2018 Scholarship Recipient Announced

It was a pleasure to congratulate and award the 2018 Scholarship to Vanessa Hartnett at the Scholarships and Awards ceremony held at UQ in July. Vanessa hails from Townsville and is currently studying a Bachelor of Science majoring in Animal and Veterinary Bioscience.

In her thankyou letter to us she said “I’ve always been very passionate about education and learning, especially when it comes to anything related to science or maths, especially to do with animals. UQ Gatton was my first preference on my QTAC application, as I believe that I will have the opportunity to work closely with animals for my studies.”

Vanessa is hoping to transfer into the Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Honours) in 2019 as she would love to work as a veterinarian – a long held goal. Additionally, to go into research later in her career is her aim, researching some or one of the many diseases that can be found in animals, and to help either eradicate them or help control them. She would follow many other esteemed Gatton past students in this area.

Opening of J.K. Murray Library Refurbishment and Extension

The J.K. Murray Library at Gatton campus has been transformed into a student-focused hub where students can access research, support services, study, collaborate, and share ideas with their peers. Emeritus Professor Alan Rix opened the new space on Tuesday 24 April 2018. He said “Today’s student cohort is very attuned to the needs and demands of their disciplines, is very focussed on learning, and appreciates the practical focus of the campus in providing the animals and the agricultural environment they need for their study.”

The upgraded facility provides an extra 1000 square metres of space and has provided an additional 290 study spaces. The Library is open for study 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

View photos of opening at: web.library.uq.edu.au/blog/2018/05/jk-murray-library-transformed

The J.K. Murray Library is named in honour of Sir Jack Keith Murray, who was a colonial administrator in Papua New Guinea, a soldier who served in France in the First World War, and principal of the Queensland Agricultural High School and College at Gatton from 1923. Under his direction, the campus became the centre of rural education in Queensland.

A digital story that tells more of J.K. Murray and Gatton has just recently being launched, can be found at web.library.uq.edu.au/collections/stories-from-collection/jack-keith-murray.

Thanks to the library staff for these words and the story.
The Last Word

The Times...

The UQ academic paradigm is a very different thing from that with which most UQGPSA members were familiar in their days at Gatton Campus. This is for a variety of reasons around UQ academic and research philosophy, and also for reasons of modern regulatory and legal constraints. Many members have expressed concern and disappointment with the changes toward a narrow curriculum and little practical experience for students; and indeed it has been opined that recent teaching programs no longer adequately satisfy the requirements of rural industry employers.

Members (with emails) will have received two thorough reports by Barry Marks and Ray Byrnes (abridged version in this edition) regarding review and future plans for Gatton Campus teaching programs. It seems that UQ’s Gatton Management has recognised the desirability of improving teaching programs with a much broader curriculum and more emphasis on hands-on skills to complement technical and theoretical learning. We are told that plans to implement changes are afoot. The Last Word sees this as a positive turn.

In the immortal words of Bob Dylan, ‘the times they are a-changing’ – they have in the last two decades, and are set to again in future; seemingly this time to more, and broader, Science with Practice.

Slade Lee

President’s Report

Kim Jorgensen
UQ Gatton Past Students’ Association Inc.
Phone: 0438 130 963
Email: jorgensen_kim@bigpond.com

Reunions, reunions, reunions…so good to be able to continue with our usual reunions and add a few more aka: Canberra, Rockhampton and the Tablelands. Plenty of photos in later pages of this edition and also on our Facebook page and in the regular email Newsletter.

We met our latest scholarship recipient in August. Vanessa Hartnett gives us some insight into her college life. We also hear from two other scholarship students as to how they have used their money. You will read that they are both looking forward to life after College next year.

Read about how we again sponsored a Sunflower Competition prize. The competition is going from strength to strength each year. To increase our profile with the current student body we chose to help out the 2018 Gatton Student Association Gala Ball committee with the entertainment. Mark Pace gives a wrapup later in this edition.

We are gearing up for Back to College Weekend 2018. Emails and letters are going out to all graduates from the Feature Years. Check out some of the photos we have been putting up from each year on our Facebook page.

