Q150 Project

UQ Gatton is Queensland’s oldest tertiary education facility, opening in 1897 as the Queensland Agricultural College.

The UQ Gatton Past Students Association, through the Queensland Government’s Q150 Community Funding Program aims to establish a digital historical collection of Queensland’s oldest tertiary education facility, originally the Queensland Agricultural College, and now known as UQ Gatton.

In establishing this collection, important historical documents will be preserved and accessible. Establishment of a digital historical collection will also protect significant documentation from further damage through handling and allow especially significant documentation to be identified and stored more appropriately to protect and enhance their longevity.

As a result of establishing this digital collection, it is expected that significant moments which occurred at Gatton and/or persons who have contributed in significant ways to their chosen fields after undertaking study at Gatton, will be recognised.

Building on the expectation that the research will uncover people and activities of significance in the history of Queensland and UQ Gatton, it is proposed that 30 themed posters highlighting these outcomes will be developed.

Utilising the Q150 branding, these posters are proposed to be printed to support offline promotion and visual display for the benefit of current and past students who would otherwise not be exposed to such people and moments in time. Supported by enhanced access to digital historical information, the posters would be a visual and physical outcome of the project.

It is expected that the outcomes of the project will be celebrated at the UQ Gatton Past Students Association’s annual Back to College Weekend, 4–6 December 2009. This would present further opportunity for involvement of the Q150 Unit through representation of staff and dignitaries across the weekend and structured display of promotional material.

Outcomes of the project will be displayed at Back to College Weekend 2009.
The Last Word
by Craig Tunley

Graham McClymont
President,
UQ Gatton Past Students
Association Inc.
Phone: (07) 3378 0201
Email: g.mcclymont@bigpond.com

A short word this edition as Re-Connect overflows with stories, activities and other stuff going on and around UQ Gatton. However, I wish to go back to the 2008 AGM and the robust discussion on attraction of students into rural careers, eg. Agriculture, Plant and Animal Sciences.

Let’s face it, today’s graduate (and yesterday’s too) are not convinced that there is a ‘future’ in rural and regional Australia. But what do we do? How can we change student attitudes? I wish I had the answers.

The UQ Gatton Past Students Association’s membership is diverse, powerful and connected to rural and regional Australia. Water scarcity, land use and new technology will continue to influence how industry evolves, which, from my perspective, means rural Australia has a very exciting future. I look forward to reporting on how we as past students in industry and as an association respond to this defining issue.

President’s Report

We have awarded the UQ Gatton Past Students Association Scholarship during 2007 and 2008 and will again award a scholarship to a student studying at UQ Gatton during 2009.

In the late 1980s, Ken Newton QDH 1952 was killed in a light plane crash. Ken was a founding member of the professional association Agricultural Technologists of Australasia (ATA) and the members of ATA created the Ken Newton Trust Fund to award a scholarship to a Queensland student studying agriculture at Gatton. ATA merged with the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science (AIAS) to form the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (AIAST) and the Ken Newton Trust Fund went to the AIAST.

During 2008 a proposal was put to AIAST that the funds held in the Ken Newton Trust Fund become part of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association Scholarship Fund. This proposal was accepted by the Directors of the AIAST and it is very pleasing to report that $11,643.63 has been paid into our fund. A brass plaque with Ken’s name on it will be attached to a table in the Dining Hall and Ken’s name will be entered in the book of donors on public display in the UQ Gatton Historical Collection.

Buildings are currently under construction for the Vet School which will relocate from St Lucia at the end of this year. On behalf of all of our members, I welcome the Vets to UQ Gatton and invite all new graduates to join the UQ Gatton Past Students Association. Of course, we already have a large number of Vets as members of our Association, as many studied Veterinary Science after completing a course at UQ Gatton.
Truly a Man of Many Talents!

Thomas Gerald Graham
QDA 1927

Prefect 1927
1st XIII 1925–26–27
1st XI 1926–27
1st IV 1925

Athletics 1925–26–27 Held 1/2 mile, mile and cross country records for a number of years.

