



Re-Connect

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

2010 Back to College Weekend

First weekend in
December and the
featured years will be
1950, 1960, 1970,
1980, 1990 and 2000.

To register visit
www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents

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Long Serving Committeeman Honoured by Life Membership

Ron Swanwick has been a member of the UQGPSA Committee since 1992 and was Vice-President for much of this time. One of his major activities included the “Save Old Shelton Campaign” which prevented the iconic and much loved dormitory from possible demolition. Ron played a major role in planning the Centenary Celebrations of Queensland Agricultural College (QAC), the oldest Tertiary Education Institute in Queensland, in 1997. Along with allies, Ray McNamara and Rod Jensen, Ron was pivotal in the movement which prevented the implementation of any plans that were thought to exist to dispose of the College. Ron’s briefing of Mike Horan MLA formed the basis for Russell Cooper’s MLA motion in State Parliament, which was carried unanimously and saved the College. Ron was also the driving force behind the design of the new UQ Gatton tie and logo. The tie has become very popular and a “must have” for our members and other past students.

Ron’s career has been anything but conventional. He graduated from QAC in 1963 with a Diploma in Animal Husbandry and completed a Degree in Veterinary Science at The University of Queensland in 1969. After a year’s private practice in Cabramatta and Leongatha, Ron received a Rotary Scholarship which resulted in his travelling to Canada where he obtained a Master of Science from the University of Guelph in 1972. He then tried his hand in Academia, being employed as Senior Surgical Registrar at the University of Melbourne, Werribee. Following this sojourn, Ron returned to private practice in Shepparton and Bacchus Marsh. Brisbane



Ron Swanwick with Life Membership Certificate at the 2009 *Back to College* Weekend Dinner

and home beckoned and he spent from 1982 to 1992 in his practice at Capalaba.

Never a conventional thinker, Ron took a career detour that surprised most of his colleagues. After nearly 10 years of part time external study he obtained a Law Degree from The University of Queensland. In 1993, Ron joined the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, firstly as a Clerk and then as a Legal Officer. His career blossomed when he was appointed Crown Prosecutor in Toowoomba. He prosecuted criminal trials in Toowoomba and in Western Queensland from 1997 until 2002, when he returned to Brisbane. Ron recently spent a year as Acting Head of the Ipswich Office before being transferred back to Brisbane to work in the Mental Health area of criminal prosecutions.

Ron, the “cricket tragic”, has recently taken up modern jive dancing and resumed his love/hate relationship with golf. He says he is still trying, with little success, to scale the dizzy heights of mediocrity.

His career and service on the UQGPSA Committee make Ron Swanwick, QDAH, BVSc, MSc, LLB a very worthy recipient of the prestigious Life Membership of our Association. Congratulations Ron!

The Last Word

by Dr Kerry Dowsett

2010 has heralded one of the biggest changes in the function of UQ Gatton since the Queensland Agricultural College amalgamated with The University of Queensland in 1990. The moving of the School of Veterinary Science to UQ Gatton has seen a mammoth building program costing in excess of \$100 million almost completed. The staff and students of the School took up residence at the beginning of Semester One, increasing the population of the Campus to numbers not seen for almost a generation. These additional students can be a huge bonus to the UQGPSA with a potential of 100 or more graduates eligible to join each year. With many of our members approaching the twilight years, the addition of these "new" members will be a major boost to the future of the Association.

The Management Committee have been trying to increase the number of members for several years with limited success. If current members value the function of the UQGPSA it is up to each and every one of us to try and convince colleagues and friends to join. The *Back to College* Weekends and the Branch Reunions have been very successful over the last few years but these events can only be continued with the support of members. Membership is the life blood of the UQGPSA which is dependent on the subscriptions of members for the lion's share of our finances. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those dedicated members who organise and participate in these functions and urge members to support them as much as possible.

I would like to acknowledge the help of Peter and Diana Douglas, Don Oxenham, Graham McClymont and Elana Stokes in preparing this edition of Re-Connect.

President's Report



Graham McClymont
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UQ Gatton Past Students
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The 2009 Annual General Meeting was very well attended and once again was held downstairs at Morrison Hall. Jack Steggall, Craig Tunley and Peter Ramsey did not seek re-election and I thank them for their contribution to our Association. Jack and Craig have been members of the Management Committee for many years and their enthusiasm will be surely missed.

