

ReConnect

A Publication of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association Inc.



UQ Gatton
Past Students
Association Inc



Queensland
Agricultural High
School and College



Queensland
Agricultural
College

Issue 22, Summer 2013

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STOP PRESS

**2013 Back to College
Weekend**

Saturday/Sunday
7/8 December

To register:

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

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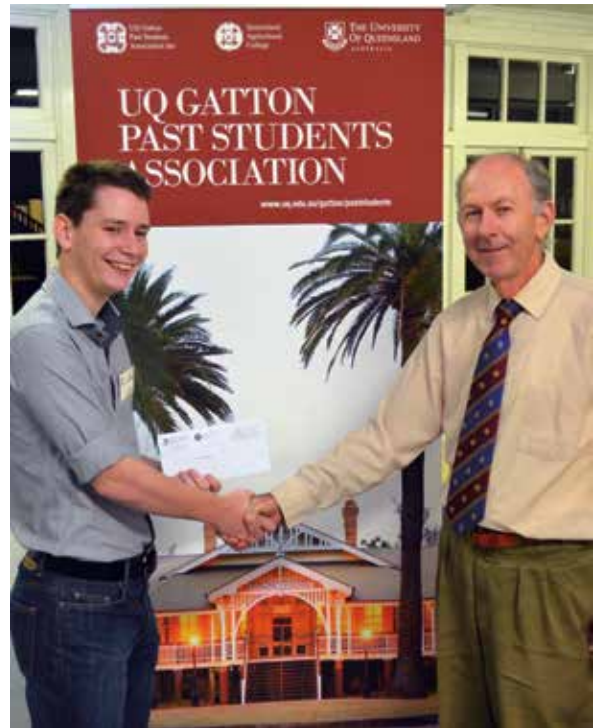
2013 UQGPSA Scholarship winner

UQGPSA Management Committee member, Rob Nielsen has the pleasure to represent the Association each year when the recipient of the PSA scholarship is chosen. This year's very deserving recipient is Lexus Hughes, now of Warwick, who is in his first year of a Bachelor of Applied Science (Wildlife Science major) degree. His brother, Jahk, who is in his second year of B.V.Sc. degree, was last year's recipient.

Last year Lexus was the Vice Captain and Silver Dux of Clontarf Beach State High School, and he received numerous cultural and community awards. The school Principal commented on his leadership and initiative qualities, and said that he had been a very good role model for younger students. She gave Lexus the highest recommendation that the school can give and observed that he had attracted the high regard of staff. Lexus was recently invited to speak at a Smith Family business luncheon hosted by the UQ School of Business, and held at the Southbank Convention Centre.

As well as his studies, to help support his mother and brother, Lexus has a part-time job in Toowoomba.

The PSA scholarships provide financial assistance to the value of \$5,000 per year for the normal duration of the recipient's program. The scholarship fund has now been operating for a number of years



2013 UQGPSA Scholarship winner Lexus Hughes is congratulated by PSA Management Committee member Rob Nielsen

and PSA President Graham McClymont has commented that it was instigated to assist students like Lexus and Jahk, and to attract people into agricultural industries. As Graham observed, "The members of our Association all received a sound education while studying at Gatton and we would like to see more students beginning their careers here".

If you also value your time at Gatton and are in the financial position to do so, past students are strongly encouraged to make a tax-deductible contribution to the PSA Scholarship Fund, and thereby make university study a possibility for others like Lexus and Jahk.

The Last Word

by Gary Mason

Are we running out of farmers? Yes, and the plight worsens every day, every week, every month and every year.

Getting around the bush I hear countless stories from “baby boomers” and even younger land holders who actively encourage their children not to return to the land after getting an education.

Find a vocation which you enjoy, pays well, gives you work/life balance and at the end of the day the satisfaction of knowing you don't have to live with continual debt, fight drought, flood, fires; witness the demise of your local town as more and more flee for a better life.