Farrier, 1st Cavalry Mobile Veterinary Section 1927

Tom spent 1928–33 on the College Staff and was responsible for the selection, grading and leveling of the site for the MAIN/No1/TOM GRAHAM OVAL, construction of the turf wicket and the relocation of the grandstand from near the swimming pool area to its present location.

He was also responsible for the erection of the TA Price Dressing Shed on the creek bank above the swimming hole and the tobacco barn and grading shed opposite the Blacksmiths Shop.

He was instrumental with some fourteen other students in forming the Gatton College Old Boys Association in 1926. He was Editor of the first 7 issues of the Gatton College Magazine. In his spare time he established the College Scout Troop in 1931 and became the inaugural Scout Master.

Tom spent from 1935 to 1972 working for the Department of Ag and Stock (now DPI) his forte being in the development of tropical pastures.

Gatton College’s oldest Graduate and Past Student passed away in Rockhampton on 15 January 2009 some three months short of his 103rd Birthday.

Tireless, a Past Student’s Association Rock!

Colin George Story
QDA 1934

Senior Champion Athlete 1934.

Joint record holder of the Open Mile. Pitt House.

Col established the Mackay Branch of the Gatton College Old Boys in 1948. He was voted “Gatton Old Boy of the year” in 1974 and received the Council Gold Medal from the Gatton College Council in 1995 for services to the sugar industry.

He joined the Bureau of Sugar Experimental Stations in 1935 and was Officer-in-Charge of the Mackay Station from 1946 until his retirement in 1962.

He served in the AIF and was commissioned in 1944.

In 1979, Col was awarded with an MBE for his service to the sugar industry and the community.

Col passed away in Mackay on 23 December 2008.

Brisbane Branch Reunion

Sherwood Services Club
Clewley Street
Corinda

Saturday 22 August 2009

11.30am for 12 noon luncheon

Bob James ☎️ 3349 1738
rjames39@bigpond.com

UQ Gatton Past Students Association Inc. 3
Back to College Weekend

The 2008 Back to College Weekend was held on the first weekend in December and as usual it was a wonderful success. There were 240 people registered for the weekend and the management committee is very pleased with this number. Almost half of those who registered managed to register on time. Late registrations make it difficult for the Dining Hall, but in the end, all were catered for exceptionally well.

The 1958 graduates arrived on Friday afternoon to commence celebrating their 50 year reunion and most did not leave for home until Sunday. It was also great to see so many of the 1948 graduates return for the weekend.

At the Annual General Meeting, Ron Swanwick was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Association. Congratulations Ron on an award well deserved and we look forward to making the presentation to you during the reunion dinner this year.

This year the feature years are those who graduated in 1999, 1989, 1979, 1969, 1959 and 1949 and the reunion will be held over the weekend of 5 and 6 December. A reunion of former staff will also be held over lunch on the Saturday.

UQ Gatton Gold Medal

The Medal (formerly named “Council Gold Medal”) was instituted in 1984, and since that time Gatton Campus graduates have been honoured by the award of the Medal on an annual basis.

The purpose of awarding the UQ Gatton Gold Medal is primarily to recognise a graduate who has achieved outstanding success or honour in, or has made and continues to make, an outstanding contribution to their vocation in an area of relevance to the interests of UQ Gatton. In addition, the award presents an opportunity to highlight in public the role and achievements of UQ Gatton.

Nominations calling for a recipient of the UQ Gatton Gold Medal close Friday, 10 July 2009. Details relating to the award and the nomination form can be obtained from:

The Campus Manager
Ms Janelle Zahmel
Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science
The University of Queensland, Gatton Campus
Gatton Qld 4343

or

our web site
www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents

1948 Group 60 Year Reunion – Back to College Weekend December 2008
Back Row: (L–R): Jack Burchill, Doug Anthony, Ralph Epstein, Leon Barlow, Leo Lindstrom, Ray Montgomery
Second Row: (L–R): Rufus Moore, Jack Lennon, Max Burns, Bill Laver, Alex Robertson-Cunninghame
Front: Bob Talbot

1958 Group 50 Year Reunion
1962 and 1963 Past Students

1968 Year Group

Graham McClymont, President UQG PSA, with 1988 graduates Julie Martin (left), a newly elected member of the PSA Committee, and Michelle Smith (nee Benson)

