

Re-Connect

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

Nominations
for the
**UQ Gatton
Gold Medal**
close
8 July 2011

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Flood Appeal Gets PSA Support

UQ Gatton Past Students Association have proven their ties with the Lockyer Valley community by supporting the local flood appeal, with the senior vice-president, Don Oxenham presenting a \$4200 cheque to regional mayor and past student, Steve Jones.

Hans Pearson, a 1991 graduate, launched an email campaign in conjunction with the Past Students Association, seeking support for the flood appeal that resulted in donations and well-wishes from around the globe.

“The generosity was overwhelming and it was clear past students were digging deep for the community they once called home,” Mr Pearson said.

“Separate reunions have been organised to raise funds, and numerous individual donations have also been received.”

It is envisaged that further donations will be forthcoming and the Association can make further presentations to the community in coming months.

As past students and for the present students it is important that the connection with the local community is both maintained and strengthened by appeals such as this.

Donations can be made to:
UQ Gatton Past Students Association
BSB: 064127
Account: 10154515
Bank: CBA
Ref: UQGPSA Flood Appeal



At the cheque presentation were past students Hans Pearson, Mayor Steve Jones, UQGPSA senior vice-president Don Oxenham and junior vice-president Peter Douglas

Scholarship Winner Says Thanks



“I am writing to you as the recipient of the 2009 Past Students Association Scholarship. After another year of study at UQ Gatton, I am pleased to say I am still thoroughly enjoying studying Veterinary Science. I find the course absolutely amazing and feel that I am greatly privileged to have received this position.”

“Again, I would like to thank you and all the members of the Past Students Association for the generosity you have shown me over the past two years. I would not be where I am today without your support.”

Temika Nooteboom

The Last Word

by Gary Mason

reunion n 1. a gathering of people who have been apart. 2. the act of coming together again.

Yes, reunions are a very special occasion and an integral part of what the UQGPSA stands for – it is a unique club which strongly fosters the ongoing friendship and mateship which was established during the study years at Gatton.

Renewing these friendships and catching up with people you may not have seen for many years is always exciting, seeing how they have changed, discovering where they are now and what they are doing.

This year's reunion will be held at the UQ Gatton Campus on the first weekend in December, Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th, with many options for people to stay over, enjoy the Saturday night reunion dinner and have a casual weekend catching up.

Feature years in 2011 are the graduates from 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001, plus the group from 1956 who are celebrating their 55th annual reunion, but this is not exclusive as all past students are welcome, regardless of when you graduated.

Former and current staff are not forgotten either, and will gather for lunch in the dining hall on Saturday – so if you are a past staff member, remember this is another opportunity for you to become involved.

My year group gathered for our 40th reunion last year, which proved to be a very entertaining weekend, with a number being regular attendees while some had not seen each other since the day we packed up and left to face the challenges of life.

It is all good fun and very much worth the effort to come back to Gatton – so I challenge you to gather your mates and make the pilgrimage on the first weekend in December.

President's Report



Graham McClymont
President,
UQ Gatton Past Students
Association Inc.

Phone: (07) 3378 0201

Email:
g.mcclymont@bigpond.com

Thank you to all of our members who elected me to the position of President at our AGM last December. I am now in my seventh year as President and feel honoured to hold the position for such a long time. However, my seven years pales into insignificance when compared with some of the Presidents of the past, particularly the 25 years served by Winter Philip Hamon between 1949 and 1973.

Qualifications have been awarded at Gatton every year since 1900 (except 1965) and we are attempting to display a copy of qualifications in our Museum. Already we have quite a collection including an original Queensland Diploma in Agriculture from 1900. It would be great if you could send us a copy of your qualification. Our aim is to have a copy of each type of qualification of each year from 1900 through to 2010 and beyond. We are only after copies; however originals will be greatly accepted if no longer required.

Qualifications were not awarded at QAC in 1965. Up until 1964, qualifications were awarded in December of the year that students graduated. However, those students who finished their study in 1965 were awarded their qualification on 2 May 1966 and this practice continued until 1993 when graduating students from 1992 received their qualification on 30 April 1993 and graduating students from 1993 received their qualification on 17 December 1993. Since 1993, students have received their qualification in the year they graduated.

Last December at the *Back to College* Weekend, 10 members of the 1969–70 Certificate group became members of our Association. There are now 23 people from this year group who are members of our Association. I am proud to be a member of this group and we had a great 40 year reunion last December. I suspect

that there are few year groups with 20 or more members of our Association, with the 1958 Diploma year group probably a clear winner.

