



ReConnect

A Publication of the
UQ Gatton Past Students
Association Inc.
Issue 20, Summer 2012

UQGPSA Secretariat:
Box 717
The University of Queensland
Gatton Campus
GATTON QLD 4343
Phone: (07) 5460 1724
Email:
gattonpaststudents@uq.edu.au
Web:
www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents



<http://www.facebook.com/UQGPSA>

STOP PRESS

2012 Back to College Weekend

First weekend in December
To register:
[www.uq.edu.au/gatton/
paststudents](http://www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Report	2
Greetings from the Ekka	3
Back to College Weekend	4
Books for Papua New Guinea	4
Tales of the Past	5
Tree Tagging Project Update	5
Branch Reunions	6
Gone But Not Forgotten	7
Alastair Henderson	8
Executive Committee Members.....	8

Spotlight on wildlife at UQ Gatton Open Day



UQ Gatton graduate Garry Sippel

University of Queensland wildlife science graduate Garry Sippel returned to the Gatton Open Day to encourage enthusiasm for wildlife with his live reptile show.

Garry started his business, *Dreamtime Reptiles*, in 2007 with the aim of educating the public about reptiles.

"The degree I completed at UQ Gatton has definitely helped in the work I am doing now," Mr Sippel said.

"I found that my program covered all aspects of working in the wildlife industry, such as conducting wildlife science surveys to the running of a business," he said.

Through his work with *Dreamtime Reptiles*, Mr Sippel is dedicated to encouraging more young people to work with animals.

"This is really important because as our human population grows extra pressure is placed on existing wildlife and therefore increasing awareness and involvement is crucial," he said.

"I met a huge number of enthusiastic young people wanting to get involved with wildlife at the Gatton Open Day, which was great to see."

UQ Gatton Open Day was attended by prospective students interested in studying Agriculture, Agribusiness, Animals and Veterinary Science.

Farrier demonstrations, animal and plant nurseries, sniffer dogs, reptiles and agricultural equipment were just some of the displays on offer. Tours of the residential halls, veterinary science facilities, dairy and the pool and gym ran all day.



Attendance was up 10% at UQ Gatton Open Day

President's Report

The Last Word

by Gary Mason

In the last edition I raised the issue of the diminishing number of agricultural graduates from our tertiary institutes across Australia.

This was rammmed home in a recent radio program where it was revealed that 160,000 people receive formal agricultural training in China annually, whereas we turn out just 700 graduates.

The recent announcement by the Queensland government that there will be closures of agricultural training facilities should be of great concern to everyone associated with the production of food (i.e. the agricultural industry).*

The Australian Agricultural Colleges Corporation (AACC) is facing further cuts at the end of this teaching year – apparently based on the argument that they are running at a loss.

What cost education? Do our public primary and secondary schools run at a profit?

As graduates of one of the finest agricultural training facilities in the country we should be looking at the big picture by supporting and barracking for the continuation of these other colleges.

On the job training is all very well, but I doubt there are many farm/property owners who have the time or the background to give the theoretical and technical training necessary to instill the full picture of the job being undertaken.

And one of the more frightening aspects is, there are less young people considering a career in the agricultural sector, which does not auger well for future agricultural pursuits in this country.

So, wherever you are and whatever you are doing, talk up the rewards, benefits and satisfaction of a career in agriculture – lets face it, our population is increasing around the globe and we all need to eat.

* At the time of going to print the State Government has vowed to keep the Emerald and Longreach campuses open, taking enrolments for 2013.



Graham McClymont
President,
UQ Gatton Past Students
Association Inc.

Phone: (07) 3378 0201

Email: g.mcclymont
@bigpond.com

Well, here we are again getting towards the end of another year, or at least it will be by the time you read this report. The management committee you elected at the 2011 AGM has worked well as usual and our Association continues to be strong and innovative. The collection of memorabilia housed in the museum is outstanding and continues to impress.

We would not have an Association without volunteers and the following volunteers helped with the mail-out to members and the feature years on Wednesday 23 May this year. The volunteers were Peter and Diana Douglas, Barry and Tess Marks, Ray Montgomery, Jenny Teis, Bob Talbot, Cheryl Teasdale, Elayne Paterson and Val Kilah. Thank you to all of our volunteers who have helped make our Association as strong and enjoyable as it is today. Thank you also to Margaret Reisenleiter for your help in our office.

