

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 2023

Friday 1 to Sunday 3 December 2023

Info see page 4

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Historic signing of a Memorandum of Understanding

On 25 July 2023 the UQ Gatton Past Students' Association and the University of Queensland signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) for the first time.

The MOU between The University of Queensland and the UQ Gatton Past Students' Association (UQGPSA) reflects a valued friendship and the promise of goodwill and collaboration into the future.

This MOU has been under discussion and review since 2017 and it was very pleasing to finally have the document agreed to and signed off.

The event was celebrated in the Foundation Building and was attended by several dignitaries from UQ as well as the available members of our Management Committee. The signatories were Mark Pace, President UQGPSA and Ms Jennifer Karlson, Vice-President (UQ Advancement and Community Engagement). Following the signing all in attendance enjoyed a celebratory lunch.

What is a MOU?

A *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) is a document that allows each party to clearly state their



Jennifer Karlson and Mark Pace signing the MOU.

objectives and what they expect from one another. An MOU is often the first step toward a formal agreement via a binding contract.

MOUs are simpler and more flexible than contracts. While MOUs are technically legally binding, they are considered as a tool to facilitate partnership and ensure a smooth working relationship between two organisations.



UQ dignitaries and UQGPSA Management Committee members at the signing event at the Gatton Campus Foundation Building.

President's Report



The last few months have certainly been a time of activity for our Association.

Our SGM was held on the 26 August at the Gatton Campus Main Lecture Theatre.

I am pleased to advise that our Constitution and Patron Policy was resoundingly voted in favour of and will be adopted for our Association. I thank all members who have taken their time to vote, either by proxy or to attend in person or via Zoom.

We are pleased to announce that the recipient for our Scholarship in 2023 has been selected (see separate article). We hope to invite Emily to our next Committee meeting to formally pass on our congratulations. Similarly, our Gatton Gold Medal recipient for 2023 has been selected and will be awarded in October at the *Courting the Greats* event. At the time of writing to you, the announcement has

not been released, however, as always, the recipient is again a most noteworthy and inspirational individual.

To assist the strategic planning for the future of our Association, we are arranging an internal limited meeting to identify key factors which require our investment and attention. Once this has taken place around October 2023, we will extend the forum for a wider engagement with members and stakeholders to achieve an inclusive agenda which will map out our future initiatives and strategic goals. This is expected to take place around April 2024 and we will keep you all informed.

Discussions and negotiations for our planned 80th Celebration of the American acquisition of our Campus as a Military Hospital by the US Army Medical Corps (153rd) from 1942 to 1944 continues and we will keep you informed of how planning and developments are progressing. We anticipate to celebrate around July 2024.

Whilst we are on the historical topics, one item that consistently is raised within our Association is the need to secure a new

and purpose-built Museum. I would like to mention that your Management Committee will commence discussions with UQ to seek the establishment of a new *Fund Raising Initiative*, to secure funds and investments towards building a new Museum in the future to secure our history, heritage and artifacts collection.

On a final note, and one that brings a real celebration to the Campus, our *Back to College Weekend* (BTCW) planning is in full swing. December is rapidly approaching and I would like to remind you all to contact your old College class groups and join us to celebrate this important event once again. The registration process will be live by the time you read this so please don't hesitate to register for the 2023 BTCW.

With best regards,

Mark Pace

President

UQ Gatton Past Students' Association Inc.

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USA Military Hospital – 80 year Anniversary



Overlooking the first detachment tent area on the site of Tom Graham oval, 1943.



Hospital ward Christmas decorations, Shelton Dormitory.

Our campus has played an enormous role in services to the military, through our past students and staff, to training for repatriation, to outstanding services in the Army Reserve and in army careers with several high ranking members.

From July 1942 to July 1944, the 105th General Hospital, representing Harvard University in the South-west Pacific Area, arrived on the campus, with Harvard trained doctors, nurses, allied hospital staff and their military, in a tent city. Their trip to Australia was under very difficult conditions, with ages ranging from as young as 18 years to 42 years, halfway across the World and a very long distance from their homes and families.