The *Back to College* Weekend last year was a great success and this year the weekend is scheduled for 3 and 4 December. The guest speaker at the dinner last year was Professor Alan Rix, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and the person in charge of the Gatton Campus since the start of this year.

Over the past few months, there have been so many natural disasters that it is hard to single out one that is more deserving of support, however the flood disaster in the Lockyer Valley was very close to the place we once called home. Our Association has collected donations from former Gatton students and donated the funds to the Lockyer Valley Region Flood Relief Appeal. Donations are still welcome and all funds will be passed on for distribution to those in need. Donations can be made directly into our account. BSB 064127 Account Number 10154515 saying UQGPSA Flood Appeal and donors may like to leave their name. Donations are not tax deductible, details can be found on the front page.

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 interest 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 8 July 2011.

Details can be obtained from:
Campus Director
Ms Janelle Zahmel
The University of Queensland
Gatton Qld 4343

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

Gatton Gold Medal to Virology Expert

The University of Queensland Gatton Gold Medal for 2010 has been awarded to a veterinarian who helped avert an international disease outbreak.

Dr Dennis Hoffman, Kandanga, was acknowledged for his contribution to international veterinary science in Australia and overseas.

His distinguished career began at the Queensland Agricultural College when he graduated in 1964 with a Queensland Diploma in Animal Husbandry.

An international leader in the field of virology, Dr Hoffman introduced a control program to stop the spread of mosquito-borne equine infectious anaemia, which had infected 80 percent of the horses at the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club stables.

Later, Dr Hoffman became District and Acting Regional Veterinarian in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, which fuelled his interest in tropical veterinary medicine and further study.

He returned to Australia, taking up a position in the Department of Veterinary Pathology and Public Health at UQ, where

he completed a PhD studying bovine ocular squamous cell carcinoma.

This research led to pioneering work on papilloma virus, successful immunotherapy of a naturally occurring cancer and recognition of a novel technique for animal tear collection.

Wanting to further his interests in development aid work, Dr Hoffman took up a position with CSIRO in Bogor, West Java, Indonesia, where he established disease control protocols that resulted in the establishment of a new national production research institute.

“Providing assistance is of mutual benefit to developing countries and Australia by working together to improve animal health,” Dr Hoffman said.

“Australian scientists who can assist with training and developing disease control programs in these countries are also assisting animal production in Australia by reducing the risk of disease entering the country.”



Dr Hoffman continues to represent Australian research and problem-solving expertise through frequent consultancies in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific at the request of such bodies as the Australian Government, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the Government of the Netherlands and the World Health Organisation.

Distinguished Past Student Award

A north Queensland sugarcane farmer has been recognised as the inaugural Distinguished Past Student, an award established by the UQ Gatton Past Students Association in 2010, to honour a past student who has achieved success, or has made and/or continues to make an outstanding contribution to their vocation in an area of relevance.

To qualify, nominees must have attended the QAHS&C, QAC or UQ Gatton for any period of time.

Clive Rogers OAM, a long-time resident (38 years) of the Mirani Shire in NQ attended the QAHS&C in 1952–53 completing a Junior Certificate course.

Clive ranks highly in his achievements and community contributions with 28 years serving on the Mirani Shire Council including 12 years as mayor.

He has also served on 10 committees and organisations at State and National level, leading and contributing to natural resource management through the State Land Care Management Co-ordination Committee and a Community Rainforest Re-Habilitation Program in the Mackay and Whitsunday areas for a total of 31 years.

Clive was honoured with a Rotary Citizens Award for his work as chairman of fund raising, construction and management of the “Nanyima Aged Care facility from 1991–2001”.

And, as Clive is not busy enough, he is also a director of Anglicare North Queensland, in addition to other positions within the Anglican Church organisation in North Queensland.

