

# 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 33, WINTER 2019

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## STOP PRESS

*Back to College Weekend*

**Friday 6 December to  
Sunday 8 December 2019**

Nominations close for:

**Gatton Gold Medal  
19 July 2019**

**Distinguished Past Student Award  
30 September 2019**

See our website for full details.

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## UQ Gatton's 2018 Gold Medal Awarded

In December 2018 agriculture and soil scientist Dr Glen Simpson was awarded The University of Queensland Gatton Gold Medal. The award is in recognition of his lifetime of work on improving the welfare of communities around the world.

The Gold Medal is awarded to a UQ Gatton graduate – or a graduate of its agricultural college predecessor – who has achieved outstanding success.

Dr Simpson began his agricultural journey 61 years ago when, as a 12 year old, he became a boarder at UQ Gatton's predecessor, Queensland Agricultural High School and College.

He completed his schooling, a Queensland Diploma of Agriculture and further graduate and postgraduate studies at UQ.

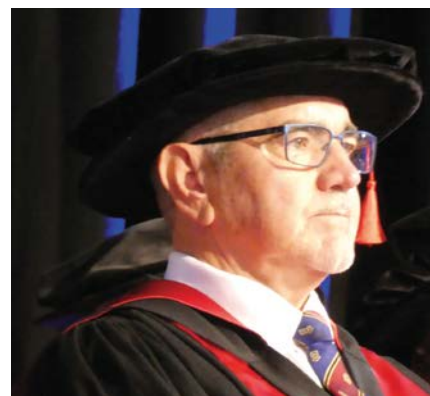
"From there I travelled widely as a young graduate, and was increasingly determined to tackle poverty and hunger in disadvantaged communities," Dr Simpson said.

"My first real job was working as a United Nations adviser, setting up research programs and a soil laboratory in Spain, helping transfer Australian farming systems and research capabilities.

"I then did similar work in Thailand for the Australian Government, before working on innovative irrigation and drainage systems in Central America."

Following decades saw Dr Simpson work in international development, helping provide technologies and services in agriculture, health, education, land titling and justice and most recently in post-conflict reconstruction in war affected regions and countries.

Dr Simpson is delighted to have won the award, and to have his work recognised by his alma mater.



Dr Glen Simpson

"It's a true honour to be presented with this award, from an institution that set me up with a well-rounded science and practical education.

"It's been a rewarding career, and I've been lucky to have had the opportunity to work with and get to know and understand people in the communities.

"But it's no time to stop, as we face big challenges, such as climate change, pollution, population growth, and food production, storage and distribution.

"This is an incredibly exciting time for agricultural scientists and producers and we must continue to collaborate internationally to put forward Australia's best and brightest ideas."

*Extracted from UQ website*



Ron Swanwick, Michael Cooper, Peter Varghese AO (UQ Chancellor), and Dr Glen Simpson

## The Last Word

Dorothea Mackellar wrote in 1908 about:

*"I love a sunburnt country,  
A land of sweeping plains,  
Of ragged mountain ranges,  
Of droughts and flooding rains.  
I love her far horizons,  
I love her jewel-sea,  
Her beauty and her terror –  
The wide brown land for me!*

*A stark white ring-barked forest  
All tragic to the moon,  
The sapphire-misted mountains,  
The hot gold hush of noon.  
Green tangle of the brushies,  
Where lithe lianas coil,  
And orchids deck the tree-tops  
And ferns the warm dark soil.*

*Core of my heart, my country!  
Her pitiless blue sky,  
When sick at heart, around us,  
We see the cattle die –  
But then the grey clouds gather,  
And we can bless again  
The drumming of an army,  
The steady, soaking rain."*

But it's not always a blessing!

The cruel reality of life in the Australian bush has been severely inflicted on our colleagues and compatriots in northern and western Queensland by the devastating weather in February following years of relentless drought. There is little doubt that manmade global warming has played a part, but the twofold blow that unfolded seems to have no precedent.

