

# ReConnect

A Publication of the UQ Gatton Past Students' Association Inc.



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA



UQ Gatton  
Past Students'  
Association Inc.



Queensland  
Agricultural High  
School and College



Queensland  
Agricultural  
College

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## STOP PRESS

### Back to College Weekend

3-5th December 2021

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## International humanitarian wins Gatton Gold

**Daniel Kelly AM** has won the 2021 Gatton Gold Medal for outstanding leadership and service to international humanitarian emergency response work.

Mr Kelly began his career in farming in Ayr, Queensland before moving to Southern Sudan in 1983 amidst the threat of civil war to help establish an agricultural program. Following this, he began work in humanitarian aid organisations, and settled at World Vision in 1995 where he remained until 2017 when he stepped down from his senior role as Partnership Leader/Vice President – Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs, World Vision International (WVI). Mr Kelly managed the WVI responses to 40 major emergencies in 16 years, including devastating droughts across African nations, to Hurricane Katrina in the US, to Ebola and Zika viruses worldwide.

### What are you most proud of?

Assisting refugee communities in their hour of greatest need, specifically refugees in South Sudan, and Chadian refugees in Darfur in the eastern Sahara. My team and I were able to help save many lives, including from malnutrition, disease and insecurity. While these communities were often viewed as 'victims', I have always been amazed with their resourcefulness and dedication to rebuilding their lives despite seemingly impossible circumstances.

I led a process that built an effective emergency response mechanism with global reach for humanitarian disasters - expertise, funding and relief supplies, logistic systems, and importantly, incorporated mechanisms that addressed accountability and protection.

I worked to develop a cadre of humanitarian leaders, ensuring they had the requisite skills and experience to successfully lead humanitarian

activities in increasingly complex and chaotic environments. Even in retirement, I have continued to see humanitarian leadership as a priority through coaching of selected up and coming leaders.

### Connecting the dots in every context

I do have to confess that there were times during my pursuit of my Rural Technology degree when I questioned the relevance of some course materials to where I thought I was headed in the field of rural enterprise. Biometrics, agricultural chemistry, entomology, hydrology, etc. But how wrong I was!

In a nutshell, I came away from my studies with a preliminary understanding of the value of managing from a 'whole of context' perspective. Being able to draw on a broad range of skills and experiences proved essential to managing successfully in a diverse range of very complex and challenging humanitarian contexts. Being able to 'connect the dots' and maximise a range of resources has been critical.

### Share a fun fact about you?

My wife and I were married during my first year at UQ Gatton Campus, and recently celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. We have four children and 10 grandchildren.

### If you could change one thing about the world for the next generation, what would it be?

Promote greater respect for our fellow human beings to the extent that we each prioritise the needs and wellbeing of others, even above our own personal interests.



**Mark Pace**  
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## President's Report

Firstly, let me commence this report by extending our warmest congratulations to our newest Gatton Gold Medal recipient for 2021, Daniel Kelly AM. The Gatton Gold Medal has been awarded for the first time through the UQ Alumni Award structure and to no finer a recipient than Dan Kelly. More information on his award is within this edition of Re-Connect.

Since our last edition, your Management Committee has been working on many tasks to ensure the operations of the Association continue to progress towards the end of the year, with no better event than our 'Back to College Weekend'. At the time of writing this report, we have a 'Green Light' to the weekend events which will take place December third to fifth. I would urge you all to attend this year's event as a combined celebration for the two years. Don't forget to register via our new online system. If you have any questions or enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Ross Murray to assist you in any way we can.

Our UQGPSA Scholarship Winner for 2021 has been announced as Grace Wickson, and you can read more about her too in this issue. We always take pride when our scholarship is awarded to a successful

student, because we know that these funds are going to our most deserving students who seek to better themselves via the academic programs offered at our Gatton Campus. We have pledged to increase the financial value of our 'Scholarship Fund' to ensure the fund becomes perpetual and our fund-raising initiatives will receive a boost thanks to recent collaborative developments between our Association and UQ. We thank them for this.

