility and respect for others.

**VALUES:** Our school is underpinned by our values of: *Respect, Rigour, Responsibility and Resilience.*

### Infrastructure

Our aim is to maintain and improve our current farm infrastructure so that students are exposed to a wide variety of agricultural practices with modern equipment and facilities that meet industry standards.

We commit to:

- Scheduling a cyclical maintenance registry for plant and machinery
- Ensuring sheds and buildings are maintained to industry standard
- Creating improved environments for individual enterprises to enable cutting edge practice to occur

### Enterprises

Our aim is to operate the farm as a series of separate enterprises, each with a specific agricultural focus and a dedicated budget line.

We commit to:

- Having regular meetings to ensure consistent practices and agreed improvements across all enterprises
- Having an enterprise manager who collaborates with farm staff regarding the day-to-day management, budgets and infrastructure of the enterprise.
- Supporting the marketing and promotion of individual enterprises to enhance the school specialist focus.

### Financial

Our aim is to be as self-sufficient as we can through the use of enterprises to generate income wherever possible.

We commit to:

- Selling produce through our canteen and monthly barn markets
- Innovative online purchasing platforms across all enterprises
- Generating alternative income streams through agri-business, Old Scholars support and industry grants

### Curriculum

Our aim is to offer innovative pedagogy that leads to engaged learners and improved outcomes for all students.

We commit to:

- Maintaining our STEM focus on Agriculture, Technology and The Environment across the curriculum.
- Ensuring task design (and assessment) provides opportunity for success for all students.
- Refining processes to develop consistency in assessment practices.
- Using feedback from a variety of sources to ensure curriculum offered is relevant, engaging and tailored to student needs.

## Agriculture and Farm Improvements and Priorities 2021

### Farm Improvements

- Increase \$ from industry/grants/sponsorship
- Farm Staff management
- Increase use of technology e.g.: Agri Web
- Winery renovation to incorporate lab/learning area and secure storage
- Piggery upgrade to free-range/straw based system
- Bee keeping shed extension

### Promotions and Community Engagement

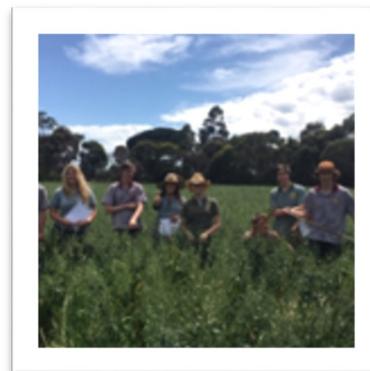
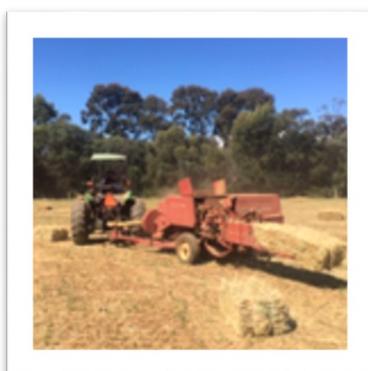
#### Increase

- Media releases
- Old Scholar participation
- Waite and Industry engagement e.g. Thomas Foods

## Plant Enterprises

### Crop and Pasture Improvement:

- Preparing for 2021 Hay production which will produce feed for our livestock over the summer and autumn months ahead and therefore reduces the need for feed bought from suppliers
- Barley and Rye seed purchased ready for sowing in April and May by Year 11 Crop Science and Certificate 11 in Agriculture students
- Crop and Pasture Plan updated which summarises all paddock crops and pastures and future plantings.



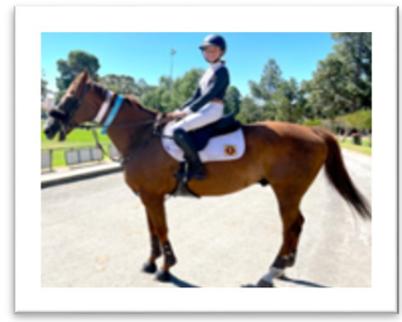
### Urrbrae Vintage in Full Swing

Since the start of Term1 the Year 10 and 11 Viticulture have been regularly monitoring sugar content of our grapes by maturity testing across the main varieties including Shiraz, Grenache, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The seasonal conditions of mild summer temperatures with minimal rainfall has resulted in the production top quality fruit which students and staff have been harvesting over the last 3 weeks with the final harvesting occurring this week (Week 8 of Term 1). Students are directly involved of all aspects of the wine making process such as crushing, pressing and barrelling. Thank you to all students involved and also to our key Viticulture and Winemaking staff James Anderson and Kym Naulty who predict this vintage to be the best on record for Urrbrae, so don't miss out on purchasing the 2021 wines when they become available.



