

# ReConnect

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



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## STOP PRESS

Nominations close for:

**Gatton Gold Medal**

20 July 2018

**Distinguished Past Student Award**

30 September 2018

*See our website for full details*

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## *Gatton Gold Medallist celebrates a Fruitful Career*

A horticultural industry leader whose career has focussed on the export of high quality Australian fruit and vegetables and improved access to international markets was honoured with The University of Queensland's 2017 Gatton Gold Medal.

David Minnis OAM accepted the award at the graduation ceremony for the School of Agriculture and Food Sciences at UQ Gatton on Thursday, 7 December.

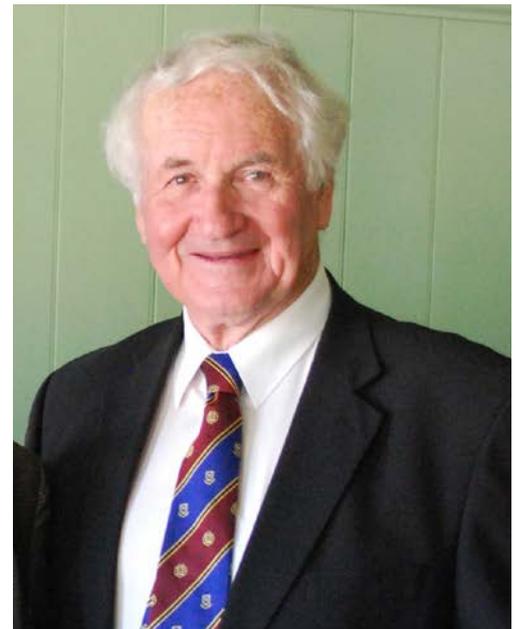
"We are delighted that in UQ Gatton's 120th year, David is recognised for his leadership in scientific post-harvest innovations and developing export markets for Australia," UQ Deputy Dean of Science and Associate Dean (Research) Professor Ian Gentle said.

David began his career in research and has built up a wealth of knowledge about quarantine, bio-security, market access and international trade. He has worked in the public and private sector and has provided technical and policy advice to both government and industry.

He earned a Diploma in Horticulture from the Queensland Agricultural College in 1963, and went on to obtain horticultural Bachelors and Masters degrees at Lincoln College, New Zealand.

He has held senior roles in Australian horticultural research and exporting organisations, including Austrade, the Australian Horticultural Exporters Association, the Australian Horticultural Research and Development Corporation.

In 1993, David established his own Australian export company, which now exports more than \$10 million worth of horticultural produce a year.



David Minnis OAM

He appreciated early that although farmers could grow excellent crops, better post-harvest technologies could extend product shelf life and improve profitability and export potential.

"My scientific background has been very helpful and much of my career has also centred on gaining Australian access to closed or restricted international horticultural markets," David said.

"It's important that Australia does export to improve profitability as we have a small population and would otherwise be in an oversupply situation."

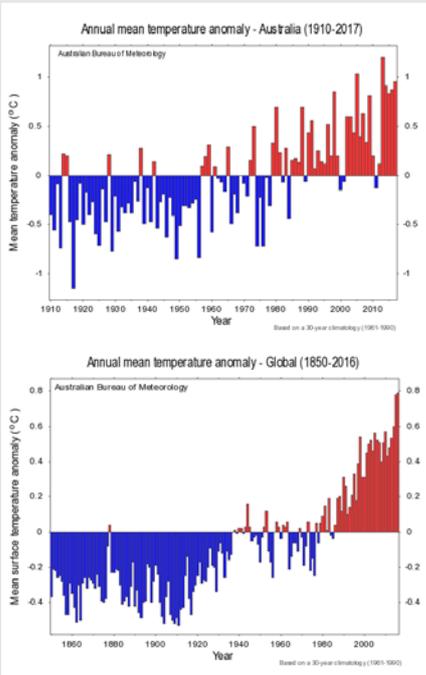
Mr Minnis's expertise and international standing in the field of horticulture has previously been recognised with an Order of Australia Medal, and with awards from the Australian Horticultural Exporters Association and Horticulture Australia.

Extracted from *UQ website*

## The Last Word

### Is the jury still out?

The following graphs report Australian (1909–2017) and global (1840–2017) anomalies in temperatures (deviations from the average).