These developments will permit the Association greater autonomy to raise funds more directly through its channels and liaise more effectively with its members. Mal Ferguson will be leading this engagement. We ask our members to graciously consider contributing towards our scholarship fund. This will ensure the legacy of the Association continues by assisting deserving students to attend our great Gatton Campus and its programs.

I can also report that developments are finally progressing for our 125th celebration of the Gatton Campus for mid-2022. After some meetings throughout the year, the formation of an advisory committee is commencing to which the UQGPSA will be an integral stakeholder. I will keep you informed as these Committees commence

their operations and planning. It is of interest that our Association is now working much closer with the Gatton Student Association (GSA) to foster a better understanding and connection with the current students at the Campus and to raise our profile amongst the younger students. We hope to encourage their interest in becoming future members of our Association.

Of course, the end of the year not only brings our BTCW but also your Association's AGM, where we elect our new Committee and Patron. If you believe you could provide some service to the Association, please consider joining our management Committee for 2022.

Finally, it's with great sadness that I write on the recent passing of one of our long serving and most vibrant members of our Association, none other than the fabulous Val Kilah. For those of us who knew or worked with Val, her enthusiasm was infectious, her sense of humour and outright passion for the Gatton Campus will be missed.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Back to College Weekend.

Best regards,

**Mark Pace**  
President UQGPSA.

## Jessie Harper – *UQ Graduate of the Year*

During her Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Honours), Ms Harper received a University Medal, was Valedictorian of the School of Agricultural Science and received several Dean's Commendations for Academic Excellence in every semester of study. Furthermore, she received eight individual Awards during her studies, including the Ben Brown Memorial Medal for Agricultural Science which goes to the student who has achieved the highest overall grade point average at the end of their program.

Ms Harper is now undertaking a PhD at UQ on a prestigious Westpac Future Leaders

Scholarship. She has chosen a topic that combines two key passions – improving global food security and increasing the viability of farming communities in developing countries.

In addition to her academic achievements, Ms Harper has tutored across a wide range of courses at UQ and is also an elite athlete in track and field, currently training under the Head Jumps Coach of Australia. She has represented Australia at international competitions such as the World University Games in 2019 and the Oceania Games in both 2019 and 2017.



# How to get the best lawn on the street

*It's not just about watching grass grow...*

**By Genevieve Mackintosh**

Cultivating the perfect patch has become an obsession for some, with online communities of 'lawn fanatics' and 'lawn porn' enthusiasts turning up their excitement offline, as they vie for the title of best lawn in the street.

UQ alumnus Matt Roche (Diploma of Applied Science '00; Bachelor of Applied Science '02; Master of Philosophy (Agricultural Science) '13) is a turf expert, having worked on some of Queensland's highest profile turfs and pitches.

Roche said in recent years people were taking their lawn to the next level and, as a lawn lover himself, it was great to see!

"If I'm at a barbecue, I'm guaranteed to get questions about what grass variety would suit different situations, turf pests or lawn maintenance," Matt said.

"Whether they're close friends or I'm meeting them for the first time, it doesn't seem to matter. They'll soon be on their phone flicking through photos to show me a lawn problem they have, or to have me admire their pride and joy.

"I'm always happy to talk turf and help trouble shoot — I'm just glad I don't have a lawn fanatic on my street, because then I'd need to lift my game."

Roche is also the custodian of the largest scientific turf library in the Southern Hemisphere.

"The turf collection is used for research and development projects, but also serves as a living library for the public and future turf professionals to be able to physically compare the different grasses side-by-side," he said

Just like fashion trends, turf trends morph over time as new and improved grasses (many of which are represented in the library) become available, and it can be confusing for homeowners to weed out the myths, Roche said.