He was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the Queens Birthday Honours list in 2005 for services to local government, natural resource management and the community of Mirani Shire. Nominations for this year close 1 November 2011. See our website for details www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents



Life Membership to Peter Douglas

New Members

Ian Robert **Anderson** (1970)
 Stephen Damian **Banney** (1977)
 Russell George **Commens** (1970)
 John Colin **Couper** (1970)
 Patrick Michael **Devlin** (1971)
 Helen Joyce **Devlin** née Bronson (1972)
 Laura Ruth **Devlin** (2010)
 Ross Stuart **Doolan** (1970)
 Lindsay Ross **Evans** (1970)
 William Anthony **Gibbs** (1970)
 Gary David **Gilmore** (1968)
 Alan Francis **Guilfoyle** (1966)
 Henry Bruce **Jamieson** (1953)
 Stephen John **Jones** (1981)
 Bruce Christopher **Lawrie** (1970)
 Michael Anthony **Logan** (1970)
 John **Mackenzie** (1952)
 Terence Edward **McCarthy** (1961)
 John Francis **Nix** (1960)
 Hans William **Pearson** (1991)
 Michael St John **Pratt** (1970)
 Christopher Jon **Walton** (1977)
 Andrew Joseph **Youngberry** (1969)

Peter Douglas was bestowed with Life Membership of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association during the 2010 reunion held at the College last December. Peter attained a Diploma in Animal Husbandry in 1958, and has maintained his membership of the Association since that time.



Joining the College staff in 1959 as an Animal Husbandry instructor, he remained in that position until 1971, when he joined the newly established Emerald Agricultural College, where he remained until 1973.

In 1973, Peter took up the position of manager of the Lone Pine Sanctuary, where he remained until 1987, during which time he became an authority on koalas. Spending time in Japan in 1985 on behalf of the Queensland Government, Peter revived the koala population that was not thriving at the Kagoshima Zoo, and also helped supervise preparations at Saitama Zoo to receive koalas.

This was followed by an invitation to establish the Wildlife area at Dreamworld, where he remained until retirement in 1992.

He then established a Wildlife Consultancy Service and maintains a community interest as chairman of the Coomera State Primary School Council.

His passion and dedication for the Association led to being appointed to the management committee in 2003; senior vice-president in 2004, and re-elected junior vice-president in 2010.

He also established and was elected president of the Gold Coast branch of the Association, a position he still holds, and organises two reunions each year.

In 2005, Peter took on the position of chairman of the Historical Collection and Museum, and with the valuable assistance of Val Kilah and Julie Reid, he has ensured the history of the oldest tertiary institute in Queensland is accurate and preserved for ever.

He is continually searching for more additions to this collection and spends many days attending Campus/College open days and numerous agricultural exhibitions and field-days to promote the Past Students Association.

As a former officer of the College CMF/ Army Reserve unit, Peter has dedicated a lot of time to researching and recording the history of the Military connection with the College, and the involvement of the Americans during World War II – compiling a valuable document on this subject.

Peter continues to play a valuable role in maintaining the profile of this Association because he believes in its value to the University of Queensland Gatton Campus.

Gold Coast

Branch Reunion

Labrador
AFL Sports Club
 Ashton Street, Labrador

Saturday
23 July 2011

11:30 am for
 12 noon luncheon

Peter Douglas ☎ 5546 6350
 koalamen@bigpond.com

Brisbane

Branch Reunion

Sherwood Services Club
 Clewley Street
 Corinda

Saturday
27 August 2011

11.30am for
 12 noon luncheon

Bob James ☎ 3349 1738
 rjames39@bigpond.com

Tony Wood ☎ 3278 0075
 tonydwood@gmail.com

Sunshine Coast

Branch Reunion

Caloundra Bowls Club
 Cnr Arthur Street and
 Burwah Terrace, Caloundra

Saturday
10 March 2012

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

TBA

11:30 am for
 12 noon luncheon

Harry Bishop ☎ 4942 1549
 harold.bishop7@bigpond.com

Mark Hetherington
 ☎ 0408 884 621
 mhetherington@bses.com.au

Branch Reunions

Gold Coast Reunion

Our 17th Reunion Luncheon was held on Saturday 5 February 2011.

The 56 in attendance included President Graham and his wife Carol, Association Past President Bob James, Gold Coast Patron Bill Laver, 1999 College Gold Medallist Jim Miller, Association Honorary Life Members Val Kilah and Julie Reid, Honorary Member and Hawkesbury Old Boy John Keevers and his wife Jan.

We welcomed John and Marilyn Bee, Col and Glenda Glover, Fred Manahan, Gary Mason, Alex Naprasnic and Tony Wood as 'first timers'.

The raffle so ably performed by Ron McMahon and Bob James made a profit of \$250 which was donated to the PSA Lockyer Valley Flood Appeal.

I thank the donors of the numerous prizes, many of which were taken home by Harry Neal.

Finally, I would like to thank George Hannaford assisted by my wife Diana for their diligent work of attendance and finance.