(source: Bureau of Meteorology – <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/change/#tabs=Tracker&tracker=trend-maps&tQ=map%3Drain%26area%3Daus%26season%3D0112%26period%3D1970>)

Little wonder perhaps that in the 1970s some climatologists were concerned about global cooling and even a new ice age ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global\\_cooling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_cooling)). But the trend in temperature anomalies since the early 1980s has been all in one direction and relentlessly increasing – unlike the earlier cold anomalies, which were relatively consistent. Could the jury still possibly be considered ‘out’ in regard to global warming?

But more uncertain, of course, is the impact of this change. Happily, at last, after six years of drought in parts of western Queensland, welcome rain has arrived; but huge areas of the southern states and WA still suffer well-below-average precipitation. We can muse upon the cause, but probably not deny the need for changes to future agricultural and pastoral practices and business models.

Slade Lee

## President's Report



**Kim Jorgensen**  
President  
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Firstly thanks to the Committee and Museum Volunteers for their hard work in 2017, particularly at managing *Back to College Weekend (BTCW)*, our “record” event.

In 2018 we welcome three new members to the Committee: Doug English (see Doug’s introduction on our back page), Adrian O’Connor and Peter Ramsey. Gary Mason has also returned after a year away. Will be good to get their ideas on how we progress. Thanks to those members who have been emailing us with suggestions on “causes” to take up and improvements which could be made.

The weather was much more pleasant and a record crowd was what will be remembered from *BTCW 2017*. Not sure why so many graduates take so long to come back to the reunions... they tell me when they do attend that they should have come earlier they had such a wonderful time. Great feedback again which we are using to keep improving the weekends. A number of attendees noted the lack of time for chatting and catching up at the Reunion Dinner on the Saturday night. Unfortunately this is the time for the more formal part of the weekend. Friday night and Saturday provide plenty of time for chatting, so I encourage you and your year group to come early and enjoy the whole weekend. The 1967ers certainly got their act together and started on the Friday afternoon. Were they also the last ones to leave???

We got the chance to view the refurbished JK Murray Library at *BTCW*. The library staff were kind enough to give us tours and provide an air-conditioned space for us to relax. The museum volunteers and UQ Gatton staff are currently making plans for the development of a permanent display in the library of memorabilia related to JK Murray. In addition to this display UQ are now uploading photos from our collections to a digital platform called UQ eSpace. You can access this with the following link: [espace.library.uq.edu.au/collection/UQ:698676?rows=5&pager\\_row=27](http://espace.library.uq.edu.au/collection/UQ:698676?rows=5&pager_row=27)

Photos have been loaded from 1940s and 1950s to date as these are no longer under copyright restrictions.

Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast groups have got the Reunion calendar underway again this year. See the photos and commentary in this edition. Please also check out the dates for the next reunions – some are the regular ones but there are some new ones being organised (Canberra and Rockhampton). A reunion on the Downs later in the year has also been mooted.

We are again sponsoring a prize for the UQ Sunflower Competition. The competition is growing not just bigger sunflowers but expanding its reach each year. We see it as important to foster fun science to encourage as many young people as possible to follow a career in science.

Enjoy this edition of *Re-Connect* and see you at our 2018 events.



Year groups at *Back to College Weekend*

Above 1952; Opposite page top left 1957; top right 1967; middle left 1977; bottom 1987

# Back to College Weekend

The annual *Back to College Weekend* will be held from Friday 30 November to Sunday 2 December 2018. The feature years are those who completed their study at Gatton in 1958, 1968, 1978, 1988, 1998 and 2008. Other year groups returning are 1953, 1963 and 1973. All year groups are welcome. Please note the year groups are the year study was completed and not necessarily the year of graduation as

for several decades, graduation was around May of the following year.

There is always a shortage of double and single air-conditioned rooms, so if you would like to book a room, please advise us ASAP. There is no shortage of standard single rooms. Members are offered first choice of rooms. The Motel has two double beds in each room and these rooms are generally for people with special needs. The double

rooms in Shelton have one double bed.

The Friday night BBQ under the stars is proving very popular and is the ideal setting for a relaxing catch up with others from your year group. Saturday is the main day of the reunion with year group photos on the steps of the Foundation building in the late morning before lunch.



# *Distinguished Past Student Awards*



George's daughter Sela accepted the award on his behalf

The UQ Gatton Distinguished Past Student Award (DPSA) recognises the tremendous achievements of graduates of The University of Queensland Gatton Campus. Since the award's inception in 2010, some 20 past students have been awarded this honour.

## *Dr Siasoi (George) Moengangongo*

Dr Siasoi (George) Moengangongo is our first international student to receive the award.

