

# ReConnect

A Publication of the UQ Gatton Past Students' Association Inc.



UQ Gatton  
Past Students'  
Association Inc



Queensland  
Agricultural High  
School and College



Queensland  
Agricultural  
College

Issue 28, Summer 2016

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[www.facebook.com/UQGPSA](http://www.facebook.com/UQGPSA)

## STOP PRESS

### Nominations close for:

**Distinguished Past Student Award**  
30 September 2016

*See our website for full details.*

**Back to College Weekend**  
3 and 4 December 2016

### To register:

[gatton.uq.edu.au/alumni/](http://gatton.uq.edu.au/alumni/)  
[gatton-past-students-association](http://gatton-past-students-association)

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## *Lieutenant Commander Patrick John Vickers, RAN Honoured in Naming Ceremony*

In June 2016 the Australian Defence Force named a newly constructed Adams Auditorium seminar room, the Patrick Vickers Room. In the Order of Ceremony booklet Pat was described as one of the RAN's most accomplished aviators.

Born in Nambour in 1935, his flying interest began when Pat joined the Air Training Corps while at school, according to life long friend and fellow Gatton graduate, Frank Natoli.

In 1951 Pat was awarded a Junior teacher scholarship which allowed him to attend QAHS & C as a student from 1951–54, where he obtained Diplomas in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Horticulture. In 1954 he joined the staff at the college. During this time, Pat continued with his Air Training Corps activities, rising to the rank of Cadet Pilot Officer. In 1954 he was called-up for National Service but the Principal would not allow him to go at the time. Pat eventually joined the Armed Forces at the start of 1956, resigning his teaching post at Warwick High School to do so.

Pat was a high achiever in everything he did. His career in the RAN was no different. Two years of flying training had him qualified as a fighter-pilot in Sea Fury aircraft. By March 1959 Pat held the rank of Lieutenant and was serving periodically on aircraft carriers. In 1961, on accepting a permanent commission on the aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne, he switched to helicopters. In late 1967 he helped form the RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam which joined the US Army's 135th Assault Helicopter Company at Vung Tau, South Vietnam. Pat was assigned as Commander



of the Company's 1st Platoon involved in pilot training as well as flying missions. He was recommended for both American and Australian bravery awards for his leadership throughout an engagement against the Viet Cong near Long Binh.

While leading a fleet of 11 helicopters on 22 February 1968 his aircraft came under small arms fire and he was mortally wounded. He died that day.

You can read more about Pat's life and careers in a book compiled by Rhonda Vickers Rolevink and Frances Vickers Bryce. A copy is available in the Museum. Gatton graduates Frank Natoli and Rod Jensen also contributed to the book.

## The Last Word

### *Still raining*

The title of The Last Word in the previous *Re-Connect* was 'Rain at last... but!'. Well it seems that we can now say 'but what'!

For much of the country, including inland Queensland, the rains have thankfully kept coming.

Last Word has been in central Australia and the Kimberley and overflowed inland Queensland several times in recent months. We can vouch that the countryside across wide swathes of the continent is uncharacteristically verdant and the locals are happy everywhere.

For the record, nationally May was the sixth wettest month on record and the wettest in the last half century. Queensland received 14% above average – but that was the lowest 'above average' of any state, so almost everyone fared well!

And then June (the latest data available) was the second wettest June on record nationally – surpassed only by that of 1923. Queensland received 218% above average in June. And the trend continued into winter. What a relief! We hope you got your share.

## President's Report



**Gary Mason**  
President  
UQ Gatton Past Students' Association  
Inc.

Phone: 0459 340 118  
Email: masogwj  
@bigpond.net.au

Well, it has been another very busy year for the Association, with six regional reunion lunches held, including Mackay, Bundaberg, Caloundra, Gold Coast x 2 and Brisbane.

Generally speaking they have been well attended, with many familiar faces and a sprinkling of new faces as well as new members....our current membership stands at around 1200, and we continue to encourage others to join.

At our last meeting we welcomed our previous UQGPSA scholarship winners and also presented the latest recipient, Loretta Tonscheck, with her scholarship.

Since 2007, we have awarded 10 scholarships to the value of \$140,000.

It is also interesting to note that 2017 appears to be the year of anniversaries, celebrating 120th of the foundation of the Gatton Campus; 90th of the formation of the UQGPSA (read Old Boy's Assn); 75th of the occupation of the campus by the Harvard Medical School as a war-time hospital, and the 50th anniversary of the first tertiary enrolments at Gatton.

Planning has commenced for the annual *Back to College Weekend* on the 3–4 December, so get your diary out and organise your year group to return and renew the friendships which were established during your years at Gatton.

