

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

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STOP PRESS

Back to College Weekend

2–4 December 2022

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Scholarship Fund following trajectory

The UQGPSA Scholarship fund raising appears to be on target to meet half way total.

Fundraising for the UQGPSA Scholarship Fund continues to move close to the mid term target of \$50,000 raised by July 1 2022. As this report goes to print, \$13,175 of the \$20,000 the Association is committed to raise for the 2021 / 2 financial year has been donated. This means that \$43,175 of the \$50,000 target set at the commencement of the fund-raising scheme has been raised.

The target comes from two commitments the Association gave to UQ. The first was to raise \$50,000 over 5 years with both UQ and the Faculty of Science backing the Association with \$ for \$ subsidies. This means that while the fund receives \$3 for every \$1 raised, the donor receives a tax deduction benefit.

As the Association was very successful with that scheme, UQ invited it to participate in a second \$50,000 commitment over 5 years where each \$1 raised received equal support from UQ. Again, the donor receives tax deductibility. At the conclusion of these commitments, provided that the Association raises the \$100,000 that it pledged, the Scholarship Fund will be boosted by \$250,000.

"The Association accepted these two offers, so that, added to the current balance in the fund, the \$250,000 would ensure one scholarship per year to a student who needs financial assistance will continue well into the future. By offering this scholarship and through other activities, the Association is seen as relevant by current students" Mal Ferguson, UQGPSA Member, said. "Since its inception, the fund has assisted 15 students to continue or complete their



Loretta Tonscheck

studies investing over \$200,000 in the future of graduates for rural industries" he said.

Loretta Tonscheck, the 2016 Scholarship recipient, freely acknowledges without the support of the Fund, she may not have been able to attend Gatton. Loretta worked at Palgrove Pastoral Company at Dalveen following her graduation. She has now established her own business.

"The knowledge and experiences I gained at UQ, through my degree in Agribusiness and the opportunity to be involved with the Agribusiness Association for 3 years, I believe, gave me valuable confidence and skills to gain this position immediately after completing my degree. As my 'passion for the paddock' is unwavering through a love for good cattle, genetics, marketing and a thriving agri-industry as a whole, I am certain I've found my 'field' of choice, and aim to give my all to every opportunity that comes my way" she recently commented.

Donations to the Fund, which are tax deductible are best made direct to
UQGPSA Scholarship Fund by giving online at bit.ly/supportGPSA
or phoning UQ Advancement Office +61 7 3346 3909.

100% of the money given goes to the cause to which it is donated.



Mark Pace
President

UQ Gatton Past Students'
Association Inc.

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President's Report

Welcome to all our members and readers of this edition of Re-Connect. Much has transpired since our last edition, and here are the significant events relevant to our Association and to you as our members.

Firstly, the organising of our Back to College Weekend in December 2021 was indeed a logistical achievement considering the situation with COVID. Despite the uncertainty within the state and travel restrictions for interstate visitors, the good news is that the weekend went ahead and was well attended with around 150 guests at the dinner. The Vice Chancellor Professor Debbie Terry AO attended as our special guest speaker and our thanks to her and other members of the Alumni team for their support. The general atmosphere was vibrant and very positive feedback was received. The organisation of the weekend also required significant investment from our UQGPSA team and a special thanks to our Treasurer Ross Murray and Secretary Kim Jorgensen, as well as the Engagement Team from the UQ Alumni operations who provided us with sterling assistance. We sincerely thank all who contributed, for their collaboration and enthusiasm to make the weekend a total success.

The weekend also included our AGM at which I was re-elected as President for another year together with Ross Murray

as Treasurer and Kim Jorgensen as our Secretary and we extend our thanks for this privilege. The other members of the management committee for 2022 are;

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| • Mr Bruce Birtwill | Senior Vice President |
| • Mr Jim Madden | Junior Vice President |
| • Mr Ron Swanwick | Member |
| • Mr Doug English | Member |
| • Mr Trevor Pezet | Member |
| • Mr Stewart Bain | Member |
| • Mr Rob Nielsen | Member |
| • Ms Helen Wedlake | Member |

Two long standing committee members, Gary Mason and Julie Martin, decided not to renew their committee membership. We thank them both for their significant contribution over many years. We also welcome a new member to our Committee, Helen Wedlake.

