

# ReConnect

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



## ISSUE 41, WINTER 2023

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## STOP PRESS

### Back to College Weekend 2023

Friday 1 to Sunday 3 December 2023

Info see page 2

### Sunshine Coast Reunion

Saturday 18 March 2023

please contact Kim Jorgensen  
0438 130 963 if you are coming  
and have not RSVPed.

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## Dr Madeleine Hamon receives Honorary Membership

At *Back to College Weekend 2022* our President Mark Pace presented Dr Madeleine Hamon with an Honorary Membership of the UQ Gatton Past Students' Association.

This was in recognition of her long association with the campus and her generosity in recent years. Madeleine has made significant contributions to the UQGPSA Scholarship and her support is recognised and very much appreciated by the Management Committee.

Mark also acknowledged the impeccable service of Madeleine's father, Winter Philip Hamon, during the ceremony.

The award of an Honorary Membership is determined by the Management Committee. It allows due recognition of



Dr Madeleine Hamon and UQGPSA President Mark Pace

those who were not either students or staff of the Gatton campus, but who have made an outstanding contribution to the objects of the Association. Honorary members do not have the right to vote at a General Meeting or stand for positions on the Association's Management Committee.

## New Campus Director is a past UQ Gatton student



Congratulations to Susan Frost from the University of Tasmania for being appointed as the next Director of The University of Queensland Gatton Campus.

Susan is a graduate of the Gatton campus and has held a range of roles, including leadership roles, in the agriculture industry and universities across Australia.

Susan will commence in her new role at UQ Gatton in April and we look forward to welcoming her then.

# President's Report



2023 has arrived and again it looks like a very busy year ahead for your Association.

I am so pleased to report that the 2022 BTCW was an outstanding weekend with

strong numbers attending and our annual dinner had around 150 attendees. The mood was wonderful and a great time was had by all. Our guest speaker for the evening was Faculty of Science Executive Dean Professor Melissa Brown. Of special note were our three DPSA recipients and the awarding of our Honorary Membership to Dr Madeleine Hamon, who has been such a strong supporter of our Association over the years. She once again kindly donated \$10,000 to our UQGPSA Scholarship fund.

Our AGM was held on Saturday, 3 December with good numbers attending. I was very honoured to once again be elected as your President for 2023 and your management committee was largely re-elected with Kim Jorgensen as Secretary and Ross Murray as Treasurer. Bruce Birtwell is again Senior Vice President. Graham McClymont was re-elected as your Patron. Jim Madden

and Trevor Pezet did not renominate and we thank them for their service to the committee. We welcomed Ian Buck to our 2023 Committee.

The AGM highlighted some differing perspectives across the range of new initiatives your committee has undertaken in 2022. Issues arose over the proposed revisions to our Constitution and the proposed Patron Policy. The divergent views could not be accommodated within the time constraints of the AGM, so a decision was taken to defer the discussions into 2023. This will allow us to achieve clearer policy positions, which will then be presented to our Association members at a Special General Meeting. This is expected mid-2023, and I will write to you all advising of the upcoming event with documents distributed for review.

It is also proposed that in July this year our next 'Strategic Planning Meeting' will take place. Our last one was in July 2019 and based on the raft of recent initiatives taken by your Management Committee, it is essential that we continue to strategically position the Association to progressively move into the future. The UQGPSA is one of the most influential and active Alumni Associations within the University of Queensland and regionally our membership

spreads far and wide. I am focused towards ensuring this Association continues to embrace progressive change and to redefine its role, purpose and influence well into the future. I will be writing to you all soon and informing you of the developments and how to contribute to this event.

I encourage all members to support our UQGPSA branch reunions. At the time of writing this, the Sunshine Coast reunion is around the corner. Please check our correspondences to follow up on the locations and dates for our reunions, which are a great way to catch up in a friendly relaxed atmosphere.

Finally, I wish to make a mention that the new Gatton Campus Director is arriving to take up her role in April. Ms Susan Frost is in fact a graduate of the Gatton Campus, graduating in 1990. We all look forward to her commencement and establishing a strong and vibrant association with her in her new role. We extend our warm welcome and congratulations to her.

