



UQ Gatton
Past Students
Association Inc



Queensland
Agricultural
College



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

Re-Connect

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Association Inc.
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STOP PRESS

Back to College
Weekend
1-2 December
2007

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CAAS CONSTRUCTION NEARS HALF WAY MARK



Construction on the Centre for Advanced Animal Science (CAAS) at UQ Gatton is nearing the half way mark with the final touches being completed on the first of two stages of the project.

CAAS is a joint project between the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) and the University of Queensland (UQ). According to Professor Roger Swift, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science, UQ, CAAS will boast world-class research facilities in the areas of animal growth, adaptation, welfare, health and vaccines.

“These are key areas of strategic investment to ensure continued growth, diversification and protection of Queensland’s animal industries,” he said.

“CAAS will encourage increased national and international collaboration between scientists in the developed and developing world.

“It will also strengthen the interaction between researchers and industry and ensure that research and development leads to rapid practical outcomes.”

Stage one of the development includes six grouped animal pens for nutrition

trials, 32 individual animal pens also for nutrition trials, a feed processing shed, cattle handling yards and a large hay shed. These facilities will be complemented by a large animal metabolism facility coming on line in mid November 2007.

CAAS is part of a major redevelopment of research facilities in Queensland. It will be a centre for research in the areas of animal production, behaviour, health and welfare and biosecurity. CAAS will also provide advanced education and training for future generations of researchers and practitioners in the animal industries.

CAAS complements perfectly the existing animal infrastructure at the Gatton Campus, which includes a modern dairy, piggery, poultry unit, equine centre and wildlife enclosure.

Proximity to the Brisbane research facilities and an international airport, together with Queensland’s respected animal scientists ensure that CAAS will increase collaboration and visits by other leading animal researchers. There is no comparable centre elsewhere in Australia.

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THE LAST WORD

by Nicole Hoskin

While our regular editor, Craig Tunley, is occupied with family commitments, I have been asked to be guest editor for this edition. Best wishes to Craig and his wife Jenny for the safe arrival of their third child.

I look forward to meeting many of you at our next Back to College Weekend when I help to man the registrations desk.

I am the Secretary for the Past Students Association and have enjoyed the editor's role as a short term project but will hand it back willingly into Craig's most capable hands.

If you have any newsworthy items to share with fellow past students please send them in to our office.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Graham McClymont
President,
UQ Gatton Past Students
Association Inc.

Phone: (07) 3378 0201

Email:
g.mcclymont@bigpond.com

2007 has been another busy year for the management committee you elected at the Annual General Meeting last December. We are always looking for new committee members so if you live in South East Queensland and would like to be on the committee next year, please contact our office for a nomination form, particularly if you can't attend the AGM. We meet at Gatton on the first Monday night of every second month starting in February and the meetings are always enjoyable.

The highlight of the year in my opinion was awarding the UQ Gatton Past Students Association Scholarship to a first year Gatton student earlier this year. Sophie-Ann Starr is a delightful young lady and a worthy recipient of our first scholarship. The scholarship is \$5,000 per year for the duration of the course, which in Sophie-Ann's case is three years. During 2008 we will award a scholarship to another first year Gatton student and the committee has confirmed that the amount will again be \$5,000 per year for the duration of their course. Therefore we will pay a total of \$10,000 to Gatton students in 2008.

If you would like to contribute to the UQ Gatton Scholarship Fund as well as have a plaque with your name on it attached to a table or chair in the Dining Hall, then please contribute now. Forms are available from our office or our website. All donations are tax deductible.

Another highlight of the year has been the continual development of the UQ Gatton Historical Collection. The volunteers have performed miracles with the collection and it is now a magnificent display of the

history of the Campus, dating back to 1897. All donations of memorabilia are welcome and can be sent to our office. Donations do not necessarily need to be of the early days as the display covers all decades up to the present.

It is great to see branch reunions taking place. This year there have been reunions held on the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane, Mackay and Cairns. If you are interested in holding a Gatton reunion in your region, then please contact our office as we can help.