The thoughts and empathy of The Last Word, of UQGPSA and, no doubt, of all Gatton Past Students is extended to those suffering the disaster incurred by the Queensland cattle industry in recent times.

We wish them all the best in the future and a timely recovery from their plight.

Slade Lee

## President's Report



**Mark Pace**  
President  
UQ Gatton Past Students'  
Association Inc.

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It is with a great sense of pride that I write this report to you as the new President of the UQ Gatton Past Students' Association. After some 10 years as Junior Vice President and working on and with the Committee, it is a great privilege to be nominated and to accept this role to lead this Association and its long history. I also want to thank our immediate past President Ms Kim Jorgensen for her term as President and efforts.

Those who attended the annual *Back to College Weekend* in December last year will know what a great and successful weekend was had by all with attendance of over 300 members. We also had the fortune of the Chancellor of The University of Queensland, The Honourable Peter Varghese and his wife attending and providing the response to the toast with what was arguably one of the best speeches in recent years. This delivery referenced on the strong and continuing bond of the Gatton Past Students and the collective achievements and the stewardship that can be accessed and recognised for the future directions being considered.

To move us forward into 2019 and beyond, the UQGPSA Committee, in consultation with its members, will commence a Strategic Planning Review process. We will assess our current strengths and mission to ensure we remain a strong and representative Association, with the capabilities to provide reference to our stakeholders, primarily The University of Queensland. We also need to re-affirm our long associations with the rural industries and Government bodies, to which so many of us have provided life long contributions.

It is of no surprise to any of us, that demographics of this Association is certainly of an advanced age group. Whilst this is not an immediate issue, we need to be mindful and ensure we are strategically preparing new engagement and purpose directions that can address these demographical trends.

It is proposed that in the coming months a survey/questionnaire with specific questions will be accessible to you to provide us with the key issues you believe face this organisation and in turn, will influence the role and future direction of the Gatton campus. Whilst these are decisions

under the charter of The University of Queensland as custodians of the campus, the UQGPSA is also a key stakeholder that can provide feedback and experiential reference to assist the University in its proposals for the future of the Gatton campus at large.

We also seek to review our engagement strategies with the younger generations of Gatton graduates and to view the role and purpose of the UQGPSA to what it means today to be associated with the UQGPSA. This will include how to increase female participation and influence within the association as a whole and representation on its Committee.

It is proposed that by June/July of this year a Strategic Planning process will be held at this stage in Toowoomba. Via a facilitation process and incorporated with the feedback from the members we can commence our process to synergise the capacity of the Association to take calculated new strategic directions. This will ensure we remain a strong, influential and respected Association to all of our members and stakeholders for many years to come.

There is much work to do and as your new President I seek your input and assistance to support the Committee, to ensure it is open and active via its representation of the members and to promote the extraordinary capacity that sits within the Association collectively which is without any doubt, the strongest and most representative PSA of any of the past Agricultural Colleges in Australia.

I am happy to discuss with any of you and am available on email or mobile.

Do not underestimate the capacity of what this Association can achieve and with a refreshed mandate the future of our Association can be assured.

### Do we have your email address?

If you are receiving a hard copy of this edition of *Re-Connect*, it means we do not have your email address. Email is our preferred means of communication as printing and postage is expensive.

Please email us.  
[gattonpaststudents@uq.edu.au](mailto:gattonpaststudents@uq.edu.au)

# Distinguished Past Student Awards 2018

The UQ Gatton Distinguished Past Student Award recognizes the tremendous achievements of graduates of The University of Queensland Gatton or its former entities, *Queensland Agriculture College*, and the *Queensland Agricultural High School and College* are by any measure truly outstanding.

Since the inception of the award in 2010 there have been some 20 distinguished past students awarded this honour.

## *Bruce Mutch*

Bruce attended the then Queensland Agricultural High School and College from 1950 to 1953. After leaving College, he first lived the dream of many a city-born GPS school student becoming a Jackaroo at Monto and later Roma.