As you can see from our *Gone, but not forgotten* column in each edition of this newsletter, we continue to have a considerable number of our Gatton friends who make the list, and we all know that unfortunately this will continue. If you have not already done so, gentlemen may like to consider purchasing and then wearing a Gatton tie to the funeral of their mates that they possibly first met at Gatton many years ago. Ties and other merchandise can be purchased from our office. We are still working on something suitable for ladies to wear, but nothing definite at this stage.

As President of our Association, I am invited to be a member of the Gatton Campus Community Advisory Group which meets three times per year with senior management of UQ Gatton. A few topics of interest from our last meeting are as follows:

1. There are 150+ horses on Campus and Hendra virus is a concern. Following a recent audit, Biosecurity Qld was very happy with what is in place. If there is a suspected Hendra case, there will only be a need to quarantine that particular area, not the entire Campus.
2. The Lawes Club will be relocated when funding is approved, and is still operational.
3. A library warehouse is being commissioned to hold surplus books. The existing library is now around 40 years old and no longer meeting the requirements of students.
4. Funding is being sought to undergo a major upgrade/refurbishment of the gymnasium costing around \$2m. Now that the Vet School is on Campus, there will be two graduations each year.
5. The café area will be refurbished.
6. The official opening of the dairy was held on 5 March 2012.
7. A site development plan to cover the next 5-10 years is being developed. Funding is an ongoing problem.

If we don't see you at the **Back to College Weekend**, then on behalf of the management committee, I wish you and your family the best for the Festive Season.

We welcome the following new members:

Robert David **Thomasson** (1967)
Anthony Joseph **Mawn** (1972)
Christopher Ernest **Hamilton** (1982)
Naomi **Golden** née Harvey (1992)
Russell Douglas **Skerman** (1963)

The UQGPSA has joined Facebook

If you are a Facebook member, stay informed and view photos of events on our new facebook page.



<http://www.facebook.com/UQGPSA>

Greetings from the Ekka

Did you know?

Since Gatton College became part of The University of Queensland in 1990 as UQ Gatton, our past students are now UQ alumni.

The organisation that represents the various alumni groups within UQ is *UQ Alumni Friends*, and this organisation has for many years recognised a position on its Executive Committee for a UQ Gatton Past Students Association representative.

This year, for the first time in a long while, this role has been taken up by a nominee from our Association, Slade Lee.

The strengthening of connections between UQGPSA and the Alumni Friends has been enthusiastically welcomed by the Alumni Friends, and has benefited the activities of UQGPSA.

The Alumni Friends donated to the Gatton Tree Name Tagging Project, and organised the largest donation of books for the UQGPSA Papua New Guinea school books project.

The Alumni Friends also organised a recent visit to the Gatton Campus for their members. This included a campus tour by Erin Pearl (Marketing Coordinator, Office of the Director Gatton Campus) and an inspection of the Museum (in which the Alumni Friends showed great interest), hosted by our volunteers Peter Douglas and Val Kilah.

The visit was very successful and helped to promote an appreciation of what a thriving campus Gatton is and what goes on there amongst the broader UQ past students community.



Brian Fanning, Rockhampton
1955-56



Mick Johnson, Dulacca 1969-70



Chris Grant, Murgon 1971-74



Neville Rosser, Buaraba 1968-70



Ekka
magic every time

John Couper, Dalby 1969-70



Alan Brimblecombe, Laidley
1947-48



Peter Ramsey, Toowoomba
1977-78



Max Burns, Gordon Park
1947-48



Ken Scott, Roma 1962-65



Historical Collection

The **Donation of Items to the UQG Past Students Archives form**, which accompanied the last issue of the Re-Connect resulted in the receipt of following items:

- Original Diploma from Ed Holmes QDAH 1965.
- Assorted books and clothing from Robert Field (1977-80) in Geelong.
- QAC blazer pocket, sporting singlet and shorts from John Hardy QDA 1966.

These items have been gratefully accepted and we know there are many past students who have old memories tucked away in boxes, cupboards or out in the shed – don't let them deteriorate and be discarded – pack them up and send them to us where they can be seen and protected for the future.