"Some new varieties require less mowing, less water, can tolerate higher shade and increased wear. Sir Walter changed the turfgrass industry through consumer brand recognition, but it is important to know



Above: Matt Roche using a 'soil moisture meter', which is used to measure the soil moisture content of the rootzone. Image: Anjanette Webb.

that not one grass fits all situations and, unfortunately, there is no silver bullet.

"However, the Australian turfgrass industry is continually evolving and new and improved turfgrass varieties for sport and home lawns are commercially available with more are on the horizon."

Roche shared his best tips with us for how to prepare your lawn so you can get the most out of your backyard over the warmer months (and maybe even become your street's resident 'turfologist').

Roche was a budding researcher when he graduated from UQ Gatton in 2002, taking up a turf research placement with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) at the Australian Centre of Lifestyle Horticulture (ACLH) which led to a permanent job as a Turf Research Scientist.

"Early in my career, I was asked the question from colleagues about which discipline I wanted to focus on, for example soil, nutrition or plant health. I remember saying they are all good, but can I do them all, but focus on sports turf?" Roche said.

"I was able to work on a number of research projects and, with my colleagues, delivered guidelines that the Australian sports turf industry still follow to this day."

Matt Roche using a 'soil moisture meter', which is used to measure the soil moisture content of the rootzone.

Now, Roche works as an independent Sports Turf Consultant with Australian Sports Turf Consultants (ASTC) in an evolving and exciting industry.

"I work on sports fields, testing elite stadia for safety and performance, writing specifications for the construction of new sports fields and sometimes, even getting paid to watch grass grow for the purpose of Plant Breeder's Rights (PBR) testing.

"The next 10 years will certainly be exciting in the lead up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games with significant increases in investment for community and elite sporting grounds already beginning.

"My degree led me to a dream research job and I was fortunate enough to do that for 10 years with no regrets. The study and connections I made while working as an independent scientist for 10 years gave me the credibility to go out on my own and now I get to do what I love every day."

## What you need to know to grow lawn your neighbours will envy

- **PESTS**  
Watch out for armyworm
- **WATERING**  
Deeper watering and to irrigate early in the morning
- **FERTILISING**  
Use controlled-release or slow-release fertilisers
- **MOWING**  
Only cut one third of the leaf blade of grass at once to avoid stressing or scalping the grass
- **THE FULL OVERHAUL –**  
Renovate and re-turf

Sourced from UQ website



# DATE CLAIMER: Rugby reunion planned for 2022 Grand Final weekend

Are you following our Black Pigs and Black Sows posts on Facebook? Both teams held their own in the 2021 season. Unfortunately, a planned reunion to celebrate anniversaries of previous Risdon Cup wins at the Grandfinal in 2021 was stuck down by a COVID lockdown in Brisbane.

There was a great build-up to the 2021 Rugby finals with Andrew Drysdale (B App Sc early 80s) arranging for a reunion of members of past grand final winning teams.

How many Risdon Cups have Gatton teams won? The answer is "lots" and our posts on Facebook in the lead up to the 2021 event mentioned just a few.

2022 is seeing us harness the nostalgia created with a vow to have a bigger and better celebration this coming year, particularly as it will coincide with the campus 125th Anniversary year and the 100th Anniversary of rugby at Gatton Campus. So please put this weekend in your calendars (when the date is confirmed). Andrew has suggested a dinner on the Friday night before the final, and, as was arranged this year, attendance at the grand finals in Toowoomba on the Saturday. This will of course include current Black Pigs and Sows.

In the lead up to the event keep up to date with the exploits of the Black Pigs and the Sows in 2022 on our Facebook page. Aren't on Facebook? check out the Downs Rugby website for updates.



Gatton Black Sows 2021



Gatton Black Pigs 2021



## Do we have your email address?

If you are a UQGPSA member 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)

## Back to College Weekend 2021

The annual Back to College Weekend will be held from Friday 3 to Sunday 5 December 2021.