Please join with me in welcoming Alison Van Ansem, Mark Pace, Suzy March and Kerry Dowsett on to the Management Committee for this year. Already they are contributing significantly to the management of our Association.

Craig Tunley has been our Editor of Re-Connect for the past seven years and during this time he has produced 14 great editions of our newsletter. Thank you Craig for your contribution to our Association. Kerry Dowsett has accepted the role of Editor and I am sure he will continue the fine tradition that has been established.

Peter Douglas became an Honorary Life Member of our Association at the AGM and will be presented with his framed certificate at the Saturday dinner during this year's *Back to College* Weekend. Please come along and support Peter on the night.

Each year a suitable Gatton graduate is awarded the prestigious UQ Gatton Gold Medal. The 2009 winner is Gerry Collins. Please note that nominations for this year's award close on 9 July 2010. Nomination details as well as a list of all past winners are available on our website. Please have a look at our website www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents. I am sure you will be impressed.

This year we will again award a \$5,000 annual scholarship to a first year student studying full time at the Gatton Campus. With awards to students already made in previous years, we will present a total of

\$15,000 to three Gatton students this year. Our UQ Gatton Past Students Association Scholarship is certainly well regarded within the University community and significantly raises our profile.

It is pleasing to report that Miss Temika Nooteboom, the 2009 winner of our Scholarship, achieved an excellent result in her first year exam results and her application to upgrade to a Bachelor of Veterinary Science has been accepted. Her scholarship will continue at \$5,000 per year for a maximum of five years.

There is approximately \$140,000 in the UQGPSA Scholarship Fund. This fund is administered by The University of Queensland and all donations to the Scholarship Fund are tax deductible.

Please remember to wear your Gatton tie at suitable functions. It is great to see the tie being worn in many different situations. If you don't have a Gatton tie, they can be purchased from our office. They make a great birthday or Christmas present.

We now have our new badge available for sale from our office. It is a similar size to our previous badge and looks great. The badges are priced at \$5 each.

New Members

A warm welcome to new members.

- Sueanne **Avery** (1979)
- Linton George **Brimblecombe** (1987)
- Ann Lock (Francis) **Choo** (1967)
- Robin James **Darrow** (1952)
- Jessy May **Davison** (2009)
- Peter Frederick **Ernst** (1979)
- Bonnie Lisa **Field** née Hobbs (1983)
- John Montgomery **Gilmore** (1969)
- Peter Jeffrey **Goodwin** (1971)
- Beverley Patricia **Hitchens** née Purtill (1979)
- Derek Garth **Nissen** (1968)
- Mark Carl **Pace** (1979)
- David Michael **Schofield** (1971)
- Gregory James **Smith** (1969)
- Neville James **Vallis** (1958)
- Maxwell Clyde **Weller** (1961)

2009 UQ Gatton Gold Medal Awarded to Environmentalist and Cattleman

The UQ Gatton Gold Medallist for 2009, Mr Victor “Gerry” Collins has shown that cattle production and ecological preservation are not mutually exclusive. The 1957 Graduate in Animal Husbandry from the Queensland Agricultural High School and College has had a major influence on the attitude of primary producers trying to produce sufficient food for an ever increasing population as well as protecting the biodiversity of our fragile environment.

Mr Collins has been a driving force in the Central and Northern Graziers Association for many years and served as its President for two terms. While a representative of the United Graziers Association, he was instrumental in the formation of the National Farmers Federation and the Cattle Council of Australia.

His interest in improving the genetics of the national beef herd led Mr Collins to have a major influence on the development of the highly tick resistant and very productive Droughtmaster breed. He did this by gradually infusing Droughtmaster bloodlines into his Shorthorn based herd. The Collins’ Droughtmasters are known for their quality and achieve premium prices at cattle sales and for slaughter.

As part of a plan to vertically integrate beef production to Meat Standards Australia’s requirements from paddock to plate, Mr Collins became a partner in a retail butchering business in North Queensland as well as maintaining his responsibilities for the family beef cattle property.

