

Re-Connect

A Publication of the
UQ Gatton Past Students
Association Inc.
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Email: uqgattonpsa@uqg.uq.edu.au

UQGPSA Secretariat:
Box 717

The University of
Queensland
Gatton Campus
GATTON QLD 4343

Phone: (07) 5460 1724

www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents

STOP PRESS

The latest on the 2006
Back to College Weekend

Feature years will be those
who graduated from Gatton
in 1956, 1961, 1966, 1976,
1981, 1986 and 1996.

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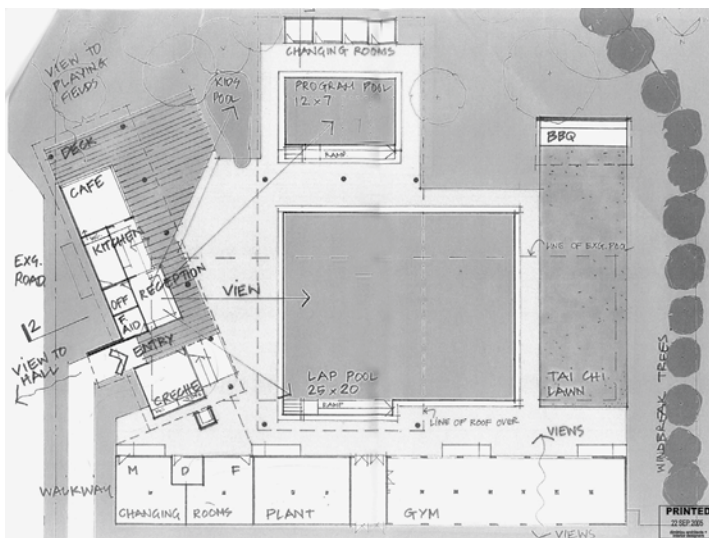
\$3.5M FITNESS AND AQUATIC CENTRE AT GATTON CAMPUS ABANDONED

The Federal Government's Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) legislation has claimed another victim with the shelving of plans for a key development at the University of Queensland's Gatton Campus.

In a major blow to regional services, the new Fitness and Aquatic Centre at Gatton Campus has been postponed due to a significant loss of funding resulting from VSU.

UQ Gatton manager Janelle Zahmel said by forcing the abandonment of the \$3.5 million project, VSU would hurt the campus and local communities.

"This development was to be a hub of community life for both the University and local communities," Ms Zahmel said.



Concept Plan of the Fitness and Aquatic Centre.

"Sport is something that plays a key role in regional communities and the planned sporting precinct was an exciting development for services in the area."

University of Queensland Sport director Kim Guerin said funding for the development was on track until the VSU legislation was ushered through the Federal Senate in late December.

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MACKAY BRANCH REMEMBERS ...

John (Jack) Thomas Elliot attended Gatton College between 1932 and 1937. He was captain of the first XV and Pitt House in 1937 and was a champion athlete. Jack was involved in the sugar industry all of his working life. A member of the Mackay branch, the leadership qualities which he displayed at College remained with him throughout his working life.

THE LAST WORD

by Craig Tunley

My Mackay Reunion Experience

I really enjoyed my brief time in Mackay for their annual reunion on 30 March 2006. After a brief tour of Mackay courtesy of Peter Amiet, I was met at the meeting by Col Story, an inspiring figure at almost 90 years of age. He has endless energy. We discussed respective addresses and sat down for a very nice meal. Good conversation abounded at our table with many stories highlighting the hi-jinks that abounded at Gatton, some almost unbelievable.

The AGM saw the previous committee returned in full and Col's report on activities over the past year painted the picture of a very active Past Students Association and Gatton Campus. Peter Amiet will hold the position of Secretary/Treasurer for the coming year in support of Col Story, who after 58 years, continues to be the driving force of the Mackay branch.

I spoke briefly on some of the activities that the UQ Gatton Past Students Association is involved in and relayed to members in attendance the birthday of Tom Graham of Rockhampton, the oldest known past student, who turned 100 on Saturday 1st April 2006. My speech focussed on my experience as President of the Student Association in my final year (1999) and subsequent involvement in the Past Student's Association.

The opportunity to represent the UQ Gatton Past Students Association was most enjoyable.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Graham McClymont
President,
UQ Gatton Past Students
Association Inc.

