



GRADUATE

# contact

## FAREWELL TO 'TEAM HAY'

End of an era at UQ

### Brainpower boost

\$63m home for research institute

### Left-behind children found

New Star shines on China's street kids





# Horizons widened here

**At The University of Queensland we offer a range of internationally-recognised postgraduate qualifications, so whether you have a passion for research or a drive to accelerate your career, we can put you ahead of the field.**

The independent UK Times Higher Education Supplement recently placed UQ in the top 50 universities in the world – the only Queensland university to rank so highly.

UQ offers a huge range of postgraduate scholarships, with approximately \$20 million available for research higher degree candidates in 2008.

We also have the simplest application process for research higher degrees in Australia – you only need to complete one form and you can apply on any day of the year.

If you would like personalised advice on our postgraduate coursework programs call + 61 7 3365 2203 or visit [www.uq.edu.au/postgraduate](http://www.uq.edu.au/postgraduate)

Applications for our postgraduate coursework programs for first semester close **31 January 2008**.\*

If you are interested in a Master of Philosophy or Doctor of Philosophy please call +61 (7) 3365 7932, email [candidature@research.uq.edu.au](mailto:candidature@research.uq.edu.au) or visit [www.uq.edu.au/grad-school](http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school)

\*Closing dates can vary across faculties and schools.  
Applicants should check with Admissions on + 61 7 3365 2203.

## + FROM THE CHANCELLOR

When I take stock of the many reasons why I feel privileged to be Chancellor, working with John Hay over the past 12 years sits high on the list.

John has been more than an outstanding Vice-Chancellor and President of UQ. He has been a statesman in higher education nationally and internationally, and has made immeasurable contributions to the many communities which engage with UQ.

As John prepares to retire at the end of the year, he will be the first to assert that legions of people have made UQ great. I have no hesitation in saying that his leadership and strategies have driven the University to unprecedented levels of excellence.

It is no accident that during his tenure this has grown to be the Australian university with more national teaching awards than any other, and a barely-matched record for amassing research funding. Nor is it a coincidence that UQ is at the pinnacle of university research commercialisation, and has a formidable record of attracting philanthropic funding for major infrastructure.

On becoming our Vice-Chancellor, John wasted no time in establishing contacts and networks for UQ's benefit. The most conspicuous successes emanate from his relationships with Chuck Feeney, of The Atlantic Philanthropies, and Peter Beattie, the former Premier of Queensland. John foresaw that UQ could be a significant beneficiary of Mr Beattie's 'Smart State' agenda as well as Mr Feeney's strategic generosity. A suite of world-class research facilities, the UQ Centre and the beautifully converted James and Mary Emelia Mayne Centre (home to the UQ Art Museum), show his foresight was inspired.

It is a great tribute that Professor Hay's Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Greenfield, has been appointed as the next Vice-Chancellor.

A constant throughout the past 12 years has been John's wife, Barbara, who has been a tremendous confidante and has independently contributed much to the life of UQ and our associated communities.

I am sure that readers of *Graduate Contact* will join me in thanking John and Barbara for their years of devotion to UQ, and in wishing them the very best for the future.

Sir Llew Edwards, AC  
Chancellor



## CONTENTS

### + FEATURES

- 04 TRIBUTES TO JOHN HAY**  
Colleagues and friends discuss the legacy of Professor John Hay's 12 years as Vice-Chancellor of the University.
- 12 BRAIN POWERHOUSE**  
The new \$63 million Queensland Brain Institute building at St Lucia is the latest addition to a suite of world-class UQ research centres.
- 18 GAIN FOR GATTON**  
The Federal Government has supported the planned move of the School of Veterinary Science to Gatton.
- 20 NEW STAR SHINES BRIGHTLY**  
A UQ graduate is helping change the lives of China's generation of "left-behind children".
- 23 UNFINISHED SYMPHONY**  
Professor Philip Bracanin is retiring as Head of the School of Music, but the composer says he will barely miss a beat.



### + REGULARS

- 08 STRATEGIC MOVES**  
Professor John Hay reflects on his tenure as Vice-Chancellor.
- 10 CUTTING EDGE**
- 14 CAMPUS NEWS**
- 24 GRADUATE NEWS**
- 32 KEEP IN CONTACT**

### + COVER

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, and wife Barbara Hay, who leave the University at the end of December.

#### GRADUATE CONTACT

is produced by the Office of Marketing and Communications, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Qld 4072, Australia

**Telephone:** (07) 3365 3367

**Email:** b.turner@uq.edu.au

**Editorial Board:** Chair: Jack Lunn (Former Deputy Chair, Queensland Press Pty Ltd)

**Members:** Dr John Desmarchelier (Former General Manager, Sugar Terminals Limited)

Professor Michael Keniger (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic)

Shaun McDonagh (Director, Office of Marketing and Communications)

Carla Boeckman (Director, Office of University Development and Graduate Relations)

Shane Rodgers (Deputy General-Manager, Quest Community Newspapers)

**Editor:** Brad Turner

**Editorial coordinator:** Cameron Pegg

**Designer:** Wendy Oakley, Felicia Chetcuti

**Photographers:** Jeremy Patten, Stewart Gould

**Photographic Librarian:** Diana Lilley

**Advertising:** Tina Hannan (07) 5460 1739

**Printing:** Alpine Offset

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

**Please telephone:** (07) 3346 3907

**Facsimile:** (07) 3346 3901

**Email:** j.stein@uq.edu.au

The international code for dialling Australia is +61.

**www.uq.edu.au**

Material in this publication does not necessarily reflect the policies of The University of Queensland.





The Hay family: (from left) Ben, Barbara, Chris, John and Tim after the Queensland Greats ceremony in June 2007. Daughter Kate was in Melbourne and unable to attend the presentation.

# revolution & evolution

The cluster of new UQ research institutes and their impact on reversing the brain drain of scientific knowledge from Australia are often seen as the most significant legacy of Professor John Hay's 12 years as Vice-Chancellor – although his impact has been far broader, as these tributes from friends, associates and colleagues show.

## Focus and balance

by Professor Paul Greenfield,  
Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and  
Vice-Chancellor Elect

I would summarise John Hay's numerous achievements as UQ Vice-Chancellor under two main themes: focus and balance.

By focus, I mean that John has identified and invested in UQ's areas of proven strength, as well as areas of demonstrated prospective opportunity. The balance has been achieved between excellence in research on the one hand, and excellence in teaching and learning on the other.

In research, the establishment of six internationally-recognised institutes and the exceptional staff and students they have attracted are easily characterised as the epitome of John's achievements; but his impact spreads much more widely, and a culture of recognising and then backing research excellence permeates throughout the seven faculties and six institutes.

Under John's stewardship UQ established Australia's first annual awards for early career researchers, the *UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards*, and then instigated annual awards for outstanding teaching and supervision. These awards are emblematic of his flair for matching a focus on research with a focus on teaching and the learning process.

The key to ensuring that teaching and learning share equal billing with research was the creation of the position of full-time Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).

Since January 2001, this portfolio has complemented the long-standing office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and enabled teaching and learning to be systematically championed from the lecture theatre through to the chancellery. Our innovative and passionate teachers have every reason for confidence that issues of importance to them, such as teaching and learning spaces and materials, rate as priorities at the very top of the University.

Additionally, John's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning (which is

internationally recognised and reflected in his long-term chairmanship of the Carrick Institute) has ensured that UQ's teaching is enriched by its research – and vice versa. He has led a strategy to integrate research with teaching and learning practice, and this has proven absolutely essential to UQ.

Where it has been strategically advantageous, the University has invested many millions of dollars in capital, not only for research and teaching and learning purposes, but also to advance commercialisation, the arts and cultural values. John's relationship with Chuck Feeney of The Atlantic Philanthropies has made a great start to a tradition which had little precedent in Australia, let alone in Queensland. His ability to attract philanthropic and matching funds has become legendary in Australian higher education, government and business circles.

A common thread to UQ's success during the past 12 years is that our Vice-Chancellor has rewarded excellence, and that people who strive for and value excellence have responded positively.



Top left: 1999: Professor Hay and former Queensland Premier Peter Beattie arrive for the opening of the first stage of the Ipswich campus; (top right) 1998: With former Federal Education Minister Tony Abbott when UQ is named University of the Year; (centre) 1996: At the St Lucia campus with students on his first day at UQ; (bottom left) 2003: With the then Federal Education Minister Brendan Nelson at the Queensland Biosciences Precinct opening; (bottom right) 1998: 'High fives' in the Great Court after the University of the Year announcement.

John is often heard to say that he likes to make room for people with ideas. Personal experience allows me to vouch for this. I feel very lucky to be inheriting his legacy.

## Architect of change

by Alisdair McClintock, Director,  
UQ Property and Facilities

**P**rior to John Hay's arrival at UQ in 1996, the architecture at the University was generally determined by functionality and cost.

There was at times little interest in the aesthetic value of a building. Furthermore, a building project was considered in isolation with minimal thought for context or the space between the buildings. At times, only lip service was paid to the Site Development Plan.

When I was employed in 1989, as a project manager, it was Peter O'Gorman from the Department of Architecture, who urged me to consider the space between Molecular Biosciences, Ritchie and Gehrmann buildings.

It was only by extending the site boundaries and the budget allocation to "site works" on the building projects that we managed to achieve something. We carried out a similar covert exercise during the construction of Therapies Anatomy Stage 3.

The recognition and creation of "positive space" became an important issue when Peter O'Gorman and Ron Brown from the Department of Geographical Sciences and Planning were assisting Ross Meakin and me to revise the Site Development Plan in 1995.

They were nervous times as there were plans to build a sports complex, technology transfer park and a conference centre with associated accommodation on various parts of the campus that we felt should be preserved as open space.

Furthermore, we had no idea how our ideas would be received by the incoming Vice-Chancellor.

One of the first things Professor Hay asked me was: "What do you think about building this technology park on that oval?"

# THE JOHN HAY YEARS

## 1996

**JANUARY:** Professor Hay begins appointment as Vice-Chancellor, succeeding Professor Emeritus Brian Wilson.

**JUNE:** Appointed to the Board of Brisbane Grammar School.

**SEPTEMBER:** UQ Senate approves a new seven-faculty academic structure from 1997 after Professor Hay reports to Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards that UQ needs "flatter, leaner, more strategically responsive and effective structures, policies and practices."

**DECEMBER:** Announces plans to develop an Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB) at St Lucia. This will become the first in a series of world-class institutes to be built in Professor Hay's era, with funding from Chuck Feeney's The Atlantic Philanthropies and UQ-leveraged Queensland Government Smart State monies and – in some cases – Australian Government funds. A major collaborative venture with CSIRO was also foreshadowed to complement the IMB proposal.

## 1997

**MARCH:** Commits UQ to membership of *Universitas 21*, a new international consortium of world-class research-intensive comprehensive universities. Only three Australian universities are admitted.

## 1998

**MARCH:** Begins nine-year appointment as Trustee of Queensland Performing Arts.

**JULY:** UQ is named the 1998 Australian University of the Year by the *Good Universities Guide* for outstanding outcomes for graduates. Professor Hay becomes the only Vice-Chancellor to collect the prestigious award twice for his institution. He was Vice-Chancellor of Deakin University when it was named 1995 University of the Year.



## 1999

**JANUARY:** Appointed Chair of National Committee on University Teaching and Staff Development.

**FEBRUARY:** Introduces the Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Grants for Early Career Researchers, providing between \$50,000 and \$100,000 for each recipient.

**MARCH:** Drives the concept for the new Brisbane Institute, of which UQ is the primary sponsor. The public issues forum aims to give Brisbane and Queensland a national centre for independent, non-partisan discussion of public issues.

**AUGUST:** Announces establishment of University of Queensland Foundation Research Excellence Awards to encourage early-career researchers.

**OCTOBER:** UQ Senate unanimously endorses Professor Hay's recommendations on the future of its Gatton campus, focusing on the teaching and research opportunities and challenges in the broad areas of rural industries and communities.

**OCTOBER:** UQ Senate unanimously votes to extend Professor Hay's appointment to December 31, 2007.

**NOVEMBER:** Appointed as inaugural member of the Queensland Innovation Council.

## 2000

**JANUARY:** Appointed Chair of the Australian Universities Teaching Committee.

**JULY:** Welcomes \$10 million State Government funding in addition to \$20 million pledged by UQ for the Sustainable Minerals Institute at St Lucia.

**JUNE:** Invested as National Living Pedagogue by the Swedish Academy for Higher Education.

## 2001

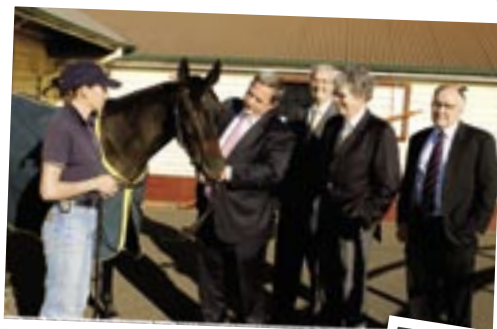
**JANUARY:** Professor Margaret Gardner begins as UQ's first Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic). The creation of this position is part of a strategy which leads to UQ asserting sustained leadership in teaching and learning, dominating measures including the attainment of national teaching awards.

**JANUARY:** Appointed Chair of the Australian Universities Teaching Council.

**JUNE:** Queensland Government announces establishment of a nanotechnology centre of excellence at UQ with \$20 million of public funding (building on \$17.4 million from The Atlantic Philanthropies).

**SEPTEMBER:** Volume 1 of the *Bibliography of Australian Literature* is published. Professor Hay is General Editor of the four-volume record of all Australian novels, plays and books of poetry published in the last 200 years.

**DECEMBER:** Establishment of the Australian Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology at St Lucia is announced.



This page, clockwise from top left:

1999: At the opening of the Equine Precinct at the Gatton campus

2005: In front of the new Sir James Foots Building with ex Premier Peter Beattie, Sir James and Chancellor Sir Lew Edwards

2006: Touring the laboratories in the new Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology building with Mr Beattie

"Not much," I mumbled warily.

Suddenly the Site Development Plan was no longer a document being produced in a backroom and destined to be ignored after publication.

It was John Hay's suggestion that we should present it as a video to the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Senate and the public for comment. We turned to the late Ron Drynan in what was then Media and Information Services for assistance and the film he produced was stunning, capturing everybody's attention resulting in many comments and suggestions.

In 1996, I don't believe any of us, other than Professor Hay, had an inkling of what we were in for during the next 12 years.