The takeover of QAHS&C by the USA military, 153rd Division, under command of General Douglas MacArthur, occurred on the 14th March, 1942. On one day's notice, March 14th 1942, the entry and evacuation of all campus staff, occupants and students was conducted. A poster that shows this day of occupation is held in our museum.

Noted, the USA military took hours, days and weeks to complete rapid and co-operative conversion of Campus buildings to hospitals, surgeries, treatment facilities and housing a tent city. They left a legacy and footprint of infrastructure completed, from roads, a sewage system to numerous buildings to support hospital treatments

as well as accommodation. This was a huge venture, numbering 3,000 USA army personnel, living within the bounds of our Campus, with the treatment of upwards of 19,000 war casualties, suffering physical wounds, tropical diseases and post-traumatic stress.

2024 has been chosen as a commemorative year for remembering this important relationship between Australia and the USA as allies, in WW2. Stay tuned for details of the commemoration activities as they unfold.

UQ GPSA Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to the UQ Gatton Past Students' Association Scholarship Winner, Emily Menger.

Emily is currently studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Honours) and is in her second year.

She has sent us this message:

Thank you so much for your generosity. I am very grateful for receiving the UQ Gatton Past Students' Association Scholarship.

This scholarship will help me focus entirely on my studies without financial pressure distracting me. Being unemployed and supporting myself through university has been quite stressful, and this scholarship will allow me to approach my studies with a clear head.

My career goal in life is to give back to the rural/regional community I was raised and communities like it. I believe my first-hand knowledge of how these communities struggle, from a lack of resources to understaffing and budget issues, will enable me and the community to thrive.

I'm in the second year of my course and on top of learning about my passion in life, animals, I've also learned life skills like how to organise my time optimally, talk with professional colleagues, and be independent.

I am loving my time at university and can't wait for future years to come. I believe with this scholarship, I'll be able to take advantage of all opportunities, both academically and socially, without financial stresses preventing me from taking them. Thank you.

Emily Menger



Emily Menger

A note of introduction from Susan Frost Director Gatton Campus



My arrival into the role of Director – Gatton Campus has been quite the whirlwind! I have been warmly welcomed by the Gatton Campus Community and being a past student makes a

big difference when building relationships with colleagues and stakeholders from across the Campus and the broader community.

The campus has changed in so many great ways and also still protects the valuable

contributions and legacy of our past students and staff. I have toured many of the facilities on site in my first 3 months, whilst also hosting a number of VIPs and international guests on campus. There have been so many important events and I have also had the opportunity to meet with a number of past students and attend a UQGPSA committee meeting as a guest following a meal shared in the dining hall.

Some of the great events to date include the Launch of the School of the Environment and the School of Agriculture and Food Sustainability, following a redistribution of the Schools, which now marks a third School on campus. I attended the Darling

Downs and South West Region Training Awards where UQ Skills employee, Craig Jones took out the Trainer of the Year. He will now attend the State Finals in Brisbane in September.

A function of my role is to oversee the management of our Animal and Cropping Units and their work enabling research and teaching, and I feel quite proud to see how they contribute to great outcomes.

I look forward to continuing to get to know our community and in September we will launch a new digital Campus wide newsletter to support the building of these connections.



Susan Frost at the Darling Downs and South West Region Training Awards, with Craig Jones from UQ Skills awarded Trainer of the Year.



Celebrating the launch of the UQ School of the Environment and the School of Agriculture and Food Sustainability.

Back to College Weekend, 1-3 December 2023

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

Our weekend is not limited to Feature Years and this year there will be gatherings of **early 1970s** and a marking of **60 years since Hockey began on campus**. There may be more and we will let you know as we become aware of them.

Please note the year groups refer to 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. There will be tours of different parts of the campus. The official dinner will be held in the evening with a quiet day on Sunday morning to recover and say farewells.