Phone: (07) 3378 0201

Email:
g.mcclymont@bigpond.com

At our Annual General Meeting last December it gave me great pleasure to accept the position of President of our Association for another year. The members also returned the Committee with only minor changes as Ed Holmes retired again and Dianne Fullelove was elected to the Committee for the first time. Ed has been a tireless worker on the Committee for several years and I thank him for his contribution. The full list of members of the Committee is listed on the back of this newsletter. The members of our Association are obviously satisfied with the performance of our hard working Committee who put in many hours of voluntary work. Speaking of voluntary work, I must mention the countless hours of work that the small band of volunteers contribute to the development of the museum. The museum downstairs Morrison Hall (Old Shelton or Shelton to us of a certain age) is looking great and will be outstanding by the end of the year.

We continue to work closely with the UQ Gatton Student Association and they are taking an active role in the development of the museum. It is great to see the current generation of students take an interest in the history of the campus.

Ron Swanwick has the brief to design a new Association badge. Have a look at the badge on the front of this newsletter and you will see the initials GCPSA within our current badge. Our initials are now UQGPSA so a new badge design is being developed. Several options are being considered to replace the current

design which is quite old and I am sure you will be impressed with the new design. We hope to have a new design for the next AGM scheduled for Saturday 2 December 2006 in the Foundation Building.

The UQ Gatton Scholarship Fund is progressing well and Mal Ferguson reports that the first scholarship to an eligible Gatton student is likely to be awarded shortly. Funds are raised by selling a brass plaque with your name on it which is in turn fixed to a chair or table in the Dining Hall. For further details contact our office.

Jim Madden and Dianne Fullelove have prepared a brochure that may assist graduates and friends of Gatton mention our Association in their will if they so desire. Funds received will be used for the benefit of the Gatton Campus under the guidance of our Committee unless specific instructions are given on how the funds should be spent. For further details contact our office.

It is great to see that branch reunions have already been held at the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Mackay this year. There is the possibility of reunions for Brisbane and Maryborough later this year. Our Association can help if there is interest in holding a branch reunion in your region. For further details contact our office.

Please feel free to contact me at any time.

'I must mention the countless hours of work that the small band of volunteers contribute to the development of the museum.'

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“The capacity for UQ Sport and the University to raise funding required for the development has been halted by the loss of vital student service fees from July 1, 2006,” Ms Guerin said.

The Federal Government has promised to establish an \$80 million fund for university sports facility

maintenance and development in a bid to plug the gap left by the VSU legislation.

UQ Sport will work with other university sporting bodies to gain access to this Fund and bid to reinstate the Gatton project to benefit the campus and local community.

‘the new Fitness & Aquatic Centre at Gatton Campus has been postponed due to a significant loss of funding’

OLD SHELTON MUSEUM

The new Campus Museum under Morrison Hall (Old Shelton) is now open and progressing well.

We are always looking for donations of assorted memorabilia no matter how large or small.

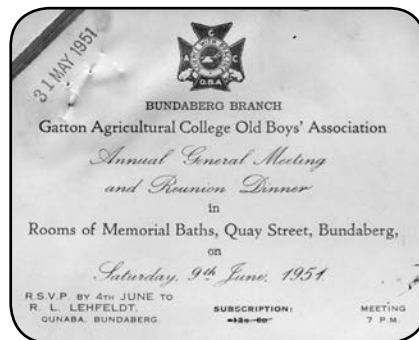
We particularly need photographs of College life and the pre 1935 large College lapel badge and the original OBA lapel badge circa 1926–35 as shown. These are required to complete our collection. Also wanted are pre 1965 College Magazines.

The Museum may be opened for viewing by prior arrangement with the UQGPSA Secretariat.

Right: OBA Lapel Badge, circa 1926-35.



Morrison Hall (Old Shelton) where the new Past Students' Museum is located.



UQ GATTON PSA GOLD COAST BRANCH REUNION LUNCHEON

Jupiters Casino, Saturday, 4 February 2006.

It is pleasing to report a very good total attendance of 62 made up of past students, past staff and guests, which is the best so far. There were 17 “first timers”.

We were again honoured to have our Association Patron Stan and Mrs Petherick together with our Branch Patron Bill Laver as well as Past Association Presidents Bob James

and Rod Jensen along with his wife Enid.

