

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 24, Summer 2014

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STOP PRESS

**Back to College
Weekend**

6 and 7 December 2014

To register:

www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents

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Solar First for UQ Gatton



The solar photovoltaic research facility under construction on the UQ Gatton Campus.

AUSTRALIA'S largest solar photovoltaic research facility is well under construction on the UQ Gatton Campus where researchers will provide new insights on integrating large-scale renewable power plants with conventional electricity grids.

Being constructed on and next to the old College Air Strip, the facility will cover 10ha on the southern side of the Campus, and will provide 30 percent of UQ Gatton's energy requirements.

Providing 3.275 megawatts of power, enough to supply electricity for up to 450 average homes, the solar farm is due to be commissioned early next year.

Comprising 40,000 advanced photovoltaic panels in ground mounted arrays of fixed-tilt, single-axis and dual-axis

tracker technologies, the facility will allow the study of electrical and economic performance of multiple PV mounting technologies.

The UQ has partnered with American company First Solar who will provide the engineering, procurement and construction of this facility.

In the era of finding alternatives to coal-fired power stations, the technology being installed here is estimated to displace the equivalent of 5600 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide or removing 1590 cars from the road per year.

This project is being viewed as a pilot plant for new and existing large-scale Australian solar plants, including the Nyngan (102MW) and Broken Hill (53MW) power generators.

The Last Word

Australia to become the 'food bowl of Asia'.

Initially it gives you a warm and fuzzy feeling to think that our country could be such an influential contributor to the welfare of so many millions of people.

In reality it is probably a 'pipe dream', and I refer to the ABC Fact Check where they identified the Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce saying the notion is ridiculous.

Five year old figures indicate that Australia is capable of feeding about 60 million people or 1% of the world population, and as Mr Joyce says, if we double that to 120 million or more, we can't feed half of Indonesia, let alone other parts of Asia.

In this great country of ours each farmer produces enough to feed 600 people – 150 at home and 450 overseas, therefore to attempt to meet the ever growing demand for food with the increasing world population, some dramatic changes need to occur in agricultural production.

It has been touted that the vast areas of northern Australia with its large tracts of land, ample water and lots of sunshine will be the new highly productive 'food production bowl'.

However, this idea introduces major challenges in land use, whether it be for grazing or farming; water, fertilizer and chemical usage; market and access and export opportunities.

Mr Joyce believes Australia should concentrate on being the exporter of premium produce, targeting and growing the global middle class.

If and when this idea ever takes off, it will offer great opportunities to the people who study and graduate from agricultural institutions such as UQ Gatton.

We, I believe, as past students, need to be seen to be encouraging young people to take up careers in the agricultural sector so that in time we are better placed to take on challenges like being 'the food bowl of Asia'.

President's Report



Graham McClymont
President,
UQ Gatton Past Students'
Association Inc.

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It is that time of the year when the Management Committee and volunteers start to focus on the *Back to College Weekend* which will once again be held on the first weekend in December. Already quite a few year groups are well organised and we hope to crack the magic 300 registrations this year. We almost made it last year with 296 registrations.

At our August Management Committee meeting, we hosted a dinner for our four scholarship holders who are studying full time at UQ Gatton. This was a most enjoyable dinner which was held in the Trophy Room and attended by Management Committee members, volunteers, senior UQ Gatton staff, four students and the Mother of the 2014 scholarship winner.

Our Association has now financially assisted eight UQ Gatton students since 2007 with a total of \$105,000 during this time. I regard this as a magnificent achievement and I am sure you share our pride in helping needy students achieve their goal of a Gatton education. At the dinner, the Mother of the 2014 scholarship winner summed it up when she said to me, this scholarship means a tremendous amount to us. Thank you for your help. Scholarship recipients receive \$5,000 per year for the duration of their course. The 2014 winner is Sara Rodes.

If you would like to donate to our Scholarship Fund, full details are on our website or you can contact our office. Please remember that donations are tax deductible. Donors have their name recorded in the Book of Donors which is on display in the Museum, and a plaque with their name inscribed is placed on a table or chair in the Dining Hall if the donation is \$1,000 for a table and \$250 for a chair.