A Registration Form will be distributed to members very soon. You can easily sign up through the CVENT system using this link <https://cvent.me/xy54AG>. We encourage you to do this as you get an instant response.

Any enquiries about registration should go direct to the numbers provided on the Registration Form.

Any other enquiries please email gattonpaststudents@uq.edu.au or call/text the Secretary on 0438 130 963.



Catch up with old friends and meet new ones at the Back to College Weekend (photos from last year's gathering).

Feedback from a 1980s graduate who returned for the 1982 (40 year) reunion in 2022.

Coming back to College for reunion weekend brings back so many happy memories, of meeting your closest lifelong friends, hearing your now favourite songs for the first time, and the place where stories are still re-told from so long ago.

By coming to the *Back to College Weekend* you'll be reminded what great, down to earth people you got to spend time with at QAC.

R McMahon

Celebrating '60 Years of Hockey at Gatton Campus' at Back to College Weekend

If you played hockey consider coming to *Back to College Weekend 2023* to thank Frank Natoli for his great support in setting up our Club and catch up with some of your teammates. We will definitely be gathering personal stories before the event and of course College Magazines and photos are found in our Museum.



QAC Hockey Club 1982 A3 Premiers

Back row left to right:
Craig Nebe, Brett Richter,
Kevin Rose

Middle row left to right:
Bill Welch, Craig Althaus,
Alan Barbour, John Robinson,
Damian Jones

Front row left to right:
Danny O'Dempsey,
Ross Ingram, Mark Huntley,
Hugh Wright, Andrew Grams.

Call for nominations for Distinguished Past Student Award



UQ Gatton
Past Students'
Association Inc.

Each year we award up to three Distinguished Past Student Awards to suitable Gatton graduates.

Nominations are to be received by our office by 30 September 2023.

Please use the below link for full details on our website and to download the Nomination Form and guidelines.

<https://gatton.uq.edu.au/alumni/gatton-past-students-association/uqgpsa-distinguished-past-student-award>

Please consider nominating an outstanding person from your year as awards will be presented to the successful nominees at the *Back to College Weekend* in December.

Branch reunions

BRANCH	VENUE	DATE	TIME	CONTACT
2023				
Brisbane	Siam Southbank	Saturday, 14 October 2023	12pm to 3pm	Meals may have to be prepaid. Email invitation will be sent closer to the time. Kim Jorgensen
Townsville	Venue to be confirmed	November		Kim Jorgensen M 0438 130 963 gattonpaststudents@uq.edu.au
BACK TO COLLEGE WEEKEND	Gatton Campus	1-3 December 2023		Link is provided in the article in this edition
2024				
Gold Coast	Labrador AFL Sports Club, Ashton Street, Labrador	Saturday, 3 February 2024	11am for 12 noon lunch	Peter Douglas (07) 5546 6350 koalamen@bigpond.com
Sunshine Coast	The Waves Club Caloundra	Saturday, 2 March 2024	11.30am for 12 noon lunch	Kim Jorgensen

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

Far North Queensland Reunion

It was pleasing to see 17 members attend the latest FNQ Reunion at the Barron Valley Hotel. Good to see the regulars and especially Graham Mallet, who had not attended previously. Kim Jorgensen represented the Management Committee and gave a short update on Association activities including the recent signing of the MOU.

We all acknowledged Sister Collins recent 102 birthday. Michael Nasser was able to speak about his family's grass fed beef production and processing, truly "Paddock to Plate."

The group agreed that a date earlier in the year suited, so this will happen again next year.



From left: Graham Mallet, Robin Hyde, Marcia Hyde.



From left: Michael Nasser, John Hardy, Sharon Robinson, Jim Klein.

Gold Coast Reunion

Our 40th Reunion Lunch on 29 July 2023 was well attended by 31 Past Students and guests. Apologies totalled 17.

