



UQ Gatton
Past Students
Association Inc



Queensland
Agricultural
College



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

Re-Connect

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STOP PRESS

The Centre for Advanced Animal Science (CAAS) will be established at UQ Gatton, creating a world-class facility for research into livestock health and production.

See UQ Gatton website for more details,
www.uq.edu.au/gatton

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A GATTON MOVE FOR UQ VET SCHOOL

The University of Queensland has endorsed a proposal to relocate veterinary science to the University's rural campus at Gatton.

The School, currently located at the University's St Lucia campus in Brisbane, teaches the State's only accredited degree in veterinary science.

Executive Dean of the Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science Professor Roger Swift said that the proposal included the construction of substantial facilities at the UQ Gatton Campus. The Faculty and University are now seeking support from government and industry to assist with this development.

The state-of-the-art facilities would replace ageing facilities at St Lucia. This was in accord with the University's commitment to enhance undergraduate training of veterinary students.

A Project Implementation Plan to guide the relocation would be prepared involving broad consultation. A final plan will be presented to the University Senate by late 2004 with a target date of 2008 for the relocation of the School of Veterinary Science to UQ Gatton.

"This is a significant development and we plan to ensure that we properly determine the size and scope of the project," Professor Swift said. "We have commissioned a project control group comprising staff, students and representatives from the veterinary profession to plan every aspect of the move in order to maximise the benefits for all parties."

The University is also seeking a new Head for the School of Veterinary Science from the beginning of 2005. The new Head of School would have the opportunity to guide this project and to provide quality training to veterinary science graduates well into the future.



The relocation of the School to UQ Gatton would make more efficient use of the excellent facilities built by the University in the past few years and attract other facilities and scientific groups to the campus, Professor Swift said.

Large animal teaching has been consolidated at UQ Gatton since 2001, while last year a world-class horse breeding complex complete with embryo transfer laboratory was part of an \$800,000 upgrade at the campus. The \$20 million already spent on the construction and renovation of facilities at UQ Gatton over recent years includes Australia's most advanced teaching dairy and a refurbished piggery.

The move would boost numbers at UQ Gatton by approximately 25 percent, resulting in the largest student body at the campus in its 107-year history.

When combined with the University's projected growth for existing programs at UQ Gatton, the addition of veterinary students in 2008 would result in approximately 3500 students studying from the campus.

This kind of growth confirmed the University's commitment to the Gatton campus. It would be a significant boost for the Lockyer Valley and builds on the University's commitment to the local region, Professor Swift said.



Prof Roger Swift

THE LAST WORD

**Editorial by
Craig Tunley**

The future growth of the Past Students Association lies in the development and growth of its branch network. I have long been an advocate for a developing branch network and believe that it is one of the strengths of an organization such as ours, both for old and new members. Branch functions and meetings expose new members to old members, new graduates to old graduates and everything in between. Not only can we compare stories from the 'good old days', whenever they may have been, the professional links are also of significant value.

I reiterate the desire of Mal Ferguson to develop branches in regional and metropolitan locations. Such links are integral to the continued momentum and growth of the Past Students Association, with the benefits not just in our membership or participation at functions, but individual and professional links, a connection which is unsurpassed in our dizzy modern environment.

A distant memory, a well worn story, an exciting future. What was the Branch Secretary's number again?

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Mal Ferguson
President,
UQ Gatton Past
Students Association

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Year 2004 has definitely been the year of change for the Association and many of the people who have helped it to retain its proud tradition.

The AGM in December approved the proposed name change to the UQ Gatton Past Students Association. While to some this was a difficult recognition of the management authority on site, it has been well received by the current student body who are our future. I thank all of those who sent in proxy votes or who were able to attend the AGM. A vote where over 90% of the votes received were in favour of change can not be ignored.

There were a number of changes to the Executive at the AGM. I would like to thank those members who did not seek re-election and recognise their distinguished contributions. Ray MacNamara to many is Gatton College and has occupied positions at Executive and Branch level for many years. Having turned 80, Ray decided it was time to hand over to the "younger" brigade. Neil Heather and John Duncan, who Ray would consider to be the younger brigade, have ensured responsible management of our assets well into the future. Neil Rampton, who represented the Association on many other committees, has gone into a business, which will demand most of his time.

