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A HISTORY OF THE AGRICULTURAL BUREAU, WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL BUREAU AND RURAL YOUTH MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1888 — 1985

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1888 – 1985

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Preface

This report was written in order to provide: a background history of the Rural Youth Movement, Women's Agricultural Bureau and the Agricultural Bureau; an introduction to their basic organisation and structure; and an examination of their relationship to the Department of Agriculture through time. These three organisations have provided a very important function in the development of agriculture in South Australia. They have been a means of group extension to the local community and provided advice to government on agricultural developments. Despite their important role in the development of agriculture in the State, very little has been written which either compares these organisations or outlines their on-going relationship to the Department of Agriculture. This report attempts to close this gap in information and provide a useful introduction to the role and development of each organisation.

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INTRODUCTION

Group Extension and the South Australian Department of Agriculture

Since its inception during the 1890's, the South Australian Department of Agriculture has been closely associated with the Agricultural Bureau, a farmer-based adult educational organisation. While the two organisations have developed alongside each other, the formation of the Agricultural Bureau actually pre-dated the Department by several years. In later years women's and junior branches of the Bureau were formed. These eventually evolved into two separate organisations - the Women's Agricultural Bureau and the Rural Youth Movement.

While all three organisations share a common background, they are completely separate and self-governing entities. However, each organisation maintains, to a greater or lesser degree, a dependence on the Department of Agriculture in terms of funding, staffing, administration and organisational development. Together they are part of the Department's 'group extension' service. This service compliments the Department's extensive network of District Offices, whose extension personnel provide information and advice to farmers on an individual basis. The three associations are also represented on the South Australian Rural Advisory Council (SARAC), a body set up by the Minister of Agriculture to provide wide-ranging advice on matters affecting the rural community.

This study aims at providing an introduction to the three organisations and also to the Department's 'Group Extension' service. While a limited amount of information is available on each of the three groups there is (to the author's knowledge) no previous study that has attempted to compare the three organisations and their relationship through time to the Department of Agriculture.

Sources of Information

Information on the current structure, aims and activities of the three organisations can be gained from the Agricultural Bureau of South Australia Handbook (1980); Women's Agricultural Bureau of South Australia Handbook (1979) and The Handbook: Rural Youth (1985). The best source of information concerning SAGRIC services to the Rural Youth Movement is to be found in P.C. Angove's unpublished paper The Rural Youth Movement of South Australia: A Brief History. Similar information for the Women's Agricultural Bureau is to be found in W.A.B. Congress Annual Reports; Fifty Years of Achievement: W.A.B. Jubilee Year, 1917-1967; W.A.B. News and the W.A.B. Scrapbook, an unpublished record held in the Department's Extension Branch. For details of SAGRIC services to the Advisory Board of Agriculture, the Board's Annual Reports are the best available resource.

There have been a number of historical studies produced on the Agricultural Bureau in South Australia. Undoubtedly, Black and Craig's (1978) study The Agricultural Bureau: A Sociological Study is the most comprehensive. The Advisory Board of Agriculture's Board Members Handbook also provides a limited amount of background history. Other sources of historical information are: M. Munn's BA Honours Thesis (1956), Agricultural Extension in South Australia 1875-1895; her MA Thesis (1961), Information and Extension Services among farmers of the partially developed lands of the Upper South East of South Australia; and T.J. Aldridge's BA Honours Thesis (1972), The Agricultural Bureau of South Australia: Its Development and Contribution to the Diffusion of Agricultural Information. For recent history, the Advisory Board of Agriculture's Annual Reports are the only published source of information. Minutes of the Advisory Board of Agriculture meetings and details of Agricultural Bureau branch activities

can also be found in the now discontinued South Australian Journal of Agriculture.

The histories of the Women's Agricultural Bureau and the Rural Youth Movement are not well documented. P.C. Angove's earlier mentioned paper provides a brief outline of Rural Youth Movement's history up until the late 1970's. The history of the Women's Agricultural Bureau is briefly outlined in Fifty Years of Achievement: W.A.B. Jubilee Year, 1917-1967 and P. Moore's article A Short History of 60 years with the W.A.B. Other sources are: W.A.B. News; the W.A.B. Scrapbook; Department of Agriculture Archives; W.A.B. Congress Annual Reports.

CHAPTER 1

HISTORY OF THE THREE GROUPS FROM AN ORGANISATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

The Agricultural Bureau, the Women's Agricultural Bureau and the Rural Youth Movement have each played a significant role in the continuing education of thousands of people in the rural areas of South Australia. This chapter presents a selective history, tracing the origin and development of each organisation through time and their changing relationship to the Department of Agriculture. A comprehensive history of the three groups is yet to be written. This chapter should provide some insight into how the origin and development of each organisation has influenced the nature of the three groups today.

AGRICULTURAL BUREAU

Pre Bureau Period (1836-1887)

Farming organisations in South Australia can be traced back to the earliest period of the State's development. Following the arrival of colonists in 1836, European style agriculture rapidly extended into the arable areas around Adelaide.¹ The period between 1838 and 1842 saw the establishment of the South Australian Bush Club, the South Australian Agricultural Society, the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia and the Mount Barker Agricultural Association.² All were short-lived, except for the Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

The Agricultural and Horticultural Society had three main aims: to collect agricultural statistics; to gather information on the experiences

of farmers; and to make the information available to the farming community by means of a periodical publication.³ A committee of nine persons representing various farming districts was formed. The committee was to monitor trends affecting agricultural and pastoral interests in the Colony in much the same way as the Chamber of Commerce looked after commercial interests.⁴ The committee was also to supervise the provision of information on all agricultural subjects to Society members. However, despite its stated aims the (later Royal) Agricultural and Horticultural Society became almost exclusively interested in conducting the Adelaide Show.

In 1858, a rival organisation, the Central Farmer's Club was established.⁵ This new organisation was modelled on English farmer associations. It was formed as a result of dissatisfaction with the Agricultural and Horticultural Society's concentration on holding agricultural shows and its failure to collect and distribute information on modern farming methods⁶. Meetings of the Farmer's Club were never well attended. However, papers presented at their meetings were published in the Farm and Garden magazine and reached a much wider audience.⁷ The Farmer's Club was eventually disbanded in 1862.

The formation of these two competing organisations highlighted a need felt by many people involved in agriculture in South Australia for an organisation that would look after the interests of the rural population; conduct research into practical methods of agriculture appropriate to the newly opened areas of the Colony; and that would extend that information to the farming population. The next twenty years were to see a number of farming organisations formed with these political, research and extension aims.

In addition to moves to develop independent farming organisations agricultural interests were calling for government involvement in agriculture in general, and to finance agricultural societies in particular.⁸ In 1857 the South Australian Parliament gave 200 to support the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society. The allocation rose to 1 000 per year in 1875 on the condition that the Society raise a similar amount.⁹

In 1875 moves were made in parliament, led by Sir Henry Ayres to form a Department of Agriculture.¹⁰ The following year saw agriculture established as a separate ministerial portfolio. The office of Minister of Agriculture continued until 1877 when a change in government saw the agricultural portfolio dropped.¹¹

July 1875 saw the formation of the Commission on Agricultural Education under the Chairmanship of Henry Ayres.¹² The Commission developed from an earlier debate over the creation of 'model farms' in South Australia. Some of the Commission's recommendations were: that a Department of Agriculture be established to collect and disseminate information of value to agriculture in the colony; that experimental farms be established; that a Professor of Agriculture be appointed to teach at the University of Adelaide and agricultural schools and provide public lectures each year for the principal agricultural centres; and that a congress of farmers be held each year at the time of the Royal Show so that information gathered by the Department of Agriculture could be presented and discussed.¹³ In the following years attempts were made to appoint a Professor of Agriculture and to establish experimental farms, while the idea of a Department of Agriculture was shelved for the time being.

The year 1875 also saw a revival of the Farm and Garden magazine under the new name Garden and Field.¹⁴ This publication was edited by a largely self-educated printer, Albert Molineux.¹⁵ Molineux through his access to

the printed media was able to exercise a significant influence over the development of agricultural organisations in South Australia. Shortly after taking up the editorship of Garden and Field, he became the agricultural editor of the South Australian Register.¹⁶ In the May 1877 issue of Garden and Field, Molineux advocated the formation of 'farmer's clubs'.¹⁷ These clubs, similar to those in California and England, were to help foster co-operative action, the discussion of vital topics and secure parliamentary support for issues of interest to farmers. During the early 1880's independent Farmers' Clubs (or Unions) began springing up throughout the Colony.¹⁸ The Garden and Field extensively reported on their activities which often paralleled those of the later branches of the Agricultural Bureau.

In 1879 the South Australian Farmer's Mutual Association was formed.¹⁹ Its two main aims were the consideration of political questions affecting farming interests and self-education in the 'most approved methods of scientific and mechanical agriculture'.²⁰ However, in practice branches of the association were pre-occupied with political questions, notably the reform of land laws. It was not until the Association's annual conference in 1889 that active attention was given to farming methods and techniques.²¹ By that time the organisation was in the last stages of decline.

Formation and Early Development of the Bureau (1888-1896)

South Australia entered a period of agricultural depression in the mid 1880's.²² This period was marked by drought, serious reductions in the value of rural exports, and a general decline in agriculture, especially in marginal wheatlands.²³ In July 1887, R.A. Tarlton, in the Legislative

Council, moved that a Select Committee be appointed to investigate the best means of improving the Colony's agriculture. Both the Council and the House of Assembly supported the move and a committee was set up with five members from each house.²⁴

Albert Molineux was asked to appear before the Committee. He outlined the system adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture involving a Central Bureau of salaried officers with clerical support.²⁵ The Central Bureau was assisted by various state Boards of Agriculture located in nearly every county. Molineux then went on to recommend²⁶ that:⁽¹⁾ South Australia should establish a Bureau, with a paid secretary and clerical support, for the promotion of the progressive development of agriculture;⁽²⁾ a Central Council be formed to supervise the work of the Bureau. The Council would be made up of both government officials (such as the Professor of Agriculture, the Conservator of Forests, the Inspector of Stock and Brands, the President of the Royal Agricultural Society, etc.) and elected farmer representatives. All members of the Council would serve in an honorary capacity. One advantage of forming such a Council was to place the Bureau outside of direct ministerial control. This in turn would provide a safeguard to the Bureau in the event of the relevant Minister being unsympathetic towards agriculture;⁽³⁾ District boards of agriculture be established. Each board would consist of ten individuals selected on the basis of their 'superior intelligence and progressiveness'. The Council could initially appoint two members, the rest being elected by farmers;⁽⁴⁾ The Bureau should act as a 'clearing house' for information gathered by district boards, encourage experimentation and have certain regulatory functions.

During November, 1887 the Select Committee endorsed Molineux's recommendations. Cabinet then approved the formation of a central council.

Initially the council consisted of the Professor of Agriculture, the Conservator of Forests, the Director of the Botanic Gardens, two parliamentarians, two prominent farmers and Albert Molineux.²⁷ During 1888 and 1889 the Chief Inspector of Stock, several practising farmers and another parliamentarian were added to the council.

The central council was designated 'The Central Agricultural Bureau of South Australia'. It held its first meeting in April, 1888.²⁸ Although the Central Bureau's early meetings were on a weekly basis, it eventually settled into a pattern of monthly meetings.²⁹ In May, 1889, the Central Bureau approved the formation of the first four district branches.³⁰ By the beginning of July, 1889 the number of branches had increased to eighteen.³¹ Albert Molineux was appointed as Secretary to the Bureau.³² The position was part-time and salaried.³³ In March, 1890 the Central Bureau organised its first annual congress designed to disseminate information gathered by the Bureau.³⁴ (This had earlier been suggested by the Commission of Agricultural Education in 1875 for the proposed Department of Agriculture.) The first issue of the Journal of the Bureau of Agriculture was published in 1888 as a supplement to Garden and Field and edited by Albert Molineux.³⁵

From the beginning the Central Bureau had both a research and extension function. Its constitution stated that the Bureau was to collect information 'of every kind calculated to prove beneficial to colonists engaged in agricultural, pastoral and horticultural pursuits'.³⁷ This information was then to be extended to the rural community 'by means of the Press with the aid of the district Bureaus'. The Central Bureau was also to publish the information collected in 'bulletins, abstracts and reports'. The scope and nature of the information to be collected was similar to

that of a modern Department of Agriculture. For example, the Central Bureau was to collect information on:

- * General agriculture - the suitability of districts for agricultural production; the best types of plants, animals and products for agriculture in South Australia; the best methods for cultivating various kinds of crops; and the best methods of feeding, breeding and improvement of domestic animals.
- * Marketing - the preparation, preservation and marketing of products; the development of new markets.
- * Agricultural statistics - areas under cultivation in each district; the number and breeds of animals; nature and condition of crops each month; times of sowing, planting and harvesting; average yields; costs of cultivation, etc.
- * Animal health and pest eradication - the best means of eradicating poisonous plants, pests affecting farms, forests, gardens, orchards, or vineyards and stock diseases.
- * Quarantine - prevent the introduction of pests; identify newly introduced pest plants, plant parasites, and stock diseases and identify the methods to eliminate them.

The period 1888 to 1900 saw rapid growth with the number of Bureau branches reaching over one hundred.³⁸ By the mid 1890's the Central Bureau was well established with its paid secretary and staff, branch organisation, annual congress and published journal. The early activities of the Central Bureau are outlined in studies by Aldridge³⁹ and Black and Craig.⁴⁰ The Central Bureau was established as a group of experts in various fields and was obviously fulfilling a need in the rural community. However, with its extensive branch structure it was not only an information provider, but also became an active information seeker as well.

The Central Bureau acted as a focus for the progressive development of agriculture in the Colony. It managed to weld together parliamentarians, public servants and farmers into an effective working organisation. With its small staff of salaried officers and large number of honorary workers it was relatively cheap to run and provided little drain on public funds.⁴¹ Its success may be partially attributed to the depressed condition of agriculture in the 1870's and 1880's and the general desire among many sections of the community to find ways of improving the state of the Colony's agriculture. The enthusiastic promotion of the Bureau's activities by individuals such as the Secretary, Albert Molineux, also played a part. It also successfully embodied many of the features that earlier bodies aimed at but failed to provide - a research and extension body aimed at improving agriculture in the Colony; a forum for discussion for farmers in various districts in the Colony; a vehicle in which the experiences of farmers throughout the Colony could be shared; an organisation where farmers could continue their education in practical agriculture. The Central Bureau also tried to insulate itself from political involvement by attempting to maintain a semi-independent status and limiting Ministerial control: and by limiting the activities of branches to co-operative education, thus preventing it from becoming a political pressure group.

Professionalism Struggle (1897-1904)

The middle to late 1890's ushered in a new period in the Bureau's development with what Black and Craig⁴² refer to as the 'professionalism struggle'. The rapid growth and development of the Bureau was accompanied by increasing organisational strain. As public awareness of the types of

services provided the Central Bureau increased, the demands placed on the time and knowledge of its members increased. The Central Bureau also lacked both the resources and the authority needed for the enforcement of livestock and other agricultural regulations.

In 1892 agriculture was once again added as a ministerial portfolio.⁴⁴

Two years later an administrative Department of Agriculture was in operation under the Minister of Education and Agriculture.⁴⁵ This began the struggle between the newly formed Department of Agriculture and the Central Bureau which was eventually to see the professional department effectively taking over all of the functions of the Bureau except the supervision of branches.

Prior to the formation of the Department of Agriculture, early government officers involved in Agriculture were responsible to the Commissioner of Crown Lands.⁴⁴ An outbreak of sheep scab in the early 1860's led to the appointment of sheep inspectors and a Government Veterinary Officer.⁴⁵ In 1888 the first dairy instructor was appointed.⁴⁶ The first Professor of Agriculture, S.D. Custance, was appointed in 1881 and was responsible to the Commissioner.⁴⁷ Roseworthy Agricultural College had already been established prior to the formation of the Central Bureau.⁴⁸ The Professor of Agriculture also held the post of Principal of Roseworthy.⁴⁹ In addition to providing education for students, the College also began carrying out experimental work in agriculture.

One of the first signs of the struggle concerned the termination of the Journal and Proceedings of the Bureau of Agriculture in 1897.⁵⁰ It was replaced by a new publication the Journal of Agriculture and Industry of South Australia. The new journal was edited by Molineux and produced by the Central Bureau for the Department of Agriculture. It aimed at having a

broader scope than the old publication, although the activities of Bureau branches were extensively reported on.

A crucial point in the struggle for 'professionalisation' occurred in 1902 when the Minister, Richard Butler, disbanded the Central Bureau, the Agricultural College Council and the Dairy Board.⁵¹ To replace them a single 'Council of Agriculture' was established. In doing so the entire membership of the Central Bureau was removed from any involvement in supervising the Bureau. Molineux was replaced as editor of the Journal by Prof. A.S. Perkins, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. Perkins was also appointed as Secretary of the Council of Agriculture.⁵² The Council was thus firmly under the direction of the Department of Agriculture's chief officer, and under the general supervision of the Minister of Agriculture.

The Minister claimed that the three bodies were being disbanded and a new body created for reasons of 'economy and efficiency'.⁵³ However, it is possible that these may have been convenient public reasons for lessening the power of the Bureau and enlarging the Department's professional staff.⁵⁴ The Minister stated that the new body would contain representatives of various rural interests rather than technical experts. However, the Council had no clearly defined objectives and its relationship to Bureau branches was unclear.

Molineux and the founding Chairman of the Central Bureau, F.E. Krichauff, were offered 'life membership' of the Council, possibly to avert a rival organisation from forming.⁵⁵ In 1903, at the instigation of Molineux and Krichauff, a Council committee was formed to deal with Bureau matters.

Another significant event during the period was the move to have restrictions on membership numbers removed.⁵⁶ Originally, each branch was

to be composed of ten to twelve members. These were to be the more progressive farmers in each district. The number was raised to fifteen in the 1890's and others could participate as non members if they wished. The Annual Congress of 1904 recommended to the Council that restrictions on membership numbers be removed. Molineux strongly opposed the move. However, the Council approved of the recommendation and added that all nominations for membership had to obtain the support of two-thirds of a branch's membership.

Advisory Board of Agriculture (1905-1923)

Appointments to the new Council of Agriculture were made by the Minister and were to be reviewed each year. During 1905, the last year of the Butler government, the Council was reconstituted and re-named the 'Advisory Board of Agriculture'.⁵⁷ Before the first meeting of the Board in August, 1905, there was a change in government with Laurence O'Loughlin taking over as Minister of Agriculture.⁵⁸ The Board's constitution was approved by the new Minister in early 1906. Like its predecessor the new Advisory Board was to be representative of various rural industries.

The new Advisory Board had five objectives: to promote the interests of the groups represented by the Board; to make recommendations to the Minister; to consider such matters as the Minister referred to it; to appoint committees of inspection to report on departmental institutions; to act as the central board of control of the Agricultural Bureau.

With these new developments the nature of the Bureau organisation was changed. The original functions of the Central Bureau had been effectively taken over by the Department of Agriculture. The Central Bureau with its semi-independent status was replaced with a body under more direct

ministerial control. The Bureau's controlling body was provided with a significantly new role as an advisory body to the Minister of Agriculture. This change brought with it a potential source of conflict and the possibility of the Board developing into a political pressure group. The new Advisory Board by virtue of the fact that it consisted of representatives of rural industries was neither representative nor responsible to the branches. The central body of the Bureau was effectively placed in a subservient position to the professionally staffed Department of Agriculture. Besides its function of providing Ministerial advice, the Advisory Board's role was primarily that of extension.

During the period 1900-1910 the number of branches remained practically the same.⁵⁹ The lifting of membership restrictions and the loss of active promotion of the organisation following Molineux's retirement as General Secretary would have both contributed to this. Lack of a stable controlling body probably also added to the organisation's slow growth during the period. However, rapid growth resumed after 1911 and the number of branches increased steadily until the mid 1940's.⁶⁰

In the period 1915 to 1917 there was support within some branches for women being admitted into the membership (this will be covered more fully in the following section on the Women's Agricultural Bureau). However, the Minister and the Advisory Board decided instead to form women's branches rather than admit them into membership of existing branches. This decision served to reinforce the Bureau's trend towards specialising in agricultural extension rather than broadening its activities to be more representative of the rural community.

In January 1921, the Director of Agriculture, A.J. Perkins, in his presidential address to Section K of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science gave the following picture of the Bureau branches in South Australia.⁶¹ He stated that Bureau branches:

'....exist for the mutual involvement of members, and for the advancement of the agricultural industries of the district. They hold regular monthly meetings at which questions of general and local moment are discussed. Once a year they attend combined district meetings, and the Adelaide meeting. They make arrangements for visits, addresses, and demonstration by officers of the Department of Agriculture. They control field trials; they carry out experimental work, in co-operation with the Department; and locally their social influence is very considerable'.

Period of Political Controversy (1924-1928)

The appointment of Thomas Butterfield as Minister of Agriculture in 1924 after a change in Government ushered in a period of considerable political controversy for the Advisory Board. The new Minister and the Advisory Board were in a situation of conflict right from the beginning of Butterfield's appointment. At the 1924 Annual Congress he argued that the Congress be abolished on the grounds of cost and efficiency.⁶² He doubted that a central conference could meet the needs of farmers facing such different conditions in various parts of the State. The Advisory Board replied that the Annual Congress played a valuable role in the development of the State's agriculture and that to abolish or interfere with it would be harmful.

From that point onwards the Minister and the Board took opposing stances with the Board making many recommendations that were in turn rejected by the Minister. In July 1925 the Minister only re-appointed one of the six retiring members (which included the Board's Chairman, W.S. Kelly) effectively reducing the Board from 20 to 15.⁶³ Of the seven

remaining farmer members, six resigned, stating that the reduction in numbers would reduce the Board's efficiency. Butterfield reacted by forming an Advisory Board made up of officers of the Department of Agriculture.⁶⁴ The Central Bureau was re-established to control the branches. The ensuing public controversy saw letters published in the press, opposing resolutions being passed by branches and questions asked in parliament over the affair.

The new eleven member Central Bureau was formed in October, 1925.⁶⁵ Its membership included four public servants (the Director of Agriculture, the Director of Waite Agricultural Research Institute, the Principal of Roseworthy College and the General Secretary of the Agricultural Bureau) and seven farmers' representatives (including four from the former Advisory Board). Members of the Bureau were ostensibly representatives of various branches of agricultural industry. In its new constitution the Central Bureau's primary task was the control of Bureau branches.⁶⁶

A new round of upheavels began in 1927 when Butterfield's predecessor, John Cowan, was restored to office.⁶⁷ He immediately took steps to reverse the changes made by Butterfield. Cowan re-appointed three of the Advisory Board members that were not re-appointed in the original 1925 controversy, including the former Chairman, W. Kelly.⁶⁸ At the 1928 Annual Congress he announced his intention to restore the controlling board of the Bureau to its old status. He stated that although he could call upon officers of the Department for their opinions on technical matters, there were other matters where the considered opinion of an impartial, competent and semi-official body such as the Central Bureau could be invaluable.⁶⁹ The Central Bureau was once again renamed the Advisory Board of Agriculture. Its constitution was once again re-written to restore its advisory function. The Advisory Board was to 'watch over and promote the rural

interests of the State and from time to time submit to the Minister such recommendations as may be considered desirable'.⁷⁰

Period of Stabilization (1929-1955)

Following the upheavals of 1924-1927 the basic structure of the Bureau and the Advisory Board of Agriculture was settled and remained basically unchanged during the following 25 years. Bureau branches continued to grow in number until they reached a peak of nearly 400 in the mid- 1940's.

