

Re-Connect

A Publication of the
UQ Gatton Past Students
Association Inc.
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STOP PRESS

Nominations for
the 2009
UQ Gatton
Gold Medal
due by
10 July 2009

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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In establishing this collection, important historical documents will be preserved and accessible.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*



The first cohort of students with staff, 1897. Principal EM Shelton sits at centre front, with English, Mathematics and Surveying master PM Pitt at his left. *This photo will be included on one of the 30 themed posters.*

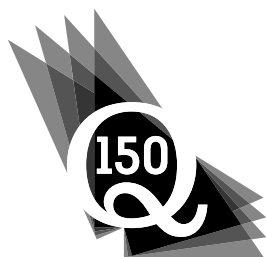
activities of significance in the history of Queensland and UQ Gatton, it is proposed that 30 themed posters highlighting these outcomes will be developed.

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

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



Graham McClymont
President,
UQ Gatton Past Students
Association Inc.

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The 2008 Annual General Meeting held last December was one of the best attended meetings in recent years. It is pleasing to report that there were too many people in attendance to fit into the Stanley Petherick Meeting Room in the Foundation Building. We ended up meeting downstairs in Morrison Hall. Stan Petherick advised the meeting he was delighted that so many people were in attendance.

Dianne Fullelove and Morris Lake did not seek re-election and I thank them for their contribution to the Association during the years they were on the management committee. Welcome to Julie Martin and Peter Ramsey who joined the management committee for the first time.

The past few 50 year reunions held during the *Back to College Weekend* have been exceptionally well attended and in recent years, a book on the life and times of all those who graduated 50 years ago has been produced by the 50 year reunion group. The standard of production has been exceptionally high. Future year groups will have to work hard to exceed or even achieve the standard of previous years.

The 1962 graduation group attended the *Back to College Weekend* for their 46 year reunion. One member of this group is Stuart McCosker QDAH who attended with his wife, Penelope Wensley AO, Governor of Queensland. They both had a great time during the weekend as did everyone else who attended the weekend.

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

Back to College Weekend

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](http://www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents)

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.



1948 Group 60 Year Reunion – *Back to College Weekend* December 2008

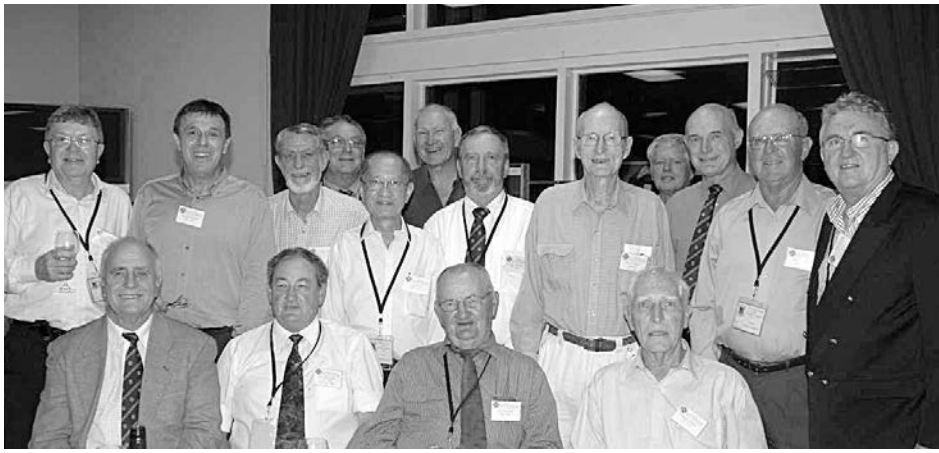
Back Row: (L–R): Jack Burchill, Doug Anthony, Ralph Epstein, Leon Barlow, Leo Lindstrom, Ray Montgomery

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



Mal Ferguson, 2007
Honorary Life Member



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

Historical Collection



The Historical Collection continues to expand, with many items delivered to us during the *Back To College Weekend*. We are grateful to Hec Cunneen, Richard Cobb, John McRoberts and Alan Dickens for the many

assorted photos and memorabilia. I had intended to send out in this issue of the Re-Connect a request for a Gatton College Old Boys blazer pocket. Miracles continue to occur and John McRoberts QDDM 1958 presented one to us in December. Another significant gift was received from the family of Bob McAllister QDA 1927. Bob's daughter Caroline and her husband Alby Taylor QDA 1964 generously donated Bob's blazer pocket (he was Senior Prefect in 1927) together with photos of the 1925 and 1926 1st XIII and the 1926 and

1927 1st Cavalry Mobile Veterinary Section.

We thank all donors most sincerely.

REQUESTS: We are most anxious to obtain a standard maroon QAC blazer pocket (1962–1967) and a Riddell House colour pocket to add to the collection.

SALES: The Historical Collection Staff have compiled A4 size books titled:

“The US Army Medical Corps at QAHS&C 1942–44 and its Continuing Influence 1944–2008” and “The History of the Badges of QAC/QAHS&C”.

These books are available for \$5 each including postage.

Peter Douglas.

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.

The Branch has donated another \$250 to the UQ Gatton Past Students Association Scholarship Fund.

Peter Douglas.

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 Tiara.

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 Muttukumar (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 it's 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 EISENMENGER

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
1st XI 1958; A2 XI 1956; B1 XI 1955; Cadet Under Officer Senior Cadets 1957. "Mac" gained a degree in Veterinary Science from UQ December 1968. He moved to Morwell, Victoria and in 12 months became a partner in the practice. There he remained until retirement in April 2000. Ian passed away suddenly in Morwell 9 March 2009.

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

Michael studied at Gatton between 1972–1974. Michael passed away on 23 March 2009.

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.

UQ Gatton Past Students Association Inc.

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Historical Collection

Val Kilah
Julie Reid

Try our new quick links at:

www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents

Update your contact
details online

[www.alumni.uq.edu.au/
update-your-details](http://www.alumni.uq.edu.au/update-your-details)

166-Out General/May 09

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