The Association lost the services of two of its strongest supporters on Campus early in 2004. Stephen Weller, Faculty Executive Officer, and Anthony Smith, Campus Publicity Officer, both sought increases to their workloads at different campuses. The change in relationship between this Association and UQ can largely be attributed to Stephen, who despite not being a past student, had the same passion for the Campus as a past student. Anthony was of great assistance to Craig Tunley with ReConnect and was the driving force behind the Association participating in Open Day. On your behalf, I thank them for their contributions and wish them well in Victoria and Toowoomba respectively.

Brendon Nelson, Federal Education Minister, has decreed that all university senates will be restricted to 22 people, with those not conforming being financially disadvantaged in grant money. UQ currently has 37 senators of which you are able to elect 8. It will be interesting to see how this change is implemented at UQ because it will require a change to State Legislation. The Standing Committee of Convocation, to which I am an ex-officio member, will strive to ensure that the method of selection and our percentage representation on Senate is not changed in the process. You will be kept informed on future developments.

Finally, I would like to see active branches of the Association in Townsville, Rockhampton, Sunshine Coast and Brisbane by the end of this year. Anyone in these locations who is interested in helping to get people together so that graduating students have contact details for fellow past students, please contact me. I am prepared to travel to these locations to help the establishment process.

Mal Ferguson

'MANGO INDUSTRY FATHER'

2003 UQ GATTON GOLD MEDALIST

Noel Meurant, widely recognised as the “father of the Australian mango industry”, was presented to UQ Chancellor Sir Llewellyn Edwards as the 2003 Gold Medalist at the Gatton graduation ceremony last December.

The award recognised a distinguished career of nearly fifty years with the DPI, 38 of those years being based in Bowen. The award closely follows on from Noel being named as an Australian Rural Legend by the Australian Broadcasting Commission in the year of the Outback (2002) and a feature on his achievements in horticulture by the Queensland Country Life in 2000.

In Bowen, Noel was very active in seeking support of local growers for the establishment of the Bowen Horticultural Research Station, now renamed the *Centre for Dry Tropics Agriculture*. On this research station, Noel made significant contributions to the development of the R2E2 mango and the continuing battle with *Fusarium* wilt in tomatoes. His reputation as an

advisor in horticulture is legendary with growers referring to him as “The Doctor” because of his ability to cure dying crops.

However, Noel made significant contributions to Queensland agriculture while he was based at Redlands Research Station. Working under the guidance of Hubert Groszmann, Noel assisted in the breeding of rust resistant and stringless French beans, rust resistant navy beans and helped in the breeding and improvement of passionfruit.

Noel achieved a Diploma in Horticulture from the old Queensland Agricultural College and High School in 1952, having previously studied for his sub junior and junior at College.

On behalf of all past students, we congratulate Noel Meurant on a distinguished career and the receipt of the 2003 UQ Gatton Gold Medal.



Noel Meurant,
2003 UQ Gatton
Gold Medal recipient.

NEW UQGPSA TIE!

The Executive of the Association has submitted the featured tie design to The University of Queensland St Lucia for approval. Because there are standards under which the UQ logo can be used, UQGPSA needs approval of the design. Feedback from the University has been positive as has the feedback from the current student body, which believes the tie strongly blends the old (The College logo) and the new (The University logo). It is anticipated that the tie will be available for sale at the ‘Back to College’ weekend in December.

Editors Note:

Excellent concept! For too long the badge has been the only piece of merchandise offered by the Association and I hope that this initiative is supported by the members.



The proposed design for the tie, in the QAC maroon and the UQ blue colours.

“COULD IT REALLY BE 40 YEARS SINCE WE LEFT THE COLLEGE?”



(From left) Bill Logan, Ray McNamara and another Past Student enjoy the reunion dinner.

“One thing that does not change is the friendliness of the old place.”

Jack Farrell, on behalf of the 1963 graduates, asked this question of attendees at the **Annual Back to College Weekend**

Reunion Dinner to commence his address.

“It really seems like yesterday that we, a group of adolescents fortunate enough to have passed all of the exams, stood before the then Governor, Sir Henry Abel Smith, and received the treasured ‘it’. ‘It’ was a diploma in something, the key to our success in life.”

Passionate. Memorable. Best Ever. The weekend of 6–7 December 2003 was all this and more. In excess of 200 past students traveled to attend the 2003 Back to College Weekend. The Saturday afternoon AGM introduced some new names to the Executive Committee and a new name.