These are the words which many young people are hearing and it does not augur well for our rural industries.

Greater encouragement is needed from all levels of Government as well as our educational institutions to gain and retain people on the land, and a very big part of this has to be a better farm gate price for what we produce.

With world population increases, the likes of China and other south east Asian countries give Australia the opportunity for greatly expanded markets, especially in the demand for protein.

.....

Having said that, there are plenty of opportunities out there for an agricultural education and according to the Australian Council of Deans of Agriculture, there are 4000 graduate level positions available for about 700 graduates annually.

And as science and technology expand and create new challenges UQ Gatton has also pushed forward with the introduction of majors in the Bachelor of Science with the offer of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience as well as Soil and Plant Bioscience.

Also read about the re-introduction of a Diploma course at Gatton in this edition.

President's Report



Graham McClymont
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Where has the year gone? It seems that we have just finished the very successful *Back to College* Weekend from last year and already we are planning this year's event which looks like being bigger and better than ever. Keep the first weekend in December free.

At our August Management Committee meeting, I had the pleasure of hosting a dinner for our scholarship winners. The dinner gave the members of the Management Committee the opportunity to speak with the students and vice versa. It was a very enjoyable evening and something that we enjoy doing each year. Each student said how much the scholarship has helped them meet their university expenses, which are quite considerable these days.

This year we will give a total of \$20,000 to four students studying full time at UQ Gatton. The Scholarship Fund balance was \$120,000 as at December 2012 and is slowly decreasing as income is a little less than the amount we give in scholarships each year. Donations are most welcome and please remember that all donations to the Scholarship Fund are tax deductible.

Carol and I have attended the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Brisbane Branch Reunions this year and enjoyed each one. Mark Pace represented the Management Committee when he attended the Mackay Branch Reunion. The Management Committee of our Association encourages branch reunions and will help anyone who is interested in forming a branch in their region.

The selection committee has selected the Gatton graduate who will be presented with the UQ Gatton Gold Medal at the graduation ceremony in December. There were nine excellent nominations and any one would have been a worthy winner.

Unfortunately there can be only one medal awarded each year. It is important to note that the majority of people on the selection committee for the UQ Gatton Gold Medal are former students of UQ Gatton and I am a member of the selection committee. The name of the recipient of the UQ Gatton Gold Medal for 2013 will be announced at the UQ Gatton graduation ceremony.

Late last year we started a Facebook page and already we have 186 people who LIKE our page. If you are into Facebook, then please follow our activities there. Facebook has already superseded email and phone as the preferred method of communication for the younger generation. To many, email is considered old technology. The Facebook link is shown on the front of this newsletter.

I am a member of the UQ Gatton Community Advisory Group and the following were discussed at our August meeting:

1. All horses on Campus have been vaccinated for Hendra Virus. Some fig trees have been removed and replacement trees will be planted.
2. Construction of the solar farm research project will commence late 2013 or early 2014. It will be situated on the airstrip and power will be fed back into the grid.
3. Funding for a feasibility study on expansion and upgrade of the library has been approved.
4. A community garden will be constructed by students on the site of the old dairy.
5. The piggery will be updated by 2017 to remove sow stalls.

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.

Queensland Diploma in Agriculture Program returns to the Gatton Campus

The Queensland Diploma in Agriculture program which has been a part of this Campus's educational platform since 1897 and up to 1968 is proposed to be reintroduced commencing Semester One in 2014 according to the Director of UQ-GVEC, Mr Mark Pace.

The proposed new Queensland Diploma in Agricultural Technologies is a two year full time program which is aimed towards students who seek higher technical capacity through a 'Science with Practice' approach. This program will better prepare graduates to respond to the rapidly changing world of agriculture which faces significant challenges when dealing with climatic variations, marketing structures and production methodologies. The need to maximise efficiencies and adopt new technologies is pivotal for producers to be able to succeed in the energy

and environmentally sensitive agricultural landscape of the future.