Peter Douglas

Sunshine Coast Reunion

A very successful reunion was held on Saturday 12 March 2011 in the refurbished Caloundra Bowls Club with 55 people attending. Numbers were down slightly on last year, however apologies

were received from a further 29 people who were unable to attend on the day.

Don Oxenham, Senior Vice President, deputised for Graham McClymont, who unfortunately had business commitments interstate and forwarded an apology for himself and his wife Carol. Don spoke on the Distinguished Past Student Award, Scholarships, *Back to College* Weekend, Swimming Pool progress, and the Museum as well as recognising Al Henderson who has recently joined the management committee of the Association.

Ray Montgomery attended his first reunion lunch as Patron of our Association and fittingly gave an address on "The Patrons of the Association". Thanks Ray.

The hat was passed around and \$70 was donated to the Lockyer Valley Flood Appeal.

Frank Natoli



Newlyweds, Co and Kimberley Engels at the Gold Coast Reunion



First Timers at the Gold Coast Reunion John and Marilyn Bee



First Timer at the Gold Coast Reunion Gary Mason



1952 graduates at the Sunshine Coast reunion were Henry Jamieson, Barry Marks, Italo Frizzo, Jock Anderson, Frank Natoli, John Mackenzie, Barry Bendixen and Bob Archibald

Historical Collection

The flow of contributions of memorabilia has slowed somewhat during the past months, however the items continue to be of high quality.

At the last *Back to College* Weekend we received some original diploma certificates in response to President Graham's request. These included a 1938 Diploma in Stock donated by Clive Gilchrist and a 1942 Diploma in Dairying from Nev Smith. Thank you.

It is our intention to create a folder housing examples of the many variations in name, size and format that were used since 1900.

Ross Campbell 1947 – 50 who resides in Wisconsin USA mailed his Honour Blazer and Shelton House (he was Captain in 1950) pockets together with his Prefect badge. Thank you Ross.

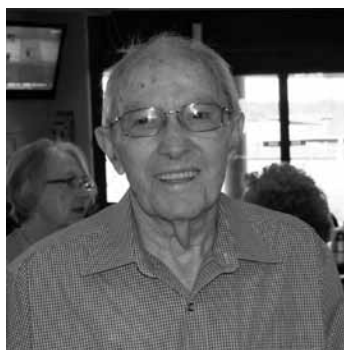
The Grimes Collection (Winston Grimes QDA 1931) which had been housed in the reception area of the NW Briton Building, is now located in the Museum where it rightfully belongs.



Please keep the donations coming no matter how small. We are still wanting a Riddell House colour pocket and a QAC maroon blazer pocket. SOMEBODY must have one to donate.

Peter Douglas

Patron Seeks Support



Recently appointed UQ Gatton Past Students Association patron Ray Montgomery sent a pleading message to members at the Sunshine Coast branch reunion recently, requesting that more past students support and build the history of UQ Gatton, particularly the past 40 years during the tertiary era.

He said the association's historical collection under the old Shelton

building (Morrison Hall) was a marvellous display of the campus's history and cherished traditions, but more recent items were needed.

"This memorabilia is in the hands of Peter Douglas, Julie Reid and Val Kilah; their volunteer work being a labour of love to bring to the present student population something of those traditions, and for past students to relive their time at the College and friendships made – often lifelong friendships. We owe them our gratitude for a job well done," Mr Montgomery said.

"Unfortunately we cannot find many apprentices to follow their lead – if anyone has that spark of enthusiasm to help it would be greatly appreciated by the historical committee."

Mr Montgomery pointed out that it was more than 40 years since the start

of the tertiary era and it was of utmost importance that memorabilia from that time be collected and recorded for the future.

The history of patrons of the Old Boys Association/Past Students Association extends back to 1913 after it was first formed in 1905. It was disbanded during World War I and reformed in 1926.

Patrons of the Association include eight Governors of Queensland, along with then College Council chairman Peter Roberts, and past students Percy Skerman and Stan Petherick.

Mr Montgomery said if anyone knew a past student who was not a member of the Association, please give them the website address:

www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents

Gone, but not forgotten

Rex Aisthorpe

He was at College 1946 – 47 and was Dux of the Junior course and gained 8 A's and 1 B in the 1947 State Junior examinations. Rex passed away 22 October 2010.

Mrs Harriet (Hattie) Briton

Widow of the late N.W. Briton, 6th Principal/1st Director of the College. Mrs Briton passed away 23 March 2011.

Joanne Buckby Assoc Dip Food Processing 1980.

It is reported that Joanne passed away in recent years.