The UQ Gatton Past Students Association name better reflects the new

position of the Gatton Campus and the relationship between the Past Students Association, current students and the University.

The Campus Manager, Stephen Weller, took time to promote future developments on Campus tours and bus



This likely bunch of past students listen intently to Jack Farrell’s speech.



(From left) Doc Orman and Paul Hassab having a quiet chat amongst friends, the essence of the “Back to College” Weekend.

trips around the Campus were also taken advantage of by many delegates.

The Chapel refurbishment dedication on Sunday morning was also well attended.

The Reunion Dinner however topped the list of things to do, a great night of fine food, good company and tales of lost youth and old memories.

“One thing that does not change is the friendliness of the old place,” Jack remarked towards the end of his address.

“Mr and Mrs Greaves may not have the canteen now, Mr Briton has gone and we no longer have to ask Mr Crellin for permission to spend more than 60 cents each week, but the old place still feels like home.”

In 2004, the Back to College Weekend will feature the graduating years of 1954, 1964, 1974, 1979, 1984 and 1994 on 4 and 5 December 2004.

A registration form will be sent to the feature years, however all past students and staff are welcome to attend.

For further information contact Graham McClymont by phone on **(07) 3378 0201** or email **g.mcclymont @bigpond.com**. You can contact the UQ Gatton Past Students Association by email: **gcpsa@uqg.uq.edu.au**



(From left) Frank Arnell, Lyn Vandersee and Terry Carroll.

1962 40-YEAR REUNION RERUN

Well the meager gathering at the previous year's Back to College 1962 reunion, bought forth the unanimous decision, to re gather, in the Olympic tradition in 2003. Terry "Doc" Orman, me, the obvious choice to organise this, as I lived so close, in Mosman, in Sydney. Done.

The gathering of the information, the details, the whereabouts of a forty-year scatter of class mates, an enormity, but achievable and enjoyable task.

The weekend arrives; travel up the NSW coast to collect Paul Hassab in Port. "Eulie" packs his College haircutting scissors, (only those with bad memories will line up again for a haircut), box brownie photos, and Frank Arnell. Normally we collect R.A. "Dick" Roberts, in Lennox Heads, but a visit to Lismore Base hospital, is our sad and sombre task, to say farwell to a good class mate, team mate and fine friend.

So who's here, Pete Hauritz last seen heading for PNG in '60, Ronald Clark my old prop, Bluey Seccombe, Len Saal, Pete McAulliffe, Lyn Vandersee, Pete Amiet, Steve Morey were from the Darling Downs.

Ray Barbero, Tony Nicholls led the Brisbane push, Pete Smith set the travel record from West Australia. Yep we found Dave Nichols in Tassie. Where's Normie Calder, in England, Bull!!

A few beers, many handshakes, the mist clears. The College is now a University, still a little Agricultural flavor. (Although they are dropping the Agricultural College part of the name from the past students association, seems a pity).

What would they make of our reminisces? The mid night raids to the orchard for fruit, the chook yard raids for the barbeque, Dairy factory raids for the entrée and desert. The

cooperative purchase of the Whippet car, defected off the road within 2 hours of purchase, by the Queensland Police. The unfortunate sheep that died whilst Bernie Mack was shearing it, from old age or boredom, anyone's guess? Travel to Rugby in Brisbane, seated on garden seats, on the back of an Austin Truck, the boxing tournament, the taxi from Gatton with the beverage delivery, a very different world. The Laidley and the Grove dance nights, Maurie's bagpipes, Sgt Major Weiss, C Company Gatton College (F Troop), shooting rabbits from Riddell verandah, Fun remembering.

Good to see Graham Elphinstone, Russ Peterson, Ed Holmes, Deon Denalis, Al Henderson, Mike Luxmore, the Bills Menzies & Edwards. We may have been in trouble for a doctor, but it wouldn't be the first student to be treated by a vet, there were oodles of them.

Well, Well there is Ray McNamara our old footy coach, Bill Logan, Bob "Sunbeam" Talbot a cricketing mate and Stan Petherick, "trust in god and grow Lucerne", Frank Natoli, assisted me in gathering the list of 62, all staff members of the period.