The Guest Speaker was Wayne Brydon, Professor of Animal Science at UQ Gatton, who gave us a detailed update of present activities at the College and the plans for the future all of which look very positive.

The next Reunion Luncheon is planned for Saturday 12 August 2006 at the same venue.

2005 BACK TO COLLEGE WEEKEND



The only representatives of the 1995 feature year, Georgia Lewis (left) and Maria Buffalino paused for a moment with Col Story outside the Foundation Building.

The Back to College Weekend was held on campus during 3 – 4 December 2005 and was well attended with approximately 250 people coming from all over Australia. Everybody enjoyed the weekend activities and all in attendance had a good time. Many past and current staff joined past students returning to catch up with their college friends, some they had not seen since their days as a student.

Ross Murray entertained the visitors with bus tours of the Gatton Campus and Lockyer Valley on Saturday and Sunday respectively.

Old photographs of the feature years, the first three certificate years and past staff members were on display in the new Museum downstairs in Morrison Hall. This collection of photographs is put together each year by Val Kilah and Julie Reid, both former staff members of the College.



The collection of photographs on display. Thanks to Val Kilah and Julie Reid for putting this collection together each year.

On Saturday afternoon, the UQ Gatton Past Students Association Inc. held its Annual General Meeting in the Foundation Building. Graham McClymont presented his President's Report to members. Ed Holmes stepped down from being a committee member and Dianne Fullelove joined the committee for the first time.



Congratulations to the Honorary Life Members, from left, Alan Brimblecombe, Colin Story, Julie Reid, Val Kilah and Rod Jensen awarded their certificates at the Reunion Dinner on Saturday night.

This reunion marked a very special time for the Past Students, as it was 100 years since the first reunion dinner was held and also the first Past Staff reunion for the Campus.

Many visitors stayed in the Halls of Residence on Saturday night and had Sunday breakfast in the Dining Hall. The weekend brought back a lot of memories of the college days for those in attendance.

BACK TO COLLEGE WEEKEND 2 AND 3 DECEMBER 2006

FRIDAY, 1 DECEMBER

- 5.00 pm Registration at Morrison Hall
6.00 pm 50th Year Get Together Dinner at the Dining Hall

SATURDAY, 2 DECEMBER

- 10.00 am Registration at Morrison Hall
11.00 am Campus Bus Tour will leave from the Foundation Building
12.00 noon BBQ Lunch at the Lawes Campus Club
1.30 pm Heritage Walk guided tour
3.00 pm Annual General Meeting at the Foundation Building
6.00 pm Pre-Dinner Drinks and Reunion Dinner at the Dining Hall

SUNDAY, 3 DECEMBER

- 8.00 am Breakfast at the Dining Hall
9.00 am Bus Tour of the Lockyer Valley from the Foundation Building
10.30 am Morning Tea at Morrison Hall
12.00 noon BBQ Lunch at the Staff and Graduates Club
1.00 pm Depart at leisure

Any further enquiries contact Dianne Street on the above details or the President, Graham McClymont on 07 3378 0201 or email: g.mcclymont@bigpond.com

STOP PRESS

THE LATEST ON THE 2006 BACK TO COLLEGE WEEKEND

Feature years will be those who graduated from Gatton in 1956, 1961, 1966, 1976, 1981, 1986 and 1996.

The 1956 group celebrating their 50 Year Reunion at Back to College Weekend, 2006 will meet on the Gatton Campus on Friday, 1 December for an informal meal on Friday night.

Registration desk will be at Morrison Hall (downstairs) for the weekend.

The UQ Gatton Past Students Association AGM will be in the Foundation Building.

The second reunion of past staff will be held over lunch on Saturday, 2 December.



Tom celebrates
100 years young.

GATTON'S OLDEST GRADUATE — TG GRAHAM, QDA

Tom Graham has spent most of his life associated with the pastoral industry. He was born at Croydon in the Gulf Country and spent his early youth on cattle stations. It was while his father was Manager of Victoria River Downs (VRD) in the Northern Territory, one of the largest cattle stations in Australia, that Tom decided to attend Gatton College. He worked one year on VRD as a probationary stockman before commencing a three year Agriculture Diploma course in 1925.

As a student at the College, Tom obtained colours in athletics, football and cricket. He was a first rate footballer and athlete holding the College records for the 880 yards, mile and cross-country event for many years.

