Muresk diploma presentations

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His Excellency the Governor (Sir Charles Gairdner) (left) handing over the "Governor's Cup" to the Principal of Muresk Agricultural College (Mr. W. Southern). This trophy was awarded to the College for gaining the highest number of points in the livestock section at the 1953 Perth Royal Show.

MURESKE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
Diploma and Prize Presentations

The Northam Town Hall was packed to capacity on the evening of 8th April, when His Excellency the Governor of Western Australia (Sir Charles Gairdner) presented diplomas and prizes to successful students and also handed over the Governor's Cup which had been awarded to the College as the most successful exhibitor in the livestock sections at the Perth Royal Show.

The Director of Agriculture (Mr. G. K. Baron Hay) was in the chair and welcomed His Excellency and the Hon. Lady Gairdner, the President of the Royal Agricultural Society (Mr. H. N. Higham), the wives of the Premier and the Minister for Agriculture and other distinguished visitors.

In his introductory address, Mr. Baron Hay said that the current year had witnessed a definite change in the agricultural outlook with the advent of a buyer's market for many lines of farm produce. For several years farmers had enjoyed a seller's market with good prices available for practically everything that they could produce.

With narrowed profit margins and keen overseas competition in the export fields, an even greater need now existed for trained men both as practical farmers and as extension officers of the Department of Agriculture. Increased agricultural efficiency could offset the lower returns to a large extent, and Muresk had an important role to play in achieving this.
His Excellency the Governor said that young men of today were particularly fortunate in being able to attend agricultural colleges. As a farmer, he had been compelled to depend upon a correspondence course for much of his own agricultural knowledge and although he completed the course with marked success he soon found that he had to acquire experience “the hard way.”

The modern farmer needed to be more than a jack of all trades, said the Governor. To be really successful he had to be a master of many trades, but farming could be a richly satisfying way of life.

In presenting his report on the activities of the College during 1953, the Principal (Mr. W. Southern) said that during the year he had taken accumulated long service leave and with Mrs. Southern he had visited the United Kingdom and several European countries. The trip had been particularly valuable as he had been able to extend his knowledge of agriculture and agricultural education.

Mr. Southern paid a tribute to the work of the Assistant Principal (Mr. A. J. T. Marshall) and the Factory Superintendent (Mr. H. M. Lister) who with other members of the staff had shouldered extra burdens during his absence.

The College had reopened with a full complement of students but he regretted the absence of dairy factory students and said that the butter and cheese industry is apparently a section of the community which obviously denies the necessity for its operatives to be trained.

THE REDESIGNED COURSE

In the past, said Mr. Southern, the Muresk Diploma Course had usually called for a three-year period at the College. The first year had been to a great extent a preparation for the following two years of agricultural education and it had always been possible for students with suitable educational backgrounds to be exempted from this first year of schooling.

The course had now been re-designed and this exemption was made compulsory. Applicants chosen at the end of their Junior Certificate year, proceeded to a further year of study at the school of their choice before entering Muresk. The change had been greatly facilitated by the fact that many Government schools are now proceeding to a higher standard than the Junior Certificate and furthermore, the Education Department had arranged for a special class to be conducted at the Northam High School in order to cater for those who could not take the extra year elsewhere. The co-operation of that Department was greatly appreciated.

Mr. Southern said that the change had several advantages. In the first place the number of students who could avail themselves of Muresk facilities had been increased by 50 per cent. without enlarging the College. The wastage at the end of the old first year term had been eliminated, and students were a year older before they were finally called upon to make up their minds as to their choice of career. Those who wished to complete their Leaving Certificate instead of entering Muresk could do so without much difficulty as their original course had not been greatly interfered with. Some might even choose to complete their Leaving Certificates before entering Muresk.

In addition, any who wished to proceed to the University after graduating from Muresk would find the first year of the University course much easier.

Mr. Southern pointed out that despite the reduction from three years to two years at Muresk the actual course itself remained unchanged.

SHOW SUCCESSES

The College had a very successful year at the agricultural shows. At Northam numerous awards were gained including the Rural and Industries Bank Cup.

At the Royal Show, Muresk achieved the proud distinction of winning the Governor’s Cup for the second time. In 1934, when the cup was awarded to the highest points winner in a specified section, Muresk had been successful with dairy cattle. Last year’s success was due to pigs and cattle, the points gained in each section being 34 and 32 respectively. The Herdsmans Trophy went to Mr. W. Bridle, the dairy instructor, and high praise was bestowed on him and his student team.
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Students who received the 1953 Muresk Diploma of Agriculture.


