



UQ Gatton
Past Students
Association Inc



Queensland
Agricultural
College



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

Re-Connect

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STOP PRESS

Dianne Street (UQ Gatton Student Association) is our new Administrative Assistant and Museum Curator.

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'Sergeant Major Stickman' relives the many happy moments he enjoyed at Gatton in '52 and half '53.

UQ GATTON GOES TO THE BIRDS

The University of Queensland's Gatton Campus' reputation as a leader in environmental sciences was enhanced with the opening of a bushland park in the middle of the campus on July 29.

Over the past nine months, putting greens have been making way for wildlife shelters as part of a visionary environmental project, a joint project between staff and students from the Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science (NRAVS).

The environmental redevelopment has transformed the former golf course and surrounds, including campus landmark Lake Galletly, into a 10-hectare bushland park complete with animal shelters, bird-watching hides and re-vegetated native forest.

Campus Manager Janelle Zahmel said the area would serve dual roles as a conservation park for native plants and wildlife as well as an educational resource for students enrolled in UQ Gatton's range of environmental programs.

"We expect the park will prove popular with birdwatchers as well, with Lake Galletly already a destination for thousands of local and migrating birds including Magpie Geese, Egrets, Latham's Snipe (from Japan) or Asia's Marsh Sandpiper," Ms Zahmel said.

Work on the project began in November last year with more than 50 nesting boxes placed around the precinct for native animals and birds.

"The project is a truly joint effort, with a team of scientists led by Dr



Wildlife Biology students Ben Allen (left) and Mellisa Mayhew with bird hide behind.

Greg Baxter, from the School of Natural and Rural Systems Management, staff from UQ's Properties and Facilities division and the Student Wildlife Association of Gatton volunteering their time and expertise," Ms Zahmel said.

"The park will be a major feature complementing the already striking landscape of the Gatton Campus and will be a living asset that future students, staff and the public will cherish."

The environmental park was officially opened by the Faculty Executive Dean Professor Roger Swift on Friday, July 29 preceded by the final stage of the vegetation planting.

Development of the precinct will be ongoing ensuring current and future students' continued involvement for years to come.

'putting greens have been making way for wildlife shelters as part of a visionary environmental project'

THE LAST WORD

by Craig Tunley

The Back to College Weekend is the focal point of the Past Students calendar. A weekend in which we, past students, are able to actively participate in the activities of the association through the AGM and reminisce about the days of yore, when we were the primary inhabitants at Gatton. While the name has changed many times over the years, the spirit is retained, as evidenced by the stories that are sure to be told over dinner on Saturday night.

So what's your story? Were you involved in the 'Mid Year Pillow Fight'? What was it like to dominate the 1955 T.R.U or endure the 1960 season of 'forfeit'? How fast does a Greasy Chicken run? Table Tennis? Basketball? Cricket? Ag Day Sports? Share your story with fellow past students through Re-Connect.

While I have the floor, I would like to extend my personal congratulations to Rod Jensen who will be conferred Honorary Life Membership of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association during 'Back to College Weekend.' "Congratulations Rod, because of you the fat lady has trimmed down and signed a record deal. It was great working alongside you in 1999, but greater still is the friendship that we have built as a result. Enjoy. This recognition is well deserved."

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



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The year of 2005 has been a very busy but enjoyable year for the committee of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association Inc. We have achieved most of the objectives that were set by the committee earlier in the year.

Peter Douglas is the committee member with responsibility for the museum and it is pleasing to report that our museum is in the process of merging with the museum maintained by the UQ Gatton Student Association. We expect to see the new museum, which will be located underneath Morrison Hall (Old Shelton), open for display during the Back to College weekend. Both the past and current students have a wonderful collection of items and it will be great to see the two collections combined.

Ross Murray has recently donated the entire Centenary Collection to our museum and we shortly hope to have a suitable cabinet to display this wonderful collection. Another recent edition to the museum is a Diploma awarded to Mr Jack Vincent Smith in 1911. This document is now framed and proudly on display in our museum.

Val Kilah and Julie Reid have been busy in the museum and we now have a wonderful display of photographs of the 1897 to 1910 era. Museum items of future decades will be prepared for display as time permits.

Our collection would not be as complete without the assistance of Val Kilah, Julie Reid and Ross Murray. All three have spent countless hours collecting and maintaining the museum items. I would like to thank you Val, Julie and Ross.

Dianne Street is our Administrative Assistant as well as Museum Curator. She has been a great help to the committee this year and we would not have been able to achieve anywhere near as much without her help and also the help of her husband, Ron. I would like to thank you Dianne and Ron.