The AGM also witnessed the stepping down of our Patron Mr Peter Douglas and we sincerely thank him for his impeccable service and dedication to the role, and the consequent election of Mr Graham McClymont as the Patron for 2022.

Of interest to all readers will be the upcoming 125th Gatton Campus Celebrations to be launch on the weekend of the 2nd July 2022. This date coincides with **UQ's Warwick/Gatton Regional Roadshow**. The planning for this event is well underway and I would

advise all interested parties to keep in touch for the specific arrangements with this important celebration and milestone of the Gatton Campus. It is expected that there will be a number of events during the year.

It is also relevant to encourage all our readers to become aware of the Association's efforts to grow our Scholarship Fund, to ensure we continue to provide opportunity for eligible students to engage and attend the Gatton campus and its programs. You will have read about this in our front page article.

Other items which the Committee will be furthering over the coming year will be the development of a Code of Conduct for Management Committee Members and a Patron Policy and Procedure. Additionally, the Association Constitution will be amended to conform to legislative changes and then taken to the 2022 AGM for approval.

We are also seeking further and more effective engagement with current students, as well as attracting more membership within our own past students' fraternity, in particular from the 1970s to the 1990s.

Best regards,

Mark Pace
President UQGPSA.



2022 marks 125 years of Gatton campus! Help us celebrate this amazing milestone on Saturday 2 July by joining the festivities!

Enjoy campus tours, research and innovation talks, fun activities for children, and don't miss

our showcase of alumni-grown produce in a long-table lunch in the beautiful Queensland winter sunshine, topped off with live music.

More info and registrations:
alumni.uq.edu.au/event/session/20629

NEW MEMBERS AS AT MARCH 2022:

We welcome the following graduates as members of our Association

Mr Peter Bevan
Ms Helen Wedlake
Mr Robert Hall
Mr Warren McLaughlin
Mr Laurence Eisentrager
Dr Surachat Vuthapanich
Mrs Regina Samyranu-Vuthapanich
Mr Peter Dunwoody

Distinguished Past Students Award

The UQ Gatton Past Students' Association Distinguished Past Students Award recognises the tremendous achievements of graduates of The University of Queensland Gatton Campus, in all fields of endeavour.

The achievements of graduates of UQ Gatton, or its former entities, *Gatton College* and the *Queensland Agricultural College*, have been, by any measure, truly outstanding.

Since the inception of the Award in 2010 there have been some 26 past students who have received this honour.

All have been outstanding recipients and this year's awardees were no exception.

Dianne Fullelove

Dianne is currently the Director of Dianne Fullelove & Associates Pty Ltd, a successful industry and workforce development business, focusing on strategic initiatives, capacity building and learning. She has guided the Australian Melon industry recovery following a food safety incident which has had significant long-lasting impact on both domestic and export markets.

In 1981, Dianne Fullelove was awarded a Bachelor Applied Science in Horticultural Technology, with honours, from the Queensland Agricultural College, having completed her studies in 1980.

She is an experienced horticultural industry scientist, educator and industry development strategist. In her career to date, Dianne has worked for government, industry organisations and in vocational education.

With her application for the award Dianne said she felt the range of subjects she studied and the Science with Practice approach of QAC was invaluable to her future career.

As she said *"We learnt how to grow vegetables and we grew vegetables! This meant that I could always talk with farmers in a way that understood their love of farming. We had been involved in doing exactly what they did for a business."*

"I have worked for many parts of the horticultural supply chain including growing, industry organisations, wholesale market and training. We were given the opportunity to develop our leadership skills in group activities and tours."