He went on to become a Stock Agent, Cattle Husbandry Advisor, and Field Research Officer until he joined Rumevite in 1973, first as their National Technical Manager and later as Managing Director (aka Chief Executive Officer). Rumevite was the premium feed supplement for use on dry and green feed. It was the byproduct of the distillation of alcohol from molasses sold as the Rumevite Block.

In 1985 he joined Ridley Agricultural Products – Liquid Feed Division as National Technical Manager.

In 2000 he moved to Champion Liquid Feed Company (later Westway Feed Products) as National Technical Manager – then becoming Director until his retirement in 2009.

Bruce credits an introduction to ruminant nutrition by Neil Briton at the Queensland Agricultural High School and College as the stimulus that motivated him towards a career in animal nutrition.



## *Don Oxenham*

Don attended the Queensland Agricultural High School and College, graduating with a Diploma in Animal Husbandry in 1958. He has managed to combine a career as a researcher in animal nutrition with a career as a rugby league official.

After graduation, Don took up a position with CSIRO at the Cooper Laboratory at Lawes, undertaking research as to the digestibility of tropical grasses and legumes, followed by the nitrogen nutrition of grass and grass/legume pastures with Dr. Ted Henzell.

He undertook a wide range of research projects and authored a number of publications before he left the CSIRO in 1982, after 22 years, to pursue his passion for rugby league.

A gifted rugby union and league player, Don played for the First 15 at the Queensland Agricultural High School and College and went on to play rugby league at Gatton Rugby League Club, Wests in Brisbane, representing Brisbane in the Trades and Labour Cup as well as the Police Team in the Public Service League.

Later he took on a variety of coaching and executive roles with various rugby league clubs.

In 1986 he joined the Queensland Rugby League as Coaching Director Brisbane Rugby League and later served on the Queensland Rugby League and Australian Rugby League Committees, dealing with coaching and development of rule changes.

Don has had 21 articles published in the "Rugby League Coaching Magazine".

## *Jack Steggall*

Jack graduated from the former Queensland Agricultural College in 1977 with a Bachelor of Applied Science – Food Technology.

He started his career as a Dairy Technologist at Port Curtis Dairy in 1978 where his technical knowledge and pro-active nature were soon making a positive contribution to the business. This was the start of a long and productive sales and technical development career in the dairy and related industries.

After 3½ years Jack moved to Grundy Thompson as a Technical Sales Representative followed by Marketing Manager with Bush Boake Allen.

Having gained practical knowledge and skills in the dairy supply industry, in 1992 Jack made a big step with wife Linda – starting their own business, Steggall Nutrition Pty Ltd.

Initially it was just Jack, Linda and one part-time employee but over the past 26 years Steggall Nutrition Pty Ltd has grown to be a very successful company with 45 staff (including eight Food Technologists – two thirds of whom are Gatton graduates) and a turnover of many millions of dollars per year.

Even with the long days dedicated to managing and growing Steggall Nutrition, Jack still found time to be the UQGPSA Honorary Treasurer from 2004 to 2008.



Three Distinguished Past Students Award recipients – Jack Steggall, Bruce Mutch and Don Oxenham





## Back to College Weekend Wrap Up

The 2018 *Back to College Weekend* was a SUCCESS with a record crowd again. No huge thunder storms this year but it was hot – we coped. “Best Ever” was heard uttered many times which was what the Committee wanted to hear. We welcomed The University of Queensland’s Chancellor Peter Varghese and his wife to our Reunion dinner. Both enjoyed their evening and we thank them for attending at such a busy time of the year. Catch Peter’s reaction to receiving his Association tie from Ron Swanwick in the photos section. Recent Agribusiness graduate Michael Wellington summarised his four years on campus in a slide presentation. He particularly focussed on the practical skills he learned and spoke about the benefits gained from being mentored by past students. Great to hear that he went away with a large group of friends and wonderful memories of his time at Gatton – just like most of us!!







