



Re-Connect

A Publication of the
Gattton College Past
Students Association Inc.
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Update your contact details directly online by visiting www.uq.edu.au/convocation/ and follow the instructions. By doing this, you will assist the GCPSA to accurately maintain its mailing lists, or write to our postal address.

STOP PRESS

Gold Coast luncheon to be held at Food Fantasy, Jupiters Casino on Saturday, 21 February 2004.

Contact Peter Douglas for more information.
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'GOLDEN OLDIES' TAKE OVER TOOWOOMBA

A great time was had by twenty-eight old boys and their partners at what they termed the 'Golden Oldies' Reunion in Toowoomba in August.

Timed to coincide with the Brisbane Exhibition, past students travelled from as far as Bowen and Townsville in the north and Bordertown in South Australia.

While the gathering had a focus on the 1953 graduates, others who shared their time at College were invited. The setting at the 'upmarket' Downs Club was ideal for the older group who wished to share the celebration more appropriately with their partners.

Organised locally by Ken Bigg, with support from Rob Strachan, John Dearden and 'Blue' Armstrong, the event was voted a huge success by those able to attend the 'recovery' at the Park Café the next morning. One wife was heard to say "Let's have another in two years!"

A highlight of the reunion was the distribution of a small but well-presented booklet – *This was my life*. Coordinated by Rob Strachan, the booklet was a collection of the personal and professional lives of



Association Junior Vice President, Ray McNamara (left front), and Patron Stan Petherick (next to Ray), photographed with 'Golden Oldies'.

thirty-four students from the era. Worthy of note was the number of students who had received recognition for their professional and/or community achievements.

Special guests included Stan and Agnes Petherick, Ray McNamara and the President of the Past Students Association, Mal Ferguson, and his wife Leanne.

This group of 'Golden Oldies,' who joined together at the College Campus to celebrate their 50 year celebration, do plan to meet again. As one was heard to quip, "We learnt much about bypasses and prostrates, so no-one ceases to learn."

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Mr Merv Young, BEcon, DipRurAcc, passed away on 7 September 2003 in Gatton. He began his teaching career at the Gatton Campus in 1961, then known as the Queensland Agricultural High School and College. In 1973 he was appointed Head of the Department of Business Studies (later Management Studies) and after 26 years' College service, he retired from the Headship and QAC in 1987.

Merv was influential in the development of farm management as a College discipline, and in the integrated management of the field facilities of

the College as a production resource for use in teaching, research and industry interaction. He became House Master of Riddell Hall from 1971–1978, instigated formal tutoring sessions, and was editor of the annual College Magazine from 1970–1971.

The double-storied wooden building near Farm Square was dedicated to Mr Young and named the Merv Young Field Facilities Centre. It was the original College woolshed, built at the time of World War I. After sympathetic renovation, this historic building became the administrative centre of the Field Facilities Division in 1991 (later Gatton Farms).

WELCOME TO THE 2ND EDITION OF RE-CONNECT



Mal Ferguson
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*"On behalf of the
Association, I
congratulate all UQ
GATTON graduating
students for 2003."*

The first edition increased our membership by 45 people. We all know the lifeblood of any organisation is active membership.

Because graduating students are our membership target group, it is essential that we recognise the institution from which they graduate. At the AGM, members will be asked to accept the Executive's proposed name change for the Association. "UQ GATTON Past Students Association" addresses the name of the institution that both recent and pre University graduates attended. UQ GATTON is also now the major marketing name for the Campus. Please give serious thought to this proposal before you attend the meeting or lodge your proxy vote.

I ask that you also give support to the joint venture between the Association and UQ GATTON to establish a scholarship endowment fund for current and future students. UQ GATTON has purchased the furniture and is covering all of the costs of the campaign. For the campaign to be successful, it now needs the financial support of all past students.

With over 10,000 past students, a tax deductible gift of \$100 per student would see the establishment of a fund far in excess of our current \$250,000 target. We were successful in fighting for the future of the campus, now let's be successful in investing in those who will contribute, as we have, to Australian and international agriculture.

On behalf of the Association, I congratulate all UQ GATTON graduating students for 2003. You have come to the completion of your studies just as others have for over 100 years before you. As you read this newsletter, please give serious consideration to paying the \$100 life membership fee to the Association, so that you can be kept up to date with the achievement of your fellow past students as well as campus developments.

Finally, as this is our last communication for this year, to those who are unable to join us at the Back to College Weekend, may you have a safe and happy Christmas, and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Mal Ferguson

LUNCH ON THE GOLD COAST



George Hannaford (centre) with the framed 1917 QAC blazer pocket worn by his father, and presented to Julie Reid (left) and Val Kilah (right) for the GCPSA Museum.

Conrad Jupiters was the venue for the third meeting of the Gold Coast Branch of the Association on Saturday, 9 August. Around 30 past students and staff gathered to enjoy each other's company and to hear Professor Wayne Bryden, Head of Animal Studies, report on further Campus developments.

The growth of joint ventures with government and industry agencies was highlighted. Professor Bryden indicated that it was through these activities and the development of relevant training programs that UQ GATTON would continue its role as a centre for agricultural excellence.

Another feature of the lunch was a talk by George Hannaford. George spent one year at College, following in the footsteps of his father. While not receiving any formal qualification, George explained how his College time contributed to his successful farming and local government careers.

At the conclusion of his talk, George presented, to Val Kilah and Julie Reid, as the custodians of the Association's memorabilia collection, his father's 1917 blazer pocket. This emblem is very different to that with which most of us are familiar.

Another highlight of the afternoon was the presence of Doug Crellin, feared by many when on staff. While not enjoying the best of health, Doug entertained all around with some of the many anecdotes of his College years.