The feature years will be 1960 and 1961, 1970 and 1971, 1980 and 1981, 1990 and 1991, 2000 and 2001, 2010 and 2011, however all past students and staff are welcome to attend. Those who wish to celebrate the "five year" interval are welcome but, due to the fact that we have double the number of "10 year" feature years, we are not officially recognising these years at the Saturday night dinner. 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.

All past students and staff are welcome to attend the weekend and there will be a reunion of former and current staff during lunch on Saturday.

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.

The program (available on our website link here: [BTCW Program 2021](#)) and a registration form have been distributed to members. This year you can easily sign up through the CVENT system using this link ([Electronic Registration for BTCW 2021](#)). We encourage you to do this as you get an instant response.

If the event has to be cancelled due to public health advice, you will be refunded all fees you paid. Any enquiries please email ([gattonpaststudents@uq.edu.au](mailto:gattonpaststudents@uq.edu.au)) or call/text the Secretary on 0438 130 963.

# They were young men with hopes and dreams': missing names live on forever

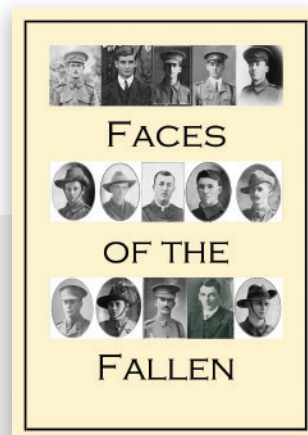
For more than six years, UQ Archivist Bruce Ibsen has spent a significant amount of time researching and uncovering stories of UQ's Anzacs.

His work has helped drive the development of many special projects undertaken across the University, including the 2015 publication *Faces of the Fallen*. This book details the 84 staff, students and alumni from UQ and the Queensland Agricultural College, now UQ Gatton, who served and fell in World War I.

However, one of Bruce's most important achievements was addressing missing names in several existing campus honour rolls, where some UQ students had not been listed.

Ibsen said the plaques evolved from being a list of names etched on stone or metal, to a revelation of unique personalities; some who achieved much in their short lives, others with untapped potential that was never fully realised.

*"We cannot forget they were more than just names to the people who knew them; they were individuals who were loved by many, and missed forever by their families and friends."*



## Far North Queensland Reunion

### Far North Queensland:

The Far North Queensland lunch was again held at Atherton, at the Barron Valley Hotel, in late August. A great roll up, with one or two attending for the first time. The career summaries which everyone gave during the lunch were so interesting with a number of us finding connections we didn't know we had. Work in PNG seemed to be a common theme.



Augustine Lee, Mike Hughes, Graham King



Ray Byrnes, Ken Gorton, John Rossi

Kim Jorgensen represented the Management Committee at the gathering. Kim spoke about what has been happening with the Association recently, in particular about changes to awarding of the Gold Medal, the Scholarship Fund and the passing of some very well known members. She answered questions from the group.

Thanks to Mick Nasser again also for hosting our event and his tip for the Melbourne Cup.

### Gold Coast:

Our 37th Reunion Lunch was held at the Labrador AFL Sports Club on Saturday 24 July. Once again, COVID-19 restrictions prevented quite a number from attending. This resulted in 27 attending with 18 apologies.

Association President Mark and Association Past Presidents Bob James and Graham McClymont were present as were Distinguished Past Students Don Oxenham (2018) and Graeme Roberts - Thomson (2020).

We were pleased to welcome First Timers in Antoine Barnaart and Tony Marshall.

Peter Douglas

## Gold Coast Reunion



Ian Wylie, Col Hass (1956-1960) & John Connell (1964-1966).



Harry Neal (1963-1964) & Ralph Epstein (1944-1948)



Jack Groenendyk (1961-1963) & Antoine Barnaart (1976-1977)



# Meet your scholarship winner

Hi everyone, I'm Grace your 2021 scholarship recipient. I must start off by saying what an absolute honour it is to be receiving this award. I'm currently in my first year of completing my dual degree of Bachelor of Agribusiness and Bachelor of Equine Science. It has been a long-time dream to study at Gatton and receiving this scholarship will make that dream even greater.

