

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 25, Winter 2015

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STOP PRESS

Back to College Weekend
5 and 6 December 2015

To register:
www.uq.edu.au/gatton/paststudents

Important Notice

Please update us with any changes to your email or other contact details.

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Gatton Gold Medal to Animal Welfare Champion

Animal welfare and health policy lies at the heart of Dr Peter Thornber's illustrious career which all began with his graduation from Queensland Agricultural College (QAC) in 1973 with a Degree in Applied Science – Rural Technology.

Peter went on to study Veterinary Science at UQ St Lucia, graduating in 1977, followed by five years working overseas in the Solomon Islands and the United Kingdom.

On his return he completed a Diploma of Teaching and then accepted an instructors position at Ithaca College of TAFE for the next six years, specialising in veterinary nursing.

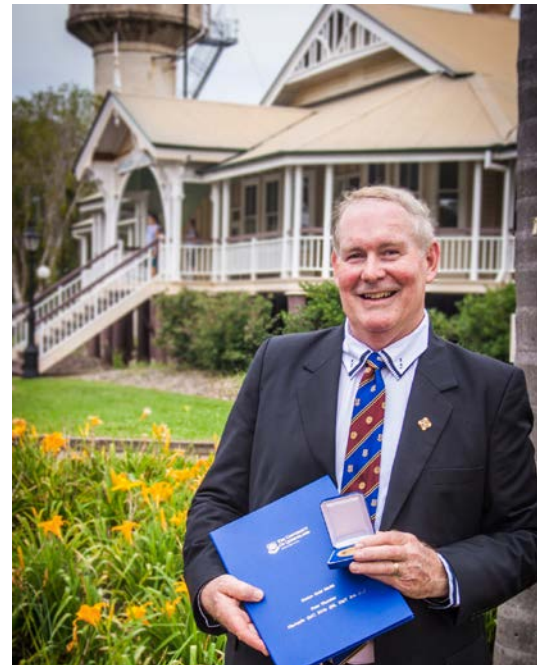
This led to the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service in Canberra, followed by postings to various areas of Animal Health Australia and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Peter has extensive animal health and welfare policy experience and has worked closely with international governments and organisations. He is currently the Director of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy and Communications, Biosecurity Animal Division.

There are 160 stakeholders involved in developing the strategy, so it has extremely high ownership by people working in animal industries.

Peter is the animal welfare expert representative for Asia/Oceania on the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Permanent Animal Welfare Working Group which develops international welfare standards.

He was responsible for the drafting and finalisation of the Australian Welfare Strategy, aimed at all Australians and all uses of animals.



Under this Strategy, he is providing leadership and funding to develop new Australian Standards and Guidelines for land transport of livestock, zoo animals, cattle and sheep.

He is a specialist animal welfare member of the Australia and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists, and the AVA's special interest group on welfare and ethics.

Peter is seen by the profession as an expert, mentor and leader as recognised by the Australian Veterinary Association's President's Award in May 2013.

Celebrating just over 40 years since graduating from Gatton, the presentation of the University of Queensland Gatton Gold Medal is due recognition of his hard work and dedication to the welfare of animals world wide.

The Last Word

Sending us broke saving money

This column wants to highlight the dreadful state of agricultural research. This results from massive cuts in research funding by governments. It's not all taxpayers' money – the removal of incentives for industry to leverage government funds means that private investment in agricultural research is also dwindling.

The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation has incurred a massive funding cut; CSIRO has been forced to terminate scores of researchers serving the rural sector, in the face of more than \$110M of cuts; the Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) program, hosting some of the largest agricultural research collectives and attracting huge industry investments, is facing closure or significant downsizing.

The University sector is dealing with massive cuts to research funding; and even the nation's premier research agency, Australia Research Council (ARC), has suffered a \$75M reduction in its budget, affecting agricultural research.

All of this jeopardises Australia's efficient and profitable agricultural sector. The productivity gains that must underpin the future of rural industries is being eroded: Sorely needed solutions to hundreds of significant challenges and problems are no longer being sought; preparedness to combat emergent challenges is being forfeited, and the expertise that the agricultural sector relies upon to ensure its future competitiveness is being lost.