Year group at *Back to College Weekend*: 1973

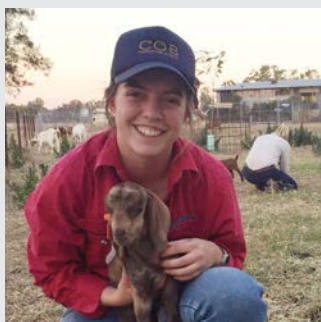


Year groups at *Back to College Weekend*: Top to bottom 1978; 1988  
Opposite page top left 1958; top right 1963; bottom 1968

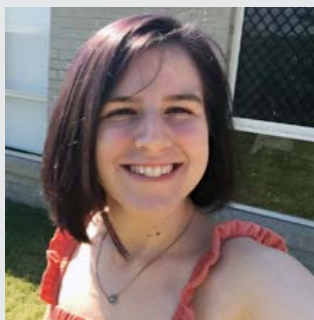
### *New Members*

Peter Len **Arnold** (1968)  
 Phillip Scrymgeour **Bate** (1968)  
 Ian Maurice **Buck** (1968)  
 Graeme John **Busby** (1966, 1999 and 2002)  
 Raymond John **Collins** (1968 and 1973)  
 Christopher Burton **De Persse** (1968)  
 Helen **Dillon** (1978)  
 Amanda Joy **Gallo** (1988)  
 John Allen **Goodall** (1980)  
 Christian Leonard Peter **Gosewisch** (1968)  
 Geoffrey Neil **Greer** (1984)  
 Caroline Ann **Hope** (2015)  
 David Alexander **Johnson** (1964)  
 Peter Robert **Jones** (1961)  
 Malcolm George **Kelly** (1968)  
 David John **Kimmerley** (1978)  
 Rossven Jerome **Naidoo** (1984)  
 Gregory Ross **McLennan** (1970)  
 John Saunders **Pollock** (1964)  
 Bruce Douglas **Porter** (1978)  
 Qazi Mohammad Abdur **Razzaque** (2000)  
 Laurence John **Richardson** (1968)  
 Rodney Thomas **Strachan** (1953)  
 Roger Eric **Timm** (1989)  
 Clifford James **Thomson** (1965)  
 Gary Wayne **Waldock** (1968)  
 William Wallace **Walker** (1959)  
 Andrew Robert **Watkinson** (1968)  
 Michael John **Wellington** (2017)

*Check out the rest of our photos on Facebook !*



Jane Evans



Vanessa Hartnett

## Scholarship Recipients Update

You will all be pleased to hear from our two current Scholarship holders on what they have been able to achieve through our support so far.

### *From Jane Evans*

I am currently in my third year of studying a dual degree in Agribusiness and Sustainable Agriculture. Being particularly interested in animal production, I have decided to major in Livestock and Poultry Science and am thoroughly enjoying both the academic and practical components of my degree so far. Throughout my studies, I have been extremely privileged to receive support from the Gatton Past Students' Association. The financial assistance which they provide has helped me to cover accommodation and course expenses, allowing me to focus on my studies and perform to a high standard. I am very grateful for the Gatton Past Students' Association's generosity and would like to thank them for supporting me while I expand my skills and knowledge within the agriculture industry.

### *From Vanessa Hartnett*

I am currently in my second year of the Bachelor of Science, majoring in Animal and Veterinary Bioscience. I relocated from Townsville at the beginning of 2018 to attend UQ Gatton. My goal is to study the Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Hons) next year.

My studies so far this year have been going well, and I am keen to see what the rest of the year brings me!

This scholarship has been a great help to me and my studies. It allowed me to continue my studies last year, as due to family circumstances it was at risk. The scholarship helped me to pay for my residential fees, textbooks and other equipment needed for my courses. This year, I am living off campus and the scholarship will help with transportation costs to and from the university, as well as study material needed for this year.

Thank you once again for this scholarship as it has truly helped me so much in continuing my studies here at UQ Gatton.