In addition to his considerable contributions to the Australian Beef Industry, Mr Collins has been a pioneer in Ecotourism. In the 1980’s the Collins Family established the popular tourist attraction known as the Undara Lava Tubes. These remnants of volcanic lava flows which occurred almost 200,000 years ago produced caves that provide sanctuary to a variety of rain forest plants and animals that are amazing to tourists when they visit the dry savannah woodlands of North Queensland.



UQ Gatton Gold Medallist, Mr Victor “Gerry” Collins with Executive Dean of the Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science, Professor Roger Swift at Graduation on 18 December 2009.

Mr Collins was instrumental in establishing the professional organisation known as the “Savannah Guides” which conduct tours of the lava tubes and savannah woodlands for the visitors from Australia and overseas. The accommodation for tourists in historic Queensland Railway carriages and the hospitality of the staff at the Resort during meal times has to be one of the most pleasant tourist experiences in Queensland.

Never one to be idle, in his spare time, Mr Collins devotes himself to such interests as flying, bird watching, geology, geography, local history, sport and racing.

The 2009 Gold Medallist said at the Graduation Ceremony that his time at Gatton provided a wonderful education for people who weren’t particularly successful in the classroom but allowed them to excel at a practical, hands-on career. He stated that the education received at Gatton by today’s students would be pivotal to how we feed an increasingly hungry world population in the next 50 to 60 years.

Mr Victor “Gerry” Collins, the Past Students Association salutes your achievements and is proud that you are the recipient of this year’s UQ Gatton Gold Medal.

Congratulations.

Editor’s Note

Mr Victor “Gerry” Collins is proudly wearing the Past Students Association tie.

His father, Stanley Collins, graduated with QDS 1930 from QAHS & C.

2010 Ekka

We will have a stand at the Ekka. Details unknown. Come and see us.

Back to College Weekend – 5 and 6 December 2009

Did You Know?

During 1931 a College Scout Troop was raised, the Troop consisted of two patrols. The inaugural Scoutmaster was Mr Tom Graham.

The following year two more patrols were added and the Scout Troop formed the Guard of Honour for His Excellency the Governor, Sir Leslie Wilson, on Diploma Day 1932.

In 1939, work began on the construction of the Scout Log Cabin (Den) situated to the south of the Ray McNamara (No2) Oval. On 1 July 1941 the Log Cabin was officially opened by His Excellency, The Governor. The Scoutmaster was none other than Mr Stan Petherick.

Unfortunately the future of the Log Cabin and the Troop were short – lived. They were “closed down” in March 1942 when the US Army arrived and together with the Cooking Classes were never re-instated.

The Den was demolished during the 1960's to make way for staff housing.

The weekend was very well attended by members and their partners from the featured years 1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989 and 1999. Some 40 participants enjoyed the Friday evening BBQ at the Staff Club under the Foundation Building. This has become a feature of the weekend for the “early arrivals” when the stories of the “old days” are retold with great humour and whimsical reminiscences.

The weekend was very special for the 1959 Group celebrating 50 years since graduating from QAC. They had arranged a special luncheon at the “old orchard” machinery shed. The report by Don Jones suggests that a very special and enjoyable time was had by all involved.

Ross Murray performed his usual excellent tour guide duties with up to date information on the activities at the UQ Gatton Campus and his specialist knowledge of the building program for the School of Veterinary Science. These tours are a highlight of the program on Saturday and Sunday for all participants in the weekend. The bus was full to overflowing for each trip. Ross, thank you for your continued support of the *Back to College Weekend* over many years. Your “Honorary Tour Guide Duties” are really appreciated.

The Saturday was very busy for the volunteers at the registration desk with 141 participants attending the Lunch in the Dining Hall on Saturday. The number of participants attending the Dinner on Saturday increased to 177 which was very pleasing to the Committee. Ninety three hardy souls managed to arrive at the Dining Hall for Sunday Breakfast. Well done.