When Australia's agricultural science capacity is severely weakened and experts have gone, it won't be a simple matter to replace them – it will take many years to rebuild. There is little doubt that saving money by decimating the agricultural research resources of the country is coming at a huge cost to the rural industries, now and into the future, and the flow-on will be detrimental to the nation as a whole.

President's Report



Jim Madden
President
UQ Gatton Past Students'
Association Inc.

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@hotmail.com

I was proud and honoured to be elected President of the University of Queensland Gatton Past Students' Association at the Annual General Meeting held on 6 December 2014.

For those members not familiar with my background, I graduated from UQ Gatton, or as it was then known the Queensland Agricultural College (QAC), in 1984 with a Degree in Applied Science – Horticulture. After working in Australia and overseas I returned to QAC to complete a Graduate Diploma in Agriculture specialising in Weed Science. I went on to work as an agronomist for a number of years before commencing to study Law. In 1994 I was admitted as a Solicitor with the Supreme Court of Queensland and eventually I purchased a law practice at Lowood where I live with my family.

In 2012 my life took a turn when I was elected as a Councillor with the Somerset Regional Council and in January 2015 I was elected to State Parliament as the Member for Ipswich West. UQ Gatton Campus is well represented in the 55th State Parliament with myself as the Member for Ipswich West and fellow past student Dr John McVeigh as the Member for Toowoomba South.

In taking on the position as President of the UQ Gatton Past Students' Association I have big shoes to fill with Graham McClymont standing down after 10 years in the position.

The members of the Association owe Graham a huge debt for his tireless contribution to the Association over so many years and I was very pleased that he has chosen to stay on the Association's Management Committee as Secretary. At the Management Committee meeting held in October 2014, the members present unanimously agreed that Graham should be awarded Life Membership of the Association with the Life Membership Certificate to be presented to him at our Annual Dinner in December 2015.

The Past Students' Association is blessed with an excellent Management Committee, a well patronised *Back to College* Weekend, a great facility in the UQ Gatton Museum, strong regional branches, a productive relationship with the UQ Gatton staff and a scholarship program that will see scholarship holders receive payments totalling \$20,000 in 2015.

I was pleased that one of my first duties as President of the Association was to address the Gold Coast Branch of the Association at a luncheon at Southport. It was great to see the event so well attended and members so interested in developments at UQ Gatton Campus.

As a graduate from the QAC era of UQ Gatton I am pleased that there are a number of fellow QAC graduates on our management committee but my aim as President is to engage more effectively with those students from the University era of UQ Gatton being post 1990. These graduates are the future of our Association.

This is an exciting time for both our Association and UQ Gatton. The range of courses is set to expand at UQ Gatton with the Diploma Courses being reintroduced and discussions about relocating plant science from St Lucia Campus to the Gatton Campus.

Recently UQ Gatton officially opened a new 10 hectare \$14 million solar photovoltaic research facility, which is the largest in the southern hemisphere. Work has also begun on a ground breaking geothermal facility to assist with air-conditioning of campus buildings.

The building program at UQ Gatton will continue with the potential of upgrading the existing educational facilities and a \$7M extension to the library to be located between the existing library and the Dining Hall.

Graham McClymont and I represent the Association on the UQ Gatton Community Advisory Committee and through this Group the Past Students' Association is kept up to date with developments at UQ Gatton. As President of the UQ Gatton Past Students' Association I will do my best to keep members informed of these developments.

Back to College Weekend

The 2014 *Back to College* Weekend reunion was a great success with around 215 people registering for the weekend. Numbers were down a little on previous years. There were very few people attending who live west of Toowoomba. Obviously the drought had a significant effect on numbers.

The 1964 group was the largest in 2014 returning for their 50 year reunion. Bill Carroll did a great job in organising the party and this demonstrates once again how important it is for one or a few people to communicate with the members of their year group. Many people require a phone call or email to encourage them

to attend. Without prompting, they miss out on a great reunion. The more who attend, the better the reunion.

The 2015 *Back to College* Weekend reunion will be held again on the first weekend in December, being Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 December. The casual BBQ on Friday 4 December in the Staff and Graduates Club is also popular.