Because of travel for work I have had the opportunity to visit Far North Queensland a number of times in the last few months. Attended VP Day commemorations in Tolga in August. Two Gatton graduates were prominent in the events of the day: John Hardy and Ray Byrnes. Went out to Undara Lava Tubes for the first time too. Great destination – thank goodness for the foresight of Gatton graduates from the Collins’ family.

In June, Ray Byrnes and Barry Marks met with Professor Melissa Brown, Executive Dean of Science; Professor Neal Menzies, Head, School of Agriculture and Food Sciences and Ms Janelle Zahmel, Director of the UQ Gatton Campus to discuss issues concerning the future of the Gatton Campus and Courses offered. Members received full transcripts of the meeting and follow-up phone call. A summary has been included on Page 6 of this edition.

To finish, thanks to all the 2018 Committee and museum volunteers for their hard work this year. I will not be renominating for the role of President at the AGM but will remain on the committee. In my two years as President I have especially enjoyed meeting you all at BTCWs and events and am pleased we have been able to add some more regular reunions to our yearly events.

In the immortal words of Bob Dylan, ‘the times they are a-changing’ — they have in the last two decades, and are set to again in future; seemingly this time to more, and broader, Science with Practice.

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Re-Connect, Summer 2018

Mark Pace our Junior Vice-President presented our Award to Year 11 students from Wilsonton State High School at the 2018 UQ Sunflower Competition for the Most Ornamental Sunflower Prize.

Nanango State High School won the Overall Grand Champion prize for the second year in a row. The giant sunflower weighed in at 2.97kg. More than 4000 students from 103 high schools across Australia participated in this year’s competition.
Scholarship Recipients Update

You will all be pleased to hear from some of our current Scholarship holders on what they have been able to achieve through our support this year.

From Loretta Tonscheck

I am now in third year studying a Bachelor of Agribusiness at UQ, Gatton Campus. After growing up with exposure to primarily the dairying and beef cattle industries, and a strong passion for agriculture, enrolling in an Agribusiness degree at UQ seemed the most fitting next step toward achieving my life ambition of working in the stud and/or commercial livestock industry. As my degree is fast approaching completion, ‘resume revamping’ and job searching alongside my final semester studies has me fairly busy. This year, the UQ Gatton Past Students’ Association Scholarship has been particularly helpful in helping me fund attendance and registration in the Intercollegiate Meat Judging Competition held in Wagga Wagga in July and a trip to Beef Week in Rockhampton in May, which was a fantastic opportunity to network with an enormous and global platform of industry leaders and learn so much more about the beef cattle industry. At Beef Week, in a field of approximately 35 competitors, I received second place in the 18–25-year-old Stud Cattle Young Judges Competition. Also, through connections I was able to make at Beef Week, I am very pleased to say I have secured a full-time graduate position at a very reputable stud and commercial beef cattle agribusiness to begin in 2019. Again, the scholarship has been an invaluable assistance to me, allowing me to take extracurricular opportunities and reduce the financial stress tertiary studies can be and for that I am forever grateful.

From Sara Rodes

I am in my fifth year of Veterinary Science and am absolutely loving it! I have been on placement all year at places like Taroom, Warwick and Tenterfield and have met so many amazing veterinarians. This would not have been possible without the help of the Scholarship which allowed me to organise accommodation in places where I could have the best learning experiences. Because of this experience I have secured a job as a veterinarian in a great clinic in Warwick next year which I am very excited to start.

On Friday night August 24, two UQGPSA members, Junior Vice-President Mark Pace and Committee member Trevor Pezet attended the Gatton Student Association Ball held at the Elton Burns Recreation Building (Multi Purpose Hall).

The night was attended by almost 300 Gatton Campus students across all programs from Diploma to Degrees and it can be said that the spirit of celebration amongst students has certainly not dwindled over the generations.

Both UQGPSA members addressed the students to raise their awareness of our existing association and to build the bridge from their current status as students and consider then becoming members of the UQGPSA. Students were also updated on the good work of the UQGPSA Scholarships available to students and the support of the UQGPSA. The student feedback was positive and the engagement certainly raised the profile and relationship between the two associations and helped to encourage younger generations to consider joining the ranks of the UQGPSA. It was discussed on the night that this engagement should be an annual event to establish the rekindled relationship.