With best regards,

**Mark Pace**

President

UQ Gatton Past Students' Association Inc.

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## Back to College Weekend 2023

### Get your groups together

**Feature Years: 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 2003, 2013.**

The annual Back to College Weekend will be held from **Friday 1 to Sunday 3 December 2023.**

**Help us get as many from your year as possible:** The best reunion is when as many people come from your year. People are very disappointed when only a few from their year come along. A good turnout happens when someone from your group acts as the Co-ordinator. Let us know who your Co-ordinator is, 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 of us graduated in the May after we finished.

#### Some groups are already making contact:

We have been contacted to assist the **1978 (graduating) Hospitality Management** group with getting details of their cohort.

Jeanette Dalton is again rounding up **early 1970s** graduates for a reunion.

Neil Offner is planning a **1973 Firsts winning rugby union team** meetup.

Looking forward to as many **Foodies** coming along as they did in 2022.

A generic program is available on our website <https://gatton.uq.edu.au/alumni/gatton-past-students-association/back-college-weekend> to give you some idea of what happens. We were able to slot in some more tours in 2022 which were always full.

Contact will be made with those graduates who are UQGPSA members and/or UQ Alumni has your current contact details. This will be in the next few months. If you know

that your mate's details are not up-to-date please encourage them to contact us.

#### Past students and staff

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 weekend begins with a Friday night BBQ where you can get a good start to the weekend. 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. Try and get here for the day and the dinner at night. Many who only come for the dinner miss out on lots of fun.

#### Did you play hockey while at Gatton?

That could bring back good or some very cold memories of days in the Toowoomba winter. We are encouraging Hockey Players to reunite. See the article on page 5 in this edition.

# Distinguished Past Students Awards 2022



## Ian Buck

After his years at QAC (1966 – 1968) Ian forged a unique career in Agribusiness, that he is still pursuing, and

that is directly related to his studies at QAC.

Ian is a Senior Executive in Agribusiness, Banking and Finance in Australia with over 12 years experience in project scoping, implementation and management for Multi-lateral Development Banks, Government and Corporate agencies, working in the integrated rural development and private development sectors (see also back page).

After graduating from UQ St Lucia, Ian worked at the Department of Primary Industries Queensland Wheat Research Institute at Toowoomba as an Extension Officer before being contracted to the Solomon Island's Cattle Development Authority where he lived and worked for 6 years. This was the first of many South Pacific projects over his career. When he returned to Australia, Ian took up a short-term contract in Alice Springs, scoping a project related to the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Program.

His career turning point was in 1987 when he joined the Westpac Bank with a 12-month pilot program as a National Rural Advisor, initially based in Toowoomba. His brief was to help farmers facing financial difficulties. He worked closely with farmers, industry organisations and government agencies including the Qld DPI Farm Financial Counselling Service and the Rural Adjustment Authority. This led to establishment of a national Farm Debt Mediation Service.

Ian went on to be appointed to several Rural Industry Task Forces and Primary Industry Ministerial Committees to assist with strategic planning and specific industry planning studies. From 1998 – 2004 Ian was a State Ambassador of Beef Australia and a director of Brian Pastures and Belmont Research Stations for 9 years.

Since 2014, Ian's work has focused on the PNG to South Pacific, Pacific Region. He lived and worked for 5 years in Samoa, until 2020, where he was contracted to the Asian Development Bank to implement and manage the pilot Samoa Agribusiness Support Project.



## Ray Byrnes

Ray graduated from the Queensland Agricultural High School and College in 1952 with a

Queensland Diploma in Agriculture. From there he had a career in agriculture, local government politics and served in the Australian Citizen Military Forces.

Ray Byrnes was born in Atherton and raised on a dairy farm at Danbulla on the Atherton Tablelands. After graduating from Gatton College, he remained on campus, being employed at the College in the Poultry and Dairy Sections. A short time after that Ray took up a position with the Qld Department of Agriculture and Stock, otherwise known as the DPI, as a Cadet in the Poultry Branch. He worked at the DPI's Rocklea and Kairi Stations before being transferred to Brisbane to take up a Poultry Extension role.