The Diploma will offer four specialisation streams in:

- Production Horticulture;
- Broad Acre;
- Plant Protection;
- Animal Production.

The new Diploma model involves a rigorously applied academic curriculum, with the underpinning theory supported by a significant applied practicum. This will result in students better prepared to meet both industry and academic needs.



Days of Wine and Diplomas

A new book, describing life at Gatton College in the 1960's, is to be an addition to the growing collection of literature and merchandise held in the Historical Museum on behalf of the Past Students Association.

Management Committee Member Ron Swanwick, a 1963 Diplomat, has produced a detailed and comprehensive 35 Chapter book on his personal recollections of life at QAC in which he tries to describe "the sights, the sounds and the smells" of life at College which does not appear in official reports.

The book is a mixture of historical events, documentary fact and light hearted creative writing on the lighter moments at College.

As observed in a foreword by contemporary Kerry Dowsett, although it is Ron's personal story, others will find lots in common with their own experiences at College. He also includes a detailed analysis of what has become of the graduates of 1963 in later life and concludes that they have fulfilled the hopes and expectations of the College which produced them. He also discusses and muses over the changes and developments which have taken place over the last 50 years at College, now UQ Gatton, and the changing face of the Past Students Association.

A feature of the book, now entering the final stages of production, is the large collection in excess of 100 photographs, many in colour,

of persons and places at College between 1961–1963. Most come from the personal collections of contemporaries and so have not been presented before.

The book is being backed by the Past Students Association and its launch is timed to coincide with the 50 year reunion of the class of 1963 which will take place at the *Back to College Weekend* on 7–8 December this year. Copies will also be able to be ordered and despatched by post.

All proceeds after production costs have been met, will go to the UQ Gatton Past Students Scholarship fund which provides a \$5,000 scholarship for four current students each year.

Branch Reunions



From left: John Sinclair, Paul Sattler and Morris Lake



From left: Joyce and Roy Lewington and granddaughter Carys Lewington (graduated 2012)



Getting together at the Mackay reunion in June were (from left) Hal Rogers, John Whitaker, Mark Hetherington, Clive Rogers, Mark Pace, Keith Jeppensen, and Eddie Insch

Brisbane Branch Reunion Success

The UQ Gatton Past Students Association annual Brisbane Branch Reunion took on a somewhat different flavour this year – Greek!

The reunion held on 24 August at the Greek Club for the first time was an outstanding success with 100% of the member feedback praising the venue and the sumptuous spread of traditional Greek fare.

Almost three dozen members gathered for the luncheon with guests coming from not just Brisbane but from the surrounding region as well. For several attendees it was their first time and all were impressed, so we can expect to see them in future.

Bob James described and promoted the UQGPSA publication *Memories and Moments* to the gathering, and three copies were sold on the day – good sales pitch Bob!

Russ Stephenson also spoke to the members announcing the International Horticultural Congress that will be held in Brisbane in August 2014.

With such a good response to the change in venue it is likely that we will go back again next year, so we look forward to an even bigger show and would be delighted to see members from near and far in mid-August next year.

Slade Lee

Gold Coast

The Reunion Luncheon on 13 July was held four weeks earlier than in previous years. This was due to a one off necessity. Twenty-nine attended, the lowest number by far for over nine years.

However, a most enjoyable time which extended late into the afternoon, was had.

What else could be expected from a group of QAC Past Students?

Thirty four apologies were received. Special guests included Association President Graham McClymont and Carol, Association Past President Bob James, Gold Coast Patron Bill Laver and our Honoured Old Boy Clive Gilchrist 1934–38. Also attending were 2011 Distinguished Past Student Ray O’Grady together with Association Honorary Life Member Val Kilah (Whip).

We were pleased to welcome for the first time Denis Murphy 1961–65 and Ian Wylie 1964–66.