The *Feature Years* this year are those who finished their study in 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995 and 2005. Also returning are the 1950, 1960 and 1970 year groups. Other groups are most welcome. Please remember that partners are most welcome.

UQGPSA goes Paperless

For years our Association has posted over 5,000 articles of mail annually to our members as well as to the members of the Feature Years of the *Back to College* Weekend reunion. Each envelope has been full of paper.

The cost of printing and postage is enormous for a small Association with a limited budget and we intend to email people wherever possible. If you are reading a hard copy of this edition of *Re-Connect*, it means that we do not have your email address. Please email our office today and we will record your details. Please include your full name, postal address, phone and mobile number so that your contact details are complete on our register. Those who request a hard copy will be posted one.

Please remember that as well as the cost of printing and postage, a large number of volunteers prepare the mail for postage. The environment will also benefit from our effort to go paperless.

Please remember to email us with any changes to your email or other contact details. Email is our preferred means of communication.

Historical Collection

The anticipated flood of memorabilia occurred and an important array of items were presented before, during and after the *Back to College* Weekend.

Sporting Photographs: Harry Jamieson, Ivan Middleton, Rod Holland and Ian Doyle.

College, General Photos: Allan Donovan, Dave Schofield, Mrs Owen Cusack, and School of Ag and Food Science (21 framed). Leith Andrews donated a substantial number of large photos of College activities and buildings (1920's and 30's), the personal collection of the late J.K.Murray. Framed aerial photos of the Campus from Office of the Director Gatton Campus and the School of Agriculture and Food Sciences.

College and PSA Magazines: Ivan Middleton, Bill Carroll, Ken Rickert, Ian Fotheringham, Mrs Owen Cusack, Allan Donovan, Ross Murray and Mrs Al Henderson.

Diploma Certificates: Ivan Middleton, Trevor Brewer, Lester Polzin and Bill Carroll.

Clothing: Ian Harris – QAHS&C maroon blazer, tie and hat band.

Ivan Middleton – QAHS&C Honour Blazer and Shelton House (Captain 1954) pockets and OBA badge. Allan Donovan – hat band.

Books, Programmes, Brochures etc: Rod Holland, Ian Harris, Ken Rickert, Ivan Middleton, Ian Fotheringham, John Small, Bill White, John Mulally, Julie Martin, Ross Murray, John Guthrie, Mrs Owen Cusack and Mrs Al Henderson.

Trophies: UQG Rugby Union Black Pigs (3), Rod Holland.

The Unusual: From the UQG Rugby Club, the UQG Rugby Union Scoreboard – found under the Grandstand.

Peter Douglas would like to thank Val Kilah and Julie Reid for their ongoing dedication and to Kevin Lewis, Don Oxenham and Trevor Arthur for their continued support.

We thank all of the above donors, your items are valued additions to the collection and are appreciated.

Distinguished Past Student Award



Gerry Andersen

Gerry Andersen

It is fifty years since Gerry Andersen walked away from Gatton College with a Diploma in Dairy Manufacturing and developed a successful career in this and related fields.

Starting at Gatton as a fresh faced sub-junior in 1960, Gerry quickly gained a reputation as something of a mischief and was well known by the staff – his aim was to make life fun, which he did successfully.

Gerry has emerged as a highly qualified and experienced leader in the Australian food industry, whose technical knowledge, management skills, marketing acumen and networks, including media, have earned him a reputation for developing commercially successful food products.

He is a qualified cheese and butter maker and for many years was the chief executive of Chisholm Manufacturing from 1986–2000, the manufacturing arm of Woolworths Ltd.

Chisholm was involved in pork exports, ham, bacon, and smallgoods production, dairy processing, food packaging and printing.

Subsequently, when Woolworths decided to sell this manufacturing division, Gerry and his partners in AAB Holdings bought the printing and packaging portion, where he was to become the CEO until his retirement in 2009.

During this period he was also a councillor of the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) of NSW, as well as chairman of the RAS Dairy Produce Committee; chairman of the RAS Marketing Committee and a member of the RAS Fine Foods Committee. He is also currently chairman of Diabetes Smart Pty Ltd.