The Committee would like to express their sincere thank you to the volunteers who manned the registration desk (Diana Douglas, Bob James, Denise Oxenham, Nicole Hoskin and Rob Neilsen), prepared morning and afternoon teas (Val Kilah and Helen Coley, niece of our Administrative Officer, Margaret Reisenleiter), sold raffle tickets (Barry and Tess Marks) and manned



The 49ers: (L to R) Ken Laidlaw, Leo Lindstrom, Leon Barlow, Geoff Finnell, Ben Williams and Ray Montgomery (seated)

the bar (Julie Martin and Jim Madden). Julie Reid, Peter Douglas and Don Oxenham were kept busy by the number of visitors keen to see the excellent collection of memorabilia in the Historical Collection under Morrison Hall.

Ron Swanwick, long serving Committee Member, was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the UQGPSA in 2008. He was presented with his Certificate at the Dinner by Mal Ferguson. This award was greatly deserved by Ron who also made an excellent Master of Ceremonies at the Dinner.

The Dinner was attended for the first time by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Greenfield, AO. His attendance was greatly appreciated by the UQGPSA Committee and his speech regarding the future of the UQ Gatton Campus was very informative for all in attendance. Ron Swanwick, the 2008 Life Member presented the Vice Chancellor with a UQGPSA tie, much to the delight of the audience. Other special guests who attended the dinner were Professor Roger Swift, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science (NRAVS), Janelle Zahmel, Faculty Executive Officer and UQ Gatton Campus Manager and the Right Honourable Ian Rickuss MLA, Member for Lockyer. The attendance of these special guests at the dinner was a highlight of the weekend.

Peter Douglas, Don Oxenham and Val Kilah prepared a display of the 150 Years Queensland Celebrations Posters that was officially opened by Ian Rickuss MLA at

the Dinner. Professor Greenfield was impressed with the display that highlights much of the History of QAHS & C and QAC since its inception in 1897.

Graham McClymont and the Committee would like to thank all participants for attending the 2009 *Back to College* Weekend and remind all members of the Association that the 2010 Weekend will be the first weekend in December and the featured years will be 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000. This does not prevent members and guests from other years attending and enjoying the company of "old mates". If you are interested, try to arrange for as many of your colleagues from your year to attend and make the weekend one of reminiscences and enjoyment.



The 69ers: Standing (L to R) Tony Marshall, Frank Cover, Geoff Rathmell, Bill Bryant, Lindon Brown, Alan Fredriksen, Monty Gilmore, Ross Dodt, Derek Shirley, Peter Philp, Bob Bowen, Peter Clarke and Jim Hillier. Seated (L to R) Kevin Lewis, Malcolm Maroske, Greg Smith, Maurice Conway, Graham Cox and Peter Angel



Professor Roger Swift, Janelle Zahmel, Graham McClymont and Ian Rickuss MLA, attended the Dinner on Saturday night



Ron Swanwick presenting the UQGPSA tie to Professor Paul Greenfield AO, Vice-Chancellor, The University of Queensland

Second Generation Graduates from UQ Gatton



Alison Van Ansem with daughter, Jessy Davison, after the UQ Gatton Graduation Ceremony, 18 December 2009

UQGPSA Committee Member, Alison Van Ansem was a very proud mother on UQ Gatton Graduation Day 2009. Alison graduated as a Bachelor of Applied Science (Rural Technology) in 1977. She joined the staff of QAC in 1978 and completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Studies in 1987 following the tragic death of her husband in 1986.

Alison's daughter graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science (Animal Science, Animal & Plant Biosecurity) in December 2009 and has enrolled in a Graduate Diploma of Education at the University of Southern Queensland this year.

Alison is very proud that her daughter is the second generation of her family to graduate from UQ Gatton. Alison a long term resident of the Lockyer Valley is delighted to see that UQ Gatton is still producing "top quality" Graduates.

Editor's Note

I am interested to know how many other families have more than one generation that has graduated from UQ Gatton or the QAC.

WANTED

We are still anxious to obtain:

1. Photo of the old black and white QAHS&C sign at the Main Entrance on the Toowoomba Highway.
2. Maroon QAC Blazer Pocket (1962–1967).
3. Riddell House Colour Pocket to complete the display of pockets.

Last Call

Historical Collection

Items of memorabilia continue to be donated. These donations help to enhance the importance of the Collection which is housed under Morrison Hall and was of great interest to members of the UQGPSA over the *Back to College* Weekend.