Already we have over 400 people who LIKE our Facebook page and new topics including lots of photos are added every few days. The Facebook address is shown on the front and back of this newsletter. We also have a LinkedIn page with 100 members.

There were eight excellent nominations for the UQ Gatton Gold Medal this year, and one person has been selected to receive the medal. Once again the standard was very high and the person selected to receive their award at Graduation Day in December is a worthy recipient of the medal. Full details will be in the first edition of this newsletter in 2015. Details of all previous recipients of the UQ Gatton Gold Medal are on our website.

Carol and I have attended Branch Reunions at the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Brisbane during the year while 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.

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.

New members

John Trevor **Arthur** (1954)
William Charles **Carroll** (1964)
Sidney Brian **Harbison** (1949)
Edmond **Jones** (1949)
David Kenneth **McLean** (2004)
Ivan Henry **Middleton** (1954)
Gavin Ward **Porter** (1983)
Kathryn Maree **Webb** (1986)
James William **Wright** (1957)

2014 UQGPSA Scholarship Winner

The UQ Gatton Past Students' Association has donated over \$100,000 in scholarships assisting eight students to study at The University of Queensland Gatton.

Veterinary Science student Sara Rodes is the most recent recipient of the UQ Gatton Past Students' Association Scholarship and she is very grateful for the opportunities it has opened up for her.

"This scholarship has made it so much easier to enjoy my degree, and get as much out of it as I can," Ms Rodes said.

"It has taken the pressure off to work and study during the week, and allows me to spend more of my free time getting more experience with animals that I haven't had much contact with."

"I would like to thank the UQ Gatton Past Students' Association again for giving me the honor of receiving this scholarship, and will do my best to give back to the association in every way I can," she said.

As long as Ms Rodes can remember she has always wanted to be a vet.

"When I was little I used to go to my mum's chiropractic office after school and I used to see how much she helped people," Ms Rodes said.

"I knew I couldn't just work with people, and I have always loved animals and had lots of pets, so I decided to become a vet because that way I could help people and work with what I love every day."

"I love studying at Gatton, the atmosphere is amazing, and it is such a beautiful campus to live and study on," she said.

Once she finishes her study Ms Rodes would like to work with production animals, in particular cattle and pigs.

For more information on the scholarship visit www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents.



2014 recipient of the UQ Gatton Past Students' Association Sara Rodes with her mother Cristina Rodes.

UQ Gatton Open Day a Success

The UQ Gatton Campus Open Day was held on 17 August 2014.

High-tech farming practices were on show, highlighting how innovative agricultural technologies such as drones, including hexacopters and quadcopters, are being used to improve farming efficiency.

Project officer Armando Navas said the drones carried complex computer operating systems and cameras so farmers could monitor plants and animals from the air.

"This technology can be used to improve farming systems and help farmers to save on resources," Mr Navas said.

"Students have the opportunity to do this course as an undergraduate and a post-graduate student."

UQ Gatton Campus is internationally recognised as Australia's leading

education and research provider in the fields of animals, agriculture, veterinary science, food and the environment.

Gatton Campus Director Janelle Zahmel said the Open Day provided career and study information for the public, especially prospective students and their families.

"It is a great opportunity to plan future careers in the agriculture, animal, plant and veterinary science fields," Ms Zahmel said.

"There are several valuable information sessions on the different disciplines to study and useful information about scholarships and accommodation."



High-tech farming practices, including the use of drones were on display at the Open Day.

"We also have new programs on offer, including the Queensland Diploma in Agricultural Technologies and new majors in the Bachelor of Science, Animal and Veterinary Bioscience and Plant and Soil Bioscience."

Back to College Weekend

The annual *Back to College Weekend* will be held again on the first weekend in December this year, Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 December. The early arrivals will arrive for a casual BBQ and socializing in the Staff and Graduates' Club beneath the Foundation Building on Friday night.

The main activities commence from 9am 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 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994 and 2004. The 1949, 1959, 1969 and 1979 year groups are also planning on attending.

It is important to note that the weekend reunion is for all who studied at Gatton, and is not restricted to graduates. Many groups invite their mates who may have started with them in first year, but did not graduate for various reasons. Partners are most welcome.