A small number of volunteers have put a great deal of time, effort and expense into establishing, collecting and presenting the vast array of memorabilia on display in the Museum and it would be a tragedy if interest in the collection waned.

We thrive on having visitors, so please feel free to contact the UQGPSA Secretariat to make a time to visit. Thank you all.

Peter Douglas

Back to College Weekend 2012

The annual *Back to College Weekend* will be held again this year on the first weekend in December as usual. The early arrivals will arrive in the afternoon of Friday 30 November for a casual BBQ and socializing at the Staff and Graduates Club beneath the Foundation Building.

The main weekend activities commence from 10am on Saturday 1 December with registration at Morrison Hall and the activities continue non-stop until after lunch on Sunday 2 December.

The feature years are those groups who graduated in 1952, 1962, 1972, 1982, 1992 and 2002 and a great roll up is expected. We have also been advised that the 1957, 1967 and 1977 year groups also intend to be at the weekend to celebrate their 55, 45 and 35 year reunions.

A reunion of staff both past and present is organized over lunch on Saturday 1 December. There has been a great roll up of former staff in previous years and the numbers tend to grow each year as the word spreads.

The annual dinner held in the Dining Hall is always well attended on the Saturday night. A representative of each feature year will be invited to speak for a maximum of three minutes as part of the proceedings. There have been some wonderful speakers over the years which contribute to the weekend.

During the dinner, Bob James will be presented with his Honorary Life Membership Certificate for his services over a very long period of time to the UQ Gatton Past Students Association. Bob first graduated from QAHS & C in 1958, joined the management committee of the Association soon after graduating and has been on the management committee for around 50 years prior to retiring from the committee during the 2011 AGM. A well-earned award.

There will be bus tours of the Campus on both Saturday and Sunday and guided tours of the Vet facilities on the Saturday. The AGM of our Association will be held at 3 pm on Saturday 1 December beneath Morrison Hall. All are welcome to attend our AGM.

Books for Papua New Guinea



For information on how to donate more books, please contact: slade.lee@scu.edu.au or call Slade: 0419 474 251 or email the GPSA: gattonpaststudents@uq.edu.au

UQGPSA committee member Slade Lee has reported that the collection of books sent to PNG has been gratefully received, sorted and distributed.

In an exercise which commenced some time ago, Slade's friend, Graham King, who is the general manager of Hargy Oil Palms Ltd, Bialla, PNG prompted the idea of collecting books which could be given to students for educational and general reading purposes.

In January 2012 Graham contacted the UQGPSA requesting support for a company project to provide library books to all the schools in the PNG region, comprising one high school and 15 primary schools.

A two-pallet load of donated books totalling 91 cartons with a weight of 1209 kg was despatched in late April. The books were distributed to fifteen schools across the region ranging from elementary through to secondary level. Graham said that the schools were really surprised and grateful for the unexpected windfall, and heartfelt in their thanks to their Queensland benefactors.

More books have since been added to this initial despatch and we encourage people who have good educational/reading style books suitable for young children and teenagers to donate them to this great cause.

Tales of the Past

The press is about to start running with the production of what may be one of the “better reads” to emanate from the past years of Gatton College.

Following the publication of *50 years of Science with Practice*, four brave men from the 1958 Diploma class, Peter Douglas, Bob James, Alan Flegler and Don Oxenham along with Diana Douglas and Morris Lake have done it all again.

Titled *Gatton College – Memories & Moments – Fact or Fiction?*, this book comprising some 100 pages of stories, anecdotes and photos submitted by past students will undoubtedly evoke more memories and smiles from readers, particularly other past students who can relate to some of what they read.

With plans well in hand it is hoped this book will be available for purchase by the end of October and if not, well and truly for the *Back to College Weekend* which is the first weekend in December.



Left to right: Don Oxenham, Bob James, Morris Lake, Alan Flegler, Peter and Diana Douglas

All profits from the sale of the book will be added to the UQGPSA Scholarship funds.

This book represents another unique record of some of what happened (maybe) at the College in the past or in the “dream time”, as Owen Cusack used to say.