I thank George Hannaford and Diana for their continued support at the door and to the new Honorary Life Member Bob James for conducting the Raffle.

Peter Douglas



First timers Denis Murphy (left) and Ian Wylie at the Gold Coast Reunion

Mackay

The annual reunion dinner for the Mackay branch of the UQGPSA was held at the Marian Hotel on Sunday, 2 June. This year's turnout was slightly down from last year's due to some health matters with attendees but 27 attended and certainly a good time was had by all.

Branch President Clive Rogers and Secretary Mark Hetherington presided over events and ensured formalities were addressed and procedures for the branch satisfied branch requirements.

New Junior Vice President of the UQGPSA Mark Pace was this year's special guest and flew up to the reunion to represent both the UQGPSA Committee and the University of Queensland Gatton Campus as the Director of the Universities Gatton Vocational Education Centre. Updates were provided regarding developments with the Campus and progress with the recent move of the Veterinary School from St Lucia. Mark also advised progress with the re-introduction of the Diploma in Agriculture programs back to the Gatton Campus.

Several responses were made to the delivery and overall support was unanimous for the current developments and activities occurring back at the Gatton Campus and the request for Mark to re attend for next year was gratefully accepted.

Mark Pace

Back to College Weekend 2013

As usual, the annual *Back to College* Weekend will be held again on the first weekend in December this year, Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 December. The early arrivals will arrive in the afternoon of Friday for a casual BBQ and socializing at the Staff and Graduates Club beneath the Foundation Building.

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

The feature years are those groups who finished their study at Gatton in 1953, 1963, 1973, 1983, 1993 and 2003 and a great roll up is expected. The 1958 and 1968 year groups intend to be at the

weekend to celebrate their 55 and 45 year reunions. The 1948 year group will also return for their 65 year reunion.

A reunion of staff both past and present is organized over lunch on Saturday 7 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.

The AGM of our Association will be held at 3pm on Saturday 7 December beneath Morrison Hall. All are welcome to attend our AGM and reunion.



Getting together at the Caloundra reunion in March and starting to organise their 45th anniversary at the *Back to College* weekend in December were (from left) John Limpus, Adrian O'Connor, Arthur Egan, Peter Young and John Guthrie

Gold Coast Branch Reunion

Labrador
AFL Sports Club
Ashton Street
Labrador

**Saturday
8 February 2014**

11:00am for
12 noon luncheon

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

Brisbane Branch Reunion

The Greek Club
26 Edmondstone Street
South Brisbane

**Saturday
23 August 2014**

11.30am for
12 noon luncheon

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

Sue Moyle
☎ (07) 3821 1739

Mackay Branch Reunion

Railway Hotel
Eton Road, Marian

TBA

11:00am for
12 noon luncheon

Mark Hetherington
☎ 0407 595 349
m.hetherington
@pcpsl.com.au

Clive Rogers
☎ 0439 514 555
clive.rogers
@westnet.com.au

Sunshine Coast Branch Reunion

Caloundra Bowls Club
Cnr Arthur Street and
Burwah Terrace
Caloundra

**Saturday
8 March 2014**

11:30am for
12 noon luncheon

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

We welcome the following new members:

Allen Robert Bruce (1989)
John William Foreman (1968)
Ronald Phillip Ambrose Jenkins
(1983)
Graham Roderick Kenny (1993)
Arthur Stanley Le Feuve (1963)
Allan Douglas Muller (1973)
Karen Maree Prewett née Schutt
(1996)
Scott Alan Prewett (1993)
Alan Giles Randle (1958)
David Albert Walton (1963)

Historical Collection

Donations to the collection continue to increase. My apologies to Paul Hassab QDA 1962 for not thanking him in the last issue of the *Re-Connect* for his donation of 1962 Foundation and Diploma Day programmes.

Donations have been received from Pat Harden B.App.Sc. (RT) 1989: Parasite collection, degree certificate, lecture notes and assorted QAC souvenir (official!) items.