Full time retirement was put on hold when he accepted the position of CEO of Foodbank NSW, charged with expanding the capabilities of the operations, and to introduce more focus in the way the warehouse and stock was managed to facilitate future growth.

Foodbank is Australia's largest food relief charity, operating since 1992 with operations in every State with a total volume distributed in the 2013–2014 period of 31,000 tonnes, equating to 41.3million meals.

Predictions are that these figures will grow to 50,000 tonnes by year 2020.

Gerry's major focus at the moment is the development and building program for a new \$11.5 million distribution centre in Western Sydney which will service both NSW and the ACT.

His determined and tireless efforts have made this possible, where he has been the driving force behind the project including fund raising and building design.

Paul Antonio

From modest Farmer to Mayor sums up very quickly the lifetime work of 1964 graduate, Paul Antonio.

Born and raised in the Millmerran district, Paul studied for his Junior and Diploma in Agriculture at Gatton from 1960 to 1964, where he developed his leadership skills as captain of the 2nd fifteen rugby union side, prefect and Shelton House captain.

He then returned to the family grain, cattle and intensive pig raising property, during which time through to 1969 he also played "A" grade rugby league for All Whites in Toowoomba and the Millmerran club.

About this time he married and acquired his first property. He, wife Judy and son, Craig now own and operate five properties with a focus on grain production and breeding Angus cattle.

Prior to entering into local government, Paul was involved with the Millmerran Town Centenary as its president, and has received 25 year service medals for his commitment to both the local Fire and Ambulance Services.



Paul Antonio



Russell Stephenson

Paul was also the Deputy Chairman of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority prior to it being removed by an incoming Government.

He was also chairman of the Eastern Downs Regional Organisation of Councils prior to amalgamation, as well as a Founding Director for the Natural Resource Management body, Condamine Alliance.

Paul began his foray into local government when elected to the Millmerran Council in 1982, later becoming the Deputy Mayor and then Mayor, where his strong leadership led the Council to a very healthy Shire which had no debt and \$3million in the bank when amalgamation occurred.

With the amalgamation of nine Councils in 2008, Paul Antonio was elected to the new Toowoomba Regional Council and took up the position of Deputy Mayor – at the subsequent election he nominated for and duly won the position of Mayor, which he still holds.

Since then he has played a significant role in getting a pipeline built from Wivenhoe Dam to drought-proof the city of Toowoomba and his Council has overseen the development of a major airport for the city by private developers, the Wagner family.

He and his Council have played a major role in securing approval and funding from the State and Federal Governments for the construction of the Toowoomba second range crossing, which is due to start in the near future. This project, in dollar terms will be the largest inland road development ever undertaken.

Paul currently serves as Director of the Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise Board as well as the Queensland delegate on the Melbourne to Brisbane Rail Alliance.

A worthy recipient of the Distinguished Past Student award.

Russell Stephenson

A lifetime in the horticultural industry, championing the macadamia industry in particular, was the chosen path for 1963 Queensland Diploma of Horticulture graduate, Russell Stephenson.

At the completion of his studies at QAC, Russell gained a Bachelor of Agricultural Science from UQ St Lucia in 1968, to be followed in 1974 by a PhD for research into soybeans.

Since then, he has moved seamlessly between academic life, Government and industry research, as well as the more applied discipline of extension and liaison with industry.

Much of this work has been during his tenure at the Maroochy Horticultural Research Station, where today he is the senior principal horticulturist practising his skills in management, teamwork and multi-disciplinary research and development.

Russell has also had broad experience in the national and international sphere of horticultural production working with, and visiting people from the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Hawaii, Fiji, Costa Rica, Brazil and Pacific Island communities.

Some of this work has involved the promotion of macadamia production

in countries such as Fiji, Hawaii, South Africa and Malawi.

Overseas postings saw him take up the position of Post Doctoral Fellow at the University of Georgia in the US and later as a lecturer and Dean of Agriculture at the University of Papua New Guinea, and subsequently appointed an Honorary Professor of South China Agricultural University.

His broad experience and major achievements are ably backed by his contribution to community and society, which included service in Army Reserve attaining the rank of major and commander of A Company 9RQR which earned him the Army Reserve Force Medal.

Russell has also had a long term involvement with the Nambour State School and High School P&C Committees, as well as the local pony club.