## 90th Anniversary Year begins...

At a meeting of past and current students in their final year on 23 November 1926, it was decided to form a Gatton College Old Boys' Association. The first General

Meeting of the Association was held at College on Diploma Day, 14 December 1926. Twenty-five old boys were present. Stay tuned for information as to how the Association will celebrate this 90th year.

## A Bloomin' Good Show



Once again UQGPSA has sponsored a prize in the UQ Sunflower Competition. This year's competition had a record number of schools (92) participating, engaging more than 3,000 high school students. The Weigh-In Day attracted around 200 students and teachers, and congratulations go to Glasshouse Christian College, our 2016 Grand Champions with their sunflower weighing 2.023kg.

Graham McClymont represented the UQGPSA at the event and is pictured with representatives from St Aidan's, the winners of our Encouragement Award.



# Meet our Latest UQ Gatton Past Students' Association Scholarship Recipient

Recently at a ceremony at UQ St Lucia, the 2016 UQGPSA Scholarship was officially presented to Loretta Tonscheck. Loretta will receive monetary assistance from the Scholarship fund for the duration of her study.

Loretta is a first year Bachelor of Agribusiness student at UQ Gatton campus. She says that growing up with exposure to the dairy and beef cattle industries, and a strong passion for agriculture, prompted her to enrol at UQ. An Agribusiness degree seemed the best step toward achieving a life ambition of working in stud and/or commercial livestock industry. Her current long term ambition is to own and operate a successful beef cattle farming enterprise. No dream should be limited nor the opportunities in agriculture be underestimated however.

She is enjoying the degree immensely and looks forward to all that UQ has to offer through the program. To the UQGPSA she says that she is honoured and greatly appreciative of the assistance UQ Gatton Past Students' Association is providing to assist her tertiary studies.

We are very proud of this program and we urge members to contribute. This can be done by 'buying' a chair (\$250) or a table (\$1,000) in the dining hall, upon which a plaque of appreciation will be placed. You can help to set the current generation off to becoming the agricultural scientists and rural community workers of the future. Simply contact the Association to offer any donation you can afford to make.



UQGPSA President Gary Mason presents Loretta with her scholarship and congratulates her on behalf of the Association at the August Committee Meeting.



The Association is currently providing scholarships to four students. At the August Committee Meeting all current recipients of the scholarship were invited to attend dinner with members. *From left* Jahk Hughes, Sara Rodes, Taylor Bunworth and Loretta Tonscheck

## New Web Address

The UQ Gatton Past Students' Association has a new web address.

**[gatton.uq.edu.au/  
alumni/gatton-past-  
students-association](http://gatton.uq.edu.au/alumni/gatton-past-students-association)**

Wal Taylor was awarded the *Order of Australia Medal* 2016 for service to information technology and rural development. He attended Gatton College in the 1960s. He is pictured with his wife Rondha and daughter Dr Jennifer Taylor after the investiture at Government House.





# Branch Reunions

## Bundaberg Reunion

So good to be able to report that a Reunion was held in Bundaberg in May after many years without one. The Bundaberg Branch at one time was the strongest in the State. What was pleasing was that this group definitely represented a “younger” crowd than at most other reunions. A bigger group would have been possible had not the event been on the local show weekend. This has been taken into account for next year.

Thanks to the work of Kim Jorgensen and Robert Doyle a group of 28 attended. There were representatives from the 50s to 90s, from Diplomas, Foodies, HMs, Hortis, RTs and Valuers.

There was no formal part to the lunch, however President Gary Mason was able to give a good overview of the Association’s activities, and pass on the latest information about recent and proposed changes to the campus. Looking forward to bigger and better in 2017.



Bundaberg Reunion left Brian Ilett (1979–83), Janis Ilett, Ann Holliss (1981–84) top right John Mullaly (1961–63), Nev Cayley (1961–65), Ian McInnes (1959–63) bottom right Leanne Richardson (1987–90), Gary Mason

*Check out the rest of our photos on Facebook!*

## Mackay Reunion

Branch Members and partners made their way once again to the Marian Hotel in May for a tasty lunch, lots of chat and more importantly Clive’s joke. It was in fact the 68th Mackay Branch Reunion. Approximately 30 attended – a similar number to 2015.

John Whitaker chaired the formal Branch meeting where he was again elected as Branch Chairman. Mark Hetherington continuing in the role of Secretary/Treasurer. Clive Rogers has accepted the role of Vice President. John was very pleased about the assistance received from local media outlets advertising the reunion. A photo from the last reunion even made it to the local paper and John was interviewed.