Tree Tagging Reaches Fruition



< Barry and Tess Marks, and a sample of an engraved plate

Contributions to the tree name tagging project have enabled the full complement of tags to be purchased, which will enable the correct identification of 285 trees in the main campus area at UQ Gatton.

Proposed by past student Barry Marks, he and his wife Tess have been busy applying the tags to the trees. They completed their

task on the 12 September after six days of tree tagging.

Barry is overjoyed with the response to the project and is very happy that trees can now be identified by all as they stroll through the central walkway.

The engraved plate on each tag carries the common name and botanical name of the

tree, as well as the UQGPSA logo, the UQ logo and the UQ Alumni Friends logo.

Many thanks are due to the contributors who made this project such a success.

Branch Reunions

Reunion plea 1963 graduates

Ron Swanwick has been asked to put together a 50 year book for his mob, the 1963 graduates.

To do this, he desperately needs assistance with it's compilation, including stories, photos or anecdotes which will not only make it a good read but also create a few laughs.

Of most importance is the individual history of each graduate, telling others what you have been doing since leaving College, where you are and some fond memories or otherwise of your stay at College.

All material must be forwarded to Ron by **28 February 2013**.

Contact:

Email: ronaldswanwick@gmail.com

Phone: 07 3891 6958
Mobile: 0404 501 867

Gold Coast Reunion

Gold Coast held their 20th reunion on Saturday 18 August at the recently renovated bistro of the Labrador Sports Club.

The word is out that this reunion is worthwhile attending and a terrific group of 62 members and guests enjoyed the seafood and salads – 26 apologies were received.

A strong contingent of special guests included Association President, Graham McClymont and wife Carol, Past Association President, Bob James, Branch Patron Bill Laver and honoured old boy, Clive Gilchrist.

Also attending were 1999 College Gold Medallist Jim Miller, 2011 Distinguished Past Student recipient Ray O'Grady, and Honorary Life Members Val Kilah and Ross Murray. John Keevers, representing the Hawkesbury Agricultural College Old Boys Association, was also in attendance.

Thanks are due to George Hannaford and Diana Douglas for their assistance at the door, and to Ron McMahon and Bob James for conducting the raffle which netted \$233.

Peter Douglas called on the meeting to approve the donation of \$300 towards the installation of glass doors at the main entry of the Museum which was unanimously approved.



First timers at the Gold Coast Reunion (from left):
Russ Skerman 1962-63 and
Andrew Blum 1965-67

Gold Coast Branch Reunion

Labrador
AFL Sports Club
Ashton Street, Labrador

**Saturday
2 February 2013**

11:30am for
12 noon luncheon

Peter Douglas
☎ (07) 5546 6350
koalamen@bigpond.com

Brisbane Branch Reunion

Sherwood Services Club
Clewley Street
Corinda

**Saturday
24 August 2013**

11.30am for
12 noon luncheon

Slade Lee ☎ (07) 3821 1739
slade.lee@scu.edu.au
Sue Moyle ☎ (07) 3821 1739

Mackay Branch Reunion

date and venue to be
announced in next issue

TBA

11:30am for
12 noon luncheon

Mark Hetherington
☎ 0408 884 621
m.hetherington@pcpsl.com.au
Clive Rogers
☎ (07) 4955 5115
clive.rogers@westnet.com.au

Sunshine Coast Branch Reunion

Caloundra Bowls Club
Cnr Arthur Street and
Burwah Terrace, Caloundra

**Saturday
9 March 2013**

11:30am for
12 noon luncheon

Peter Jacobson
☎ 0419 662 467
peter.jacobson@daff.gov.au

Brisbane Reunion

Brisbane staged their reunion a week later on Saturday 25 August at the Sherwood Services Club where 25 members and guests gathered to compare notes. Perfect weather has been pinpointed as the reason for the 20 apologies received.

Association president, Graham McClymont reported that those attending represented many different years and courses, including a 1983 food technology graduate who had a very enjoyable time.

Also joining the gathering were two UQ Gatton Gold Medallists, Neil Heather (1996) and John Sinclair (1998).

Thanks go to Bob James and Tony Wood for their efforts in organising this year's reunion. Slade Lee and Sue Moyle will be organising the reunion in 2013.