The donation of $1,000 provided by the UQGPSA was used to pay for the band (photo inset) who provided good entertainment for the Ball.
Branch Reunions

‘72 Degree Group 45th Reunion: Greg Nunn, John Marshall, Alan Murray, Jan Hamilton and Ian Littleton

Bundaberg Reunion

Gold Coast Reunion: Charlie Teasdale, Jack Groenendyk and Cheryl Teasdale

Canberra Reunion: Enjoying lunch at Canberra Yacht Club in April

Chinchilla Reunion: Don Allen, Darby Ferris, Dave Bunting, Kev Hart and Norm Woolley

Rockhampton Reunion held during Beef Week

Check out the rest of our photos on Facebook!
72 Degree Group hold 45th Reunion

In May, 59 past students, staff and their spouses gathered at The Glen Hotel, Eight Miles Plains to celebrate 45 years since their graduation ceremony in May 1973. Organised by John Taylor, Anne Chamberlain and Mal Ferguson, the event was deemed a great success by all who attended.

Travelling the greatest distance was Charlie Powell (Food Tech.) and wife Judy from Canada. Within Australia, Bruce Short (Rural Tech.) and Geoff Tualy (Extension lecturer) from Melbourne were challenged by Mick Gilbert (Rural Tech.) and partner Graziella Peressini from Tolga for the longest trip. However John Harden (Plant Protection lecturer) and wife Di won the longest trip of the day, flying in from Adelaide in time for lunch. Jim Galletly (Soil and Water lecturer) at 91 was the oldest attendee. The student cohort of that year included the first intake of female students to Gatton, and all five women were able to make it back for the celebrations.

John Taylor coordinated a book to celebrate the day. It contained photos from 1969 when all arrived at QAC, Diploma and Degree year photos as well as character notes from fellow students. Group formal and informal activity photos were also included. All students of the time were also given the opportunity to write a one page summary of their post College life. The profiles reflected the major contributions that group of graduates had made to agriculture, business and communities in Australia and around the world, stemming from an extraordinarily broad grounding in ‘science with practice’.

John also prepared a PowerPoint presentation that added photos taken by individuals during the “study” years to the group activity photos that played during the afternoon. This presentation was alternated with films made by the late Steve Everingham, whose family kindly gave permission for the films to be copied. Steve’s sister, Joanne, was a special guest for the afternoon. These presentations together with photos taken of the day have now been copied and made available to those who have requested them.

After five hours together, it was decided that we should not wait another 45 years to do it again. However no time has yet been proposed for the follow up event.

Historical Collection

Life in the Museum has been hectic in preparation for the Back to College Weekend.

Work on the WWI Roll of Honour has involved 20 replacement name plates being manufactured due to a variety of errors. Research in conjunction with UQ Archives has discovered 29 names missing from College records. To date, it is known that 249 Past Students and Staff enlisted, 51 making the Supreme Sacrifice. One in five, not good odds!!

Donations since the last issue of Re-Connect have consisted of an Honour Blazer awarded to Hector Reghenzani QDA 1942, and two bread and butter plates carrying the College badge and colours, a pattern not previously seen by the Museum staff. These were donated by Hector’s daughter Angela.

If you can assist, please scan and email them to our Association or send us the original photograph, preferably with captions. We can return original photographs if required.

Back to College Weekend

The annual Back to College Weekend will be held from Friday 30 November to Sunday 2 December 2018. The feature years are those who completed their study at Gatton in 1958, 1968, 1978, 1988, 1998 and 2008. Other year groups returning are from Adelaide in time for lunch. Jim Galletly (Soil and Water lecturer) at 91 was the oldest attendee. The student cohort of that year included the first intake of female students to Gatton, and all five women were able to make it back for the celebrations.

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We still require a Riddell House colour pocket and a 1957 2nd XV photo.

We have been lucky enough to be offered access to a new scanner which will be installed in September. This will allow us to scan books and other multiple page documents more easily. Once they are in a digital form they will be much more accessible to those researching our history.

Once again I thank Val Kilah, Julie Reid and Trevor Arthur for their continued and valued assistance.

Peter Douglas

Photographs

The Museum has a severe shortage of class and sporting photographs from the 1970s to the present time. If you can assist, please scan and email them to our Association or send us the original photograph, preferably with captions. We can return original photographs if required.