The University undertook a capital program like it had never done before. This included the development of a new campus at Ipswich, three major research institutes at St Lucia and a host of other building projects.

Having a vision is one thing, turning it into reality is another. And when it comes to a building program that means generating the capital.

Professor Hay's ability to raise the necessary funds matched the vision. Many of the projects were partially funded by the State Government, through the Smart State Initiative, and by the Federal Government. There was however another individual whose generosity to the University has been staggering. That is the philanthropist, Chuck Feeney of The Atlantic Philanthropies.

I often wonder where the University would be if Jim Soorley, the then Brisbane Lord Mayor, hadn't introduced Professor Hay to Chuck. It has been a busy but wonderful 12 years. It has been due to a man with vision and a loyalty to his colleagues.

I make no excuse for calling them "The Hay Days", as that's what they have been.

## Smart State smarter

by Anna Bligh,  
Queensland Premier

Professor John Hay has led and inspired thousands of inquiring minds during his time as Vice-Chancellor and President and, in doing so, has helped to build the Smart State.

I have been a member of the Queensland Parliament throughout Professor Hay's 12-year tenure and have witnessed his visionary dreams taking shape.

Professor Hay has steered our state's oldest university to greatness.

Under his leadership, UQ was named Australia's University of the Year by the *Good Universities Guide* and has become the nation's most successful university for national teaching awards.

He has overseen the establishment of an impressive number of research centres including the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, the Institute for Molecular Biosciences, the Queensland Brain Institute, the Centre for Clinical Research, the Sustainable Minerals Institute and the Centre for Advanced Animal Science.

For me, the magnitude and long-term significance of Professor Hay's achievements stand out against a backdrop of my personal memories.

So much has changed since I attended The University of Queensland and these changes now help fuel our economy.

Deserving, Professor Hay was awarded a Centenary Medal for contributions to higher education and made a Companion in the Order of Australia.

He is one of Queensland's greatest ambassadors for education and academic advancement and this was recognised by the Queensland Government through his appointment as an official Smart State



This page, clockwise from top left:

2004: The disused Mayne Hall's transformation into the stunning Mayne Centre is complete

2005: Conferred with an honorary doctorate by his *alma mater*, the University of Western Australia

2006: On the new Eleanor Schonell Bridge with wife Barbara and UQ Secretary and Registrar Douglas Porter and wife Janet



Ambassador in 2005 and his naming as a Queensland Great in 2007.

Professor John Hay, I thank you and I commend you for your immense contribution to education, research and innovation in Queensland.

## Two for the price of one

by Douglas Porter,  
UQ Secretary and Registrar

When the Senate Selection Committee convened in mid-1994 to consider the appointment of the University's fifth full-time Vice-Chancellor, the members had a very clear idea of the type of person they were seeking.

The person appointed needed to be of high academic standing and capable of adding new impetus to the University's evolution from a reputable largely regional institution of the late 1970s to one with an emerging research reputation and performance.

Equally vital was appointing a person capable of changing the perception of the University as somewhat of a remote ivory tower disengaged from Brisbane's commercial and industrial community and aloof from the Queensland Government.

The Selection Committee later that year was unanimous that John Hay, then Vice-Chancellor of Deakin University, could achieve those tasks and he took up the appointment on January 1, 1996.

Twelve years on, to say that Senate's faith in the appointment has been repaid in spades would be an underestimation.

Others will no doubt catalogue John's achievements in detail. Suffice it to say that he has achieved everything he was asked to do – and more.

John's reputation, and gift, as an eloquent speaker soon created many invitations as a breakfast, lunch, conference and dinner speaker and he used these engagements tirelessly to raise the profile of the University.

Under his leadership, the University has consolidated its position as the strongest and best performing university in Queensland, and is now firmly established as one of Australia's best universities with a growing international standing and reputation.

No longer aloof from government, it can claim to be one of the architects of Queensland's Smart State policy and to have contributed significantly to its success.

One thing which the Senate did not realise or anticipate when appointing John was that he came with another valuable asset from which the University has also benefited enormously – his wife Barbara.

I often comment that when John was appointed, the University received "two for the price of one" because of Barbara's close involvement in John's life and in that of the University in general.

Barbara has supported John as a vital member of "Team Hay" in his role as Vice-Chancellor, acting as a calming influence during periods of stress, often at his side at functions in Australia and overseas, and also making sure that his presence was felt at functions he was not able to attend personally.

She has also contributed in her own right, often hosting the partners of visiting dignitaries, promoting events and exhibitions and through serving on the St Leo's College Council.

Barbara has been a kind, gracious and hardworking member of our community and in paying this tribute to Team Hay I would like, in particular to thank her on behalf of the whole University.

## 2002

**JANUARY:** Appointed Chair of the Group of Eight, which represents Australia's leading research-intensive universities. He remains in the position until May 2003.

**JULY:** Plays key role in establishing a \$33 million research complex which opens at Princess Alexandra Hospital as the new home for a UQ research group pioneering vaccines against cervical cancer and genital warts. Professor Ian Frazer heads the Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research (and in 2006 is named Australian of the Year for developing the world's first cervical cancer vaccine).

**SEPTEMBER:** The \$20 million multi-purpose UQ Centre building is opened at St Lucia to provide a modern venue for large events such as graduation ceremonies. Professor Hay sources \$11.5 million for the project from Atlantic Philanthropies.

## 2003

**MAY:** Appointed Chair of *Universitas 21*, a position he holds until May 2006.

**MAY:** Official opening of the \$105 million Queensland Bioscience Precinct at St Lucia, housing the IMB and several CSIRO divisions.

**AUGUST:** Announces that the University has signed an in-principle agreement with the Brisbane City Council for a bus, bicycle and pedestrian bridge between Dutton Park and the St Lucia campus.

## 2004

**JANUARY:** Welcomes a \$20 million State Government commitment for the establishment at St Lucia of the Queensland Brain Institute, which has \$20 million in capital from The Atlantic Philanthropies.

**JANUARY:** Awarded a Companion in the Order of Australia (AC) in the Australia Day Honours List for exceptional services to higher education, especially in research and innovation and in the creation of new academic, research and administrative structures.

**FEBRUARY:** Volume II of *Bibliography of Australian Literature* is published.

**APRIL:** The James and Mary Emelia Mayne Centre, created out of the former Mayne Hall, opens following a 12-month, \$6.5 million transformation which was made possible by a \$5 million contribution from The Atlantic Philanthropies. Professor Hay is instrumental in the building's rebirth as the new home of the UQ Art Museum.

**JUNE:** The Queensland Government announces initial funding of \$9.5 million towards a Centre for Advanced Animal Sciences at the Gatton campus. Completion is scheduled for July 2008.

**AUGUST:** Appointed Chair of the Board of The Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education.





# Friendships the enduring legacy of 12 exciting years

While the University's reputation has soared and its list of achievements in teaching and learning and research and commercialisation have been hallmarks of Professor John Hay's years, he cites the friendship and support of his colleagues as the most important personal memory.

// by Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC

Looking back, it seems that I first thought seriously about The University of Queensland in 1994, when it was suggested I apply for the position of Vice-Chancellor. In the year between my being appointed and coming up to Brisbane in January 1996 with my wife Barbara and our young twins, Ben and Tim, I had little time to balance the opinions of my colleagues and friends who thought UQ offered exciting challenges and those who, to put it circumspcctly, thought my decision ill-advised. Twelve exhilarating years later, it now seems that even my most optimistic expectations fell far short of what came to pass as UQ achieved new levels of excellence and an enviable reputation both within and beyond Australia. Many of my dreams and aspirations, like those of many of my colleagues, came to fruition.

For as long as I can remember, literature, the arts and the challenge of new ideas have compelled my imagination, just as the aspiration to teach and undertake research shaped my life. For me, the greatest privileges of being a Vice-Chancellor are the company of men and women imbued with a passion for ideas and the opportunity to act as a committed advocate for those ideas in a manner that leads to tangible and significant outcomes.

Starting my time at UQ by changing dramatically its academic and administrative structures and by introducing policies which called for teaching, research and administrative priorities to be identified and used to determine the distribution of funding may have seemed a risky move. But since, under the leadership of my predecessor, Brian Wilson, UQ already had a fine reputation in both teaching and research, it seemed to me appropriate to invite the staff at UQ to play a key role in determining such matters. The level of consensus achieved was remarkable and the outcomes have proved exceptionally resilient. At the same

time, I sought to establish policies and priorities that would occasion major changes in the quality of both the buildings and grounds of UQ. It is no secret that, in my first months at UQ, I was dismayed by many of the things that had been built on the St Lucia campus and quietly determined that, at the end of my time here, things would be better. Thanks to Alasdair McClintock and his staff, wonderful changes have taken place.

Just over a decade ago, the then Lord Mayor, Jim Soorley, arranged a meeting at Brisbane's Irish Club (the day before St Patrick's Day) between Chuck Feeney and me which saw the beginning of an extraordinary stream of support from the Atlantic Philanthropies for major UQ projects that has had no equal in Australia. By committing UQ to match every dollar given to it by the Atlantic Philanthropies and by my persuading, first, Premier Rob Borbidge and then, most significantly, Premier Peter Beattie to do the same (and much more) through his inspirational Smart State policy, it became possible for UQ to embark upon the construction of a nationally unprecedented series of research institutes, the new UQ

Centre, the transformed James and Mary Emelia Mayne Centre housing UQ's superb Art Museum, a program of scholarships for Vietnamese students and much else.

What has excited and gratified me most about many of these new projects is that all of the architects involved designed buildings that fulfilled the hopes of the staff and students who were to work in them and enhanced significantly the aesthetic quality of the campus. Moreoever, the new projects attracted to UQ unprecedented numbers of outstanding new staff and students from prestigious international institutions as well as from envious sister universities in Australia.

It has been, of course, immensely gratifying to have seen UQ's income from competitive research grants increase dramatically, its performance in winning more awards for excellence in teaching and learning than the nation's second and third best performing universities combined and its new research institutes and teaching and learning spaces recognised as international benchmarks for excellence and innovation.

But my most cherished memories are the enduring, personal ones that have made UQ part of my life: the friendship and support of the Chancellor, Sir Llewellyn Edwards and his many colleagues on the UQ Senate; the pleasure and privilege of working with the strongest senior executive group in any Australian university: Paul Greenfield (whom I am delighted to acknowledge as my successor), Michael Keniger, David Siddle, Trevor Grigg, Douglas Porter, Alan Rix, Mark Gould, Debbie Terry and Linda Bird; the dedication and tolerance of my small office staff, especially Jenny Reilly and Tara Kitch and, above all, the love and support of my family, Barbara, Chris, Kate, Tim and Ben. More than anyone, it is Barbara who has shared most of my life and shaped it in ways that no words can ever express adequately. //

"THE GREATEST PRIVILEGES OF BEING A VICE-CHANCELLOR ARE THE COMPANY OF MEN AND WOMEN IMBUED WITH A PASSION FOR IDEAS AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACT AS A COMMITTED ADVOCATE FOR THOSE IDEAS"



At the media launch of the UQ Art Museum's *Our Way, Contemporary Aboriginal Art from Lockhart River* exhibition, May 2007



## Art and architecture

by Philip Bacon,  
Art dealer and philanthropist

**A**s *Longa, Vita Brevis*. If indeed life is short and art long, as Hippocrates so famously states in his aphorism of 400BC, then John Hay's most long-lived achievement may very well be the stunning James and Mary Emelia Mayne Centre, conjured up from the ageing and redundant Mayne Hall just three years ago.

In the overall scheme of the huge building projects undertaken during the Vice-Chancellor's tenure, this new home for the University Art Museum could perhaps be one of the smaller; yet to my mind it ranks amongst his most important achievements. From the body of the old hall, and fighting those who wanted things to stay as they were, John wrought a magic transformation.

The use of natural light is a triumph in this space. Natural light is sometimes seen as the enemy when architects work on art galleries, but not in this case. Visitors move through the gallery in a naturally intuitive way, able to appreciate the "bones" of the old building, while enjoying the dramatic changes.

This vision was only realised through single-minded persistence, not just with the planning, but also with fundraising. John's friend Chuck Feeney answered the call, contributing \$5 million.

John and Chuck also decided to create a National Collection of Artist's Self-Portraits, and this has begun to achieve a real and unique status amongst art museums across Australia.

Self-portraiture is an in-turned art, and there is something strange lurking on the edge between the seer and the seen. The attempt to confront death may be soberingly honest, but it causes in itself a kind of consolation.

"The work lives" (even when the artist doesn't) and this is always the hope implicit in any act of making. This too will be John's reward. He has "made" so many works of art, of architecture, and of creative thought.

I began with only the first four words of Hippocrates' aphorism. It says in full: "Life is short; and art long; the crisis fleeting; experience perilous, and decision difficult. The physician must not only be prepared to do what is right himself, but also to make the patient, the attendants and externals cooperate."

This surely is what John Hay has done so very well.

## Commercial success

by David Henderson,  
Managing Director, UniQuest Pty Ltd

**T**he Vice-Chancellor has been very supportive of the University's commercialisation agenda and has presided over UQ during a period of massive changes and growth in this activity.

John Hay had been at UQ for barely a week when he was asked to approve a \$5 million investment in UniQuest. At the time, there were no other Australian universities engaging in commercialisation ventures on this scale, so it was an enormous demonstration of trust and vision by the Vice-Chancellor.

Even though the company had been formed in 1984, it was this injection of funds in 1996 which has been the key to the company evolving into the entity it is today.

The University's commercialisation performance, currently generating revenue in excess of \$50 million a year, makes UQ a leader in Australia and among the top 10 percent of universities worldwide.

John also backed UniQuest sharing its expertise with the University of Wollongong via a collaboration, strengthening the commercialisation programs of both.

Among examples of UQ's commercialisation successes are the cervical cancer vaccine, Gardasil™, and the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P). As of August, 10 million Gardasil™ vaccinations had been administered in 80 countries while Triple P is used in 15 countries and has been translated into 14 languages.

UniQuest staff numbers have quadrupled from 20 in 1996 to 80 and the service offered to researchers is far more extensive than it was 12 years ago.

Most of UQ's 50 or so start-up companies have been established during John's term. I would also like to commend him for his backing of Uniseed which has become a model for university companies managing early stage investment funds.

Uniseed began as a joint venture between UQ and the University of Melbourne in 2000 and now includes the University of New South Wales. At formation, Uniseed was the first specialist pre-seed commercialisation fund for university technology in Australia. The company recently attracted Western Australia's largest private sector superannuation fund, Westscheme, as an investor in a \$15 million partnership.