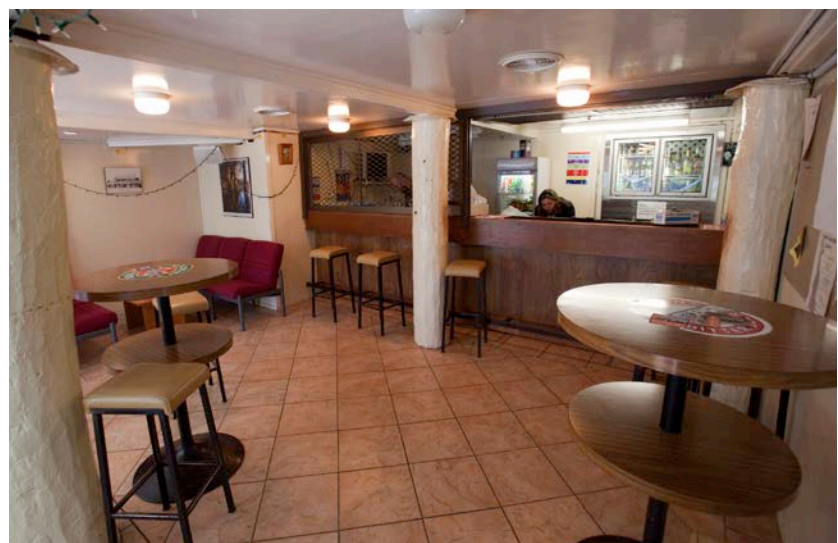
A reunion of staff both past and present is organised over lunch on Saturday 6 December. This staff reunion is always well attended. The annual dinner is also well attended on the Saturday night.

The AGM of our Association will be held at 3pm Saturday 6 December beneath Morrison Hall. All are welcome to attend our AGM and reunion.

What's in a name...

The College at Gatton has been known by a variety of names. Originally it was the Queensland Agricultural College (1897), became Queensland Agricultural High School and College (1923), reverted back to Queensland Agricultural College when the High School section was discontinued (1962), and finally became known as Gatton College within the University of Queensland (1990).

The College is now known as The University of Queensland Gatton Campus.



Staff and Graduates' Club beneath the Foundation Building, Gatton Campus.

Historical Collection

The Collection was on display for the UQ Gatton Open Day on the 17 August and we had a very satisfactory visitation of quite a number of Past Students, relatives of Past Students together with interested members of the public.

A trickle of donations has been received since the last issue of the *Re-Connect*.

Items received include:-

Assorted literature

1934, 35 and 36 *College Magazines and Student's Handbook* from Barbara Northcott. A "History of Gatton and District" from Julie Reid. Three books from KC Williams, Book – *Faces of the*

Fallen – 100th Anniversary of Start of WW1 from UQArchives, Leather bound copy of Centenary Book "100 Years of Science with Practice" from the Rev BAC Harding, books from the UQ Gatton School of Agriculture and Food Sciences.

Photos

QAHS&C Photos 1949/1953 from RI Dearden, *QAC Pipe Band (3) 1964* from Iain Bruce, *1908 QAC Football Team* from Barbara Hender, *1927 Gatton College Staff and Students and the 4th Tractor School* from D Qualischefski and three slides, *Shearing Demonstration at QAC during visit of King and Queen of Thailand* from Jack Groenendyk.

Various items

1959 Junior and 1964 QDAH Certificates from KC Williams, *Risdon Cup 50th Anniversary shirt* from Julie Martin, *College Scout Troop identity card of NJ Kelly (1934–36)* from B. Northcott and a *Scythe* from the UQ Gatton School of Agriculture and Food Sciences.

Again, I thank Val Kilah and Julie Reid for their ongoing dedication and to Kevin Lewis, Don Oxenham and Julie Martin for their continued support.

Merchandise Proposal

Over time the Past Students' Association has produced quite a range of PSA branded merchandise including a tie, stubby holder, badges and a number of books.

The current proposal (see attached photo) is for a polo style shirt, which has been slowly evolving over the past 18 months and is on the verge of production to be available for sale at the 2014 *Back to College* weekend.

The very popular PSA tie, with its colour and badges has been used as the template for the shirt design, using a light-weight polyester material rather than cotton due the major difference in price.