New Members

Robert Graham Adams (1968)
Gillian Sue Barrett (1988)
Geoffrey Charles Hope (1968)
Paul Mallalieu Inglis (1988)
John Alexander McLean (1952)
Geoffrey Hugh O’Donnell (1978)
Sharon Lesley Robinson (1985)
Noel Turner (1958)
Contact with UQ about Future of Gatton Campus and Courses see introduction in President’s Report

Early in 2018 past student Ray Byrnes wrote a letter to Prof Brown in which he expressed his concerns about the apparent lack of utilisation of land resources and the run-down state of some of the facilities on campus. He also questioned whether courses offered were meeting the needs in the primary industry sector. It was noted in the letter that the Veterinary Science facilities at the Campus were of a very high standard and the impression gained was that their development appeared to have taken precedence. The meeting and follow-up phone call summarised here by Ray and Barry were the result of this letter.

This was a first step in an on-going dialogue to better understand UQ’s plans for the future at Gatton and keep past students, industry representatives and other interested people up-to-date on the developments. The UQ representatives provided informative responses to the issues we raised.

Following is a summary of the issues discussed:

• **Future of the Gatton Campus** – It was acknowledged that the future of the Campus had been in doubt but that was in the past and UQ is now firmly committed to the on-going development of Gatton as a leading Centre for Agricultural Education and Research in Australia.
• **UQ Gatton will be concentrating resources in the fields of Tropical and Sub-tropical Agriculture and is extending its target areas of operations into South-east Asia.** The view is that UQ Gatton is the best placed education and research institution in Australia to meet the needs of these sectors.
• **Current Status of UQ Agricultural Science Research** – It was stated that UQ is currently rated number 5 in the world rankings based on quantity and quality of Agricultural Research output.
• **Masterplan for Gatton Campus Academic Core** – copies were provided of the Masterplan which is in three phases over 10 years of planned construction and refurbishment of facilities. The plan conveys that UQ is firmly committed to the on-going development of the Gatton Campus.
• **Practical Content of Courses** – Prof Menzies acknowledged that graduates generally require a period of on-the-job training before they can reach their full potential as an employee in industry. Efforts are being made to address this deficiency through student placements within cropping and livestock operations relevant to the field of study. Whether the return of farming activities on campus will lead to opportunities for practical work is a topic for future discussion.
• **Utilisation of the Campus’s Land and Water Resources** – It was acknowledged that these have not been used to full advantage in recent years.
• **Use of Cropping Land** – Moving to more systematic use of all the arable soil types on the site. The campus land will be treated as a research site with different areas/soil types devoted to suitable cropping research regimes. This change from the previous opportunistic cropping system will be overseen by a group of Agronomists whose task will be to achieve the best possible use of the land and water resources in a planned integrated crop research program. Have appointed consultants to assess and advice on water resources as part of the integrated cropping planning process. Are looking to upgrade infrastructure to better suit smaller scale cropping sites e.g. irrigation systems scaled to suit smaller crop areas.

Dennis Popp (ex CSIRO Pasture Scientist) now at Gatton and soon to retire has urged more emphasis on field vs glasshouse work and strongly supports increased involvement of students in practical field trial work. This change in emphasis is strongly supported by Neal Menzies.

• **The School is aspiring to develop a cooperative relationship with a Swedish Agricultural University ranked just below UQ in excellence.** The aim is to expose students to other ecosystems and environments where they can compare cropping systems and yields and develop a better understanding of the underlying factors influencing outcomes for the same crop grown in different geographic locations e.g. comparison of a cereal crop grown in Sweden with the same crop grown at the same time in winter at Gatton.
• **New Centre for Horticultural Science at Gatton Campus** – Has commenced this year. Professor Neena Mitter an Agricultural Biotechnologist has been appointed to head the new Centre. It is based in laboratory and glasshouse facilities at Gatton and would be working closely with the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI). Practical work could be arranged for students on cooperating farms and orchards. Focus at Gatton will be on intensive horticulture mainly row crop vegetable production. Currently in the planning phase and looking to develop a single research delivery team with DAF and CSIRO. Not intending to reestablish an orchard at Gatton but are looking to team up with DAF to conduct cooperative research at DAF locations particularly in CQ on citrus. As an example of this approach recently lecturer Darryl Joyce (from DAF Nambour) was a joint appointment between UQ and DAF.

