



UQ Gatton  
Past Students  
Association Inc



Queensland  
Agricultural  
College



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA

# Re-Connect

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UQ Gatton Past Students  
Association Inc.  
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## STOP PRESS

UQ Gatton seeks external funding for pool redevelopment. A committee including a UQGPSA member has been established to source external funding to redevelop the swimming pool complex, which will remain closed until it is upgraded. See next issue of Re-Connect.

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## REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE AND 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN ARMY WITHDRAWAL FROM CAMPUS

Approximately 200 visitors, staff and students attended the UQ Gatton Remembrance Day ceremony that also celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the withdrawal of the American Army hospitals from the campus.

The service, held in front of the southern flagpole adjacent to the Foundation Building, was attended by representatives of current and retired Australian servicemen, the American Legion, past and present staff, past and present students and local students from Lockyer District High School. At the conclusion of the service, Professor Margaret Gardner, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), UQ St Lucia,



Part of the crowd that attended Gatton Remembrance Day Service, held in front of the southern flagpole.

Professor Roger Swift, Executive Dean of the NRAVS Faculty, Group Captain Dr David Emonson, Centre for Military and Veterans' Affairs, and Commander John O'Neill, representing the American Legion Post 03 Brisbane planted a descendant seedling of the original Lone Pine.

In his Remembrance Day address, Retired Brigadier Peter Rule AM, RFD reminded all attendees of the significance of the symbolism that is used during the service. Symbols such as the silence, The Last Post and The Rouse and the tomb of the Unknown Soldier have withstood the tests of time, being first used in 1919. Brigadier Rule reminded the crowd that the Great War was meant to end all wars and asked all present to reflect on the contributions of all servicemen and women in areas of current conflict.



(From left:) David Emonson, Margaret Gardner, John O'Neill and Roger Swift at the site of the planting of the Lone Pine and memorial cairn.

(continued on page 3)

## THE LAST WORD

by Craig Tunley

That time of the year again when a new crop of past students rolls out the door and steps in to that big wide world known as the workforce. Many of you will remember the experience, you either had the first job all sewn up or it was first stop newsagents for a Saturday paper and a new pencil. In my experience, I didn't just get one paper, I bought shares in News Limited.

While I knew that the Past Students existed, who could you talk to to get the answers to the questions you didn't even know you were supposed to ask?

**Mentoring!** I have often stated that the best asset of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association is the people. Almost 10,000+ graduates, 110 years of history and work in a whole range of fields. So how do you take advantage? Well, my advice is go outback, get active and adapt. The icing should be a close handy Past Students branch that you can get involved in or attend the 'Back to College' Weekend. You never know what doors are open to a Gatton graduate!



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**Mal Ferguson**  
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It is with regret that I give my last President's report to Re-Connect. I have been very fortunate to work with strong Executive Committees over the last four years and I thank all who have served. Please understand, it is my work commitments that do not allow me to continue. I will stand for election to the Executive at the AGM.

What has been achieved in the past is not of any great concern, provided that we continue to do it better each time. I believe Re-Connect is the perfect example of this. Craig Tunley has done an excellent job as Editor and I hope that he will continue in that role in the future. However, I ask that you all support him by contributing information that can be made into interesting articles for all to read.

What is yet to be achieved is what really concerns me. The Scholarship Fund is the activity that will receive my efforts in the future. I believe that it is becoming more difficult for students to fund themselves in tertiary education. As one who benefited from a Scholarship during my days as a student, I know that anything we do as a group will be greatly appreciated by those who receive a benefit.

The lack of student mentoring, particularly for final year students, is the greatest waste in providing students with real work life experience. There is a wealth of experience that these students could benefit from if only there was a mechanism in place that allowed youthful exuberance to be matched with

wily experience. I look forward to the day when this comes about.

Branch development has to be the lifeblood of the Association. If each major city had a branch that held one or two simple activities per year that allowed recent graduates to more easily settle into a new location, it would soon be sent back to current students the value of belonging to the past students association. I look forward to hearing from people in major cities who are prepared to see branch development become a reality in their location.