## Horses

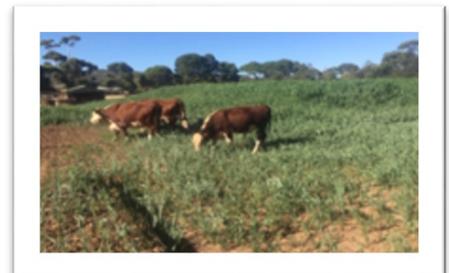
The Urrbrae Interschool Equestrian Team has been very active already this year participating in the Trinity Interschool Gymkhana and Angaston Show. The students competed extremely well at Trinity College and their success saw Urrbrae place equal 8th overall out of 43 schools! Students also competed at Mundulla and Lucindale Shows with some outstanding results being achieved such as first place in the 100cm class and 2nd and 3rd in the 110cm show jumping. The equestrian competition season has made an excellent start to the year with our Urrbrae riders competing in many events over the next few months. We wish them all the best and congratulate them all on getting to the competitions, having fun, with the bonus of great success.



## Livestock Enterprises

### Cattle:

- Steers of various breeds have arrived from properties across SA to be used for show preparation (Clubs)
- Poll Hereford Stud cows and heifer purchased from a highly acclaimed stud in the South East to boost the genetics of our Poll Hereford Stud
- Artificial Insemination program will be continued later this term.

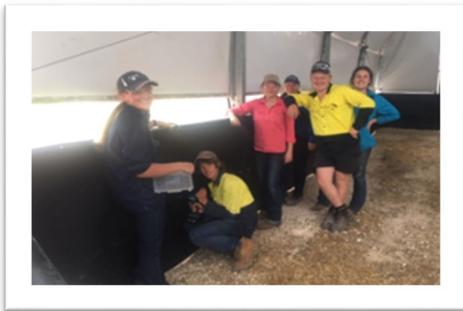


### Sheep, Goats and Alpacas:



- 12 Suffolk Stud Ewes have been artificially inseminated with genetics from one of the top Suffolk rams in Australia to further improve our Suffolk Stud genetics.
- 15 Merino wethers have been delivered in preparation for the Merino Wether Competition. 10 of these were generously donated by Old Scholar Richard Harkness from Superior Wool Merino Stud Tintinara
- Boer goats will start kidding late March
- First cria (young alpaca) born onsite for many years is doing very well with halter training!

### Piggery Renovation:



- New Eco-shelter has been completed with side frames and polybelt. This facility will be a great asset to protect young animals (and students and staff) from the elements!
- Main piggery areas are being transformed to straw based = better for pigs and better for environment (waste management), this major renovation started early March with contractors relining the floor to allow for the new straw based system. This work should be completed towards the end of Term 3.

### STEM in Agriculture

#### Food for the Future Challenge

Year 8 Agriculture teachers, Ashlee McEvoy and Ashley Biddell, recently facilitated an interactive and innovative session. This activity incorporated two Year 8 classes working together in small teams to identify and look at solutions relating to the global issue of food supply demands into the future. The students certainly engaged with and enjoyed this approach to discover together possible solutions to this major challenge!