Tony Cooley QCAH 1980: Assoc Dip in Stock and Meat Inspection 1982.

Tony began work as a meat inspector in the Northern Territory subsequently becoming a stock inspector BTEC program. After gaining experience as a stockman on Wave Hill station he joined LNT in 1994 to begin a career in animal health. In 2006 he became head of sales and marketing for Jurox Animal Health in NSW.

Tony passed away 13 November 2010.

Noel Cooper Prefect 1949. Shelton. 1st XI 1948 – 49; 1st XV 1949; 2nd XV 1948

He was at the College 1948 – 49, winning the Open High Jump in 1949.

Noel passed away in Bundaberg on 2 September 2010.

Hec Cunneen QDS 1938.

Student at QAHS&C from March 1935 to December 1938.

Prefect 1938. Pitt. Life Saving 1938. 1st VI Rifle Shooting 1938 and member of the Intercollegiate team which won the shield for the first time when he was the competition top scorer with 99 points. College Militia, 25 Battalion 1937 – 38.

In 1939, Hec was appointed Assistant to the Poultry Instructor and he transferred to the 1 CMVS where he rose to the rank of Lance Corporal before the unit was disbanded in 1940.

He enlisted in the AIF in 1942, returned to the College in 1944 and resigned in July 1946.

The "Call of the College" was too strong and in December 1948 he returned as Instructor in Poultry Raising. Promotion to Senior Instructor followed in 1957 and to Lecturer in Poultry Husbandry in 1968.

He was a stalwart of the College Rifle Club for many years, assisting Rupe Holmes, Ces Tilley, Ted Toomey and Jackie Machel.

He retired in November 1979, residing first in Gatton before moving to Bundaberg where he passed away on 7 January 2011.

Ray Daley QDAH 1953. Pitt.

1st XV 1952. A2 XI 1952. 2nd XV 1951. B2 XI 1951. Ray passed away 26 February 2011.

Ian Dawson QDA 1947.

Ian was a member of Pitt House and passed away on 3 November 2010.

Rex Kelsey QDA 1947. 2nd Class Hons.

Rex was a Post War Reconstruction (Returned Serviceman) student and passed away in Toowoomba on 24 November 2010.

David Dorrough

He attended the College 1948 – 50 and was a member of the Air Training Corps, College Flight 1948 – 49.

David lived in Roma and passed away 23 July 2010.

Ray Hart QDA 1946. Prefect 1945. Pitt. 2nd XV 1945.

Ray was a partner in a Veterinary practice in Toowoomba for many years.

His funeral was held on 10 December 2010.

Ross Lobegeiger QDA 1965, Dux with 2nd Class Hons. Prefect 1964 – 65. Riddell.

Under 19 XV 1965 and Combined Downs Under 19 Rep.

He was at College 1961 – 65 and later at UQ where he gained a degree in Agricultural Science. In 1970 he joined the DPI firstly as an economist and later as an extension officer. His last posting was the Bribie Island Research Centre as a supervising extension officer.

Ross passed away on 9 December 2010.

Ian Macfarlane

Ian was at College 1946 – 47 and passed away in Killarney 20 March 2011.

Noela Miller (née Turner)

Noela was transferred as a clerk-typiste from Head Office of the Department of Education to the College in January 1957. The red-headed switch girl. In August 1964, following 12 months leave of absence, she was transferred back to Head Office.

Noela, married to Joe Miller QDA 1957, passed away 16 February 2011.

Lindsay Phillips AM. QDDM 1946. Riddell House Captain 1943. Prefect 1943.

1st XV 1943. Boxing 1943. 2nd XI 1941. Life Saving 1941.

He entered College as a Sub Junior student in February 1940, and was sent home in March

1942 when the US Army commandeered the College for hospital purposes.

He returned in February 1943 as a Sub Diploma student. Lindsay left College early in 1944 and enlisted in the RAAF, returning in 1946 to complete his Diploma.

In May 1947 he joined CSIRO in Canberra and in November transferred to the Ord River.

In 1968 he was appointed Officer in Charge of the CSIRO Research Station taking over from Wally Arndt QDA 1942 – where he remained until his retirement in 1984.

Lindsay passed away in Darwin on 6 November 2010.

John Philp QDAH 1956.

Life after Gatton began with Goldsborough Mort in Brisbane, Charleville and Miles. His association with the grain industry began when he worked for Annand Robinson Grain in Toowoomba followed by a period as manager of Downs Irrigation Graincorp. In 1973 John formed J.D. & G.A. Philp and in 1979 took in Peter Brodie as a partner to become Philp Brodie Grains. He was an early president of the Queensland Produce and Grain Merchants Association.