Stewart Bain. Cert An. Hus. 1968: Cadet Under Officer commission and epaulettes.

Julie Martin. Assoc.Dip. App.Sc. 1989: QAC jumper, polo and T-shirts plus a boxed QAC teaspoon.

Alan Brimblecombe. 1947–48: copy of "Guiding Queensland Agriculture 1887–1987".

Ed Holmes. QDAH 1966: assorted photos depicting College life in the early 1960's together with assorted papers.

Bruce Carey Assoc (RT) 1970. Box of slides of College 1967-1970, 2 CDs of scanned slides and two Graduation Programmes 1970 and 1971.

Gerry Collins. QDAH 1957: photocopy of 1930 College 1st XI. Gerry's father, Stan QDS 1930, was a member of the team.

David Francis. (1970–73) donated an original Rugby Club tie.

George Hannaford. 1946: copy of "From War with Love". This book of some 160 pages of photos and letters is a concise diary from the Western Front of George's father, Stanley Devine Hannaford, a College student 1914–15. Stanley's College Blazer

Pocket and Gold Medal he won for shearing are part of our collection.

Judy O'Farrell and Alan Richardson: framed photo of 1934 Staff and Students which was the property of their late father Albert Phillips Richardson who was a Junior student in 1934–35.

The Museum is always open for special groups on request.

In May, 15 members of a Brisbane Probus Club visited, while in July, 40 Ag. Science graduates celebrating 50 years since graduation from UQ also inspected the collection.

On the UQ Open Day in August some 60 people visited the Museum.

I thank Kevin Lewis who has assisted on many Monday afternoons; and to Don Oxenham and Julie Martin who are always available when required.

PSA Committee Members attend Rugby Matches

In an attempt to increase awareness of the UQGPSA, committee members Phil Long and Kevin Lewis attended two Risdon Cup rugby matches recently. These matches featured the composite UQ Gatton/Highfields teams playing Toowoomba Bears in Toowoomba and the Dalby Wheatmen at the UQ Gatton campus.

The opportunity was taken to speak with a number of past students and also to feature our new banner.

The attendance by UQ Gatton student spectators at these matches was quite low and probably reflects the changing demographics of the current student mix currently undertaking courses at the Gatton campus.

We would like to thank the General Manager of Downs Rugby, Cameron Donaldson and Charlie Martin, President of the Toowoomba Bears, both past students of QAC, for allowing us the opportunity of attending these matches.

We would like to think, that in 2014, we can generate support for our attendance at College team matches in a wide area of the Downs Rugby competition from St George in the west to Goondiwindi in the south to Roma in the north.



Kevin Lewis and Phil Long at the PSA stand at Toowoomba Heritage Oval



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

BARLOW, Leon

QDA 1949. Pitt House.

1947 "B" XI, 1948 "A" XI. Opening batsman, medium pace bowler. 1949 "A" XI, Boxing.

Queensland Sales Manager Smith Klein and French Laboratories.

Active in the OBA and PSA. Regular attendee at the Gold Coast Reunions.

Leon passed away 6 July 2013.

CUMMINS, Victor Gary (Vic)

B.App Sc (RT) 1970.

1st XV 1967–70. Combined Darling Downs Representative 1967.

He was a member of the first group to receive a degree at QAC, majoring in soil conservation. Vic was also a big horse racing fan and always looked forward to Saturday (or "raceday" as he affectionately called it).

His career was spent in the Soil Conservation Branch of DPI, firstly on the Darling Downs in Toowoomba and later in Central Queensland as Regional Manager based in Rockhampton.

Vic passed away 8 June 2013.

EDGAR, A.W.D. (Bill)

Short Course in Sheep. Shelton House, Prefect 1939.

1937 3rd XI.

1938 2nd XV, 2nd and 3rd XI, Life Saving, 25th Bn, 2nd Mile and Cross Country.