The autumn season continued to be quite dry with below average rainfall delaying some of the seeding of crops across SA. Urrbrae has just completed the sowing of the annual cereal crops for hay production and are planning the establishment of perennial pasture (Lucerne and medic) which will be a project for the Semester 2 Year 11 Crop Science class. The following provides a summary of some key activities since the May Report:

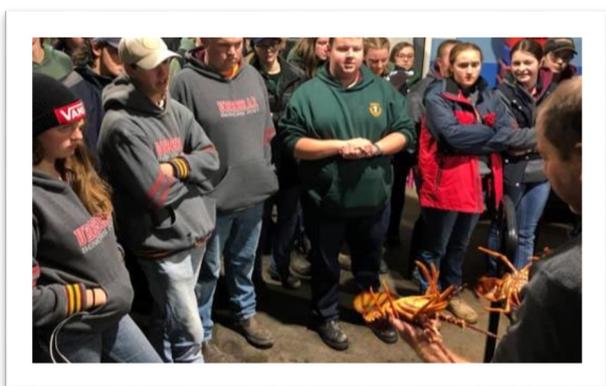
### **Agriculture faculty finalising Year 7 curriculum plans and assessment tasks:**

The student free day in Week 8 of Term 2 provided some additional time for the Agriculture staff to work collaboratively in the designing of Unit Plans and associated assessment tasks. The faculty aligned the topics to the Australian Curriculum objectives and also developed resources that support the delivery of the units. Well done to all staff involved in this complex but very exciting work.

### **South East Senior Agriculture Field Trip 2021 a significant part of the agricultural program experience:**

53 Year 11 and 12 Agriculture students and 5 staff travelled for 4 days (Week 5 Term 2) through the South East of SA, visiting a diverse range of properties and Agribusiness industries including; Flairdale Merino Stud, Zadow's Bees, Southern Cross Cattle Feedlot, Brecon Lucerne Production, Clothiers Free-Range Chickens, Robe Crayfish, Camel Milk-ing (& eating camel milk ice cream!),

The students were "wowed" by the latest farm machinery at Boonderoo Pastoral Company and then had the pleasure of tasting Mike's Beef Jerky at Robe. A fantastic dinner at The Robe Hotel was organised for the final night where students had the unique opportunity to interact with a large number of Agricultural industry leaders. Overall this was a brilliant tour full of learning opportunities, life skills and fun! Thanks particularly to Agriculture Coordinator Mr Damien Brookes for his leadership in facilitating this important aspect of the Urrbrae Agriculture experience.



## From the Urrbrae Archives

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 3 July 1952,

### Urrbrae Tractor



Urrbrae Agricultural High School students could afford to smile last week, when the school was handed a new tractor. Gleefully trying it out for the first time was M. Mowbray, watched by his classmates,

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 13 July 1944,

### ARBOR DAY AT URRBRAE

An Arbor Day was held at the Urrbrae Agricultural High School on June 30.

The first planting of trees was made in 1943, when 76 trees, in memory of old students and in honor of those in the fighting forces, were established. Because this number proved insufficient, an additional 60 trees were planted this year, forming an avenue round part of the school oval.

The trees planted in 1943 had made fine growth, and gave promise of forming a beautiful avenue in the course of a few years. The trees planted were *Eucalyptus maculata*, or spotted gum, a tree with a straight trunk and glossy foliage. Each tree is cared for by a present scholar, who corresponds with the old scholar whom the tree commemorates. Much interest is taken in the trees by both the old scholars and the parents.

The Rev. R. H. Pearman, who addressed the scholars at the Arbor Day ceremony, said that no more fitting memorial could be given to the old scholars who had enlisted than an avenue of trees.

## A blast from the past, article "The Harvest Magazine" - 1968

### AGRICULTURAL SUPPLEMENT

#### URRBRAE CERTIFICATE OF AGRICULTURE

1968 has seen the commencement of the two-year post-Intermediate Specialist Agriculture course which was described in Harvest 1967. Briefly, the course consists of the core subjects, which occupy about two thirds of the student's time, of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Farm Management and Rural Economics, and Farm Engineering, as well as the General subjects of English, Social Studies, Statistics and Science (the latter being in conjunction with and as part of the core studies).

The course began with twenty-three students from all parts of the State. Their backgrounds are widely differing both in the type of agricultural property from which they came and their secondary schools. They have come from farms involved with cereals, sheep, poultry, horticulture and dairying. All have completed the Third Year Area Certificate or the Intermediate P.E.B. Certificate and several have completed the Fourth Year Area Certificate or the Leaving P.E.B. Certificate. This difference in background has provided interest within the class but has posed some difficulties in presenting the Agriculture and Animal Husbandry content of the course. However, despite these minor points the course has started well.