## Branch Reunions 2019

The Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast branches have held their reunions with good attendances. Photos have been uploaded onto Facebook and

members with email addresses received details in the last Newsletter.

| Branch Reunion     | Venue   | Date                      | Time                            | Contact   |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Canberra           | Canberra Yacht Club<br>1 Mariner Place<br>Yarralumla  | May 2019                  | 12 noon luncheon                | Kim Jorgensen<br>P 0438 130 963<br>jorgensen_kim@bigpond.com  |
| Mackay             | Duke of Edinburgh Hotel<br>Walkerston   | Sunday<br>19 May 2019     | 11:00am for<br>12 noon luncheon | Mark Hetherington<br>P 0407 595 349<br>m.hetherington@pcpsl.com.au<br>John Whitaker<br>P 0437 331 093<br>john-.whitaker@bigpond.com |
| Rockhampton        | Red Lion Hotel<br>138 Denham Street<br>Allentown  | Sunday<br>26 May 2019     | 11:30am for<br>12 noon luncheon | Julie Martin<br>P 0439 362 364<br>jazsie@bigpond.com  |
| Bundaberg          | East End Hotel<br>58 Princess Street<br>East Bundaberg  | Sunday<br>9 June 2019     | 11:00am for<br>12 noon luncheon | Mike Moller<br>P 0478 154 593<br>mmoller57@gmail.com  |
| Gold Coast         | Labrador AFL Sports Club<br>Ashton Street<br>Labrador   | Saturday<br>3 August 2019 | 11:00am for<br>12 noon luncheon | Peter Douglas<br>P (07) 5546 6350<br>koalamen@bigpond.com   |
| Other Reunions ... | Watch out for details on <a href="#">Facebook</a> and <a href="#">LinkedIn</a><br>emails will be sent to members and those we have contact details for. |                           |                                 |   |



# 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

**BLACKWOOD, Jason Scott**  
QCH 1992; Assoc Dip App Sc 1993  
Past staff member UQ Gatton  
Jason passed away 18 March 2019.

**CHADWICK, Blair**  
At College 1963–65. Riddell.  
Being a good horseman led him to winning the Senior Section of the Junior Judging of horses at the 1965 RNA. On leaving College he joined the Queensland Country Life as a cadet journalist and in 1968 he was appointed the QCL manager for the Darling Downs and South West Queensland. He was transferred to Brisbane in 1978, filling many editorial and management positions. In 1981, Blair won the prestigious Walkley Award for rural journalism. A career change in 1989 saw him appointed head of the new DPI Public Affairs Unit, which he held for the next 13 years until his retirement in 2002. Blair passed away 28 October 2018.

**DEAN, James "Dizzy" Clayton**  
QDA 2nd Class Hons 1957.  
At College 1953–57. Thynne.  
Awarded a B Ag Sc from UQ in 1961. He had real estate interests in the Tingalpa area.  
Jim passed away 22 November 2018.

**FINCH, Jeffrey Bass**  
QDAH 1956.  
At College 1953–56. Shelton.  
1953: Under 8 stone 7 lbs XV.  
CMF 1953–56. Corporal 1955–56.  
Jeff passed away 4 February 2019.

**GALLETLY, Lenor**  
Wife of past student, past staff member and past Association Patron Jim Galletly. Lake Lenor was named after her. Lenor worked in the Student Union Association shop when it was on campus.  
Lenor passed away 7 November 2018.

**HARBISON, Sidney Brian**  
QDA 1949, QDAH 1950.  
At College 1947–49. Pitt.  
1949: A Grade XV, Swimming, Inter-Collegiate Rifle Shooting.  
1948: 2nd XV : Swimming, Inter-Collegiate Rifle Shooting.  
1947: Swimming.  
Brian passed away 17 May 2018.

**HODGSON, Noel Phillip**  
QDA 1961.  
At College 1958–60. Prefect 1960.  
He gained a B Ag Sc in 1965 and a B Econ in 1968.  
Noel passed away 4 November 2018.

**HOWES, John "Jack" William**  
QDA 1968.  
At College 1965–68. Riddell.  
1967: Under 19 XV.  
1966: Under 19A XV.  
Jack worked for more than 20 years in the coffee and copra industries of Papua New Guinea.  
John passed away 22 October 2018.