As a young girl, I grew up in Gympie, with family roots that stretch out to Roma, Qld. During my teenage years, my family and I moved to the northside of Brisbane. I struggled to find schooling that accommodated my dreams to pursue a career in the agriculture industry, but I did not let that stop me. I set myself a goal to one day study my dream program at UQ Gatton and move out to the area to be more connected with my studies.

I was lucky enough to come across Davidson Equestrian Warmblood stud, who at the beginning of the year were looking for an equine student who was willing to work

and gain equine management skills and knowledge in return for board, agistment and riding lessons. Having the chance to embrace my passion for horses and gain hands-on experience whilst I study was a dream come true and will provide me with boundless opportunities after my time at university.

When I'm not studying, working or riding, I love to take the drive home to spend time with my family. My mum, dad, little brother, and dog are my biggest supporters in life, and they love hearing about all the things I've been learning at work and uni. I wouldn't be where I am today without them.

With my passion and drive, I will one day be a voice within the Ag industry that is heard and works towards continuing to empower and build a sustainable future for all. I want to use my degree to travel and cover all aspects of the industry to gain as much knowledge as I can. To then pass this knowledge down to those who wish to follow in my path with the same aspirations.



Mark Pace and Grace ....

I can't put into words what this scholarship means to me. It will not only help me immensely financially, but it will be the constant reminder to never give up on my dreams.

**Donate online at: [bit.ly/supportGPSSA](https://bit.ly/supportGPSSA)**

## Reunions – 2021 and 2022

BRANCH	VENUE	DATE	TIME	CONTACT
<b>Confirmed for 2021 and 2022</b>				
<b>Gold Coast</b>	<b>Labrador AFL Sports Club</b> Ashton Street Labrador	<b>Saturday</b> <b>XX February 2022</b>	11:00am for 12 noon lunch	Peter Douglas (07) 5546 6350 koalamen@bigpond.com
<b>First Part of 2022 (and a date claimer for the Second half)</b>				
<b>Townsville</b>	Venue to be confirmed	<b>TBA (April)</b>	11:30am for 12 noon lunch	Kim Jorgensen 0438 130 963 gattonpaststudents@uq.edu.au
<b>Mackay</b>	Venue to be confirmed	<b>Sunday</b> <b>15 May 2021</b>	11:00am for 12 noon lunch	Kim Jorgensen 0438 130 963 gattonpaststudents@uq.edu.au
<b>Rockhampton</b>	Venue to be confirmed	<b>Sunday</b> <b>29 May 2022</b>	12 noon lunch	Kim Jorgensen 0438 130 963 gattonpaststudents@uq.edu.au
<b>Dalby</b>	Venue to be confirmed	<b>Saturday</b> <b>9 October 2021</b>	11:30am for 12 noon lunch	Julie Martin 0439 362 364 jazzie@bigpond.com
<b>Bundaberg</b>	<b>East End Hotel</b> 58 Princess St, East Bundaberg	<b>TBA (June)</b>	11:30am for 12 noon lunch	Mike Moller 0478 154 593 mmoller57@gmail.com
<b>100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rugby on Campus</b>		<b>Events to be held Grand Final Weekend September</b>		

Other Reunions ... Watch out for details on Facebook and LinkedIn – emails will be sent to members and those we have contact details for.

*Because I could not stop for Death  
He kindly stopped for me  
The Carriage held but just Ourselves  
And Immortality.*

Emily Dickinson

## Gone, but not forgotten...

### ADAMS, Kenneth Charles

QCAH 1971. At College 1970-71.  
Ken passed away 29 July 2019.

### COUPER, John Colin

QCAH 1970. At College 1969-70.  
1969: Under 17 Soccer.  
John passed away 19 February 2021.