A member had brought along the medal received by Jack Elliott for his footrace win at the College in 1936. There was much talk about Jack and Col Story’s running feats while at College.

Kim Jorgensen again represented the UQGPSA at the reunion, providing the group with an update on Association activities.



Mackay Reunion top left Kathy Rogers, Paul Rogers (1957–58) bottom left Roy Davey (1957–58), Judy Davey right Christopher Henn (1956–58), Elda Jeppesen, Keith Jeppesen (1975–76)



**Gold Coast**  
*Branch Reunion*

Labrador  
AFL Sports Club  
Ashton Street  
Labrador

**Saturday**  
**4 February 2017**

11:00am for  
12 noon luncheon

Peter Douglas  
☎ (07) 5546 6350  
koalamen  
@bigpond.com

**Sunshine Coast**  
*Branch Reunion*

Caloundra Bowls Club  
Cnr Arthur Street and  
Burwah Terrace  
Caloundra

**Saturday**  
**11 March 2017**

11:30am for  
12 noon luncheon

Peter Jacobson  
☎ 0419 662 467  
peter.jacobson  
@agriculture.gov.au

**Mackay**  
*Branch Reunion*

Railway Hotel  
Marian

**Sunday**  
**21 May 2017**

11:00am for  
12 noon luncheon

Mark Hetherington  
☎ 0407 595 349  
m.hetherington  
@pcpsl.com.au

John Whitaker  
☎ 0437 331 093  
john-.whitaker  
@bigpond.com

**Bundaberg**  
*Branch Reunion*

Venue  
to be confirmed

**Sunday**  
**11 June 2017**

11:00am for  
12 noon luncheon

Kim Jorgensen  
☎ 0438 130 963  
jorgensen\_kim  
@bigpond.com

**Brisbane**  
*Branch Reunion*

The Greek Club  
26 Edmondstone Street  
South Brisbane

**Saturday**  
**TBA 2017**

11:30am for  
12 noon luncheon

Slade Lee  
☎ (07) 3821 1739  
slade.lee  
@yahoo.com.au



Gold Coast Reunion *left* Bernie Mack (1958–61), Carolyn Mack, Carole Fullerton and June Henderson *top right* Joy Baumber, May, Ken Baumber and Graham Baumber *bottom right* Gary Mason, Jack and Pam Groenendyk, Nev Vallis, Bruce Birtwell



Brisbane Reunion *top left* Peter Oxenham (1972–73), John Connell (1964–66) *bottom left* Bob Wilson (1969–70), Jason Wilson (1991–94), Greg Stirling (1961–65), Mario Valvasori (1970–73) *right* Ron Swanwick (1961–63), Harley Juffs (1958–62), Di Harden, John Harden (Staff 1967–2001)

## Historical Collection



The usual steady trickle of donations continues. Items received since the last issue of *Re-Connect* have been donated by:-

**College General Photos:** Lester Loader, John Whitaker, Jim Galletly, Lachlan Fowler, Diane Waller (Jacklin), Geoff Kirby 1934 (via Barry Spooner).

**College Sporting Photos:** Jim Galletly.

**College Magazines:** Steve Beasley, Graham McClymont and Jim Galletly.

**Certificates:** Jim Galletly.

**Books, Programmes, Brochures etc:** Ray Montgomery, John Connell, Graham McClymont and Steve Beasley.

On the way from the USA is a newly released book written by Sharon Davis (pictured). Our Museum staff provided Sharon with information and photos about the American presence during WWII on campus (105th General Hospital 1942–1944). Sharon's mother was posted here as a nurse during that time. The book is only being made available

to Sharon's family and friends. She has kindly donated a copy to the Museum.

**The Unusual:** Ray Bill's Timber Camp Recipe Book from Elayne Paterson.

Lachlan Fowler donated a green Graduation cap and gown, along with 10 cardboard QAC cauliflower cartons (folded and unused)!!!

Assorted metal QAC stencils from Bob Hampson.

Ray Montgomery, for the plaque presented to him by the College Council for his 1987–88 membership.

We thank all the above donors for their contributions to our ever expanding and valued collection.

Peter Douglas would also like to thank Val Kilah and Julie Reid for their ongoing dedication to the Collection and to Trevor Arthur and Don Oxenham for their ongoing assistance.