Much of the success of the pilot course to date has been due to the fine attitude of the students who have shown a great deal of interest and enthusiasm in the course. It would be surprising if this interest and enthusiasm were lacking considering the fact that the course provides the students with topics which will be of practical use to them when they return to their home properties. Add to this the many tours and visits provided and these students are indeed fortunate in having such a stimulating course of study to pursue.

It should be noted that the tours arranged are to provide an insight into, and an understanding of, the industries allied with agriculture as well as an appreciation of the technological and scientific resources which back the farmer.

Tours have included visits to many agricultural machinery firms specialising in certain equipment, primary producers (e.g. tomato growers, stud sheep and pigs) and research organisations including the C.S.I.R.O. and the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. They have attended a symposium held for farmers by the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and have been assisted at the school by many firms to demonstrate equipment available to the farmer. Two tours, each of a week's duration, are a compulsory part of the course—the first throughout the South East and the second throughout the River Murray Horticulture district.



FORM 4U

R. Coot, R. Theil, D. Oliver, D. Krieg, K. Nethercott, J. Copeland, W. Gillfillan, T. Evans, A. Cox, D. Wilson, T. Mitchell, K. Barton, N. Ellison, P. Edwards, J. Mason, R. Story, J. Crawford, D. Hornhardt, L. Harris, J. Gerund, C. Coventry, D. Rayner.

## A blast from the past, article "The Harvest Magazine" - 1968

It should also be noted that this course does not entail a great degree of practical work in all subjects. An introduction to, and a demonstration of most of the basic skills which are required by a farmer (e.g. crutching, vaccination and pruning) are achieved together with a limited amount of participation by the students. This is limited partly because of lack of resources, e.g. sheep numbers, but mainly because it is believed that the students can practice their skills at home to become proficient. It is considered that the important function of this course is to provide the student with the fundamental principles underlying the skills, introduce the skills and different techniques, and thus provide a sound base of knowledge and attitude on which to build as he develops his farming future.

This, we feel, is being achieved.

The interest and support given by individuals and firms associated with agriculture has been an indication that the need for this type of course is appreciated and this has been encouraging. This support has resulted in the award of Mortlock Scholarships on a slightly different basis to the usual ones, a Scholarship from the United Farmers and Graziers Association, Adelaide-Wallaroo Fertilizers, Cyclone-KM Products, Port Implement Co., and Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort.

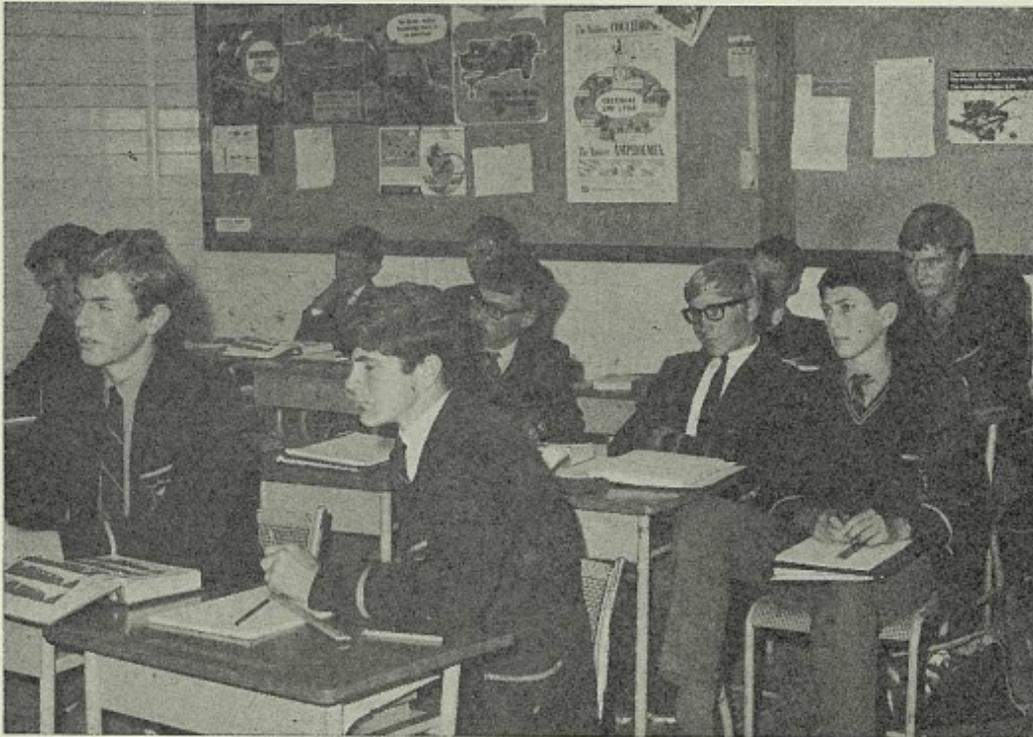
We are grateful to the Education Department for the way in which it has assisted in the pro-