### BARBEN, Terrence Allan

QDAH 1958. At College 1956-58.  
In 1959, he was appointed as a Temporary Junior Assistant to the Dairy. Joined Veterinary Services Branch of DPI in early 1960, serving in Townsville, Mackay, Crows Nest, Jandowae, Wandoan and Toowoomba. He spent his entire working life of nearly 40 years as a Stock Inspector.  
Terry passed away 1 September 2021.

### BODY, Alexander John

At College 1948-49.  
Alex passed away 8 March 2021.

### DUNLOP, Simon John

B App Sc 2007, B Agribusiness 2007.  
2007: Gatton Black Pigs RUFC joint Club Best and Fairest.  
Simon passed away 21 April 2021, aged 35.

### FREEMAN, Robert Guy

QDAH 1966.  
At College 1964-66.  
Rob passed away 15 August 2021.

### GALAGHER, Robert "Slim" Charles

QDA 1965. At College 1963-65.  
After leaving College he joined the Lands Department and spent much of his working life at the Alan Fletcher Research Station. For many years he handled all the public and professional weed identification enquiries.  
Slim had a remarkable memory, appearing on TV quiz shows. He retired to Stanthorpe in 2006.  
Robert passed away 25 August 2021.

### HARRISON, Stephen Robert

QDA 2nd Class Hons 1960. At College 1956-60. Thynne.  
1960: Prefect. Captain No.2 Pennant Grade Tennis.  
1959: Captain A2 Grade No.2 Tennis.  
1958: A2 Grade No.1 Tennis.  
1957: B2 Tennis.  
Gained a PhD in Economics 1976.  
Stephen passed away 4 April 2021.

### JONES, Edmond

QDH 2nd Class Hons 1949.  
Post War Reconstruction Training Student (Returned Serviceman).  
1949: A1 X1.  
1948: A Grade No.1 X1. Vice Captain.  
Gained his B Ag Sc degree from UQ in 1954.  
Edmond passed away 8 May 2018.

### KILAH, Valerie Winifred (née Whip)

Val was appointed as a Clerk - Typist to the College Administration staff

in November 1947. Twelve months later she was promoted to the role of Secretary to the Principal, Mr. Briton, which she held until her resignation on 9 May 1960 due to her pending marriage. Years later, she and husband Bill took over the QAC Bookshop for 6 years.

When the College Centenary was approaching, Val and Julie Reid became involved with identifying and sorting the massive accumulation of photos and memorabilia. This work immediately became a "Labour of Love".  
In 2005, Val was presented with Honorary Life Membership of the UQGPSA in recognition of this dedication which continued to the end of 2019.  
Valerie passed away 30 July 2021.

### LAING, Douglas "Bones" Rees

QDAH 1956. At College 1952-56. Riddell.  
1956: 2nd Junior Judging Merino Sheep at RNA.  
1954: CMF.  
1952: College Senior Cadets.  
He gained a B Ag Sc from UQ in 1959.  
Doug passed away early 2021 in California.

### LONG, Phillip Llewellyn

QDAH 1968. At College 1966-68. Shelton.  
1968: Reserve Grade XV.

He served on the UQGPSA Management Committee from December 2011 to December 2019.  
Phil passed away 6 June 2021.

### McKENZIE, John Grant

Assoc Dip Applied Sc 1991.  
John passed away early May 2021.

### McPHAIL, William Robert

QDAH 1955. At College 1953-54. Shelton.  
1954: Swimming.  
1953: Senior Swimming Champion (tied): B Grade XV.  
He was the Ag Teacher at Beenleigh State High School for many years.  
Bill passed away 26 March 2021.

### MENZIES, Allan Earle

QDA 1964. At College 1961-64. Pitt. Prefect 1962-63.  
1963: Under 19 XV: CMF.  
Allan passed away 3 June 2021.  
Brother of WR Menzies QDA 1962.

### SELLARS, Allan MacMillan

QDH 1957.  
1957: Staff and Students X1: CMF.  
1956: Staff and Students X1: CMF.  
1955: Staff and Students A Grade X1.  
Allan passed away early April 2021.