Our Association has over 1,000 members and the number is growing each year. All members receive this newsletter, Re-Connect. If you know a Gatton graduate who is not a member, please encourage them to join as the more members we have, the more we can do for our members. Funds are invested by Jack Steggall, our Treasurer, and we run the Association on the interest and dividends received each year. We have had a succession of good treasurers and a healthy balance sheet is the end result.

You are aware that we have a range of merchandise for sale including Gatton ties. Our tie has even been seen in Federal Parliament being worn by Cameron Thompson, the Member for Blair which includes the Lockyer Valley. Ties would make a great present this year and can be obtained from our office.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, it was not possible to have our usual lounge and display at the Exhibition this year. We are disappointed about this and will do whatever we can to have a stand at the Exhibition next year.

If we don't see you at the Back to College weekend, then on behalf of the management committee, I wish you and your family all the best for the Festive Season.

PRACTICALLY SPEAKING, EXPERIENCE IS THE KEY

UQ Gatton Campus, and its forbearer Queensland Agricultural College, has always prided itself on providing students with a well balanced educational experience, combining the theory behind science and production with practical experience which will allow students to be quickly integrated into commercial operations when they graduate.

As past students, you are in a unique position to understand the advantages of undertaking industry placement while still studying, both for the student and the host employer. Not only are students offered the opportunity to gain experience in a range of production areas and gain essential communication and time management skills but they also often find themselves a job in the process! The same can be said for industry placement hosts as they have the opportunity to work with a range of prospective employees prior to making a longer term commitment.

Past student and life member of the UQGPSA, Dr Geoff Stewart (1966 – 1970) has recently been appointed to the Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science (NRAVS) as Professional Placement Co-ordinator. Geoff's main focus is to liaise with former students, industry organisations, agribusiness, chambers of commerce and government agencies to promote opportunities for faculty students to gain quality practical experience as a vital part of their courses. The great opportunity is that past students hold responsible positions right across the board of industry and government.

Dr Stewart said that these days, employers in any field expect that their new graduate employees can 'hit the ground running'. Consequently, the quality of practical experience our students can bring with them to prospective employers is vital. Practical application of theory is the key to successful studies. It demonstrates and promotes understanding and offers

opportunities for further learning and lateral thinking.

Depending on which program is being undertaken, the time required of students during their studies for industrial placement varies from 30 days to full internships of 16 weeks. Normally students would undertake industrial placement during their holiday breaks, but the longer placements are undertaken during semester time.

BECOME A 'FRIEND OF THE FACULTY'

We are looking for work places in all areas (remember our students come from all over the world) covering farming of all types, agribusiness, zoos and wildlife, environment, animal welfare, food processors and government departments to name but a few. The only criteria we ask for is that our students work in a safe, friendly, supportive and learning environment. If you would like to become a 'Faculty Friend' and be placed on a Faculty confidential register held at the Gatton Campus Student Centre, would you urgently drop an email, mail, fax, or phone Geoff:

*Dr Geoff Stewart,
Faculty of NRAVS,
UQ Gatton Campus,
GATTON Qld 4343
Email: geoffrey.stewart@uq.edu.au
Ph: (07) 5460 1457 Fax: (07) 5460 1499*

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Animal industries are vital to the economic, social and environmental wealth of Queensland. They contribute in excess of \$4 billion annually in gross production value and are underpinned by an investment in people, infrastructure and resources in the vicinity of \$25 billion. They provide major employment in rural and regional Queensland and are an important part of the human capital of Queensland. CAAS is being constructed to the east of the main oval (Tom Graham Oval).

GOOD NEWS

FUNDING FOR FITNESS AND AQUATIC CENTRE

The University has been awarded \$3 million towards the construction of a Fitness and Aquatic Centre at the Gatton Campus from the VSU Transition Fund.

There will be more details next edition.

BACK TO COLLEGE WEEKEND – 2007



Foundation Building Gatton Campus

The annual Back to College weekend will be held again on Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 December this year. Feature years will be those who graduated in 1997, 1987, 1977, 1967, 1957 and 1947. The 1952 graduation year will also be returning to celebrate 55 years since graduation. All are welcome.

There will also be the annual reunion of former staff held over lunch on the Saturday.

Ross Murray has again volunteered to drive the bus for tours of the Campus on Saturday and the Lockyer Valley on Sunday.