Mackay Reunion

The Mackay Branch AGM and 64th Annual Reunion Dinner was held on Sunday, 9 September at the Railway Hotel, Marian.

Clive Rogers was voted in as the new Chairman as Harry Bishop decided to step aside.

Mark Hetherington remains as Secretary/Treasurer. Other committee members remain with the addition of Paul Newberry (1958 graduate).

Al Henderson and Don Oxenham from the UQGPSA attended the function and approximately 45 Past Students and their wives were in attendance. A good time was had by all.

Did you know?

The first recorded College Soccer Team was formed in 1936. J. Marty was Captain.

Four matches were played at the College against Rosewood (2 – 4), Raceview Royals (7 – 9), Booval Pastimes (3 – 2) and Pineapple Rovers (2 – 2).

In 1963, Hockey became a College sport with three teams entered in the Toowoomba competition. The first team won the A Reserve Grade competition. An inter-house competition was conducted and was won by Thynne House.

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

Una B. BOSWORTH

Una was the only daughter of F.O. "Bozzy" Bosworth who was a senior College staff member from 1923 to 1955. She grew up on the College and was known to many of our older "Old Boys".

Una passed away on 29 May 2012 aged 91 years.

Dion DANALIS

QDAH 1960. At College 1956 – 60. 2nd XV 1959. Member of the College ATC Flight and CMF Unit.

He graduated from UQ in 1965 with a B.V.Sc., setting up his own practice in the Sunrasia District. Later he went into partnership with his brother Jim QDAH 1959 in a small animal practice in Brisbane.

Dion passed away 28 June 2012.

Brian K. FLETCHER

QDAH 1948. Pitt. 2nd XV 1948.

Inter-Collegiate Rifle Shooting 1948. He won the Junior Judging of Clydesdales at the 1948 RNA. Came to College in 1948 with a Diploma in Agriculture from Hawkesbury and after leaving Gatton was dairy farming in Taree before becoming a successful builder.

Brian passed away 25 April 2012.

Paul K. HENRY

QDAH 1965. Graduated from UQ in 1971 with a B.V.Sc.

He worked in New Zealand and in Blackall, before setting up his own practice in Algester

where he had the RAAF and Queensland Police dogs as patients.

Paul passed away 29 March 2012.

Vincent S. K. KOH

QDAH 1963. Represented College in table tennis and was a Temporary Junior Assistant at the Poultry Section in 1964.

Vincent passed away on 12 June 2012.

Garth J. P. McCARTHY.

B.Agr.Sc. Attended College in 1951 as a third year Ag. Science student of UQ.

Garth passed away in June 2012.

W. George ROBERTSON

QDA 1934. QDH 1935. Thynne. College Scout Troop.

He was barely 16 years of age when he gained his Diploma in Agriculture and in 1935 he was appointed as a Plant Protection Officer, being the first CSIRO officer stationed at College.

In 1940, he joined the RAAF, being awarded the DFC, in 1945. He gained a B.Agr.Sc from UQ in 1950, returning to the CSIRO Cooper Laboratory at Lawes as Officer – in – Charge.

In 1953 he drew a bragalow block at Wandoan and in 1975 moved to the Rockhampton area.

He was selected as the recipient of the 1987 College Council Gold Medal.

George passed away 7 May 2012 aged 93 years.

John "Jock" A. ROBERTSON

QDDM 1942. Thynne. Prefect 1942. 1st XI 1941.

He was one of the 23 Diploma students to remain on College when the US Army arrived on 14th March 1942. Enlisted in the AIF in February 1943. Following his discharge in May 1947 he joined CSIR in Canberra, being transferred to Cooper Laboratory in 1963 where he remained until his retirement in July 1984.

Brother of George QDA 1934, Jock passed away on 2 July 2012, aged 88 years.

Frank R. STAUNTON

B.V.Sc. Appointed QAHS&C Lecturer in Animal Husbandry in January 1952. Captain 1st XV 1952 – 53.

Promoted to Senior Lecturer in Animal Breeding and Production in June 1967, resigning in December 1967 to take up a position at Lakeland Downs.

Frank had a great love of horses and he passed away on 14 July 2012 aged 86.

Gerry W. STEWART

QDAH 1949. Pitt House Captain and Prefect 1949.