George attended the former QAC from 1968–1971, graduating with a Fellowship Diploma in Rural Technology, later to become a B App Sc (Rural Tech) then continuing to UQ St Lucia to study Bachelor of Veterinary Science, becoming the first qualified veterinarian in the Kingdom of Tonga.

His tremendous contribution to agriculture and veterinarian science in his home country was outlined in 'Queensland Agricultural College – Class of '71 – an Inspiring Contribution', published in 2016 on the 45th anniversary of the class of '71, which stated:

'On returning to Tonga, George redeemed his sponsored time to the Government of Tonga by working at the Ministry of Agriculture from 1972–81 in various capacities such as Livestock Officer, Sectional Head and Senior Agricultural Officer.

He moved to the Pacific Institute of Rural Development, University of the South Pacific, at the Atele Campus, in 1981, starting as Deputy Director and in 1983 becoming the Director of the Institute.

During his career, he undertook various consultancies and prepared publications for bilateral and multilateral agencies.

He has served on the boards for the then Tonga Commodities Board, Tonga Development Bank, Chairman of the then Primary Produce and Export Ltd, was a member of various committees including the National Nutrition

Committee and has also been a visiting lecturer at the University of the South Pacific, Alafua Campus, in Samoa.

He was awarded a Member of the Order of the Crown (MCT) during the 2008 Coronation Celebrations of His Late Majesty King George Tupou the fifth, to recognise his exemplary services to King and Country.'

Unfortunately, George's ill-health prevented his return to Gatton for the occasion, with his daughter Sela accepting the award on his behalf on the night.

## *Peter Warhurst*

The second recipient of a DPSA for 2017 is Horticulturist and Apiculturist, Peter Warhurst.

Peter graduated with a Diploma in Horticulture in 1963 from QAC before completing a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at UQ St Lucia in 1971.

Peter has devoted a lifetime to both horticultural and bee-keeping industries in Queensland, first as a Technologist with the Queensland Inspection Service then spent the rest of his career as an Apiary Officer to the Queensland bee industry making invaluable contributions to both through his applied research, extension and industry liaison, and guidance.

He carried out extension and research in the bee industry to improve its sustainability, profitability and protection from disease and insect incursions. He also undertook research in the United States and United Kingdom. His experience in government policy and legislation assisted the Bee Industry Consultative Committee navigate multi government departments and authorities impacting on it.

Peter's ultimate contribution to the bee industry was co-authoring 'The Bee Book: beekeeping in the warmer



Peter Warhurst



Peter Young

areas of Australia', revised as 'The Bee Book: beekeeping in Australia', with his colleague, Roger Goebel. This "bible of Australian beekeeping" was recognised with 2nd Place in the Publications category at the World Beekeeping Awards as part of Apimondia (the International Federation of Beekeeping Associations) held in Melbourne in 2007 and remains the go-to manual for Australian beekeeping.

He continues to serve the bee keeping industry as a technical advisor and member of the Industry Management Committee, long after his official retirement from the Department of Agriculture.

### *Peter Young*

Peter Young graduated with a Diploma in Animal Husbandry from QAC in 1967 before heading to UQ St Lucia to study a Bachelor in Veterinary Science and a Bachelor of Science in Pathology, graduating in 1973.

After completing his undergraduate studies, Peter continued studying, completing a PhD in veterinary virology and pathology before being appointed to a

post-doctoral position at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research.

His studies put him in good stead for a lifetime of extensive research work, beginning with the transmission of encephalitis from animals to humans by mosquitoes, then travelling to Indonesia where he established research projects for major viral diseases including Foot and Mouth, Rabies and Newcastle disease. During this time, he was able to isolate the Foot and Mouth virus to develop a vaccine that led to the eradication of the disease in Indonesia, thus hindering the spread of the disease to Australia.

Returning to Australia, he developed a vaccine for Bovine Rhinotracheitis, this being especially beneficial to the feedlot industry.

When Hendra virus first appeared at a large racing stable in Hendra in Brisbane in 1994, Peter led a team that made the ground-breaking discovery that Fruit Bats (or as they are more commonly known Flying Foxes) were the reservoir hosts of the disease. This discovery was pivotal in developing strategies to control this virus.

Peter has produced over 60 papers in his career.



### *Photographs*

The Museum has a severe shortage of class and sporting photographs from the 1970s to the present time. If you can assist, please scan and email them to our Association or send us the original photograph, preferably with captions. We can return original photographs if required.