vision of equipment and the improved staffing situation.

In all, the Urrbrae Certificate of Agriculture Course has been launched to a very pleasing start due to the preparatory work laid down in advance, the keenness and interest of staff, students and their parents, the assistance of the Education Department, and the encouragement and assistance of firms associated with agriculture. It is anticipated that it will not be very long before this course is in demand by more candidates than can be placed at Urrbrae. At such time it will be necessary to extend the course to country centres to cater for these needs and it is hoped that the Education Department will be ready to meet the demands of increased equipment and facilities, and more well-trained agricultural science teachers. The future of this course is largely in the hands of this pioneer class and is dependent on their subsequent success or failure.

As a final note it is important to realise that the true value of this course can only be judged after these students have returned to their farms and have attempted to apply the principles we hope have been learned. I, personally, am looking forward to the day, several years from now, when I may visit farmers who will owe their success to a large degree to the training provided by this unique course.

F. W. BARDEN.



Photographs in Supplement by courtesy of "Chronicle".

Twenty six

## A blast from the past, article "The Harvest Magazine" - 1968

### THE POULTRY PROJECT

The function of the poultry project is to teach students the activities which take place in the poultry industry and the basic principles on which these activities are founded.

We have changed over to an "all-in, all out" scheme whereby we buy in day-old White Leghorn X Australorp pullets in September, rear them and keep them for one laying season. They are then sold at the end of term III of the following year. If and when we rear our own replacements we shall be able to do so as we have the necessary equipment. However, this will be deferred until the present system has been established and tested thoroughly.

**Incubation** as for 1967.

**Brooding** as for 1967. For the second year running we are using the upper storey of the Old Barn as a brooder room. This is remote from the other birds and boys on roster there do not go down to the adult section. This is to avoid disease. The room is warm and dry and ideally suited to brooding.

Rearing, laying, fattening and dissection work has continued as in 1967.

**A Notable Achievement.** The Australorp pullets bred and entered by Urrbrae in the State 1967 Laying Trials were very successful. A trio came first against all breeders in S.A. The second trio was reduced to two by the early death of one bird after it had produced 80 eggs. Even so, the five birds came second in the whole State and earned seven trophies in the process.

**Poultry Club.** I would like to express my admiration and appreciation of the members of the club as their constant interest and efforts are largely responsible for the smooth running of the project.

#### EGG PRODUCTION — FEED CONSUMPTION PENS

Month	Eggs	Birds	Feed lbs.
Feb. ....	1,310	327	3,475
March ....	5,311	319	2,975
April ....	4,798	306	2,675
May ....	5,645	294	3,125
June ....	5,875	283	2,750
July ....	5,607	279	2,905
Aug. ....	3,457	276	2,870
Sept. ....	4,146	273	2,725
Total ....	36,149		23,500

#### BATTERIES

Month	Eggs	Birds	Feed lbs.
Feb. ....	132	48	200
March ....	730	48	275
April ....	653	48	200
May ....	891	48	250
June ....	790	48	200
July ....	582	48	250
Aug. ....	413	48	275
Sept. ....	612	48	250
Total ....	4,803		1,900

R. A. BAILEY.



### HORTICULTURE PROJECT

**Citrus**—Good tree size increase this year due to drought winter minimizing root death (a problem due to our heavy textured soil) plus careful irrigation over summer and excellent pest control.