Special guests included our Association Patron Graham McClymont, Association Senior Vice President Bruce Birtwell, Treasurer Ross Murray, and Past President Bob James. Distinguished Past Students Don Oxenham (2018) and Graeme Roberts-Thomson OAM (2020) were welcomed along with First Timers in Greg Buck, Bill Hooper, Derek Nissen and Neil Rampton.



From left: Dick Schoorl, Stephen Panitz, Frank Grigg.

Mention was made of the recent passing of Gold Coast Reunion stalwarts, Barry Beil, Barry O'Neill and Bob Middleton. We extend our deepest condolences to their families and friends.

Vice President Bruce gave the meeting an update on the work of the Management Committee and the forthcoming Special General Meeting on 26 August.



From left: Tony Heading, Neil Rampton, Ross Murray.

Museum report

Enquiries continue to be received from relatives of past staff and students seeking information to fill in gaps in family history. Some research by Museum Volunteers is quite time consuming but the information found and forwarded is acknowledged and appreciated. We are always happy to help where possible.

As mentioned previously, the Museum this year, due to lack of Volunteers, has not been opened on a scheduled day but is opened only when a phone call or an email to the UQG Past Students' Association (gatonpaststudents@uq.edu.au) is received and a Volunteer is available on that day or on an arranged mutually convenient day.

Donations

Photos

Tony Newman – Emailed two photos of John Newman and Col Johnston – 1965 at QAC and 2023 meeting accidentally at Gracemere. Not seen each other since 1965. Photos posted on UQGPSA Facebook page.

Books

Damien Barker – 3 copies of his booklet *"Hugh Augustine Courtney. A Queensland Education & Rugby Legend"*. Note: Hugh Courtney, Staff 1943–1953 (English and General Subjects). Hugh Courtney Oval UQG constructed 1959–1960 near swimming pool.

Blazer/Pocket

Carmel Ryan (Moffatt) and Siblings – Blazer EW Moffatt (QDA 1944) and QAHS&C Hat Band.

Derek Nissen: Blazer Pocket Cricket 1964–65–66–67: Hockey 1966–67.

Theoptice

Don Faulkner – 1969 Vol.13 No.6.

Derek Nissen – The very first published copy of Theoptice – **1967 Vol.1 No.1, No.2 and No.3 / Vol.2 No.1 and No.2.**

Other items

Janet Seddon (UQ Gatton Staff) – Male mannequin to be used for display of military uniform. This donation very much appreciated as mannequins difficult to obtain and/or expensive to purchase.

Rob Nielsen – UQ Parker Pen, Dark Blue Coffee Mug (UQ Gatton College).

Derek Nissen – 2 QAC Medals – Pres. QAC Union, Capt. 1st XI DG Nissen 1967/ Capt. 1st Cricket, Capt. 1st Hockey D.G. Nissen 1968.

Kel Freeman – Lockie Rule scrapbook found at Gatton Historical Village. Contains newspaper clippings 1950's, 60's and 70's and QAC and personal photos.

John Hardy – emailed Military History for CCF (Charlie) Bourne QDA 1935, QAHS&C Staff 1936–1967. Will be added to files in Museum.

Required

Photos of Graduation Classes or groups 1970's, 1980's, 1990's, 2000's. Photos may be emailed to Museum. Please include year and names of students in photo.

Julie Reid

Museum Volunteer

E gatonpsamuseum@uq.edu.au

Welcome to new members

Susan Frost
AssocDip(AppSc) 1990

Shane Campbell
BAppSc(RT) 1990

Jim Brown
Junior 1958

Ralph Selwood
BBus(RM) 1977

John Herbertson
QDAH 1963

Graham Chambers
QDAH 1963

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

BAGLEY, Judith (née Roff)

DipBus (Hospitality Management) 1976.
BBus (Hospitality Management) 1977.
Judith passed away 23 March 2023.

