John Mahon's previous experience commenced in 1879 when appointed Assistant in the first butter factory in Victoria. Six months later he was appointed Assistant in the Veterinary School in Sydney for the next 11 years.

During his tenure he introduced special courses for those students not wanting to undertake the three year Diploma course, adopted fees for part of his work, and introduced fees for the completed Diploma in 1903. Short courses in Dairy Manufacturing began in 1904 and External Examinations were used to test student assessment. Mahon has been called a 'father' of the butter industry and 'the father of modern butter manufacture in Australia'.

John Mahon died suddenly in 1911 and is buried at the Lidell Cemetery.

The John Mahon Food Studies Complex is named in his honour.

After the death of Mahon in 1911, Harold Goulding became Acting Principal until January 1913 when John Brown was appointed as the third Principal.

John Brown graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Glasgow University in Scotland in 1907. He held positions in New Zealand and South Australia before arriving at Gatton.

Cuthbert Potts graduated with an Arts Degree from Sydney University in 1898 and studied further as a Mining Engineer for another two years. He lectured at Hawkesbury Agricultural College in Chemistry and Physics from 1892-1903 before being appointed as the fourth Principal at Gatton in 1913.

He introduced scientific courses and stressed the importance of theoretical teaching of the principles of agriculture. He was also instrumental in providing short courses for returned soldiers after World War I.

From 1922-21 he was associated with the incorporation of the Agricultural High School into the College structure. This occurred in September 1923.

Cuthbert Potts retired in 1923.

In 1916 he donated a silver cup for the Senior Champion Athlete at the Annual Sports Day Competition. This beautiful trophy is now on display at the UQ Gatton Past Students Association Heritage Collection.

In recognition of his services to education, he was made a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1978.

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