The Bureau's relationship to the Department of Agriculture was clarified following the changes made to the Advisory Board in 1927. The 1929 Bureau Handbook⁷¹ gives the following description of the relationship between the two organisations:

'The Agricultural Bureau is part of the Department of Agriculture. It provides the point of contact between the agriculturalist on the one hand, and the expert officers on the other. It is the principal channel by means of which the Department of Agriculture can distribute knowledge gained in the course of its research and investigational work on the Experimental Farms, in the field plots, and in the laboratories.'

From 1927 onwards the Bureau was seen by the Department as an extension agency for the research conducted by the Department. However, changes within the Department of Agriculture during the period began to modify the relationship between the two organisations. In 1901 the Department's extension personnel consisted of a handful of dairy instructors, horticultural instructors and a fruit inspector.⁷² By 1924 the number of instructors and inspectors had grown and also included a poultry instructor, an Inspector of Hay, Chaff and Fertilizer and some

quarantine personnel.⁷³ In 1926 the first Agricultural Inspectors were appointed in each of the State's five regions.⁷⁴ With the merger of the Department of Agriculture and the Stock and Brands Department in 1944, sheep inspectors and veterinary officers were also added.⁷⁵ By 1983 the Department of Agriculture had over 130 extension officers and a further 130 regulatory personnel in its Regions and Divisions.⁷⁶

With the growth in the number of the Department's extension personnel, the Bureau was no longer seen as its 'principal channel' of extension. By the middle 1950's, although the Bureau still saw itself as an extension organisation, with the Department as a major source of support and information, it no longer regarded itself as part of the Department of Agriculture.

The Last Twenty Five Years (1956-1983)

During 1956-1957 the Advisory Board conducted a major review of the work of the Board and its relationship to the Bureau branches and the Department of Agriculture.⁷⁷ During 1957 the Minister approved a new constitution for the Advisory Board. In the Advisory Board's annual report⁷⁸ for 1956-1957 it was stated that under the new constitution: 'The Board will concentrate its interest on the working of the Branches; All members of the Board will be members of the Bureau; Members of the Board will not hold that position for more than 12 years consecutively; At least one new member will be added to the Board each year.'

The new constitution seems to have been designed to make the Advisory Board more representative of the Bureau branches. The automatic retirement of members after 12 years and the addition of at least one new member each year were to 'ensure the continual introduction of new ideas' and enable

the introduction of 'younger men' into the Bureau membership. Membership of the Advisory Board was to be restricted to Bureau members on the grounds that a member of the Board needed to have an intimate knowledge of the workings of the Bureau movement. Another significant change involved the method of nomination of members. Whenever a Board position became vacant, the Advisory Board was to submit a panel of names to the Minister who would then select the new member.

Following its review the Advisory Board made a number of decisions relating to the operation of the Bureau branches⁷⁸. It strongly discouraged branches from submitting resolutions of a political character to the Board (which they felt had been a particular problem in previous years). Some Bureau branches had been acting as agents for commercial firms and had received commission for business that they generated. The Advisory Board decided to outlaw this practice. The board reviewed the falling attendances at the annual conference and decided to change the date from September (during Royal Show week) to June in an effort to make it easier for growers to attend.

The Board also reviewed its relationship with the Department of Agriculture. Some Bureau activities were considered to cause a heavy drain on the time of the Department's technical personnel and were subsequently discontinued. The Department also discontinued some forms of service to the Bureau branches that it felt it could no longer justify. Since its beginning in 1888 the governing body of the Bureau had a paid secretary. From 1902 onwards the Secretary of the Board was an officer of the Department of Agriculture. However, after operating without a permanent Secretary during 1956 and 1957 the Advisory Board examined both the need for and function of a paid Secretary. It was decided to change the name to

Organizer, Agricultural Bureau, and to widen the officer's responsibilities to service the Bureau branches as well as the Advisory Board.

Due to demographic changes in the rural population the number of Bureau branches fell steadily from 375 in the mid 1940's to approximately 240 in the late 1950's.⁷⁹ While the drop in membership was sufficiently alarming to the Advisory Board, there was also concern over the nature of the Bureau membership. It was suggested that a large proportion of the membership consisted of those with only minimal involvement in Branch activities and who were only members of the Bureau to receive free copies of the Journal of Agriculture.⁸⁰ Between 1958-1959 there was discussion over the implementation of new membership regulations to stimulate greater member involvement.⁸¹

In 1960 the Advisory Board attempted to enforce a new membership rule whereby a member had to attend 3 meetings a year or be removed from Bureau membership.⁸² New members also had to attend three meetings before their membership was accepted. The Advisory Board was happy with the way the new rule operated in practice but there was considerable opposition to it in the branches. Each branch was to submit their roll books to the Department of Agriculture where staff working with the Bureau would remove from the roll any member who did not comply with the three meetings rule. In the first year, 31% of branches either did not return their rolls or made no attempt to comply with the rule. Considerable ill-feeling was generated in the branches.⁸³ In 1962 the Board decided that to prevent continued animosity, Department of Agriculture staff would no longer strike members off rolls and that local branches themselves would be left to administer the 'three meetings' rule.

During 1961 a series of discussions were held by Board members on the future development of the Agricultural Bureau. A sub-committee was appointed to develop a 'Blue Print' for the organisation's future development. The sub-committee's report 'Recommendations for Future Development' was completed early in 1962. The report put forward recommendations making up a 'Long Term Plan' designed to make the Bureau far more effective as an agricultural extension service; and develop it into a more vital and active body, reflective of a high level of member participation.

The 'Long Term Plan' contained a number of recommendations: First, that the Bureau be developed as an independent organisation. The report suggested that:

'The Board believes that the Bureau would be a better organisation, more valued by its members, and consequently a more effective link between the Department of Agriculture and primary producers, if it was largely autonomous and financially independent. ... Obviously the movement must remain in very close liaison with the Department of Agriculture. In fact, the Board suggests that as the Bureau is a ready made Adult Education organisation, it should be assisted by a State Grant provided through the Department of Agriculture'.

Second, that the existing controlling body be retained. The Advisory Board would continue to be appointed by the Minister, and continue to be the Bureau's controlling body. Third, that adequate staff be provided to service the Bureau, and that staff be placed under the direction and control of the Board. The Bureau as an independent organisation as outlined above would employ its own staff under the direction of the Advisory Board. The Board '... would work through an Executive Officer, responsible for the supervision of a group of organisers or advisers, and for liaison with the Department of Agriculture'.

Fourth, that there be a change in emphasis in the Bureau's objectives. The Bureau was to concern itself more with the application of new knowledge rather than its dissemination. Fifth, that the structure of the organisation be improved. The report suggested the formation of an 'intermediate' level of organisation and administration between the branches and the Advisory Board. These 'intermediate' groups would be district based. Sixth, that a publicity policy be developed. It was felt that the movement needed a well planned public relations policy.

To assist in the implementation of the 'long term plan' a 'short term plan' was put forward. It was suggested that the first step toward any significant change in the Bureau's structure would be to acquire adequate staffing. The report recommended that the then vacant position of 'Organiser' be changed to 'Senior Adviser' with an increased salary. The term 'organiser' was disliked by the Board. Two advisers were to be appointed to work among the branches. A small executive should be formed in all Conference Districts and meet initially once or twice a year.

The sub-committee's recommendation that the Bureau become an autonomous and financially independent body with its own staff failed to gain serious support from either the Minister or the Department of Agriculture. However, some of the sub-committee's short term recommendations were taken up. The name of the Bureau's Executive Officer was changed from 'Organiser' to 'Senior Advisory Officer' and an officer was appointed to the position in 1962. However, this position was under the direction of the Department and not the Advisory Board. A further 'Advisory Officer' position was added in 1967.

During 1962 the Advisory Board began the formation of District Committees throughout the State.⁸⁴ These committees consisted of the executive officers of branches within a district. The aims of these

committees were to: co-ordinate policies which would meet the needs of branches within the region; provide a regional focal point for the Department of Agriculture; provide a forum for the exchange of ideas between branches and the development of more effective programing; and to co-ordinate the agricultural education activities of the Bureau. By 1968, 21 Regional Executive Committees had been formed, involving nearly half of all Bureau Branches.⁸⁵

During the period it became obvious that the Bureau membership was more concerned with Regional and Branch activities than centralised state-wide activities. Attendances at the annual conference continued to fall to such an extent that they were discontinued in 1965. The Agricultural Bureau Oration continued to be offered but attendances were still disappointing. In 1973 the Oration was replaced by a Meat Marketing Symposium. The following year it was decided to discontinue these annual activities⁸⁶. However, the Advisory Board focussed its attention on developing strong District Conference programs which proved much more popular with Bureau members.

In order to make its service to the Bureau branches more effective, the Advisory Board in 1969 added to the responsibilities of Board members. Each Board member was to be responsible for the branches in a given area.⁸⁷ A region's Board member would periodically visit the branches, help them with their problems and report on their activities to the Board. In 1973 the maximum term a member could serve on the Bureau was dropped from 12 years to 10 years.⁸⁸ As a result of the changes taking place in the Advisory Board between the late 1950's and early 1970's the Board became representative of regional interests rather than industry interests or technical expertise as in the earlier governing bodies of the Bureau.

The mid-1970's saw the Advisory Board enter a period of uncertainty in its relationship to both the Minister and the Department of Agriculture. In the Department of Agriculture's Callaghan Report (1974) it was stated that the Bureau was serving a valuable function as a medium for 'disseminating technical knowledge and lifting competency in farm production and management'⁸⁹. However, it was suggested that to increase its effectiveness the Bureau needed to be 're-vamped' to match the needs of the modern farming community. The report suggested that the Bureau should be re-organised and aligned to the new regional organisation of the Department of Agriculture. The Bureau would then be 'subject to regional guidance and support by the Department'.⁹⁰ The report also suggests that the Bureau '... could then be used as one of the main media for channeling information both from and to the regional officers'⁹¹ (Callaghan, 1974, 27). However, it was also stated that under this new arrangement 'there would be little if any, need for overall direction and supervision by the Advisory Board of Agriculture'⁹² (Callaghan, 1974, 27).

If implemented, the report's recommendations would have effectively dismantled the Advisory Board as the Bureau's controlling body. Leaving it only with its advisory function. However, there was an element of scepticism within the Advisory Board itself of its function as an 'advisory board'.⁹³

In subsequent years all parties seem to have attempted to improve communication and working relationships between the Advisory Board and the Minister and Director of Agriculture. In 1978 the retiring Chairman of the Board suggested that the Advisory Board had taken a major change in direction and that the role of the Bureau in the rural community had been broadened.⁹⁴ Board members had been increasingly involved in outside committee work. The Advisory Board continued to seek representation on Departmental, educational, regional and rural community consultative committees. It was considered that this involvement would not only increase the influence of the Bureau in the rural community, but would also have the effect of keeping Board members better informed of the changes taking place in the South Australian agricultural scene.

This 'broadening' of the Advisory Board's activities continued during the following years. In 1981 the Board's Chairman, J.N. Andrew, claimed that this had 'brought an identity and credibility long sought by all members'.⁹⁵ Board member involvement in various Department committees resulted in 1981 in the Minister giving public recognition to the importance of the Advisory Board's role. The Advisory Board was invited to participate on committees of review within the Department of Agriculture. The Board had also established a closer working relationship with the Minister, thus exercising its role as an advisory body.

The Advisory Board began to consider in its meetings subjects which directly affected the Department of Agriculture. In 1982 the Board's Chairman, J.N. Andrew, suggested that a 'prime responsibility of Advisory Board members is to comment on the delivery of departmental services, especially extension services ...'.⁹⁶ A meeting was also held in 1981 with the President of the United Farmers and Stock-owners Association to outline the complementary roles of the Advisory Board and commodity groups such as

the U.F.&S. The Advisory Board's role was affirmed: 'While the various commodity groups rightly protect their members' interest by lobbying for appropriate concessions, the Advisory Board is the farmer voice within the Department of Agriculture and sincerely endeavours to advise the Minister without an "agri-political basis".'

The role of the Advisory Board has varied through time. It's stated and actual function has been influenced by the gradual expansion in both the size and power of the Department's professional staff.⁹⁸ At times its work has been effectively confined to the general oversight of Bureau branches. The functioning of the Board's advisory role seems to have depended largely on the attitude of the Minister towards the Board.

Contact between the Advisory Board and the branches is maintained by Board members who each represent one of the 14 Advisory Board Districts. Branches within a district can now submit to the Minister a list of names from which one will be chosen to fill the place of that districts retiring member. The Board is now representative of regional interests rather than industry interests or technical expertise as in the earlier controlling bodies of the Bureau.

WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL BUREAU

Formation and Early Development (1916-1946)

Between 1910 and 1920 the Agricultural Bureau was undergoing a period of rapid growth.⁹⁹ The number of branches almost doubled from just over 100 to 200. This expansion of the Bureau closely followed the opening up of new areas of the State to agriculture.¹⁰⁰ In many areas where families were still pioneering their land women and men worked side by side to build themselves viable agricultural properties and homes for their children. As new Bureau branches were established women began accompanying their husbands and male family members to the Bureau meetings.¹⁰¹ However, their involvement was restricted to organising refreshments and serving tea after the meetings.¹⁰²

The early 1900's saw a successful attempt to remove the restrictions that were placed on the number of men who could belong to a Bureau branch.¹⁰³ In the following decade attempts were made to remove restrictions on the involvement of women in the activities of Bureau branches. While the idea had the support of many Bureau members, disagreement centred around whether women should be admitted to existing branches or whether they should form their own organisation within the Bureau framework.

In October, 1916 the Hartley branch sent a resolution to the Advisory Board concerning the formation of women's country clubs.¹⁰⁴ This suggestion came as a result of an earlier convention organised by the Farmers and Settlers Association. The Acting Secretary of the Advisory Board, H.J. Finnis, then suggested that such clubs be formed to enable rural women to 'secure instruction in subjects such as home sanitation, home architecture,

first aid, dietetics, hygiene, etc., as well as poultry husbandry, dairying, horticulture and the like'.¹⁰⁵

Discussion on the matter continued for the next four months. In February, 1917 the Advisory Board received submissions from two branches (Hartley and Sherwood) favouring the admission of women to membership of Bureau branches. One branch suggested that 'women should be allowed to join all branches on the same footing as men, Branches to be allowed to make their own arrangements as to when joint or separate meetings should be held'.¹⁰⁶ However, the Board's reply was that it was "unable to approve of the admission of women to Branches of the Bureau."¹⁰⁷

However, the Advisory Board appointed a committee to submit a draft proposal for the formation of women's country clubs. The sub-committee was composed of three officers of the Department of Agriculture, A.J. Perkins (the Director of Agriculture), G.R. Laffer and Finnis.¹⁰⁸ The sub-committee reported to the Advisory Board in March and recommended that: an association of women of South Australia interested in agricultural matters be formed under the direction of the Advisory Board of Agriculture; they would be called 'Women's Branches of the Agricultural Bureau' rather than 'Women's Country Clubs'; membership be restricted to women; branches be formed in the immediate neighbourhood of existing branches of the Agricultural Bureau; joint meetings of both men's and women's branches of the Agricultural Bureau be held in the same locality where subjects of mutual interest were to be covered; women's branches of the Bureau should be governed by the same rules as the men's branches and be open to the same privileges; and that the Journal of Agriculture be made available to cover 'questions of domestic economy and matters in which women are specially interested' as soon as sufficient numbers of women's branches were formed.¹⁰⁹

The Advisory Board adopted the sub-committee's report and submitted its recommendations to the Minister, Clarence Goode, who approved the proposal in April, 1917.¹¹⁰ The approach taken by the Bureau in South Australia was different from that taken in New South Wales where women were allowed 'associate' membership of local Bureau branches. The differing reactions of the two organisations can, in part, be attributed to the broader focus of interest of the New South Wales Bureau. Among its objectives were: to encourage social contact between farmers' families; and 'generally to raise the social and educational status of the men now on the land and their families'.¹¹¹ In South Australia the approach seemed to be to leave consideration of the broader issues of rural life to the women's organisation and to maintain the area of technical agriculture primarily as the preserve of the men's branches.

The first women's branch was formed in October, 1917. However, it remained the only representative of women's involvement in the Bureau until the formation of a second branch in 1920 and a third in 1921.¹¹² Growth throughout the 1920's was slow with an average of one branch being formed each year.¹¹³

Women's branches were under the control of the Advisory Board of Agriculture. They liaised with the Board through its General Secretary. However, the Advisory Board seems to have had little interest in the development of women's branches. The Advisory Board in September, 1922 even suggested to the secretaries of the three women's branches that they hold a separate conference rather than sending delegates to the Bureau's annual congress.¹¹⁴

However, the development of women's branches entered a new period in 1927. That year the women's branches held their first annual Congress.¹¹⁵ It also marked a period of renewed interest in the women's branches on the

part of the Department of Agriculture. They engaged the services of Ellie Campbell to begin the task of building up the women's branches.¹¹⁶ Ellie Campbell came to South Australia in 1926 to work with the Education Department as Inspector of Home Science and Dressmaking. She combined her two roles and became a major driving force in the development of the women's section of the Bureau between 1927 and 1950.

Branches grew rapidly during the 1930's until at the 1937 Congress there were delegates from 61 branches present.¹¹⁷ However, the development of the organisation was interrupted during the war and the number of branches represented in the 1945 Congress fell to 43.¹¹⁸ During the war years involvement in the Bureau was limited due to a number of factors including: involvement in Red Cross and similar organisations, labour shortages leading to women taking on work formerly done by men, and petrol rationing.

Post War Re-organisation (1947-1953)

Following the war, efforts were made to revive and re-organise the Women's Branch of the Agricultural Bureau. In February, 1947 the Department of Agriculture appointed Marjorie Gardiner as Women's Extension Officer.¹¹⁹ Women's branches had fallen to 35 in number with a membership of 900.¹²⁰ Her tasks were to strengthen existing branches, re-establish inoperative branches and open new branches.

During the 1940's many within the women's branches wanted to be able to advise the Minister of Agriculture directly without having to go through the Advisory Board's General Secretary.¹²¹ Some suggested that the women's branches have a representative on the Advisory Board of Agriculture. Others were pressing for affiliation with organisations such as the Association of Country Women of the World and the National Council of Women.

However, the Advisory Board of Agriculture was against the addition of a women's representative to the Board. George Jenkins, the Minister of Agriculture, announced at the 1947 Congress that he wished to form a Women's Council of the Agricultural Bureau.¹²² In November, 1947 the Advisory Board of Agriculture discussed the proposal and fully approved of it.¹²³ Some within the women's branches suggested that in doing so they removed the problem of women's representation on the Advisory Board.¹²⁴ The Advisory Board suggested that the new controlling body be called 'The Women's Agricultural Bureau Council'.¹²⁵

The new council was to 'represent interests, homecrafts and commercial concerns directly associated with the activities of country women'.¹²⁶ The Council's proposed duties were: 'To promote the interests of country women, and from time to time prepare such recommendations as may be considered desirable for submission to the Minister of Agriculture by the General Secretary of the Agricultural Bureau; To act as the controlling body of the Women's Agricultural Bureau; To consider and report on such matters as the Minister shall refer to them; To submit a yearly report to the Minister on the work of the Women's Agricultural Bureau Council'.¹²⁷

It was suggested that the Council be composed of 7 members of the Agricultural Bureau, together with representatives of dressmaking, millinery, handicrafts, domestic arts, the Country Women's Association, Mothers and Babies Health Association and Marjorie Gardiner as Minute Secretary.¹²⁸ The Department of Agriculture found difficulties in finding representatives for dressmaking and millinery. The businesses they approached all declined to send representatives due mainly to staff shortages.¹²⁹

However, a Council was appointed and had its first meeting in March, 1948. It consisted of seven Bureau members, representatives of Red Cross,

Country Women's Association, Mothers and Babies Health Association and Ellie Campbell from the Education Department.¹³⁰ Florence Perrin was appointed President of the Council. It was recognised that she had been the prime mover in the formation of the Council.

With the Council's formation the women's branches were now, at least in theory, organised on the same level as the men's branches. They now had their own controlling body and the Council was to fulfill the same advisory function to the Minister as the Advisory Board. However, the two controlling bodies were tied together, with the Advisory Board's General Secretary (an officer of the Department of Agriculture) also serving as the Council's Secretary. The new Council was heralded as providing '... a stimulus to this important phase of the Extension Services of the Department of Agriculture'.¹³¹

The Minister's original idea had been for the Council to be representative of rural interest, home crafts, commercial concerns and women's organisations. However, commercial concerns declined to contribute representatives to the Council and representatives of the Country Women's Association and Red Cross resigned during 1949 due to work pressures within their own organisations and were not replaced. In July, 1950 the Minister commented on the fact that since its inception, the Council had mainly dealt with the affairs of women's branches and was not as representative of the interests of rural women as he had originally intended. Accordingly, he announced his intention of reconstituting the Council and confining appointments to members of the Women's Agricultural Bureau.¹³²

The new Council's first meeting was held in September, 1950.¹³³ The new body was expected to meet less often - the reason given that quarterly meetings should be sufficient to conduct Bureau affairs. By confining membership of the Council to Bureau members the services of Ellie Campbell were also lost.

During the period 1947 to 1953 the women's section of the Bureau had grown from 35 Branches with 900 members to 72 Branches with over 2 000 members.¹³⁴ It was also developing a distinct organisational identity. The women's branches held their own regional conferences and a separate Annual Congress. They were affiliated with both the Associated Country Women of the World and the National Council of Women. Dorothy Marshal was appointed as Organiser of the Women's Agricultural Bureau in 1953.¹³⁵

The Women's Agricultural Bureau as a Separate Organisation (1954-1958)

In the Council's first six years of operation the women's section of the Bureau had doubled in size in terms of branches and members and had emerged as an organisation in its own right. However, significant tensions arose between the Department of Agriculture and the Council. In August, 1954, Allan Callaghan, the Director of the Department of Agriculture, in a submission to the Minister, described the organisation of the women's branches as being 'highly unsatisfactory' and the 'source of recurring crises'.¹³⁶ He commented further that 'It is quite clear that the Women's Agricultural Bureau organisation in this State has a very useful and proper function to perform, but it is a function that should be quite distinct from other women's organisations such as the C.W.A.'. ¹³⁷

There seem to have been several points of tension between the Department and the Council. First, the Department's views of the nature and aims of the Women's Agricultural Bureau conflicted with that of the Council. The Department seemed to view the organisation as an instrument of its extension policy while the Council was concerned with a much wider range of matters than those that traditionally concerned the Department. These issues the Department felt should be left to other organisations such as the Country Women's Association.