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Keith Conley BAILEY – QDAH 1946.

Brian BARKER – QDAH 1963, B Vet Sc, 1st XV 1963, Open swimming champion 1963. He pioneered artificial insemination of sheep and goats and was involved in embryo transplants in livestock in W.A. Brian passed away unexpectedly in Perth, 2 July 2007.

Colin Osborn BEECH – QDA 1942.

Robert Algie BURGE – QDAH 1963.

William Donald CORMACK – Passed away 11 August 2006.

Neville Reginald DEMPSEY – QDAH 1957.

Frank FORSYTH – QDAH 1950. Prefect 1950: Thynne House Captain 1950, 1st XV 1950, Intercollegiate Tennis 1949/50.

Charles Neville HARTWIG – QDAH 1948. Passed away in Brisbane, 26 September 2007.

John Nicklin HORSLEY – QDDM 1954. Prefect 1952, 1st XV 1953/54, Intercollegiate Tennis 1952/53.

John Stirling “Jack” HILDRETH – QDAH 1947, 1st XV 1947. Jack lived in Tarragindi and passed away peacefully, 26 July 2007.

Desmond William HILL – QCAH 1977.

John Arthur HUCKNALL – QDA 1957.

George LUCAS – Junior 1941. Passed away early 2007 in Melbourne.

Rodney John MENGEL – QDH 1948.

Leslie James MISSINGHAM – QDA 1945. Prefect 1944/45, Pitt House Captain 1945.

Peter Hawthorn MITCHELL – QDAH 1942.

Richard Alexander John MYERS – QDDM 1943, QDAH 1943.

Edward Arthur OFFNER – QDS 1939. Prefect 1939: Thynne House Captain 1939, Captain 1st IV 1939.

Selwyn John ROWLINGS – QDA 1964. Prefect 1964, Intercollegiate Tennis 1964.

Gordon Reginald THOMAS – QDAH 1941, Shelton House: 1st XV 1941, 1st XI 1941.

John Francis USHER – QDH 1964. He worked with CSR in North Qld and won an environmental award for inventing Bio-Dunder for cane fields. His final project involved working on a dust suppressant in coal mines. He passed away suddenly at Salonika Beach in September 2007.

John Norman WEDMAIER – QDAH 1966. 1st XI 1963.

Kylie Elizabeth YOUNG – AD in App Sc 1989.

BRANCH REUNIONS

BRISBANE BRANCH

The Brisbane reunion held on 25th August had 55 present including some newer women graduates and a sprinkling of wives as well. It was an enjoyable day and it is expected we will hold it again next year at the same place (Sherwood Services Club, Corinda) on the 4th Saturday in August 2008.

GOLD COAST BRANCH

Our 10th Reunion on Saturday 4th August at Jupiter's Casino was well attended with 64 Past Students, Past Staff and guests sitting down for lunch at the Food Fantasy Restaurant. This figure was very encouraging and of course we would like to see more Past Students "recruiting" others to attend in the future.

Those attending included Association Patron Stan Petherick and Honorary Life Member Agnes, Gold Coast Branch Patron Bill Laver and our Association President Graham and Carol. It was pleasing to see a strong group from 1958/62.

Ron Swanwick, responsible for the Past Students tie design gave an outline of

the proposed design for the new Past Students Association badge.

The next Reunion Luncheon is promising to be another enjoyable event.

Peter Douglas
Branch President

MACKAY BRANCH

The Mackay Branch held their 59th consecutive annual reunion on Thursday 19 April 2007 and a great time was had by all. Col Story was again elected Branch President.

The organising committee are busily organizing the 2008 branch reunion which will be the 60th consecutive reunion held in the Mackay region. A record to be proud of and the organizing committee would like as many people as possible to attend and help make the celebrations a night to remember.

Contact Peter Amiet on 07 4955 3288 for further details.