Sunday morning, gee this sun is bright in Queensland, and "What time did you get to bed?" and "Where's brekky Doc". "God those old blokes can drink, do you think all their stories are ridgy didge?" "They had a better time here than we did".

"See yah doc, when are we doing this again?," "Soon I hope." Orrright as soon as I get over this one, in about 5 years, see yah". So many good wishes and apologies were received; we'll all be here next time. And the stories will be bigger and better by then.

Terry Doc Orman (QDAH 1962)

BRIAN GRANT MAKING A SLOW RECOVERY

Brian Grant, formerly Registrar at UQ Gatton, is making a slow recovery from cancer surgery. Unfortunately, Brian has been too sick to start chemotherapy, mainly because he has not been inclined to eat.

Our thoughts are with Brian, his wife Margaret and family during this trying time.

UQ GATTON SCHOLARSHIP FUND NOW A GREATER NEED

BY MAL FERGUSON

The recent 25% fee increase passed by UQ Senate reinforces the need for the UQ Gatton Scholarship Fund.

Current HECS fees for UQ Gatton are \$5,367 per year because Agriculture is in the second band of the fee structure. This means that the cost increase per annum per student will be \$1,340.

There are no winners in the current situation. Universities that fail to pass on the full increase allowed by the Federal Government are well aware of the effect that fee rises have on enrolments. However, Federal funding to universities, in real terms, has been decreasing for many years. Due to the fee increases and the fact that part time or casual employment is not readily available near UQ Gatton, the opportunity to study at Gatton has become more difficult.

The UQ Gatton Scholarship Fund was launched in a direct mail out late in

2003. Entitled "Take a seat, share our Table", the campaign aims to raise \$250,000 that will be invested and the returns used to provide Scholarships for current students.

While the opportunity to purchase the naming rights for the recently upgraded wooden furniture in the dining hall was the high profile activity of the campaign, all donations, no matter what size, will assist current and future students. A \$250,000 fund would provide two full scholarships per year.

With over 10,000 past students from UQ Gatton & Queensland Agricultural College, the fund could meet its target with a donation of as little as \$25 from each past student. The sale of the naming rights to 400 chairs at \$250, and 54 tables at \$1,000 would add the cream to the Scholarship Fund.

The importance of the concept and the support of the University to the Scholarship Fund has been demonstrated through two recent actions. The Scholarship Fund was included as part of the annual Chancellors Appeal, helping to raise the appeal to over \$20,000, and a recent audit of University finances discovered money from old College Prizes funds that have not been used for several years. UQ has committed these funds to the new UQ Gatton Scholarship Fund. The total amount from this source has not yet been clearly determined but could be over \$50,000.

All donations are fully tax deductible. Anyone wishing to donate to the Fund should contact Heidi Farrow at The University of Queensland Development Office on (07) 3346 3925 or by email hfarrow@uq.edu.au.



DOUG CRELLIN
27 October 1914 –
31 March 2004

Past students of the College will be saddened to hear of the passing of Doug Crellin, one of the icons of Gatton College for many generations of students. A service of thanksgiving for Doug's life was held at the Mansfield Uniting Church on 7th April 2004, attended by past students and ex-staff from the College.

Doug Crellin was born and spent his early years in the Wynnum area, one of five children born to parents Tom and Alice Crellin who were migrants from the Isle of Man. At the age of 15 years his father died, and young Douglas accepted the responsibility of providing for the family. At a very young age, Doug was accepted as a teacher,

finished his high school and undertook part-time university study towards his Bachelor of Arts degree. Doug and Heather (Hooper) were married in April 1944 and made their home at Laidley.

Doug had been transferred to the College, then the Queensland Agricultural High School and College, following the departure of the U.S. forces, to help re-establish it as an agricultural college. Doug cycled each day from Laidley to the College on an unsealed road, until he and Heather moved to live on the campus, first a house near the Sheep and Wool Section and later to the house near the swimming pool. He remained at the College until he retired in 1975. During his time at the College, four daughters were born to Doug and Heather – Margaret, Janet, Elizabeth, and Joanna.

Those past students who knew Doug Crellin, or "Crow" as he was affectionately nick-named (a name he was proud of, and said to come from his teaching of 'arcs' in maths), will remember him as a dedicated teacher, a man of complete integrity, a man of the highest personal and professional standards, and who expected the same standards from his students.