### SUGARMAN, Jackson Samuel

QDAH 1965. At College 1963-65. Riddell.  
Jack passed away 8 August 2021.

## Museum Report

Leading up to August we were quite involved with the planning and accumulation of material for our first venture back to the Brisbane Ekka in many years. This included layout and design of the display while Julie put together an extensive series of photographs depicting the history of the Gatton College and subsequent years.

More recently we have had a large increase in enquiries about past students from family and/or friends, which takes time to gather the information from the records and magazines we have at our disposal.

Bus tours to the campus including the Museum has fallen away, mainly due to the Covid requirements needed to enable the safety and well-being of people.

We were very excited just recently when a volunteer from the Gatton & District Historical Society informed us they had found a book, entitled "Veterinary Notes for Horse Owners",

published in London in 1915.

Originally part of the QAHS&C library, the book has in very neat handwriting "1359, Trooper J.K.Murray, Army Veterinary Corps, Australian Imperial Forces" on one of the internal pages.

This book will be added to our JK Murray collection in the military room.

A 1902 Lee Enfield rifle used by Capt. W. J. McCutcheon as a target rifle during his Diploma days in 1933-34, and donated by his son, Bill McCutcheon, Chinchilla has been encased and now on display in the military room along with a large beautifully framed photo of the Captain.

A display folder has been composed containing Royal Life Saving Society certificates and a swimming costume worn by Hector



Regghenzani (QDA 1942), donated by his daughter, Angela Regghenzani. Another swim suit with a 1st Class instructor pocket was also included which belonged to Arthur Regghenzani (QDA 1941).

Gary Mason

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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.

Vale Val Kilah (17/02/1931-30/07/2021)

We were greatly saddened by the death of Val in July. Val was an untiring volunteer for us. While she was in good health she was at the Museum whenever it was open and attended as many Back to College Weekends and reunions as she could. Her contribution to our Association cannot be easily quantified. We made a small donation to the Cancer Council of Australia in her memory.

These words written in a 2007 article on Val's connection with the Gatton Campus and her devotion to our Association.

At 16 years of age, after growing up with seven siblings on her parents' properties "Lindon Caves" and "Yanalah Downs" Shorthorn Stud in Roma and finishing her high school education, Val Whip was appointed to the Public Service as a Junior Typist at Gatton College in November 1947. The Foundation Building was the administration centre at that time. Full accommodation was provided to staff at 15 shillings per week. Val cried into her typewriter from homesickness every day for two weeks and appealed to her father to allow her to return home. She eventually settled down and soon enjoyed a wonderful lifestyle at College. Twelve months after arriving at QAC, Val was asked to take on the role of Secretary



Val Kilah

over the lease of the Queensland Agricultural College Bookshop for six years. They bought a retirement home at Mermaid Beach and enjoyed travelling in Australia as well as overseas. Sadly, Bill passed away in January, 2003.

When the College Centenary was approaching, Val, with Julie Reid, became involved with sorting and identifying the massive number of photos and memorabilia of the Queensland Agricultural College, salvaged by Ray Montgomery and Ross Murray. In 2005, Val was surprised, but honoured, to receive Honorary Life Membership of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association for her efforts. The Historical Collection is now something of which to be very proud and would not be, without Val's dedication.



Peter Douglas, Val Kilah and Doug Cutmore

to the Director, Mr Briton, who was a great administrator and wonderful boss. Mr Briton would press a button to buzz Val to come into his office to take dictation in shorthand. Letters were then typed on a manual typewriter using carbon paper for copies. Thank goodness for modern technology nowadays.

Val remained in this position for 12 years until she married Bill Kilah who became a District Inspector for SGIO (now Suncorp). Val and Bill built their home in Gatton and, because married women could not remain in the Public Service then, Val did secretarial work in Gatton then worked in administration at CSIRO Cooper Lab, Lawes for 11 years. Val and Bill then took



Val Kilah and .....