BARR, Ian “Frosty”

At College 1954–56. Thynne.
1956: 1st XV, Captain. Darling Downs Rep.
1st XI, Captain. Lockyer Rep.
2nd, Jersey Judging, Gatton Show.
1955: 1st XV, Vice Captain.
Darling Downs XV.
1st XI, Captain.
Athletics. CMF.
1954: 2nd XV. Darling Downs Secondary
Schools Rep.
A1 XI, Captain.
Frosty passed away in July 2023.

BEIL, Barry James

QDA 1956. Pitt.
1956: CMF.
Appointed Assistant Agricultural Officer,
PNG, in October 1957. Early postings were
Talligap and Manum and Karkar Islands.
In 1969, he was posted to Mt. Hagen as
District Rural Development Officer with
responsibilities for coffee, tea, pyrethrum
and cattle. In 1971, Barry was promoted
to Executive Officer of the PNG Coffee
Marketing Board, holding this position until
the end of 1979, when he and his family
returned to Australia in semi-retirement.
Barry passed away 14 June 2023.

BOSTOCK, Graham Robert Dundee “Snow”

QDA 1956. At College 1952–56.
1954: CMF
Attended Lincoln College in NZ, gaining a
DipAg Eng in 1957. In 1960 he was awarded
a BSc (Geology) from Canterbury University
and studied at Christchurch Teachers
College for 2 years. Returned to Australia
in 1966. Snow claimed that he had tried his
hand as a horse breaker, kangaroo shooter,
brick layer, ringer, bus driver, “garbo”, miner
and film star.
Snow’s passing was reported to the PSA in
August 2023.

BUCHANAN, Roderick Thompson

At College 1949–51.
1951: Senior Cadets.
1950: Senior Cadets.
Rod passed away 16 January 2021.

CARSTENS, Ian Warner

QDA 1959. At College 1957–59. Riddell.
1959: Won Tractor Ploughing, Ag Day
Sports.
3rd Post Hole Sinking.
Ian’s funeral was held 2 June 2023.

COLLYER, David Noel

QDAH 1966. Pitt.
1966: 1st XV.
1965: 1st XV.
Commenced Veterinary Science course in
1971, leaving UQ with a BVSc (Hons) in 1975.
Held various positions with NT Government
and Tancred Bros. In 1984, he established
his private practice in Hughenden. After
35 years, running the practice and his own
cattle properties, he retired.
Dave passed away 22 July 2023.

DARROW, Robin James Alexander

First Year Diploma student 1951. Short
Course in Horticulture 1952.
1952: CMF.
Robin passed away 2 July 2023.

DOUGLAS, Neville John

QDA 1951. At College 1950–51.
1951: 2nd XV: B2 XI: Corporal in Senior
Cadets.
1950: A2 XI: Senior Cadets.
Most of his working life was with the DPI
stationed on the Darling Downs.
Neville passed away 22 April 2023.

FRANKS, William Harry

QDH 1949. At College 1946–49.
Bill passed away 14 July 2020.

KERR, John Campbell

QDA 1954. At College 1952–53.
1953: A2 Tennis: A2 XI : CMF.
1952: B2 Tennis: B2 XI.
For many years he operated an Agricultural
Consultancy on the North Coast.
John was the victim of a fatal accident at
Noosa Heads on 18 June 2023.

LAIDLAW, Kenneth

QDA 1949. At College 1948–49.
The PSA were notified on 10 March 2023 of
Ken’s passing.

LINNAN, Josephine “Josey”

Many of our older members will fondly
remember Josey, a member of the Domestic
Staff from the mid 40s. She spent the better
part of 50 years looking after our culinary
requirements.
Josephine turned 100 on 28 June 2023 and
sadly passed away on 8 July 2023.

McKEE, Kenneth

BAppSc(RT) 1985.
Ken passed away 13 March 2023.

MIDDLETON, Robert James “Bookie”

QDAH 1960. At College 1956–60.
1960: 1st XV.
Bob’s funeral was held 29 June 2023.