The DPI saw the leadership potential in Ray because in 1972 they sent him on a study tour in New Zealand investigating poultry production facilities. In 1974 he ran a Poultry Industry Tour to New Zealand for their poultry producers and in 1976, an 11-week study tour to the USA, Canada and the UK.

Ray then commenced studies at UQ St Lucia, firstly to obtain a Bachelor of Science in (1966) and later a Master of Science (1979) after which he moved to QUT graduating in 1981 with a Graduate Diploma in Business Administration.

After 6 years as the DPI Pig and Poultry Industries Branch Director he once again headed overseas and presented a paper at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Animal Production in Japan. He went on to be appointed to a variety of senior positions with DPI up until his retirement to Yungaburra in Far North Queensland in 1993.

March 2000 saw Ray elected as a Councillor of the Eacham Shire Council. Later he became Deputy Mayor and in 2004, the Mayor. In 2007 Ray was Appointed Chair of the Transition Committee for Tableland Shires amalgamation and in 2008 he presided over the final Eacham Shire Council meeting held on the 13 March.

Ray has been involved in and still is in a wide range of Community Groups including Landcare, Water Groups and Reef Rescue Groups.



## Tim Neale

Since graduating from UQ Gatton in 1995 Tim has received a number of prestigious awards including:

- Australian Rural Consultant of the Year, 2018
- Pearcey ICT Entrepreneur of the Year (QLD), 2019
- Innovation and Technology Award (Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce), 2021

He is the co-founder of DataFarming, a digital agriculture platform which services over 30,000 farms across 50 countries with satellite imagery every 5 days. The platforms are adopted across the world and are used, and backed by, some of the largest agricultural companies in the world.

He has managed over 30 Industry Research Development and Extension projects for a broad spectrum of clients in grains, horticulture, cotton, viticulture, sugarcane, turf, and tree crops.

Tim served on the CRCSI Board (program 4), Society for Precision Ag Australia (SPAA) Committee, the National Positioning Infrastructure (NPI) advisory board, and is a foundational member of AusAgTech. He has delivered presentations to over 40 conferences including the first PA conference in South Africa and the World Congress on Conservation Agriculture in Canada.

Matt Norton in his letter of support for Tim's nomination said:

"I have the pleasure of having watched Tim's work since the inception of DataFarming in 2017. I see daily, the unbelievable outcomes he is achieving for agriculture and ag tech. Tim is widely regarded within agriculture as one of the leading voices fighting for the successful development and adoption of simple, easy to use technology. The data and technology available within agriculture is endless, yet the interpretation and application of this data to the farm-level decision-making processes is less common."

"Tim's early career experience as an extension agronomist means he has an intrinsic understanding of farmers and agronomists. This has allowed him to perfectly tailor his ag tech for maximum adoption and ease of use. Tim is trusted. His opinions are regularly sought by industry bodies and media outlets to make sure they get accurate, unbiased, and honest insight into agriculture and ag tech in Australia."



# Back to College Weekend 2022 photos



Catching up with friends at the UQ Gatton Walkway Café



The group of 1962



Foodies from the ages



The group of 1972



The group of 1967



The group of 1977



The group of 1982



1982 group at Reunion Dinner





# In Memoriam

## Jim Kearnan

### 1937-2022

Since 1855, Stock Inspectors have been the mainstay behind Queensland's animal health system. We were saddened to hear that a true legend amongst this group passed away on 23 February 2022. Jim Kearnan was a 'larger than life' character who was extremely influential, committed to his chosen field and incredibly generous with his time and friendship. His unique sense of humour made spending time with Jim one of life's pleasures.

Jim was born on 20 June 1937 in Taroom. The eldest of four, he attended school in Taroom before going to Gatton Agricultural College for Junior studies and further education. He graduated with a Diploma in Animal Husbandry in 1956. Jim was very athletic and competed in athletics, boxing, cricket, tennis and rugby. His college Honour Blazer, emblazoned with sporting achievements, is now in our Museum.