Professor Jonathan Hill (UQ School of Veterinary Science), Ian Rickuss MP (Member for Lockyer), Her Excellency Penelope “Penny” Wensley AO (Governor of Queensland), Graham McClymont (UQG PSA), Shayne Neumann MP (Member for Blair)

Gold Coast Branch Reunion
Labrador
AFL Sports Club
Ashton Street, Labrador
Saturday
8 August 2009
11:30 am for
12 noon luncheon

Peter Douglas
☎ 5546 6350
koalamen@bigpond.com
Branch Reunions

Gold Coast Reunion
The Gold Coast Branch held its 13th Reunion Lunch at the Labrador AFL Sports Club on Saturday 14 February 2009.

After 12 consecutive reunions at Conrad Jupiters Casino a change of venue was needed and the new one proved to be a good alternative.

Unfortunately our numbers were down on previous occasions, for multiple reasons, but nevertheless, we had quality.

Forty-six sat down to an enjoyable meal and all appreciated the chance to swap stories(some were probably true) in the quiet venue.

We continue to have the privilege of our Association Patron Stan Petherick, Branch Patron Bill Laver, Association Past President Bob James and Honorary Life Members Agnes Petherick, Val Kilah, Julie Reid and John Keevers from Hawkesbury Ag College at our Reunion Lunches.

Sunshine Coast Branch
A most enjoyable luncheon was held at the Caloundra Bowls Club on Saturday 14 March. 16 apologies were accepted and the attendance of 70 was greatly appreciated by the organizing committee.

Stan and Agnes Petherick headed the attendance list and the most pleasing aspect of the list was the large number of people attending for the first time.

Members came from as far as Sydney and Tiaro.

President Graham McClymont gave a short address. It is hoped that the function continues to provide a meeting place for the increased numbers. The next meeting is the second Saturday in March 2010.

New Members

James Neill Pitt (1958)
Thomas Stuart McCosker (1962)
Phillip Ian Parker (1998)
Allan Andrew Baker (1956)
Peter John Ramsey (1978)
Barry Direen Spooner (1969)
Philip Rajkantha Muttukumaru (1969)
Jonathan Percy (1962)
Bartel Francis James Kirby (1958)
Pamela Sue Fielder née Foxcroft (1976)
Errol Vance Sigley (1958)
Timothy John Wyndham Biggs (1987)
Terrence Allan Barben (1958)
William Anderson Allan (1958)
Donald Robert Gordon (1966)
Alan Gordon Wilson (1965)
Hatched, Matched and Dispatched

A significant event you’d like to share?

We would like to hear from you news of members activities. Career moves, marriages, births and other interesting events. Hatched, Matched and Dispatched is the page for making sure that everyone knows.

Victoria Branch of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association

For the first time since its inception a small team of ex graduates from Gatton College / QAC are in the process of setting up a branch outside of Queensland. Traditionally branches have been established in Queensland only, but why should this be the case when Gatton College/ QAC / UQ Gatton Campus has produced graduates that are now spread throughout Australia and overseas?

In trying to meet Graham McClymont’s desire to have every possible graduate join the past students association, he has provided the team with a list of graduates living in, or thought to be living in Victoria, so that the process of “Re-Connect” can truly commence. By the time this article is published the committee would have met for the first time (currently scheduled for 12 March) and an initial contact made with all 292 people on the list. Whilst there are currently only 26 of the 292 registered as belonging to the association, our initial communication will encourage ex students to join and attend the initial function. Whilst it would be preferential for them to join the association before attending any meetings, it will not be a prerequisite.

Anyone in Victoria interested in joining can go to www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents

The Victoria Team currently trying to bring this together comprises the following. Their contact details are provided below for anyone wishing to contact them.

Janet Campbell B Bus – Hospitality Management 1978
Email: janetcampbell@bigpond.com
Mobile: 0407217770

Jim Pitt B Veterinary Sc – 1963
Email: jimpitt@bigpond.net.au
Mobile 0408 514 126

Allan Wilkie Qld Diploma Agriculture – 1958
Email: kerriemuir@bigpond.com
Phone: 03 95008101

Wayne Hammermeister BAppSc Food Technology – 1977
Email: wayne.hammermeister@silliker.com.au
Mobile: 0417379041

Look forward to further updates on the success of the Victorian Branch.