Second, the Department did not view the women's section of the Bureau as being on a par with the men's. Callaghan remarked in his submission to the Minister that:

'It appears to me that the Women's Agricultural Bureau will fail to achieve its full and proper purpose unless its objectives are more clearly defined. Obviously, it can never parallel the Men's Agricultural Bureau in interest, scope or function and for that reason, it was wrong in principle in the first place to establish a controlling organisation such as we have now in the Women's Agricultural Bureau Council.'¹³⁸

Third, the Department wished to change the method of appointment to the Council. Callaghan suggested that the automatic re-appointment of Council members was a major problem. However, it was possible that it was not the appointment procedures that were the problem for the Department, but the individuals who were re-appointed. Callaghan admitted in his submission that all his attempts to 'establish a more effective liaison with our own Departmental thoughts on the matter of women's extension have failed'.¹³⁹

The year 1954 also saw the appearance of a report to the Australian Agricultural Council on 'extension services for country women'.¹⁴⁰ The report suggested that women were not well provided for by various organisations catering for women's interests in 'arts, crafts, skills and cultural matters'.¹⁴¹ It also stressed that there was a big gap in 'science services' to women that should be filled by the Department of Agriculture's women's extension services.

In line with this the Department of Agriculture wished to entirely revamp its extension services to women. However, it saw the Council as it was then constituted as a major stumbling block to this. In his submission to the Minister, Callaghan wrote:

'If the Department of Agriculture is to fulfill its proper duties through a women's agricultural extension service it must clearly aim to meet the needs of all country women, irrespectively of whether they are members of the Agricultural Bureau or not. The very existence of such a splendid organisation as the C.W.A. offers a medium for contact with country women unexcelled. The Department has also a vital interest in the Rural Youth Movement as an organ through which extension work can be done in the interests of young women in rural districts. While these organisations offer a channel through which direct group contacts can be made with country women the other media at the disposal of the Department are radio and the press.'¹⁴²

In early 1954 the new Minister of Agriculture, A.W. Christian, announced the introduction of a 'new and wider extension service' to country women. 'The aim of the Department in this service ... will be to enable country women to learn more of the part played by science in their everyday life, including science in the home and in the garden, in human nutrition and in the care of animals.'¹⁴³ The service was to deal with '... the quality of food stuffs and their nutritional values, the provision of technical information in gardening and on the care of animals, including poultry, the correct and economic use of labour saving devices and gadgets and other such items of interest to country women'.¹⁴⁴

This 'new and wider' extension service was to include increased allocation of Departmental resources to women's extension; the formation of an Advisory Committee on Agricultural Extension Services for Country Women; and the re-organisation of the women's section of the Bureau. Dorothy Marshall's duties were to be expanded and rather than working exclusively with the women's branches would be responsible for the wider extension service.¹⁴⁵ Other women's extension officers were also to be appointed.

The Advisory Committee on Agricultural Services for Country Women was to consist of two representatives each of the Women's Agricultural Bureau, the Country Women's Association and Rural Youth, and one representative each of the Australian Broadcasting Commission and the Advertiser newspaper.¹⁴⁶ This new Committee was formed in April, 1954 with Dorothy Marshall as its Chairman.¹⁴⁷ All representatives of the Advisory Committee were appointed by the Minister for a three year term, with the exception of Rural Youth representatives who were elected for one year.

In early 1955 the Department of Agriculture was re-organised to improve its services to the farming community.¹⁴⁸ Three divisions were formed to administer Departmental activities - Division of Plant Industry, Division of Animal Husbandry, and the Division of Extension Services and Information. R.I. Herriot was appointed Chief of the Extension Services and Information Division.¹⁴⁹ He was to co-ordinate the service to the Agricultural Bureau, Women's Agricultural Bureau and the Rural Youth Movement.

Together with the general 'shake-up' of the Department of Agriculture, there were a number of far reaching changes to the organisation of the WAB.

The women's branches were to be separated from the Agricultural Bureau and formed into a 'Women's Agricultural Bureau'.¹⁵⁰ This new organisation was to be entirely self-governing with its own elected council. The council was to act as the representative body of the Women's Agricultural Bureau and liaise with the Department's Women's Extension Service.

A constitution for the council was approved by the Minister. The stated objectives of the new council were: 'To act as the representative body of the Women's Agricultural Bureau; To aid the Branches in the development of their programs and interests appropriate to the functioning of the Women's Agricultural Bureau; To arrange for annual and other

meetings of groups of branches within the regions; To provide liaison between the Women's Agricultural Bureau and the Women's Extension Services of the Department of Agriculture'.¹⁵¹

However, one significant feature of the new governing body was that it had lost its status as an advisory body. As such the Council was not on an equal footing with the Advisory Board of Agriculture. It also left open once more the question of representation on the Advisory Board. Formal links with the Advisory Board were severed with the Women's Agricultural Bureau Organiser, Dorothy Marshall, taking over the role of executive officer and secretary to the council.¹⁵² Previous to this time the General Secretary of the Advisory Board had also been the secretary of the Council.

Branches of the Bureau were to be organised into eight regions each with its own elected Council representative¹⁵³. Councillors were to serve two year terms and each year elections would be held for half of the positions on the Council. Retiring Councillors were eligible for re-election but could only serve two terms. Council elections were held in November, 1954 in four regions.¹⁵⁴ The second round of Council elections in the remaining four regions took place the following year.

A controversy arose in 1955 when one of the former Council's appointed members (who had already served seven years on the Council) was nominated by a large number of branches in the South-East region.¹⁵⁵ While there was nothing legally to prevent her nomination it was opposed by the Department of Agriculture. The Minister eventually ruled the nomination out of order, although the decision was not well received by many branches.

In January 1958 a constitution for the Women's Agricultural Bureau as a whole was approved by the Minister. The aims of the Bureau were stated

as: 'To stimulate interest in the development of rural life as it affects country women; To acquire knowledge concerned with matters having importance in and around the home; To encourage cultural interests among members; To develop in women an awareness of the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship; To promote goodwill, friendship and understanding through service'.¹⁵⁶

The Women's Agricultural Bureau Up to the Present (1959-1985)

Towards the end of the 1950s the basic structure of the Women's Agricultural Bureau had been established. The organisation had developed a separate identity and defined its relationship to the Department of Agriculture. However, during the early 1960s the Women's Agricultural Bureau entered a difficult period with the long illness of the Organiser, Dorothy Marshall. The organisation had a long history of strong executive support and guidance from Departmental officers such as Ellie Campbell, Marjorie Gardiner and Dorothy Marshall. During Ms. Marshall's illness during 1960-61 the Council had to curtail many of the Bureau's activities including the cancellation of the 1961 programme of Regional Conferences and meetings.¹⁵⁷ Even with the appointment of a Women's Extension Officer in late 1961 and the support of the Senior Extension Officer the organisation took several years to regain its stability.

In 1963, Catherine Hastie was appointed as Organiser of the Bureau.¹⁵⁸

Between 1963 and 1970 the number of branches grew from 79 to 84 and the total membership from 2 344 to 2 702¹⁵⁹. This meant that while rural population was declining, the Women's Agricultural Bureau was actually growing in terms of membership. This is in contrast to the Agricultural Bureau which was experiencing a steady decline in number of branches and

total membership.¹⁶⁰ By 1983 there were still 76 Women's Agricultural Bureau branches with 2 200 members which indicates the basic stability of the Bureau organisation over the last twenty years.¹⁶¹

During the 1970s some major changes were suggested to the Bureau. In 1974 the Department of Agriculture's Callaghan Report recommended that the Bureau should be re-organised. The report urged that:

'Both the Women's Agricultural Bureau and Rural Youth Movement would also need to be re-organised on a regional basis to conform with Departmental regional areas. They would then achieve more effectively the purposes for which they were established, act as extension media, become associated with regional Departmental officers in promoting rural life and rural products and forge stronger links between producers and consumers'.¹⁶²

The Callaghan Report also suggested that the Women's Agricultural Bureau, the Agricultural Bureau and Rural Youth develop closer relationships with each other. The report concluded that: 'This will be more easily obtained if all are regionally controlled and supervised'.¹⁶³

The basic regional structure of the Women's Agricultural Bureau remains unchanged despite the Callaghan Report's proposals and there are no serious moves to change the present structure. With regards to a closer relationship between the Women's Agricultural Bureau and the Agricultural Bureau, joint activities at Branch level were encouraged during the 1970s and early 1980s.

A second proposal for a major organisational change was made in 1976, when the Minister, Brian Chatterton, mentioned the possibility of an amalgamation of the men's and women's organisations.¹⁶⁴ However, in July 1977 a resolution was passed at the annual Congress opposing the merger.¹⁶⁵ In the November issue of the WAB News the Bureau's President,

Ms. E. Cliff, outlined several reasons why the proposal was rejected.¹⁶⁶
First, the existing organisation was working efficiently and succeeded in maintaining the high interest of members. Second, the organisation continued to encourage greater participation in farm business management, as well as interest in new technology and issues affecting agricultural industries. Third, the Women's Agricultural Bureau programme of leadership training and encouragement of member self-fulfilment was equipping many women to fill positions of leadership within their own communities. As a result they were contributing to the benefit and increase of living standards of others in the community.

RURAL YOUTH MOVEMENT

Junior Agricultural Bureau (1939-1949)

During the 1920s and 1930s moves were made to set up Junior Farmer's Clubs in many States.¹⁶⁷ The first was formed in NSW in 1926. The Victorian Young Farmer's Clubs Association was formed in 1933, followed by the Western Australian Federation of Junior Farmers in 1938. In 1939 the South Australian Minister of Agriculture approved the formation of junior branches of the Agricultural Bureau.¹⁶⁸

The object of this move was to bridge '... the gap which exists between the time boys leave school until they are old enough to take an active part in the Senior Branches ...'.¹⁶⁹ These Junior Clubs were confined to boys only. They were formed basically as a means of teaching technical agriculture. During the early 1940's there was steady growth in the number of Junior Branches. However by the late 1940s it was evident that the needs of young people would be better served by a more broadly based organisation.

Formation and early development of Rural Youth Movement (1950-1959)

During 1950 moves were made to form a national body representing the Junior Farmer and Young Farmers organisations. Accordingly, the Australian Council of Young Farmers was formed of State Public Servants in the following year. This Council was formed for the purpose of providing a forum for the various State organisations to discuss their mutual problems and co-ordinate their activities.

In June 1950 the Minister, George Jenkins, appointed a Provisional Council which was 'in conjunction with the Director of Agriculture, to explore the possibilities of establishing a Junior Farmer organisation and suggest ways and means of controlling and financing it'.¹⁷⁰ The Provisional Council recommended that a Junior Farmer organisation be formed and sponsored by the Department of Agriculture; that the Education Department and agribusiness be encouraged to participate; and that a General Supervisor be appointed.

The recommendations were accepted by the South Australian government and a Rural Youth Council was appointed in early 1951.¹⁷¹ The Council consisted of representatives of the Advisory Board of Agriculture, Women's Advisory Bureau Council, Department of Education, Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society, Australian Broadcasting Commission, the Chronicle newspaper, the Stock Journal and financial institutions. The Director of Agriculture was Chairman of the Council.

The Rural Youth Council was 'to act as the sponsors and counsellors of the movement during its formative stages and act in general directive capacity when the movement was finally established'. In December 1951 Peter Angove was appointed as the first General Supervisor.¹⁷² The name Rural Youth Movement was given to the new organisation in preference to 'Junior Farmer' or 'Young Farmer' as in other states.¹⁷³ Both young men and women were to take part in the movement. Social and cultural interests would be a part of the movement as well as instruction in technical agriculture. The organisation's objectives were to be: 'to learn some of the problems of agriculture; to achieve something and aim at leadership; to live a full life; to inspire interest in community organisations, especially the Agricultural Bureau of South Australia'.¹⁷⁴

A Rural Youth Club was defined as:

'A society of young people who meet together to enjoy themselves and at the same time, learn something of their country and the joys that come from helping others. The club caters for boys and girls from both city and country, and its aims are to interest all members in rural affairs.'¹⁷⁵

There was to be Junior Clubs for those aged 11-15 years and Senior Clubs for those between 16-21 years.¹⁷⁶ Each club was to have an Adult Advisory Committee which was 'to encourage and guide members unobtrusively in club affairs'. Links with the Agricultural Bureau were actively encouraged. Members who reached the age of 21 were urged to join the Agricultural Bureau. However, some Junior Branches of the Bureau still continued to operate until 1957 when the remaining branches were closed and the membership transferred to the Rural Youth Movement.¹⁷⁷

The first two junior clubs and the first senior clubs were formed in 1952.¹⁷⁸ By 1953 there were 12 Junior Clubs with a membership of 306 and 9 Senior Clubs with 224 members. During the year two district rallies were held as well as camps and the Show Week Ball. The first overseas exchangees arrived in South Australia in 1953.

Many business firms were anxious to sponsor Rural Youth competitions. However, these offers were not taken up due to problems with this form of sponsorship.¹⁷⁹ Instead a Rural Youth Contributions Fund was established in 1953 to provide or subsidise travel expenses and accommodation and to provide prizes for approved competitions or activities.¹⁸⁰

By 1953 the Department of Agriculture had three advisers working with Rural Youth.¹⁸¹ In the following year another adviser was added.

In 1954 one adviser was stationed at Mt. Gambier to establish and co-ordinate clubs in the South East. At the time many Rural Youth members were pressing for participation in the actual running of the movement. This led to the establishment of the zone system.¹⁸² The state was divided up into eight zones each with its own zone conference. Each zone could make resolutions which were then sent directly to the Rural Youth Council.

The system of sending resolutions direct to the Council proved unsatisfactory.¹⁸³ Members of Rural Youth were still looking for greater involvement in the running of the movement. Thus in early 1956 the Council agreed to form a State Committee.¹⁸⁴ The Committee was to consist of Rural Youth members elected by each zone. However, it was not until early 1958 that the State Committee had its first meeting.¹⁸⁵ Robert Stacey was selected as the Committee's Chairman. At first the duties of the State Committee were to appraise resolutions before they were sent to the Council; to submit their own ideas to Council; and to explain and promote the ideas of the Council to the movement.¹⁸⁶

Some members of the movement wanted to raise the age limit of clubs to 25 years on the grounds that members were not ready to join adult organisations at 21 and that most national competitions were open to members up to 25 years.¹⁸⁷ In 1955, the Council agreed that members from 22 to 25 years could become 'associate members', but were not eligible for major awards or to hold offices. In 1959 the age limit was raised to 25 without restrictions.¹⁸⁸

By 1958 the Rural Youth Movement was firmly established. There were 32 Junior Clubs with 1 087 members and 61 Senior Clubs with 2 010 members.¹⁸⁹ Clubs were actively served by four advisory staff¹⁹⁰. In 1955 the magazine Rural Youth began publication as the voice of the South Australian Movement.¹⁹¹

The aims of Rural Youth were expressed in 1959 as: 'To create a love of the country and the country way of life; To show the importance of rural industry and create an active interest in its affairs; To learn more of South Australian agriculture, its crops and livestock; To encourage self education for the greater fulfilment of life, and the proper enjoyment of leisure; To make known the benefits to health and character of good living; To bring young people together and demonstrate the advantages of social fellowship and exchange of ideas.'¹⁹²

Growth and Expansion of the Movement (1960-1969)

The period 1960-1969 saw continued growth and development of the movement. In 1963 there were 33 Junior Clubs with 1 130 members and 81 Senior Clubs with 3 560 members.¹⁹³ In 1967 the number of advisory personnel serving the movement was increased to five.¹⁹⁴

The Rural Youth Council had been comprised entirely of nominees appointed by the Minister of Agriculture. However, the appointments were for an unspecified period. This meant that an individual remained on the Council until he or she resigned, retired or died. As a result many members were on the Council for long period of time.¹⁹⁵ In the early 1960s the membership of the movement pressed for direct representation on the Council. In 1964 and 1965 the first two Rural Youth members were appointed to the Council.¹⁹⁶

In 1960 the issue of a constitution for the movement was raised in the Council. Recommendations passed backwards and forwards between the Council and the movement. It was not until 1962 that a set of rules for the Rural Youth Movement were approved. However, the objectives were not approved as they were judged to be too restrictive. The matter of a constitution for

the movement was dropped at Council level. Although a constitution was printed in 1967 it was not approved or had any formal status.¹⁹⁷

During the late 1960s and early 1970s many members wanted the movement to have a voice on political questions. This kind of involvement was looked upon with disfavour outside the movement and caused a considerable amount of problems to Rural Youth. The movement had reached its peak of 4,700 members the mid 1960s but by the end of the decade membership had begun to decline slightly.¹⁹⁸

Several significant events occurred in the 1960s relating to the Australian Council.¹⁹⁹ First, members could be nominated by State Councils to be representatives on the Australian Council. Second, Australia-wide conferences were arranged on an annual basis to discuss a topic of some important social concern. Third, the Executive which was comprised of State Senior Advisers, established a Rural Youth Foundation. The aim of the Foundation was to provide further education for advisers and provide funds for social research. It eventually was dissolved as it met with little public support. Fourth, its name was changed from the Australian Council of Young Farmers to the Australian Council of Rural Youth.

Setback and Recovery (1970-1983)

In 1970, the title of the State Committee was changed to State Management Committee reflecting the fact that it became the movement's managing body.²⁰⁰ With the expansion of the movement from 8 to 12 zones and each zone being allowed two members, the Committee became a large working committee. It increasingly moved from just the consideration of resolutions to the co-ordination of dates for conferences, rallies, combined activities, competitions and all matters that affected more than one zone.

Great changes took place within the movement during the 1970s that were to severely hamper its growth and development. In 1971 the Department of Agriculture made a formal request for the transfer of administration of the movement to the Education Department.²⁰¹ Negotiations dragged on until 1973 when the Education Department declined the proposal. The Department of Agriculture began winding down its Rural Youth advisory section.²⁰² By 1975 the number of Rural Youth Advisers had been reduced from 5 to 3. After 1976 advisory support to the movement had effectively ended.²⁰³

Little guidance to the movement was provided by the Rural Youth Council due to the Chairman's illness.²⁰⁴ A new Minister of Agriculture suggested that the movement should be responsible for its own affairs and that the Department of Agriculture's role should be that of teaching agriculture to members of the organisation.

All these changes had a traumatic effect on the movement with responsibility for the movement's management and administration being thrust back to it. Membership of the organisation began to decline. In 1977 there was only one remaining Junior Club and it was recommended that it be closed.²⁰⁶ Between 1974 and 1977 the number of Senior Branches had fallen from 73 to 63 and the total membership from 2 638 to an estimated 2 000.²⁰⁷

In 1976 a working party headed by F. Hill, a long-standing member of the Council, was established to review the aims and activities of the movement.²⁰⁸ The working party's report was presented in May, 1977. The report included a draft constitution and a plan for integrating Rural Youth into the Department of Agriculture's regionalisation. However, it was decided by the movement itself that the five regions of the Department could not fully meet the needs of Rural Youth. A compromise was formulated

where the movement's twelve 'zones' were reduced to seven 'areas'.²⁰⁹ In 1979 a constitution for the movement was finally approved by the Rural Youth Council.²¹⁰

The Council was also reformed in July 1979.²¹¹ The new Council was composed of a chairperson appointed by the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, three members from the public sector, three from the private sector and four members from the Rural Youth Movement itself.

The period between 1979 to 1983 saw a degree of stabilisation occur in the movement. It had recovered from the traumatic changes of the late 1970s and became a much more self-reliant organisation as a result. However, membership between 1977 to 1983 declined from an estimated 2 000 members to approximately 1 000 members, although the total number of branches remained approximately the same (63 in 1977 and 60 in 1983).

CONCLUSION

Group extension in South Australia has had a long history. The Agricultural Bureau has been one of the most successful and enduring rural organizations in Australia. For nearly a century it has provided a vehicle for the continuing education in practical farming methods for thousands of farmers from all over the State. The arrivals of the Women's Agricultural Bureau and the Rural Youth Movement have provided the potential for group extension organizations to service the needs of the whole farming community.

The Agricultural Bureau began as a farmer-based body aiming at involvement in the areas of agricultural research, regulation and extension. With the coming of the Department of Agriculture the functions of research, regulation and extension were gradually taken over. Its staff and administrative structure were absorbed into the Department. The Agricultural Bureau was left with the dilemma of establishing an identity separate from that of the Department and of finding a legitimate role in the rural community. However, the basic branch structure of the Bureau remained the same all this century, indicating that branches of the Bureau were fulfilling a definite need in farming communities.

The greatest changes have taken place in the governing body of the Bureau. The Advisory Board of Agriculture began as an expert committee. Early this century it became a body representing rural industries. Later it developed into a body of regional representatives. A great deal of controversy surrounded the concept of the Board as an advisory body to the Minister of Agriculture. This controversy was compounded with the formation of the Women's Agricultural Bureau and the Rural Youth Movement, as both bodies wanted some form of involvement in an advisory body.

The attitude of the Minister of Agriculture has been an important factor in the development of each organization. Whether or not the Advisory Board of Agriculture and/or the Women's Agricultural Council would function in an advisory capacity was determined largely by the nature and quality of their relationship to the Minister.

The attitude of the Advisory Board of Agriculture to women's participation in the Bureau is interesting. Originally the Board was opposed to women joining the Bureau. Instead, under pressure, they allowed the formation of women's branches. These, however, were regarded very much as being of secondary importance to the men's section of the Bureau. When the women's branches pressed for representation on the Advisory Board, the Board responded by suggesting the formation of a Women's Agricultural Bureau Council which could act as their advisory body to the Minister. The role of the Department's Director in the 1950s in dismantling the women's advisory council and in assigning the Women's Agricultural Bureau a secondary place is also instructive.

An attitude seems to have developed through time, both in the Department and in the Agricultural Bureau, that the Rural Youth Movement and the Women's Agricultural Bureau should not be allowed a position of equality of access to the Minister or to the Department's resources. The role of extending the skills and knowledge of technical agriculture has been paramount. As the other two bodies have been concerned with wider aspects of rural life they have not been regarded by either the Department or the Advisory Board as having the same status as the Agricultural Bureau.

This attitude has in part contributed to the development of three quite distinct and independent organizations. In NSW, where the aims of

the Agricultural Bureau were broad enough to encompass areas of rural life other than technical agriculture, women were active in the organization and as such a separate women's bureau was never required. This was not the case in South Australia, where a separate organisation developed. In a similar way, the junior branches of the Bureau only catered for boys and were oriented to the teaching of technical agriculture. The Rural Youth Movement was much more suited to the needs of young people in rural areas.