"In my case, I 'volunteered' to organise the provisioning for the fourth-year study tour to North Qld (by train with a griddle car!). This was a huge effort to ensure the food

was sufficient for around 25 hungry mouths! However, by the end of the tour, I knew that I could organise and plan very well. And everyone was fed! Consequently, I have held a strong belief that you can do anything if you plan it well enough."



Jim Madden and Dianne Fullelove

"I started my own consulting company in 2009 and have completed many successful projects while leading a team of staff. I have also applied leadership skills to farming groups during my career including the Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers and Melons Australia."

"Such is my belief in leadership skills that I organised and conducted many leadership programs for industries such as melons, bananas, pineapples, and seafood."

"Working in a rural environment has given me the confidence to take on many challenges. One such occasion was when I commenced talkback radio gardening on ABC Wide Bay in 1991. Every Friday morning for 10 years, I fielded random questions from a range of listeners. I was also working as Executive Officer for Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers at this time and growers used to listen in while driving their tractors or utes."

"I have changed careers between industry leadership, TAFE and secondary teaching, leadership training, working with curators at Queensland Museum and gardening journalism."

"Quite a range, but I feel strongly that the breadth of studies at Gatton enabled such change."

John Hardy OAM

John grew up on a dairy and sugar cane farm at Mundoo near Innisfail in North Queensland.

He graduated with a Diploma in Agriculture from the Agricultural College (QAC) in 1966 and has been a regular at Back to College Weekend for many years.

John's lifetime interest in agricultural production was first kindled through the agriculture course at Innisfail High School where he completed his junior level studies in 1962. He enrolled in the Agriculture Diploma Course at the Queensland Agricultural College in 1964 and completed his studies with the award of the Qld Diploma in Agriculture (QDA) in 1966.

During his years at QAC John was very active in student sporting codes particularly basketball and hockey as well as in the QAC Air Training Corps Unit and in 1966 joined the College CMF Unit.

He joined the Queensland Department of Primary Industries (QDPI) in 1967 as a Cadet Technician working on a variety of agronomy projects at the Biloela Research Station where development of hybrid sorghum varieties suited to drier areas and improving irrigation practices and plant breeding for cotton were the main research themes at the time.



Jim Madden and John Hardy OAM

Continued on page 5

Distinguished Past Students Awards (continued)

Then followed a year at Walkamin Research Station in 1968, where John was involved in research on improving irrigation and cropping practices for different soil types relevant to the Mareeba-Dimbulah irrigation area.

His next posting was to the Kairi Research Station where from 1968 to 1990 he progressed to become an Agronomy Experimentalist in a wide range of research projects on crops and cropping practices for maize, peanuts, sorghum, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and pasture/crop rotations.

In 1990 John's outstanding ability to organize and oversee project work was recognized in his appointment as Manager of the Southedge Research Station. He continued in this role until 1997 during which time the research program was focused on testing a range of horticultural and field crops which showed potential for

replacement of tobacco growing, which was in terminal decline at that time.

John was appointed Manager of Walkamin Research Station in 1997.

While at Walkamin he oversaw the expansion of the largest freshwater fisheries aquaculture centre in tropical Australia consisting of 42 ponds and associated infrastructure as well as coping with the demands of a broad range of field crop, horticulture and pasture projects.

He held the position of Manager of Walkamin Research Station until his retirement in 2012 after 45 years of service in the Qld DPI.

John achieved a notable milestone in his career in 2017 when he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) "For services to veterans and their families".

This award was in recognition of John's extensive involvement in several organisations connected with veterans and dealing with issues related to their military service.

As an active member of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association, John has donated memorabilia to the museum, and contributed to the UQ Scholarship Fund.

In 2016, he compiled and published a comprehensive *1966 Diploma Class Handbook*, documenting the life and times of his classmates and some interesting historical information about the college, staff, courses and activities.

This handbook is an example of the enthusiasm, energy and ability that John brings to a project that he is passionate about.