John passed away on 11 November 2010.

Alan Reardon QDAH 1964.

He was at College 1961 – 64 and a member of the 1963 under 19 XV.

Alan lived at Kingsthorpe and passed away on 1 November 2010.

Tom Rudder QDAH 1948. Shelton.

He spent most of his working life in the Beef Cattle Husbandry Branch of the DPI with many years in Rockhampton.

He studied extensively and gained a Bachelor of Economics during this time and retired out of the Branch as the Deputy Director.

Tom passed away on 28 February 2011.

Richard Rule QDA 1959.

Richard attended QAHS&C 1955 – 59. He lived in Yandaran in the Bundaberg district and passed away 17 February 2011.

Jonathan Walsh Assoc Dip Rural Techn 1977. B App Sc 1998.

After graduation he joined the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service and accepted postings to Brisbane, Rockhampton, Mackay and Cairns.

In 1991 he returned to UQ Gatton for three years where he lectured in national parks management and later returned to upgrade his diploma to a degree level.

Jonathan passed away on 23 September 2010.

UQ Gatton Past Students Association Inc.

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Try our new quick links at:

www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents

01-GCpsa/May11

Introducing ...



Alison Van Ansem (née Plaisted)

I was primarily raised with my Uncle and Aunty in Degilbo, Queensland, on a dairy farm after

my Mother died when I was young, as my Father coped poorly. After primary school I went to Brisbane Girls' Grammar School. Would much rather had been milking cows!!! At that stage of my life I wanted to be a Veterinarian although wasn't keen to stay in the "big smoke". During my Senior year, some good looking young men visited Girls' Grammar School to promote QAC. That was all the encouragement I needed and arrived at QAC in January 1974, just before the flood. I graduated in 1976 gaining a Diploma of Applied Science in Rural Technology. In those days we had a choice on another year of study to gain a Bachelor of Applied Science in Rural Technology which I did in 1977, majoring in Soil Science and Pasture Agronomy.

In January 1978 I went back to visit some well loved staff members (John Edwards, Wally Mason, Des Paterson and more) when unexpectedly on that same day, after calling on Mr Neil Briton, I was given the option of a position as a Senior Laboratory Technician in Animal Science and Biochemistry. I took this opportunity: the beginning of a long relationship with QAC. After four years I transferred to the Department of Agronomy, working with Dr Brian Schafer and Dr Brian O'Hagan in Soil Science.

I was married in 1980's to a local small crops farmer (Arnold Van Ansem) and lived on the Lockyer Creek at College View, still working full-time at QAC. During this time I gained a Masters Qualifying and began a Masters in Agriculture. Unfortunately Arnold died on the farm in 1986, so I kept working in Agronomy. After his death I was encouraged by Dr Brian Schafer to write up the results from my trials, thus far, to gain a Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Studies, which I did in 1988.

I was blessed with two children, defying all odds, may I add. I then left University of Queensland Gatton Campus (as it was then known) for a short time working as a home day-care Mum, bringing my children up. Once my children were pre-school age I went back to work at UQG in a part-time or casual position. Many a job I took to provide for my children. I tutored in Computing, supervised two post-graduate students in Horticulture, lectured in Catchment Management and Soil Science and worked at the Health Services.

Meantime I had established a Hobby Farm. I bought day old calves from the University, reared them and sold them at the local sales. Also I trained cows to foster calves, selling many to studs out west and in New South Wales, during the drought in the 90's until 2005. In addition to this I established a Boer Goat Stud, breeding and selling offspring.

In 2001 I was diagnosed with a congenital back problem. This, plus other health issues that began to rear their ugly heads, forced me into early retirement. I now live on a small hobby farm overlooking the Lockyer Valley. My eldest daughter graduated from UQG in 2009 and is now working for the DPI Gatton. My youngest daughter has just graduated in Screen and Media, working in Sydney.

I am on the Past Students Committee for the second year, enjoying the opportunity to keep my contact with the University and past students.

Did you know?

Swimming Colours were first awarded in 1932.

Life Saving Instruction was introduced to the College in 1935.

First Inter – House Boxing competition was held under Shelton in 1938, won by Pitt House.

"Darbalara" (Sub – Farm) of 295 acres was purchased as two separate farms in December 1945.

The Gilbert Hay Shed was built by students in 1946.