CHAPTER 2

THE ORGANISATIONS COMPARED

The Department of Agriculture's three affiliated extension/education organisations maintain a network of branches/clubs that covers most of the rural communities within South Australia. They have a combined membership of over 6 000 people above the age of 16. The aims of this chapter are to provide an introduction to the overall structure and role of each organisation, and to make a comparison of the three groups in terms, objectives and aims, membership, branch structure, regional organisation, executive bodies, conferences, national bodies, links with other organisations, funding arrangements and publications.

OBJECTIVES AND AIMS

Agricultural Bureau

- * To encourage and enable members to collect and discuss information which will help those engaged in primary production or other pursuits connected with the growing of primary products in South Australia.
- * To work in close co-operation with the Department of Agriculture which has undertaken to support the Bureau and provide technical assistance calculated to improve agricultural production in South Australia.
- * To promote good will, friendship and understanding among members.

Women's Agricultural Bureau

- * To stimulate interest in development of rural life, particularly in agriculture.
- * To acquire knowledge concerned with matters having importance in and around the home.
- * To encourage cultural interests among members.
- * To develop in women, an awareness of the privilege and responsibilities of citizenship.
- * To promote good will, friendship and understanding through service.

Rural Youth Movement

Aim:

- * To provide a vehicle through which members are encouraged to become self-reliant, responsible, and effective citizens.

Objectives:

- * To assist and encourage young people to develop their potential to the fullest extent by
 - the acquisition of a wide range of knowledge and skills with emphasis on agriculture
 - providing incentive and facilities for self-expression
 - providing opportunities for leadership according to democratic principles.
- * To promote a closer understanding between urban and rural Australians.
- * To be involved with community services.
- * To have regard at all times to the standing of the Rural Youth Movement in the community.

Comments

There is a significant difference between the stated objectives of the three organisations. The focus of interest of the Women's Agricultural Bureau and the Rural Youth Movement is much broader than that of the Agricultural Bureau. The former organisations have objectives encompassing agricultural extension, community service, the home, cultural interests, citizenship and personal development. The Agricultural Bureau on the other hand is primarily concerned with the extension of knowledge of technical agriculture. Craig (1979) suggested that research into the Agricultural Bureau and Women's Agricultural Bureau indicated that most members accepted the stated goals of the organisation¹. The reasons for belonging to the organisation tended to parallel the constitutional objectives. However, in some areas where few other organisations existed there tended to be an emphasis on social reasons for membership of the organisation. For the majority of members education seemed to be the most desirable objective of membership. A survey of the Rural Youth Movement throughout Australia indicated that personal and social development were the main objectives of most members².

MEMBERSHIP

Agricultural Bureau

Membership of the Agricultural Bureau is open to all people who are interested in agricultural development and education. Anyone who wishes to join the organisation must be nominated by an existing member and approved by a local branch of the Bureau. A nominal annual subscription is paid to cover operating costs of the local branch (e.g. hall hire, stationery, postage, etc.). To maintain membership it is necessary to attend a minimum of three meetings per year. There are approximately 3 600 members of the Agricultural Bureau. Life memberships are awarded to members who have given over 20 years of meritorious service to the Bureau. (There is also a badge awarded for 40 years of continuous membership).

Women's Agricultural Bureau

Membership is open to all women with an interest in agricultural matters. To become a member of the Bureau a person must attend two meetings of a local branch and then be nominated by the branch for membership. Life memberships are awarded for over 20 years of service to the Bureau. All members pay an annual subscription as determined by their local branch. The Women's Agricultural Bureau has approximately 1 700 members.

Rural Youth Movement

Any person between the ages of 16 and 25 years who agrees with the Aim and Objectives may become a member of the Rural Youth Movement. Anyone

who wishes to join a Rural Youth Club must be nominated for membership at a local club meeting. An annual membership fee is determined by each club to cover both the operating costs of the local club and State affiliation fees. An 'Associate Membership' is available for people who can't regularly attend club meetings but who nevertheless wish to maintain involvement the with Movement. At present there are approximately 1 000 members of Rural Youth in South Australia.

Comments

The Rural Youth Movement in South Australia appears to be the only one of the three organisations that has attempted to undertake a comprehensive membership survey which was undertaken in October, 1981.³ A similar survey of rural youth organisations throughout Australia was undertaken earlier that year.⁴ A limited amount of membership information has been obtained in a survey of the Agricultural Bureau in New South Wales and South Australia.⁵

A study by Black and Craig⁶ in 1978 indicated that the age structure of the Agricultural Bureau was as follows:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Under 30	16.6
31-39	26.9
40-49	35.5
50-59	26.9
60+	13.8

Although farmers under 30 make up 28% of the rural male population they only account for 17% of the Agricultural Bureau's membership. In contrast, farmers in the 30-39 age group made up 35% of Bureau membership

and 18% of the farming population. Approximately 92% of Agricultural Bureau members lived on a farm and derived at least 75% of their income from farming.

In the 1981 survey of Rural Youth Membership⁷ in Australia it was found that 66.9% lived on farms, while 19.2% lived in small towns (less than 5 000 people), 7.9% in a large town or city (5 000 to 60 000) and 6.0% in a metropolitan area (over 60 000). It was also found that 30% of members gave their current occupation as farming.⁸ A further 19% had unskilled occupations, 15% were students and 36% were either in public service, management or professional positions or unemployed. Males were more likely to be involved in farming while females were more likely to be involved in unskilled occupations. The occupational pattern for Rural Youth members is reflective of the fact that it is traditional for many young people to seek employment in nearby towns, regional centres and the nearest capital city rather than by taking on farming.

One obvious difference between the three organisations is the different sexual composition of their membership. The 1981 survey of the South Australian Rural Youth Movement showed that 58.3% of the membership were male and 41.7% were female.⁹ Although membership of the Agricultural Bureau is open to both men and women, its membership is almost exclusively male.¹⁰ However, women made up just over 1% of the Agricultural Bureau's membership in 1983. This contrasts with the New South Wales Agricultural Bureau where 7% of its members in 1978 were women (including the President).¹¹ There is no organisational counterpart of the Women's Agricultural Bureau in New South Wales

There is some flow-on in membership between the Rural Youth Movement and the other two bodies. Black and Craig¹² indicated that of the Agricultural Bureau members under 30 years of age, 58% had been members of

Rural Youth, while in the 30-39 age group the corresponding figure was 40%. They further report that in the under 30 age group 35% were members of Rural Youth immediately prior to joining the Bureau. Unfortunately there are no corresponding details of the flow-on in membership between Rural Youth and the Women's Agricultural Bureau.

Black and Craig¹³ have suggested that there are several factors which limit the amount of membership flow on between Rural Youth and the other two organisations. Some locations where there are Rural Youth clubs there are no branches of either or both the Agricultural Bureau and Women's Agricultural Bureau (See also Tables 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.11 in Chapter 3). For a substantial proportion of Rural Youth members, the likelihood of their becoming farm operators is low and their needs will not be catered for by the Agricultural Bureau. Rural Youth programs have a strong social and recreational orientation. The Agricultural Bureau is largely oriented to farm management. The focus of its program is on techniques and issues about which management decisions are made. Membership is largely made up of those in a position to make management decisions (mainly males) rather than those simply seeking information.

EXECUTIVE BODIES

Agricultural Bureau

The Advisory Board of Agriculture is the governing body of the Agricultural Bureau. It consists of 14 Bureau members (one for each district), the Director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute and the Director-General of Agriculture. Advisory Board members are selected by the Minister of Agriculture from a panel of three names submitted by each District. Appointments to the Board are usually for a period of two years and no person may serve as a member for more than ten consecutive years. A Chairman and Vice Chairman are appointed at the annual general meeting of the Board in September or October each year.

The Advisory Board is governed by its own constitution. The duties of the Board are: to guide, control and foster the Agricultural Bureau of South Australia; to consider such matters as the Minister of Agriculture may from time to time refer to the Board and tender to the Minister advice upon such matters; to submit to the Minister such recommendations as the Board may consider desirable to the interests of agricultural, pastoral and other rural industries in the State.

Women's Agricultural Bureau

The Women's Agricultural Bureau Council is the governing body of the Bureau. The Council is comprised of ten Regional Councillors. The Council has its own Constitution and is responsible for the management of the Bureau.

Each year the Council elects a President and Vice-President who serve for one year. The Council meets at least four times a year.

Councillors are elected by the branches in each region. A branch nomination must be seconded by another branch and endorsed by the nominee. Voting is by postal ballot with each branch having one vote. Councillors are elected for a two year term and may only serve for two consecutive terms. Councillors may not hold office in a branch while in office as a Councillor.

Rural Youth Movement

There are two bodies governing the operation of the Rural Youth Movement. The State Executive Committee is the effective management body of the movement and consists of sixteen members including Area Delegates, Portfolio Holders and the immediate Past President. Each Area has one representative on State Executive Committee. Area Delegates are elected in September and are responsible for the flow of information between the Area and the State Executive and represent the views of their Area on the State Executive.

Portfolio holders are elected at the annual State Conference. Their term begins on April 1st. Portfolio positions cover all the major functions that are co-ordinated by State Executive. The portfolios are: State President, Vice President, Finance Officer, Merchandise Officer, State Events Co-ordinator, Crowcall Editor, Promotions Officer, and Competitions Co-ordinator. Both Area Delegates and Portfolio Holders are eligible to stand for a second term.

Among other duties the State Executive is required to: be responsible for the organisation of state competitions, exchange visits and state level

activities; represent the Movement at Rural Youth Council and at Australian Council of Rural Youth Inc. ; act in an advisory capacity at area meetings, with particular attention to by-laws and meeting procedures; and administer the Rural Youth Contributions Fund for State level activities and set the State Affiliation Fee each year.

The second governing body is the Rural Youth Council. The roles of the Council are to act as an advisory committee to the State Executive and to show interest in the movement without interfering with the self-management principles of Rural Youth. The Council approves State finances and has power to veto major policy changes. It also provides a voice for Rural Youth to the public and the Government.

The Council consists of eleven members - a Chairperson from the Department of Agriculture, three from State government departments, three interested people from the private sector and four Rural Youth members. Of the four Rural Youth representatives, three are from past or present State Executive Committees and one is elected by the State Conference. The other members of the Council are nominated for their experience with and interest in young people and their potential to help Rural Youth. Members from the private sector are nominated by the Rural Youth Council and the State Executive and are appointed by the Minister of Agriculture.

Comments

There are significant differences between the three groups in terms of selection of their executive bodies at regional and State levels. With the Rural Youth Movement there is a collective/democratic process in the management of its affairs at Area and State levels. Branches elect delegates to Area Committees. Each area elects two representatives to be a

part of the State Executive Committee. In both cases a committee manages the affairs of each organisational level. Even on the Rural Youth Council there are three representatives of present or past State Executive Committees and one representative elected by State Conference.

With the Women's Agricultural Bureau regional administration is looked after by a Regional Councillor. Branches in a particular region nominate a member as that region's councillor. Each branch has one vote in the election of a councillor. These councillors together make up the Women's Agricultural Bureau Council. The Agricultural Bureau has a markedly different system of organisational management. Each district presents a list of three members to the Minister of Agriculture as potential district representatives on the Advisory Board of Agriculture. The Minister then selects someone from this list to represent the district and be a member of the Advisory Board. Administration at district level is conducted by that district's appointed representative. The Advisory Board's membership also includes the Director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute and the Director-General of Agriculture. The Advisory Board has also traditionally been an advisory body for the Minister of Agriculture as well as being the Agricultural Bureau's executive committee.

REGIONAL OR AREA ORGANISATION AND ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Bureau

The State is divided into fourteen districts (see Fig. 2.2 and Table 2.1). Each district has a representative on the Advisory Board of Agriculture. Advisory Board representatives have the following duties within their District: to assess the needs of branches within the district and the needs of the district as a whole; to report to the Advisory Board the needs of the district; to offer help and assistance to branches in administration and program development; to attend regional meetings, conferences, and pre-conference meetings; to liaise with the Department of Agriculture staff within the District and to seek the advice and assistance of Departmental officers in meeting the District's needs.

In some regions, with similar soils, rainfall and agricultural practices groups of branches have formed regional executive committees. These committees consist of two representatives of each branch and meet once or twice a year. Regional executive committees discuss and assess mutual problems and needs; exchange ideas on programs and assist in the organisation of regional field days, demonstrations and trials.

District Conferences are held on an annual basis. These conferences deal with subjects of interest to the whole district or to sub-regions within the District. There are currently 21 of these Conference District's. A Department of Agriculture officer acts as a Conference Co-ordinator to assist the local branches in organising the Conference. Pre-conference meetings are held consisting of two delegates from each branch in the district and the Advisory Board's district member as Chairperson. The host branch invites the guest speakers and arranges the venue and

catering arrangements. Publicity for the conference is undertaken by the Department of Agriculture's Extension Branch and local SAGRIC officers.

Women's Agricultural Bureau

Branches are grouped together to form ten Regions (see Fig. 2.3 and Table 2.1). In each region a member is elected to serve as the Regional Councillor. These Regional Councillors are required to: assist branches in their administration and program development; maintain regular contact with branches and keep them up to date with Bureau activities and issues; liaise with the Department of Agriculture's Executive Officer, Agricultural Bureau and keep her informed of activities in the region; and attend meetings of the Women's Agricultural Bureau Council.

Regional conferences are held each year. These meetings provide an opportunity to explore subjects of interest to the region. They also allow for an exchange of ideas and the development of friendships within the region. Guest speakers are invited and competitions and displays are arranged. Each year regional meetings are sponsored by a different branch.

Rural Youth Movement

Rural Youth 'Areas' were established to provide:⁽¹⁾ an intermediate step for information and discussion within the Movement,⁽²⁾ to assist with co-ordination between nearby Clubs (e.g. to avoid events clashing) and (3) to encourage communication between members and clubs. The State is divided into seven Areas (see Fig. 2.4 and Table 2.3).

Each Club in an Area appoints one or two delegates (depending on the Area) to an Area Committee, which also includes Area Office Bearers and a State Executive Delegate. Committees meet at least six times each year. The Annual General Meeting is held in June. An Area Executive Committee, composed of a President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Officer and Exchange Officer meets more often to deal with urgent business arising between full committee meetings.

Area Committees are mainly concerned with the internal functioning of an Area. They act as a forum through which Clubs can discuss their problems and get new ideas. Several Clubs may act through the Area Committee to assist an ailing club or work together to establish a new club. The Area Committees also have a role in raising issues for discussion by State Executive and/or other Areas, and in responding to State issues raised elsewhere.

The Area Committees organise regional events. These may be social (Inter-Area Cabarets) or educational (e.g. Leadership Weekends or an Agricultural Tour). The highlight of the year in each Area is the "Rally". One Club in each area hosts the Area Rally which may run over one or two weekends. The Area finals for all State competitions are held at the Rally as well as a variety of social events.

Comments

The regional/district/area structures and activities of the three organisations are very different. With the Agricultural Bureau and the Women's Agricultural Bureau, District Board Members or Regional Councillors oversee the activities of branches within their own districts or regions. In the Rural Youth Movement on the other hand, this function is undertaken

by an Area Committee. District Conferences of the Agricultural Bureau, Regional Conferences of the Women's Agricultural Bureau and Area Rally's and Conferences of the Rural Youth Movement are also very different in terms of their aims, functions and activities.

BRANCHES

Agricultural Bureau

A branch of the Agricultural Bureau consists of members of the Bureau resident in a particular locality. A branch may be formed if there are ten foundation members and its formation is approved by the Advisory Board of Agriculture. Likewise a branch may be closed by the Advisory Board if there are less than ten members in a branch, or the branch holds less than three meetings per year or fails to operate within the Constitution of the Agricultural Bureau. In January 1986 there were 158 branches of the Agricultural Bureau. For the location of Agricultural Bureau branches in South Australia see Fig. 2.2 (Figure 2.1 is included for those interested in comparing branch location with Department of Agriculture Regional boundaries).

Each local branch is directed by an elected committee consisting of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor, Press Reporter and committee members. Elections are held at the branch annual general meeting in July each year. The aim is to replace half of the committee each year. Officers may hold positions for 2 to 4 years.

Each branch is responsible for the running of its own program which may include: lectures and discussions; workshops; field days; one or two day schools; visits to industry centres, institutions, research centres; agricultural competitions; general interest talks and social nights. Formal meetings are held each month.

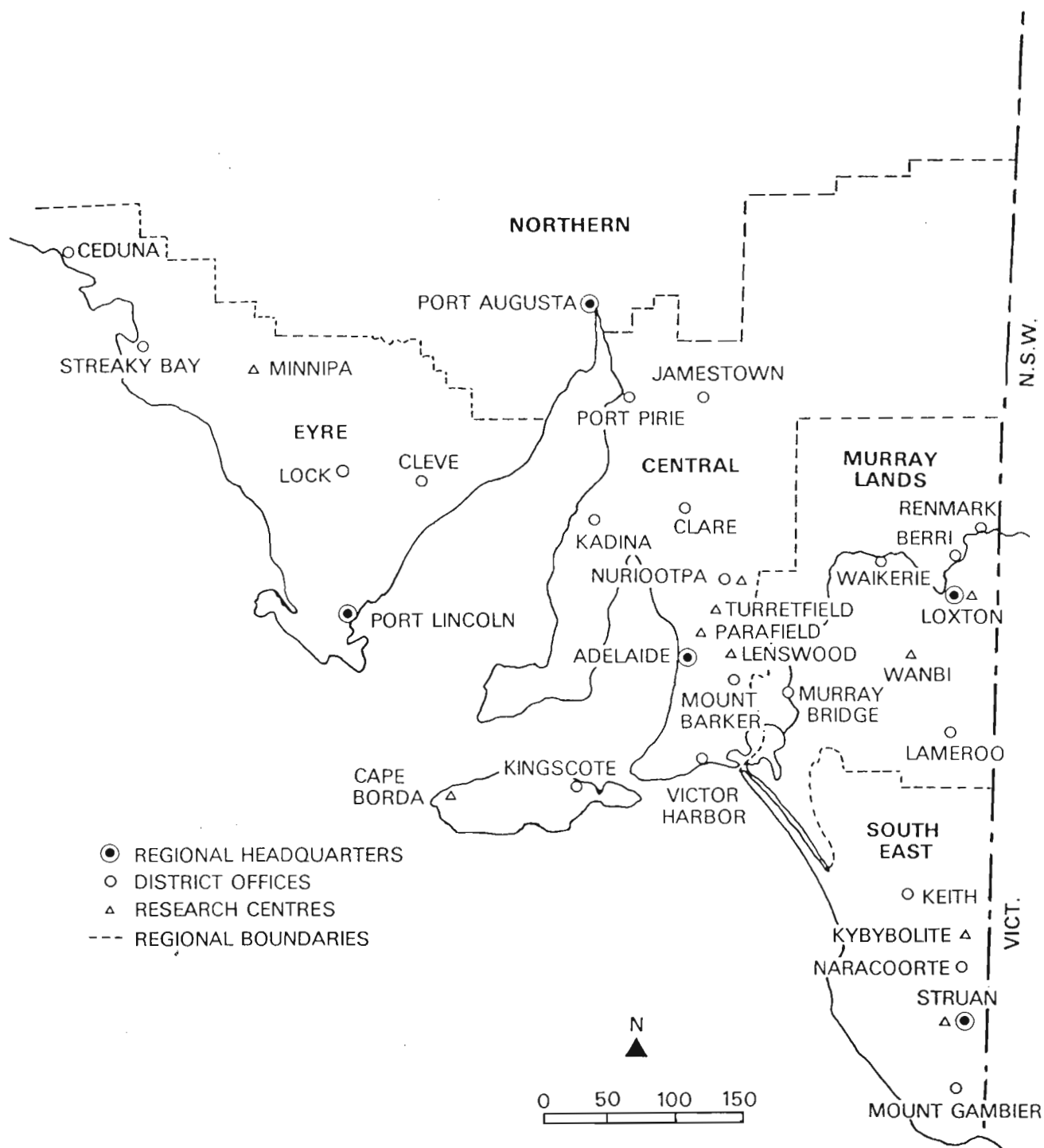


Figure 2.1: Department of Agriculture, South Australia: Regions, District Offices and Research Centres, 1986.

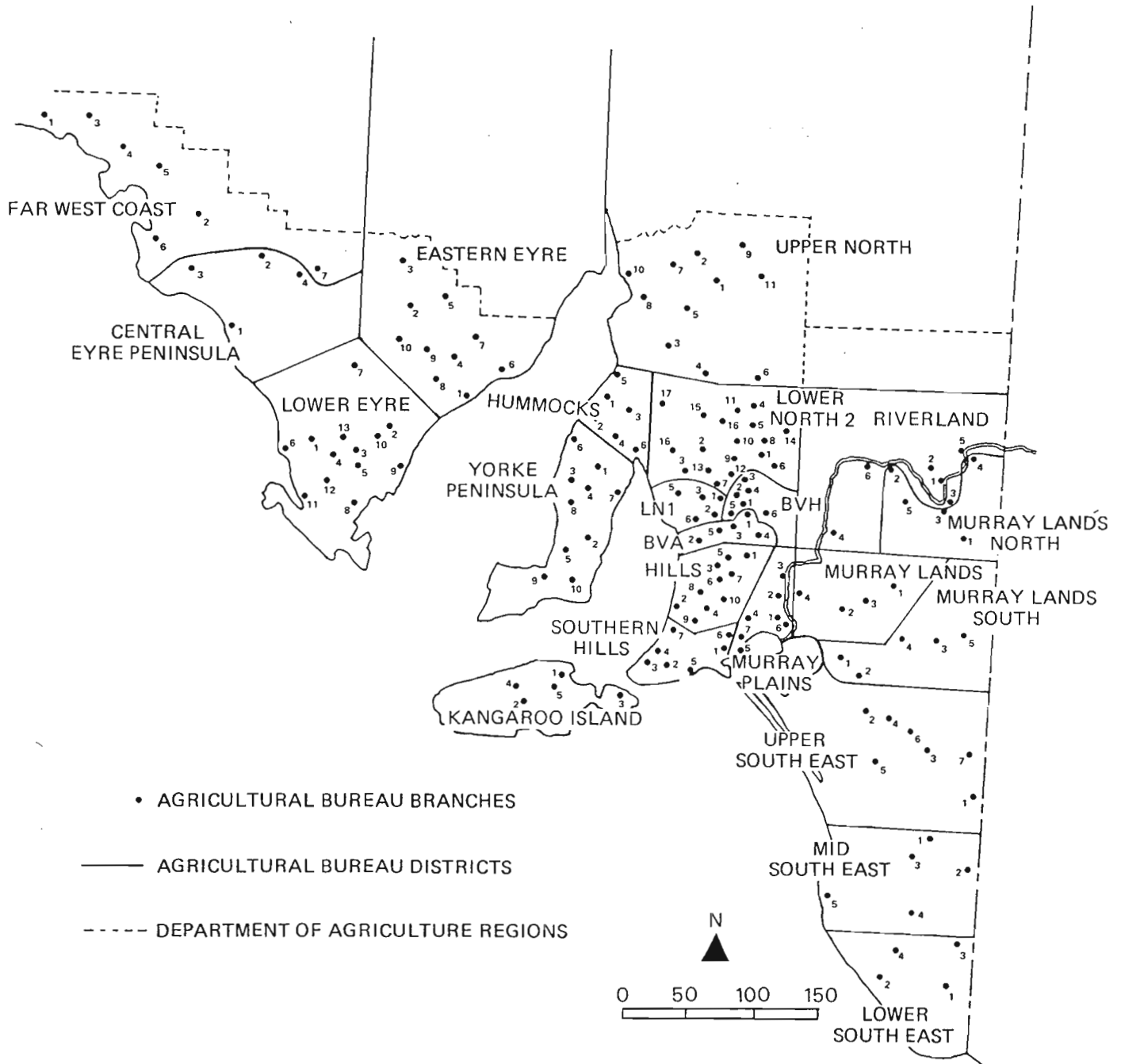


Figure 2.2 Agricultural Bureau: Location of Branches and Districts, 1986

TABLE 2.1: AGRICULTURAL BUREAU: BRANCHES AND CONFERENCE DISTRICTS, 1986.