## *Historical Collection*

The variety of donations to the Collection in the past six months continued to surprise the Museum volunteers. All items have been catalogued and many are on display in our new cabinet which was provided by our Association (funds for the cabinet were donated by Gerry Collins).

**General College Photos:** Tessa Piagno (Gray), Jean Duncan, Sylvia Higgins (Thompson), Barry Spooner, Bruce Mutch, Neil Donnelly (UQ Gatton Marketing Dept.)

**College and PSA Magazines:** Gary Mason, Ted Carroll.

**Badges:** Petherick Family – Stan's QAHS & C Prefect, College and PSA lapel badges.

**Books and Brochures:** Leith Andrews, Gary Mason, Val Kilah,

Kel Freeman, David Percival, Harley Juffs.

**Newspaper Cuttings:** Office of Director UQ Gatton, David Percival.

**Clothing:** Ron Swanwick – QAC Rugby 75th Anniversary (1997) polo shirt.

**JK Murray Memorabilia:** Photo and assorted letters. Award Certificates for Knight Commander of the British Empire; Officer of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire; Doctor of Science; Church in the Diocese of New Guinea. These original items supplement the vast array of memorabilia previously donated by Leith Andrews, to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude.

**The Unusual:** Set of horseshoeing gear and a wide assortment of leatherwork tools from Gary Mason. QAC cash box, Ross Murray.

Don Oxenham has gathered together the material on all recipients of the Distinguished Past Student Award into a full colour hard copy and placed it in a folder which allows easy browsing. This is available in the museum when you next visit.

We thank all of the above donors for their contributions to the ever expanding collection.

I take this opportunity to thank Val Kilah, Julie Reid for their ongoing dedication and to Trevor Arthur and Don Oxenham for their support.

*Peter Douglas*

# Branch Reunions

## Email addresses

If you are receiving a hard copy of this edition of *Re-Connect*, it means we do not have your email address. Email is our preferred means of communication as printing and postage is expensive.

Please email us.

## New Members

Angela Joanna **Brown** (1978)  
Andrew Christie **Caird** (1967)  
Nicholas John **Corbet** (1981)  
Ian **Crothers** (1958)  
Brigitte Geraldine **Daley** (1988)  
Robyn Ann **Faint** (1976)  
Ross Lawrence **Faint** (1977)  
Kenneth James **Jackson** (1971)  
Robin Wesley **Juffs** (1967)  
William James **Martin** (1957)  
Russell Donald **Newborn** (1976)  
James Lewis **O'Farrell** (1957)  
Graeme Allan **Palmer** (1977)  
Bin Haji Yahya **Salehuddin** (1977)  
Russell Wilfrid **Tew** (1988)  
Michael Jock **Waring** (1978)

## Gold Coast

### Reunion Roundup

Our 31st Reunion Lunch, attended by 41 members, spouses and friends was held on Saturday 10 February. Twenty apologies were accepted.

Special guests included Past Association Presidents Bob James, Graham McClymont and Carol and Gary Mason, together with 1990 UQ Gatton Gold Medallist Jim Miller. Our Honoured Old Boy, Clive Gilchrist 1934-38, also attended.

The meeting welcomed Sue Moyle, Slade Lee and Doug English as First Timers.

It was moved that we donate \$1000 (four chairs) to the UQGPSA Scholarship Fund.

I would like to thank Diana for her assistance at the door and Ron McMahon and Bob James for conducting the raffle. The Branch is indebted to those who donated prizes for the raffle which raised \$200.50.

*Peter Douglas*

## Sunshine Coast Reunion

Our reunion was held at the Caloundra Bowls Club on 10 March, with 65 attendees and 14 apologies. Most came from the Brisbane-to-Gympie catchment, with Michael McEvoy travelling from Sydney. Jessica Matthews gave a warm and informative talk, in memory of her spouse Archie. This described a young man's formative College years (1940's) and the preparation gained, for a lifetime career in sugar cane research. Ray Montgomery again shared articles and his deep knowledge of College history.

*Peter Jacobson*



Gold Coast Reunion: Bob James, Don Oxenham and Nev Vallis



Gold Coast Reunion: Laurie Sewell, Dick School, Jim Miller, Roy Panitz and Rollo Waite

Check out the rest of our photos on Facebook !



Sunshine Coast Reunion: Jim Thomson, Bob Haylock, Don Haylock and Graeme Elphinstone



Sunshine Coast Reunion: Jenny Bendixen, Barry Bendixen, John Mackenzie and Meg Mackenzie

# 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

## **CHALK, John**

QDH 1951. Pitt House. At College 1948–51.  
CMF 1950.