They will remember him as an essentially modest and scholarly man, yet one who challenged them to higher levels of

achievement, and took pride in their development as self-confident and considerate young men. They will remember him as a just but fair disciplinarian and as an important part of 'the College experience' which they look back on with such warmth and pleasure.

In retirement, Doug and Heather (who pre-deceased him) lived at Rochedale in Brisbane. He was an active golfer, active family man and a regular attendee at past student reunions; he took a great deal of pleasure in the accomplishments of his students and in their company and their recollections. Someone (unknown) once said that we are all as individuals the sum total of those we have met in our lives; if this is true, there are many past students of Gatton College who are the better for 'Crow' Crellin's influence on their lives.

Rod Jensen

Editors Note:

Past students wishing to contribute to the UQ Gatton Scholarship Fund to establish a table in memory of Doug Crellin, are urged to contact Heidi Farrow at the UQ Development Office on (07) 3346 3925 or by email hfarrow@uq.edu.au.

NEW SHELTON HALL UPGRADE

The construction for a full refurbishment of Shelton Hall has started. It is anticipated the project will cost about \$1.75 million.

Shelton A will be refurbished with 16 bed-sit rooms (i.e. double rooms) and 14 single rooms. There will be 2 additional ablution rooms in Shelton A, and each bedroom will have reverse cycle airconditioning.

In the first instance, it is proposed that Shelton A be used as a year-round accommodation facility for conferences and residential schools and other short stay visitors.

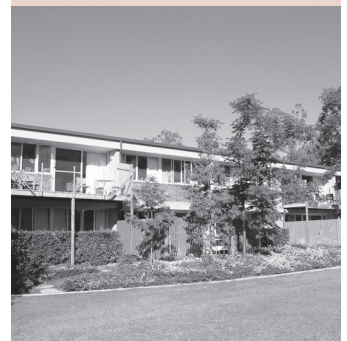
Recently, the Campus Conference Unit has been established within the Halls of Residence administration, and with it comes the control of the campus motel.

Coupled with the 30 new beds in Shelton A, excellent accommodation facilities on campus for up to 50 guests will be available.

Shelton B and C are to be refurbished to provide accommodation for senior and post-graduate residents. Budget constraints did not allow for the proposed idea of building small clusters of 4 or 5 bed "units" in B and C.

However, we have still managed to retain the "micro-community" idea, with each group of 10 bedrooms having access to a common lounge area.

All rooms will have voice and data access. It is hoped that construction will be completed well in time for the start of the 2005 academic year.



Thynne Hall after the refurbishment in 2001. Now it is Shelton Hall's turn...

"Year-round accommodation facility for conferences and residential school to be completed in 2005."

NEW AQUATIC PRECINCT ON CAMPUS

A Report Provided by UQ Sport

UQ SPORT will forge ahead with its commitment to a new aquatic precinct at UQ Gatton despite unsuccessfully lobbying for additional funds from the University's Space Planning and Management Committee. This application was for extra-ordinary funds outside the \$300,000 already allocated towards sporting infrastructure.

The UQ Gatton Campus Manager and UQ SPORT reaffirmed a joint commitment to raise necessary funds for the project after a \$660,000 funding submission was turned down.

Director for UQ SPORT Kim Guerin said the refurbishment of the War Memorial Swimming Pool at Gatton campus is a high priority.

"The Gatton Strategic Plan for sport and recreation, developed after an extensive consultation phase throughout 2003, highlights the importance of refurbishing this facility," Ms Guerin said.

"It is vital to provide for a sporting and social hub for the university community at Gatton. Plans will include two heated water spaces and the relocation of the fitness centre to create a major sports precinct on the campus.

"We believe that the sports precinct concept will ensure we can provide the best sport and recreation opportunities for UQ Gatton.

Ms Guerin said the importance of the project is widely recognised and has achieved 46% of the funding target following the recent commitment from groups within the university community at Gatton.

The total funding required for this vision is \$895,000 and UQ SPORT together with the Campus Manager have identified a range of external stakeholder groups and funding programs to approach in the quest for the \$240,000 shortfall.



Kim Guerin,
Director UQ Sport

New Aquatic Precinct on Gatton Campus:

For more information or to support the project contact Kim Guerin on (07) 3365 6024 or email king@uqsport.uq.edu.au

EMILY MARTIN – A REAL RURAL YOUNG ACHIEVER



Emily Martin, proprietor of AgriGate Networkx.