## 2005

**MARCH:** Appointed to the Council of the National Library of Australia.

**MARCH:** Awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters from his *alma mater*, the University of Western Australia.

**JUNE:** Appointed to the Board of the Brisbane Girls' Grammar School.

## 2006

**AUGUST:** During a Queensland election campaign, the government makes a re-election pledge to invest \$100 million in a Translational Research Institute at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. The facility will house UQ's Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology and Metabolic Medicine, along with other Centres. Professor Hay and Diamantina Director Professor Ian Frazer were instrumental in securing government support for the project.

**SEPTEMBER:** Announces construction ready to start on the \$66 million UQ Centre for Clinical Research, funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Queensland Government and UQ. The building is due to open in January 2008.

**OCTOBER:** Premier Beattie opens the \$70 million Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology.

**DECEMBER:** Official opening of The Eleanor Schonell Bridge.

## 2007

**MARCH:** Announces UQ's celebration of 2007 as a year of special focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues to mark the 40th anniversary of the referendum of May 27, 1967.

**APRIL:** Awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the Queensland University of Technology.

**MAY:** The Australian Government commits \$100 million to match the Queensland Government's funding for the Translational Research Institute at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

**JUNE:** Queensland Premier Peter Beattie makes Professor Hay a "Queensland Great", recognising that his lifetime achievements have played a significant role in the history and development of the "Smart State".

**JULY:** Volume III of the *Bibliography of Australian Literature* published.

**AUGUST:** Appointed as Chair of the LH Martin Institute.

**NOVEMBER:** The \$63 million Queensland Brain Institute, the \$66 million UQ Centre for Clinical Research, and stage one of the \$33 million Centre for Advanced Animal Science are all officially opened.

**DECEMBER:** Awarded an Honorary Doctorate by The University of Queensland.

**DECEMBER:** Appointed as Chair of the Queensland Art Gallery Board of Trustees.

## + CUTTING EDGE

Now you see them...(from left) Dr Haine and Dr Olsen



### Teleportation breakthrough in two places

Teleportation, a concept popularised in the original *Star Trek* television series, is edging closer to reality.

Two groups of UQ researchers are in international collaborative projects involving the once-fictional concept.

Researchers from UQ's Australian Research Centre for Quantum Atom Optics (Dr Ashton Bradley, Dr Simon Haine and Dr Murray Olsen) and Australian National University (Joseph Hope) have proposed a new way of teleporting matter waves.

"We propose a scheme which allows an atom laser beam to disappear at one location and reappear at another," Dr Bradley said.

"We feel that our scheme is closer in spirit to the original fictional concept," Dr Haine said.

Researchers from UQ's Centre for Quantum Computer Technology and Laboratory Charles Fabry of the Institute of Optics in France have

also made a breakthrough in the technology driving teleportation and super computers.

They have produced a state where light beams appear to be on and off (or superposed) at the same time.

This is vital for developing the next generation of super computers, which should be faster than current computers based on bits that are either on or off.

UQ's Dr Hyunseok Jeong devised the scheme to generate and superpose the beams, which was proved by his French collaborators.

Dr Jeong said his group used special lasers, crystals, photon detectors, half-mirrors and other optical devices to generate and measure the superposition of light beams.

He said the research would accelerate development of quantum information technologies such as computers, cryptography and teleportation.

### Slug sex cocktail

A potent mix of chemicals acts like a cross between Chanel No 5 and Viagra—but only if you are a sea slug.

Dr Scott Cummins, a postdoctoral fellow in UQ's School of Integrative Biology, is among a team of researchers who are studying the chemical pheromones, which help the near-blind sea creatures find each other and stimulates them to mate.

The protein pheromones have now been appropriately named as attractin, enticin, temptin and seductin.

"If we can understand how pheromones work in sea slugs — how the slugs detect them and how they influence slug behaviour — we may be able to enhance the management of similar marine animals in aquaculture," Dr Cummins said.

"We may also be able to develop powerful new tools to eliminate pest species by disrupting this form of communication."

Sea slugs spend most of their time alone on the ocean floor. But during summer, something triggers hundreds of them to gather to breed, in a "party" lasting for days, Dr Cummins said.

"Exactly how sea slugs signal each other that it's time to gather has long been a mystery," he said.

"We found that they developed an ingenious and potent solution to finding a mate — they released a cocktail of small proteins as a pheromone message."

This discovery is the first example of a multi-component attraction pheromone used by a marine animal.



### Bush growth industry

UQ is providing salvation for drought-affected gardens — in the form of three exciting new native blooms from the Queensland bush.

The three drought and cold hardy plant cultivars were developed from the Australian species *Ptilotus nobilis* by the Centre for Native Floriculture (CNF) at the Gatton campus.

Named *Poise*, *Passion* and *Purity* respectively for their pink, purple and cream flowers, the plants are the first releases from the Outback Princess range being marketed by Aussie Colours, a creation of UQ's main commercialisation company, UniQuest Pty Ltd.

UniQuest Managing Director David Henderson said the company would help ensure innovative native plant varieties had the best chance of success in the marketplace.

"We believe Aussie Colours has the potential to become a global company that promotes and markets Australian native plants all around the world," he said.

Among its features, the range flowers year-round, producing large and attractive conical flowers with a malted-honey aroma.

Once established, the plants require little water and as well as being suitable for a wide range of soil and climatic conditions, can thrive as either pot or bedding plants.

Director of the CNF, Professor Daryl Joyce, said he had high hopes the range would be the first of many Australian species to excite consumers.

"Ornamental plants are fashion items and the marketplace is constantly seeking new, different and exciting products," Professor Joyce said.







## Heart of problems

Dr Anita Thomas and her colleagues at UQ's Australian Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN) have discovered a way to precisely deliver drugs to blockage sites in arteries – preventing complications after surgery to treat heart disease.

Within six months of heart disease surgery, up to 60 percent of patients suffer from their arteries re-blocking.

The technique developed by the AIBN team uses antibodies linked to the drugs to ensure they are deposited in the arteries where doctors want them, rather than places in the body where they can have unacceptable side effects.

Cardiovascular diseases — which can lead to heart attack, angina and stroke — are the biggest single preventable killer in the developed world. Most of the diseases are due to the blockage of arteries by cholesterol-rich thickenings.

"Surgical techniques have been developed to remove these blockages, but in up to 60 percent of patients they re-occur within six months," said Dr Thomas.

"We thought we could use drugs to prevent this, but they had to be carefully targeted."

Dr Thomas and Professor Julie Campbell observed that the protein fibrin, which is found in blood clots, is deposited in arteries within 10 minutes of surgery to remove the original blockage.

They then confirmed that fibrin could be used to attract antibodies, which they linked to drugs to prevent an artery from becoming re-blocked.

The targeted delivery of these drugs was effective in preventing re-blocking, and also stopped the drug being dispersed within the blood stream.

Because the drug is concentrated where it is of most value, it can be used in low doses with minimal side effects. It also helps the blood vessel lining heal quickly.

## Rocks of ages

UQ researchers have identified microbial remains in some of the oldest preserved organic matter on Earth, confirmed to be 3.5 billion years old.

The UQ team, led by School of Physical Sciences scientists Dr Miryam Glikson and Associate Professor Sue Golding as well as Associate Professor Lindsay Sly from the School of Molecular and Microbial Sciences, is the first to conclusively confirm the nature and source of the organic material.

"What we have found is the first visual confirmation of primitive microbial communities in what is considered to be the best preserved ancient organic matter on our planet," Dr Glikson said.

Dr Golding, Director of UQ's Stable Isotope Laboratory in the Division of Earth Sciences, said previous studies used indirect analytical methods only able to suggest microbial involvement.

"We used difficult and time-consuming electron microscope techniques to conclusively confirm the microbial remains," Dr Golding said.

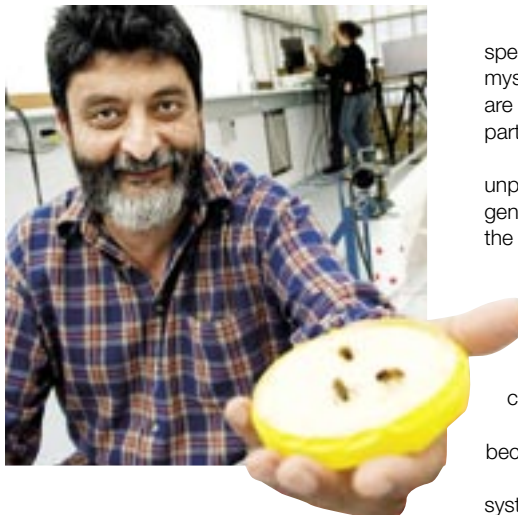
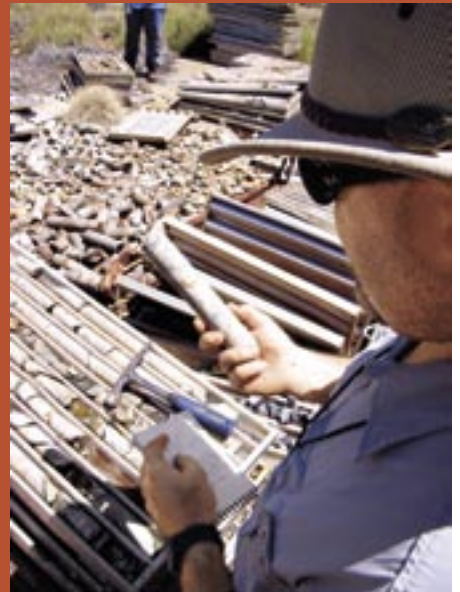
"The integration of observational and micro-analytical techniques is unique to our approach."

The core drilling samples from Western Australia's Pilbara region were collected by PhD student, Lawrie Duck, who said it was amazing to "hold in your

hands rocks that contain remains of some of the earliest forms of life on Earth."

A comparison with organic matter from rocks of similar age in South Africa also yielded microbial remains identical to those from the Pilbara, further confirming the UQ work.

This was achieved with the collaboration of Dr Axel Hofmann from the University of Kwazulu, South Africa, and Dr Robert Bolhar formerly of the University of Canterbury, New Zealand.



## Bees add buzz to robotic flight

Angry bees that fly like mini-missiles could map the future of unmanned aircraft and planetary explorer robots.

Professor Mandyam Srinivasan, Professor of Visual Neuroscience at UQ's Queensland Brain Institute, will lead a \$2.5 million project to improve robot technology including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), through better understanding of bee behaviour.

He won the \$1.25 million 2007 Smart State Premier's Fellowship, matched by UQ funding.

Professor Srinivasan and his team have spent more than two decades unlocking the mysteries of bee vision and navigation, and are now investigating how bee emotions, particularly aggression, can improve robotics.

Research of aggressive bees was unprecedented, he said. Worker bees are generally docile – until a guard bee protecting the hive emits an alarm hormone to signal the hive is endangered.

"Normal bees are fairly peaceful when they go out hunting for food, but the moment they get a whiff of alarm pheromone from a guard bee, the entire colony mobilises," Professor Srinivasan said.

"The flight dynamic changes and they become like little fighter aircrafts or missiles."

Bees' small but smart brains and nervous systems have evolved a "visuomotor" system enabling them to track moving objects with pinpoint accuracy.

Professor Srinivasan's research has previously been funded by NASA and now has funding from the US Air Force, and its practical potential is diverse.

It could be used for aerial coastal surveillance, weather monitoring and minerals exploration, and to reduce the risk to soldiers involved in peace-keeping and combat situations, who might one day have portable UAVs to send on reconnaissance missions.

The research could also lead to planetary explorer robots that are able to behave autonomously, in the same way as insects.



# BRAIN GAIN

The newly-opened Queensland Brain Institute building at the St Lucia campus has been purpose-built to enable more than 200 neuroscientists to conduct collaborative research with each other and with colleagues at the University's other world-class research institutes.

// by Brad Turner

QBI research assistant Dr Clare Underwood and Dr Tim Silk

Premier Anna Bligh officially opened the latest addition to the University's world-class cluster of research powerhouses, the \$63 million Queensland Brain Institute (QBI), at St Lucia on November 19.

The seven-storey building was purpose-built for neuroscience research, and funded by the Queensland Government, The Atlantic Philanthropies and the University.

The QBI was founded in 2003 and is headed by Australian Research Council Federation Fellow, UQ Foundation Chair in Molecular Neuroscience and Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, Professor Perry Bartlett.

Professor Bartlett said it was "a privilege to establish one of world's premier neuroscience institutes, and to have the support from the University to recruit outstanding people."

"Our vision is to understand the fundamental mechanisms of the brain, gaining new insights into functions such as memory and learning," he said.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said the QBI building enabled some of the

world's finest neuroscientists to consolidate promising research on mental and neurological disorders.

"Since the QBI began work in 2003, it has advanced towards achieving its goal of becoming the Asia-Pacific's foremost brain research facility," Professor Hay said.

"Under the leadership of Professor Bartlett, QBI researchers have attained more than \$50 million in competitive Australian Government research grants.

"They have attracted neuroscience expertise to the extent that one-quarter of the 24 QBI group leaders are new to Australia and 19 are new to Queensland."

Professor Hay said disorders of the brain and nervous system afflicted more than 1.8 billion people globally.

"Dementia alone claims 160,000 Australians, and conditions such as depression and trauma take a toll on the young as well as older people," he said.

"Motivated to seek preventions and cures, QBI scientists concentrate on fundamental molecular and physiological brain functions."

Premier Bligh said the State Government's \$20 million funding was an "an investment in the future health of Queenslanders and, ultimately, the citizens of our world."

The QBI was the fourth new state-of-the-art research institute building to open at the University's St Lucia campus in as many years.

The Institute for Molecular Bioscience opened in 2003, the Sustainable Minerals Institute in the Sir James Foots Building in 2005, and the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology in 2006.

Designed by John Wardle and Associates and Wilson Architects and built by Watpac, the building was completed on-schedule and to budget.

The building's design is based on a "theatre for research" theme, with open interaction spaces pressed against the building edge, exposing the internal activity of research and exploration to the community.