**Plums**—Nil crop this year (trees planted in 1964). Trees survived the summer with minimum irrigation. The bud set and blossom seems promising for this season.

**Peaches**—An excellent harvest of good quality and size fruit. There was a 50% wastage of fruit due to pre-harvest drop and fungal organisms of the type transial rot. As well as the system of harvesting and marketing used this year this seemed general throughout the industry this year.

**Vineyard**—A good harvest with conditions favouring this next season for bud setting. Currant drying was tried this year on a small scale—it is hoped to start dripping and drying on a larger scale next season.

**New Plantings**—Another row of transient orchard and two trellises of transient vines plus a few replacements were planted this winter with favourable conditions for a good start.

**Nursery**—This year we commenced a nursery with almond and peach seedlings and vine cuttings. This material will be available for working next year—it is hoped to expand this section of work.

#### Yields:—

**Citrus**—No marketable quality fruit harvested.

**Peaches**—Second harvest, 585 lbs. marketable quality; approximately 500 lbs. waste fruit which was collected and the seeds used to establish a seedling nursery for 1969 budding.

**Plums**—Too few fruit to harvest.

**Vines**—34 half bushells harvested and sold through the canteen. 10 half bushells currants dried.

**Nursery**—Approximately 1,000 peach seeds have been planted. Approximately 1,000 assorted vine cuttings.

J. LEES.

## A blast from the past, article "The Harvest Magazine" - 1968

### VEGETABLE PROJECT

We do not aim to educate our students to become market gardeners. Rather it is a study of principles for growing plants. The project can be likened to carpentry as a basic trade which is invaluable in the building industry.

The garden incorporates vegetables and other agricultural plants which can be grown near at hand to the class-room as a convenient source for close study in the various stages of development.

Cabbage and cauliflower seeds are sown during the Christmas vacation so that when the school year commences, seedlings are ready to plant. These are planted very effectively and rapidly by first year classes of 40 students, who move across the prepared beds like guided missiles. This planting is followed by French Beans, which grow exceptionally well providing a good financial return as well as providing "green manure" when rotary-hoed into the soil.

We sprinkle the cereals wheat, barley and oats and cereal rye on the area before rotary hoeing to supply some cereal plants for study as well as a green manure crop. These are later rotary-hoed into the soil to provide more organic matter. The main fertilizer used is superphosphate but some sulphate of ammonia is applied to cabbages and cauliflowers.

Later the remains of cabbages and cauliflowers are hoed in similarly to the beans and cereals. Late in winter areas of broad beans are sown, harvested and hoed in.

Second year students are concerned with onion growing, cauliflowers and peas. Small areas of common pasture plants are demonstrated.

Intermediate students begin with studies of pasture plots. The 4U class is concerned with the



glasshouse where tomatoes are being grown as a small commercial crop.

We have had a very wet season and with the heavy nature of our soil it seems that we must avoid winter production and with the aid of irrigation concentrate on using the drier months of the year.

Actually we have been able to market our vegetables a little earlier than most growers. Our market is of course the students and the mothers who assist in the canteen but we consult market prices and sell at an attractive price by comparison. Probably one of our most successful forms of garden education is in encouraging scholars to grow vegetables at home. Often when compared with what we achieve at school the results are poor. If the agriculturalist begins to reason "why" yield varies and compares with his neighbour's efforts he will realise how his methods can be improved while gaining valuable understanding of the principles of plant growth in general.

Overall, our production for 1968 has been (approximately):

800 cabbages (approx. 1/8 acre).

1,400 cauliflowers (approx. 1/4 acre)—succession planting.

French Beans (approx. 1/10 acre).

Peas (approx. 1/10 acre)—succession planting.