John passed away 26 March 2018.

## **CHARDON, Cecil Wilfred Anthony**

QDA 1967. At College 1965–67.  
Bachelor of Economics 1974; Dip Computer  
Science 1984; Master of Information Systems  
1986.

Passed away on/about 25 February 2018.

## **CHRISTIANSEN, Anton T**

At College 1957. CMF.  
Anton passed away 27 September 2017.

## **COLLINS, Victor Gerald**

QDAH 1957. UQ Gatton Gold Medallist 2009.  
Riddell. At College 1955–57.

2nd XV 1955–56. CMF 1956, Cpl 1957.

Won Open 55 yards Breaststroke 1957.

His great interest in genetics had a major  
influence on the development of the  
Droughtmaster breed. He served two terms  
as President of the Central and Northern  
Graziers Association. While as a representative  
of the United Graziers Association he was  
instrumental in the formation of the National  
Farmers Federation and the Cattle Council of  
Australia.

Gerry, son of Stanley John QDS 1930, passed  
away during Easter 2018.

## **DORNAUF, Robert John**

QDAH 2nd Class Hons 1946

1946 1st AIS Junior Judging Pittsworth Show.

2nd Pig Junior Judging Toowoomba Show.

Bob passed away 5 February 2018.

## **DRUMMOND, James William**

Assoc Dip App Sc 1997.

James passed away 28 August 2017.

## **GAYNOR, Alan Ross**

Thynne. At College 1964–66.

1966 Under 19A XV. Under 18(1) Basketball.

Alan passed away 15 October 2017.

## **GILLANDERS, REVERAND John Edward**

QDAH 1948. At College 1945–48.

Brother of Ken, QDA 1948.

John passed away 25 December 2017.

## **GRANT, Robert John**

QDAH 1965. Thynne House Captain and Prefect

1965 1st XV 1963–65. Vice-Captain 1965.

Intercollegiate Rifle Shooting 1964–65. Captain

1965. He conducted a stock feed and equestrian

enterprise in Beaudesert for many years. It is

reported that Jock passed away in August 2017.

## **HOLMES, David Edmund**

QDAH 1965. 1961 Swimming. 1963 Life Saving-

Examiner. 1964 Life Saving-District Senior

Examiner. 3rd XV A larger than life personality

both on and off College.

Ed passed away 15 October 2017.

## **MELLOR, William**

QDAH and QDA 1955. At College 1951–55.

College ATC Flight 1951–54. Corporal 1954.

Bill passed away 11 August 2017.

## **MICHELMORE, Jeffery Mackillar**

QDAH 1953. Riddell House Captain and Prefect

1953. 1st XV, 1952–53. Queensland Rugby Union

Representative 1953. 1st XI. 1952–53.

A1 Tennis and Intercollegiate 1952–53.

Senior Champion Athlete 1952–53. CMF 1952.

Jeff passed away 16 February 2018.

## **NEWITT, Dennis Christopher**

QDAH 1968. At College 1965–68.

B Grade Hockey 1968.

Killed in car accident some years ago.

## **PORTER, Glen Robert**

At College 1961–62 as a Junior Student.

Glen passed away 7 May 2017.

## **SMITH, Patricia Mary**

She was transferred from Department of

Forestry in Brisbane to College as a Clerk-typist

in December 1958. Transferred to Head Office

Department of Education on 6 February 1964.

Pat passed away in Spain 28 January 2018

## **UNDERWOOD, Patrick John**

QDAH 1959. At College 1957–59.

John passed away 16 March 2018.