Post War Reconstruction Student. 1st XV 1948. Won Open 100 yards 1948 – 49.

Open Broad Jump 1949.

Gerry passed away 7 May 2012.

Roydon J. YOUNG

QDA 1959. Thynne. Inter – Collegiate Rifle Shooting 1959. 5th XV 1956.

Roydon passed away 6 July 2012.

*UQ Gatton
Past Students
Association Inc.*

Box 717
The University of Queensland
Gatton Campus
GATTON QLD 4343 Australia

Patron

Ray Montgomery

President

Graham McClymont
11 Aldergrove Street
CHAPEL HILL QLD 4069
Phone: (07) 3378 0201
Mobile: 0419 778 981
Email: g.mcclymont@bigpond.com

Senior Vice-President

Jim Madden
Email: jemaddenau@yahoo.com.au

Secretary

Bruce Birtwell
Email: bruce.birtwell@daff.qld.gov.au

Treasurer

John Guthrie

Junior Vice-Presidents

Peter Douglas
Alison Van Ansem

Committee Members

Bruce Birtwell
Alastair Henderson
Slade Lee
Phil Long
Julie Martin
Gary Mason
Rob Nielsen
Don Oxenham
Mark Pace
Ron Swanwick

Administrative Officer

Margaret Reisenleiter
Phone: (07) 5460 1724
Email: gattonpaststudents@uq.edu.au

Editor 'Re-Connect'

Gary Mason
Email: masogwj@bigpond.net.au

Museum Volunteers

Val Kilah
Julie Reid

Try our quick links at:

www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents



<http://www.facebook.com/UQGPSA>

Introducing...

Alastair Henderson *QDAH, MVSc, DipBusMan*



I grew up near Manly (Sydney) where, outside of school, my existence revolved around surf, sailing, football and music. While Dad was a Master Mariner and life was steeped in matters maritime, I failed to make the grade for midshipman entry to Flinders Naval Depot and so headed bush after passing the Leaving Certificate. I kicked off as a jackaroo with the New Zealand and Australian Land Company on a sheep property located between Balranald and Ivanhoe in western NSW.

An urge to know the basics of livestock production, pastures and crops saw me arrive at Lawes Siding in 1958 complete with bike, to be told that bikes were banned. Hawkesbury students drove cars! Dave Meldrum as Riddell dorm master explained why - bicycle derbies around the verandahs with consequent damage to fibro walls. Next thing I knew I was in the army, attending lectures, prac work and assessing Laidley's social life. Wiangaree, Tin Can Bay, timber camp, spud cropping, field trips, attendant at the Ekka, travel in the back of the truck to play football in the Brisbane competition and so on to a Stock Dip.

All good stuff. The friendships of students and some staff that were made have proven to be memorable and lasting, highlighted perhaps by scrapes we got into and out of. QAC means a lot to me.

The Animal Husbandry Diploma course was, in my view, a very good balance of theory and practical skills, imparting

enough knowledge to know one's limitations yet giving enough confidence to work out a plan of attack. I have worked with QAC graduates on agricultural and livestock projects in Australia and overseas – they make things happen with little or nothing to start with.

I studied Vet Science at Sydney Uni, spent time in small animal, equine stud and stable, and cattle and sheep pastoral practice, and met my wife June over the consulting room table.

Seven years in the Kimberley and NT (worked with more QAC graduates) were followed by four years with a livestock development project in Fiji (Fijian and Australian QAC graduates this time). Is there somewhere where they don't turn up?

Back to Australia as a manager with responsibility for pastoral group operations in the NT, East and West Kimberley. I was fortunate to later undertake a broad range of consulting assignments in developing countries for the public and private sectors. After that, June pulled rank, saying that if I wanted to go overseas again, she was staying home with the children.

Prior to retirement in 2006, I was a Director and shareholder in Rural Management Partners, a management company in which I had responsibilities for a range of properties in Australia and PNG, together with specialising in litigation support.

Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry visits UQ Gatton

The Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig visited UQ Gatton Campus on Wednesday 5 September and had a chat with vocational, undergraduate and postgraduate students about issues and opportunities in Agriculture. His visit was a follow-up from when he visited the campus in 2011 and toured the Centre for Advanced Animal Science.