The building also boasts an artwork entitled *Out of Mind* by Fiona Hall. The digital graphic design is incorporated into a four-storey internal glass wall. //





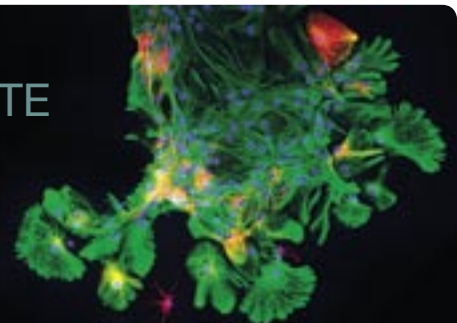
The QBI foyer



Left: Dr Massimo Hilliard and Janelle Scown in the the Flow Cytometry facility. Centre: The building exterior. Right: QBI Director Professor Perry Bartlett

## about the QUEENSLAND BRAIN INSTITUTE

The QBI brings together 10 inter-related research approaches under one roof. In an Australian first, QBI neuroscientists will be part of a unique nexus of collaboration and advanced technology, working to provide key insights into molecular brain function.



> **NEURAL PLASTICITY** – the brain's ability to make new connections and even new nerve cells is the basis of important functions such as memory and learning.

> **SYNAPTIC PLASTICITY** – investigating the neural changes essential to learning and memory formation. Of particular interest is the physiology and cell biology of the circuits associated with fear-related learning.

> **NEURAL MIGRATION** – studies the molecular guidance systems which play pivotal roles in the guidance of axonal projections and neural stem cells throughout the developing brain.

> **NERVE CELL SURVIVAL LABORATORY** – molecular mechanisms that control the survival/death of neurons, and particularly the processes that occur during the development of the nervous system during naturally occurring cell death.

> **NEURAL STEM LABORATORY** – efforts are under way at QBI to understand, at a molecular and cellular level, how the human body generates neural stem cells and how these cells' actions are regulated in the adult central nervous system, both under normal conditions and following disease or degeneration.

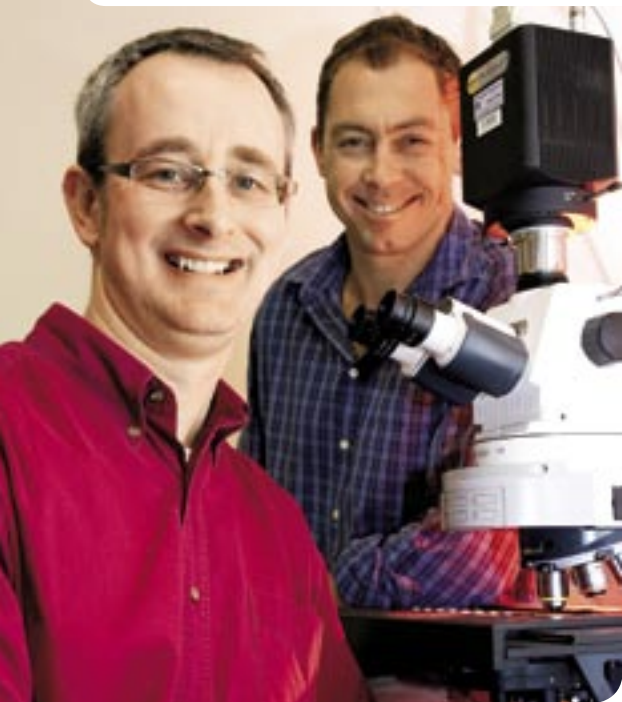
> **COMPUTATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE** – seeks to discover the fundamental principles underlying the remarkable computational abilities of biological nervous systems. We are particularly interested in the computational rules governing neural development.

> **CORTICAL DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY** – investigates how the brain becomes wired up during development. QBI is focusing on the development of the cerebral cortex, a region of the brain where all higher order cognition is processed.

> **VISUAL NEUROSCIENCE** – an understanding of visual processing in insects may provide simple, novel solutions to problems in machine vision and artificial intelligence. Visual neuroscience also investigates the design of biologically inspired algorithms for 'seeing' machines, and the development of autonomously navigating robots.

> **COGNITIVE AND BEHAVIOURAL NEUROSCIENCE** – investigates the mechanisms of selective attention, which are crucial to virtually all aspects of everyday behaviour and cognition.

> **AGEING AND BRAIN DISORDERS** – QBI scientists are leaders in stem cell research and are currently researching ways to stimulate the production of new functional nerve cells to overcome diseases such as dementia (particularly Alzheimer's disease), stroke and motor neurone disease.



## Teachers excel on national stage

UQ teachers were singled out for exceptional standards of teaching with nine Carrick Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning awarded in August.

Now in their second year, the awards are an initiative of the Australian Government as part of a commitment to recognising and rewarding teaching excellence in the higher education sector.

UQ's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Michael Keniger, said the University was proud to repeat its success in last year's awards, again receiving a 100 percent success rate with nominations.

"Each of the nine nominations UQ made were rewarded, recognising achievement across a diverse range of areas including social science, law, physics, human movement and veterinary science – and this is a reflection of the breadth of quality teaching at UQ," Professor Keniger said.

UQ's recipients included six individuals and three teaching teams, with each citation accompanied by \$10,000 prize money.

The individual UQ winners were: Dr Rob Pensalfini (School of English, Media Studies and Art History); Dr Noriko Iwashita (School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies); Dr Nickolas James (School of Law); Dr Margaret Wegener (School of Physical Sciences); Dr Murray Phillips (School of Human Movement Studies); and Dr David Ip (School of Social Science).

The teams were: Dr Jason Connor (School of Psychiatry), Dr Jennifer Fitzgerald (Schools of Psychology and Psychiatry) and Associate Professor Charles Mitchell (School of Medicine); Dr Paul Mills (School of Veterinary Science), Dr Andrew Bradley (School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering), Dr Peter Woodall and Dr Shan Lloyd (School of Veterinary Science); and Dr Peter Newcombe, Astrid Sirowatka, Professor Tian Oei, Dr John McLean and Associate Professor Virginia Slaughter (School of Psychology).

## Eureka moment

UQ Business School's Professor Mark Dodgson has been awarded the prestigious ATSE Clunies Ross Eureka Prize for Leadership in Business Innovation.

Widely seen as Australia's most important science prizes, the Eureka Prizes were established in 1990 by the Australian Museum to reward excellence in the fields of research and innovation, science leadership, school science, and science journalism and communication.

Professor Dodgson, who has been researching innovation for more than 20 years, said he was thrilled to be one of the few non-scientists to win a Eureka Prize.

"Innovation is about taking the great science the Eureka Prize celebrates and turning it into products and processes that will make Australia competitive in the global economy," he said.



## Future arrives at bioscience library

Fresh from a \$13.5 million facelift, the refurbished Biological Sciences Library at UQ's St Lucia campus is proving a hit with students.

The building was re-opened by the Executive Director of the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Professor John Shine, AO, in July.

The Biological Sciences Library is one of the largest of UQ's 13 branch libraries and is the latest to be refurbished.

It is used by students studying biology,

chemistry, medicine, veterinary science and natural resource courses.

University Librarian and Director of Learning Services, Keith Webster, said the original library designed by Robin Gibson, was built in the mid-1970s.

"At that time, libraries were essentially warehouses for printed materials and places for quiet study," Mr Webster said.

"There were no group discussion areas or computers. The card catalogue reigned supreme. The service model was based on the counter metaphor in which the customer was 'served' by staff from behind a counter."

In contrast, the new facility provides 3375 square metres spread over four floors. It caters for diverse learning experiences where printed and digital information is combined in an entirely user-focused environment.

"Students work collaboratively in spaces that support today's social and learning patterns," Mr Webster said.

"These spaces include discussion rooms complete with data-projectors and plasma screens, three training rooms, more than 200 computers, a graduate study centre, AV booths, and both individual and group study spaces."





## New Indigenous Health Centre

A new Centre for Indigenous Health at UQ is uniquely placed to attract Indigenous students to health professions and generate real health benefits for communities.

Centre Director, Professor Cindy Shannon, Chair of the National Indigenous Sexual Health Committee, said the Centre would facilitate cross-disciplinary awareness of Indigenous health issues and enable students from a range of health disciplines to gain first-hand experience in Indigenous communities.

"This will be achieved through curriculum review, marketing and recruitment initiatives and student placements in Indigenous health settings," she said.

"Partnerships with Queensland Health and the peak body for Aboriginal community controlled health services in Queensland (QAIHC) will be vital to the success of these initiatives."

Professor Shannon said the Centre would facilitate the integration of Indigenous health in curriculums across the Faculty, which offers programs in dentistry, health and rehabilitation sciences, human movement studies, pharmacy, medicine, nursing and midwifery, and population health.

The Centre aimed to generate interest and demand in Indigenous health careers, and boost numbers of Indigenous health graduates, she said.

Professor Shannon said the 2008 intake would be the first cohort of students to benefit from the new initiatives.

Student scholarships and health cadetships were being considered to attract Indigenous students, she said.



## Weight for Beijing

UQ SPORT scholarship holder and veterinary science student, Amanda Phillips, has her sights firmly set on the 2008 Beijing Olympics after dominating the 75kg division at the recent National Weightlifting Championships.

Representing the Cougars Weightlifting Club, Ms Phillips managed 84kg in the snatch and 106kg in the clean and jerk to give her a total of 190kg, beating her nearest competitor by 35kg.

But despite her impressive performance, the 26-year-old said she was hoping to make more of a statement in the lead-up to next year's Olympic Games.

"I was pleased, although it didn't really reflect how my training's been going. I was expecting a slightly higher performance as far as personal bests but it's always tricky when you're in more of a team event," she said.

## No crocodile tears for retired adventurer

UQ zoologist, bush adventurer and mentor to generations of students, Professor Gordon Grigg, retired on August 31.

The pioneering zoologist, known for his in-the-field research, has dived with crocodiles, counted kangaroos from the air, tracked camels by satellite, caught alligators in Brazil, trailed echidnas in the snow of Mount Kosciusko and twice explored the Antarctic.

Professor Grigg was an early supporter of limiting kangaroo and crocodile populations through farming and using technology to remotely gather data on wild animals.

His long association with UQ began in 1960 as a Bachelor of Science student who continued with Honours before heading to the United States for his PhD.

He taught at the University of Sydney before returning to UQ in 1989 for 10 years as Head of Zoology, and served on the UQ Senate for seven years until 2005.

He has advised government environmental

boards, won major zoological awards, produced 170 peer-reviewed publications and taught 88 postgraduate students, most of whom have forged successful science careers.

He is proudest of work, with colleagues and postgraduate students, which discovered that crocodiles had salt glands and special hearts and that echidnas hibernated in winter.

This has led to publications proposing new ideas about how warm-bloodedness evolved.

Professor Grigg gained his pilot's licence in 1974, initially to support Professor Harry Messel's crocodile research projects and later, for aerial surveys of kangaroos and camels.

With kangaroo counters Lyn Beard and Tony Pople, Professor Grigg found the missing UQ *HyShot* I scramjet engine and rocket remains near Coober Pedy in 2002.

Professor Grigg will continue as an Emeritus Professor, as well as being on the scientific advisory panel of the proposed Freshwater Species Conservation Centre near Gympie.



Professor Grigg makes friends with a guanaco during a trip to South America, 2005. Photo courtesy Professor Grigg

# BRIGHT SPARKS

Almost one-third of all Australian Research Council (ARC) Federation Fellows at UQ have previously been recognised with UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards. The awards, introduced in 1999 and designed to nurture early-career researchers, are this year worth a total of \$505,000.



## ENZYME ENQUIRIES

A UQ biophysical chemist is working on new research which one day may slow down or switch off certain diseases.

Dr Gary Schenk, from the School of Molecular and Microbial Sciences, has been awarded \$85,000 to study a group of enzymes including one linked to the bone disease osteoporosis.

"An enzyme works like a machine. You feed in a substrate (a particular molecule), the enzyme does something to it and out comes a product," Dr Schenk said. "If you're able to inhibit this enzyme's action, you can effectively combat the disease associated with it."

Understanding how an enzyme works during a reaction is a key to its use as a drug target, with the mid-point (known as the transition state) of particular interest.

"Transition states are unstable and difficult to study," Dr Schenk said. "One way we can explore the 'shape' of this state is by using isotopes – atomic markers placed at particular positions in the substrate."

"This modified molecule may have chemical properties different from those of the original, an observation which can be used to 'visualise' the transition state."

From this, synthetic molecules can be designed which mimic the real thing and might stop the reaction.

Dr Schenk will use the award to visit Utah State University, where he will collaborate with Professor Alvan Hengge, a world leader in the field.



## FULL MEDICAL PICTURE

Complementary treatment use is high in regional Australia, but patients often don't tell their doctor, according to a UQ researcher who will conduct the world's first study in this area.

The study, by School of Population Health social scientist, Dr Jon Adams, aims to help improve rural health outcomes by investigating the practices and perspectives of regional GPs regarding complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) treatments such as acupuncture, naturopathy and herbal medicine.

Dr Adams, who has been awarded \$85,000 for his research, said the results would be important for rural health delivery because the high use of CAM could have safety issues when combined with conventional healthcare.

"GPs are key healthcare providers, particularly in rural areas," he said.

"It's vitally important that they have as much information as possible about CAM and their patients' use of CAM," he said.

The study will examine a number of issues, including how many GPs practise CAM and refer patients to CAM practitioners, what type of patients this is most likely to involve and GPs' perceptions and experiences of these treatments.

Other key areas to be examined are the relationship of complementary and alternative medicine to rural GP training and education.



## TAKING IT PERSONALLY

Dispensing and swallowing the "bitter pill" of personal criticism is one of life's less enjoyable but most important experiences.

UQ social psychologist, Dr Matthew Hornsey, is out to fill an information vacuum surrounding the best ways and circumstances in which to give and receive personal criticism using his \$75,000 award.

"The aim is to unlock the psychological processes underlying defensiveness in the face of criticism, and to translate these insights into specific and usable strategies for change," he said.

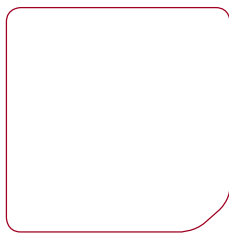
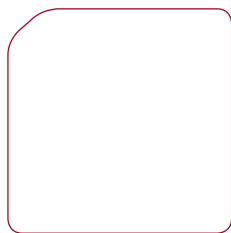
"Conclusions drawn from the research have implications for any context where criticism is delivered or received, including educational institutions, workplaces, and in psychotherapy."

He said former British Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, had captured the complex nature of criticism when he said it "may not be agreeable, but it is necessary".