What would make this a more complete association is a closer working relationship with the current student body. Hopefully, in the New Year, there will be an Executive member who will work near the campus. This will address the issue and contribute to a more meaningful dialogue between the two organizations.

Our War Memorial Swimming Pool can not be currently used because of plumbing problems that prevent the water quality being maintained. The replacement structure is an exciting development but it will always be a War Memorial area. There will be more on this in the next issue of Re-Connect.

I would like to thank all those who have assisted in the revitalizing of the Association in the past few years. While I have mentioned Executive members, I now acknowledge present and past Campus staff who have contributed. Janelle Zahmel, Brad Henderson, their predecessors and their staff have all made significant contributions. Professor Roger Swift has also contributed in many ways.

Finally, I hope that you all enjoyed this year's Back to College weekend. Hopefully all travelled safely so that you returned home to celebrate a Happy Christmas and a rewarding New Year with all of your family and friends.

(continued from front page article:)

Group Captain Dr David Emonson told the story of the 153<sup>rd</sup> and 105<sup>th</sup> US army hospitals at Gatton.

In speaking of the conditions under which the Americans arrived in Australia, Dr Emonson told of the hospital staff camping out in Melbourne in June and then travelling to Gatton by rail, requiring the loads to be unloaded and reloaded at each state border because of different rail gauges.

However, the ties between the medical schools of Harvard and UQ, which started during the war, have continued into recent times.

Commander John O'Neill, American Legion, provided an American perspective to the story of the military hospitals at Gatton. He also reminded all present of the huge benefits that citizens of both Australia and America now enjoy because of the sacrifices of others and asked "Have you thanked a Veteran today?"

The day finished with a lone piper playing The Lament and light refreshments in the Foundation Building. A highlight of the materials on display in the Foundation Building was original footage recorded by Lt Col Marshall, CO and Chief Surgeon of the 153<sup>rd</sup> Field Hospital during the time the campus was occupied by the US Army hospital. Unfortunately, his son, Dr David Marshall, who had visited Gatton campus previously, was unable to attend the service due to ill health.

*'.. hospital staff travelled to Gatton by rail from Melbourne, requiring the loads to be unloaded and reloaded at each state border because of different rail gauges.'*



(From left:) Stan Petherick (Patron UQGPSA), Mal Ferguson, Agnes Petherick and Ray McNamara (both UQGPSA Honorary Life members) and Ken Jackson (Staff and 1971 graduate) on the Foundation Building verandah after the Remembrance Day Service.

## HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

### UQ GATTON PAST STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

In coming issues, Re-Connect will feature the Honorary Life Members of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association. If you wish to contribute a short story, a memory or a quote from any of our life members, please send it by email to [craigt@flinders.qld.gov.au](mailto:craigt@flinders.qld.gov.au) or alternatively to Craig Tunley, 10 Abbott Street, Hughenden. Let's celebrate the contribution that these great people have made or celebrate the lives they led. They deserve it!

#### **Year unknown**

Hugh Courtney

#### **1952**

W Stuart Conachie

#### **1953**

CJ McDermott

#### **1981**

Stanley Vincent Petherick  
E Peter S Roberts

#### **1983**

Raymond John McNamara

#### **1984**

Edward Douglas Crellin

#### **1987**

Owen Joseph Cusack

#### **1988**

Hattie Briton  
Elton Owen Burns  
Thomas Malcolm Morrison  
John Reuter  
Percival James Skerman  
Andrew Donald Taylor

#### **1989**

Thomas Winston Gavin Graham  
Austin Hegarty  
Barry Kerven

#### **1990**

William George Robertson

#### **1991**

Mary Norris (Arndt)  
Mary Louisa Staatz (Quinn, Zischke)

#### **1994**

Agnes Fraser Petherick

#### **1997**

Alan George Brimblecombe  
Raymond Sidney Montgomery  
Kevin John Saxby

#### **2002**

Robert James Hampson  
James Ross Murray

#### **2004**

Rodney Charles Jensen  
Colin George Story

There may be further names to be added to this list as we identify other Honorary Life members from the past.



# SCHOLARSHIP FUND TREASURES PAST STUDENTS IN LIVING MEMORY

Eight deceased past students could have their contributions to campus life remembered by having some of the new Dining Hall furniture named after them according to Association President, Mal Ferguson.