<u>Barossa Valley</u>		6.	Franklin Harbor	(15)	<u>Hummocks</u>	
(Agricultural)		7.	Mangalo	(15)	1.	Alford (21)
1.	Angaston (23)	8.	Roberts-Verran	(20)	2.	Boor's Plains (69)
2.	One Tree Hill (23)	9.	Rudall-Taragoro	(22)	3.	Bute (40)
3.	Rosedale (37)	10.	Tuckey	(11)	4.	Paskeville (43)
4.	Springton (18)	<u>Far West Coast</u>			5.	Port Broughton (24)
5.	Williamstown (10)	1.	Charra	(18)	6.	South Hummocks (26)
<u>Barossa Valley</u>		2.	Cungena	(28)	<u>Kangaroo Island</u>	
(Horticultural)		3.	Goode	(15)	1.	Kingscote (25)
1.	Angaston (44)	4.	Mudamuckla	(30)	2.	Parndana (-)
2.	Greenock (21)	5.	Nunjikompita	(22)	3.	Penneshaw (25)
3.	Koonunga (33)	6.	Streaky Bay	(21)	4.	Pioneer Bend (-)
4.	Light Pass (27)	7.	Wudinna	(33)	5.	Western Dist. (10)
5.	Lone Pine/	<u>Hills Agricultural/</u>			<u>Lower Eyre Peninsula</u>	
	Tanunda (80)	<u>Horticultural</u>			1.	Brimpton Lake (16)
6.	Rowland Flat (54)	1.	Birdwood	(-)	2.	Butler Tanks (26)
<u>Central Eyre Peninsula</u>		2.	Clarendon	(14)	3.	Cockaleechee (22)
1.	Elliston (-)	3.	Cudlee Creek	(-)	4.	Cummins (18)
2.	Minnipa (18)	4.	Echunga	(16)	5.	Koppio (17)
3.	Mount Cooper (22)	5.	Gumeracha	(20)	6.	Mount Hope (31)
4.	Pygery (-)	6.	Lenswood/		7.	Murdinga (19)
<u>Eastern Eyre Peninsula</u>			Forest Range	(37)	8.	Port Lincoln (-)
1.	Arno Bay (22)	7.	Lobethal	(22)	9.	Tumby Bay (15)
2.	Caralue (24)	8.	Longwood	(21)	10.	Ungarra (21)
3.	Cortlinye (15)	9.	Meadows	(38)	11.	Wangary (24)
4.	Crossville (22)	10.	Mount Barker	(35)	12.	Wanilla (18)
5.	Kelly (15)				13.	Yeelanna (34)

TABLE 2.1: Cont'd.

<u>Lower North 1</u>		<u>Lower South East</u>		2. Brinkley	(16)
1. Freeling	(38)	1. Mil Lel	(33)	3. Frayville	(23)
2. Gawler River	(24)	2. Millicent	(20)	4. Hartley	(20)
3. Kapunda	(20)	3. Penola	(12)	5. Milang	(28)
4. Keyneton	(21)	4. Wattle Range	(22)	6. Mobilong	(14)
5. Mallala	(40)	<u>Mid South East</u>		7. Strathalbyn	(13)
6. Wasleys	(24)	1. Keppoch	(21)	<u>Northern</u>	
<u>Lower North 2 (Mid-North)</u>		2. Kybybolite	(46)	1. Appila	(15)
1. Buchanan	(28)	3. Lochaber	(26)	2. Booleroo Centre	(44)
2. Blyth	(-)	4. Lucindale	(-)	3. Crystal Brook	(20)
3. Halbury	(29)	5. Mt. Benson	(-)	4. Koolunga	(-)
4. Hanson	(24)	6. Reedy Creek	(22)	5. Laura	(17)
5. Mintaro/Manoora/		<u>Murraylands</u>		6. Mount Bryan	(20)
Auburn	(36)	1. Borrika	(27)	7. Murraytown	(17)
6. Neales Flat	(33)	2. Chapman's Bore	(9)	8. Nelshaby	(30)
7. Owen	(33)	3. Karoonda	(14)	9. Pekina	(26)
8. Point Pass	(21)	4. Sunnyside	(9)	10. Port Germein	(18)
9. Riverton	(33)	<u>Murraylands North</u>		11. Yongala	(25)
10. Saddleworth	(23)	1. Brown's Well	(18)	<u>Riverland</u>	
11. Snowtown	(31)	2. Lowbank	(15)	1. Brown's Well	(18)
12. Stockport	(20)	3. Loxton (Dryland)	(-)	2. Lowbank	(15)
13. Tarlee	(17)	4. Paringa	(8)	3. Loxton (Dryland)	(-)
14. Waterloo	(23)	5. Wunkar	(29)	4. Paringa	(8)
15. Watervale	(18)	<u>Murray Plains</u>		5. Wunkar	(29)
16. Whitwarta	(24)	1. Belvidere	(12)		

TABLE 2.1: Cont'd.

<u>Southern Hills</u>		<u>Yorke Peninsula</u>	
1. Blewett Springs (-)		1. Arthurton	(29)
2. Inman Valley	(25)	2. Curramulka	(29)
3. Parawa	(30)	3. Kilkerran	(25)
4. Tooperang-Finnis	(20)	4. Maitland	(25)
5. Victor Harbor	(30)	5. Minlaton	(30)
6. Yankalilla	(28)	6. Moonta	(36)
<u>Southern Murraylands</u>		7. Petersville	(36)
1. Coomandook	(42)	8. South Kilkerran	(31)
2. Coonalpyn	(28)	9. Warooka	(37)
3. Geranium	(37)	10. Weavers	(49)
4. Netherton	(27)		
5. Southern Mallee	(22)		
<u>Upper South East</u>			
1. Bangham	(37)		
2. Keith	(25)		
3. Mundulla	(25)		
4. Tintinara	(32)		
5. Willalooka	(-)		
6. Wirrega/			
Lowanvale	(21)		
7. Wolseley	(23)		

Women's Agricultural Bureau

Branches of the Women's Agricultural Bureau consist of members resident in a particular location. Branches are formed by the Women's Agricultural Bureau Council and must have a foundation membership of at least ten members. Each branch holds a meeting once a month with a two month recess each year. In September, 1985 there were 73 branches operating in South Australia.

Each branch is administered by an annually elected committee and executive officers, including a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor and Press Reporter. Executive officers may hold positions between 2 and 5 years. An annual general meeting is held in June each year. As with the Agricultural Bureau the aim is to replace half of the committee each year.

Branches are responsible for conducting their own program. Branch activities may include: lectures and discussion groups; educational schools and workshops; visits to organisations and research centres; money raising for community projects; field days; service projects; and social events. Branches also contribute to the Women's Agricultural Bureau 'Project for the Year'.

Rural Youth

There are 52 functioning clubs in South Australia. Location of Rural Youth clubs can be seen in Fig. 2.4 and Table 2.3. Clubs may be formed by a minimum of 5 financial members. The day to day running of a club is handled by a Club Committee consisting of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Officer and any other officers required

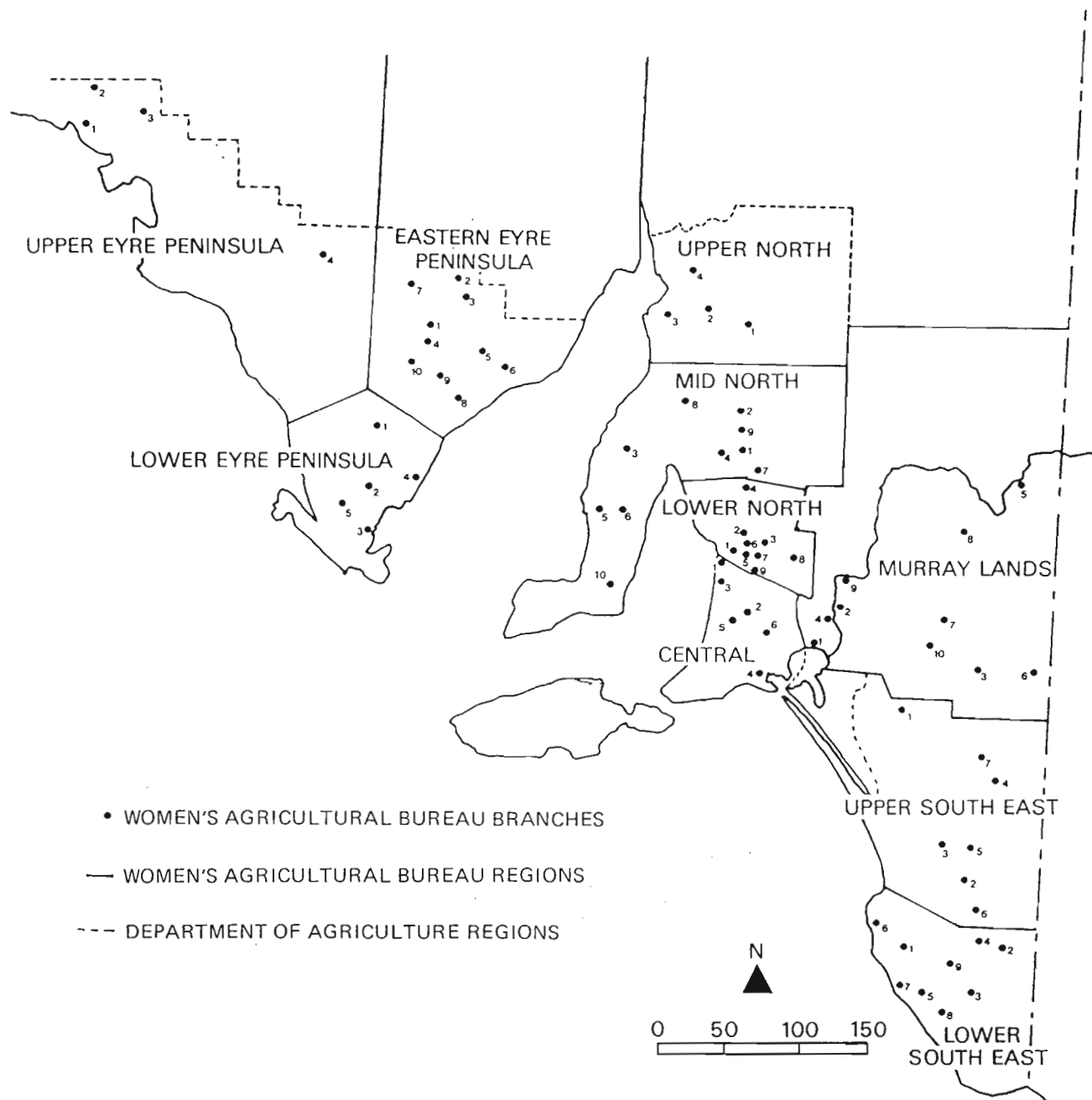


Figure 2.3: Women's Agricultural Bureau: Location of Branches and Regions, 1986.

TABLE 2.2: WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL BUREAU: BRANCHES AND REGIONS, 1986.

<u>Central</u>		3. Light Pass (15)	8. Snowtown (17)
1. Adelaide (23)		4. Riverton (21)	9. Watervale (13)
2. Balhannah (25)		5. Rosedale/	10. Yorketown (37)
3. Goolwa (35)		Sandy Creek (26)	<u>Murray Lands</u>
4. Hope Forest (9)		6. Sheoak Log (20)	1. Bow Hill (21)
5. Longwood (27)		7. Tanunda (46)	2. Brinkley (31)
6. Strathalbyn (27)		8. Towitta (27)	3. Burdett (27)
<u>Eastern Eyre Peninsula</u>		9. Williamstown (15)	4. Lameroo (16)
1. Caralue (18)	<u>Lower South East</u>		5. Murray B. (33)
2. Cortlinye (22)	1. Comung (15)		6. Paringa (21)
3. Kimba (20)	2. Coonawarra (22)		7. Pinnaroo (37)
4. Darke Peak (17)	3. Kalangadoo (19)		8. Sandalwood(15)
5. Mangalo (14)	4. Legge's Lane (18)		9. Wunkar (19)
6. Miltalie (18)	5. Millicent (24)		10. Yurgo (14)
7. Pinkawillinie(20)	6. Mount Benson (27)	<u>Upper Eyre Peninsula</u>	
8. Rudall-Taragoro(13)	7. Rendlesham (20)	1. Ceduna (18)	
9. Tuckey (9)	8. Tantanoola (17)	2. Charra (15)	
<u>Lower Eyre Peninsula</u>		9. Wattle Range (19)	3. Maltee (16)
1. Brooker (20)	<u>Mid North</u>		4. Yaninee (13)
2. Charlton (20)	1. Burra (10)	<u>Upper North</u>	
3. Port Lincoln (32)	2. Clare (50)	1. Jamestown (42)	
4. Tumby Bay (30)	3. Cunliffe (45)	2. Laura (27)	
5. Wanilla (15)	4. Halbury (27)	3. Nelshaby (20)	
<u>Lower North</u>		5. Kilkerran (35)	4. Wepowie/Booleroo
1. Evanston Gardens(30)	6. Maitland (18)		Centre (34)
2. Freeling (29)	7. Saddleworth (26)		

TABLE 2.2: Cont'd.

Upper South East

1. Coonalpyn (16)
2. Lochaber (22)
3. Marcollat (9)
4. Mundulla (26)
5. Padthaway (23)
6. Stewart's Range(-)
7. Wirrega (24)

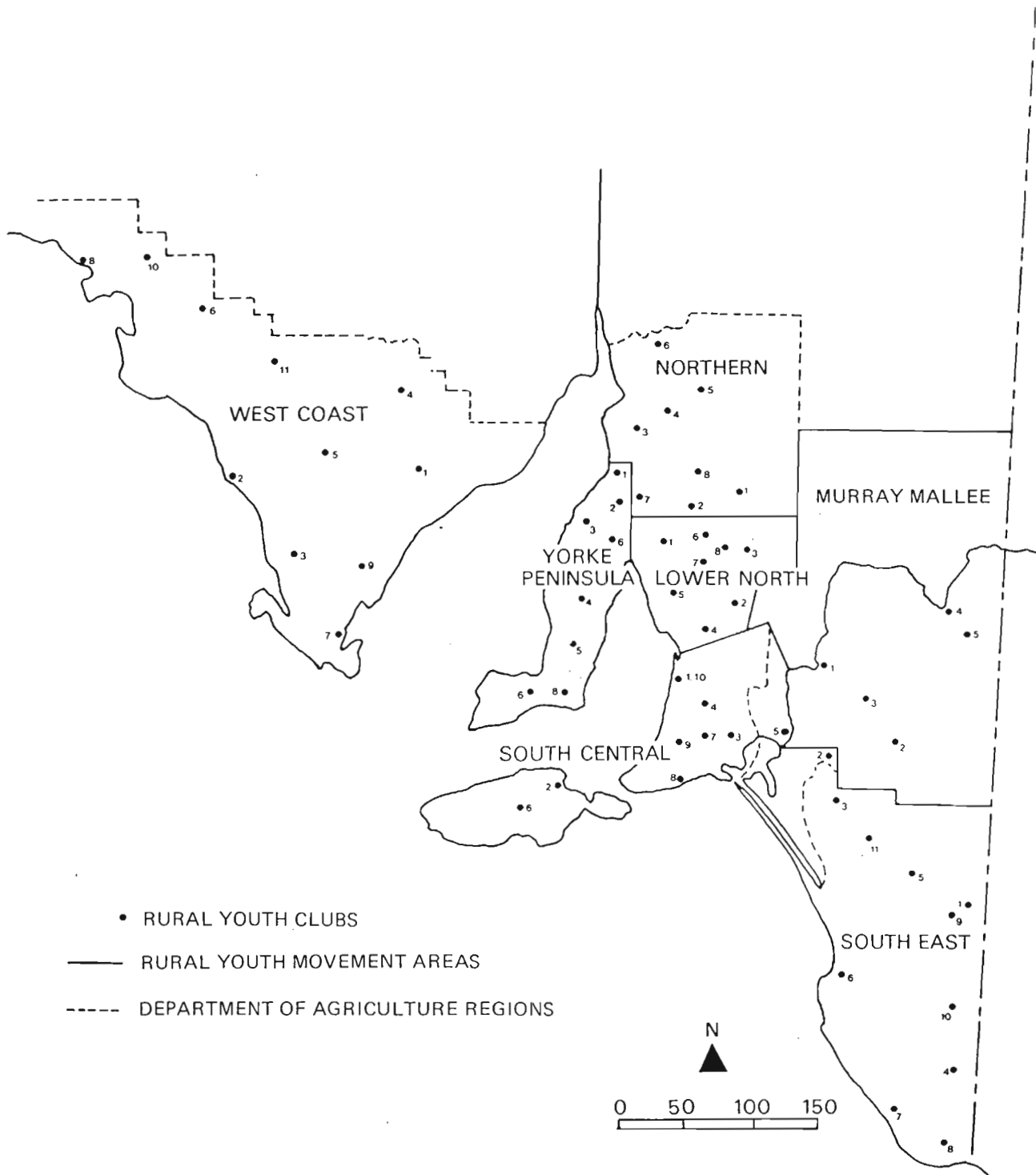


Figure 2.4: Rural Youth Movement: Location of Clubs and Areas, 1986.

TABLE 2.3: RURAL YOUTH MOVEMENT: CLUBS AND AREAS, 1986

<u>Lower North</u>		<u>South Central</u>		<u>West Coast</u>	
1. Balaklava	(15)	1. Adelaide	(6)	1. Cleve & Districts	(18)
2. Barossa	(21)	2. Kingscote	(26)		
3. Eudunda	(-)	3. Langhorne Creek	(-)	2. Kappinie & Districts	(2)
4. Gawler	(37)	4. Mount Barker	(6)	3. Kimba	(14)
5. Mallala	(13)	5.			
6. Saddleworth & Districts	(2)	6. Parndana	(15)	4. Port Lincoln	(10)
7. Tarlee	(16)	7. Strathalbyn	(9)	5. Smoky Bay & Districts	(27)
8. Kapunda	(-)	8. Victor Harbour	(9)	6. Ungarra & Districts	(-)
<u>Murray Mallee</u>		9. Meadows	(19)		
		10. Anunaka (Adelaide)	(26)		
1. Brown's Well	(10)	<u>South East</u>		7. Wirrulla & Districts	(22)
2. Coomandook	(4)	1. Bordertown	(17)		
3. East Murray	(2)	2. Coonalpyn	(16)	8. Wundinna & Districts	(16)
4. Lower Murray	(16)	3. Coonawarra	(6)		
<u>Northern</u>		4. Keith	(-)	9. Cowell	(-)
1. Burra	(9)	5. Kingston	(8)	<u>Yorke Peninsula</u>	
2. Clare	(14)	6. Millicent	(8)	1. Bute	(6)
3. Crystal Brook	(6)	7. Mount Gambier	(24)	2. Maitland	(16)
4. Jamestown	(22)	8. Mundulla	(22)	3. Warooka	(24)
5. Mount Remarkable	(25)	9. Naracoorte	(11)	4. Moonta	(9)
6. Snowtown	(11)	10. Tintinara	(17)		
7. Spalding	(2)				

Assistant Secretary, Transport Officer, Host and Hostess, Merchandise Officer). The Club Executive consists of the President, Secretary and Treasurer. Office bearers are elected annually at the annual general meeting in May. Officers are elected for terms of one to two years. Clubs may appoint 'Adult Advisors' to assist them.

Rural Youth clubs organise their own programs and have a wide range of educational, agricultural, personal development, social/recreational, cultural and community service activities. Educational activities may involve guest speakers, training schools for self-expression and leadership, self-development competitions, study tours and vocational schools (e.g. shearing school). Social/recreational activities include such things as car trials and camping trips. Club may also initiate their own community service project.

State-wide competitions are held in a range of areas, such as trades, agricultural skills, domestic skills, presentation skills and personal development. The State Finals for these competitions are held either during the Royal Adelaide Show or in conjunction with the Clare Show in October each year. A number of awards are offered each year for outstanding contribution to the movement and the community.

Rural Youth also sponsors exchange programs, with similar organisations overseas and interstate. Overseas exchange programs have been arranged in U.K., U.S.A., and New Zealand. Interstate exchanges operate in N.S.W., Tasmania, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia. From time to time special exchanges are offered (e.g. to China and Indonesia).

Comments

At branch or club level the three organisations are very similar. While their programs vary in accordance with the nature of their objectives, and differences in age and sex, there are several areas of overlap.

STATE CONFERENCES

Agricultural Bureau

Up until 1965 the Agricultural Bureau held an annual State Congress. These were discontinued due to falling attendances and the feeling that given the wide variety in types of agriculture practised in South Australia, District Conferences were of much greater value to members.

Women's Agricultural Bureau

The Women's Agricultural Bureau Congress is held in August each year. The State Congress is held over four days and is organised by the Council. The Congress program includes lectures, slide presentations, discussion panels, social evenings, excursions and displays. Speeches are delivered by community figures, agriculturalists, politicians, overseas speakers, delegates from other organisations, university lecturers and Department of Agriculture personnel. The annual report is presented and the Project for the Year announced.

Rural Youth Movement

The State Conference of Rural Youth is held in March each year. The conference is a forum to discuss matters concerning Rural Youth. Each club may send two delegates plus any number of observers. Only delegates may vote. Submissions are presented concerning the general running of the movement, new competitions, new activities or changes to the constitution.