His long term involvement in the Rotary Club of Nambour saw him chair the Rotary Youth Exchange program in 1999–2001 and 2008–2011, as well as chairing the Rotary Interact program for school children in 2011–2012.

Another great example of a Gatton graduate achieving on the world stage.



Members of the UQG Past Students' Association enjoying the *Back to College* Presentation Dinner.

Branch Reunions

New members

Richard Paul **Antonio** (1964)
Gayle Kathryn **Barlow** (1984)
Neville Herbert **Copley** (1964)
Carol Dian **Corless** (1984)
Colin Percival **Dabelstein** (1964)
Ian Lester **Doyle** (1945)
Geoffrey Stephen **Fennell** (1949)
Robert Henry **Gannon** (1965)
Roger Leonard **Goebel** (1975)
Kris **Hansen** (1973)
Antony Friend **Hay** (1969)
Russell Reginald **Hunt** (1975)
Colin Lloyd **Palmer** (1972 and 1977)
Lester John **Polzin** (1964)
Ian Lindsay **Rogers** (1974 and 1982)
Murray Robert **Spiers** (1995)
Gregory Desmond **Stirling** (1965)
Kenneth John **Thomson** (1964)
Sandra Elizabeth **Wyburn** (1983)

Gold Coast Reunion

Our 25th Reunion Lunch on 14 February was a great success.

Unfortunately, being held on St Valentine's Day, numbers were down somewhat.

However, 45 sat down to a vastly improved seafood and salad spread in the renovated air conditioned private function room.

28 apologies were tendered.

Special guests included Association President (cum newly elected Member for Ipswich West), Jim Madden. Congratulations Jim on both counts.

Also attending were Association Immediate Past President Graham McClymont, Association Past President Bob James, Gold Coast Branch Patron Bill Laver and our Honoured Old Boy Clive Gilchrist 1934– 1938, 1999 UQ Gatton Gold Medallist Jim Miller, 2011 Distinguished Past Student Ray O'Grady and wife Moya together with Association Honorary Life Members Val Kilah (Whip) and Julie Reid (Stark).

Peter Douglas would like to give a big thank you as always to Diana and to George Hannaford for their assistance at the door and to Ron McMahan and Bob James for conducting the Raffle.

Sunshine Coast Branch Reunion

The Sunshine Coast Past Students' Branch held its yearly reunion on Saturday 14 March, at the Caloundra Bowls Club. Attendance numbers were 54, with the majority representing the Diploma years of the College. In fact, only four attendees were from the tertiary times. Ray Montgomery, past student and staff member, delivered a concise yet informative summary of College history and the changes over the years. Ray reminded us that there were once fifteen Past Student branches throughout Queensland, compared with four in present times. Ray issued the challenge for the younger generations of past students to network with their past-College friends, to rekindle more interest in reunion gatherings. Ray also circulated a recent photo of Stan Petherick, with two of his past students, namely Ray and Allan Boag (also present, with spouse Wyn).

The food, the setting and the service was appreciated by all. Caloundra Bowls Club staff look after us well, every year. We collectively thank Barry Bendixen and Frank Natoli for having established us in this agreeable venue.



Jim Madden and Graham McClymont. President and Immediate Past President at the Gold Coast reunion.



Taken in November 2014, at Stan Petherick's residence at The Gap, Brisbane are Alan Boag 85 years, Stan Petherick 96 and Ray Montgomery 85. Stan taught these two young fellows Principles in Agriculture in 1944. An amazing 70 year association as student and teacher, but also very close friends.

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

ADAMS, Ashley Phillip

At College 1973–77.

B.Bus. (Rur. Man) 1977, Dip. Bus (Rur. Man) 1976

Well respected in the beef cattle industry, he ran a large herd of Brahman, Simmental and Santa Gertrudis infused cattle at Blackall.

He represented Australia in five Paralympic Games: Atlanta, Sydney, Athens (Silver Medal in the Mixed Free Rifle Prone and Bronze in the Men's Air Rifle Standing event), Beijing and London.

He was selected to lead the Australian Shooting Team at the Rio Paralympic Games in 2016.

Ashley was tragically killed in a farm accident 17 March 2015.