"On one hand, if we were never criticised, we might be condemned to repeat our mistakes and would be unlikely to reach our potential. On the other, criticism is inherently threatening and, if taken in the wrong spirit, can lead to an atmosphere of mistrust, hurt, and denial," Dr Hornsey said.

He said because people tended to shy away from potential for hurt, there was evidence that negative feedback was not passed on, particularly to people higher in a status hierarchy.





## BLURRED EDGES

Dr Melissa Gregg has won \$55,000 to investigate how much the internet and mobile technologies are blurring our public and private lives and creating real benefits.

Dr Gregg, from UQ's Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, will follow the technology habits at work and home of 30 white-collar workers in Brisbane during the next three years.

She said people were increasingly being more intimate online by sharing their identities and personal information through sites such as Facebook, MySpace and blogs.

"In online communities, relationships become part of the CV for which you are judged and the testimonials of contacts are central to maintaining status," she said.

"If I look attractive and interesting enough to enough people, then I will get a wider group of friends or contacts that I can then draw upon for further developments in my life."

She said her goal was to inform online policy and provide material for a book about online communities.

She also wants to show employers how their employees are using technologies and how often online networking translates into job offers or other business.

"People are constantly updating their online profiles, which is a new form of labour, because they're investing in themselves for future, unknown benefits," she said.



## SENSE OF TIMING

Scientific experiments by a UQ researcher have shown that our own brain activity can influence our sense of timing.

Work by Dr Derek Arnold, of the UQ School of Psychology, goes against a widely held belief that activity in the cortex of the human brain does not influence how we perceive time.

Dr Arnold has been awarded a \$60,000 award for a project building on his recent work which has substantial implications for understanding the mechanisms involved in time perception.

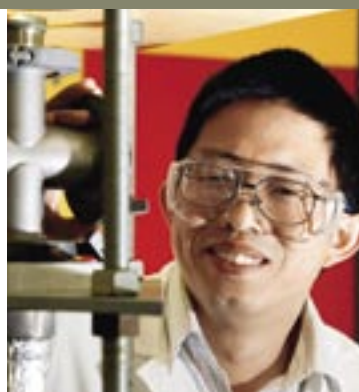
"Clarifying the mechanisms involved in normal time perception will obviously help in understanding situations where those mechanisms fail," he said.

"So, in addition to the considerable theoretical significance, this project may have implications for our understanding of disorders associated with impaired time perception, such as autism, dyslexia and schizophrenia."

His recent work has examined sensory changes that can only be detected because of activity in the cortex.

He has found that large changes can be detected more rapidly than smaller changes. He also found that large changes seemed to occur earlier than smaller changes.

Dr Arnold was awarded his PhD in visual perception by Macquarie University in 2003 and worked at University College London before joining UQ 18 months ago.



## CLEAN AND GREEN

A novel technology to trap large-scale greenhouse gas emissions caused by coal mining and power generation is being developed by a UQ researcher.

Dr John Zhu, Senior Lecturer at the School of Engineering, aims to develop a carbon nanotube (CNT) membrane for gas separation that will work like a sieve to separate high volumes of methane or carbon dioxide from other gases.

Dr Zhu has received \$85,000 to advance this important research into clean energy and greenhouse gas reduction.

Dr Zhu said that the CNT technology was exciting because it would trap gases up to 100 times faster than existing separation techniques and could therefore be used by large-scale plants such as power stations.

"Conventional membranes such as polymeric and metal membranes, porous silica and carbon molecular sieves all show a trade-off between how well they separate gases and how much gas they can process," he said.

"The CNT membranes can both separate effectively and process large volumes of gas, making them superior to conventional membranes at the large scale required for coal-fired power plants or natural gas processing."

Dr Zhu was delighted to receive the award because of his dedication to advancing research in an area critical to the planet's future health.



## QUANTUM WHIRLPOOL

A UQ quantum physicist is applying a new theory to an old problem.

Dr Matthew Davis, from the ARC Centre of Excellence for Quantum-Atom Optics within the School of Physical Sciences, is working on a new state of matter – a Bose-Einstein condensate – to further understand the very nature of the universe.

"The beauty of a Bose-Einstein condensate is that it is similar to a laser but made of matter," Dr Davis said.

"It is a collection of atoms that are perfectly coherent and have the potential to be used in ultra-sensitive measurement devices."

Dr Davis's work has been recognised with a \$60,000 award.

"I'm very pleased that my research record and proposed project have been judged worthy of the award," Dr Davis said.

Dr Davis said BECs were first predicted in the 1920s by Albert Einstein, but not realised in the laboratory until many years later, in 1995.

His own particular interest is looking at how the BECs form and especially how quantum whirlpools, called vortices, are formed.

"This will hopefully answer broader questions about the nature of certain types of phase transitions, and will feed into experiments being performed by my collaborators at the University of Arizona," he said.

# VET SCIENCE CAMPAIGN IN TOP GEAR

Animal research will be advanced and the entire Lockyer Valley community invigorated by the relocation of the UQ School of Veterinary Science's core facilities from St Lucia to the Gatton campus by mid-2009.

The planned relocation of the University's School of Veterinary Science from St Lucia to Gatton moved a step closer in October through a \$3.5 million Federal Government grant.

Federal Education Minister, Julie Bishop, said the funding had been allocated to assist in the construction of the Veterinary Science Equine Clinic and Hospital at Gatton.

Chair of the School of Veterinary Science Relocation to UQ Gatton Project Committee, Professor Trevor Grigg, said the Equine Clinic and Hospital was an important part of the \$75 million relocation development.

Professor Grigg said the University was seeking further Federal and Queensland government support, as well as running a dedicated capital fundraising project.

Professor Grigg said the University had already committed \$20 million to the relocation, which was targeted for completion in mid-2009.

"Relocating the core facilities of the School from St Lucia to the Gatton campus is a major undertaking," he said.

"Once completed, UQ Gatton will undoubtedly host the most comprehensive animal teaching and research facility in Australia and probably the Southern Hemisphere."

Professor Grigg said UQ had trained more veterinary science students than any other Australian university, with graduates now working in 53 countries.

The Capital Campaign President is philanthropist and retired prominent businessman, Dr John Reid, AO, and the University has appointed an experienced Campaign Director, Janice Wilson.

The campaign was officially launched at Brisbane's Customs House on November 26 at a luncheon for distinguished guests representing government, the corporate sector, wider community and the veterinary industry.

Executive Dean of the Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science Professor Roger Swift, said relocation of the School's core facilities to Gatton had significant advantages.

Professor Swift said a \$33 million Centre for Advanced Animal Science (CAAS) was also being developed at Gatton in conjunction with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.



Top: An artist's impression of the new Equine Clinic and Hospital and (above) the campaign booklet

"It is estimated the School will bring about 700 additional people to the campus, many of whom will live in the Gatton area," he said.

Once established, the School, in conjunction with the new CAAS (due for completion in July 2008) would be a leading international facility, Professor Swift said.

"It will meet standards required for all major accreditations of the veterinary science program, including those of the United Kingdom and North America," he said.

"In addition, the location of the Equine Hospital and Clinic at Gatton will result in growth of equine-related activities in the region."

Professor Swift said the relocation development would incorporate state-of-the-

art teaching facilities and modern research infrastructure.

"It will increase the ability to integrate activities of the School with animal teaching and research conducted within the CAAS, and the schools of Animal Studies, Land, Crop and Food Science, and Natural and Rural Systems Management, already based at Gatton," he said.

"It will not only support the School's vision, but will significantly enhance the School and Campus contribution to the Lockyer/Brisbane Valley/Darling Downs communities."

For further information about the Relocation Project, contact Janice Wilson on 61 7 3346 7692 or [janice.wilson@uq.edu.au](mailto:janice.wilson@uq.edu.au) //



# Teachers foster love of learning

The University recognised a dedicated and inspirational group of academics at its annual teaching awards, held at Brisbane's Customs House in October.



The 2007 UQ Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Awards for the Enhancement of Student Learning recognised five individual winners and two group winners.

Six commendations for excellence in teaching were also announced at the awards ceremony at Brisbane's Customs House.

An outstanding winner of one of the five Awards for Excellence in Teaching in 2007 was Director of the Aboriginal Environments Research Centre within UQ's School of Geography, Planning and Architecture, Associate Professor Paul Memmott.

Dr Memmott also received a Commendation for Excellence in Teaching (Indigenous Education) in conjunction with his overall award.

Dr Memmott has inspired an independent field of study into Aboriginal built environments against a wider social reform context.

In 1998, he initiated Australia's first curriculum on Aboriginal people-environments in an architecture course.

The centre he heads is a national and international point of reference for resources on Indigenous housing, architecture and a related set of socio-cultural problems.

Where possible, his teaching is also informed by field experience – a recent initiative has been the establishment of the Arid Zone research station at Camooweal in western Queensland.

His recent book, *Gunyah, Goondie*

+ *Wurley*, published by University of Queensland Press, turns on its head a widely held belief that Indigenous people were devoid of houses or towns when Europeans first reached Australia.

Awards for Excellence in Teaching (\$10,000 each) winners were:

Dr Marie-Louise Dick (School of Medicine); Dr Madan Gupta (School of Land, Crop and Food Sciences); Dr Cliff Mallett (School of Human Movement Studies); Associate Professor Paul Memmott (School of Geography, Planning and Architecture); and Dr Lisa Nissen (School of Pharmacy).

Commendations for Excellence in Teaching were presented to:

Associate Professor Karen Healy (School of Social Work and Applied Human Sciences); Dr Matthew Hornsey (School of Psychology); Dr Jayne Keogh (School of Education); Dr Greg Marston (School of Social Work and Applied Human Sciences); and Professor Philip Poronnik (School of Biomedical Sciences).

Awards for the Enhancement of Student Learning (\$10,000 each) went to:

Masters of Arts (MA) in Japanese Interpreting and Translation e-Learning Translation Project (School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies); and The Industry Experience: Engaging Graduating Occupational Therapy Students in Authentic Industry Partnerships (Division of Occupational Therapy, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences).



Individual teaching award winners and enhancement of student learning team leaders are (back row, from left) Dr Lisa Nissen, Desleigh de Jonge, Akiko Uchiyama, Dr Marie-Louise Dick, Dr Cliff Mallett and (front, from left) Yuki Sayeg, Dr Madan Gupta, Monica Moran, Dr Merrill Turpin and Dr Paul Memmott.



*"We have good incomes, we don't live extravagantly, but we never seem to get ahead!"*

*- Your own Wealth Coach may be the solution !*

*Phone today for your complimentary session*

*(includes a snapshot of your current position, and how helping you create wealth today **today**, can give you real choices in your future)*

- ✓ One on one coaching to build your wealth.
- ✓ **Unbiased**—we don't sell investments
- ✓ Secure **your** financial future TODAY



Ipswich  
1300 852 664

Brisbane  
1300 852 664

Sydney  
08 8875 7761

*"Thank you to the Wealthyfrog team for making so many things possible that we thought were out of our reach"*

Greg and Nikki Wood

[www.wealthyfrog.com.au](http://www.wealthyfrog.com.au)

AFSL No. 276895

Ms Ward discusses New Star's work with Professor Alan Lopez, head of the School of Population Health, during a visit to UQ in July



When Margaret Ward's husband died suddenly, the trained nurse tried to take her mind off her grief by enrolling in UQ's Master of Public Health (Tropical Health) program. A Masters research project took her to Cambodia for three months, and her journey continued through Sudan and Sierra Leone before ending in China's industrial west.

// By Anthony Anderton



## NEW STAR FOR CHINA'S KIDS

"How do you even manage to live here?" It's a question UQ graduate, Margaret Ward, is often asked by visitors.

We are looking through the iron security grille of her tiny kitchen straight into the living spaces of a neighbouring concrete apartment tower.

The sky outside is gloomy, blanketed in a stubborn haze ubiquitous to Chinese industrial cities. We make a slow, careful descent down a darkened stairwell – there is no lift – and emerge on to the crowded, untidy streets of Baoji.

This is the place the Australian nurse and volunteer now readily (and happily) calls "home". In a city of almost four million, she is one of only four or five foreigners. Virtually no English is spoken. Just her appearance on the street can draw a curious audience – foreign faces are a rare sight in Baoji.

She bustles me aboard a local bus and I make a cross-town commute Ms Ward has made every day for the past two-and-a-half years. Our destination is the Baoji Xinxing (New Star) Center for Street Kids, where Ms Ward has worked since she arrived in China in 2005.

Looking out the bus window, it is obvious Baoji is no beauty spot, nor does it have any claims to cultural or historic importance. It is

best known in China as a key railway junction; here lines bound for the east, west, north and south intersect.

Baoji is the crossroads of modern China; to the east and southeast lie the booming coastal provinces and cities, to the west and north the remote and poverty stricken hinterland. The trains carry the lifeblood of China's economic boom; they also bring the street children.

The moment we enter the gates of the Center, Ms Ward is engulfed by excited, laughing children. After a few breathless introductions to the children and staff, she leaves me and I spend the rest of the morning with the children, sitting in on their lessons and watching them play before rejoining Ms Ward, the staff and children for lunch.

A good-natured squabble breaks out over which table Ms Ward will sit at; a small boy quickly grabs my hand and delightedly leads me back to his table. Lunch over, the children rush outside to play basketball, skipping games, or table tennis. Those rostered on daily chores help to clean up and tidy their dormitories. Then it's back to class.

In the administration office, I remark to Ms Ward that this could be a typical happy, functional schoolyard just about anywhere. But then she hands me profiles of the children.

Their harrowing stories reveal just how far off the mark my observation has been – this is not a typical schoolyard and these are certainly not typical children.

They are what are now known in China as the "left behind children", a growing army of young people set adrift by personal, economic and social dislocation.

Chinese government statistics confirm that as many as 30 million children have been "left behind" in remote rural towns and villages in the care of elderly grandparents, relatives or friends – their parents part of a mass exodus of migrant workers flocking to major cities in search of work.

Lacking income, basic resources and denied access to proper education and health care, many of the children take to the road to escape harsh conditions or in the vain hope of finding their parents in far-off cities. The lucky ones find their way to New Star.

Some are refugees from truly tragic circumstances; there are victims of physical and emotional abuse, children with disabilities rejected after a divorce leads to remarriage, a child left orphaned by the suicide of a single parent, and children kidnapped by gangs and forced into crime or prostitution. They come from the remote, poorer central and western





"WHEN THEY COME TO US SOME ARE JUST DEADPAN FACES, THEY ARE DAMAGED, SOME ARE MUTE, SOME ARE SUFFERING FROM POST TRAUMATIC STRESS SYNDROME – THEY ARE EMOTIONALLY, PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND PHYSICALLY TRAUMATISED"

regions, and include non-Chinese-speaking Muslim children from Xinjiang Province in China's far west.