His first posting as a Stock Inspector, with the then Department of Agriculture and Stock, was Toowoomba. He transferred to Roma in 1958, where he met his future wife Margaret, Mt Isa/Lake Nash (1959), a short stint in Brisbane before being posted to Laidley in 1961.

Cattle ticks resistant to all then available chemicals were discovered in the Brisbane Valley in the mid 1960s. To prevent this 'Biarra' strain of tick from spreading, a stringent eradication program was implemented, which was established and supervised by Jim. He spent lengthy periods away from home at Toogoolawah, Beaudesert and Esk supervising up to a dozen staff.

Further discoveries of resistant ticks throughout Southeast Queensland saw Jim appointed as specialist extension officer in 1968. He worked with researchers from CSIRO to develop appropriate tick control programs, which he disseminated to producers through a variety of extension methods. At the Brisbane Exhibition, Jim supervised the movement of all livestock and used this opportunity to liaise with producers.

Jim was subsequently appointed as Manager, Cattle Tick Program for the State overseeing the movement of stock between the tick infected and free areas, which often lead to disputes. Jim's exceptional interpersonal skills excelled in resolving these issues. Jim was also the Queensland representative on the NSW Cattle Tick Advisory Committee.

In 1979, Jim transferred to Brisbane as head stock inspector and in 1989, was appointed Executive Officer for Veterinary Services Branch. In this latter role, Jim had a variety of duties, including assisting with strategic planning, which was vital as the tuberculosis eradication campaign wound down. However,



throughout this time he is best remembered for his guidance and wisdom in personnel management. He was confidant, mentor and father figure to a generation of stock inspectors.

A key attribute that endeared Jim to people across the agricultural industries was his unique sense of humour. There were myriad stories about, created or told by Jim. His humour was always gentle and his beloved practical jokes were never hurtful or belittling. The stories were generally characterised by Jim starting to giggle well before the punchline arrived.

Jim retired in December 1992, with one of the largest gatherings the Department had seen, moved to Caloundra and later Highfields where he continued his private loves of growing veges, cooking, wine appreciation and entertaining friends and ex-colleagues. He also loved British history and travel.

## Gone, but not forgotten...

### **ATKINSON, Ronald Ian**

QCAH 1968.  
President of QAC Union, 1968. Pitt.  
1st XV 1967-68. Capt. 1968.  
1st XI 1967-68.  
1968 : Tennis Singles Champion.  
1968 : Sportsman of the Year.  
Ron passed away 22 November 2022.

### **DOUGLAS, Diana Constance (née MORTON)**

Appointed Biological Sciences Laboratory Assistant in January 1959, and resigned in 1962. She maintained a strong relationship with the Past Students' Association and was the long suffering Secretary of our Gold Coast Branch, attending each of the first 38 Reunions. Wife of Peter.  
Diana passed away 20 December 2022.

### **EDWARDS, Russel**

QCAH 1977.  
He had a varied career, from Head Stockman in the Northern Territory to Lecturer at the

Katherine Rural College as well as a Ranger with National Parks in Cape York. Russel passed away 1 October 2022.

### **HUTSON, Kenneth James**

QDA 1956.  
1956: A1 2nds Tennis.  
1955: A Grade 2nds Tennis. Intercollegiate Tennis.  
1954: A2 2nds Tennis.  
After College, he was a Jackaroo on a number of cattle properties followed by a short stint as a Land Ranger with the Lands Department. In 1964 he bought a small cattle property at Eidsvold, fattening store cattle. He spent 1 1/2 terms on the Eidsvold Shire Council.  
Ken passed away 18 June 2022.

### **KEENAN, David M**

RDA, BVSc, PhD.  
Appointed Senior Lecturer in Animal Physiology on 18 January 1971, retiring 23 years later in 1994.  
Dave passed away 29 November 2022.

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

Emily Dickinson

### **KIPPEN, Melville Keith**

QCA 1972.  
QAC(SMI) 1973.  
On leaving College, he joined DPI as a Meat Inspector, serving his time at Bremer River, Townsville, Kilcoy, Beenleigh and Brisbane abattoirs.  
Later in his career he redeployed to the DPI Library, receiving an Australia Day Award for his outstanding contribution to Queensland primary industry.  
Melville passed away 2 November 2022.