*Front Row*: C. P. Dring; L. F. McKay; D. G. Chappell; A. R. Newnham; B. N. Taylor.

*Absent*: N. E. Macintyre; J. F. Rucks; N. H. Ansell.

His Excellency the Governor presented the following awards:

**SCHOLASTIC PRIZES, 1954**

**Diplomas in Agriculture**

*With Honours*—
- Allan Richard Newnham.
- Lennard Fortescue McKay.
- Charles Peter Dring.
- Brian Norman Taylor.
- Neville Ellis Macintyre.

*Major Pass*—
- Keith Wise.
- Neil Henry Ansell.
- Graham Ross Davies.
- Peter Leonard Squire.
- Gordon Llewellyn Salom.
- David Graham Chappell.
- Lawrence Enoch Douglas.
- Vincent Edward Gartner.
- Christopher Stanley Maughan.
- George Francis Walder.

*Minor Pass*—
- John Prficee Rucks.
- John Mansfield Lowe.

**Final Year Awards**

*Dux*: the H. J. Hughes Memorial Medal (presented by Mrs. Hughes and her family); the Sheep Husbandry Prize (presented by the Wool Brokers Association); and Technical College Woolclassing Certificate—A. R. Newnham.

*Second Highest Aggregate and Equal First Practical Activities Prize*—L. F. McKay.

*Third Highest Aggregate, also Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science Prizes (both presented by the Livestock Salesmen's Association)*—C. P. Dring.

*Woolclassing Prize* (presented by the Wool Brokers' Association) and Technical College Woolclassing Certificate—K. Wise.

*Most Useful Student of his year*—J. M. Lowe.

Practical Activities Prize—equal first—N. E. Macintyre.


**Second Year Awards**

*Dux (tie):* Medal presented by Mr T. H. Wilding; Outdoor Activities Prize and Animal Husbandry Prize (presented by the Livestock Salesmen's Association)—G. T. Jones.

*Dux (tie):* Medal presented by Mr. T. H. Wilding; Prize for Most Improved Student; and Veterinary Science Prize (presented by the Livestock Salesmen's Association)—R. R. Fraser.

*Third Highest Aggregate, and Prize for Most Useful Student in his year (tie)*—R. A. Elverr.

Woolclassing and Sheep Husbandry Prize (presented by the Woolbrokers' Association)—E. R. Jacobs.

*Most Useful Student in his year (tie)*—N. W. O'Garr.

**First Year Awards**

*Dux*: Medal presented by the Principal—M. E. Nairn.

*Second Highest Aggregate (tie)*—D. M. Warne.

*Second Highest Aggregate (tie)*—M. E. Vivian.


*Woolclassing Prize*—F. E. Pauley.

Outdoor Activities Prize—L. P. Strugnell.

*Most Useful Student of his year*—J. M. Wallis.

**Special Prizes**

Best Contribution to College Magazine—D. R. Foley.

Outdoor Activities over the last two years: Perpetual Cup, and Annual Prize presented by the Northam Agricultural Society (these trophies are in recognition of the work done by students at the Northam Show)—L. F. McKay.
Botany Collection Prizes
First Prize (presented by Mr. J. Walker)—R. J. Grieves.
Second Prize—G. D. B. McGuire.
Third Prize—E. Hewett.

Scholarships
Department of Agriculture Scholarship—M. C. Tiller.
The "Western Mail" Scholarship—D. R. Foley.
Best All-round Student during his course (prize presented by Mr. W. K. Stott)—B. N. Taylor.

SPORTS PRIZES, 1954
Athletics: Champion Athlete—B. N. Taylor.
Tennis: Senior Doubles Champion—G. T. Jones.
Football: Fairest and Best—V. E. Gartner.
Tennis: Senior Doubles Champion—D. P. Morcombe.
Athletics: T. V. Waters Memorial Shield—D. P. Morcombe.
Tennis: Singles Champion—D. Home.
Swimming: Champion—R. Campbell.
Swimming: Runner-up—N. E. Machintyre.
Tennis: Junior Champion—L. E. Douglas.
Football: Most Improved Player—G. Carslake.
Hockey: Most Improved Player—E. R. Jacobs.
Tennis: Junior Doubles Champion—M. E. Nairn.
Athletics: Junior Champion—A. G. Hilton.
Swimming: Champion—D. R. Foley.

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