"When they come to us, some have dead pan expressions, they are damaged, some are mute, and some are suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome and are emotionally, psychologically and physically traumatised," Ms Ward says.

The team works with each child individually to build trust and confidence. Every child gets a clean bed as well as food, medical care, regular classes and schoolwork, professional counselling and music and art therapy. Ms Ward says one of the great rewards of the work is seeing even the most damaged children regain their confidence and self-esteem.

For every child who walks through the gates, New Star aspires to create a safe place. But for every child, the long-term goal is to find them a sustainable life outside the Center. For the majority, this means reuniting them with their families or carers. Ms Ward says being in their own home offers them the best possible future.

To achieve this, New Star set up a Social Investigation Unit which works to locate a child's origins, make contact with carers (if possible), assess the circumstances of their

home environment, and determine why the child ran away.

Unit staff will then mediate, and counsel carers and children. Only after visiting a home will they permit a child to return and no child is returned to an unsafe environment. Children under 16 are escorted by the team.

But for the most damaged children the same process is fraught with complications, and is for some impossible. Ms Ward says these children may remain at the Center indefinitely.

The approaches and methods used by New Star might appear unremarkable to professionals in Australia but in China, they are positively revolutionary.

"New Star is unique in China," says Ms Ward. Originally established by Medics Sans Frontiers (MSF) in 1998, it is the only organisation in China dedicated to working with street children. No other organisation offers professional counselling, education or a structured process for returning children home.

Existing agencies and relief centres are neither equipped nor able to cope with the needs of street children.

Children are detained with adults, often in appalling conditions, then handed a train or bus ticket and moved to the next town. >

## Life-defining experience

// By Penny Robinson

Working with Chinese "street kids" would presumably be both eye-opening and tough, but UQ graduate Kirsten Grass describes it as one of the best experiences of her life.

Ms Grass was a volunteer psychologist at the XinXing Aid for Street Kids Center in Baoji between June and August this year.

She had the opportunity to meet Margaret Ward whilst on the volunteer trip, who she describes as both "wonderful and inspiring."

"Unfortunately, I only got to work with her at the Center for a couple of weeks because soon after I arrived she left for Australia for a fund-raising road-trip," Ms Grass said.

"She really is an amazing woman – so inspiring. She shows a great amount of resilience after living in Baoji for two years, and complete dedication for the children."

XinXing, or New Star, is dedicated to providing support and rehabilitative services for Chinese street children and assists in returning them to their families.

Ms Grass said children came to the Center with many different stories.

"Some have been abused by their families and have run from home. Some children have been kidnapped from the north and are taken to large cities to work as thieves and sex workers, without being able to contact their families.

"Many parents move from their hometowns to find work in industrial cities, leaving their children with other family members who may not want parenting responsibilities.

"This often leads to the children leaving home to find their parents, but instead winding up on the streets," Ms Grass said.

Ms Grass completed her Masters in psychology earlier this year and is currently looking for work in Brisbane as a clinical psychologist.



Ms Grass entertains the children and staff at New Star



"I FOUND AN INNER STRENGTH THAT I THOUGHT I DIDN'T HAVE, AND I DISCOVERED I HAD THE ABILITY TO ADAPT QUICKLY INTO A NEW LIFESTYLE"



Ms Ward and New Star Executive Director Du Chengfei

#### > from previous page

One of New Star's most important roles is to create greater awareness and understanding of the plight of these children. "I'll say to a Chinese person that I work with street children, and the usual response is 'Oh? Are there street children in China?'" Ms Ward said. She says street kids are usually either ignored or written off by the community as misfits or criminals. "These are not bad children ... they are tomorrow's adults for China," she says.

In 2005, MSF decided it would withdraw from the project. To the surprise of her MSF colleagues, Ms Ward accepted an invitation from the team and rejoined New Star through Australian Volunteers International. In the process, she pitched in to help New Star apply for Non Government Organisation (NGO) status – and help tackle the huge challenge of finding funding and resources to keep it operating.

Ms Ward's title is Technical Adviser, a role she describes as a "shadow" to the professional staff. It is a transition she is determined to make work. "I try to encourage the staff to make their own decisions and find their own solutions," she says.

One of the first people I meet at New Star is an intense, quietly spoken man named Du Chengfei. At just 32, he is the Executive Director of New Star. Ms Ward says he epitomises the qualities of the young (all aged under 40), professional and immensely committed Chinese team.

Originally recruited by MSF as an interpreter in 1998, Ms Ward said Mr Du's talents quickly blossomed. He is responsible for overall management and leadership. Mr Du tells me his dream is to have the experiences and skills developed at New Star used as a model and replicated throughout the entire country.

Recognising the Center on its own can never hope to solve the problem of China's street children. Mr Du says its greatest power is its ability to inspire others and serve as "a beacon of hope".

Ms Ward believes the message is getting through.

Mr Du and the team are regularly invited to

conferences to talk about New Star, and several relief centres have asked to visit.

Ms Ward also wants to see the New Star approach adopted across China. So far it's been a slow process, but there are signs that the message is being heard.

Ms Ward says she is buoyed by an invitation from government officials in Xian, the nearby capital of Shaanxi and one of China's major tourist destinations, to advise on setting up a center that adopts the New Star model.

She says this is evidence that officials are beginning to accept that a new system is needed. Ms Ward says the recent decision by PLAN International to support New Star is another breakthrough.

"PLAN will visit Xinxing to discuss forming a partnership where PLAN will assist Xinxing replicate in Xian," she says.

But even as these positive signs appear, the biggest challenge remains a need for long-term funding.

In July this year, Ms Ward toured eastern Australia including Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and regional centres in northern New South Wales and north Queensland. She visited schools, did radio and television spots, spoke at business lunches and to community groups, and knocked on boardroom doors.

The result has been a new wave of support for New Star, including local fundraising drives, donations of clothes and goods, and new links to major institutions such as UQ, where she met with Professor Alan Lopez, head of the School of Population Health. Australian Volunteers International has agreed to fund a new position to support Ms Ward and her team.

Ms Ward says the team has already made remarkable sacrifices. When MSF first pulled out, New Star was forced to let almost half its professional staff go. The remaining staff took voluntary pay cuts of up to 40 percent.

They have willingly also shouldered extra tasks, worked longer hours and even double shifts. Despite the pressure, Ms Ward says no-one has left – and the current team has volunteered to accept further cuts if needed.

Ms Ward's admiration and professional

regard for the team is undisguised. But as a professional, she knows a heavy toll is being taken; "My fear is that people will burn out – the health of the staff is a concern. I try to encourage them to understand that they need to put their hand up if things get too much," she said.

But what of the toll on Ms Ward? Despite the heavy demands of her work and New Star's uncertain future, she is unflinchingly positive.

It is this optimism and resilience that have undoubtedly helped her through the toughest times in her life; the sudden death of her husband – which plunged her into years of despair; daunting assignments with MSF in some of the most heartbreaking trouble spots of Africa (Uganda, Sudan and Sierra Leone); and now Baoji.

And when she talks about how her life has changed since she arrived in China – far removed from friends and family in Australia – her optimism comes to the fore.

From day one, Ms Ward admits Baoji was a real challenge. She arrived with the city in the grip of a harsh Chinese winter.

"There were no people on the streets – and all the shops and buildings were shuttered against the cold," she says. She was plunged into an unfamiliar culture, with no Chinese language.

"I found an inner strength that I thought I didn't have," she says. "And I discovered I had an ability to adapt quickly into a new lifestyle. I grew to love it here – and that surprised me. It's home to me now."

One of the things that sustains her optimism is the astonishing response to her appearance on the ABC's *Australian Story* in 2006. "People from all walks of life offered all sorts of help," she says, and she rattles off a list of examples: donations of money, woollen winter clothes, blankets, musical instruments, computers, art supplies, and socks. While she is delighted her work in China has obviously touched and inspired people, she struggles with the idea. "To accept that me – Margaret Ward – could do something not everyone could do is really hard for me to accept," she said. //



# Leaving on high note

Several new opportunities await the long-serving head of UQ's School of Music, who retires at the end of the year after almost four decades with the University.

// by Cameron Pegg

The music of Philip Bracanin has found many fans over the years, but not all of them have been as direct as Bruce Beresford.

After hearing one of Professor Bracanin's pieces on ABC radio in 2005, the director of *Driving Miss Daisy* and *Breaker Morant* tracked him down with a surprising request: to ask if he'd collaborate on future film scores and an opera based on the classic Australian novel *The Fortunes of Richard Mahony*.

The offer is one of several new challenges awaiting the long-serving head of UQ's School of Music, who retires at the end of the year after 37 years with the University.

Professor Bracanin said he had seen an incredible amount of change during his tenure, particularly when it came to using technology in the classroom.

"Going back 10 years, a student would come for a composition lesson with a sheet of manuscript paper with a sketch of what they were working on," he said.

"Now they come in with a USB and put it in the computer."

Professor Bracanin began his career as a temporary lecturer in 1970, creating a series of short pastiche pieces for students to analyse and perform before attempting the process themselves.

Then considered a revolutionary approach, it caught the attention of the Queensland Education Department, who asked him to give school demonstrations before producing two films of his techniques for teachers across the state.

His hands-on style has proved popular ever since, attracting a large number of postgraduates from as far afield as Taiwan, Korea and the United States.

"I believe that students must have their own sense of what they want to create, and my role as a supervisor has been to foster and support their creative endeavours," he said.

Professor Bracanin has written 14 concertos – among the most of any Australian composer.

One of these – performed by former student and renowned guitarist Karin Schaupp – won an Australasian Performing Right Association award for most-performed contemporary classical work, while other pieces have featured instruments from voice to oboe and didgeridoo.

Regular University commissions have also kept him busy, with recent projects including the creation of UQ's graduation processional, an original composition for the launch of David Malouf's latest book, *Typewriter Music*, and the world premiere of the *St Lucia Suite* – believed to be one of the only pieces scored for string trio and string orchestra.

"I find that I am probably happiest and concentrating most when I'm writing a piece of music," he said.

"It just captures my attention and makes me focus quite strongly in pursuing whatever compositional problem that needs to be solved." //

from left: Professor Bracanin, the Queensland Performing Arts Centre organ lit in UQ colours for the premiere of the *St Lucia Suite*, and a section of the orchestra during the performance



## PHYSIOTHERAPIST'S GIFT TO RESEARCH

One of the University's first physiotherapy graduates is helping fund research into balance problems that are common reasons for patients to be referred to today's specialists.

Ailsa Stubbs-Brown (nee Munro) was among the first group of students to enter the new Physiotherapy course at the University in 1938, and the first to graduate in 1941.

She recently made a significant donation to support clinical researchers in the Division of Physiotherapy at UQ studying problems with balance that can affect movement skills in children, adolescents, adults and older people.

Dr Yvonne Burns AO, an honorary research consultant, said research undertaken in some adult age groups had shown that treatment improved balance, leading to fewer falls and greater participation in community activities.

"Studies with children have been also conducted where treatment of underlying co-ordination and balance problems has improved their performance in age-appropriate activities at school, home and play," Dr Burns said.

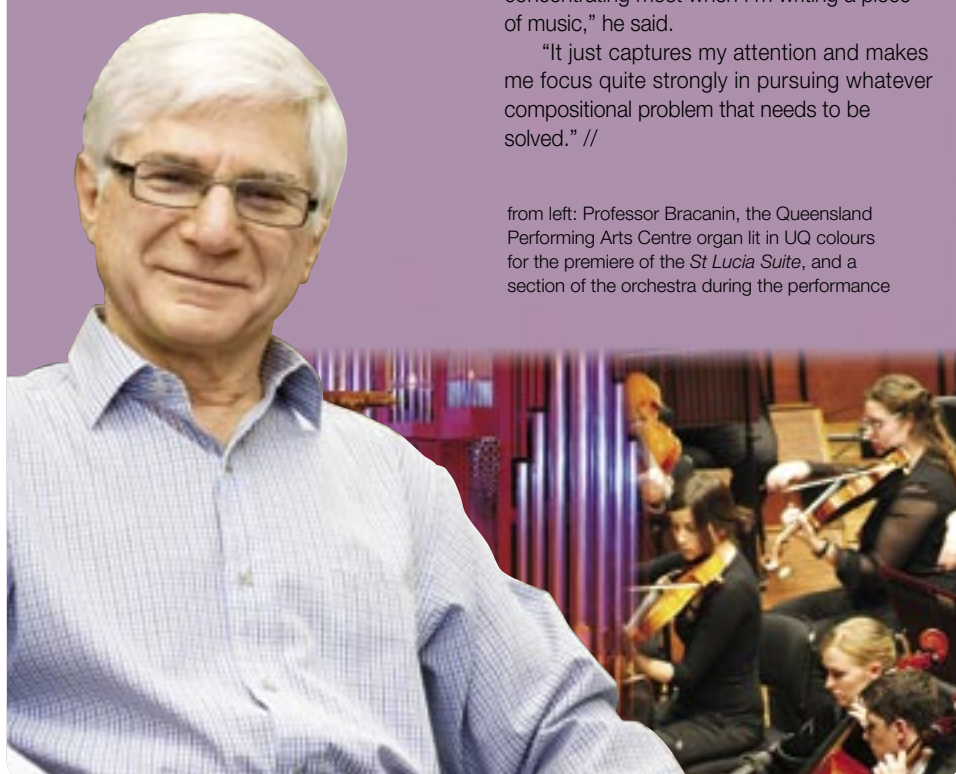
"The donation will allow the investigation of physiotherapy intervention outcomes across a range of diagnostic conditions and age groups, with a focus on improving balance and motor control to optimise participation in appropriate life activities."

After graduation, Mrs Stubbs-Brown worked at the General Brisbane Hospital, now Royal Brisbane Hospital (RBH), and later worked in private practice in Brisbane.

She has twice worked at UQ's physiotherapy department, firstly for eight years from 1942 as a lecturer and senior lecturer, and then from 1952 to 1972 as a part-time lecturer/demonstrator.

Mrs Stubbs-Brown was on the Federal Council of the Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) as the Queensland delegate from 1952 to 1974, and was made an honorary life member in 1973.

She was appointed as the Australian representative to the World Confederation for Physical Therapy in 1967 and was elected to the executive for the 1970 to 1974 term.