### **PALMAS, Antonino "Tony"**

Tony passed away 11 November 2022.

### **WHYBIRD, Glenda Kaye (née McMAHON)**

BBus 1977.  
Glenda passed away 18 January 2023.



# Museum report

October to December 2022 proved to be a very busy time for the Museum. Many enquiries were received since the last issue of *Re-Connect* requesting information on relatives who had been past students or members of staff. The first few months of 2023 have been equally as busy.

The shortage of volunteers to help with manning the Museum on a regular basis is ongoing. Every effort will be made again this year to open the Museum when a visit is requested. A phone call or an email to the UQG Past Students' Association will be passed on to volunteers who will try to arrange suitable dates and times.

Dr Madeleine Hamon (photo below) visited the Museum during the 2022 BTC Weekend to view the display cases housing her father's Photo, College Blazer, Scarf and Cap.

Walter Philip Hamon QDD 1927, QDA 1928, BAgSc was the Foundation Chairman of the QAC Council 1971 until his untimely death on 5 July 1973. He was also President of the Past Students' Association (previously Gatton College Old Boys' Association) - a position he held for some 27 consecutive years (QAC Annual Report 1973 Page 3).



Visitors to the Museum, researching family history.

## Donations

### Photos

**Jim Kochi** – renovations to rooms under Morrison Hall and wagon displays at Foundation Days 1970's.

**Dr Madeleine Hamon** photo of Hamon family at opening of the Hamon Centre 24 November 1979.

**Mrs Ian Doyle** Photo Album and Magazines 1944-1948.

### Books

**Dale Turnbull** Army History Unit, *Vets at War – A History of the Australian Army Veterinary Corps 1909-1946*, Ian M. Parsonson and *Forgotten Men – The Australian Army Veterinary Corps 1909-1946*, Michael Tyquin.

### Other items

**Tony Heading** Underwater Club Sweatshirt.  
**John Connell** 1966 Diploma Dinner Menu.  
**Frank Natoli** Article on Hockey at QAC.

Many thanks to everyone who donated items to the museum. These donations are very much appreciated and add interest to the memorabilia collection. Supplying dates and names for photos would also be helpful.

### Julie Reid

Museum Volunteer

E gattonpsamuseum@uq.edu.au

## Welcome to new members

Rosemary Jane **McMahon (Plaistead)**  
 BAppSc(RT) 1984

Jeffery Bruce **McMahon**  
 DipAppSc(HT) 1982  
 BAppSc(HT) 1983

Christopher Robert **Head**  
 AssocDip(RT) 1983

# Branch reunions

BRANCH	VENUE	DATE	TIME	CONTACT
<b>2023</b>				
<b>Bundaberg</b>	Venue to be confirmed	<b>Tentative 8 July 2023</b>	To be advised	Kim Jorgensen M 0438 130 963 gattonpaststudents@uq.edu.au
<b>Rockhampton</b>	Venue to be confirmed	<b>Tentative 9 July 2023</b>	To be advised	Kim Jorgensen
<b>Gold Coast</b>	Labrador AFL Sports Club, Ashton Street, Labrador	<b>Saturday, 29 July 2023</b>	11 am for 12 noon lunch	Peter Douglas (07) 5546 6350 koalamen@bigpond.com
<b>Townsville</b>	Venue to be confirmed	<b>August 2023</b>	To be advised	Kim Jorgensen
<b>BACK TO COLLEGE WEEKEND</b>		<b>1-3 December 2023</b>		Link will be provided closer to the date

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

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### Do we have your email address?

If you are receiving a hard copy of this *Re-Connect*, it means we do not have your email address. We prefer PDF send-out as printing/postage is expensive.

Email: [gattonpaststudents@uq.edu.au](mailto:gattonpaststudents@uq.edu.au)



### 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 or send us the original photograph, preferably with captions. We can return original photographs if required.