The State Executive Portfolio Holders and a Rural Youth Council Representative are elected at the Conference.

Comments

The Women's Agricultural Bureau Congress and the Rural Youth State Conference are extremely important events in their respective organisation's programs. These annual conferences provide an opportunity to review the organisation's program, encourage friendships between members from all parts of the State and help to provide direction for the coming year's activities. The major difference between the two events being that Rural Youth State Conference is more of a forum for the organisation as a whole, with voting delegates, debate on motions and the election of a representative to the Rural Youth Council.

NATIONAL BODIES AND LINKS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Agricultural Bureau

There are only two Agricultural Bureau organisations in Australia - one in South Australia and one in New South Wales. Although there are no formal links between the two organisations, the South Australian Bureau often sends a representative to the N.S.W. State Conference.

Women's Agricultural Bureau

There is no other body fulfilling the same role as the Women's Agricultural Bureau in other states. However, there is close liaison with the N.S.W. Agricultural Bureau. A delegate is sent each year to the N.S.W. Conference and a N.S.W. delegate attends the Women's Agricultural Bureau Annual State Congress.

The Bureau is affiliated with the National Council of Women, and the United Nations Association of South Australia. It is also a constituent society of the Associated Country Women of the World.

Co-operation with the South Australian Country Women's Association is encouraged at every opportunity. Joint meeting with local branches of the Agricultural Bureau and Rural Youth are encouraged.

Rural Youth Movement

The Australian Council of Rural Youth is the national body of the Rural Youth Movement in Australia. The Council is composed of delegates

from each State. Its role is basically one of co-ordination between State bodies. The Council meets twice a year. It organises a National Convention which is held in a different state each year.

Rural Youth also has a representative on the Rural Industry Training Committee. This committee is responsible for examining the role of training in rural industries, and developing relevant policy for training of young people.

Comments

In many respects the Agricultural Bureau and the Women's Agricultural Bureau of South Australia are unique organisations. The Agricultural Bureau of New South Wales is the only comparable organisation in Australia. Rural Youth in South Australia is, however, a part of a national movement with a distinct national identity. The Women's Agricultural Bureau also maintains links with national and international organisations - particularly those representing women in rural areas.

FUNDING

Agricultural Bureau

Each branch is responsible for its own finances. Individual branches determine their own membership subscriptions at their annual meeting. Individual branches are responsible for raising the finance necessary to support their own program of activities. They are also responsible for their own financial records. The Advisory Board of Agriculture is almost completely funded by the Department of Agriculture. Some support is also given by the Department for organising and publicising District Conferences.

Women's Agricultural Bureau

Again, each branch is responsible for its own finances. Subscriptions are determined by each individual branch. However, the W.A.B. Council levies the branches at a rate determined on the basis of branch membership. Money raised in this way is used to support the organisation's activities at State level. Some of the money collected in this way is also used to help support special branch needs or activities.

Rural Youth Movement

As with the two other organisations, Rural Youth clubs are financially self-supporting. Each club pays an affiliation fee based on the number of members on the club roll. This fee is determined by the State Executive and all monies are paid into the Rural Youth Contributions Fund. The fund

is controlled and managed by State Executive, although each year's budget must be approved by the Rural Youth Council. Another important source of financial support comes from the sponsorship of Rural Youth awards and competitions by commercial firms, public institutions and farming organisations.

Comments

At the branch level, funding arrangements are similar for the three organisations. Individual branches/clubs are responsible for their own finances and determine the level of their own membership subscriptions. For their normal day to day operation each branch/club is self-sufficient. However, in terms of funding their executive bodies there are some notable differences between the organizations. The Women's Agricultural Bureau Council puts a levy on each branch based on the size of branch membership. Activities at a State level are funded by the levy. Within the Rural Youth Movement each club pays an affiliation fee which funds the movement's activities at State level. Private sponsorship is also an important source of funds. In contrast, the Advisory Board of Agriculture, which meets as an advisory body to the Minister, is fully funded by the Department of Agriculture.

The Rural Youth Movement has developed the best organised financial system of the three groups. Following the Movement's formation in 1952 many business firms and companies were interested in sponsoring Rural Youth activities. In 1953 a Rural Youth Contributions Fund was established. It was aimed at subsidising travel and accommodation and to provide prizes and awards for various competitions and activities. In the early years commercial bodies were the major contributors. Later, the Rural Credits

Development Fund of the Reserve Bank became a significant contributor. However, in recent years clubs themselves have become the major contributors to the Fund. The State Executive had its own Treasurer and controlled and managed the Fund.

The Advisory Board of Agriculture and the Women's Agricultural Board Council have recently appointed their own treasurers, this function being undertaken in previous years by staff from the Department of Agriculture.

PUBLICATIONS

Agricultural Bureau

The Agricultural Bureau has no regular bulletin or newsletter. However, the Advisory Board of Agriculture does issue a bi-monthly report of Board meetings and an Annual Report detailing the Bureau's major activities each year.

Women's Agricultural Bureau

The Women's Agricultural Bureau issues a quarterly publication called WAB News. The magazine keeps the membership informed of branch and State level activities.

Rural Youth Movement

A monthly magazine called "Crow Call" is published to keep the membership informed of organisational activities. Rural Youth also produces a range of publications for the use of Club members and office holders. These include a Club Manual, a Treasurer's Manual, Competition Guidelines, a guide for exchange host families, a handbook on dealing with the media, a writing kit, a workshop trainers guide on Community Development, etc.

CONCLUSION

The three organisations are very similar in terms of their operation at branch/club level. Branches or clubs are relatively self-sufficient and their activities in general match their respective organisations' overall aims and objectives.

All three organisations are concerned with imparting to their members knowledge and skills that are valuable in practical agriculture. However, they differ in the importance they attach to this particular goal. For the Agricultural Bureau, this is its major reason for existence. The Rural Youth Movement and the Women's Agricultural Bureau have a much wider range of goals, reflecting the interests of their respective memberships.

CHAPTER 3

SAGRIC GROUP EXTENSION SERVICES (1950-1985)

The Department of Agriculture has always been closely associated with the organisation and development of its three associated extension bodies. Significant amounts of human, financial and organizational resources have been given to each group. Since the mid-1950s the Extension Services Branch has provided the focus for the servicing of each organisation. This chapter outlines the services provided by the Department of Agriculture to the three bodies since the early 1950s.

PERSONNEL

1950-1954

In 1950 there were two officers employed to service the Agricultural Bureau - the General Secretary of the Advisory Board of Agriculture and the Women's Extensions Officer. From 1902 onwards the Advisory Board of Agriculture's General Secretary had been a full-time officer of the Department of Agriculture¹. With the formation of the Women's Agricultural Bureau Council in 1948, the General Secretary's duties were extended to include the office of Secretary to the new Council². During 1950 both positions were held by F. Richards³.

Marjorie Gardiner was appointed as the first Women's Extension Officer in 1947 and remained in that position until 1952.⁴ Her task was to re-organise the women's section of the Bureau following World War II. Ms. Gardiner was to identify the active branches, revive the inactive ones

and, if possible, start new branches. Originally M. Gardiner was the Women's Agricultural Bureau Council's Minute Secretary. However, from 1950 onwards she seems to have effectively acted as the Council's Secretary while F. Richards formally retained the position. The Women's Extension Officer was also responsible for producing a news bulletin for the women's section of the Bureau.

TABLE 3.1: SECRETARIES TO THE ADVISORY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL BUREAU COUNCIL (1950-1983)

<u>Advisory Board of Agriculture</u>		<u>Women's Agricultural Bureau Council</u>	
-1956	F. Richards (Gen. Sec.)	-1952	F. Richards (Secretary)
1957-61	C. Wood (Organiser)	1953-61	D. Marshal (Organiser)
1962-69	G. Robinson (Snr. Ad. Off.)	1962	Vacant
1970-78	D. Spurling (Ad. Off.)	1963-66	C. Hastie (Organiser)
1979-83	C. Bungey (Exec. Off.)	1967-72	J. Wood (Organiser)
		1972-78	C. Bungey (Organiser)
		1979-83	C. Bungey (Exec. Off.)

TABLE 3.2: WOMEN'S EXTENSION OFFICERS (1947-1979)

1947-52	Marjorie Gardiner
1953-60	Vacant
1961-66	Mary Broinowski
1967-69	Sheila Fraser
1969-72	Berta Briggs
1972	Carol Steedman
1975-77	Lesley Jacobs
1978-79	Lesley Jacobs (position changed to 'Home Economist')

M. Gardiner finished her involvement with the Department in 1952.⁵ She was replaced in 1953 by Dorothy Marshall.⁶ The position was changed to 'Organiser, Women's Branches, Agricultural Bureau'.⁷ D. Marshall then became the 'Executive Member and Secretary' of the Women's Agricultural Bureau Council.⁸ Prior to this time the Department's contact with the Advisory Board and the Council was maintained through F. Richards who was Secretary to both bodies. However, this formal link between the two bodies was severed when the Organiser took over the role of Council Secretary.

TABLE 3.3: WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL BUREAU ORGANISERS (1953-1983)

1953-61	Dorothy Marshall
1962	Vacant
1963-66	Catherine Hastie
1967-72	Jean Wood
1972-78	Cicely Bungey
1979-83	Cicely Bungey (position changed to Executive Officer, Agricultural Bureaus)

In December 1951 Peter Angove was appointed as the first General Supervisor of the Rural Youth Movement.⁹ Between 1953-1965 he was joined by three 'Advisory Officers' - J. Butterworth, J. Hutton and J. Playford.¹⁰ One officer was stationed at Mt. Gambier to work with Rural Youth Clubs in the South East.

TABLE 3.4: ADVISORY OFFICERS, RURAL YOUTH (1952-1979)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Advisory Officers</u>	<u>Total</u>
1952	P. Angove (General Supervisor)	1
1953	P. Angove, J. Butterworth, J. Hutton	3
1954	P. Angove, J. Butterworth, J. Hutton, J. Playford	4
1955-56	A. Hooper (Sen. Ad.), J. Butterworth, J. Hutton, J. Playford	4
1957-62	A. Hooper, M. Glenn, J. McLachlan, J. Playford	4
1963-65	A. Hooper, M. Glenn, W. McEwin, J. Playford	4
1966	A. Hooper, M. Glenn, W. McEwin, P. Guerin	4
1967-72	A. Hooper, M. Glenn, W. McEwin, P. Guerin, R. Baker	5
1973-75	P. Guerin (OIC), M. Glenn, R. Baker	3
1976	M. Glenn, R. Baker (both absent due to illness)	0
1977-78	J. Bouwer	1
1979	J. Bouwer (on leave)	0

As mentioned earlier, the Director of Agriculture, Allan Callaghan was highly critical of the women's section of the Bureau in general and of the Council in particular. He felt that the aims of the women's section were in conflict with those of the Department. It was felt by the Director that the organisation was not fulfilling an agricultural extension role such as was the case with the men's section. At the time the women's section had been organised on an equal footing with the men's section. For the reasons outlined earlier the Director was opposed to this arrangement.

The Director proposed that the women's section of the Bureau be re-organised and a completely new extension service for women be established.¹¹ In 1954 the women's section of the Bureau was separated from the men's section with the latter retaining the name 'Agricultural

Bureau' and the former being given the title 'Women's Agricultural Bureau'.¹² Whether this arrangement was primarily motivated by the Department or the women's section itself is not known. However, the Women's Agricultural Bureau's new Council of elected members was not allowed to act as an advisory body to the Minister. This was in line with the Director's stated intention of ensuring that the Council would not have the same status as the Advisory Board.

The same year the Director stated his intention of forming a much more widely based 'Women's Extension Service'. Dorothy Marshall's duties were expanded and other Women's Extension Officers were to be appointed to work with all organisations working with women in rural areas and not just the Women's Agricultural Bureau.¹³ The 'Advisory Committee on Agricultural Services for Country Women' was formed with Ms. Marshall as its chairperson. The Advisory Committee consisted of representatives from the Country Women's Association, Women's Agricultural Bureau, and Rural Youth as well as media representatives.¹⁴

1955-1961

With the re-organisation of the Department in 1955 the three organisations were to be serviced by the 'Extension Services and Information Division' (Now Extension Services Branch). R. Herriot was appointed Chief of the new Division. One of his duties was to co-ordinate Departmental services to the three organisations. Peter Angove was appointed as 'Senior Extension Officer' to be responsible for their general oversight. Mr. Angove was to continue to work closely with the three groups for the next twenty years.

Following Peter Angove's promotion A. Hooper was appointed as Senior Adviser, Rural Youth, with a staff of three Advisory Officers¹⁵. Rural Youth Clubs were organised into regions with each Adviser being responsible for a region. In 1957 Advisers J. Butterworth and J. Hutton were replaced by M. Glenn and J. McLachlan¹⁷.

F. Richards resigned as Secretary of the Advisory Board in 1956. During that year the Board was without a permanent secretary. It was decided to widen the Secretary's responsibilities to service Bureau branches as well as the Advisory Board. The role of the Secretary up until that time had been mainly clerical. The title of the position was changed to that of 'Organiser'. Thus the Agricultural Bureau and the Women's Agricultural Bureau were to be put on a similar footing with both organisations having an executive officer known as the Organiser. C. Wood was appointed to the position in 1957.¹⁸

During this period the Women's Agricultural Bureau and the Rural Youth Movement were heavily dependent on Department personnel in contrast to the Agricultural Bureau which had demonstrated its capacity to stand on its own. This is not surprising as both the Women's Agricultural Bureau and Rural Youth were relatively new organisations. The Women's Agricultural Bureau's dependence upon its Organiser, was highlighted during Dorothy Marshall's absence due to illness between 1960-1961.¹⁹ Following Ms. Marshall's death in 1961 the Women's Agricultural Bureau was without an Organiser until 1963. During this period (1960-62) the organisation experienced difficulty in carrying on activities at anything other than at branch level.

How long the Women's Extension Advisory Committee continued to operate effectively is not known. While still in existence at least until 1958 it does not seem to have exercised any real influence over the Department's

services to women in rural areas. However, in 1961 Mary Broinowski was appointed as Women's Extension Officer as was recommended by A. Callaghan in 1955.²⁰

C. Wood resigned as Organiser of the Agricultural Bureau in 1961²¹. The position remained vacant for approximately twelve months. This coincided with the absence of an Organiser for the Women's Agricultural Bureau. During this time Peter Angove and other Extension Division staff took on the duties of the Organisers.

1962-1972

Group services to the three organisations reached their peak during the period 1962 to 1972. The position of 'Organiser of the Agricultural Bureau' was upgraded to scientific officer status and the name changed to 'Senior Advisory Officer'.²² This officer was to be responsible for liaison between the Advisory Board of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture; program planning at conference and branch levels; and upgrading branch administration. In 1962 Geoff Robinson was appointed to the position (Table 3.5).²³ The following year Catherine Hastie was appointed as Organiser of the Women's Agricultural Bureau.²⁴ W. McEwin replaced J. McLachlan as one of the Rural Youth Advisers during the same year.²⁵

TABLE 3.5: ADVISORY OFFICERS, AGRICULTURAL BUREAU (1962-1978)

1962-66	Geoff Robinson (Senior Advisory Officer)
1967-76	Geoff Robinson, David Spurling
1976-78	David Spurling

In 1967 David Spurling became the Agricultural Bureau's second Advisory Officer.²⁶ His task was to assist G. Robinson specifically in working with the Regional Executive Committees and to help branches improve their program of meetings and activities. G. Robinson continued as Secretary to the Advisory Board until 1970 when his role was taken on by D. Spurling.

Catherine Hastie was Organiser with the Women's Agricultural Bureau between 1963 to 1966.²⁷ In 1967 the position was taken by Jean Wood.²⁸ Mary Broinowski remained as Women's Extension Officer between 1961 and 1966.²⁹ Sheila Fraser took over this position also in 1967.³⁰ Berta Briggs served as Women's Extension Officer between 1969 and 1972.³¹

The number of Advisory Officers servicing the Rural Youth Movement reached its highest in 1967 with the addition of P. Guerin (replacing J. Playford) and R. Baker to the team of Rural Youth Advisory Officers.³² There were then five advisory officers servicing the Rural Youth Movement. To this can be added the four organisers and advisory officers working with the other two groups. Thus, up until 1972 a total of nine officers (excluding clerical staff) were working with the three organisations. In 1963 Peter Angove became Chief of the Extension Services Branch and continued to maintain close involvement with the three groups during the following thirteen years.

1973-1978

During the middle 1970s there was a significant change in the Department's approach to group servicing. This coincided with the appearance of the Callaghan Report in 1974.³³ This report proposed that the three organisations be re-structured to fit in with the Department's

planned regionalisation. Instead of specialist extension officers servicing the groups from the Extension Services Branch it was proposed that an officer be appointed in each region. These officers would co-ordinate the activities of branches of the three organisations within their region. (See section on Regionalisation and Regional Services.) It was felt that specialist officers based in Adelaide could not adequately assist the organisations in improving their programs at branch level.

In accordance with this new approach the number of extension personnel in the Extension Division gradually decreased. A. Hooper and W. McEwin left the Division in 1972 leaving only three advisory personnel servicing the Rural Youth Movement between 1973 and 1975.³⁴ During that time the Department entered into negotiations to transfer Rural Youth to the Education Department.³⁵ P. Guerin left in 1975.³⁶ During the following year M. Glenn and R. Baker were both absent due to illness - leaving Rural Youth without permanent advisory staff.³⁷ This proved to be an extremely traumatic period for the Rural Youth Movement. Jackie Bower was the sole Advisory Officer with the Movement between 1977 and 1978.³⁸

Geoff Robinson became the Senior Extension Officer in 1975 and was responsible for co-ordinating the Extension Branch's services to the three groups. The position of Senior Advisory Officer was not continued. David Spurling continued as Advisory Officer to the Agricultural Bureau until 1978.

Jean Wood resigned as Organiser of the Women's Agricultural Bureau in 1972 and was replaced in that year by Cicely Bungey. Carol Steedman was Women's Extension Officer during 1973. The position remained vacant in 1974. Lesley Jacobs took up this position in 1975. During 1978 the title was changed to that of 'Home Economist' with Ms. Jacobs occupying the position until 1979.

1979-1983

After 1978 Leslie Jacobs remained the only extension officer in the Extension Division. In 1980 Ms. Jacobs became the Senior Group Extension Officer. This position was designed to co-ordinate the activities of the Division's administrative and clerical personnel in servicing the three groups. Following D. Spurling's transfer to Rural Assistance in 1978 Cicely Bungey's responsibilities were expanded to encompass the Agricultural Bureau. From 1979 onwards Ms. Bungey has fulfilled the role of Executive Officer of both the Women's Agricultural Bureau and the Agricultural Bureau. The Executive Officer's duties included acting as Secretary to both the Women's Agricultural Bureau Council and the Advisory Board of Agriculture.

1983-

During 1983 the position of Executive Officer to the Agricultural Bureau and Women's Agricultural Bureau was discontinued. Ms. Bungey was appointed as a Training and Development Officer working with the Agricultural Bureau and the Women's Agricultural Bureau. Suzi Quixley joined the Group Extension Section during 1983 as a Training and Development Officer with the Rural Youth Movement.

Comments

The concept of 'group servicing' originated in the early 1950s following the emergence of the Rural Youth Movement and Women's Agricultural Bureau as separate organisations. Prior to 1951 the Agricultural Bureau was made up of 'men's', 'women's' and 'junior' branches. Following the formation of three separate organisations the Department worked towards the development of a consistent and co-ordinated approach to servicing to the three organisations. However, after all administrative and advisory personnel were placed in the same Branch, maintaining a co-ordinated approach proved difficult.

The roles of Department officers working with the three groups have changed through time. Originally one officer acted as Secretary to the Advisory Board. Then the office was expanded to service both the Board and the Council. These roles were later separated and the role of the Secretary was expanded to service the whole organisation as well as the governing body and a new title of 'Organiser' was given. Later a large number of advisory/extension officers were appointed to service the three groups. In practice the actual duties of the organisers and advisory/extension officers varied according to the interests of the individual officer and the needs of the organisation. In some cases the officer would be more concerned with overall organisational administration. In other cases the officer preferred to develop the organisation at branch level. Some officers tried to combine both roles.

Between 1972 and 1978 the Department gradually reduced the advisory role of its Group Extension Section. Many of the functions performed by Departmental advisors were taken on by the organisations themselves. The Senior Group Extension Officer now fulfills a mainly administrative role

co-ordinating services to the three organisations and the South Australian Rural Advisory Committee. The Training and Development Officers provide a specialist service to the three organisations.

EXTENSION SERVICES BRANCH

The Extension Services Branch has operated as the administrative centre of each of the three organisations with a number of clerical staff servicing their needs. Through the years it has provided the Bureau's and Rural Youth with the following services. Organisational records were kept by the Extension Branch and Branch rolls were checked by the Group Services Section. The Department prepared publicity materials for State level activities. Up until recently the publications 'Crow Call' and 'WAB News' were edited by Departmental staff. Stationery (letterheads, roll books, etc.) was also provided for each organisation. Until the two Bureau's both appointed their own treasurers, the Group Services Section acted as a central treasury for both groups.

The Extension Services Branch continues to play an important role in the development of the three organisations and provides clerical assistance to the South Australian Rural Advisory Council, Advisory Board of Agriculture, Women's Agricultural Bureau Council and the Rural Youth Council.

REGIONALISATION AND REGIONAL SERVICES

Regionalisation of the South Australian Department of Agriculture began in 1977 with the formation of the South East Region. It was envisaged that the three groups would be re-organised on a regional basis to match the new Departmental structure. A number of general proposals were put forward by officers within the Department as to the nature of this re-organisation.³⁹ Briefly, it was proposed that: each organisation be reorganised with a regional structure that corresponded to the Department's five regions; Regional Councils/Committees in each organisation be formed to govern the branches/clubs within each region; these councils would liaise with branches in their region and with the Department's Regional Officers; the governing bodies of each organisation be a State Committee/Council composed of one or two representatives from each region; the majority of the Department's services to the three organisations be carried out at the Regional level; Group Extension Officers were to be appointed in each region to coordinate services to each organisation within their region; each organisation be provided with an administrative/executive officer whose duties would be mainly that of coordination and administration at a State level, rather than at branch or regional level.

The role of the Advisory Board of Agriculture was uncertain. Some proposals suggested that it be disbanded and not replaced. Others suggested that it be reformed as an 'umbrella' organisation with representatives of the three organisations. Each organisation was to have its own governing body while the function of advising the Minister was to be carried out by the new composite body.⁴⁰

The proposals to re-organise each organisations' regional structure to correspond with the Department's regions and form 'regional councils' were not implemented by any of the three groups. As of 1985 the Agricultural Bureau had 13 regions, the Rural Youth Movement had 7 regions, and the Women's Agricultural Bureau had 10 regions (See earlier, Figs. 2.1; 2.2; 2.3.) Each organisation thus maintained a regional structure largely independent of the Department's regional organisation.