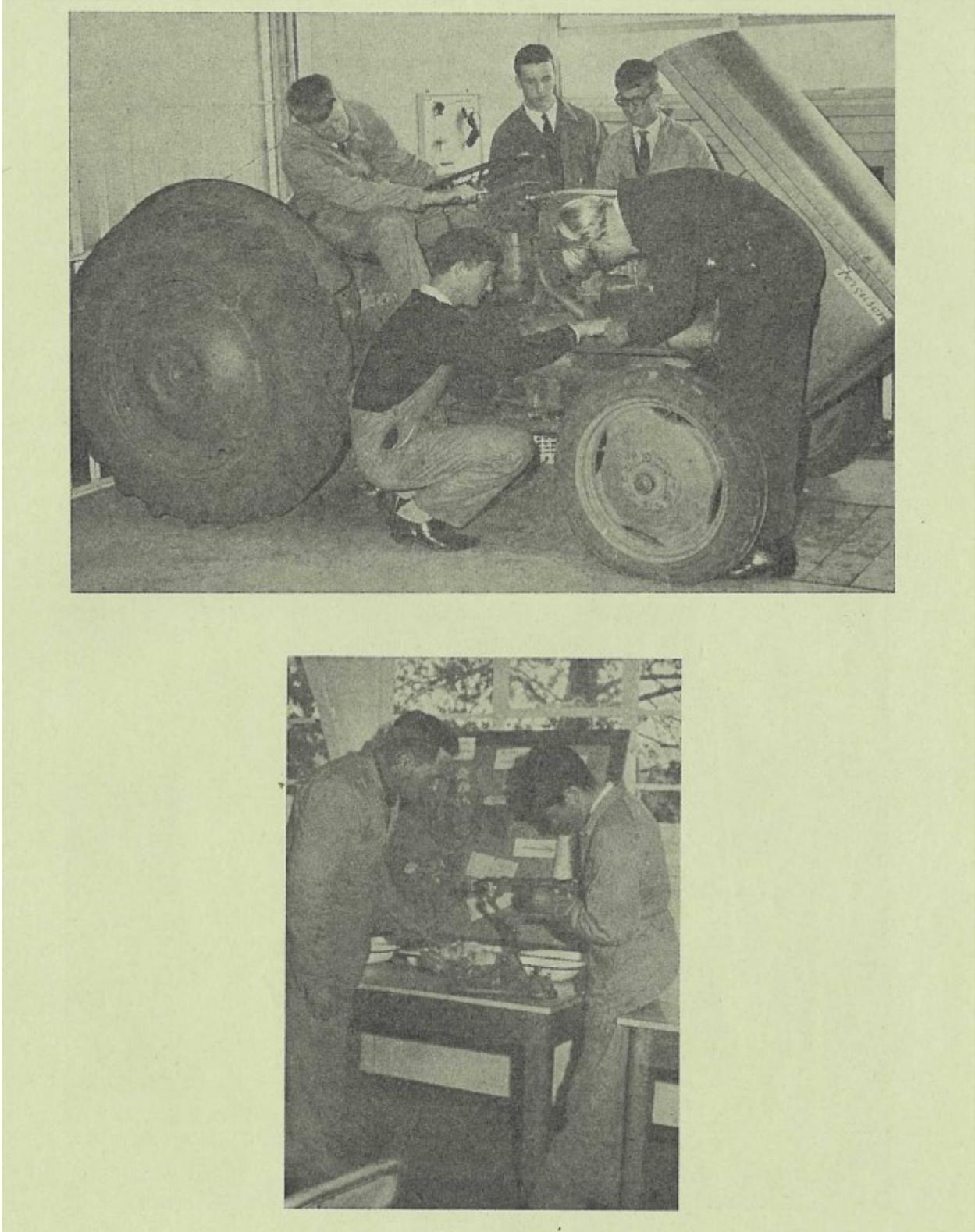
4,000 onions (approx. 1/20 acre).

Glasshouse tomatoes (1/2 glasshouse).

J. J. JONES.



A blast from the past, article "The Harvest Magazine" - 1968



## A blast from the past, article "The Harvest Magazine" - 1968

### SHEEP PROJECT

At present the school is carrying 187 sheep including this year's lambs, most of which will be sold.

Sheep as at 30th September:	
Merino ewes (various ages) .....	70
Merino hogget ewes .....	23
Merino hogget wethers .....	10
Merino rams .....	2
Poll Dorset ram .....	1
Merino vasectomised ram .....	1
1968 drop lambs .....	79
Dissecting ewes .....	2
Total .....	<u>187</u>

Shearing last year resulted in a wool clip of 4 bales, which when sold resulted in a wool cheque of \$499. Mr. Stan Green instructed some 35 senior students on shearing by the Tally-hi method. Mr. Green had agreed to again instruct students this year but only recently he passed away suddenly. He will be remembered and respected by those students who had contact with him last year. His death has left a gap which cannot be filled.