From the pastures to the skies: Dr Milford's storied journey

At 99 years old, you could say that Dr Robert Milford has lived two lifetimes worth of incredible moments. He was part of an air force squadron that helped repel Nazi Germany in the Mediterranean during World War 2, before becoming a leading researcher in the field of agronomy. As we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Gatton campus, we explore Dr Milford's rich connection to Gatton and The University of Queensland and share his remarkable wartime story.

On 3 September 1939, when Australia joined with the UK and declared war on Nazi Germany, Dr Milford was still in high school. He graduated with a diploma in Agriculture at Gatton in 1940 and was employed at the college as a field assistant by CSIR, the predecessor to CSIRO. On turning 18 in 1941, he pleaded with his parents to let him join the RAAF. When he was discharged in 1945 at the end of the war, Dr Milford returned to Australia. Although he had a Junior Certificate and Diploma of Agriculture up his sleeve from his study at Gatton College before the war, Robert knew he needed more. He enrolled in the Bachelor of Agriculture program at UQ in 1947.

In 1950, Dr Milford had a young family and was in his penultimate year of study with the Agriculture Department at Gatton Campus. With accommodation

scarce on the campus, he was given permission to convert an unused building into a residence. During the war, the US Army had made Gatton College the biggest hospital in the South Pacific, and the vacant building was the hospital morgue.

To make it habitable, Dr Milford and his classmates worked together to dismantle the morgue refrigerator, remove the slab table, install a makeshift bathroom behind hessian walls, and line the walls and ceiling with hessian covered in butcher's paper. Today, this building still stands, and is now the campus chapel.

On graduation, Dr Milford was employed as an Experimental Officer in agronomy with the CSIRO, still in Gatton, at the Cooper Laboratory.



Robert Milford (second from left) and his bomber crew during WWII.



Robert Milford, 99 years and still ploughing on.

His work was mainly concerned with digestibility and energy retention of pasture species such as cattle, goats, and sheep. In 1957, Dr Milford was awarded his Master of Science degree from UQ. Dr Milford's work was highly regarded, and in 1958, he was promoted to Research Officer and appointed Officer in Charge of the Cooper Laboratory. In 1959, he was granted a CSIRO PhD scholarship and voyaged to England.

Back in Australia, Dr Milford resumed his position with CSIRO at Gatton College, again working on the nutritional values of tropical grasses and legumes. His work was internationally recognised. In 1967 he was recruited to a World Bank-funded project in Paraguay, which aimed to introduce improved pastures. He worked as an agricultural project officer on many projects all around the globe, until his retirement in 1988.



Brian Trendell, Raylene Newing, Peter Goodwin, Paul Mannion

So good to see 1980s graduates coming along to our reunion. We had a cap on numbers and got to the limit of 40 people. All enjoyed the chat and lunch with Eric Gallagher remembering Doug Laing, Henry Nix and Jim Kearnan who have all passed away in recent times.

Younger graduates in large numbers attend Sunshine Coast Reunion



Peter Young and Russell Reeves.



Lindel Greggery, Ian Greggery, Raylene Newing

Back to College Weekend 2022

The annual Back to College Weekend will be held from Friday 2 to Sunday 4 December 2022.

We will be back to normal with the feature years being those ending in "2" and in some cases "7". FEATURE YEARS: 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1992, 2002, 2012. Groups who didn't have a good turnout in 2021 are also welcome to reconvene. The best response is when someone from your group acts as the Co-ordinator. Let us know who your Co-ordinator will be and we will assist with publicity. REMEMBER the Feature Year is your last year at college, not necessarily the year your Graduation ceremony was held. Some members graduated in the May after we finished.

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 soon) and a Registration form will be distributed to members via email. You will again be able to signup electronically through the CVENT system and details of this will also be emailed once prices have been set for 2022.

UQ Advancement will help us reach out to graduates who may be in your year but are not members. Please check with your mates to ensure UQ has their latest contact details.