## Back to College Weekend

### New Members

Neville James **Berghofer**  
(1950)

Neville James **Brownlie**  
(1968)

Robert Lawrence **Doyle**  
(2000)

Andrew James **Drysdale**  
(1983 and 2000)

Peter Warren **Morris**  
(1961)

Trevor Richard **Pezet**  
(1996)

Vicki Kai **Taylor**  
(1976)

The 2016 *Back to College Weekend* reunion will be held on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 December. The casual BBQ on Friday 2 December in the Staff and Graduates Club is again being held for those who arrive early.

The Feature Years this year are those who finished their study in 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986, 1996 and 2006. Also returning are the 1951, 1961 and 1971 year groups. Other groups are most welcome. Invitation letters and details of the program will be sent to Feature Year graduates soon. Information is already available on the Association's website.

Please also note that from 1965 for about three decades, graduation took place around May of the year following completion of studies. We regard the groups by when they finished study, not the following year when they officially graduated. For example, the 1971 group returning this year officially graduated on 9 June 1972. We regard the group who graduated on 28 May 1971 as the 1970 group. This is the same for all groups from 1965 to when graduation returned to the year study was completed in the 1990s.

### To Graduates of 1947

Ray Montgomery is hoping that at the 2017 *Back to College Weekend* your group will be able to get together to mark your 70th year reunion. He recognises that this may be difficult so is giving plenty of notice. Some of this year may not be members of UQGPSA so if you know of a friend or relative who was at Gatton at that time please pass on the information. *Back to College Weekend* is a time where past friendships can be rekindled with the added opportunity to see how the College has changed since your days. Please contact Ray on (07) 5457 3725 if you think you might be able to attend.



Foundation Day Sports 1947 – fencing



# Gone, but not forgotten...

*Because I could not stop for Death  
He kindly stopped for me  
The Carriage held but just Ourselves  
And Immortality.*

Emily Dickinson

**CASTLES, Reginald "Rusty" James**

Junior Student 1939–40. Thynne.  
Brother of Les, QDAH 1939.  
Reg passed away 12 April 2016.

**CATCHPOOLE, Victor Robert**

QDA 1950. College CMF Unit 1950.  
Vic spent his working life with CSIRO,  
firstly with Fodder Conservation at  
Highett, Victoria, before secondment to  
the Samford Research Station to assess  
value of conserving tropical grasses and  
legumes as silage. He then joined the  
Nitrogen Economy Group at Cunningham  
Laboratories, St Lucia.  
Vic passed away 22 April 2016.

**DUFFIELD, Bruce J.**

QDAH 1966. At College 1962–65. Riddell.  
1964 2nd XV.  
1965 Under 19 XV. 1st Wool Judging, RNA  
Junior Judges.  
Bruce passed away 31 May 2016.

**FARRELL, John Douglas**

QDAH 1963. Formerly meat inspector,  
Police Inspector and Barrister at Law.  
John passed away on 24 August 2016.

**FREEMAN, Ian Bernard**

QDA 1956. Prefect 1955–56. Shelton.  
1954 3rd B XV; Runner-up Senior Champion  
Swimmer; CSM C Coy Senior Cadets.  
Senior Cadets Rifle Team.  
1955 Senior Champion Swimmer; 1956 2nd  
XV; Runner-up Senior Champion Swimmer.  
Graduated from UQ with BVSc, 1st Class Hons,  
in 1965.  
Ian passed away 6 May 2016.

**HOOLE, Tyron**

QCA 2012. Tyron passed away 18 May 2016.

**JONES, Elton Leonard**

QCH 1971.  
Passed away 25 April 1972.

**LEONG, Aloysius Michael Joseph**

QDA 1965. A student from Papua. Riddell.  
1963 Captain A Reserve Basketball, Premiers.  
1964 Captain A Grade Basketball, Premiers.  
1965 A Grade Basketball.  
Passed away 9 March 2015.

**McKENZIE, Ian J.**

QDA 1959, 2nd Class Hons. 1960. Riddell.  
Foundation Day Sports; 1st Tractor Driving,  
2nd Maize Drilling, 2nd Setting-up Reaper  
and Binder.  
College CMF Unit 1958–60.  
Ian passed away 24 March 2016.

**MOORE, Rufus**

QDAH 1948. At College 1945–48. Shelton.  
1946 College ATC Flight. 1948 B Grade XV,  
B Grade No.1 XI.  
Rufus passed away 26 July 2016.

**RIGBY, Lindsay William**

QDA 1961.  
Lindsay passed away 2 July 2016.

**RYNNE, Mannix Kevin**

QDAH 1963. Shelton. 1963 Under 19 XV.  
Caught the Greasy Pig (Senior) Foundation  
Day Sports.  
Mannix passed away 29 October 2015.

**TATHEM, Joanne Elizabeth**

Assoc Dip Hotel & Catering Services 1987.  
Joanne passed away in 2006.