David Poulsen, son of Doug Poulsen (QDA 1935, 2nd Class Hons, QDS 1936, 1st Class Hons) presented us with his father's two Diplomas and a vast selection of group and sporting photos from 1934 to 36. They are in pristine condition, and all mounted – Doug's family owned Poulsen Photo Studios. These have filled a big gap in our photo collection and we are indebted to David and his family for their generosity.

The *Back to College* Weekend always proves to be a treasure trove for us. Bruce Mutch (QDAH 1953) donated his Parasite Collection. It consists of a wooden display stand professionally made by his father – a real work of art. Bruce also donated an album of photos depicting life at QAHS&C from 1950 to 1953.

Al Henderson (QDAH 1960) sent a large collection of College Magazines.

Kerry Dowsett (QDAH 1963) presented us with two QAC ties and four blazer pockets, two of which were his 1963 Queensland Junior Rugby Union Pockets.

Thank you Bruce, Al and Kerry.

A donation of \$625 from the Diploma Class of 1958 enabled us to purchase a manikin to display the uniform of a Lt Colonel donated by Graeme Roberts – Thomson (QDA 1968). Cpl. Noel Osborne of 25/49 Battalion kindly donated his Khaki Fur Felt Slouch Hat and ceremonial boots to complete the uniform. The Gatton Student Association also gave us a donation of \$16 towards our funds from the sale of merchandise on their behalf.

We thank both groups and Graeme for their contributions.

Peter Douglas

Branch Reunions

Gold Coast Reunion

The 15th Reunion Luncheon was held at Labrador AFL Sports Club on Saturday 6th February 2010.

The function was attended by 62 past students, staff and friends. Unfortunately, health problems prevented long serving Association President Stan Petherick and his wife Agnes from attending. We wish them a speedy recovery. In Stan's absence, Dr Jim Galletly said Grace before the Luncheon.

This reunion luncheon was attended by some very special "girls" from the Briton days at College. It was very special to have this many of Mr. Britons office staff at this function and to see them all enjoy the luncheon and catch up on the "good old days" when the world was young. Thank you girls for taking the time to attend, we hope to see you at these functions in the future, time permitting.

Special guests included Assn President Graham McClymont, Assn Past President Bob James, Gold Coast Branch Patron Bill Laver and Assn Honorary Life Members Val Kilah and Julie Reid. We were most fortunate to include three Gold Medallists in Jim Miller (1999), Keith Entwistle (2006)

and Kerry Dowsett (2008) on the attendance list.

Keith Entwistle (QDAH 1957) and his wife Betty, Harry Neal (QDAH 1963) and Errol Weston (QDA 1957) and his wife Cathy were welcomed as First Time Members. We look forward to seeing them again and hopefully some other new faces at the next reunion on Saturday 31 July.

I would like to thank Diana Douglas and Bob James for their excellent work in attendance at the door and Alan Flegler and Ron McMahon for conducting a very profitable raffle.

Peter Douglas

Sunshine Coast Reunion

An attendance of 80 guests along with 20 apologies made our luncheon this year the most successful so far. We welcomed a quarter of those who were attending for the first time.

Our President, Graham McClymont accompanied by his wife Carol and Peter Douglas with his wife Diana from the Gold Coast were present and gave short addresses. As well as from the Sunshine Coast region, we were pleased to see guests coming from Brisbane, Gatton, Gold Coast, Oakey, Gayndah

and Tiaro. It was a most enjoyable function.

We would like to know your views on how we could improve the quality of the function so that you get as much time as possible to converse with other past students.

We aim to make our next function on 12 March 2011, that is the second Saturday in March, the one where we reach 100 guests. Please assist us to achieve our goal by contacting others from your year group and advising us of their addresses. We would also like better representation from the 1970s onwards.

Thanks again for your attendance and please assist us in reaching our target of 100 guests for the next luncheon on Saturday 12 March 2011.

Barry Bendixen, Frank Natoli



NW Briton's Office Girls at 2010 Gold Coast Reunion Luncheon. (L to R) Julie Reid (Stark) 1964–76, Cheryl Teasdale (Smith) 1962–67, Carmel Drysdale (Osborne) 1947–48, Val Kilah (Whip) 1947–60, Pat Smith 1959–64

Hatched, Matched and Dispatched

Would you like to share a significant event?