“My experience has taught me that communication is the enabler of positive outcomes, whether in a value chain, team or family context”.

Emily's Achievements

- Highest aggregate – UQ Gatton Rural Management degree.
- Queensland International Business Bursary – Department of Economic Development and Trade.
- Outstanding Woman of the Year studying in a Non-Traditional Area – Swinburne University of Technology, National Centre for Women.
- Young Achiever Award – Queensland Primary Industries Week Awards.

How does working as a ship stockman lead someone to develop AgriGate Networkx, a facilitation and communication business working with value chains, producer groups, associations and farming families?

Easily, if you're Emily Martin, (BAppSc – Rural Management Hons I, 1996), proprietor of AgriGate Networkx, and winner of the 2003 Telstra Countrywide Young Achiever Award – Agribusiness Category. “The common thread running through my career so far has been the value chain concept. This interest began at Gatton where I focused on the domestic beef and live cattle export supply chains”, Emily said.

“My fourth year Study Project examined the Philippine beef supply chain, and included travelling to the Philippines as ship stockman in order to follow cattle down the chain into feedlots, slaughter houses and wet markets”.

During her 6 month Industrial Placement with the QDPI, (an integral part of the Rural Management degree), Emily developed a 3 day educational tour for cattle producers along the Woolworths and Sizzler supply chains from breeding operations, through the backgrounders, feedlots, abattoirs and into retail stores and restaurants.

After graduating, Emily was employed as Operations Manager with a live exporting company based in Cairns.

“The Indonesian currency crisis caused me to make a significant career change to

the horticultural industry where I became Supply Chain Manager for a large horticultural farm at St George”, she said.

In April 2002, Emily made her third change, developing AgriGate Networkx. “My experience has taught me that communication is the enabler of positive outcomes, whether in a value chain, team or family context”.

Statistics show that we can expect to change careers at least three 3 times during our lifetimes. At the age of 30, Emily Martin has already reached 3 with a considerable breadth and depth of experience behind her.

“I have observed and experienced much frustration and grief in rural industry during my career which is a direct result of poor communication”, she said.

“I now work with my clients to facilitate meaningful communication, effective and inclusive decision making resulting in high performing value chains, groups and families.”

Emily has completed several facilitation and communications courses. She combines this with her own personal style which consists of passion for her work, empathy with producers, transparency in communication and accountability for outcomes through a structured framework. Proficient teleconferencing skills are vital as she facilitates several value chains which are spread across Australia.

“Technology for remote communications is improving although cost and reliability is still an issue for regional Australia”.



Emily at work in her office at Networkx.

NEW STAFF APPOINTMENTS AT THE GATTON CAMPUS



Janelle Zahmel
NRAVS Faculty Executive Officer
and Gatton Campus Manager

The Faculty of NRAVS and UQ Gatton welcomes **Janelle Zahmel** to the position of NRAVS Faculty Executive Officer and Gatton Campus Manager.

Janelle took up her appointment on Thursday 8 April. Janelle has a Bachelor of Business and a Master of Education from QUT and has extensive experience in University management and administration.

Janelle was the Faculty Manager in the Faculty of Art and Design at Monash University where she was employed since 2001. Prior to her role at Monash University, Janelle was employed at QUT for thirteen years where her appointments included; Project Manager in the Department of Planning and Resources for two years and Faculty Administration Manager in the Faculty of Education for eight years.



Brad Henderson
NRAVS Marketing Co-ordinator

The Faculty of NRAVS and UQ Gatton welcomes **Brad Henderson** to the position of NRAVS and UQ Gatton Marketing Co-ordinator.

Brad took up his appointment on Monday 19 April. Brad's experience includes five years as a media and policy adviser to the Leader of the Queensland Opposition, two years as a policy adviser to the Queensland Minister for Primary Industries and two years as a Research Officer with the Cattleman's Union of Australia.

Brad is a graduate of the Gatton Campus and possesses a Bachelor of Applied Science in Rural Management.



Daryl Joyce
Head, Centre for Native Floriculture

Professor Daryl Joyce has taken up a key post as inaugural head of the Centre for Native Floriculture.

Daryl Joyce completed horticulture certificates and degrees at Gatton, a masters at Adelaide University and returned to UQ St Lucia to complete his PhD.