The Department began to make tentative steps to transfer group servicing from Adelaide to the regions. In 1978 Jim Cawthorne was appointed as the South East Region's Group Extension Officer. However, it soon became apparent that the task of servicing all the branches of the three different organisations within a region was too great a task for one officer. Rather than appoint a number of specialist group extension officers in each region it was proposed that extension officers be encouraged to maintain active contact with the branches and clubs in their local district.

The decision to leave extension officers to service groups in their local district has led to a great variation in the pattern of group servicing between regions and between districts. The extent to which a Bureau branch or Rural Youth Club receives support depends largely on the willingness of the local extension personnel to work with them. In general extension officers tend to work more closely with branches of the Agricultural Bureau. The District Conferences of the Agricultural Bureau are actively supported by regional/extension personnel. Usually a Co-ordinator is appointed to help organise the Conference.

The location of branches/clubs of the three organisations within the Department of Agriculture's Regions during 1985 is shown in Figures 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 (also Tables 3.7, 3.8, 3.9 and 3.11). Table 3.6 compares the number of branches/clubs within each SAGRIC region. From these figures and tables a number of observations can be made. First, there is a marked difference between regions on the number of branches/clubs each contains. Central Region had the largest number of clubs and branches. Of the 294 clubs/ branches, 151 were found in Central Region (51% of all branches/clubs in South Australia). It had 55% of all Agricultural Bureau branches, 55% of all Rural Youth Clubs and 41% of all Women's Agricultural Bureau branches. This is in contrast to Murray Lands Region which had 8% of all Rural Youth Clubs, 13% of all Agricultural Bureau branches and 13% of all Women's Agricultural Bureau branches.

TABLE 3.6: NUMBER OF BRANCHES/CLUBS SERVICED BY EACH SAGRIC REGION

Region	A.B.	W.A.B.	R.Y.	<u>Total</u>
Central*	87	31	33	151
Eyre	34	19	11	64
Murray Lands	20	10	5	35
South East	17	16	11	44
<u>Total</u>	158	76	60	294

* Includes Northern Region

Second, the large difference between regions in number of branches/clubs is perhaps a major reason for the non-adoption of the Department's proposals for re-organising the three groups. For example, in the case of the Rural Youth Movement, a regional structure paralleling the Department's regions would have led to a 'lop sided' situation where Central Region

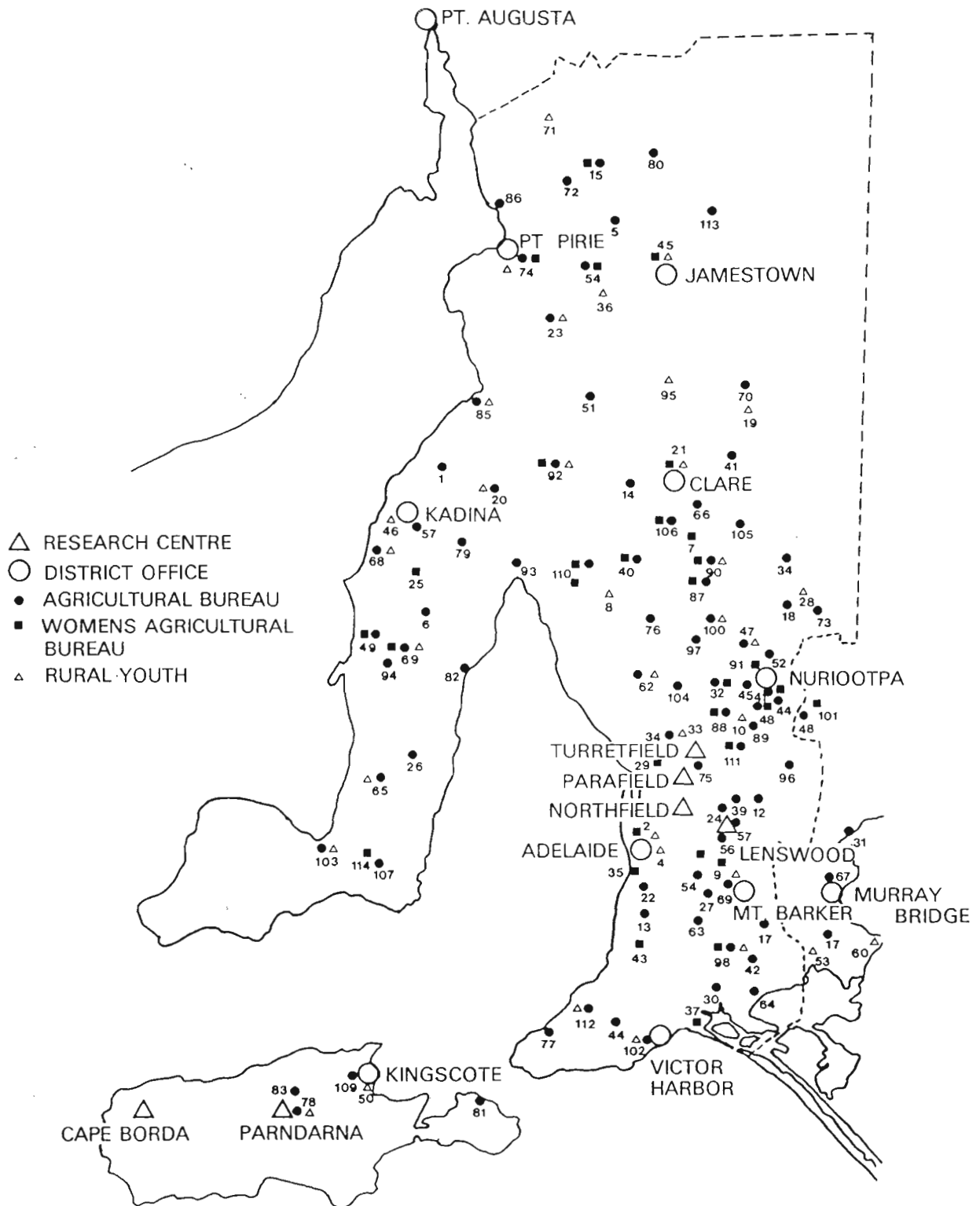


Figure 3.1: Central Region: Location of Branches/Clubs of the Agricultural Bureau, Women's Agricultural Bureau, and the Rural Youth Movement.

TABLE 3.7: CENTRAL REGION: BRANCHES/CLUBS OF THE AGRICULTURAL BUREAU,
WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL BUREAU AND THE RURAL YOUTH MOVEMENT, 1985.⁺

<u>Location or Name of Branch/Club</u>	<u>A.B.</u>	<u>W.A.B.</u>	<u>R.Y.</u>
1. Alford	*		
2. Adelaide		*	*
3. Angaston	*		
4. Anunaka (Adelaide)			*
5. Appila	*		
6. Arthurton	*		
7. Auburn (see Mintaro)		*	
8. Balaklava			*
9. Balhannah		*	
10. Barossa			*
11. Belvidere	*		
12. Birdwood	*		
13. Blewitt Springs	*		
14. Blyth	*		
15. Booleroo Centre (see Wepowie)	*		
16. Boors Plains	*		
17. Brinkley	*		
18. Buchanan	*		
19. Burra			*
20. Bute	*		*
21. Clare		*	*
22. Clarendon	*		
23. Crystal Brook	*		*
24. Cudlee Creek	*		
25. Cunliffe		*	
26. Curramulka	*		

⁺ Note: some of these branches/clubs were in recess during 1986.

TABLE 3.7 (Cont'd.)

<u>Location or Name of Branch/Club</u>	<u>A.B.</u>	<u>W.A.B.</u>	<u>R.Y.</u>
27. Echunga	*		
28. Eudunda			*
29. Evanston Gardens		*	
30. Finnis	*		
31. Frayville	*		
32. Freeling	*	*	
33. Gawler			*
34. Gawler River	*		
35. Glenelg (Adelaide)		*	
36. Gladstone			*
37. Goolwa		*	
38. Greenock	*		
39. Gumeracha	*		
40. Halbury	*	*	
41. Hanson	*		
42. Hartley	*		
43. Hope Forrest		*	
44. Inman Valley	*		
45. Jamestown		*	*
46. Kadina			*
47. Kapunda	*		*
48. Keyneton	*		
49. Kilkerran	*	*	
50. Kingscote	*		*
51. Koolunga	*		
52. Koonunga	*		
53. Langhorne Creek			*

TABLE 3.7 (Cont'd.)

<u>Location or Name of Branch/Club</u>	<u>A.B.</u>	<u>W.A.B.</u>	<u>R.Y.</u>
54. Laura	*	*	
55. Light Pass	*	*	
56. Lenswood & Forest Range	*		
57. Lobethal	*		
58. Lone Pine - Tanunda	*		
59. Longwood	*	*	
60. Lower Murray			*
61. Maitland	*	*	*
62. Mallala	*		*
63. Meadows	*		
64. Milang	*		
65. Minlaton	*		*
66. Mintaro - Manoora - Auburn	*		
67. Mobilong	*		
68. Moonta	*		*
69. Mount Barker	*		*
70. Mount Bryan	*		
71. Mount Remarkable			*
72. Murraytown	*		
73. Neale's Flat	*		
74. Nelshaby	*	*	
75. One Tree Hill	*		
76. Owen	*		
77. Parawa	*		
78. Parndana	*		*
79. Paskeville	*		
80. Pekina	*		

TABLE 3.7 (Cont'd.)

<u>Location or Name of Branch/Club</u>	<u>A.B.</u>	<u>W.A.B.</u>	<u>R.Y.</u>
81. Penneshaw	*		
82. Petersville	*		
83. Pioneer Bend	*		
84. Point Pass	*		
85. Port Broughton (Broughton)	*		*
86. Port Germain	*		
87. Riverton	*	*	
88. Rosedale (Sandy Creek)	*	*	
89. Rowland Flat	*		
90. Saddleworth	*	*	*
91. Sheoak Log		*	
92. Snowtown	*	*	*
93. South Hummocks	*		
94. South Kilkerran	*		
95. Spalding			*
96. Springton	*		
97. Stockport	*		
98. Strathalbyn	*	*	*
99. Tanunda (see Lone Pine)		*	
100. Tarlee	*		*
101. Towitta		*	
102. Victor Harbour	*		*
103. Warooka	*		*
104. Wasleys	*		
105. Waterloo	*		
106. Watervale	*	*	
107. Weavers	*		

TABLE 3.7 (Cont'd.)

<u>Location or Name of Branch/Club</u>	A.B.	W.A.B.	R.Y.
108. Wepowie/Booleroo Centre		*	
109. Western Districts	*		
110. Whitwarta	*	*	
111. Williamstown	*	*	
112. Yankalilla	*		*
113. Yongala	*		
114. Yorketown		*	

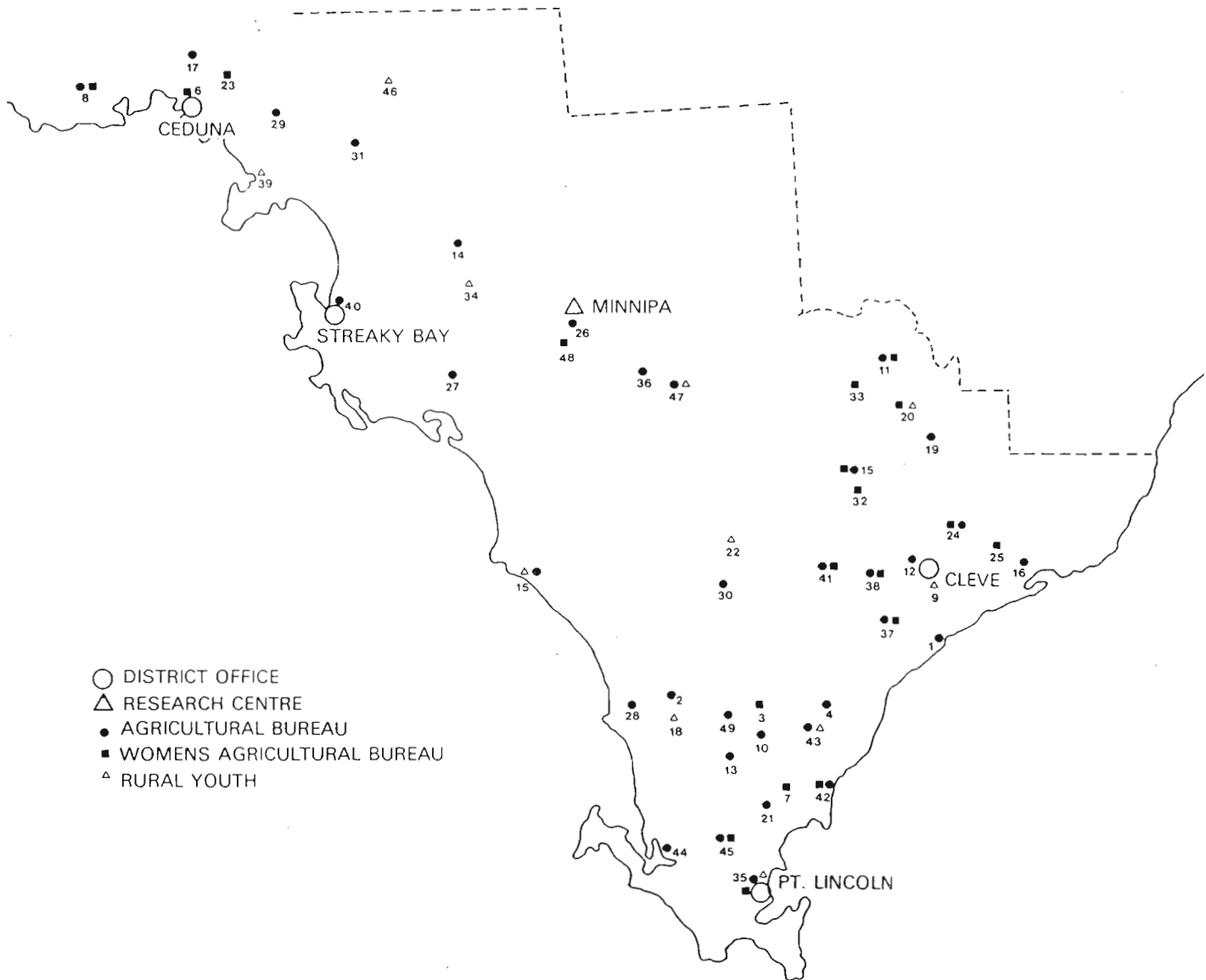


Figure 3.2: Eyre Region: Location of Branches/Clubs of the Agricultural Bureau, Women's Agricultural Bureau and the Rural Youth Movement.

TABLE 3.8: EYRE REGION: BRANCHES/CLUBS OF THE AGRICULTURAL BUREAU,
WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL BUREAU AND THE RURAL YOUTH MOVEMENT, 1985.⁺

<u>Location or Name of Branch/Club</u>	<u>A.B.</u>	<u>W.A.B.</u>	<u>R.Y.</u>
1. Arno Bay	*		
2. Brimpton Lake	*		
3. Brooker		*	
4. Butler	*		
5. Caralue	*	*	
6. Ceduna		*	
7. Charlton		*	
8. Charra	*	*	
9. Cleve & Districts			*
10. Cockaleeche	*		
11. Cortlinye	*	*	
12. Crossville	*		
13. Cummins	*		
14. Cungeena	*		
15. Elliston	*		*
16. Franklin Harbour	*		
17. Goode	*		
18. Kapinnie			*
19. Kelly	*		
20. Kimba		*	*
21. Koppio	*		
22. Lock & Districts			*
23. Maltee		*	
24. Mangalo	*	*	
25. Miltalie		*	
26. Minnipa	*		

⁺ Note: some of these branches/clubs were in recess during 1986.

TABLE 3.8 (Cont'd.)

<u>Location or Name of Branch/Club</u>	<u>A.B.</u>	<u>W.A.B.</u>	<u>R.Y.</u>
27. Mount Cooper	*		
28. Mount Hope	*		
29. Mudamuckla	*		
30. Murdinga	*		
31. Nunjikompita	*		
32. Darke Peak		*	
33. Pinkawillie		*	
34. Poochera			*
35. Port Lincoln	*	*	*
36. Pygery	*		
37. Roberts-Verran	*	*	
38. Rudall-Taragoro	*	*	
39. Smokey Bay			*
40. Streaky Bay	*		
41. Tuckey	*	*	
42. Tumby Bay	*	*	
43. Ungarra & Districts	*		*
44. Wangarry	*		
45. Wanilla	*	*	
46. Wirrulla & Districts			*
47. Wudinna & Districts	*		*
48. Yaninee		*	
49. Yeelanna	*		

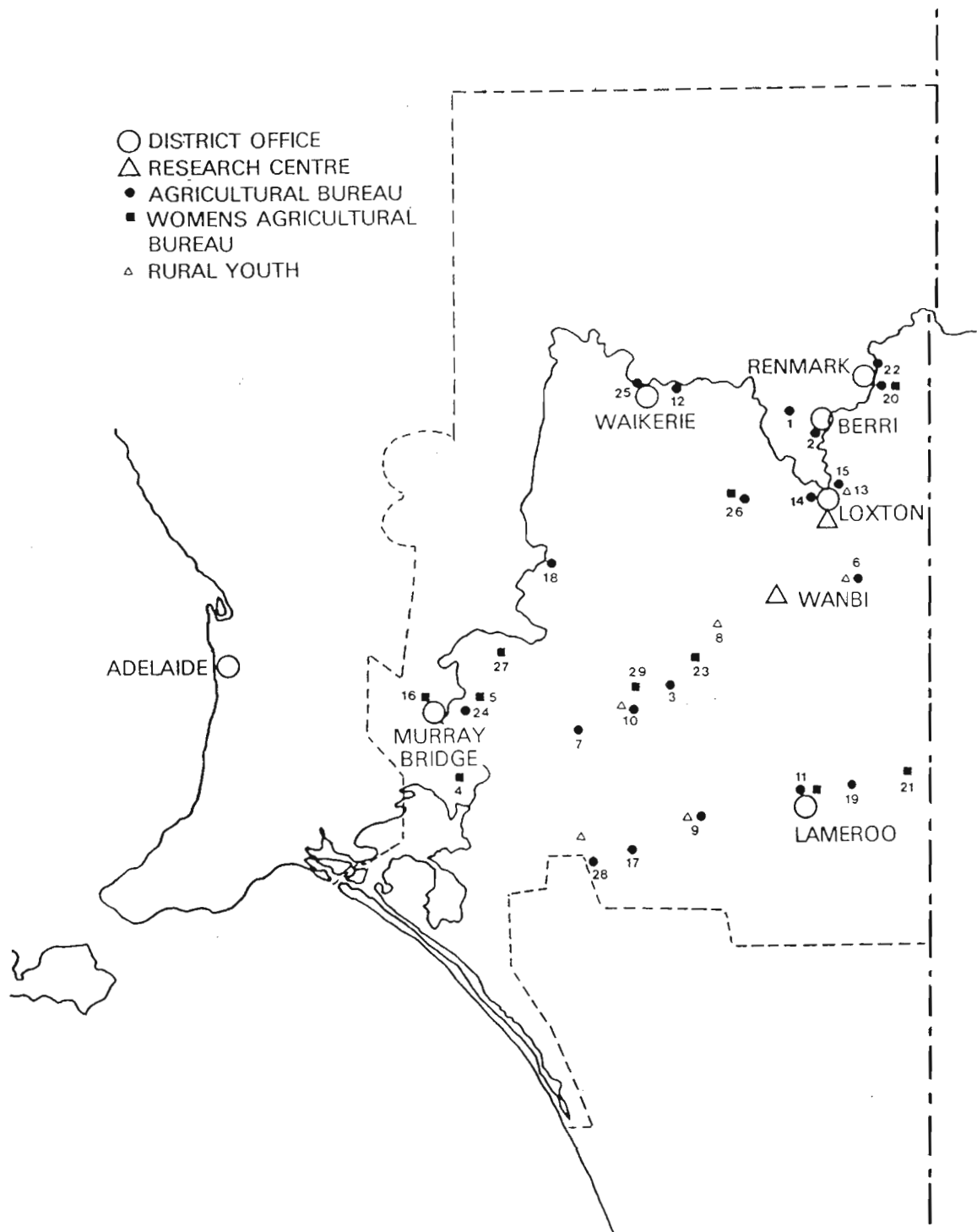


Figure 3.3: Murray Lands Region: Location of Branches/Clubs of the Agricultural Bureau, Women's Agricultural Bureau and the Rural Youth Movement.

TABLE 3.9: MURRAY LANDS REGION: BRANCHES/CLUBS OF THE AGRICULTURAL BUREAU, WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL BUREAU AND THE RURAL YOUTH MOVEMENT, 1985.⁺

<u>Location or Name of Branch/Club</u>	<u>A.B.</u>	<u>W.A.B.</u>	<u>R.Y.</u>
1. Barmera	*		
2. Berri	*		
3. Borrika	*		
4. Brinkley		*	
5. Burdett		*	
6. Brown's Well	*		*
7. Chapman's Bore	*		
8. Eastern Murray			*
9. Geranium	*		*
10. Karoonda	*		*
11. Lameroo	*	*	
12. Lowbank	*		
13. Loxton			*
14. Loxton (Dryland)	*		
15. Loxton (Irrigation)	*		
16. Murray Bridge		*	
17. Netherton	*		
18. Nildottie & Districts	*		
19. Parilla	*		
20. Paringa	*	*	
21. Pinnaroo		*	
22. Renmark	*		
23. Sandalwood		*	
24. Sunnyside	*		

⁺ Note: some of these branches/clubs were in recess during 1986.

TABLE 3.9 (Cont'd.)

<u>Location or Name of Branch/Club</u>	A.B.	W.A.B.	R.Y.
25. Waikerie	*		
26. Wunkar	*	*	
27. Young Husband		*	
28. Yumali	*		
29. Yurgo		*	

would represent 33 clubs while Murray Lands would only represent 5 clubs. To adopt the Department's regions would have produced a situation where the largest region (Central) in each organisation would have been 3 to 6 times larger than the smallest region. Obviously, for administrative and organisational convenience they preferred to have a greater number of districts/areas with a more balanced representation of branches/clubs in each district/area.

Third, in terms of Departmental services to the three organisations, Central Region would require over 50% of all resources allocated to group servicing. There are also differences between the number of branches/clubs each District Office would have to service. In Central Region, for example, the nine District Offices would be required to service 151 branches/clubs - an average of 17 branches/clubs per office. Eyre Region's 4 District Offices would service 64 clubs/branches - an average of 16 branches/clubs per office. In the South East Region 4 District Officers would service 44 branches/clubs - an average of 11 branches/clubs per office. Murray Lands Region has 5 District Offices with 35 clubs/branches - an average of 7 branches/clubs per office. These are, however, average figures and some District Offices would be required to service considerably more branches/clubs than the Region's average.