The new furniture in the Dining Hall depicting a plaque on a chair that has been named after a past student or sponsor.



*“UQ has a requirement that the families of the deceased have to be approached and respond with written permission to conduct an appeal”*

“Chris Jacobsen (the first College Medal recipient in the degree era), Eric Joyce, Jim Diamond, Steve Everingham, Russ Evans, Anne Bennett, Gary Lubach and John Lancini could all be remembered this way” Mal said. “It now depends on the responses of family representatives and the classmates who asked that these individuals be remembered in this way.”

The concept was first proposed just after the launch of the Appeal. At the following Back to College Weekend in 2003, individuals approached Mal to see if it was possible to arrange appeals to remember these people and their contributions to the community life of the campus. The approach to UQ unearthed additional requirements that had to be satisfied before such appeals could be launched.

“UQ has a requirement that the families of the deceased have to be approached and respond with written permission of the appeal” Mal said. “This has not been

an easy task because locating living relatives some 20 to 30 years following graduation is very difficult” he said. “Of the ones listed above, Chris and Eric were the most difficult as they both only have one living brother. Chris also has children but his daughter’s location only became known when Chris’ brother was located”.

Fellow classmates will be asked to contribute to the Scholarship Fund in a letter sent out following approval of the appeal from relatives. These donations will be tax deductible to the individual donating. All of these donations will be included in the Register of Donors to be kept in the Dining Hall.

“The furniture will be called, for example, *The Chris Jacobsen Memorial Table* and will recognize that it was donated by his classmates” Mal explained. “However, some family members have asked if they could contribute and where this is done, the plaque on the furniture will acknowledge the efforts of the family as well as the classmates”.

“The plaques have been placed on the furniture for the donations received at the launch of the Scholarship Fund. Of the 54 tables and 400 chairs available in the scheme, nearly 20% of the tables and 10% of the chairs have been claimed. During the next calendar year, the appeal will be extended to past and current staff as well as corporate sponsors”.

Anyone wishing to organize a year group to arrange a similar gesture in memory of a deceased classmate should contact Mal Ferguson. It would be most helpful if the names and addresses of the relatives of the deceased could be included as this will make the whole process much quicker.

# NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

## GOLD COAST

The Gold Coast branch of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association held its second get together for 2004 on August 7. Twenty-seven gathered to socialise over lunch, including the Association's Patron, Stan Petherick, and Past President Rod Jensen and his wife Enid.

Due to a late scratching, the August lunch did not feature a guest speaker, allowing time for a decent chat. A few new faces were welcomed into the mix, with many of the regulars enjoying the camaraderie that similar experiences bring.

The next event will be held on 12 February 2005. Gold Coast Reunion Lunches are only \$20/head and all past students are welcome to attend. For more information, phone or fax Peter Douglas on (07) 5546 6350.

## OUTBACK QUEENSLAND

I don't know about anyone else, but I am an Outback convert, choosing to live and work in the rural areas of Queensland in my chosen field. I am sure there are a few more like me out there who would like to get together every now and then. I would be interested in starting an Outback branch of the Past Students Association, hosting two events per year, one in the south and one in the north.

You can contact me, Craig Tunley, through my email (see page 8) or phone (07) 4741 1885.

If you are interested in attending and/or have some ideas as to where and when we could hold such an event, contact me. I live in Hughenden, so obviously will get actively involved in a northern get-together, but encourage those in the south to send your ideas.

## NEW BRANCHES

Are you a past student living in **Townsville, Rockhampton, Sunshine Coast or Brisbane?** You are!! Do you know other Past Students who live in your vicinity? You do!!! Well, get together, have lunch (or just coffee for that matter) and start a branch of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association. Expand your professional contacts, share your Gatton experiences and socialise with friends. To help establish a branch, just contact a member of the Executive Committee.