Branch Reunion	Venue	Date	Time	Contact
<b>Canberra</b>	<b>Canberra Yacht Club</b> 1 Mariner Place Yarralumla	<b>Saturday</b> <b>28 April 2018</b>	12 noon luncheon	<b>Kim Jorgensen</b> ☎ 0438 130 963 jorgensen_kim@bigpond.com
<b>Rockhampton</b> <i>(to coincide with Beef Week 2018)</i>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>Sunday</b> <b>6 May 2018</b>	11:30am for 12 noon luncheon	<b>Julie Martin</b> ☎ 0439 362 364 jazsie@bigpond.com
<b>Mackay</b>	<b>West Tigers Mackay</b> Walkerston	<b>Sunday</b> <b>20 May 2018</b>	11:00am for 12 noon luncheon	<b>Mark Hetherington</b> ☎ 0407 595 349 m.hetherington@pcpsl.com.au <b>John Whitaker</b> ☎ 0437 331 093 john-.whitaker@bigpond.com
<b>Bundaberg</b>	<b>East End Hotel</b> 58 Princess Street East Bundaberg	<b>Sunday</b> <b>10 June 2018</b>	11:00am for 12 noon luncheon	<b>Mike Moller</b> ☎ 0478 154 593 mmoller57@gmail.com
<b>Gold Coast</b>	<b>Labrador AFL Sports Club</b> Ashton Street Labrador	<b>Saturday</b> <b>7 July 2018</b>	11:00am for 12 noon luncheon	<b>Peter Douglas</b> ☎ (07) 5546 6350 koalamen@bigpond.com
<b>Brisbane</b>	<b>Pacific Golf Club</b> Carindale	<b>Saturday</b> <b>10 November 2018</b>	11:30am for 12 noon luncheon	<b>Slade Lee</b> ☎ 0419 474 251 slade.lee@internode.on.net
<b>Sunshine Coast</b>	<b>Caloundra Bowls Club</b> Cnr Arthur Street and Burwah Terrace Caloundra	<b>Saturday</b> <b>9 March 2019</b>	11:30am for 12 noon luncheon	<b>Peter Jacobson</b> ☎ 0419 662 467 peter.jacobson@agriculture.gov.au
<b>Other Reunions ...</b>	Watch out for details on <a href="#">Facebook</a> and <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> – emails will be sent to members and those we have contact details for.			

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### Try our quick links at:

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



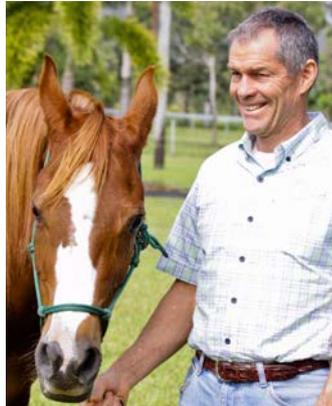
[https://www.linkedin.com/groups/UQ-Gatton-  
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# Introducing...

## Doug English



I was born on the Atherton Tableland at Malanda and I finished high school in Cairns. I was a bit lost after mucking about at high school and I went to work in the bush as a soil tester for the Main Roads Department and then as survey assistant for a mining exploration company.

I had a few friends who were at Gatton College who showed me pictures and spoke glowingly about what was there, and that lit the flame of my ambition. I saved and got accepted for the first Certificate course in Agriculture in 1967, after it replaced the Diploma. The College met all my expectations and more. I was fully involved in all the College activities with athletics, football, etc. and then to honour the entry statements the College offered a third year of science subjects to qualify for matriculation to university because by that time I wanted to become a vet. I made many good influential friends there that I still have, and learned so much about the agricultural environment and the world there, that I can say it was a major part of my formative life. This association with Gatton continued with Vet School because being a Gatton boy was an entry to an exclusive helpful club while at university.

I graduated from UQ as a vet in 1974 and went to work at Moree in private mixed practice with plenty of work in the Brucellosis/TB eradication program.

After a few years I went to South Australia as a District Veterinary Officer for the SA Department of Agriculture.

Then next step was to begin my own private practice just north of Wyong NSW that was a mixed equine, farm animals and pets. I spent 18 years there working continually seven days and nights a week like most vets did then. I sold the practice and went to buy a hotel/motel at Burrum Heads Queensland. This was a mistake and hardly viable.

I then accepted a job to manage Kia-Ora thoroughbred stud in Scone for a season.

The next stop was a partnership in the Albury Veterinary Hospital and a few other ventures before I went into the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture export meat division as supervising vet at various abattoirs.

I then bought a veterinary practice at Smithfield Cairns which I operated for about 15 years. Later I sold the real estate and began doing locums for the local clinics. I have always experimented with potions and food for health and became very interested in the function of turmeric as a food supplement and started a Facebook group called Turmeric User Group to collect anecdotes on the effects of turmeric. My aim was to enlist several hundred people who used turmeric, to relate how they used it and share the results. This group has now grown to 270,000 active members and has unearthed thousands of very positive life changing effects, and directed my interests and research to manufacturing food supplements and a skin gel, using the information and knowledge that I have gained. I am hoping that I can regenerate my life now and produce from the ground up:  
good quality superior turmeric grown in Australia (virtually all is imported), active extracts of turmeric and value added food and pharmaceutical products using turmeric.