Professor Joyce has worked in California, the UK and Western Australia, specialising in post-harvest treatment and cool-chain management. His research interests include conservation and biology of native Australian plants, development of horticultural crops for Australia and postharvest biology, pathology and technology of horticultural crops.

The Centre for Native Floriculture will focus on three areas – floriculture production and handling research, value chain management and marketing, and capacity building through education and training.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

WANTED

Active members of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association wishing to start new branches. Contact Mal Ferguson for more details and assistance.

Mackay

Twenty-two members and guests attended the 56th annual reunion of the Mackay Branch GCPSA held at Western Suburbs Leagues Club, Walkerston, on 11th March 2004.

The President, Colin Story, welcomed members and guests and introduced Professor Wayne Bryden as guest speaker for the night.

In his annual report, Col Story outlined the visit to College for the "Back to College Weekend" which he and secretary Peter Amiet attended.

He also informed members of the name change of the association and the scholarship appeal. A short video from President Mal Ferguson was shown. The problem of attracting new members was discussed.

Professor Wayne Bryden, Head of the School of Animal Studies, spoke on the recent developments and future plans for UQ Gatton. A lively question and answer period followed Prof. Bryden's talk, indicating a continuing keen interest by members.

Gold Coast

The Gold Coast branch of the Past Students Association held its six monthly meeting at Jupiters Casino on Saturday 21 February, 2004. We had 35 attending and it was pleasing to see 13 new faces in the gathering including Bob Macarthur, Don Baumber, Graham Baumber, Jeff Finch, Greg Jolly and Morris Lake. Patron Stan said grace and President Mal gave an update on the Association with its name change and the proposed activities for this year and beyond. The next Reunion Lunch will be held at Food Fantasy, Jupiters Casino on Saturday 7 August 2004. All interested can phone or fax Peter Douglas, (07) 5546 6350 for more information.

Warwick

Andrew Douglas, President of the Warwick branch, was selected to represent Australia in the over 40 touch football team in the recent Pacific Championships. They were defeated by New Zealand (just 1 point) in the final.

Editors Note:

Congratulations Andrew, just goes to show that our Past Students are not just intelligent.



Kylie Young

KYLIE YOUNG

15 December 1966 – 15 June 2003

Kylie commenced her tertiary education at QAC Gatton in 1986. With an AD Farm Management Horticulture and finishing with an AD Farm Management Apiculture in 1989, Kylie then joined the QDPI in Walkamin, Atherton Tablelands, working on coffee nutrition trials. When Kylie's contract with Walkamin concluded she headed west to work on dates in Alice Springs, then back to QDPI where she became an inspector and prosecutor for the Animal and Plant Service. This job took Kylie far afield working her way around from Atherton Tablelands to Proserpine in the south, collecting samples for RDL and auditing

growers and companies. Having gained a reputation for following the book, Kylie was invited to apply for an opening at the NRA, now known as Australia Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority, commencing in January 2003. It was a highly motivated, intense career cut dramatically short due to illness. Kylie took many things in life seriously, including her work and friendships. During her time at College, Kylie would volunteer her holidays for Camp Quality. While in Townsville she worked for "The Neptune Club" which supports the disabled. Kylie's love of people and the environment made for a wonderful person.

From Lisa Litxhauer (nee Klukas)

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN 2004

JIM MADDEN

Jim Madden completed a degree in horticulture at Gatton in 1983.

He worked as an agronomist in England and Israel before returning to the College in 1987 to undertake a graduate diploma in plant protection. After completing his studies, Jim worked as a weeds agronomist with Savco in Ipswich.

In 1990, Jim took up a position as an articled law clerk in Ipswich and began studying law. He was admitted as a solicitor in 1994 and while he has worked mainly in Ipswich, until recently he worked in the Agribusiness division of the Brisbane law firm Carter Newell.

Jim has written a research paper on the subject of bushland invasive weeds and has also written various articles dealing with legal matters of interest to primary producers.

RODNEY DALTON

Rod graduated with a BAppSci (Hort) in 1973 and joined the staff at QAC lecturing in Plant Breeding and Genetics and leading the maize breeding program. He conducted the research for a Masters degree through UQ which was never submitted.