1939 1st XV, Senior Swimming Champion, 3rd XI, Runner – up Open Athletics.

25Bn.

He served as a Lieutenant in the AIF during WW2.

Bill passed away May 2013.

EWING, Alexander Gordon

Sub Junior 1939. Pitt House.

1939 College Scout Group.

1940 Won 50 yards and 2nd in 25 yards Junior Freestyle Handicap Swimming, won 25 yards Breaststroke Handicap.

2nd in both the 100 yards and 220 yards Junior Handicap Athletics.

Alex passed away 19 July 2013.

FULLERTON, William (Bill) Hector

QDAH 1960. Thynne House.

1958 8st 7lbs XV – Premiers. 1960 1st XI and 1st XV.

Corporal in the College CMF Unit.

Bill spent some 14 years with the Department of Ag and Stock in PNG, Bougainville and New Britain.

On his return to Australia he was employed by Pacific Seeds in Emerald, then by Consolidated

Fertilizers in Wee Waa. In 1984 he moved to Toowoomba and 5 years later was transferred to head office as Purchasing Manager of Ag Chemicals in cotton (INCITEC). He retired in 1996 and started his own Ag Chemical business.

Bill passed away 28 April 2013.

GROUNDWATER, Murray G.

At College 1963–64.

1963 A Reserve Basketball, Under 19 XV, Q'ld U18 Rep. 1964 B Grade Basketball.

Murray passed away 21 April 2013.

INGLETON, Allan Reginald

Allan was at College 1940 and passed away on 17 March 2013.

KOLISHKIN, Michael

QDA 1950. Pitt House.

1948 Senior Cadets

1949 Won Open Shot Put, Sgt in Senior Cadets.

1950 3rd XV, Sgt in College CMF Unit.

Michael passed away on 16 September 2011.

McINNES, Zoe

Zoe studied Ag at UQ Gatton, graduating in 2007.

Her career began as a cadet with Landmark in Toowoomba and then Pittsworth.

Promotion followed after her transfer to Chinchilla where she specialised in cotton agronomy and broadacre cropping.

Zoe passed away on 19 June 2013 as the result of a tragic farm accident.

McKAY, Kenneth Vivian

He attended College in 1938 as a Junior student.

Ken was a staunch member of the Mackay Branch of the PSA and passed away 6 April 2013.

MENZIES, William Roland

QDAH 1961. Prefect 1961.

1961 2nd XV – Captain, 3rd Junior Judging Fat Lambs at the Toowoomba Show. College CMF Unit.

He spent the first years of his career working on properties in the Arcadia Valley and Cloncurry, later for CSIRO in Canberra.

Bill returned to the family property in North Dorrigo which he operated in partnership with his brother Alan, QDA 1964. They also bought and operated the local milk run.

In his spare time Bill was Ag. Assistant at the High School.

He passed away on 25 June 2013.

MORRISON, Dr T.M. "Mac"

Commenced duties as the second Director of the Queensland Agricultural College in January 1979, following the retirement of Mr. N.W. Briton.

He was responsible for many improvements in the courses offered by the College, landscaping of the Campus and renamed some of the older buildings.

He retired as Director in August 1988 and passed away on 12 May 2013.

PHILIPS, Robert Erskine

QDDM 1954. At College 1950–53. 1952 B Tennis.

Robert passed away 2 September 2013.

REGHENZANI, Horace Ercole

QDA 1945.

Entered College in February 1941 as a Sub Junior student, returned home March 1942 due to the occupation of the College by the US Army in that month. Returned in February 1944.

1945 Captain of Riddell House, Prefect.

1941 Swimming.

1944 2nd XV.

1945 Boxing, 2nd XV Captain.

Horace co-managed the family farm at Mt Sophia then managed the family general store in Werribee South (Victoria) before moving to his own cane farm at Fig Tree Creek.

Horace passed away 26 April 2013.