Your committee has been told that the 180gsm fabric will not be hot in summer and is capable of "breathing", being widely adopted elsewhere.

With a limited run of just 50 shirts initially, we are keen to hear your feedback and happy to take pre-release orders, retailing at \$50.00.

The demand or lack of will determine any future production of these shirts.



Branch Reunions

Mackay Reunion

The Marian Hotel was once again the venue for the annual Mackay Branch reunion on Sunday, June 1. Attendance was well supported with over 30 past students and partners with junior vice-president, Mark Pace representing the UQPSA.

Mr Clive Rogers was re-elected president and delivered the annual report, while Mr Mark Hetherington was re-elected treasurer submitting his financial report.

The event then focused on the business of exchanging good old stories, enjoying the good food and followed by some amber liquid nourishment.

Mark said, "I had the privilege of meeting more of the crew up in Mackay and getting to know the characters that once knocked around the hallowed ground of Gatton College".

A special thanks to Clive Rogers and Mark Hetherington, and to the other regular patrons including Ross Walker, John Whitaker, Graham Davies, Colin Glover, and the special "old boy" of the day, Gib Turner, who was one of the founding members of the Mackay Branch in the late 1940's.

There was also a visiting member from Townsville and a new member from Moranbah attending the day.



Past Students Mackay Reunion (back from left) Ross Walker, Mark Hetherington, John Whitaker, Graham Davies, Colin Glover, Mark Pace and Clive Rogers, Jim Bowman (seated).

Gold Coast Reunion

Our 24th Reunion on 2 August was most enjoyable with 42 attending. Twenty-eight apologies were received.

The new private room upstairs was a welcome change with plenty of space.

Special guests included Association President Graham McClymont and wife Carol, Association Past President Bob James, Gold Coast Branch Patron Bill Laver and our Honoured Old Boy Clive Gilchrist 1934–38.

Also attending were 1999 UQ Gatton Gold Medallist Jim Miller, 2011 Distinguished Past Student Ray O'Grady together with Association Honorary Life Member Val Kilah (Whip).

We were pleased to welcome first timer Rob Freeman 1964–66.

A big thank you to Diana Douglas and Pamela Groenendyk for their assistance at the door and Bob James and Don Oxenham for conducting the Raffle.

Brisbane Branch Reunion

The Brisbane Branch Reunion was held on Saturday 23 August. The biggest crowd in many years showed up with 45 attendees enjoying a sumptuous Greek banquet at the South Brisbane Greek Club.

This was the second year that the reunion was held at this venue, and it seems to have been an even better feast than last year. It was a great opportunity to renew old friendships and make a few new ones, and to reminisce.

Whilst it would be good to see more younger past students we were delighted to have representatives from a broad span of the decades. All the usual enjoyment of good conversation, great food, and lucky raffle winners, including again a couple of much coveted gift packs of a range of delicious honey varieties from Paul Sattler's busy bees, and the inevitable wine prizes.

We look forward to cracking the 50 attendees next year, because all feedback indicates that everyone had a ball.



Attending the Brisbane Reunion from left: Graham Baumber 1950s, Roy Lewington 1940s, Carys Lewington 2000s, John Knight 1970s, Ron Swanwick 1960s and Kim Jorgensen 1980s.



The "New and not so New", Rob Freeman and Clive Gilchrist, telling tales at the Gold Coast Reunion.

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

ARCHER, Thomas Kinder

QDA 1939 2nd Class Hons. Prefect 1938–39. Pitt 1936–38. Riddell 1939. 1936 College Scout Troop. Won Under 16 880 yards H'cap. 1937 College Scout Troop. Regimental Cadets 25th Bn. Open Cross Country. Athletics. 1938 Life Saving. 25th Bn, Rifle Shooting. 1939 Life Saving. Swimming. Cpl 25th Bn, Athletics.
We have been notified of Tom's passing.

BROWN, Alan Leslie

High School 1958–59. Life after College was spent on the family property at Capella and seventeen years later he purchased the Capella Hotel. The pub was sold after 7 years and he took up the lease of a caravan park at Earlando, north of Proserpine, and then a tyre business at Middlemount.
Alan passed away 3 July 2014.