Janelle Zahmel, Faculty Executive Officer and Campus Manager, has continued to be a supporter of our Association and we thank Janelle for her ongoing support.

The entire committee of your Association is listed on the back of this newsletter and all deserve congratulating for their commitment to the Campus and this Association. They have willingly given their time and supported me in my year as President.

We are always looking for new committee members so if you live in the South East Queensland area and would like to be on the committee next year, please contact me. We meet at Gatton on the first Monday night every second month starting in February of each year and the meetings are always enjoyable.

On behalf of the committee, I wish you all the best for the future.

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2005 BACK TO COLLEGE WEEKEND

The annual "Back to College" weekend is scheduled for Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 December 2005 at The University of Queensland, Gatton Campus.

The feature years are those who graduated from Gatton in 1955, 1960, 1965, 1975, 1980, 1985 and 1995. The first three groups of Certificate graduates will also be having a reunion. These are the 1967/68, the 1968/69 and the 1969/70 groups. Another reunion is the 1964 graduates who celebrated

their 40 year reunion last year and are returning this year for a 41 year reunion.

A special feature of the weekend will be the first organized reunion of past staff members. This will be held as a lunch beginning at 12:00noon in the Campus Club on Saturday 3 December. All past staff (teaching, general, administrative, domestic) of the earlier years up to about 1970 are invited.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association Incorporated is to be held at 3:00pm on Saturday 3 December 2005 in the Foundation Building at The University of Queensland, Gatton Campus. All members are invited to attend.

EXCERPTS TO REMEMBER FROM THE FEATURE YEARS

The following results, stories and experiences were provided by Julie Reid at the UQGPSA Museum from old magazines and media releases. Apologies to 1980 and 1985, documentation around College life is a bit thin on the ground, although it is amazing to see the changes undertaken in College life just through small experiences. From the undefeated A-Grade Football team in 1955 through the Mid Year Pillow Fight in 1975 and the graduation of three sisters in 1995, I trust you will enjoy this mish mash of College Life through the Feature Years.

1975 – SPORTS AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES

I am pleased to remind all that at the Foundation Day Sports held on 26 and 27 July 1975, the Past Students were placed second. Beaten by the Tertiary 4, Advanced Certificate and Associate Diploma students, it is plainly obvious that the better team did not win on the day. (NB. While the Editor does claim some bias on behalf of the Past Students, conclusions can not be taken seriously given that the Editor was not yet born at the time of these sports.)

Hay Loading, Steer Riding and Catch the Greasy Chicken (!!?) were all activities which students enjoyed as part

of Ag Day Sports. I am sure that these experiences will become the topic of conversation at some time over the Back to College Weekend!!!! Another one to bring back the tears of joy will be the Mid Year Pillow Fight. At the time of the Semester 1 Exams, Riddell and Shelton team up to challenge the rest of the College to a mass pillow fight to "kill the boredom." From information gleaned from the QAC Magazine, the girls turned traitor and changed sides with Riddell, while greatly outnumbered, fighting on valiantly to come out on top. "Even some house masters got it."

2005 BACK TO COLLEGE WEEKEND

1995 – TRIPLE TWINE GRADUATION

The Twine family of “Wellcamp”, Toowoomba celebrated on Friday, December 15th when all three daughters graduated from the University of Queensland Gatton College.

Eldest sister Debbie has completed a degree in Tourism Management while twin sisters Emma and Annabel graduated with associate diplomas in Agronomy and Horticulture respectively.

The courses chosen by the sisters reflect the family’s background and interests.

“Our parents met while they were both working for Qantas. They are still involved in the tourist industry but at the same time we own and work a property outside Toowoomba”, Debbie said. ‘I am interested in international business and travel but the twins are linked to the land.’

Emma and Annabel have been showing and breeding horses and sheep for many years and have always been keen to help their

father, Geoff, as steward at the Toowoomba Show.

According to Emma the joint graduation was not planned.

“Debbie is 16 months older than us’, Emma said, ‘but she started another course and then changed her mind and came to Gatton.’

“We were accepted into our Gatton courses in 1993 but we stayed home to lend a hand for a year during the drought.”

“It wasn’t until Debbie got some credits for subjects she had done in the previous course that we realised we would graduate together – even then Annabel nearly ‘blew it’ because she thought she had failed a couple of her Horticulture subjects this year.”