SCHOTT, Graham Thomas

He was a High School student at the College 1960–61.

Very little is known of his time at QAHS&C other than he was a brilliant student, gaining 10 As and 1B in the 1961 Junior exams. The B was gained in Horticulture!

Graham's Funeral was held on 14 June 2013.

SPRY, Edwin George

QDA 1967. Riddell House.

1966 and 67 1st XV. QAC Union Council Member.

Ed passed away 23 May 2013.

WARLTERS, Howard

QDAH 1958. Riddell House Captain 1958.

Prefect 1957–58.

1956 1st XV, Staff and Students XI.

1957 1st XV, 1st XI.

1958 1st XV Captain. 1st XI.

After graduation he returned to Glen Innes to farm fat lambs and operated the local school bus service.

In later years he inherited the family shoe business which he ran successfully for many years.

Howard passed away 1 August 2013.

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Introducing...

Bruce Birtwell



The eldest of seven children, I was born in Rockhampton on New Year's Eve, 1953. My father was a police officer and his transfers resulted in my attending schools at Rockhampton, Rolleston, Charleville and Brisbane.

After completing Grade 11 at Camp Hill High School, I arrived at QAC in 1971 to start a Certificate in Animal Husbandry. Having had a grandfather and uncles who were drovers in western Queensland and spending my holidays on a dairy farm at Goovigen, I had an interest in horses, and livestock in general. I was fortunate that, as I was 17, my movements off College were not restricted!

I completed my Certificate in 1973 and started a two-year traineeship with Borthwicks Meat Processing Facility at Murrarie the following January. At the end of it, due to the beef slump future employment was uncertain and I was fortunate to get a cadetship with the Slaughtering and Meat Inspection Branch (later Veterinary Public Health Branch) of the Department of Primary Industries, and started work with them at the Bundaberg Regional Abattoir. After passing the Qld Public Service Regulation 90 exams, I achieved full meat inspector status in January 1977.

Later that year I was also successful in the Regulation 90 exam for stock inspection and about this time was transferred from Bundaberg to the Ipswich Regional Abattoir. I remained there until 1986 and was engaged in a range of meat inspection activities, including a period as Disease Control Officer at T.A. Fields as part of the

BTEC program. During this period I was also promoted to Inspector Division 1 and then, later, District Inspector Division 2.

Late in 1986 I transferred to Roma as the District Meat Inspector and was responsible for inspection of butcher shops, slaughterhouses, and Kangaroo depots. It was while I was in Roma I began studying externally and completed a Bachelor of Applied Science (Biology) degree from Central Queensland University at Rockhampton

In 1995 I transferred to Warwick and worked at the Killarney Abattoir and then, three years later, I moved to Mount Isa as a Stock Inspector. While in Mount Isa as well as stock inspection and animal welfare work, I coordinated the Plant Health Surveillance Monitoring for Papaya Fruit Fly. I also became involved in workplace health and safety and was the Department's West Region WHS Coordinator. As well, I completed a Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Management through Flinders University.

In 2004 I moved to Toowoomba to work on workplace health and safety and then, in 2005, moved into the Plant Biosecurity and Product Integrity program where I am currently a Senior Biosecurity Officer. I coordinate the plant health surveillance and certification service, and supervise and train casual and permanent staff in plant surveillance and certification activities.

Debbie, my wife, and I have three sons and two grandsons.

I am a Justice of the Peace (Qualified) and am involved in the Toowoomba Branch of the Qld Justice Association. During my life I have been involved in a number of organisations including being Vice-President of the Roma and Mount Isa Show Societies, P&C, junior soccer and cricket in Roma, as coach of my son's teams. I have judged carcass competitions and was the Chief Steward of the Roma Show Society carcass competition.

All of this has been the result of the foundations laid by my study at Gatton College, with its motto "*Science with Practice*". By now being secretary of the Past Students Association committee, I have a way of repaying the start that Gatton College gave me.