CUSACK, Owen Joseph

MM. QDA 1948.
Instructor in Agronomy at QAC Sept 52–June 58, Captain in College CMF Unit. Returned in 1967 as Instructor in Agronomy, resigning in March 1972. Reappeared in March 1976 as Administrative Officer (Liaison), retiring in 1983. Hon Secretary/Treasurer of the PSA 1977–86.
Owen passed away 2 August 2014.

D'ENYAR, Trevor John

QDAH 1956. 1954 College ATC Flight. 1955 Sgt in ATC, 2nd B XV, B1 XI. 1956 WO in ATC, 2nd A XV, Staff Students XI.
Trevor passed away 13 April 2014.

FOLKES, Ian Mervyn

Dip App Sc 1975, B App Sc 1976.
Ian passed away 4 July 2014.

HENDERSON, Alastair

QDAH 1960, Prefect 1959–60, Riddell. 1st XV 1959–60, CMF 1958–60. He gained a BVSc

from Sydney University and spent time in private practice and many years in the Kimberley and the Northern Territory. Al was a member of the UQGPSA Management Committee from Dec 2010 until his untimely passing on 16 May 2014.

KERVEN, Barry

At College 1950–54, Pitt, 7 stone 7 lbs XV 1952–54, Captain 1953. 6 stone 7 lbs Boxing Champion 1954. Sgt in College Senior Cadets.

On leaving College he went jackarooing for some three years and appointed as an Assistant Advisor to the DPI Rocklea Research Station. He resigned the following year and joined the family building business. He was a staunch supporter of the College OBA/PSA, serving on the Committee from 1965–77, being Treasurer in 1970 and Sec/Treas 1971–77.
Barry passed away 12 April 2014.

MANNAN, Shegufa

Master of Nat Resource Studies 2009.
Passed away 29 Sept 2010.

O'PHEE, William Robert

High School 1951–52. Under 7stone 7lbs XV 1951–52. College ATC Flight 1950. He was the founder of O'Phee Industries constructing semi-trailers.
Bill passed away 20 July 2014.

OXEY, William James

Certificate An Hus 2000.
Bill passed away 20 July 2014.

ROBERTS, Maxwell Hector

QDA 1953. Prefect 1952. Senior Prefect 1953. Thynne. 1950 B2 XI, ATC, Athletics. 1951 B1 XI, ATC, Athletics. 1952 A2 XI. 1953 A1 XI, CMF. His career was spent in the Soil Conservation Branch of the DPI.
Max passed away 15 July 2014.

ROGERS, Harold Francis

High School 1954–55. College Senior Cadets 1954–55. Harold passed away 21 Feb 2014.

ROSSI, Robert John

Associateship in Rural Property Management 1971. Under 18 XV 1968. He was a larger than life figure on the College and in the CMF cook-house which he ruled with the rank of Sergeant.
Bob passed away in Darwin on 31 May 2014.

SIMMONDS, Roger Leonard

QDAH 1965. Shelton. 1964 B1 Tennis. 1965 B1 Tennis. Captain. Roger passed away 22 May 2014.

SNOWSILL, Sydney Brandon MBE

Pitt. 1948 A Grade XV, A1 XI, 1949 A Grade XV, A1 XI, Athletics. His entire career was spent in the sugar industry predominately in Fiji and in later years with CSR in Ayr. In 1976 he was awarded an MBE for his contribution to the Fijian Sugar Industry and the Fijian Community. He represented Fiji in Cricket on two tours in the early 1960's.
Syd passed away 14 June 2014.

VALLIS, Ian

QDA 2nd Class Hons 1959. Prefect 1959. Thynne. 1959 B2 IV, Senior Cadets. Cadet Under Officer 1956–57. 1956–59 A2 IV. 1958–59 Intercollegiate Rifle Shooting – Top Scorer. CMF. After gaining a BSc Agr he worked in the Nitrogen Economy Group of CSIRO. Brother of Nev QDA 1958 and twin brother of Lloyd QDA 1959.
Ian passed away 27 May 2014.

WARRINER, Paul Graham

QDAH 1957. Worked in the Ag Bank for many years.
Paul passed away 22 April 2014.