AITKEN, John Burnell

QDAH 1947 At College 1946–47.

In 1949 he joined DPI, working in Head Office, Kairi and Warwick before being transferred to Biloela as Senior Advisor. He was a leading light in moving the pig industry from an adjunct to dairying to a successful industry in its own right. In 1968 he accepted the position of Technical Advisor with Provincial Traders Brisbane. In 1973 he moved to Toowoomba as General Manager of Gateway Stockfeeds and Oilcrushes. Later he purchased a macadamia farm at Blackbutt and retired at 74 to Victoria Point.

John passed away 13 February 2015.

BALAAM, Noel Robert

QCAH 1971. Pitt

2nd Best Junior Rider Foundation Day Sports 1970

2nd Junior House Cup Foundation Day Sports 1970

Noel passed away 17 December 2014.

BRADSHAW, James Colin

QDAH 1944. Pitt. Prefect 1942.

Senior Prefect 1943–44.

1944 – 1st XI: Captain 1st IV.

1943 – 1st XV: Captain 1st IV.

1941 – Life Saving.

He was instructor in Agronomy at the College for some 18 months from January 1948.

In 1962, he had spent the last seven years at Barker College, Sydney where he was Senior Biology Master and acting House Master. This was followed by a time at "Churchie", Brisbane as Agricultural Subject Master. The last ten years of his career were spent as Deputy Principal at the Emerald Pastoral College.

Jim's Funeral was held 2 October 2014.

CONOR, Brian Timothy

QDA 1967. Prefect 1965. Riddell.

1st XV 1964–65. Under 19 XV 1963.

Brian passed away early September 2014.

CRILLY, John Allan

He was a High School student at College 1946–47.

A very talented young athlete, winning the Staff Challenge Cup as Junior Champion Athlete in 1947.

As a 15 year old he ran 100 yards in 10.6 seconds and set a new College record for the Under 16, 220 yards at 24.6 seconds which stood for 13 years.

John passed away 17 March 2015.

DRAPER, William John

QDA 1952. At College 1948–51.

College Flight of ATC 1949–51. Under 7stone 7lbs

1949 – XV, Boxing 1949.

Bill passed away 20 January 2015.

GINNS, Daren Francis

QDDM 1956. Thynne. 1952 – College Flight of ATC.

1953 – 8stone 7lbs XV. 1954 – 3rd XV.

1955 – Inter-Collegiate Rifle Shooting, 2nd XV, CMF.

The PSA have been notified of Daren's passing.

McGUIRE, Kevin Patrick

QDA 1940. Prefect 1938. Shelton.

1936–37–38 – 2nd XI. 1936–37 – 2nd XV.

1935–36 – College Scout Troop.

1936 – Patrol Leader. 1937–38 – D Coy 25th Bn.

Kevin passed away 7 September 2014.

MEREDITH, Geoffrey

Teacher of General Subjects in the High School 1954–58.

Son of Stan Meredith, Instructor in Animal Husbandry (Pigs).

Geoff passed away 28 October 2014.

NEWTON-LANGDON, Raymond Forbes

QDA 1st Class Hons 1935.

Thynne. Prefect 1935.

1935 1st XI, 1st VI, Inter-Collegiate: Trench Mortar Platoon, 25th Battalion.

1934 Rifle Shooting.

Lieutenant in Medical Corps, 2nd AIF. Mentioned in Dispatches. He lectured in Plant Pathology, Botany Department, University of Queensland.

Ray passed away 12 November 2014.

PERRIN, Leslie Albert

QDA 2nd Class Hons 1946. Thynne.

Prefect 1945–46.

1946 Captain 2nd XV.

He gained 8A's and 2B's in the 1944 Junior Exams at College. Les was awarded an Open Scholarship to Veterinary Science at UQ which he studied in 1947–8. He transferred to Medicine in 1949, graduating in 1952. He was a General Practitioner and Flying Doctor.

Les passed away 24 November 2014.

PUMPA, William Kenil

QCA 1969. At College 1967–69.

1968 – Inter-Collegiate Rifle Shooting. 1969 – No3 Basketball.

Bill passed away 10 February 2015.