O’NEILL, Barry Francis

QDAH 1957. At College 1950–51, 1955–57.
Riddell House Captain 1957. Prefect 1956–57.
1957: 1st XI: A2 Tennis – Captain: Won Open
Sheaf Tossing, Ag Sports.
CMF: qualified for commissioned rank, being
the first student to do so since 1939.
1956: 1st XI: A2 1sts Tennis.
CMF: Corporal.
1955: 1st XI: A2 Tennis: CMF.
1950–51: Senior Cadets.
College staff January 1958 to May 1960. He
spent many years in the Ag Bank.
Barry passed away 12 April 2023.

PURSER, Francis John

QDA 1948. At College 1945–48. Shelton.
1948: 2nd XV: B Grade No.1 XI.
1947: 2nd XI.
He spent most of his working life with
the DPI, with many years at the Wacol AI
Centre.
Francis passed away 13 December 2022.

PURSER, John Charles

QCAg 1969. DipAppSc(RT) 1973.
BAppSc(RT) 1974.
John passed away 29 March 2023.

WATERS, Terrence David

AssocDip(SMI) 1986.
Terry passed away 4 April 2023.

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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



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, September 2023

In Memoriam Barry James Beil

23 January 1938 – 14 June 2023



Barry Beil was born in Kingaroy and grew up on a farm just outside Kumbia at the foothills of the Bunya Mountains.

In 1954 he commenced a three year Diploma in Agriculture at Gatton Agricultural College. These were formative years which he enjoyed and during which he made lifelong friends, including Frank Brown, John Littlewood and Bruce Burrows.

After graduating, Barry made an application in February 1957 for the position of Assistant Agricultural Officer in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea (as it was then known). He was successful and departed for PNG on 4 October 1957.

Barry's first posting was at Taliligap, then Manam Island and then Karkar Island (off Madang) where he worked as an agricultural extension officer (didiman) with the local people, who were being encouraged to develop a cash economy by expanding cocoa and coconut plantings.

From 1962 to 1968 Barry was posted to the Marketing Section of Headquarters at Konedobu in Port Moresby. During this time he married Beverly Seeto. They had two sons, Stuart and Tim.

In 1969 Barry was posted to Mount Hagen as District Rural Development Officer in charge of the Western Highlands with responsibilities for coffee, tea, pyrethrum and cattle. In February 1971, Barry was promoted to the position of Executive Officer of the PNG Coffee Marketing Board. He oversaw the stable governance, operation and significant growth of the PNG coffee industry to become one of PNG's largest export earners.

The industry provided work and income for hundreds of thousands of local small farmers as well as larger plantation owners. It raised their standard of living and contributed immensely to the economy of PNG. He remained in this position until late 1979 when he and his family moved back to Australia to settle in the Redlands where he 'semi-retired' as a small crops farmer growing snow peas, sweet potato and taro. In his latter years Barry and Beverley enjoyed traveling around Australia and overseas.

Agriculture has always been a central part of Barry's life and his time at Gatton was a profound experience that shaped the rest of his life.

The Coffee Industry Corporation LTD issued a condolence message in the Papua New Guinea Post Courier on 28 June 2023 on behalf of the PNG Coffee Industry. Below is an excerpt:

It is with great sadness that we bring to the notice of all stakeholders across the PNG coffee industry the passing of pioneer Executive Officer Barry Beil.

We shall remember and honour his contributions for setting the foundation for coffee industry development by amalgamating all coffee legislations under the Coffee Industry Act (1976) to create the PNGCIB. He introduced the separation of Regulatory Powers and Functions from business operational aspects of the industry through a licensing system which remains to this day. This was further enhanced through adoption of the Coffee Industry Corporation (Statutory Powers and Functions Act 1991).

Barry Beil was a silent achiever of his time and we shall remember his contributions in the unique landmark design of the CIC headquarters building that still stands in Goroka today.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.



Barry Beil at Gatton College in 1956.