Any enquiries please email: gattonpaststudents@uq.edu.au or call/text the Secretary on 0438 130 963. Let us know your Co-ordinator's name as soon as possible.

alumni.uq.edu.au/event/session/17085



Class of 1951 Graduates



Class of 1961 Graduates



Class of 1971 Graduates



Class of 1981 Graduates

Museum Report

Following a very successful reunion weekend in December 2021, many attendees left us with quite a lot of items to be documented, archived and displayed at your museum.

Past students and families are encouraged to donate any items they no longer wish to house, to the museum. Such items are retained, but at the request of the donor can be returned if necessary.

Henry Nix, who graduated in 1956 with a Queensland Diploma in Agriculture, passed away recently, donated his UQ Gatton Gold Medal to the museum, which is suitably displayed. This is the only Gold Medal we have acquired and gives all museum visitors a chance to see this achievement.

Donations:

Ross West: Copy of Certificate in Horticulture (2nd class Hon.) 1971.

Peter McCauley: B&W photo of 1969-70 class; Colour photo of bullock ride.

Hugh Clelland: 1970-1975 photo album.

Peter Douglas: B&W photos of 1927 students; box of items from Val Kilah inc. magazines, Re-Connects, photo albums, 2 large photo frames.

Nev Cayley: QAHS&C badge; photos/newspaper clippings re Gloria Collins 100th birthday; photos of old and new headstone showing OBA badge.

Julie Reid: wooden teapot stand with inlaid horse's head made by Stan Petherick.

Steve Sonderquist: CSIRO – spray helmet

Mike Logan: 1969-70 magazines; 1969 photo; 1969-70 annual sports day programs; 1969-70 full colour certificates for sport; 1970 QAC exam results from Courier Mail.

Ken Newman: Original 1956 QDA, plus career history

Animal Science building: items include scales, pressure test device, safety belts and mincer.

Remember if it is hidden away in a dark cupboard or at the back of a drawer unseen for years, we invite you to send it on to us at the museum.

Also if anyone can help, we are looking for a male mannequin, about 175cm tall, to enable a display in our military room.

Reunions 2022

BRANCH	VENUE	DATE	TIME	CONTACT
Confirmed for 2022 and 2023				
125th Anniversary Launch Event	Gatton Campus	Sat 2nd July	-	alumni.uq.edu.au/event/session/20629
Gold Coast	Labrador AFL Sports Club Ashton Street, Labrador	Sat 30th July	11:00am for 12 noon lunch	Peter Douglas (07) 5546 6350 koalamen@bigpond.com
Rockhampton	Venue and format to be confirmed	Date to be confirmed	11:30am for 12 noon lunch	Kim Jorgensen 0438 130 963 gattonpaststudents@uq.edu.au
Bundaberg	Venue to be confirmed	Date to be confirmed	11:30am for 12 noon lunch	Kim Jorgensen 0438 130 963 gattonpaststudents@uq.edu.au
40th Anniversary of Rugby Premierships in 1981 and 1982	Friday – Gatton campus Saturday – Grand Final Toowoomba	26-27 August	Barby from 5pm Fri	Andrew Drysdale andrew@alsajadnrm.com.au 0407 634 224
1st and 2nd tertiary graduate years, 1970 and 1971 reunion	The Colonial Cafe 34 Lake Apex Dr, Gatton	Fri 2nd September	5pm for drinks & canapés with dinner served around 7pm	Paul Sattler paulsattler@bigpond.com 0414 641 604

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

Graham McClymont was elected Patron of our Association at the Annual General Meeting held on 4 December 2021.

A member of the Management Committee between 1998 and 2020, Graham served as Senior Vice-President for 4 years, President for 10 years and Secretary for 6 years.

Graham was awarded life membership in 2014.

Association records dating back to 1927 reveal that there have been 15 presidents, 19 patrons and 66 honorary life members or life members.

His commitment to the Association has only been equalled once before, that being by Stan Petherick, who also held all three positions of President, Patron and Honorary Life Member.