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 is kept up-to-date.

Gone, but not forgotten

Harley Armistead QDA 1937

"Man of Steel".

Prefect 1936-37, Pitt, 2nd XI 1935-37, 2nd XV 1937, Athletics 1937.

Sergeant in the 25th Battalion 1937. His Honour Blazer is displayed in the Campus Dining Hall.

The Armistead Cup for the Inter-House Cricket Premiership was donated by his father, John, in 1937. After gaining a Diploma in 1937 he was appointed Assistant at the College Poultry Section.

He resigned in 1939 and went to New Guinea in a poultry and tropical agriculture venture where he was a pioneer of the coffee industry. He joined the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles in 1939 and helped to train the locals. In 1942 he enlisted in the AIF and rose to the rank of Sergeant. In 1945 he transferred to the Australian New Guinea Administration Unit and in 1946 returned to QAHS&C as an Instructor in the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Training Scheme. He resigned in 1948 and joined CSIRO at the Cooper Laboratory on the College as a Technical Officer. In March 1949 he purchased a poultry farm in his home town of Warwick. Here he set up one of the first chicken meat abattoirs in Queensland and employed 30 staff to process 50,000 chickens a month. Harley who was active in the Warwick Branch of our UQGPSA, died on 19 December 2009 aged 92 years.

Jack Doyle DSO, DFC and Bar
Our most decorated Past Student.

Jack was a short course student in Sheep & Wool during 1935. He enlisted in the RAAF in November 1940 and served with 3 Squadron RAF flying Hurricanes. It was during this time he was awarded the DSO and DFC and Bar. In October 1944 he was posted to 450 Squadron as CO flying Kittyhawks and was recommended for a Bar to

his DSO and was twice recommended for Bars to his DFC and Bar. Following his discharge in February 1945 he returned to the College in 1947 as a short course student in the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Training Scheme. Jack passed away in Toowoomba on 8 December 2009.

Terrence Gibbs QDAH 1960

1st XV Full Back 1959.

Terry passed away late 2009.

Alan Eager QDA 1960

Alan produced the National Farm Report segment of the ABC Country Hour for 17 years.

His Funeral was held in Coffs Harbour on 21 December 2009.

Nigel Gore 1939-40

Riddell House. Nigel played House football and cricket. In the Stock Judging Competition, at the 1940 Royal National Show, he won the Philip Frankel Medal for 1st place in judging the Tamworth Sow. He gained 2nd place in judging the Hereford Bull, 2nd place in the Aberdeen Angus Bull and 2nd place in the Jersey Cow. On leaving College he worked on "Wycanne" at Talwood until joining the 2nd AIF in 1942. Nigel passed away 23 September 2009.

David Rosser QDH 2nd Class Hons 1942

David is reported to have passed away in recent months.

Norm Payne Hawkesbury Diploma of Agriculture

Appointed to College Staff as Lecturer in Rural Management in 1968 and held this position for 19 years before his retirement.

Vern Kleinschmidt QDA 1935

Prefect 1934-35. Pitt House Captain 1935. 1st XI 1934-35. 1st IV 1934-35. Captain 1934-35. Athletic Colours 1934-35. Champion Athlete

1935. Sergeant 1st Cavalry Mobile Veterinary Section 1935. His Honour Blazer is displayed in the Campus Dining Hall. After leaving College he was dairying for some years at Haddon Vale and later became a Stock Inspector. Vern lived in Goondiwindi for many years where he died on 3 February 2010, aged 93 years.

Lionel Cavanagh B.App.Sc. (Rural Tech)

1st Class Hons

In the 1976 Foundation Day Sports he won the Tractor Ploughing and Wood Chop events.

Lionel passed away on 14 January 2010.

Desmond Paterson QDAH 1949

Prefect 1949. Riddell House Captain 1949. Senior Champion Athlete 1948-49.

Under 15 XV 1947. 2nd XV 1948-49.

Des was appointed Assistant Instructor in Agronomy at the College 24 March 1960. He held this position until 30 June 1966 when he was appointed Farm Manager. During this period he was active in both Apex and Rotary. He retired in April 1990. Des passed away in Gatton on 28 October 2009.