Layout by Alice Schwarz Brunold  
Graphic Design, March 2023

## GOLD COAST REUNION

Our 39th Reunion Lunch was held at the Labrador Sports Club on Saturday, 4 February, with 36 attending and 16 apologies. It was a significant occasion, as it was 20 years ago on 16 February 2003 that 42 Past Students and guests sat down at Food Fantasy, Jupiter's Casino for our first Reunion. Of those 42, 11 were present at the 39th.

Special guests included Association President Mark, Past Association President Bob James together with our 2018 Distinguished Past Student, Don Oxenham and his wife Denise and 2011 Distinguished Past Student Ray O'Grady and his wife Moya. A warm welcome was extended to First Timer, Peter Jacobsen. We

The Committee and members wish to express their heartfelt condolences to Peter and family on the passing of his wife Diana. She was an invaluable member of our Association and will be sorely missed.

were honoured to have Frank Grigg as a guest of Dick Schoorl. Frank received a mention in the last issue of *ReConnect*, being the son of Russell Grigg, who was Senior Prefect at the College in 1928, first Thynne House Captain and was killed in a bombing raid over New Britain in 1943.

Mention was made of the absence of our Branch Secretary, Diana Douglas, this being the first Reunion she had missed. May you Rest In Peace.

Association President Mark spoke on the present position of the Association, the Scholarship Fund and the unknown future of the PSA Museum. President Peter presented Mark with a cheque for \$500 from the Gold Coast Branch as a donation towards the Scholarship Fund.

**Peter Douglas**

## Introducing Ian Buck



Ian Buck is currently an independent Freelance Agribusiness Supply & Value Chain consultant. He has recently joined our Management Committee.

Ian has a whole of life involvement in the Private Sector, covering Agribusiness

and SME's, from on farm operations, to Senior Executive Corporate Agribusiness Banking and Finance roles in Australia and the Pacific Region, where he has in excess of 10 years lived in-country experience.

Ian was raised on the family farm at Beerburum in the Glasshouse Mountains region, and attended QAC from 1966 through to 1969. This period at QAC instilled in Ian a passion for agriculture, however, unbeknown to him back then, his journey would take him along several career paths, all connected to agribusiness.

On leaving QAC, and following his passion to working in the beef sector, Ian gained employment as a Jackeroo in the Roma district. He later managed his family farm for several years, following which he attended the University of Queensland, St Lucia, to study for a Bachelor of Agricultural Science Degree. On gaining his degree, majoring in animal production, he was engaged as an extension officer with the Qld DPI, based at the Qld Wheat Research Institute in Toowoomba.

An opportunity to work in rural project management on private sector development projects, saw him contracted as Cattle Development Officer working on an Asian Development Bank funded project for the Western Province of the Solomon Islands, for 3.5 years, and followed this with a further 3 years as

National Livestock Development Specialist based in Honiara, Solomon Islands. While working in the Solomons, Ian undertook post-graduate studies in Agricultural Economics at the University of New England, which he completed in 1985.

On his return to Australia, he was employed under contract by Westpac as National Rural Adviser during a period of significant socio-economic stress in farming, as a result of high interest rates, drought and falling land values. This was a pilot role with the bank to try to prevent receivers being called in to take possession of properties. He received a national Westpac Innovation award for this work in developing risk management performance indicators for lending to the rural sector. Ian was offered permanent employment with Westpac, which led to what he refers as his accidental career in the banking sector as an agribusiness specialist, and a 16-year career progressing to State Manager Agribusiness for Qld and NT.

His interest in agriculture as a serious business, led to further study. A Diploma from the Australian Institute of Company Directors followed. During his banking career he held many external roles with industry bodies, including 9 years as director of Brian Pastures and Belmont Research Station. Ian became an advocate for succession planning for farming families, which led to a change in career and 9 years as a Senior Financial Consultant, specialising in providing tailored specialist advice to rural and regional clients.

He commenced private consulting in 2012 and provides a diverse range of services to the Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) sector.

Ian credits QAC for instilling in him the desire and ability to work in a wide range of agribusiness sectors, and proudly incorporates the QAC motto 'Science with Practice' in his professional capacity.