Graham is looking forward to continuing his ongoing dedication to the UQ Gatton Past Students' Association.

New Patron



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

ANDERSON, Robert Gordon

QDA 1966. At College 1959-63. Thynne.
1963: Captain B1 Tennis.
1962: B1 No.3 Tennis. Won Under 17 Hammer Throw.
1960: A2 No.2 Tennis.
Bob passed away in early February 2022.

BROOKS, Nicholas Malcolm

Grad Dip Plant Protection 1981.
Nick passed away 16 October 2021.

CHIN, Marcus Lawrence

Assoc Horti Tech 1972.
At College 1968-72. Shelton.
1972: A Basketball. Intercollegiate.
1971: College 1 Basketball.
Intercollegiate. SQ Zone Rep.
A Grade Soccer (Premiers).
1970: A Grade Soccer. A Grade Basketball (Premiers).
1969: A Grade Soccer.
1968: 1st Soccer.
He worked for Ciba-Geigy in Australia and Vietnam.
Marcus passed away 24 October 2021.

CURTIS, Harry Davidson

At College 1945.
Harry passed away 25 February 2020.

DE LACY, Keith Ernest AO

QDA 1959. At College 1957-59. Shelton.
1959: 1st XV. 1st XI. CMF.
1958: CMF.
Served as the Labor Member for Cairns for 15 years from 1983. Treasurer in the Goss Government from 1989 to 1996. He retired from politics in 1998. Following politics he pursued a career in a range of company directorships. Made a member of the Order of Australia in the 2006 Queen's Birthday Honours list for his services to Queensland. His awards included, the Centenary Medal, UQ Gatton Gold Medal in 2000 and Honorary Doctorates from both James Cook and Central Queensland Universities. Brother of Ian, QDA 2nd Class Hons 1959. Keith passed away 26 November 2021.

FAIRWEATHER, Major General Michael AM, RFD

B App Sc (Rural Tech) 1974.
After College, he attended the Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education (Teachers Training College) gaining a Grad Dip Teach - Secondary Education. The next 9 years were spent as an Agricultural teacher. Then a career change to be general manager of Agricultural Requirements, Northern Asia regional manager for Defiance Mills and general manager of SQ Tobacco Growers Co-op.
Mick's military career began with his enlistment in QAC Training Unit in 1971, lasting 13 years and rising to the rank of Captain. In 1990, he was promoted to Lt Colonel and commanded 25th Bn, Royal Queensland Regiment for 3 years. He then attended the Joint Services Staff College, gaining a Grad Dip

Strategic Studies. Promoted to Colonel in 1977 and Brigadier in 2004 when he was appointed Commander 11th Infantry Brigade. Mick was promoted to Major General in January 2006. He was awarded an AM in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in 2004, for work in reforming Reserve Officer Training and the Australian Army Cadets. He was a recipient of the UQ Gatton Gold Medal in 2011.
Mick passed away 2 January 2022.

FORD, Ross Anthony

QCAH 1977.
College No. 1 Polocrosse.
Ross passed away 3 January 2022.

FOWLER, Keith Palmer

Sub Junior student 1947.
He was a prominent pig breeder on the Darling Downs.
Brother of NE Fowler 1947.
Keith passed away 13 August 2021.

KEARNAN, James Forbes

QDAH 1956.
At College 1952-56. Shelton.
1956: Prefect. Boxing (10 st. Champion).
2nd A XI. A1 1st Tennis. Athletics, 3rd in Mile and Cross Country. 2nd A XV. Staff and Students XI.
1955: Prefect. Boxing (9 st. Champion).
2nd B XV. Staff and Students XI. A2 Tennis Captain.
1954: Boxing (8 st. 7 lbs. Champion). B2 XI Captain. B2 2nd Tennis.
1952: 7st. 7 lbs. XV. Senior Cadets.
In January 1957, Jim joined the then Veterinary Services Branch of the Department of Agriculture and Stock rising to the rank of Executive Officer, Animal Health Service. He retired in December 1992, before undertaking trials relating to pesticide residues in beef for the Meat Research Corporation. Tick eradication and associated legislation were his forte. A larger than life character with a great sense of humour.
Jim passed away on 23 February 2022.