## Facebook Page continues to Attract Attention

With over 750 Likes our Facebook page is building a following. We are getting a good amount of information to share with our "Likers". In the last few months we have been able to post many photos from the Branch Reunions (more than are featured in *Re-Connect* this issue).

The *Back to College Weekend* is being marketed through the posting of photos from the 2016 Feature years. A number of our supporters are also finding articles which feature past graduates. We understand that Members really want to know what past graduates are up to and this is a great way to do that.

We would encourage those who wish to contribute photos or articles to contact us by email or by posting directly to the page. The Page Manager will be notified and will ensure your post gets the prominence it deserves.

### Join our LinkedIn Group

We have less followers of our LinkedIn group but they receive similar material to that which is posted on the Facebook page. You can join the LinkedIn group even if you have not signed up to the site.

### Member's Email Newsletter continues to "Hit the Spot"

Thanks to the hard work of Committee Member Slade Lee we are able to continue to update our Members more often with Association news and activities. Three newsletters have been sent so far in 2016 (one each quarter).

Feedback received continues to be positive, so thank you to those who have taken the time to respond. We welcome material to be included and certainly take on board any corrections which are necessary.

### Some Feedback from Readers

*I wish to congratulate you on a wonderful job you are doing with the "News Letter". As far as I am concerned, that is just what I mentioned at the last AGM...very, very good.*

*Enjoy hearing about what is happening around the traps and to graduates. As I get older I appreciate the historical aspects as well. Thanks for the effort.*

If you are not receiving the Newsletters you need to send us your current email address.

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### Try our quick links at:

[gatton.uq.edu.au/alumni/](http://gatton.uq.edu.au/alumni/)  
[gatton-past-students-association](http://gatton-past-students-association)



[www.facebook.com/UQGPSSA](http://www.facebook.com/UQGPSSA)



<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/UQ-Gatton-Past-Students-Association-5190196>

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## Introducing...

### *Rachelle Williams*



Rachelle did Food Technology and graduated from QAC in 1990. Five years followed working at Inghams developing all sorts of chicken and red meat products, including Hot Wings, Hot'n'Spicy and the Zinger. Given the choice of working in Sydney or heading to Singapore to work with a sauce manufacturer, Rachelle headed overseas for seven months. She then came back to work as the Food Technologist at the Australian operation for 12 months. Two years of working independently followed with LongaLife, Sizzler, Harvest FreshCuts and Pauls doing recall and supplier control programs. Rachelle then spent a few years with Arnotts as the Quality System Co-ordinator and her passion for food safety and training was born. Due to a long term family illness and moving to the beautiful area of Mt Barney (2 hours SW of Brisbane), she had to leave full time employment and started her own food safety company and has been operating as The Green Food Safety Coach since 2000. Rachelle has helped more than 10 businesses through the HACCP process and many others with their Food Safety Programs and has several long term clients. She has also added sustainability to her business's offerings. She is the Chair of the Food Safety Information Council and the first female to hold the role, you might hear her often on radio or TV spreading the food safety message to consumers.

In between working, Rachelle has been studying and holds a Graduate Diploma

in Business Management, Diploma in Sustainability, Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and Certificate IV in Sustainability Assessment, amongst other qualifications. Rachelle has also completed HACCP qualifications and is a Professional Member of AIFST, Fellow of the Australian Organisation for Quality, amongst other memberships. She is also a Commissioner for Declarations and loves helping people in the community with their documents.

She has just completed a course in TACCP and is looking forward to applying those principles and practices with her clients.

Rachelle is an active member of her community as a volunteer ambulance officer (a QAS First Responder), a volunteer lifeguard at the Rathdowney pool in summer and involved in the theatre restaurants run by the Rathdowney P&C every three years (a lot of fun and raises money to send the kids on their school trip!). Rachelle's latest project is working as a Field Officer for the 2016 Census in her area, in between working for her clients.

Rachelle's mother was a Director Nursing and her father a TAFE Teacher, and during school she always said she would not become either. Now all these years later, Rachelle does first aid regularly and loves training people— it is funny that some things are obviously meant to be.

Rachelle is very proud to be a Food Technologist and is always eager to explain to others how we are not chefs and that without us, much of the food available today would not exist.

### *Do we have your email address?*

If you are reading a hard copy of this edition of *Re-Connect*, we do not have your email address. Please email us and we will record your email address for the future.

Your email address will also allow you to receive the more regular newsletters we are currently sending to all members.

When you email us, please also advise your full name, postal address, phone and mobile so we can check we have your latest details.