• **New Piggery** – Plans are being drawn up for the redevelopment of the piggery at the Gatton campus at an expected cost of $18M. The unit will have strong genetics and welfare research programs and will be about 1200 sow capacity. Most pigs will be sold as weaners with a smaller proportion being taken through to grow out stage. Process to choose a commercial partner to operate the piggery is being finalised and discussions are proceeding on design features. Intention is for two people (an academic and an experienced piggery operator) to travel overseas to visit a pig technology teaching facility in Germany (suggested by Pig Industry contact of Ray’s) and other piggeries in the Netherlands before the final design is settled.

• **Poultry Industry Training** – Poultry industry research has shifted away from Gatton to other Universities in recent years. Australian Eggs, the leading egg industry organisation in Australia has established its own training program for industry employees conducted by an accredited training provider. It provides a range of training from induction programs to Certificate/Diploma level and is keen to link their Diploma level courses to relevant University degree courses. The suggestion that the poultry industry may be prepared to provide external industry-based lecturers for relevant Gatton courses was well received. UQ approach with the poultry facilities will depend on the outcome of discussions with the main players in the poultry industry.

• **Beekeeping** – no plans to reestablish apiary facilities at UQ Gatton

• **Entomological Content of Courses** – There are difficulties in coordinating the entomological content of Agricultural Science courses because Entomology is located in the School of Biological Sciences and it has been difficult to get entomologists to go to Gatton. However they are encouraging people to work there and a PhD student who has applied for funds to research possible applications of spider venom in Agricultural pest control will be located
Gone, but not forgotten...

Because I could not stop for Death
He kindly stopped for me
The Carriage held but just Ourselves
And Immortality.

Emily Dickinson

Branch Reunion | Venue | Date | Time | Contact
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Brisbane | Pacific Golf Club | Saturday 10 November 2018 | 11:30am for 12 noon luncheon | Slade Lee | 0419 474 251
Gold Coast | Labrador AFL Sports Club | Saturday 9 February 2019 | 11:00am for 12 noon luncheon | Peter Douglas | 07 5546 6350
Sunshine Coast | Caloundra Bowls Club | Saturday 9 March 2019 | 11:30am for 12 noon luncheon | Peter Jacobson | 0419 662 467
Canberra | Canberra Yacht Club | April 2019 | 12 noon luncheon | Kim Jorgensen | 0438 130 963
Rockhampton | Red Lion Hotel | Sunday 28 April 2019 | 11:30am for 12 noon luncheon | Julie Martin | 0439 362 364
Mackay | Duke of Edinburgh Hotel | Sunday 19 May 2019 | 11:00am for 12 noon luncheon | Mark Hetherington | 0407 595 349
Bundaberg | East End Hotel | Sunday 9 June 2019 | 11:00am for 12 noon luncheon | Mike Moller | 0478 154 593

Other Reunions ... Watch out for details on Facebook and LinkedIn emails will be sent to members and those we have contact details for.
In February 1966, I found myself on the steps of the Foundation Building looking forward to the next chapter in my life. My first dormitory was Shelton run by Bill Logan. Life was good. I learned the ropes quickly and tried to stay out of trouble.

My time at the College came and went as most things do in life with a hiccup here and there. Restructuring went on around us, new buildings sprung up and new faces dotted the landscape. We were not immune to civil unrest sweeping the country. We organised our own union and fought for change where it mattered most.

After graduation in 1968, I got a job with the DPI. I was sent to the Hermitage Research Station where Bill Natoli introduced me to pig nutritional research. A year later I transferred to the Warwick office where I worked with Ken Gillies in extension. It was here that I rubbed shoulders with many College old boys especially Stan Walsh who took me under his wing.

I parted company with the DPI in 1971 to explore the world. I boarded the RHMS Patris in Sydney and headed off to London with a return ticket to yearn for the good old days. There is a belief that we should teach students the way we were taught mixing science with practice. Those days have gone. I don’t believe we have a modern vision for agricultural education and until we do we will continue to live in the past unable to move forward.

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continued from page 6