Mac MAHON, Michael Dermott

QDA 1962.
At College 1957-61.
Michael passed away 31 July 2019.

McEVOY, Terence Joseph.

QDAH 2nd Class Hons 1962.
At College 1956-60. Shelton.
He was a very competent horseman, winning the WP Hamon Prize for best practical student in beef cattle and horse management, in 1960.
1960: 2nd Best Senior Rider, Ag Day Sports.
1959: 1st Best Senior Rider, Ag Day Sports.
1958: 1st Best Senior Rider, Ag Day Sports.
1957: 3rd Best Junior Rider, Ag Day Sports.
After being awarded a QDAH in Dec 1960, he returned in 1962 as a Temporary Junior Assistant (JO), gaining an Honours Endorsement to his QDAH. Then to UQ, coming away with a B V Sc in 1967.
Terry passed away 25 January 2022.

McROBERTS, John David

QDDM 1958.
At College 1956-58.
The first 15 months of his career were spent at the milk factories in Booval and Townsville. In April 1960, he moved to Tasmania where he spent some 24 years, most of which on King Island. A few more years in the Dairy Factory game back in Australia and he bought a milk bar followed by a hydraulics business, then a farm machinery business and in March 1997 a glass enterprise. John claimed he went from butter oil to cooking oil to hydraulic oil and last but not least, tractor oil!
John passed away 13 November 2021.

MIDDLETON, Colin Hill

QDA 1957.
At College 1953-57. Shelton House Captain 1957.
1957: Prefect. 1st XI. A1 Tennis. Captain Intercollegiate Tennis.
Lockyer Valley Men's Singles Champion.
1956: 1st XI. A1 Seconds Tennis. Intercollegiate Tennis.
1955: 1st XI. A1 Seconds Tennis. Intercollegiate Tennis.
1954: A2 XI. A2 Firsts Tennis. Senior Cadets.
1953: A2 XI. A2 Tennis. Senior Cadets.
After College he gained a B Ag Sc from UQ in 1960. Col worked for DPI and gave 43 years of dedicated service, mainly in Rockhampton.
Brother of Ivan QDAH 1954.
Col passed away 23 January 2022.

MOENGANGONGO, Siaozi "George".

Fellowship Rural Tech 1971.
At College 1968-71.
1971: 1st XV, Darling Downs rep.
1970: 1st XV. Shelton House Captain.
1969: 1st XV.
1968: 1st XV.
After College, he attended UQ, gaining a BVSc in 1976. George returned to Tonga and in 1981 he was appointed Deputy Director of the Pacific Institute of Rural Development, Uni of the South Pacific, Atele Campus. In 1983, he was appointed Director. Following this he undertook various stints of self employment.
He was awarded a Member of the Order of the Crown in 2008 in recognition of his exemplary service to King and Country. In 2017, he became a recipient of the UQGPSA Distinguished Past Student award.
George passed away 30 July 2021.

MURISON, James Alexander

QDA 1966.
At College 1963-65.
He was a highly respected officer with the international trade division of the NSW Department of Agriculture, where he spent most of his career. Played a large role in organising several of the Class of 1965 Reunions.
Jim passed away 2 October 2021.

NIX, Henry Allan

QDA 1st Class Hons 1956.
At College 1952- 56. Shelton. Prefect 1955-56.
Won Tractor Ploughing 1956 Ag Day Sports.
He gained a B Ag Sc from UQ in 1960. Spent 25 years with CSIRO before being appointed Professor and Director of the Centre of Resource and Environmental Studies at the Australian National University in September 1986. He held this position for 12 years.
In 2000, Henry was awarded an AO for his contributions to agricultural and environmental science. He was the recipient of the 1988 College Council Gold Medal which he donated to the UQGPSA Museum at the 2016 Back To College Weekend.
Henry passed away 2 February 2022.