The twins will be split for the first time next year. Emma has started work as Assistant Agronomist with Cottco in Dalby and Annabel plans to return to Gatton College to do a further year of Agronomy.

1960 – BASKETBALL

For the greater part of the Basketball season, the College teams acquitted themselves more favourably than ever before. A College team competed in the Under 18 Queensland Championships for the first time and were successful in winning the President’s Cup. Only bad luck and sickness robbed the College of an excellent chance of completing a grand slam by winning the Toowoomba Men’s Basketball B and C Grade Premierships. The B Grade team finished second only to bow out in the semi final while the C Grade finished strongly with eleven wins from eleven matches as well as a victory over Teacher’s Training College.

1975 – LADIES BASKETBALL

During 1975, the College fielded two ladies teams in the Gatton Basketball competition. The ‘A’ Team, coached by Larry Williams contested the finals, and although unsuccessful, were not disgraced. The team consisted mainly of ‘oldies’ who were expert at competing with minimal training. The younger ‘B’ Team showed greater potential but the trophy cabinet was no fuller at the end of the season. By all accounts, despite the lack of silverware, the morale was quite high. “Maybe ONE day we’ll win!!”

1955 – A-GRADE FOOTBALL

In 1955, the College once again proved their superiority in the T.R.U. by remaining undefeated Premiers and retaining the Warren Cup, Hospital and Ambulance Shields and winning back the Dooney Hayes Cup which was held by the Gatton club in 1954. Through a misunderstanding, the team played no competition matches on ‘home’ ground and had to travel to Toowoomba every week. Success was mainly due to the splendid condition of the team which allowed hard fast play for the full 80 minutes, born out in the fact that in a number of matches, despite being down at half time, the team won by a considerable margin. The keen leadership and example shown by Captain Bill Hickey and Vice Captain “Frosty” Barr was an inspiration to the team.

2005 BACK TO COLLEGE WEEKEND

MY FIRST DAY AT PRAC WORK BY J. HUTCHINSON, S.J.A. (1960)

I was rudely awakened at ten minutes to seven by the insistent whining of the siren, which I remember thinking at the time was far too close to my dormitory.

I sprang from bed to be greeted by a rush of cold air from the open door as the early morning breeze drifted in. With a sudden jolt, I remembered that this was my first prac. work day, and that I had to go to the piggery. I dressed myself hurriedly, and had my bed half made by breakfast time. I ate my breakfast rather more hurriedly than usual, and was finished by the time the ten past bell rang. I hurried back to the dorm and finished making my bed. Not without difficulty I succeeded in

putting on my brand new work boots; it seemed a pity to spoil the shine, but it had to be done.

When I arrived ready for my morning's work I was filled with misgivings, as I had heard tales of the way you had to work. As the morning progressed, I found that I had had worse jobs before, and that it was not quite the slavery that it had been reputed to be.

The pigs are looked after very well, as they have their troughs and pens cleaned out every day. The food they have is largely uneatable to us, but I gathered from watching them in the few times when the boss was not looking, that they seem to think that it was not too bad at all.

Slowly the time rolled on until eventually it was time to go. Gladly we deposited our various pieces of equipment, such as shovels and brooms in the tool room and signed our names in the book. Great was our enthusiasm when we were told that it was time to knock off.

I arrived back at my room and took off my boots, now somewhat filthy, and held my breath, while I took off my socks. Grabbing my towel I set off with all possible haste in the direction of the showers. After a return trip to get some soap, I was finally showered and dressed and ready for lunch.

As I think about it now, I do not think it was such a bad day after all.

1960 – FOOTBALL

1960 proved to be a year of ups and downs for the Firsts. The prospects did not seem too bright for the second season of Brisbane Reserve Grade Rugby Union however an influx of first years enabled the development of a really good combination. Following the Easter vacation, the team had a run of wins, which some attributed to the addition to College touring equipment of several sets of sponge rubber seat covers. The second round of the competition found the team lacking condition evidenced by brilliant first half football with sad lapses in the latter stages. Injuries to key players plagued the team's success and several games were forfeited. Determined to win the last match of the season against Brothers, the team arrived behind time (transport difficulties) to Kalinga only to find no Brothers players, who had already left thinking the team was forfeiting once more. A disappointing end to a good start.

1965 – TABLE TENNIS

Though listed as one of the minor sports of the College, Table Tennis is played by a very large percentage of the students. Two new tables were provided during the year for fixture play. Entering three teams in the A Grade fixtures of the Gatton district, all did well, with College II winning the competition and Mr Kleidon's Table Tennis trophy. In the Singles Championship for the District, R. Song was victorious, completing a very successful season in which he was not defeated in any singles match.

