

# Further education – it isn't what it used to be !

by John A Taylor, Rangelands Australia, University of Queensland Gatton Campus, Gatton Qld

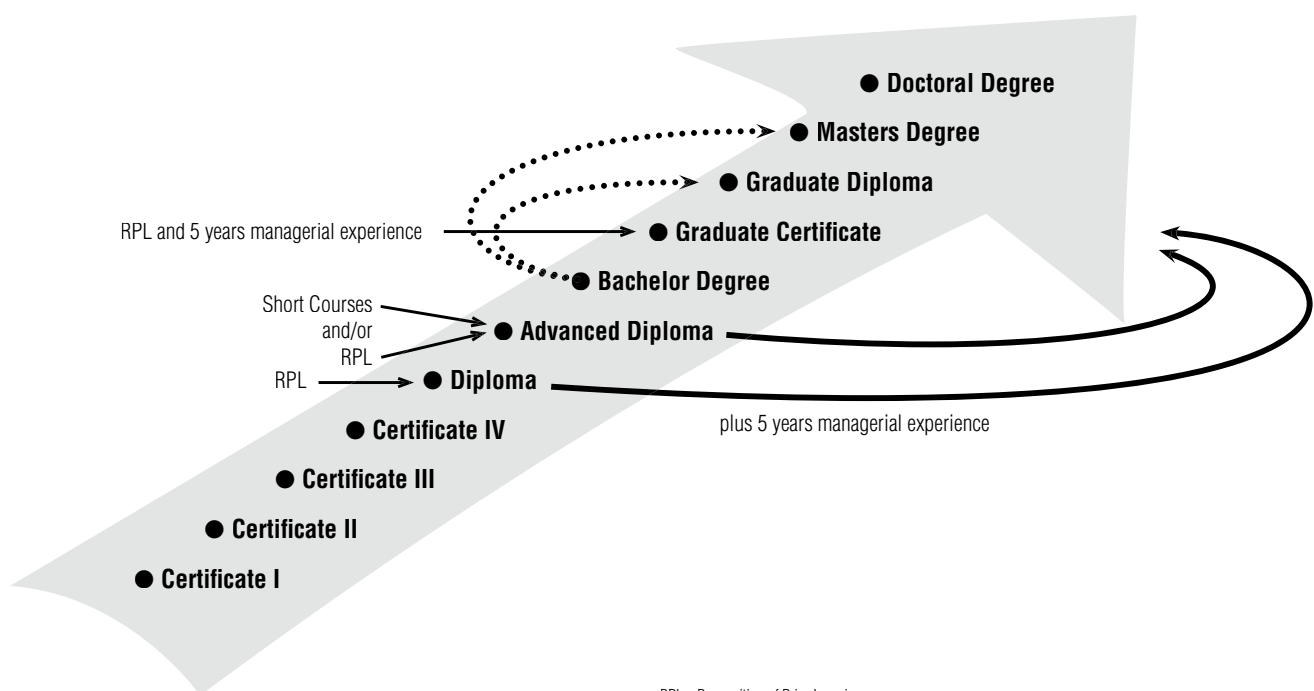
Years ago, most formal education was done in a classroom or lecture theatre, and people gained qualifications by completing the requirements for one level before progressing to the next. This learning pathway is often shown as a linear sequence from a Certificate I, through various levels, up to a Doctorate (see figure below). The pathway highlights the link between Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Higher Education (HEd) and the opportunities for further education that this link presents.

Today, you can learn in many ways (e.g. face-to-face, with peers, on-line), qualifications are increasingly important, and there is much more flexibility in the point where you enter or the route you take to move along the Learning Pathway (see figure below). For example, through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL),

it is possible to gain a Certificate or Diploma without actually completing a taught course/program through a TAFE or Agricultural College. This happens when the training system recognizes the skills and knowledge you have gained through work experience and life experience, and credits you with educational qualifications matching those skills. Short courses may also be considered in RPL, such as MLA's EDGENetwork or Rangelands Australia-developed courses, where the course outcomes have been mapped across the competencies in various rural training packages.

However, for mature-aged people who have VET-level awards (either taught or by RPL) and are interested in moving further along the pathway, the step – 'Bachelor degree' – can be a huge practical and psychological barrier, and especially if it requires leaving home and committing to 3–4 years full-time or 6–8 years part-time study.

## Learning Pathways



'Further education – it isn't what it used to be' continued from page 5

It is now possible to circumvent the 'Bachelor degree' step and gain entry to a postgraduate program by coursework (e.g. Graduate Certificate), using RPL, if you have several years of managerial-level experience (see figure on page 5). Such new pathways for entry into Postgraduate coursework programs open up opportunities for further education that you may never have thought of or thought were impossible. Furthermore, you can do a postgraduate coursework program from home by distance education. You can also study part-time, which means that you don't have to give up your 'day job', and can still enjoy a high quality learning experience as you are guided by experienced facilitators and stimulated by interactions with practical people also living and studying in pastoral regions across Australia.

So, it's pretty clear that education today isn't what it used to be, and living in remote areas is no longer a barrier to learning for better management decisions,

better understanding of the current and emerging issues influencing you and your enterprise, and a more profitable and sustainable pastoral enterprise.

For more information on postgraduate-level courses, RPL, enrolment, etc contact Rangelands Australia ([rangelands@uqg.uq.edu.au](mailto:rangelands@uqg.uq.edu.au)) for an information pack or visit our website ([www.rangelands-australia.com.au](http://www.rangelands-australia.com.au)).

## Learning for a future in the rangelands

- **Considering further study?**
- **Seeking solutions to current and emerging issues?**
- **Looking for relevant, practical and up-to-date courses?**
- **Want to study from home, guided by experienced facilitators and stimulated by interactions with people in different parts of Australia's rangelands?**

### Contact Rangelands Australia to find out about...

- Getting into further study, including recognition of prior learning and new pathways for entry
- New, rangeland-specific short courses and postgraduate courses
- Qualifications from The University of Queensland

To find out more phone (07) 5460 1660,  
email [rangelands@uqg.uq.edu.au](mailto:rangelands@uqg.uq.edu.au) or visit  
[www.rangelands-australia.com.au](http://www.rangelands-australia.com.au)

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