Gone, but not forgotten

John Joseph ALTHAUS QDA 1950
Jack was at College 1946–50. His funeral was held at Mt. Gravatt Cemetery on 24 September 2008.

George Nicholas BATIANOFF QDA 1965
George came to the College as a Russian immigrant in 1963 and represented the College in Table Tennis in 1964–65. After graduating he worked as a weed scientist (DPI and Queensland Herbarium) with Bill Palmer QDAH 1965. George passed away 20 February 2009.

Lester EISENMENG
Physical Education Instructor from February 1956 to January 1963. His funeral was held on 1 December 2008.

Ian Harold MAGUIRE QDAH 1958
Prefect 1958 Shelton House

John Barry MURDAY QDA 1950
Prefect 1949 Pitt House; 3rd XV 1949
Barry was on the College staff as an Assistant Instructor from July 1953 to December 1954. He passed away on 14 September 2008.

Hector REGHENZANI QDA 1942
Prefect 1942 Riddell House; Junior Champion Athlete 1940; Junior Swimming 1940; 2nd XV 1940; 3rd XI 1940. Hector was a successful cane farmer and businessman in the Gordonvale area. He was a man with a big heart, high morals, great patience and kindness. Hector passed away on 8 April 2008.

Elaine TAPSALL (nee BECKEY)
Clerk-Typiste on the College administration staff from December 1950 to October 1958. Elaine died 19 March 2009.

Michael John WALTON

Did You Know?

In February 1933 the 4 student dormitories were designated:–
A Dormitory adjacent to the Main Building
B Dormitory adjacent to the Dining Hall
C Dormitory adjacent to the Principal’s Residence
D Dormitory to the North of C Dormitory.

At the beginning of the third term the members of each House (sporting) were transferred to their own dormitories.

Thynne House, winners of the Governor’s Cup in 1932 (awarded for greatest proficiency in scholastic attainments and outdoor sports) were given the choice of dormitories and selected the most recently constructed one.

As a result B Dorm was renamed Shelton; C Dorm was renamed Pitt and D Dorm was renamed Thynne.

The youngest students were kept on the Matron’s Dormitory A.

Riddell Dormitory was constructed in 1938 and Riddell House entered the sporting competition in 1939.

Shelton Dormitory (Morrison Hall) was opened on Diploma Day 1936 and the original Shelton reverted back to the Junior Dormitory.
Introducing ...

Jim Madden
Senior Vice-President

Jim Madden is the Senior Vice-President of the Association having been first elected to the Association’s Management Committee in 2003.

Jim completed a degree in Horticulture at the College in 1983 and went on to work as an agronomist in England and Israel. He returned to the College in 1986 to complete post-graduate studies in Plant Protection. He specialised in the control of invasive bushland weeds under the tutorage of John Swarbrick. His thesis concerning the chemical control of Broad Leaf Privet (Ligustrum lucidum) was published in the Plant Protection Quarterly. Jim received the 1987 Weed Society of Queensland Award for his thesis.

After completing his post-graduate studies, Jim worked as a weeds agronomist until 1990 when he commenced studying Law. He was admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1995. After working as an employed Solicitor mainly in Ipswich and the Lockyer Valley, in 2007 Jim purchased the law firm David Grant & Associates at Lowood in the Brisbane Valley. In early 2009 he purchased the law firm Brisbane Valley Law at Toogoolawah. He now manages both practices and lives in Ipswich.

As well as his involvement with the Association, Jim is also Vice-President of the St. Edmund’s College Ipswich Old Boys Association and is a member of the Ipswich City Council Park’s and Memorials Community Consultative Committee.

Morrison Hall Mural

We understand that the mural was painted by students in 1989.

If you know more about the artists, reasons for it being painted and whether it is finished, please email Craig Tunley, Re-Connect Editor, craig.tunley@gmail.com