Mating was delayed until January 15 this year. The ewes were previously teased for a fortnight, and flushed during mating. Mating was over a period of 8 weeks. The early break to the season with use of the oval, enabled us to keep our sheep in good condition through till lambing in June.

A very successful lambing can be reported with over 110% being marked and weaned. Some losses were experienced with young lambs because of cold weather associated with multiple births.

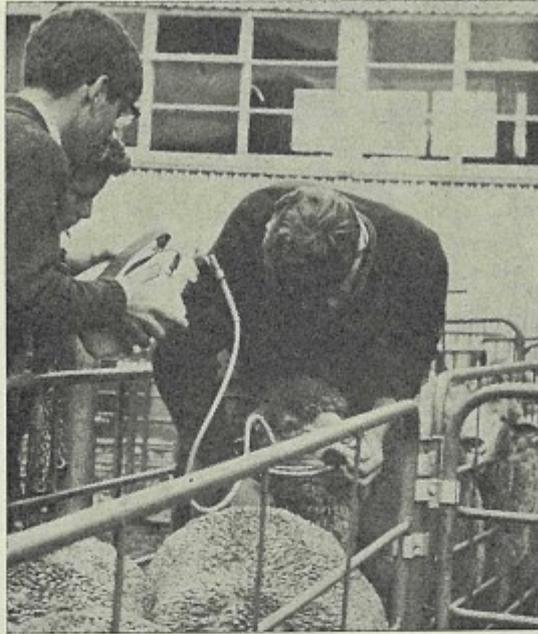
It is intended to increase flock numbers slightly in the next few years. It is also planned to introduce a Border Leicester ram to a small number of the ewe flock, producing a crossbred ewe for mating with the Poll Dorset ram.

The school is indebted to the services of various officers of the Department of Agriculture for talks and demonstrations, to Mr. G. J. Reidy for classing our sheep so willingly and to Mr. Hawker, recently of Old Canowie and now of Wentworth, N.S.W., for continuing to lend us two Merino rams. The services of the sheep club must also be recognised for the willing manner in which they carried out routine operations.

J. L. FLYNN.



## A blast from the past, article "The Harvest Magazine" - 1968



### WINEMAKING

The story does not tell of all the finesse with which a good winemaker concerns himself, but it gives the broad principles of the making of wine.

When the grapes are ripe they are gathered from the vines and taken to the wineries. There they are tested for their Baume degree which is the sugar content of the grapes. If the grapes are of sufficient Baume they are fed into a crusher and this machine removes the berries from the stalks, crushes the berries and ejects the stripped stalk at one end of the machine. The mixture of juice, skins and seeds is known as "must". The must is usually received into a concrete tank and is immediately transferred to fermenting tanks. Generally, white wines are made from white grapes and red wines from red grapes, but white wine can be made from red grapes if the juice is removed promptly from the skins after the grapes are crushed. The process of fermenting varies according to the type of wine which is being made. With light table wines the juice is immediately separated from the skin, but, in making red wines, the skins are retained with the juice

for some time to allow the juice to dissolve tannin and colouring matter. Yeast of wine is found on the skin of ripe grapes but the natural yeasts are undesirable for winemaking and the winemaker adds specially selected yeasts to commence fermentation. In making a dry wine, fermentation is allowed to continue until the whole of the grape sugar is converted into alcohol. For the production of a fortified wine, alcohol is added to the fermenting juice to cause fermentation to cease and so the wine retains a natural sweetness.

The wine is left to settle for a few weeks and the clear wine is then pumped off. This process is known as "racking" and the sediment which remains is called "lees"; this is later distilled to recover the grape spirit it contains. Racking is carried out three or more times in the first six months. The wine is then treated with a fining material such as insinglass or bentonite, which is a colloidal clay. The finings remain in the wine for two or three weeks and then the wine is again pumped off. The wine is passed through another filter before it is placed in oak casks or vats for maturing. After maturing it is again filtered and then bottled.

B. LIGHT, 4A.