Fourth, there are few locations in which all three organisations are represented. Tables 3.7, 3.8, 3.9 and 3.11 provide lists of the towns or districts in which one or more of the organisations are represented. Table 3.10 analyses this information for each region. For example, in Central Region there were only 4 towns which had branches of all three organisations. Three towns had branches of both Rural Youth and Women's Agricultural Bureau. Sixteen towns had branches of both the Agricultural Bureau and the Womens Agricultural Bureau.

Fifteen towns had branches of Women's Agricultural Bureau and Rural Youth. There were 58 locations with only a branch of the Agricultural Bureau, 9 with only a Women's Agricultural Bureau branch and 11 with only a Rural Youth club. When the whole state is considered it can be seen that there are only eight towns or locations where all three organisations are represented. There were 58 towns where two organisations were represented.

In the remaining 155 towns only one organisation was represented in the town. This large number of towns where only one organisation was represented would suggest that it would be extremely difficult to amalgamate the three organisations at branch level.

TABLE 3.10: ORGANISATIONAL REPRESENTATION IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS BY REGIONS.

<u>Presence of</u>	<u>Region</u>				
<u>Each Organisation</u>					
<u>in a town</u>	Central	Eyre	Murray lands	South East	Total
Agricultural Bureau Only	58	21	13	8	100
Women's Agricultural Bureau Only	9	8	7	8	32
Rural Youth Only	11	6	1	5	23
Agricultural Bureau and Rural Youth	15	3	2	2	22
Agricultural Bureau and Women's					
Agricultural Bureau	16	8	3	4	31
Rural Youth and Women's Agricultural Bureau	3	1	-	1	5
All three organisations Present	4	1	-	3	8

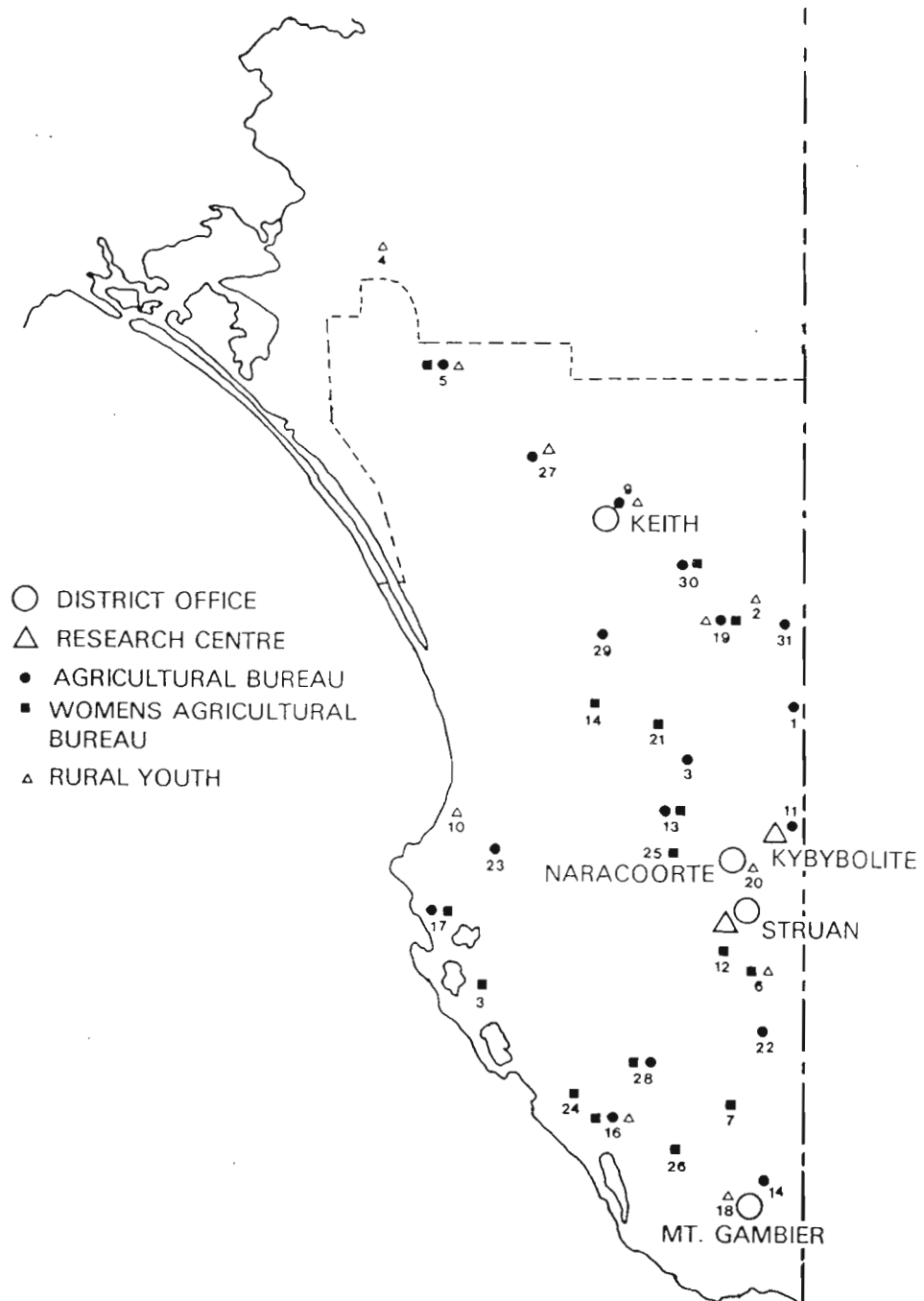


Figure 3.4: South East Region: Location of Branches/Clubs of the Agricultural Bureau, Women's Agricultural Bureau and the Rural Youth Movement

TABLE 3.11: SOUTH EAST REGION: BRANCHES/CLUBS OF THE AGRICULTURAL
BUREAU, WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL BUREAU AND THE RURAL YOUTH
MOVEMENT, 1985.

<u>Location or Name of Branch/Club</u>	<u>A.B.</u>	<u>W.A.B.</u>	<u>R.Y.</u>
1. Bangham	*		
2. Bordertown			*
3. Comung		*	
4. Coomandook			*
5. Coonalpyn	*	*	*
6. Coonawarra		*	*
7. Kalangadoo		*	
8. Kappoch	*		
9. Keith	*		*
10. Kingston			*
11. Kybybolite	*		
12. Legges Lane		*	
13. Lochaber	*	*	
14. Marcollat		*	
15. Mil Lel	*		
16. Millicent	*	*	*
17. Mount Benson	*	*	
18. Mount Gambier			*
19. Mundulla	*	*	*
20. Naracoorte			*
21. Padthaway		*	
22. Penola	*		
23. Reedy Creek	*		
24. Rendelsham		*	

TABLE 3.11 (Cont'd.)

<u>Location or Name of Branch/Club</u>	A.B.	W.A.B.	R.Y.
25. Stewart's Range		*	
26. Tantanoola		*	
27. Tintinara	*		*
28. Wattle Range	*	*	
29. Willalooka	*		
30. Wirriga (Lowanvale)	*	*	
31. Wolseley	*		

FUNDING

The Department of Agriculture has traditionally provided funds for:

- (1) the operation of each organisation's executive body, and
- (2) the support of organisational activities at the State level. The total Departmental expenditure on group services (excluding wages) for the period 1972 to 1983 is shown in Table 3.12. The figures include expenditure incurred in servicing the governing bodies as well as services to the groups as a whole. Overall, the Agricultural Bureau has attracted the larger share of funds. It usually accounted for forty to fifty per cent of all funds allocated to the groups with the remaining shared out almost equally between the Rural Youth Movement and the Women's Agricultural Bureau.

TABLE 3.12: FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE THREE ORGANISATIONS (1972-1983)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Agricultural</u> <u>Bureau</u>	<u>Women's</u> <u>Agricultural</u> <u>Bureau</u>	<u>Rural Youth</u> <u>Movement</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1972-73	3 753	2 714	2 409	8 876
1973-74	4 001	3 240	2 160	9 401
1974-75	4 053	3 598	3 564	11 215
1975-76	4 949	3 525	3 450	11 924
1976-77	8 369	5 512	4 337	18 218
1977-78	11 291	7 185	6 049	24 525
1978-79	14 194	7 832	5 528*	27 554*
1979-80	14 069	8 785	7 746*	30 600*
1980-81	18 977	11 667	12 070	42 717
1981-82	22 818	12 460	10 958	46 236
1982-83	30 562	14 946	17 937	63 445

Source: Extension Branch records

* Records for 1978-79 and 1979-80 are incomplete. As such the figures for Rural Youth may have been higher than those indicated here.

Up until the 1980-81 financial year it was not possible to separate the amounts spent on servicing the governing body and the amounts spent in servicing the whole organisation. However, from 1980-81 these figures were available and are included in Table 3.13. Over the three year period the bulk of Agricultural Bureau expenditure was incurred by the Advisory Board of Agriculture. A similar pattern can be seen in relationship to the Women's Agricultural Bureau expenditure with the Council receiving most of the allocated funds. The Rural Youth Movement's expenditure pattern over the three years differed from that of the other two organisations. The amount spent on services to the Movement has in some years exceeded the amount allocated to the Rural Youth Council.

TABLE 3.13: COMPARISON OF EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN SERVICING THE THREE ORGANISATIONS AND THEIR GOVERNING BODIES (1980-1983).

<u>Year</u>	<u>Agricultural Bureau</u>		<u>Women's Agricultural</u>		<u>Rural Youth</u>	
			<u>Bureau</u>			
	Group	Advisory	Group	WAB	Group	Rural Youth
	Services	Board	Services	Council	Services	Council
1980-81	\$2 517	\$16 460	\$2 472	\$9 195	\$5 560	\$6 510
1981-82	\$3 483	\$19 335	\$3 719	\$9 741	\$6 040	\$4 918
1982-83	\$2 729	\$27 833	\$3 719	\$11 227	\$6 796	\$11 141

Source: Extension Branch Records

The funding allocation to the governing bodies covers travelling, accomodation and expenses incurred in attending Board or Council meetings. Also included are the costs of sending Board/Council members to such events as the NSW Agricultural Bureau Conference. The two ministerial advisory bodies - the 'South Australian Rural Advisory Council and the Advisory Board of Agriculture - also receive 'sitting fees' for members. The Department provides the travel and accomodation expenditures for the Rural Youth Council but not for the Rural Youth State Executive which is supported by the Movement itself.

CONCLUSION

The period 1950-1980 saw the development of a 'team approach' to group servicing. It involved the formation of a specialist group of extension and administrative personnel. This team was to assist in each organization's overall development and in strengthening their effectiveness at branch level. At its peak (1968 to 1972) the team involved nine personnel.

The formation of this team approach began in 1955 when personnel involved in servicing the three organizations were brought together in the newly formed Extension and Information Branch. During the late 1950s the group services section included four Rural Youth Advisory Officers and two Organisers servicing the Bureau's. Later the Agricultural Bureau's Organiser was replaced by two Advisory Officers. A Women's Extension Officer was added to the team to help service the Women's Agricultural Bureau. In 1967 the number of Advisory Officers servicing the Rural Youth Movement had risen to five.

However, from 1973 onwards this specialist team was gradually dismantled. There are several factors which might help to explain the reasons for the decline in this approach. First, the Rural Youth Movement required significant inputs from Department personnel in its establishment phase. Thus, in its first twenty years of existence, personnel working with the movement had risen from three to five. However, during the 1970s it was felt that the movement had developed to a point where it could carry on by itself without a large team of Department personnel. Second, following the Department's regionalisation it was felt that the task of servicing branches of the three organizations would be done better by local

District Office extension staff than by a few 'specialist' extension staff operating from Adelaide.

An alternative approach was suggested. It was proposed that each region have its own Group Extension Officer. Only one was ever appointed and it soon became clear that the task of servicing a whole region was too great for any one individual. Since that time the task of servicing branches of the Department's associated extension organizations has been largely given to local extension personnel in each District Office. The current trend is to encourage each organisation to take over the responsibility for its own administration and promotion. The Department's Training and Development Officers are having a considerable impact on the three groups in helping them to be both more self-reliant and more effective in meeting the needs of the rural community.

CONCLUSION

South Australia has produced a unique system of extension through rural community-based educational organisations. The South Australian Agricultural Bureau has been one of the most successful and enduring rural organisations in Australia. For 95 years it has provided a vehicle for the continuing education in practical farming methods for thousands of farmers all over the State. The Women's Agricultural Bureau has been a significant part of the South Australian rural scene for over 67 years. The Rural Youth Movement has provided opportunities for developing friendships, personal growth and the acquisition of practical skills for a significant number of young people in rural areas for the past 32 years. All three organisations form a part of the Department of Agriculture's extension service to the rural community.

The Agricultural Bureau began as a semi-government research and extension organisation. The Bureau was based around the concept of groups of progressive farmers forming branches in a locality for the gathering and dissemination of agricultural knowledge. With the formation and development of the Department of Agriculture, the Agricultural Bureau was forced to make significant changes in its function. The Department took on the role of research while the Bureau provided an extension network. Through time the Department developed its own extension network of professional officers. This has had the effect of putting the Agricultural Bureau more and more on the periphery of the Department's operations.

At various times the Department has sought to broaden its service to the rural community. The Women's Agricultural Bureau and the Rural Youth Movement developed from genuine needs among women and young people that were not catered for by the Agricultural Bureau. Originally men, women and

young people were included in the Bureau organisation, each with their own network of branches. Various tensions developed within the organisation and between the Bureau and the Department of Agriculture. These tensions largely centred around the legitimacy of being involved in activities other than those connected with technical agriculture.

The primary orientation of the Agricultural Bureau has been toward servicing the needs of adult male farm owner/managers. This is not to say that the Bureau has not recognised the necessity of serving the needs of other sections of the rural community. Both women's and junior branches arose within the Agricultural Bureau. However, as they were not primarily oriented to extending technical agriculture their standing within the Bureau was questioned. The attitude to them seemed to be that if they remained as part of the Bureau they had to take a secondary position within the organisation. Alternatively, they could form quite separate organisations. Similarly, attempts to have the Rural Youth Movement and the Women's Agricultural Bureau represented on the Advisory Board of Agriculture have traditionally been rebuffed on the grounds that the Board's primary focus is technical agriculture, while the other two organisation interests were mainly in other areas of rural life.

The Department of Agriculture has found itself in a similar dilemma. Various State governments in the past have recognised the need for providing services to women and young people in rural areas. The Rural Youth Movement and the Women's Agricultural Bureau were seen as being important steps toward meeting those needs. It seemed natural to place both movements under the oversight of the Department of Agriculture. However, through the years it has been questioned as to whether the Department should be involved in areas other than technical agriculture, and if so, to what extent should they be involved.

Both the Women's Agricultural Bureau and the Rural Youth Movement have been affected by changes in the Department's attitude on this question. Generally speaking both organisations have been regarded as fulfilling a secondary role. The Agricultural Bureau was regarded as the 'senior partner' due to its focus on technical agriculture. When the Women's Agricultural Bureau Council was given a ministerial advisory function similar to the Advisory Board, the then Director of Agriculture attempted to have the body disbanded and re-formed without an advisory function. While the two groups remained in the Department, they were not to have the same status as the Agricultural Bureau. Doubts as to the legitimacy of the Department sponsoring organisations not primarily involved in technical agriculture can also be seen in its attempt to transfer the Rural Youth Movement to what they regarded as a more appropriate body (i.e. the Department of Education).

The question of women's involvement in the Agricultural Bureau has been controversial. When pressed to admit women into membership of the Bureau, it was decided instead to form 'women's branches'. When women wished to attend the annual congress, it was suggested they have their own congress instead. When junior branches of the Bureau were formed, membership was confined to boys only. Later when women wished to have representation on the Advisory Board, it was decided instead to allow them to form their own separate organisation with their own governing council. Thus, eventually two quite separate bodies developed - a 'mens' and a 'women's' Bureau. Each has guarded its separate identity to such an extent that when Brian Chatterton, the then Minister of Agriculture, proposed in 1978 that the two bodies amalgamate, both groups vigorously opposed the idea. The situation in South Australia is very much different from N.S.W. where women are actively involved in the Agricultural Bureau. However, it

is possible that more women would be involved in a separate women's organisation than a more narrowly focused organisation open to both men and women. While the Women's Agricultural Bureau is concerned with the wider issues of rural living, it is also involved in the extension of farming techniques and of farm management. It must also be remembered, however, that the two organisations often schedule joint activities at branch level and also act together on issues that affect them both at the State level.

One major factor in the development of each of the three groups has been the attitude of the various Ministers of Agriculture toward each group. The original Central Bureau wished to maintain a semi-independent status free from ministerial control. However, following Richard Butler's appointment as Minister in 1902, the Central Bureau was disbanded and replaced by a Council of Agriculture, consisting of members appointed directly by the Minister. A few years later the name was changed to the 'Advisory Board of Agriculture' with the function of advising the Minister on agricultural matters. Some Ministers maintained an active relationship with the Advisory Board of Agriculture. Some were openly hostile to it, including Thomas Butterfield who wished to abolish it as an Advisory body. Others were indifferent towards it. Likewise, some Ministers have taken an active interest in the Women's Agricultural Bureau movement. One Minister formed a Council with advisory status similar to the Advisory Board. Later, the Council was disbanded and reformed without an advisory function.

With each new Minister it has been necessary to work out a new working relationship between the Minister and the governing bodies of the three organisations. This has often been a major unsettling factor in the development of each organisation. A certain degree of instability and uncertainty has always been present due to the changing attitudes of

Ministers to the three groups. Changes made by one Minister were just as likely to be reversed by the next one. A certain amount of hostility and frustration has been engendered among Advisory Board members in the past when their 'advice' either was not sought or was not acted upon when given. The basic branch structure of the organisation has remained intact regardless of what changes were taking place with its governing body. However, such changes must have impeded the development of the Bureau and limited its effectiveness.

The exact nature of the relationship between the three organisations and the Department is a matter of continuing debate. Their memberships are drawn from different segments of the rural community. Their branches/clubs are fairly self-sufficient. However, their professional administrative and clerical staff have been provided by the Department, whose Extension Division functions as 'head office'. Their executive bodies are either totally or partly funded by the Department. The Agricultural Bureau has more functional links with the Department, and, of the three groups is the one most dependent on the Department for its continuing operation at district and State levels.

There have been many conflicting views as to what the relationship between the three groups and the Department should be. One suggestion, at the time of the Department's regionalisation would have seen the three groups functionally integrated into the Department. Management and direction of the combined organisation would have largely been in the hands of the Department at regional level. Another suggestion is that the three groups become totally independent of the Department. Each group would supply its own staff and finances and become educational organisations functionally independent of the Department.

Links between the Department and the three organisations probably will always be strong. However, there are certain trends that will encourage each to become more independent of the Department. First, there is mutual recognition that many other groups in the rural community also provide channels for extending agricultural skills and knowledge. Second, the Department is not the only source of information and other extension resources are available to them. Thus, they do not have to remain totally dependent on the Department for the continuing education of their members. Third, limitations on the level of human and financial resources available will make it increasingly difficult for the Department to maintain its current level of administrative and financial support to the three groups.

There are, however, a number of factors encouraging a close association between the Department and the three bodies. First, they provide a ready made channel of extension for the Department. Second, they are groups aiming at collective education and are not politically oriented, lobby groups. Third, there is mutual recognition of the value of the groups in providing inputs to the Department on matters of vital interest to both. While the three organisations do not represent the whole rural community, they do represent significant portions of it and can provide valuable client input into the Department. However, the long-term effectiveness of these organisations will depend on their ability to develop self-sufficiency and their capacity to be flexible in the face of changing needs within the rural community.

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APPENDIX A

REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS BY
BRANCHES AND MEMBERS

AGRICULTURAL BUREAU: AGRICULTURAL BUREAU DISTRICTS BY CONFERENCE DISTRICTS,
BRANCHES AND MEMBERSHIP, 1986.

<u>Agricultural Bureau District</u>	<u>Conference District</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Branches</u>	<u>Average* Branch Size</u>
1. Barossa and Districts	Barossa Valley Ag.)	370	11	22
	Barossa Valley Hort.)			43
2. Central	Hills Agricultural/ Horticultural	203	10	25
3. Eastern Eyre	Eastern Eyre	181	10	18
4. Far West Coast/Central Eyre	Central Eyre) Far West Coast)	207	11	20 24
5. Kangaroo Island	Kangaroo Island	60	5	20
6. Murraylands	Murraylands) Southern Murraylands)	215	9	15 31
7. Lower Eyre	Lower Eyre	261	13	20
8. Lower North	Lower North	560	22	27
9. Lower South East	Mid South East) Lower South East)	202	10	29 22
10. Northern	Northern	232	11	21
11. Riverland	Riverland) Murraylands North)	140	10	18 18
12. Southern Hills/Murray Plains	Southern Hills) Murray Plains)	139	13	27 18
13. Upper South East	Upper South East	163	7	27
14. Yorke Peninsula/Hummocks	Hummocks) Yorke Peninsula)	550	16	37 33

* Does not include clubs in recess or those who did not submit details of
branch numbers 1985/86.

WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL BUREAU: COUNCILOR REGIONS BY BRANCHES AND
MEMBERSHIP, 1986

<u>Council Regions</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Branches</u>	<u>Average Branch Size</u>
1. Central	146	6	24
2. Eastern Eyre	151	9	17
3. Lower Eyre	117	5	23
4. Lower North	229	9	25
5. Lower South East	181	9	20
6. Mid North	278	10	28
7. Murray lands	234	10	23
8. Upper Eyre	62	4	16
9. Upper North	123	4	31
10. Upper South East	120	7	20*

* Does not include clubs in recess.

RURAL YOUTH MOVEMENT: AREAS BY CLUBS AND MEMBERSHIP, 1986

<u>Areas</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Clubs</u>	<u>Average Club Size</u>
1. Lower North	104	8	13
2. Murray Mallee	41	4	10
3. Northern	89	7	13
4. South Central	110	8	14
5. South East	129	10	13
6. West Coast	117	9	13
7. Yorke Peninsula	55	4	14

APPENDIX B

AGRICULTURAL BUREAU, WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL BUREAU AND

RURAL YOUTH: BRANCH/CLUB SIZE, 1986.

<u>Branch/Club Size</u>	<u>No. of Branches</u> <u>Agricultural</u> <u>Bureau</u>	<u>No. of Branches</u> <u>Women's Agricultural</u> <u>Bureau</u>	<u>No. of Clubs</u> <u>Rural Youth</u>
-10	6	5	24
11-14	7	5	5
15-19	26	20	11
20-24	41	17	6
25-29	25	12	4
30-34	16	6	-
35-39	11	4	1
40-44	6	1	-
45-49	2	2	-
50+	3	1	-

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