REGHENZANI, Boni Arthur

QDA 2nd Class Hons 1941. At College 1938–41.

Riddell House Captain 1941. Prefect 1940–41.

1941 – 1st XV, 1st XI, Boxing, Athletics.

1940 – 2nd XV.

Boni passed away in October 2014.

Mackay Branch Reunion

**Railway Hotel
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

Gold Coast Branch Reunion

**Labrador
AFL Sports Club
Ashton Street
Labrador**

**Saturday
25 July 2015**

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
22 August 2015**

11.30am for
12 noon luncheon

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

Sue Moyle
☎ (07) 3821 1739

Sunshine Coast Branch Reunion

**Caloundra Bowls Club
Cnr Arthur Street and
Burwah Terrace
Caloundra**

**Saturday
12 March 2016**

11:30am for
12 noon luncheon

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

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Try our quick links at:

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Introducing...

Kim Jorgensen
BAppSc (Food Tech)
UQGPSA Committee 2014, 2015



I started my association with UQ Gatton in February 1981. Of course at that time it was known as the Queensland Agricultural College (QAC). I didn't know it then, but that was the start of a relationship which would continue to the present, and beyond.

After four years during which Lady Di and Charles got married, we won the America's Cup, I lost a childhood friend, and a little study, I exited with a Bachelor Applied Science (Food Technology).

My first job was based at Laidley so I didn't leave the district immediately. Three months in though I was made redundant. Not such a positive event at the time, but in hindsight, probably the best thing that ever happened to me.

After a few weeks I started work at Cook Freeze Pty Ltd in Brisbane where I stayed for over 10 years. Cook Freeze (part of the P&O Group) managed a facility set up by Queensland Health Department to prepare frozen meals for public hospitals and nursing homes in Queensland. Later it won a contract to make Sizzler soups and sauces for the period when the store was popular. While at Wacol I was fortunate to hold various roles in Human Resources, Quality Systems, Workplace Health & Safety, Production Supervision, Quality Control and Product Development up until leaving in 1997.

In late 1996 the opportunity of a lifetime was given to me. Through a transfer within P&O I was able to work as Quality, Safety, Environment and Training Manager for P&O Alfin (later sold to Compass Group). The company provided catering and accommodation services to many of the major mining operations in South America. I lived and worked on mine sites initially, before being based in Santiago, Chile until 2000.

On return to Australia (still with Compass) my next career "adventure" took place – the role of Quality Manager for Compass Group's nine catering venues during the Sydney Olympics and Para-Olympics. The Games time was followed by a period as Business Systems Compliance Co-ordinator based in Sydney.

At the end of 2001, I resigned from Compass and returned to Brisbane. After some short term roles at Meadowlea and Dreamworld I took up a permanent role as Quality Systems Co-ordinator at Golden Circle in Brisbane in 2003.

My second redundancy in 2006 gave me the opportunity to develop my own business. I now work mainly as a contract trainer/consultant in food safety and quality systems. I train food industry personnel and farmers and assist small businesses to develop and maintain their food safety/quality management systems.

During the years since I left Gatton I have maintained close contact with the College. I have promoted Food Technology as a career at "Careers Days", conducted plant tours and arranged placements for students and lectured in food safety. I have also been a member of the Brisbane Branch Committee and attended a number of reunions.

Of my time at Lawes I don't have any stories to relate, well that can be published anyway. I can say that College made me a good all-rounder and with the emphasis on "Science with Practice" I was able to adapt easily to a number of different roles within my career. It gave me, who had no idea what I was going to do when I grew up, a passion for the industry in which I still work.

QAC gave me a career but also life-long friends. Not too many of my good friends today do not have some connection to QAC. I am really looking forward to *Back to College* Weekend over the next few years as those graduates from my time come back for 30 year reunions. I like that no matter where I travel around Queensland I meet up with past students.

There have been so many changes on campus since my graduation and I note that some of these have not met with the approval of some past students. On reflection, I guess if it wasn't for change then I would never have had the opportunity to attend QAC – it began as an all male agricultural college.

In 2014 I joined the UQGPSA Committee. I am really enjoying being able to use my interest in social media to help increase the profile of the Association through Linked In and Facebook.