**HUGHES, Lachlan Lucas**  
B Ag Bus 2005.  
Lachlan passed away 31 October 2018.

**JAMES, Thomas Allan**  
QDAH 1960.  
At College 1956–60.  
Thomas passed away 13 July 2018.

**LUXTON, Michael James "Jim"**  
At College 1948–50. Thynne.  
1950: A Grade XV, Boxing, CMF.  
1949: B Grade XV.  
1948: D Grade XV, Boxing.  
Jim passed away 9 February 2019.

**MANAHAN, Frederick Foster**  
QDAH 1956.  
1955: 2nd B XV, CMF.  
1956: 2nd A XV, CMF.

Gained a B V Sc from UQ in 1961.  
1961–70: Private practice Vic and NSW.  
1971–2004: Private practice Brisbane.  
1987–2002: Member of Racing Codes Advisory Board. Chairman for 12 years.  
Official Race Day veterinarian at Eagle Farm and Doomben Racecourses for many years.  
Fred passed away 19 December 2018.

**PEGG, Ian Ralph**  
B Bus 1982.  
1st XV. College Army Reserve Unit.  
Joan passed away 4 March 2019.

**ROBERTS, Joan May**  
B App Sc 2004.  
B App Sc (Hons) 2005.  
Joan passed away 7 June 2018.

**SCHOORL, Trevor Anthony**  
B App Sc (Rural Tech) 1993.  
Renowned animal nutritionist in the field of dairying.  
Trevor was accidentally killed 27 December 2018.

**SINCLAIR, John**  
QDA 1959.  
UQ Gatton Gold Medallist 1998.  
At College 1957–59. Shelton.  
CMF 1957–59, Corporal 1958–59.  
Pioneering nature conservationist. He formed the Fraser Island Defenders Organisation in 1971 and lobbied the Bejelke-Petersen Government to stop sand mining and logging on the island, eventually having it listed as a World Heritage Site in 1992.  
In 1976, he was announced as "The Australian" Newspaper Australian of the Year and in 1993 he received the internationally respected Goldman Environmental Award.

John was awarded, in the 2014 Australia Day Honours, a Order of Australia and in 2017 he was bestowed with a Honorary Doctorate from the University of the Sunshine Coast. It is disappointing to note that of the many tributes to his life's work, no mention was seen of his QDA or UQ Gatton Gold Medal.  
John passed away 3 February 2019.

**STEWART, Kay Leslie (nee Stubbersfield)**  
College office staff 1963–68.  
Kay passed away suddenly 8 December 2018.

**WATERS, Claire Eunice**  
Assoc Dip Farm Management 1985.  
Assoc Dip Stock and Meat 1985.  
Claire passed away 16 December 2018.

**WELLS, Reginald Bruce**  
QDA 1942, QDH 1949.  
At College 1940–41.  
Joined the College staff in 1942, enlisting in the RAAF later in the year. He returned in January 1948 as a Temporary Assistant Instructor with the CRT Scheme for a short period before joining CSIR. Reg was appointed Instructor in Horticulture in January 1949.  
In 1950 he joined the College Flight of the ATC as a Sgt and was promoted through the ranks to Flt Lt, becoming Commander of the College Flight in 1973. In 1964 he was awarded the Cadet Forces Medal for 12 years meritorious service.  
He retired from the College staff as Senior Instructor in Horticulture in 1983.  
Reg passed away peacefully 18 January 2019.

## Historical Collection

Once again, a great influx of memorabilia was donated during the BTCW. The following donated items have been catalogued and the majority are now on display.

**Diplomas and Certificates:** Alby Taylor, Linda Scells, Mark Smith, Natalie Hollis (Dahler), Wayne Livingstone, David Walton, David Clift, Malcolm Fisher and George Smith.

**Literature and Books:** Rod Roberts, David Croft, Adrian O'Connor, Peter Wylie, Peter Warhurst, Helen Devlin (Bronson), John Foreman, Wendy Brown (dau. of Reg Wells).