MACKAY BRANCH 60TH ANNUAL REUNION

**Western Suburbs
Leagues Club**

Walkerston
10km outside Mackay

MARCH 2008

AT A DATE TO BE DETERMINED

Peter Amiet ph 4955 3288

GOLD COAST BRANCH REUNION

Food Fantasy
Jupiters Casino

SATURDAY
9 FEBRUARY 2008

11:30 AM FOR
12 NOON LUNCHEON

Peter Douglas ph 5546 6350
koalamen@bigpond.com

SUNSHINE COAST BRANCH REUNION

Caloundra Bowls Club
Cnr Arthur Street and
Burwah Terrace, Caloundra

SATURDAY
8 MARCH 2008

11AM FOR
12 NOON LUNCHEON

Barry Bendixen ph 5499 6576
Frank Natoli ph 3264 1242

BRISBANE BRANCH REUNION

Sherwood Services Club
Clewley Street, Corinda

SATURDAY
23 AUGUST 2008

11.30AM FOR
12 NOON LUNCHEON

Bob James ph 3349 1738
rjames3@primusonline.com.au

Maurice Lake ph 3444 1426
lakem@gil.com.au

INTRODUCING ...

PAST STUDENT HONOURED

John Douglas PHILP
– QDAH 1956, was
awarded the Medal of
the Order of Australia
in the Queen's
Birthday Honours
in June for service
to Primary Industry
as a grain and seed
supplier and through
contributions to the
development of the
industry, and to the
community.



**JULIE REID
– UQ GATTON
HISTORICAL
COLLECTION
VOLUNTEER**

Julie Reid (nee Stark) commenced

employment at the Queensland Agricultural College in April 1964 as a Clerk-Typist and completed four years undertaking general office duties before being appointed Secretary to the Director Mr NW Briton in 1968.

Julie married Rick Reid in December 1969 and continued work as Secretary to NWB until resigning in June 1976. For the next eight years she was a full time mum to three children and again became a part-time Secretary in 1984 – (this time to husband Rick) – when Rick joined AMP and established a financial planning and general insurance practice.

In 1996 when plans were being discussed for the College Centenary, Julie attended meetings and became involved in helping with the photographic display for the Centenary celebrations which were held in July 1997.

With her love of history and all “things College” and a strong resolve to help preserve the history of Queensland's oldest tertiary institution, she and other volunteers continued to collect and sort memorabilia donated to the Past Students Association. These photographs and items are now displayed in the PSA Historical Collection under Morrison Hall (Old Shelton). Julie was made an Honorary Life Member of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association in December 2005.

With retirement looming, Julie hopes to continue working as a Volunteer for the PSA as well as joining the throng of “grey nomads” cluttering the Australian highways. Photography, a return to golf and babysitting duties with the first grandchild are also high on the agenda.



**VAL KILAH
– UQ GATTON
HISTORICAL
COLLECTION
VOLUNTEER**

At 16 years of age, after growing

up with seven siblings on her parents' properties “Lindon Caves” and “Yanalah Downs” Shorthorn Stud in Roma and finishing her high school education, Val Whip was appointed to the Public Service as a Junior Typist at Gatton College in November 1947. The Foundation Building was the administration centre at that time. Full accommodation was provided to staff at 15 shillings per week. Val cried into her typewriter from homesickness every day for two weeks and appealed to her father to allow her to return home. She eventually settled down and soon enjoyed a wonderful lifestyle at College.

Twelve months after arriving at QAC, Val was asked to take on the role of Secretary to the Director, Mr Briton, who was a great administrator and wonderful boss. Mr Briton would press a button to buzz Val to come into his office to take dictation in shorthand. Letters were then typed on a manual typewriter using carbon paper for copies. Thank goodness for modern technology nowadays.

Val remained in this position for 12 years until she married Bill Kilah who became a District Inspector for SGIO (now Suncorp). Val and Bill built their home in Gatton and because married women could not remain in the Public Service then, Val did secretarial work in Gatton then worked in administration at CSIRO Cooper Lab, Lawes for 11 years. Val and Bill then took over the lease of the QAC Bookshop for 6 years. They bought a retirement home at Mermaid Beach and enjoyed travelling in Australia as well as overseas. Sadly Bill passed away in January, 2003.

When the College Centenary was approaching, Val and Julie Reid became involved with sorting and identifying

the massive number of photos and memorabilia of QAC, salvaged by Ray Montgomery and Ross Murray. It became a labour of love and continues to this day.