## Reconciliation pioneer rewarded

Reconciliation advocate and Indigenous leader, Dr Jackie Huggins, AM, has been named the 2007 University of Queensland Alumnus of the Year.

Known internationally for her work as an author, academic and activist, Dr Huggins has served as the Deputy Director of UQ's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit since 1997, and joins previous awardees including Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush and Nobel Laureate Professor Peter Doherty.

A Bidjara and Birri-Gubba Juru woman, she holds Bachelors of Arts from both UQ and Flinders University (with Honours), a Diploma of Education and an honorary doctorate conferred by the University last year.

Dr Huggins said the award was an incredible honour and had made her reflect on her time as an undergraduate in the 1980s.

Alumni Association President Feona Walker with Dr Huggins at the presentation.



"These were days when education was free and they were quite different times politically, especially for Indigenous peoples," she said.

"My son, John, was born while I was a student and I managed to complete my final years with high marks. I felt so proud to have managed full-time motherhood and full-time study. The great lecturers I had enabled me to be my own person in many ways, and to write and state the important things that I wanted to say."

Dr Huggins was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2001 and, as co-chair of Reconciliation Australia, oversaw events earlier this year to mark the 40-year anniversary of the 1967 referendum, which saw Indigenous people included in the federal census for the first time.

She said her focus at UQ would continue to be working towards reconciliation, a cause that had shaped her life since childhood.

"Community engagement has always been a priority for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit. We have an excellent partnership with them and our peers and it is through these partnerships that we can engage in meaningful dialogue," she said.

"Reconciliation is a generational matter and will not be solved tomorrow or the next day. We need to all take responsibility and work together to bring down the 17-year life expectancy gap which exists between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians."

The award is supported by UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, and the Alumni Association of The University of Queensland Inc.

## Trio of new Greats join elite group

UQ honoured three of its most successful graduates at the annual Courting the Greats Luncheon on September 26 at Brisbane Customs House.

Dr Anna Straton was named Young Alumnus of the Year, Datuk Dr Rosti Saruwono the International Alumnus, and Dr Jackie Huggins, AM, the 2007 UQ Alumnus of the Year (see story this page).

Dr Straton, a UQ Economics graduate, was recognised for her work as a research scientist for the CSIRO in the Northern Territory.

"My degree at UQ has given me a solid theoretical and analytical basis for the understanding of a wide range of issues and questions that I find fascinating and that are important to the future of Australia," Dr Straton said.

She completed her Bachelor of Economics in 1998 and graduated with first-class honours in 1999.

Her PhD thesis, which she completed in 2005, offered a new perspective on how to deal with environmental problems, and attracted significant attention.

Dr Straton is a research scientist with the CSIRO and is involved in projects including the assessment of the social and economic values of Australia's tropical rivers and property rights and greenhouse gas abatement on Aboriginal land.

International Alumnus of the Year, Datuk Dr Rosti Saruwono, completed a Bachelor of Engineering in 1974.

Datuk Dr Rosti is Vice President of the Education Division at Petronas, a fully-integrated oil and gas corporation owned by the Malaysian Government and ranked among Fortune Global 500's largest corporations in the world.

After graduating Datuk Dr Rosti started work with the Malaysian Government and has since been committed to developing opportunities in education, training, and employment for Malay youth.







## Laughs on menu for 'plus 50s'

Past students of UQ conjured up memories from more than half a century ago at the Graduates of 50 or More Years' Standing luncheon in August.

The luncheon was open to anyone who graduated from UQ more than 50 years ago but many of the 180 or so guests who attended were of an even earlier vintage.

The graduate of longest standing at the event was Clarence Manning, OBE, who finished his Bachelor of Arts at UQ in 1938.

Graduates were in distinguished company at the luncheon, with 11 Order

of Australia recipients, eight professors and around 40 doctors among those who attended.

During the luncheon, guests were entertained by Emeritus Professor Bob Milns who expounded on the fascination of studying languages. They also viewed a slideshow of images of UQ's early years.

Top (from left): Mary Prentice, Judge Manus Boyce, QC, and Mr Manning. Above (from left): Dr John Carr, and UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Michael Keniger and Professor Milns.



## Going Global?

The Institute of Modern Languages can help you reach the world by breaking the language barrier.

With a highly experienced team, proficient in over 60 languages, the Institute of Modern Languages can meet all your translation and interpreting needs. From general literature to specialist services such as legal documents, we can provide NAATI accredited services.

Talk to us on (07) 3365 6742 or email [uqtranslation@uq.edu.au](mailto:uqtranslation@uq.edu.au).

The IML can provide you with a range of customised language solutions. Find out more at [www.iml.uq.edu.au](http://www.iml.uq.edu.au)

THE INSTITUTE OF  
MODERN LANGUAGES



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA

CRICOS Provider Number 00258

## Ancient arts a hit at exhibition

A dynamic martial arts display marked the opening of an exhibition of Chinese calligraphy at the Mayne Centre on September 30.

A crowd of around 500 saw a free hour-long display of kung fu, tai chi, tile breaking and lion dancing.

The calligraphy exhibition was the latest in Dr Nat Yuen's series of gifts to the UQ Art Museum, located in the Mayne Centre.

The exhibition featured more than 90 pieces by Dr Yuen's own hand, as well as by Wong Kwok Hing and the late Lo Yat Ngam, who taught calligraphy to Dr Yuen and Mr Wong.

Dr Yuen, a Hong Kong resident who graduated in medicine in 1965, is both a great grandmaster of kung fu and a proficient calligrapher.





Proud parents and UQ alumni Jie Liu (left) and Qi Ke were happy to show off their daughter Mai Mai at the alumni celebration in Shanghai

BEIJING



Enjoying the alumni celebration were (above from right) Suping He, Melita Gratwick from UQ's International Education Directorate, Lu Zhang, Wen Zhen, Steven Qu, Xiaoting Li, Cindy Yu, Jingyuan Zhang and Caojian Song

Pictured right: Melissa Luo (left), Connie Wu and Emily Ma (right)

PHOTOGRAPHS BY WERKZ

## FRIENDSHIPS grow in China

UQ strengthened its Asian connections in September with a graduate celebration in Hong Kong and a series of events for alumni and friends of the University in China.

The Hong Kong graduate celebration on September 15 provided recent UQ graduates with an opportunity to be presented to the Chancellor, Sir Llew Edwards, AC, in front of their families and friends.

The international alumni celebrations were held in Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Beijing.

It was the final visit to China on behalf of the University by Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, who retires at the end of December.

Guest speaker at the graduate celebration, Professor Bruce Abernethy, on leave from UQ as Chair and Director of the University of Hong Kong's Institute of Human Performance, paid tribute to Professor Hay.

"There is no doubt under Professor Hay's leadership there has been a significant rise in the global standing of the University," he said.

"During his watch, links with government, with industry and with like institutions worldwide have all increased dramatically, along with demonstrable advances in the typical university performance indicators of research productivity, teaching quality and community relevance.

"All of us who hold UQ degrees owe the Vice-Chancellor a great gratitude for overseeing this enhancement of the global recognition of the University.

"The rise in the University's standing and visibility directly raises the currency and standing of the qualifications held by all UQ graduates."

Professor Hay told alumni that the celebrations were "a wonderful opportunity to mingle with old friends and to become acquainted with new ones" although being "heavily laden with sadness for me personally."

He said the more than 1000 Chinese students enrolled at UQ were "a valuable addition" and "make up our largest single source of international students, and almost

one-fifth of our total number of international students.

"UQ nurtures and treasures its relationship with its Chinese students and alumni just as it does its partnerships with the People's Republic of China generally," Professor Hay said.

UQ has 58 teaching and research agreements with 30 Chinese universities.

In October last year, Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) neuroscientists from UQ formalised a research agreement with the Chinese Academy of Science, Institute of Neuroscience.

The QBI and Zeiss Australasia have created a travelling fellowship providing funds for QBI scientists to visit China to collaborate with their Chinese colleagues, and for Chinese scientists to come and work with QBI for up to 12 months.

In November last year, one of UQ's most acclaimed researchers, Professor Max Lu, became the only Australian included in a list of the 50 most influential Chinese in the world.





Professor Bruce Abernethy (pictured left) was guest speaker at the Hong Kong graduation celebration



Below: three graduates enjoy the alumni celebration – Florence Cheung (left), Kin Lam Hui and Tracy Lai (right)

HONG KONG

## SHANGHAI



Above: At the alumni celebration – UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay (left) and Hubert Tse, President of the UQ Alumni Association of Shanghai

Above right: Alumni Wei Zhang (left), Linan Chan, Yufei Zhao and Shiyan Fan (right)

Right: Tao Jiang (left) and Haishan Jiang



## Quiet start to a life-changing experience

Liew Ah Choy credits the Colombo Plan Scholarship that brought him to UQ from Malaysia in 1965 with playing a significant part in his success since.

By the time he left seven years later he had a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical) with first class honours, a PhD, a wife and a son.

When he arrived in Brisbane as a 20-year-old to begin his undergraduate studies, he was amazed by the city – but not because of its bright lights and bustling streets.

"I couldn't believe how dull it was," said Professor Liew, now the Director, International Relations Office, of the National University of Singapore, as well as a lecturer in Electrical and Computer Engineering.

"It was a culture shock to land in a place that was so quiet. It was almost like a dead town compared to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur where life goes on nearly all night."

Professor Liew reflected on his student days as guest speaker at the University's April graduation celebration in Singapore.

Professor Liew said his new life took a major turn for the better when he became a resident at International House.

"When I first applied it was full, but then a couple of months later there was a place, I was one of the founding residents," he said.

"We had to play games and it was very difficult for the smaller Asians to compete with the big Australians who were very sporty.

"The only thing where we could actually survive was hockey, I was a hockey player and among the international students we had people from India, Pakistan and across Asia.

"It was a pretty good team. We won the inter college games several times and I got my hockey Blue."

Life at International House also exposed Professor Liew to some local customs.

"As an engineering student, we were called the greasers and so on Friday afternoon we had



'smoko' which of course meant drinking. I was one of the few Asians who participated."

Fortunately, Professor Liew had not been immersing himself in Australian culture one night in his second year at UQ.

"I was at a friend's 21st birthday party and that is when I met my wife, Alice Gan Ah Lian, who was studying for a degree in industrial chemistry at the Queensland Institute of Technology (now QUT). She later received a Bachelor of Science from UQ," he said.

"When we got engaged I was doing my PhD. My supervisor, Professor Matt Darveniza, was almost like a father to me, and he offered his house to hold a party.

"We married in January 1971 and our first son was born in Brisbane in April 1972 – just before my return to Malaysia to lecture at the University of Malaya."

Professor Liew still has strong ties to Australia and his *alma mater*, and was the founding President of the UQ Alumni Association of Singapore.



Top: Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay presents Professor Liew with a gift on behalf of the University at this year's Singapore graduation celebration and (above) with wife Alice and friends during his student days at UQ

## Plaudits for Queensland's leadership team

Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay has paid tribute to retired Queensland Premier Peter Beattie, and congratulated the new leadership team of Premier Anna Bligh (pictured right) and Deputy Premier Paul Lucas.

"Mr Beattie has created a tremendous legacy by initiating and advancing the Smart State strategy," Professor Hay said.

"UQ had the advantage of working closely with Mr Beattie to enhance the impact of key aspects of this strategy.

"Both Premier Bligh and Deputy Premier Lucas have, at different times, had portfolio responsibility for Smart State research

infrastructure and programs. I have found them consistently receptive to the value of locating a community of world-class researchers in Queensland.

"UQ also has the privilege of being able to call Mr Beattie, Ms Bligh and Mr Lucas alumni."

Professor Hay said UQ looked forward to the continuing development of its partnership with the government. He also paid tribute to Mr Beattie's contributions to Queensland's cultural vitality, and was confident the new leaders would maintain a focus on cultural enrichment.





# Submariner cruises Greek coastline

Lloyd Godson has a history of going where few would dare and living in conditions most would not contemplate – all in the name of science.

// by Miguel Holland

Adventurer of the Year, Lloyd Godson, (BSc Hons 2001) never fancied himself as a strong swimmer but he's about to strap on a shark tail and swim 500 kilometres for science.

Mr Godson and his partner, Carolina Sarasiti, will swim down the west coast of Greece in custom-built submarines powered by their own legs.

They will be inside carbon-fibre submarines and wear 1.5-metre hydrofoil tailfins, designed by Ms Sarasiti's brother, Alex Sarasitis, on their legs to propel them through the water.

The pair is in Greece seeking project partners and planning their two-month voyage for next September to October.

They will travel down the Ionian Sea from Corfu in the north down to Ithaca in the south.

"We'll stop at schools and do talks about the marine issues in Greece and use the submarines to try and capture their imagination," Mr Godson said.

The 29-year-old, now based in Albury, made headlines in April when he became the first human to live in a self-sustaining

underwater habitat called the Biosub, for 12 days.

Mr Godson pedalled a bike to generate his electricity and used his own bodily waste to feed algae that provided his oxygen.

He said the submarines, being designed now for testing next June, would be small and fast for a human-powered vehicle which could withstand depths of 50 metres.

Mr Godson will lay face down and use his legs to move the fin and have a specially designed pump which will push old air out of the dorsal fin and suck fresh air in.

"The submarines will be just large enough for one person with some very minimal emergency equipment," he said.

"At this stage we'll probably travel between 10 and 30 kilometres per day and visit 10 to 15 schools."

They chose to swim in the Mediterranean because of Ms Sarasiti's Greek family links and because Greece had opened its waters to scuba diving for the first time in 50 years.

Mr Godson also has a growing media profile as a science educator and is shooting



An artist's impression of the submarine.  
Photos: Alex Sarasitis

a Canadian TV series promotion called *On the Edge*.

The sustainable living series follows how Mr Godson lives in a range of extreme environments such as on the side of volcanoes, in rainforest canopies and underwater.

"I really like the idea of combining science with my other passion of educating kids about science issues," he said.

"If I can inspire people to study science through TV or other projects that's great, because science can take you to some pretty cool places."

Mr Godson is an unconventional scientist, educator and traveller. He was recently crowned the 2007 *Australian Geographic* Adventurer of the Year.

He lived in a backyard tent in his final year of University and he has been to Antarctica, Indonesia, Panama and the Bahamas for marine research.