Gold Coast Branch Reunion

**Labrador
AFL Sports Club**
Ashton Street
Labrador

**Saturday
14 February 2015**

11:00am for
12 noon luncheon

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

Sunshine Coast Branch Reunion

Caloundra Bowls Club
Cnr Arthur Street and
Burwah Terrace
Caloundra

**Saturday
14 March 2015**

11:30am for
12 noon luncheon

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

Mackay Branch Reunion

Railway Hotel
Eton Road, Marian

**Sunday
31 May 2015**

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

Brisbane Branch Reunion

The Greek Club
26 Edmondstone Street
South Brisbane

**Saturday
22 August 2015**

11.30am for
12 noon luncheon

Slade Lee
☎ (07) 3821 1739
slade.lee
@yahoo.com.au

Sue Moyle
☎ (07) 3821 1739

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www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents



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

Re-Connect is printed by
the UQ Gatton printery.
Design by the UQ Office of
Marketing and Communications.

98054 September 2014

Introducing...

Gary Mason *QCAH (Hons),
UQGPSA Committee 2010–2014*



A long association with Gatton College (now UQ Gatton) started way-back when I was bred, born and raised at what I have always referred to as “home”.

Home was sandwiched between the pig, sheep and poultry sections, not far from Farm Square, which was the centre for the horse and cattle sections – a very agricultural upbringing.

The College holds many memories as it was our playground, we were all over it, on a weekend or school holidays, leaving after breakfast to explore and undoubtedly get into mischief somewhere, getting home for dinner at night.

There were very few buildings and other places which we failed to access – it was a great place to grow up, and needless to say we were the champion swimmers in the whole of the Lockyer as it was the only location in the Valley which had an Olympic pool.

After schooling in Gatton and completing my study at College, working life started as a JO, being one of the first to work in the then “new piggery”, as well as the horse and cattle section.

I actually paraded the grand champion Brahman female at the 1971 Royal Brisbane Show, named Lawes Saras, which then carried the College registered symbol brand of the Persian slipper.

Various amounts of time were spent broadening my experience in the beef industry, including working on properties in the Goondiwindi district (where one of the first importations of Charolais cross females from NZ occurred).

I then worked for the Borthwicks Company at Murarrie as a trainee livestock buyer, spending time in every sector of the abattoir from the knocking box to wholesale meat sales.

This was followed with a stint in the old Mactaggarts Company based in Creek St, Brisbane doing my apprenticeship at Cannon

Hill, then to their subsidiary Tatnell & Graham at Gympie before joining their live export arm.

A visit to the Department of Primary Industries Beef Cattle Husbandry Branch in Brisbane resulted in being appointed to a technical role at Brigalow Research Station, Theodore.

From there I was transferred to the Swans Lagoon Research Station, Millaroo (up the Burdekin from Ayr), again in a technical role supporting the research into beef industry challenges in northern Australia.

There are many stories which could be told of experiences and exploits relating to the years spent in both these locations.

Subsequently, I moved into advisory/extension roles based at Roma and Biloela which were both in the middle of a screaming drought. This led to the widespread introduction of M8U, a molasses/urea mix which resulted in much improved survival rates of cattle.

Altogether, about 12 years as a public servant involved with the Queensland beef industry, a period which taught me a lot about the resilience and attitude of those on the land whose motto may well have been “ have a go “.

This was followed with a short period as CEO of the Charolais Society of Australia in Sydney, and I can vouch for the old adage “ you can take the boy out of the bush, but you can’t take the bush out of the boy ”.

Could not stand living in Sydney and moved back to the Darling Downs to manage a stud cattle/bull breeding property.

From here I was successful in being appointed as a livestock journalist with Queensland Country Life based in Toowoomba and later to become the livestock advertising manager.

This position allowed me to meet and associate with a broad section of the beef, sheep, horse, goat, alpaca, and ostrich industries in this State, spending much time with the late great rural journalist, Malcolm McCosker and senior photographer, Rod Green – we made a great team over a period of about 17 years.

I currently work for a rural fencing and hardware company with a territory which takes in a large tract of western and central Queensland, where the greatest challenge is to contain wild dogs and kangaroos, allowing graziers to improve their ability to make a living.

If you are reading this you probably already know I have been a UQGPSA committee member for about five years and junior vice-president, as well as the editor of this esteemed publication.

See you on the first weekend in December.