## UQ GATTON HERITAGE TRAIL

At the UQ Gatton Open Day in August, Vice Chancellor John Hay officially opened the Heritage Trail by unveiling the display board outside the Foundation Building. The Trail was a project commissioned and funded through the UQ Gatton Heritage Management Committee. Gatton Honours student Bruce Thompson collected much of the data for the 21 interpretive displays by interviewing many past students and staff and using the resources of the Past Student Association Museum. Bruce has not simply given historical data but has woven into the technical aspects of the history, some of the stories that ender the structures to past students. The story of the footprints coming "down the water tower" is recorded as well as the history of the structure.

The heritage tour engages staff, students and visitors alike in a celebration of the history of Gatton Campus.

A book entitled "The Stories So Far" (Author Bruce Thompson) has also been produced to accompany the heritage tour. It provides a fascinating account of the Gatton campus' 107-year history as well as detailing the final resting place of some parts of the Campus like the "warrens at Helidon".

Copies of the book can be obtained by contacting Chris Ablett (07) 5460 1279 or email [cablett@uq.edu.au](mailto:cablett@uq.edu.au)



(From left:) Prof Roger Swift, Prof John Hay, Bruce Thompson and Mal Ferguson at the opening of the Heritage Trail.

# UQ GATTON STUDENTS MARKET AUSSIE EXPORTS TO THE WORLD



Pictured outside Shanghai University are (from left): Associate Professor Ray Collins, students Nellie Shannon, David Woodhouse and Dr Tim Sun.

Final year Agribusiness students from The University of Queensland's Gatton Campus have returned from Asia and the Middle East investigating new export opportunities for Australian products.

In 2004, commercial clients enlisted teams of 4-5 students to research markets for fruit and vegetables in Vietnam and Dubai, grevillea flowers in Japan and Australian beef in China. Two other teams assessed the success of one of the Supermarket to Asia projects in Singapore and Thailand for the Federal Government.

Agribusiness program coordinator, Associate Professor Ray Collins, said no other university in Australia offered such a commercial experience as part of a business degree program.



Nellie Shannon and Greg MacDonald interview consumers at a wet market in Xi'an, China, as part of their research.

"These are exciting market opportunities which our clients have real expectations of capturing and given these projects are also a major part of the students' final year assessment, there's a lot riding on them," Associate Professor Collins said.

"I am travelling to China with a group engaged by Meat and Livestock Australia to conduct research on consumer attitudes towards Aussie beef in light of China's recent admission to the World Trade Organisation.

"Since this project started, our Agribusiness students have undertaken market research for nearly 50 agribusinesses in 16 countries, and some clients have come back for further involvement up to four and five times. We know our students can perform to professional standards," Associate Professor Collins said.

**"We also know from surveys of those clients that almost one in two have done more business as a result of the work that students have done for them."**

## THE TIES HAVE ARRIVED!



UQ Gatton Past Students Association ties are now available, having arrived a month ahead of schedule. The ties feature alternating panels of Maroon with the old QAC coat of arms and Dark Blue with the UQ coat of arms (as at right).

For only \$30 plus \$3.50 postage and handling, order yours now!!

Check the website [www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents](http://www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents) under "Membership Fees" for merchandise.

Send payment to:

**UQ Gatton Past Students Association  
Box 717  
The University of Queensland  
Gatton Campus  
GATTON QLD 4343**

or phone (07) 5460 1724 or  
email with credit card details to:  
[gcpsa@uqg.uq.edu.au](mailto:gcpsa@uqg.uq.edu.au)

Ties will also be available for sale at upcoming events.



# MARY STAATZ CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF CAMPUS WORK

Honorary Life Member Mary Staatz, formerly Quinn, celebrated 40 years of service to students on 2 July 2004. A special morning tea was organized to celebrate the occasion.

Mary joined the then Queensland Agricultural College as a maid in the Number 2 Dining Hall. One of the few people to have worked longer than Mary in the Dining Hall, Elsie Raymont, was a cook in the Number 1 Dining Hall. By Easter 1965, both old dining halls were taken over by the current structure.

After 40 years, Mary still enjoys contact with students. "I mother them" Mary said. "They try to start out as tough guys, but once I start to talk to them, they soon appreciate me. It's great to come back to work after a few days off and be told that you have been missed".