Graham Kleinschmidt QDA 1951

Graham was appointed as Temporary Junior Assistant at the College in January 1952 and then as a Cadet Instructor in Apiculture in January 1953. In 1968 he was appointed to the position of Lecturer which he held until his retirement. Graham was the recipient of the 1994 UQ Gatton Gold Medal for National and International Apiculture Service and Research. He passed away 8 October 2009.

Mervyn Long 1986 Assoc.Dip (Stock & Meat Inspection)

Merv was employed with AQIS as a meat inspector. He passed away in January 2010 after a long illness.

Gold Coast

Branch Reunion

Labrador

AFL Sports Club

Ashton Street, Labrador

Saturday

31 July 2010

11:30 am for
12 noon luncheon

Peter Douglas ☎ 5546 6350
koalamen@bigpond.com

Brisbane

Branch Reunion

Sherwood Services Club

Clewley Street
Corinda

Saturday

28 August 2010

11.30am for
12 noon luncheon

Bob James ☎ 3349 1738
rjames39@bigpond.com

Sunshine Coast

Branch Reunion

Caloundra Bowls Club

Cnr Arthur Street and
Burwah Terrace, Caloundra

Saturday

12 March 2011

11:30 am for
12 noon luncheon

Barry Bendixen ☎ 5499 6576
Frank Natoli ☎ 3264 1242

Mackay

Branch Reunion

date and venue
to be announced
in next issue

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Historical Collection

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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)

193-Out General/Apr10

Introducing ...



Don Oxenham,
*QDAH, Senior
Vice-President,
UQ Gatton
Past Students
Association*

Don went to Taringa Primary School and proceeded to the QAHS & C in 1953 to complete his Junior Certificate. Due to his early interest in Agriculture, he continued on at the College and obtained his Diploma in Animal Husbandry in 1958. Don has great memories of his time at Gatton and will always be grateful for his involvement with the other students and staff of that era. The College environment allowed Don to develop life skills so important to mutual understanding, mateship, fellowship and social interaction. The combination of lectures, practical work and sporting opportunities really suited Don's persona and provided the opportunity to make life long friends whom he had the pleasure of meeting in many parts of the country during his working career.

Following graduation in 1958, Don was employed at the Cooper Laboratory, CSIRO at Lawes where he worked with Bob Milford in digestibility experiments, with penned sheep, on introduced grasses and legumes. In 1959 Don completed three months National Service at Wacol and was then posted to the Cunningham Laboratory, CSIRO, St. Lucia. Here he worked on the influence of nitrogen fertilizers and legumes on tropical pastures in South East Queensland with Dr Ted Henzell, Vic Catchpool, Bob Myers and many fellow graduates. This research was some of the earliest to measure gaseous losses from the application of urea to grass pastures as well as using leaf analysis of grasses to measure their nitrogen status.

Some of Don's fondest memories revolve around the work allocations at Farm Square, the sport, the regular meals at set times each day, the penalties, field trips and the Foundation Day Agricultural Sports. Don played Rugby Union at College and switched to Rugby League for Gatton while working at the Cunningham Laboratory. He then played seniors for Western Suburbs in Brisbane. Once retired from playing, Don coached Western Suburbs 1st Grade Team and also a State League Team in Toowoomba. He was appointed to the Queensland Rugby League Coaching Panel and was awarded a Level 4 Master Coach Award by the Australian Rugby League.

After retiring from CSIRO in 2005, Don worked with the Queensland Rugby League which involved travelling in Queensland and interstate conducting player development and coach education courses. Even in retirement, Don does part time work with the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority at the National and Olympic level. He is still involved with development and training programs with Junior Rugby League.

Don and his wife Denise have three successful children who have presented them with nine grandchildren. Don really enjoys his involvement with former class mates and other past students of the College. His position of Senior Vice-President of the UQGPSA provides Don with the opportunity to be closely associated with UQ Gatton and to have an understanding of the new environment and education offered to students in the modern era.



CSIRO Cooper Laboratory May 2009 – Original building on right (UQGPSA Q150 Poster 6)