1960 – CRICKET

The 1959-60 season ended with the College Cricket team well down in the competition. Batting continued to show weakness and the inability to recover after early collapses was evident. The 1960-61 season opened with prospects soaring. A good crop of young and capable cricketers amongst the first years should see the A grade team well up in the competition and the start of an upward trend of quality in future.

2005 BACK TO COLLEGE WEEKEND

1965 – EVENING RECREATION

Film programmes were screened in the Sir Leslie Wilson Hall on Wednesday nights for second and third year students and on Thursday nights for first year students.

Messrs. I. J. Bruce and R. G. Stanley of the staff have continued to act as honorary projectionists, with the assistance of a small group of interested students. Their valued contributions in this direction are gratefully acknowledged.

The 35mm projection equipment has been maintained in good order and has continued to give satisfactory service. Each programme has included four newsreels, a short feature (such as Australian Diary or its overseas equivalent), a cartoon and the feature film following after an interval. Many recent releases, some in cinemascope, have been shown and appreciation is expressed to the film renting companies for the excellent selection of programmes provided.

No mid-week programmes were screened during vacations. Instead a TV set was made available each night for the benefit of those students remaining in residence over these periods, its use being under the general supervision of the duty officer. This amenity was appreciated by the students concerned.

Following the Foundation Day agricultural sports on the 3rd July, a barbecue was held on the lawn below Shelton dormitory. It was enjoyed by a large number of visitors and students.

The dance committee has continued to function successfully under the able leadership of Mr. L. M. Rule as chairman. Assisted by Mr. D. J. Patterson as deputy chairman. Further committee members were appointed from the students, office bearers over 1965 being M. Evans, Secretary, D. J. Taylor, Treasurer, and students J. A. Mullins, D.J. Allan and R. J. Hampson. Two dances were arranged, one in July and one in September. These were held on the verandas and in the common room of Shelton dormitory as in previous years and girls from the Glennie Memorial and Fairholme schools, Toowoomba, were guests on both occasions. A return visit to a dance at Fairholme school in September was made by a party of students.

These functions are much appreciated by the students and the co-operation of the Head Mistresses and of the staff members of schools who were concerned with these arrangements is gratefully acknowledged.

1955 – ENROLMENTS

Details of enrolment for the year are as follows:

Full Courses –

(a) Senior students attending diploma courses	229
(b) Junior students attending junior agricultural high school course	261
(c) University courses – third year degree, Agricultural Science	4

Short Course Schools –

(d) University students	
(i) Wool Classing (August) for third year Veterinary Science	11
(ii) Summer Vacation courses in Agricultural Practices	16
(e) Winter course for students undertaking Agricultural Correspondence course with University of Queensland	13
(f) Courses (four schools) for members of Junior Farmers' Clubs	181
(g) Courses (two) for New Australians (sponsored by Rotary Clubs)	43
(h) Summer Agricultural School for primary school boys	57
(i) School in agricultural practices for tractor sales and service personnel	19
(j) Seed certification course for field officers of the Department of Agriculture and Stock	16

Gross enrolment for year **850**

IN MEMORY OF ...

Graham R H Gill QDA 1951 passed away peacefully on 11 September 2005. Graham was a life member of the PSA and spent a number of years on the executive committee. He recently donated some College Magazines and Sporting Photos to the Museum.

Gavin Alex MacGregor passed away 22 August 2005. Gavin was a Vietnam veteran and attended Gatton from 1973 to 1976 after returning from Vietnam.

Desmond (Des) Alwyn Finlay passed away 10 August 2005, aged 75 years. Des was an active sportsman on College between 1947 and 1949 in Football, Cricket, Boxing and Athletics.

MEDALS COMMEMORATE AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL LEADERS

The memory of two of Queensland's most influential agricultural scientists will be kept alive when the Bell and Bryan Medals are awarded on November 23.

The awards are a collaborative activity between UQ's Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science (NRAVS) and the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (AIAST).

They will be announced at an event at the Seddon Building, UQ St Lucia.

- The Bryan Medal honours Dr W. W. (Wilf) Bryan who retired from the CSIRO Division of Tropical Agronomy in 1972 after a prestigious career in plant breeding and pasture agronomy. Dr Bryan is also remembered for his work breeding hybrid maize varieties when a staff member at the Queensland Agricultural College (predecessor organisation of today's UQ Gatton Campus). The Bryan Memorial Medal was established by the Queensland Branch of the AIAST in 1976.