After gaining his Diploma in 1927, he was appointed a junior member of the College staff and later rising to senior status in the agriculture section. At that time, the College was without the services of an Agriculturist and for six years Tom

carried most of the section's work load until the appointment of Dr P J Skerman in 1932.

Tom's nine years at the College can best be summarised by the following tribute by the Principal, Professor J K Murray, which appeared in the College Magazine 1934, p32:

Mr T G Graham who did such good work as a student and as a member of the staff has been transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Stock (now DPI&F) stationed at Mareeba. Mr Graham carried out the teaching of agriculture with great credit and gave generously of his time to College interests. His work for the College magazine, which with Mr P Hamon he established, will not be forgotten. He did the tiring and painstaking work of Editor very well for years. He formed the troop of Boy Scouts and the boys were happy and fortunate in their Scout Master – his years in North Australia had given him an enviable bushcraft. He was the mainspring of the effort in making the new oval which might fittingly be named after him. With the help of staff and students he erected the tobacco barn and curing shed.

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Elsie Raymont

Elsie May Raymont died in December a few days after her 83rd birthday and her funeral service was held in Laidley on 29 December 2005. Known to many generations of College students, Elsie was described as 'an honourable, hard working country woman'.

After school, she was employed as a cook at the then Queensland Agricultural High School and College and then worked at the 153rd and 105th US Army Field Hospitals which had taken over the College grounds and buildings in 1942. After the war she continued to be employed in the dining halls of the College where she rose to be the Senior Dining Hall Attendant; at retirement having given over 40 years of faithful and dedicated service to many, many students and staff.

Luke Lazarides wrote a very thoughtful piece about Elsie: a woman remembered, an apt description of her and her influence on many generations of young men. "when we said goodbye so long ago, the boy in me never realized that I would think of her. Often. She had a quality that drew us to her like a modern Pied Piper of Hamelin. She was thoughtful and caring. She was always giving of herself. She was witness to our progress to manhood as we mastered our studies preparatory to taking on the world"

Well said, Luke. But now as we grow old, we think of her fondly and keep a special corner of our heart just for her. Rest in peace, Elsie!

Jim Galletly, QDA (1943-46).

GATTON COLLEGE GRADUATE PROMOTED TO MAJOR GENERAL IN ARMY RESERVE

Michael (Mick) Fairweather A.M., B. App. Sc. (Rural Tech), Grad Dip. Teach. (Second), Grad Dip. Strat. Studies, Reserve Forces Decoration (RFD), becomes the first graduate from Gatton to attain the rank of Major General in the Army Reserve.

Mick joined the Army Reserve in 1971 while a student at Gatton College. He completed basic infantry training and was commissioned Lieutenant, Royal Australian Infantry, in 1974. At the rank of Captain, he was appointed training officer at the Queensland Agricultural College Training Unit.

In 1985 he completed the Army Reserve Command Staff College course at Wacol and was posted Company Commander B Company, 25th Infantry Battalion the Royal Queensland Regiment, Toowoomba with the rank of Major. In 1990 he qualified for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and took command of the battalion for three years. He then attended the Joint Services Staff College (Canberra), gained a Graduate Diploma in Strategic Studies and was posted to the Land Warfare Centre, Canungra, as Instructor.

In 1997, Mick was promoted to Colonel and became Colonel Army Reserve, Royal Military College (RMC), Duntroon, Canberra, where he facilitated the alignment of part-time and full-time officer training. Mick was promoted to Brigadier in 2000 and appointed Assistant Commander Training Command – Army. He was then posted Commander Australian Army Cadets.

In 2004, Mick was appointed Commander 11th Infantry Brigade, Townsville. This included command and the deployment of the first formed bodies of troops from the brigade in operational deployment since the end of the Second World War together with the pre-deployment preparation of elements of allied forces. In 2004 Mick was awarded the Medal of Australia for his work at RMC and

in the development of the Australian Army Cadets.

Mick's civilian career began in the teaching profession. After graduating from Gatton with a Bachelor Degree in Applied Science – Rural Technology, Mick completed a Graduate Diploma in Teaching – Secondary at Teachers Training College, Brisbane and spent nine years teaching Agriculture, including appointments at Bamaga and the Lockyer District State High School, Gatton.