Rod joined Cargill Seeds in 1981 as a sorghum /maize breeder and became Research Manager. He was made redundant in 1988 when Cargill sold the business and has been growing avocados and stone fruit at Grantham ever since. He has been involved in horticultural industry leadership particularly in the avocado industry.

PETER DOUGLAS

Peter Douglas graduated with a QDAH in 1958.

In January the following year he was appointed to the Instructional Staff, Animal Husbandry, at QAHS&C. He remained at the College until January 1971 when he took up a similar position at the Emerald Pastoral College prior to its opening. He revived interest in Polocrosse in the Emerald district forming a Polocrosse Club at the College.

In May 1973 he relocated to Brisbane as manager of Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary where he remained until September 1987 when he accepted the position to establish and manage Koala Country at Dreamworld on the Gold Coast where he now lives.

He retired in August 1992 and spent the next four years as volunteer with Fusion Australia teaching rural skills to disadvantaged young people. He tutors for the Australian Correspondence School in his spare time.

He holds the position of Chairman of the School Council of the Coomera State Primary School.

He and wife Diana have two sons. Andrew (ADAH.QAC.1981) is an experimentalist in Sorghum Physiology at the Hermitage Research Station, Warwick. Robert is owner/operator of Bonorong Park Wildlife Centre outside of Hobart, Tasmania.

CHRISTINE COOPER

Christine Cooper graduated with a Bachelor Applied Science (Rural Technology), Queensland Agricultural College, Gatton in 1984. She then went on to gain a Graduate Diploma in Teaching, McAuley College and a Bachelor of Education, Queensland University of Technology

She commenced her teaching career at St Laurence's College, South Brisbane moving on to teach science and mathematics at Shalom Catholic College, Bundaberg. It was during this time that Christine was elected as President of QATIS (now known as Queensland Independent Education Union) for the period of 1994 –1995.

Christine is currently employed full-time as a Union organiser/trainer for the Queensland Independent Education Union where she assists union members in dispute resolutions and Enterprise Bargaining negotiations. Christine has developed and delivered training workshops in a variety of subjects such as negotiation skills, prevention of bullying and harassment, conflict resolution and classification structures.

Christine is a Director of the Teachers Union Health fund and is involved with UNIFEM, APHEDA and Women in Management Network. She has also had involvement with the East Timorese community.

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THE PERSPECTIVE OF A GRADUATE'S VIEW

THE 2003 VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS

Well now its time for my address,
and I truly hope I've done my best,
To convey to you, the perspective
of a graduate's view.

Here we all sit adorned in robes,
but what is there if you strip
off these clothes?

A committed person who has a
goal at heart, to complete their studies
and play their part,

In the stage production that is life,
a house – a car – husband? – wife?
But before we focus too far down
the track, lets take the time
to rewind it back.

The first few days when we all
entered uni, I don't know about you
but I felt small and puny,
It was like a great big pond and
I had no webbed feet,
surely I was going to be dead-meat.

Once I'd quickly settled in,
I found uni was quite my thing,
Heaps of friends and lots of fun,
plus nine messages on my phone
saying
"Please ring MUM!"

However, to maintain the grade,
you can't just lean there on your spade,
There were all those books and
all that studying, balanced out
by local Pubbying.

And when exams where on and
everyone felt the same, the stress was
high and we were far from tame.

That's when we all as friends,
go to extra special ends,
To lift each other and feel good,
like friends do, just like they should.
Because without our mates, we would
all be subject to different fates.

Our studies have brought a restructure
of body and mind, and it has come in
the form of a different kind,

Our peers and pals,
great guys – great gals,
Have been with us right from the start,
they've been the horses
that pulled our cart.

So before we push each other to
'keep studying' or 'get a job',
we deserve the recognition of our
intellectual slog,
And today is the day that
this should be displayed.

Now we've grown through another
stage, it's time to turn to the next page,
A new beginning after an end,
don't hang around or
you'll miss the trend,

Try and discover your passion, and
express it in your own fashion,
Because UQG graduates stand out
from the crowd, so now you're
successful make sure you stay proud.

So when you leave here – a graduate
today, make sure you say:
Thankyou to you, and Thankyou to me
Thankyou UQG
From a graduate of 2003.

By Stuart Irvine-Brown

See you all at the
UQ Gatton Open Day on Sunday, 22 August, 9.30 am to 3 pm.