In her time at College, Mary has had an impressive list of employers. Originally employed by the Department of Education, Mary transferred over to the College Council when Gatton became a CAE. Since then several contractors have been employed to provide the service including, Nationwide, Spotless, P&O and Eurest.

Asked about her plans for the future, Mary said she would continue to work at College "while I enjoy the students". Although recently married to Doug Staatz and contemplating retirement, Mary said that she will continue in her job for a while.



Tables set by the domestic staff in the new Dining Hall (ca 1960s).

The highlights of forty years? Mary listed the following people and events:

- *"John McCosker was a Junior Officer when I first started. I find it a bit strange to see John now compared to back in 1964. I must be getting old!"*
- *"Neil Briton was a serious man but always nice to serve in the staff area."*
- *"One night in Number 1 Dining Hall, staff were concerned because we could see a shoe box moving across the floor. It turned out some students had put a blue tongue lizard in the box."*
- *"The day they (students) put Dennis Maguire's green Mini Minor in the current Dining Hall, it caused a bit of a disturbance. They put it right up the front, straight below the area where staff dined."*
- *"When I served in the staff area, I found Bryan Grant enjoyed giving the staff a hard time and John Wadley seemed to enjoy finding something to complain about."*
- *"Of all the students that I met, the most memorable was Scrubber (Pat Devlin). He really enjoyed giving us hell and we enjoyed trying to get back at him."*
- *"Back in the days when students worked in the abattoir and the butchers shop, quite often sheep eyes would appear in the tapioca. I guess they really didn't enjoy being served tapioca."*



Mary Staatz at her 40-year of service celebration.

*"On behalf of the Association, congratulations to Mary and thanks for the interest that you have shown in so many lives for such an extended period."*

## UQ GATTON PAST STUDENTS ASSOCIATION INC

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Try our new quick link at:

[www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents](http://www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents)

# INDUSTRY LOSES LEGEND – BRIAN OXENFORD

## OBITUARY – By Pamela Deamer

His life was a testament to us all. From humble beginnings with grit and the determination to succeed, nothing was impossible. Brian Oxenford was born in Brisbane on March 16<sup>th</sup> 1930, younger son of Frank and Daisy.

He attended Coomera State School, Brisbane Boys College and Gatton College, much to his reluctance. While at Gatton College he represented the College 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket team. After College he returned to the family farm and his first job was a council grader driver. He then began share farming his mother's family dairy farm, Donaldton, at Oxenford.

He married Alva, a local girl, in 1952, aged 22 years. Brian continued dairying but took off-farm work as a mechanic and later as a car salesman at Peachey's garage, Ormeau. That background and experience, he always said, stood him in good stead for his later business dealings.

Brian and Alva bought Gambamora, the original Oxenford family dairy farm in 1956 but didn't move there until 1963, by which time they had four daughters. They continued dairying there until 1990. During that time, he was well known and respected within the dairy industry, with innovative ideas that were ahead of his time, becoming the highest milk producer in Queensland. While still dairying he decided to diversify off farm and purchased the Kirra Beach Hotel and Wellcamp Downs, a grains property on the Darling Downs.

The call to move further west began in 1983, when he bought Eurella Station. However, Brian and Alva did not move to Eurella until 1986. The subsequent sale of Gambamora, the dairy farm, enabled him to expand even further afield into north west Queensland and the Northern Territory, where his love for the beef cattle industry flourished. It was at this time that he found the necessity, because of distances involved, to look to the aviation industry, subsequently buying Five Star Aviation.

At the time of his death, "Western Grazing" Brian's trading name, had holdings of about 3 million hectares and was believed to have been one of the largest landholders in the country. The properties included Wave Hill, Magowra, Morstone, Oban, plus a large portfolio of properties in the Southwest Queensland area and recently Tanbar (\$50 million) and Rocklands (close to \$60 million).

One of the reasons for his success was the hands-on approach he always took. He never expected anyone to do anything he wasn't prepared to do himself. Brian was described by close friends as being an intensely private man who made a tremendous contribution to the Australian beef industry. "He did a lot for others that people would not know about." Brian is survived by his widow Alva and his four daughters Leigh, Pam, Lorae and Dale.