In 1985, Mick decided to pursue a career in the private sector in addition to his part-time military activities. This included positions as Sales Representative, General Manager Agricultural Requirements-Gatton, Regional Management-North Asia and Japan for the International Division of Defiance Mills and eventually his own management training and technology consultancy. Whilst his principal focus is on developing his Internet Service Provider business, he also conducts business management seminars for small business and sits on several advisory boards for small business.

Mick was promoted to Major General in January 2006 and is responsible for the development of tri-service policy, management of the government program to enhance cadet training and for generally raising the profile of Cadet Organisations within the Australian Defence Organisation and the Australian community. Mick demonstrated considerable ability to dovetail a successful civilian practice with a dynamic military career, showing considerable courage, leadership, management and coordination skills. His attainment of the high rank of Major General in the Australian Army is a credit to himself, his family and to the University of Queensland Past Students ranks.

Contributed by Nev Hodgens, Major (retired), Gatton

Former officer commanding QAC Training Unit, Gatton College



Michael (Mick) Fairweather A.M.

UQ GATTON PAST STUDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

Box 717
The University of Queensland
Gatton Campus
GATTON QLD 4343

President

Graham McClymont
11 Aldergrove Street
CHAPEL HILL QLD 4069
Phone: (07) 3378 0201
Mobile: 0419 778 981
Email: g.mcclymont@bigpond.com

Senior Vice-President

Peter Douglas
Email: koalamen@bigpond.com

Secretary

Nicole Hoskin
Email:
nicolehoskin@optusnet.com.au

Treasurer

Jack Steggall

Junior Vice-President

Ron Swanwick
Craig Tunley

Committee Members

Fiona Ferguson
Mal Ferguson
Dianne Fullelove
Bob James
Jim Madden
Rob Nielsen

Administrative Assistant

Dianne Street
Phone: (07) 5460 1724
Email: uqgattonpsa@uqg.uq.edu.au

Editor 'Re-Connect'

Craig Tunley
10 Abbott Street
Hughenden Qld 4821
Email: craigt@flinders.qld.gov.au

Try our new quick link at:

www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents

INTRODUCING ...



NICOLE HOSKIN

Nicole Hoskin nee Saunders came to Gatton College from Innisfail to study a Bachelor of Applied Science (Food

Technology) and graduated in 1982. She worked with Inghams Enterprises in the Redlands for 2 years in Quality Assurance and 10 years in Product Development.

She and husband Len are raising two daughters, aged 10 and 12 years, in Birkdale. Nicole became heavily involved with school life and works with her children's primary and high school

P & C's in fundraising. Her current employment is limited to occasional Teacher Aide relief and casual Food Technologist work for Food Industry Engineering, a private consultant.

Nicole is State Secretary for the Safety House Association of Qld; a volunteer organisation which encourages a network of safe houses for the community when their safety is threatened and education of the public in personal safety strategies. She joined the UQGPSA in 2003 after being approached by Mal Ferguson at a Back to College weekend and was elected Secretary in 2004.



DIANNE FULLELOVE

Queensland Agricultural College holds such wonderful memories for me. I think it was

instrumental in shaping all of us in one way or another. For me, a degree in horticulture meant opening new fields and my career has taken many twists and turns. From a beginning in wholesale nurseries, I have moved through working for local government, teaching TAFE and secondary school, acting as an executive officer for an industry association, research work and currently, as a consultant for rural enterprises.

I have had the opportunity to work in media, writing newspaper gardening columns and magazine articles and conducting gardening talkback for ABC Wide Bay for nearly ten years. All of this from an interest in plants as a teenager.

My family and I have lived in many places in Queensland, mainly rural. We had a stint as rural producers during 8 years growing mangoes, lychee and avocados in Bundaberg, so we got a feel for the real life as farmers. It's not that easy! Especially balancing full time jobs and farming with 3 sons. Those children are now a little older and we are a little wiser. We opt for the easy life in Brisbane with our boat for leisure time.

Living at Gatton for 4 years forms strong and valued friendships which continue to this day. Our fellow students, who were mainly unknown to us, became life long friends which I treasure. My husband was also a 'horti' and so there is a lot of common interest in our attempts to establish a garden in our new home. Those friends from QAC are still there offering their 'advice'.

Please contact me if you wish to bring any issues forward at the meetings of the Past Students Association or if you just want to renew old friendships.
kernnell@optusnet.com.au