**General College Photos:** John McCormack, Andrew Mason, John Foreman and Wendy Brown.

**Blazers:** Old Boy's blazer, circa 1933, donated by Russell Hopkins, son of Loyd Hopkins 1931–32.

This is the first seen by the Museum staff, in fact we never knew such a blazer existed!

Wendy Brown donated her father's, 1940–41.

**Miscellaneous:** Risdon Cup commemorative beer can from Gary Mason; Pig snouter from Nev Smith; Framed print of the Foundation Building from Genevieve Milford (Taylor) and Model of a drum lick from Bruce Mutch.

**The Unusual:** Major-General Michael Fairweather AM, recently retired from the Australian Army, donated a selection of uniforms, medals and his General's Ceremonial Mameluke Sword.

I thank Val Kilah, Julie Reid, Gary Mason and Trevor Arthur for their valued assistance during the year.

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.

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**Try our quick links at:**

[gatton.uq.edu.au/alumni/  
gatton-past-students-association](http://gatton.uq.edu.au/alumni/gatton-past-students-association)



[facebook.com/UQGPSA](https://facebook.com/UQGPSA)



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## John Guthrie Receives Life Membership of UQGPSA



At *Back to College Weekend* 2018 our Honorary Treasurer John Guthrie was presented with a Life Membership. John has received this as a token of our gratitude for his dedication to the Association, having taken on the responsibility for the Treasurer's role since joining the Committee

in 2008. His sound understanding of the stock market and investment strategies has ensured that our funds are being well managed.

John commenced study at QAC in 1966 in the last of the 3 year diploma course. He finished the QDAH in 1968 and began work at the College shortly after as a Field Assistant at the old dairy factory. In 1970 John started the tertiary course on a part-time basis while working both at the dairy factory and the new Food Studies building as a technician in Food Microbiology. In early 1979 he was put in charge of the new pilot plant at food studies. John graduated in Food Technology (BAppSc) in 1979 and after 10 years on the staff joined the DPI in Rockhampton. Rockhampton was where he was based for his career in the DPI. For the last 13 years of his paid working life he undertook research in applications of near infrared spectroscopy to assessing food quality (mainly intact fresh fruit) non-invasively and inline in 'real time'. During this period he was awarded both a Masters followed by a PhD in this area of science by the Central Queensland University. John has been on our Committee for most of the time since his retirement in 2006.

## Back to College Weekend

The annual *Back to College Weekend* will be held from Friday 6 to Sunday 8 December 2019. The feature years are those who completed their study at Gatton in 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999 and 2009. Other year groups returning are 1954, 1964, 1974 and 1984. All year groups are welcome. Please note the year groups are the year study was completed and not necessarily the year of graduation as for several decades, graduation was around May of the following year.

The Friday night BBQ under the stars is proving very popular and is the ideal setting for a relaxing catch up with others from your year group.

Saturday is the main day of the reunion with year group photos on the steps of the Foundation building in the late morning before lunch.

Members have first choice of accommodation and there is usually a shortage of Motel rooms as well as double rooms in Shelton, also single, air-conditioned rooms in Shelton. Please advise if you would like to book a room for the reunion. There is no shortage of single, standard student rooms in Shelton and Pitt. There is no need to pay until later in the year and a registration form is available on our website.

## Gatton Vocational Education Centre renamed UQ Skills

The University's commitment to providing vocational skills for rural and agricultural industries at the Gatton campus will be strengthened with the renaming of the Gatton Vocational Centre (UQ-GVEC) to 'UQ Skills'. UQ Skills will continue the delivery of quality, integrated training and skills as it has done for many years.

Skills training will be better facilitated than before and with stronger industry linkages between the Faculty of Science and peak industry bodies, UQ Skills will be perfectly placed to ensure UQ Gatton graduates possess the employability attributes that industry seeks.

The appointment of the new Director UQ Skills will be announced shortly.