- The Bell Medal honours Arthur F. Bell, the first qualified scientist to hold the position of Under-Secretary of the then State Department of Agriculture and Stock (now DPI&F). Mr Bell was

previously a pathologist and Director of the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations. The AIAST created the award in 1958 following the passing of Mr Bell.

Director of Studies for the NRAVS Faculty Dr Colin Birch is encouraging students to submit their theses and place themselves in line for these prestigious awards. He believes that the history behind the awards is as important today as when the medals were first presented.

"The history of agriculture in Queensland is long and proud," he said. "Through these medals we are able to honour two of the major contributors of their time but also encourage future industry leaders."

The Bell and Bryan Medals are awarded to Faculty Honours degree students from the St Lucia and Gatton campuses respectively. The awards are administered and judged by scientists who are members of the AIAST, south-east Queensland and southern Queensland branches. The awards are based on the quality of written theses submitted by students and a verbal presentation made by them on the evening of the presentation.

"The history of agriculture in Queensland is long and proud," he said. "Through these medals we are able to honour two of the major contributors of their time but also encourage future industry leaders."

MEMORABILIA — URGENT REQUESTS

The ongoing search for items of memorabilia continues. In May Mrs Margaret Hamlet, daughter of Robert Darcy Armstrong QDAH 1940 donated the trophy he won in the junior Judging Competition for AIS at the 1940 RNA Show (right), together with some College photos and Text Books of the era. Other items have been received from John Christensen QDA 1935 and Ed Holmes QDAH 1965.

Any articles that you and your family no longer require such as

photos, badges, blazer pockets, annual magazines or anything pertaining to College no matter how old or new, large or small, will be greatly appreciated. Currently the Committee is seeking any pre 1942 College badges which will be mounted for display in the Museum. Please send all items to the UQ Gatton Past Students Association or contact Peter Douglas (07) 5546 6350 or Rod Jensen (07) 3379 6250.



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www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents

INTRODUCING ...



David Edmund [Ed] Holmes came from Blackall to Gatton [then Q.A.H.S.&C] via "Churchie" in 1961.

Due to the good social life at Gatton and several "posts", Ed did not finish the 3 year course [Q.D.A.H.] until Christmas 1964. Years later he also completed a Wool Course with Sydney Tech. College which led to a Professional Wool Classer's ticket.

Following a stint at the Blackall Wool Scour, Ed started with the Dept. of Primary Industries in the Sheep & Wool Branch which had him transferred from Julia Creek to Roma, Charleville, Winton, Blackall, St. George and Brisbane over almost 20 years.

During this time Ed had 9 years as a dance band drummer, barber, mulesing teacher, horse breaker, saddler, organiser of "Outback Festival" and "Barcoo Rush", Justice of the Peace and an amateur vet for 7 years.

Since leaving the D.P.I., Ed has run "Woodstock Manor" student hostel and "The Forest Hill Handyman".

As a Life Member of UQ Gatton PSA, Ed is the past Treasurer. During the couple of terms, Ed was fortunate enough to head up the Finance Committee when they consolidated the scattered bank accounts and invested the proceeds to enable the future committees to run the Association on the dividends for years to come.

Now he lives in Ipswich on a Disability Pension with his second wife Del where he has produced his second book "Aussie Bush Slang" which has gone world wide and sold out the 400 books in less than 6 months. It is now selling on CD-R. Hopefully Ed may get the energy to finish the next book called "Barcoo Rot and other Cow-yard Confetti".

Until then they are looking after their 6 children, 16 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

GOLD COAST BRANCH NEWS

Gold Coast Branch of the UQPSA held its second Reunion Luncheon for 2005 at Jupiters Casino on Saturday 6 August. 39 past students, past staff and guests attended including our Association Patron Stan and wife Agnes. Also attending was David Irvine a Dookie past student who needless to say was given a typical Gatton welcome.

A pleasing point of interest is that 26 apologies were received which gives us a solid base on which to build.

President Peter presented a framed 1911 QAC Diploma to Val Kilah and Julie Reid which is now on display in the Museum. The Diploma was awarded to Jack Vincent Smith, father-in-law of Ray O'Grady QDDM 1964.



(From left) Val Kilah, Julie Reid, Peter Douglas and Moya O'Grady.

The next Reunion luncheon is to be held at Jupiters on Saturday 4 Feb 06.

Peter Douglas
Gold Coast Branch.