It was a great thrill to Val and Julie when the University allocated an area under Morrison Hall (Shelton) to display memorabilia and they are very grateful for the support and encouragement received from the Past Students Association committee, especially Graham McClymont and Peter Douglas.

In 2005, Val was surprised but honoured to receive Honorary Life Membership of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association

for her efforts. She was also delighted when an application for a volunteer small equipment grant for office equipment was recently approved by the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

The Historical Collection is now something of which to be very proud and is open on Monday from 1:00pm to 4:00pm and other times on request. Visitors enjoy browsing and more volunteers to man the collection on other days would be most welcome. Please contact the Past Students Association office if interested.

THE HISTORICAL COLLECTION

The collection continues to expand and we are approaching the stage where we will soon outgrow the area. The old Diploma Classroom next door has been converted to a storeroom which we share with the Student Association. This has relieved some of the pressure on the problem.

The last issue of Re-Connect sent out a plea for one of the “LAWES” siding platform signs – a million to one chance!! Well miracles do happen, as Past Students Association Past President, Bob Hampson, just happened to have one in his shed for safe keeping. Thanks Bob, we are indebted to you. We are seeking a photo of the “LAWES” platform sign. Can anyone help?

The volunteers are still requesting donations of “all things College”, particularly 1930’s, 40’s and 50’s College Magazines and especially 1946, 47, 57 and 1978.

A previous request for the early QAHS & C lapel badge, circa 1924–1935 and about the size of a 20 cent coin, proved fruitless so please check your cupboards for those hidden treasures.



Val Kilah receiving the siding sign from Bob Hampson

The latest display is one depicting an assortment of veterinary and farm instruments that were used in the past.

In August we were awarded a Volunteer Small Equipment Grant of \$2,850 from the Federal Government to purchase a computer, printer/scanner, camera and laminator. These items are urgently needed for Val and Julie to continue their invaluable work in archival preservation.

We are presently recruiting volunteers with the view to having the Historical Collection open beyond just Monday afternoons. If anyone is interested please contact Margaret in the PSA office.

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www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents

142-Out General/Oct07

DID YOU KNOW?

WHY WAS THE SIDING FOR THE COLLEGE CALLED LAWES?

Ray Montgomery writes:

In reply to the article in the last 'Re-Connect' seeking information on the Lawes Siding, the following short historical note may help as it's naming.

In 1935 the name 'College' Siding, as it had been known for 38 years was changed to Lawes. Sir Bennett Lawes amassed a fortune from his development of superphosphate and gave Rothamsted Experiment Station to the English nation. He also endowed it with £100,000. Rothamsted became one of the world's best known agricultural research stations for cereal, grassland and livestock experiments.

In 1928, Professor JK Murray, Principal of the College, named the paddocks after celebrated scientists and agriculturalists. The names still stand and the Lawes paddocks are situated on the right hand side of the road leading to the siding.

The editorial from the 1936 College magazine, written by Mr FO Bosworth, English Master, 1924 – 54 and after whom the Bosworth Recreation Centre is named, wrote the following extracted from this editorial. "The name change of 'College' to 'Lawes' coincided with the stationing of three officers of C.S.I.R (now CSIRO)."

One of those officers was CS Christian, a College student who obtained his Diploma in Dairying with Honours and dux in 1926.

THERE HAVE BEEN THREE SHELTON "DORMITORIES" OVER THE YEARS



Morrison Hall (Old Shelton)

In 1933, B Dormitory, one of the original 1897 dormitories, was renamed Shelton House. A new Shelton House facing the Main Building (Foundation Building) opened in 1936; the Old Shelton reverting back to the Junior Dormitory.

In 1970 Shelton Hall was built and the 1936 Shelton was then known as Old Shelton until it was named Morrison Hall.

THANK YOU

FROM FIRST PSA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, SOPHIE-ANNE STARR



To the Past Students of Gatton University,

I would just like to again thank you for your help and support with the scholarship that has been issued to me. It has so far been a great help towards my studies at UQ, by supplying me with textbooks, learning guides, other learning materials and accommodation in Halls of Residence. The scholarship helped me to receive two sevens and two sixes overall last semester.

Again thank you for this great opportunity; I consider myself extremely lucky.