PURRER, Josef Leopold

Assoc Dip Bus (Hospitality) 1990.
Josef passed away 17 January 2022.

SHAPCOTT, Graham Sutton

QDAH 1947.
Enrolled as a Sub Diploma student in February 1942, studies ceased in March due to the American Army occupation of the College. He returned in February 1943 to start again. He enlisted in the RAAF in 1944 and returned in 1946 as a Post War Reconstruction Student.
1947: Swimming. 1st IV. Won College Tennis Singles Championship. Being an ex-serviceman, he requested that the runner-up Alan Boag be awarded the Championship.
1946: 1st XI. Swimming. Tennis.
He spent most of his working life in the sheep industry in the Charleville district.
Son of the Headmaster, College View State School.
Graham passed away 19 January 2022.

SHARPE, Robert "Sandy"

At College 1957-59. Riddell.
1959: CMF.
1958: CMF. Swimming.
1957: CMF.
He had a great passion for flying helicopters both in Australia, including Bass Strait oil rigs, and in the USA.
Sandy passed away in late January 2022.

UQ Gatton Past Students' Association Inc.

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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.

Introducing new Committee Member – Helen Wedlake

Career vocation should be driven by love.

Gatton College evolved to provide outstanding degree courses. I was a student from the seventies, graduating in 1980, with studies in Horticultural Agronomy/technologies and majoring in Plant Protection. I was well equipped to take on the multiple and diverse challenges of implementing science with the practical realities of farming practices as allied to the commercial interests of businesses in distribution, private and corporate.

My career expanded from initially working in cotton for Bayer, to taking on a new territory, North Coast for Grow Force, to whole of Australia, on new entry on disease control UIM Agrichemicals, to ten years of territory management with Crop Care (nee ICI), South East Qld and the Northern Rivers.

I have enjoyed working with a wide range of cropping enterprises and especially, directly with their growers, and industry groups. Science from all courses would test the integrities of the extension side of sales of farm products. I would grow professionally by being holistically invested in ensuring company and distribution implementation of technical accuracies into marketing material, trial research, registrations and allied technical services. To this end I have valued the synergic working relationships with other Gatton Graduates with the same love of service, commitment, and intentions to better farming and grower practices. I hold, with gratitude, the support of my lecturers in advice, experience, and strengths, as my career power source.

I come from a farming background, born in Killarney, and also raised across the Northern Rivers.



Helen Wedlake

It was my intention to follow into farming and I was well aware of how hard farming families laboured. From my first year at college, I started an ornamental nursery and obtained practical experience of nursery production in New Zealand. To this end it is an ongoing interest.

Career longevity has meant seeking out networks for business and communication, balance, and professional support. This is inclusive of maintaining ties with the UQ Alumni. I hold a very strong appreciation and respect for the tremendous work undertaken by the Past Students Association and their committee, in working to sustain connectivity, loyalty and recognition of the traits inherent in those fortunate enough to have entered this college and now in its future. Women can have and should embrace interesting and rewarding careers in science.

UQ Regional Roadshows



Throughout 2022, UQ will again visit local communities all across the state to discover more ways we can foster the growth, health and prosperity of communities across Queensland.

Find out where we'll be visiting and how you can join the community celebrations. If you'd like us to visit your town, or have a suggestion for what we should do or who we should meet on the Regional Roadshow, please get in touch.

Toowoomba/Dalby: 1-2 April
Warwick/Gatton: 1-2 July
Moreton Bay: 29-30 July
Mackay/Townsville/Bowen: 26-27 August
Roma/Chinchilla: 2-3 September
Kingaroy/Gympie/Wide Bay: 23-24 September
Gold Coast: 28-29 October
Sunshine Coast: 11-12 November

alumni.uq.edu.au/regionalroadshow