UQ GATTON CONTINUES TO BUILD

The University is continuing to build on the good work that has been done at the Gatton Campus since the 1999 University Senate Report on the future of UQ Gatton.

During 2003 there has been \$4M spent on capital development in addition to the \$16M spent since 1999. This year has seen the addition of new state-of-the-art equine breeding facilities, refurbishment work to the Halls of Residence, work on a central analytical laboratory and the construction of a new greenhouse associated with the new Centre for Native Floriculture to be established on campus.

The University has invested in aggressive marketing strategies which are beginning to produce results for the Campus. Student numbers have increased since 2001 following a five-year decline. This year has seen an increase of more than 60 percent in the number of students studying on campus. This increase includes undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as a significant increase in the number of international students on campus.

The addition of a new Masters in Animal Physiotherapy and an undergraduate specialisation in Veterinary Technology and Management have aided this growth.

A review of the undergraduate programs offered on campus this year has resulted in a new streamlined format for the Bachelor of Applied Science degree and an ongoing commitment to offer Queensland Certificates in Agronomy, Animal Husbandry and Horticulture.

Veterinary Science students are also now on campus undertaking large animal practical sessions.

Research activity on campus continues to grow with a number of recent announcements. Some of these include:

- \$10M funding from the State Government for a Centre for Native Floriculture to be established on Campus.
- \$5M funding from the Federal and State Governments and other donors for a Chair in Animal Welfare with Professor Clive Phillips appointed to the position, and
- \$2M funding from the Poultry Research and Development Corporation for a Poultry Research Unit.

The University is continuing to build strong linkages with the local community through a variety of networks such as the UQ Gatton Strategic Advisory Group, Lockyer Better Business and City-to-Soil.

I recently had the pleasure of attending the annual Dinner *Under the Stars* organised by the UQ Gatton Halls of Residence. During the night I witnessed first hand what I had always suspected about UQ Gatton; that there is something special and unique about this campus that has touched the lives of generations of staff and students.

During the course of the evening I heard of student accomplishments in terms of academic excellence, sporting prowess and general involvement in cultural and community pursuits. It was a moment when you saw the full campus experience at work and it reminded me why the work of the University is so important.



Prof Margaret Gardner
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Academic)

“During the night I witnessed first hand what I had always suspected about UQ Gatton: that there is something special and unique about this campus...”



The veterinary crush at the new equine reproductive facility constructed this year at UQ Gatton.

Articles for Next Issue

All contributions including stories, photos, profiles and other interesting written material would be greatly appreciated. If you have any stories for future issues of Re-Connect, forward all contributions to:

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or

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GATTON CAMPUS FIT FOR ACTIVE FUTURE

A report from UQ Sport

UQ Gatton has strengthened its growing reputation as an attractive study destination following a renewed focus on sport and recreation opportunities.

Heading the list of priorities will be an upgrade and refurbishment of the historic *War Memorial Swimming Pool*, which has stretched to the end of its life cycle.

UQ Sport Director Kim Guerin said the colourful and extensive history behind the 49-year-old pool makes it a key development for UQ Gatton.

“We have identified three major capital projects which will provide regular users and visitors to UQ Gatton greater opportunities to participate in sport and recreation. These projects are the creation of a central sports precinct (redevelopment of the swimming

pool, fitness and recreational area), the establishment of a sporting club house adjacent to the Ray McNamara Oval and a contribution to a recreational track on Campus as part of a Gatton Shire Council project.”

“UQ Sport is playing a key role in marketing UQ Gatton and its facilities to new students,” Mr Weller, UQ Gatton Campus Manager, said. “The ability to market the campus and to sell an environment that suits potential students is important. The provision of sport and recreation is a key part of that.”

Editors Note: *This article has been edited in the interest of space. For more information regarding UQ Sport's involvement at UQ Gatton, please refer to www.uqsport.uq.edu.au and click the Gatton link or email gatton@uqsport.uq.edu.au.*

A PAST STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

“When you hear the bell, come out fighting.”

It was a phrase we heard often during our four years at College, my brother Michael and I.

It began soon after we arrived in 1944. I was making my bed in a dormitory near the ‘chook’ pens when Ralph, another sub-junior informed me we had drawn each other in the annual inter-house boxing tournament.

I remember little about that match except for the ringing in my ears and a blurred vision of the audience exploding into emotional frenzy whenever Ralph and I exchanged a barrage of blows. The upshot was that a College Boxing squad was formed under the expert guidance of Dave May.

The ultimate test came when we were challenged by an athletes association in Laidley to contest their best over three 3-minute rounds.

With the crowd wildly yelling that we would be crucified by their local lads, we filed grim faced and silent into the huge hall. There we waited our turn to hear the bell to come out fighting.

We won the tournament, battered and bruised as always. Our own Dick Roden was awarded the watch for being the best.

Now, whenever I hear a bell...

*Luke Lazarides (1944–47)
Gold Coast Branch*

THE LAST WORD

Editorial by Craig Tunley

It never ceases to amaze me the network of people who have some connection to Gatton. From all levels of Government, to private enterprise in a variety of fields to academics of a diverse nature. As Professor Gardner stated in her article (page 3), there is something unique and special about Gatton, and it is not lost once we move away. If anything, the culture gets stronger.

As new graduates come through, they too will benefit. The contacts made with fellow past students and the immediate rapport that such a meeting provides is highly valuable. A ‘connection’ is so important in this day of high speed, technology and time. A ‘Gatton connection’ is a culture unto itself. Welcome to all new graduates, welcome to your ‘network of friends’.