"I've always done things a little bit differently. I'm not an adrenalin junkie but I like testing myself mentally and I am always up for a challenge," he said. //

Lloyd Godson (right) with Carolina and Alex Sarasitis and a prototype of the fin for their submarine. The fins are being tested by world record freediver Herbert Nitsch

"I'M NOT AN ADRENALIN JUNKIE BUT I LIKE TESTING MYSELF MENTALLY AND I AM ALWAYS UP FOR A CHALLENGE"



# Mentor and role model

Obituary: Don Nicklin, AO, FTSE

// by Professor Mike Hood, Chief Executive Officer, CRCMining

Emeritus Professor Don Nicklin died peacefully on October 29 after having been diagnosed with brain cancer five weeks earlier.

Don was an extraordinary man who touched the lives of many people.

First and foremost, he was a family man. He married his beloved Jo in 1958. Early in their married life they had six children – Jim, Bill (deceased), Jane, Suzy, Ben and Jack – for a month they had six children under eight. Married 49 years, Don and Jo have nine grandchildren.

Don had an outstanding intellect, winning an open scholarship to UQ and graduating in 1957 in Applied Science with First Class Honours and a University Medal.

He was awarded a Shell Scholarship to Cambridge University in 1957, completed his PhD in Chemical Engineering in 1961, and was awarded the Junior Moulton Medal for a paper published by the Institution of Chemical Engineers.

He joined du Pont of Canada and led a small group responsible for developing new processes in nylon production. In 1963, he transferred to du Pont in the US to work on the development of Lycra.

Don joined UQ in 1965 and in 1969, aged only 34, he was appointed Professor and Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering.

He later served as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Pro Vice-Chancellor before retiring in 1994 as Emeritus Professor.

In 1987 he was awarded the Chemeca Medal; the highest award for members of the chemical engineering profession in Australia.

Don had an ever-present, wicked, low-key sense of humour. For example, he would tell of his Masters degree at UQ. His marriage to Jo and the preparation for their move to Cambridge meant that he needed to write up his Masters thesis hurriedly during their honeymoon.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, his UQ supervisor suggested some corrections and additions, which Don never got around to making.

In order to illustrate the very high standards at UQ, an institution of which he remained inordinately proud, he recorded his qualifications as: B Appl Sci (Hons), UQ; PhD, Cambridge; MS, UQ – failed.

Don was generous with his time and he served his country, his profession and the wider community in many ways.

He served on the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council for six years, and as a member of AusIndustry's Industry Research and Development Board.

He was a director of Ticor, a public company, and served for many years as Chair of the Board of Trustees of Brisbane Grammar School.

He continued to be the very active and supportive Chair of CRCMining, a Cooperative Research Centre. This year he was proud to be the Chair of the Institution of Chemical Engineers in Australia.

Don was inventive and a lifelong entrepreneur. With Peter Tait, one of his former students, and his friends and colleagues Martin



Emeritus Professor Don Nicklin (right) with UQ Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield at the CRCMining headquarters in 2005

Albrecht and Dale Elphinstone, he started a company to commercialise a technology he and Peter had developed, a continuous high-pressure retort particularly suitable for processing slurries.

The company initially had success demonstrating its technology, but had difficulty raising the funds needed for commercialisation. Fittingly, it seems there has been a breakthrough, and the work will proceed.

Don was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in the Honours List of June 1996. He was an elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.

Don was laid back, usually very casually dressed, thoughtful, wise, self-effacing, extraordinarily generous, always helpful, always making insightful contributions.

He went out of his way to help his colleagues, his students and former students, and anybody else who came within his orbit.

Don served as a mentor and as a role model to many of us; for which we will remain eternally grateful. //

## UNIVERSITY THANKS SUPPORTERS

The University has paid tribute to some of its most generous donors at the 2007 Donor Thank You in November.

The morning tea function brought together more than 120 individual and corporate donors to the University, who, together with other sponsors, have helped fund millions of dollars worth of research, scholarships and other projects.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay AC used the gathering as an opportunity to outline some of the many ways donor funds have been spent.

"The University of Queensland has thrived thanks to people, such as you, supporting it in a variety of ways," Professor Hay said.

"You have lent financial support, combined with moral support and corporate support locally, nationally and internationally.

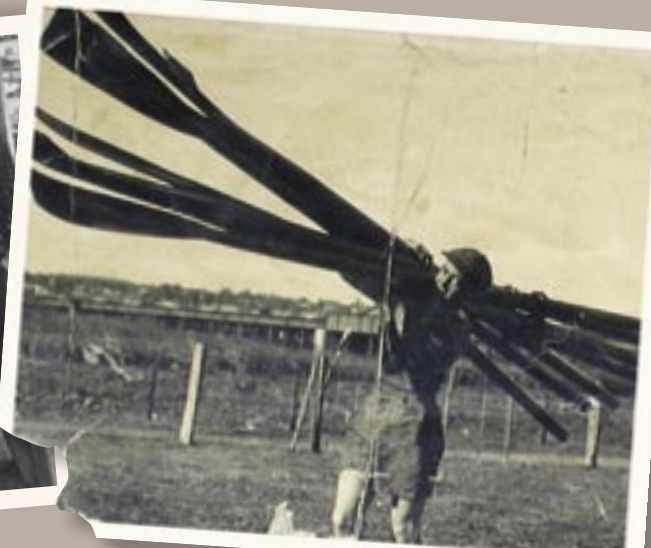
"In turn, the University has been able to help others in need."

Centre for Critical and Cultural studies researcher Dr Melissa Gregg and winner of the inaugural Andrew Liveris engineering prize Sean Muir also spoke at the function about how donor funds have aided their study and work.

Professor Hay catches up with donors (from left) Dr Cathryn Mittelheuser, Dr Margaret Mittelheuser and Rina Martina







## RECORD RUN for rower

A rower who was awarded a Sporting Blue by UQ in 1933 is believed to be the University's oldest living recipient of the honour.

// By Stephen Dankert

Ashgrove's John Gustavus Percy competed in the prestigious Intersarsity Regattas for The University of Queensland Boat Club (UQBC) as coxswain for the men's eight in 1933.

Now aged 93, Mr Percy still vividly remembers the regattas, often held on the Brisbane River near the St Lucia campus.

"The Intersarsity Regattas (held between Australia's best rowing clubs) were always a big affair, one of the highlights of the year for the University," Mr Percy said.

Not one of the richer clubs, the University's participation in the 1933 competition on the Nepean River in New South Wales was possible only through donations from people outside of the club.

"Our club didn't have the resources of some of the interstate clubs, but we always had great support," Mr Percy said.

Coming in fourth that year, the UQBC crew were rewarded for their efforts with Sporting Blues, the highest honour for outstanding achievement in University sport.

Mr Percy was only 19 when he received his Blue from UQ, where he went on to compete with the UQBC for five years while studying dentistry from 1932 to 1936.

Two years later on June 6, 1935, which was Mr Percy's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, the UQBC men's eight rowed to victory in the Intersarsity Regatta ahead of the host crew Melbourne, after which his team mates took him out on the town for celebrations.

"We beat the Melbourne crew, who came in third, which was a big deal. The boys took me out on the town that night to celebrate my birthday. It was a great day," Mr Percy said.

This year, the University honoured its earliest recorded living Blue recipient at

the Blues and Sporting Awards Dinner at Brisbane's Tattersalls Club on November 2.

The event focused on recognising pre-1960s Blues recipients, and athletes who received a sporting Blue throughout the 1990s.

The tradition of Sporting Blues began in 1829 at the first boat race between crews from Oxford and Cambridge universities, who rowed on the River Thames from Hambleden Lock to Henley Bridge, a distance of 2.25 miles.

Before the start of the race, as the crew had no distinctive uniform to identify them, one of the Cambridge oarsmen tied a light blue scarf to the bow of the Cambridge boat

(the colour of his school, Eton College) while an Oxford oarsman tied a dark blue scarf to the bow of his boat.

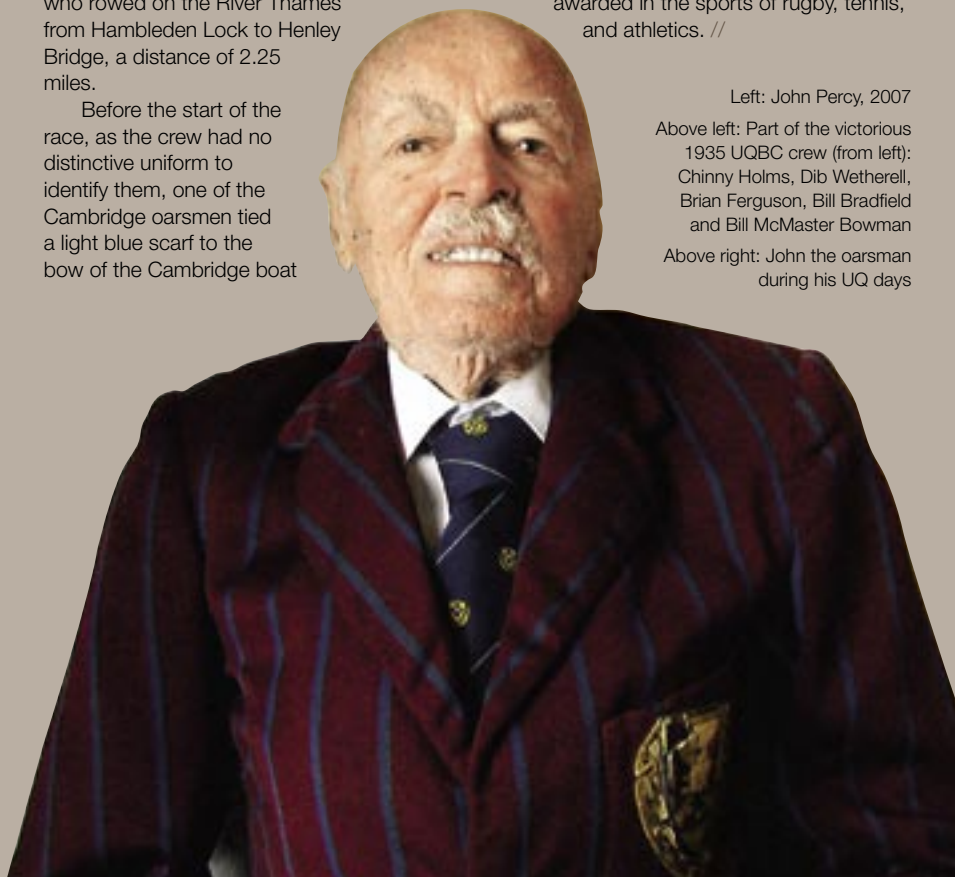
It has since become a tradition for Blues to be awarded for outstanding achievement in University sport, a tradition adopted by English-speaking universities around the world.

Sporting Blues were first distributed at the University in 1912, when one each year was awarded in the sports of rugby, tennis, and athletics. //

Left: John Percy, 2007

Above left: Part of the victorious 1935 UQBC crew (from left): Chinny Holms, Dib Wetherell, Brian Ferguson, Bill Bradfield and Bill McMaster Bowman

Above right: John the oarsman during his UQ days



## 1969: Writing for the soul

**Jo-Anne Berthelsen** (BA 1969) realised her dream of becoming an author when her first novel, *Heléna*, was published by Ark House Press earlier this year.

The book is set largely during World War II, and is based on the story of a Czech musician who flees her homeland and migrates to Australia.

To complete the book Mrs Berthelsen undertook extensive research, speaking with other European immigrants from the same period.

"It was quite painful for one of the people I interviewed to verify facts – another Czech woman of around the same age as the original Heléna," Mrs Berthelsen said.

"I found as I interviewed her that her eyes would fill with tears, and then she would say she did not want to talk about this or that. Of course I assured her she did not have to, and changed the topic, but invariably she kept coming back to these things herself, as if she truly needed to talk about them, after all this time."

Prior to focussing on her writing, Mrs Berthelsen had a varied career, working as a high school languages teacher among other things before deciding to begin theological studies in her 40s.

After working on her local ministry team for many years with her husband Lionel, who is also a pastor, Mrs Berthelsen now speaks regularly about spirituality and the writing process.

"My hope is that those who read my book will not only be caught up in Heléna's moving story, but also encouraged to continue to stand tall and to 'keep the faith'," Mrs Berthelsen said.

She has recently completed three other books, one of which – a sequel to *Heléna* – will be released in February.



## 1970: Protest photos resurface

**Garry Redlich** (BA 1970, LLB 1975) has unearthed some Kodachrome images he took of fellow UQ students participating in the first of the big civil liberties marches in the late 1960s.

Mr Redlich was a first-year UQ Arts student when he took the photographs of the march from St Lucia on September 5, 1967, and the subsequent "sit-down" in Roma Street, near the old Markets building.

"The best photograph shows Brian Laver, the most prominent of the student leaders, in front of the stalled Bardon tram in Roma Street, just before the first sit-down and arrests," Mr Redlich said.

"The fashion items of the leaders on Fred Schonell Drive make a statement – ties, and a pith helmet!"

"The same shot (above) shows Frank Gardiner (pharmacy student and UQ Union president), Peter Wertheim (Philosophy

and Dan O'Neill (English) and a Queensland Newspapers photographer with his large format camera and thin tie."

Mr Redlich graduated from UQ with an Arts degree (government and languages) in 1970, finishing his Law studies five years later.

"I married a fellow government honours student, Marilyn Stehr, and we have two adult children," he said.

After graduating, Mr Redlich worked in the law in London and Brisbane until the mid 1980s and then moved into business.

"Since the late 1990s I have been a biotech industry CEO, co-founding the ASX-listed Peplin, a cancer drug company, shortly for listing on the NASDAQ," he said.

Mr Redlich is currently chief executive of Implicit Bioscience, which has offices in Brisbane and Seattle.

He works with UQ Professor Ian Frazer and Queensland's Chief Scientist Peter Andrews at Implicit, which is developing drugs for severe infectious disease and to boost biodefence.





## 1982: Ocean adventure awaits

Most Australians have probably never heard of Chikungunya, let alone be able to pronounce it.

But the mosquito-borne virus is the very reason **Dr Dave Harley** (BSc Hons 1982, MBBS 1989, PhD 2000) is soon to travel to Réunion, in the Indian Ocean.

After a recent outbreak of Chikungunya on the island, the Centre de Recherche et de Veille sur les maladies émergentes dans l'Océan Indien (CRVOI) has assembled a team of international experts to combat the problem.

"The virus caused a large epidemic on Réunion, with cases presenting initially in 2005, but with the majority of the over 250,000 infections occurring in 2006, and with around 250 deaths. There have also been over a million infections in India and outbreaks continue in various parts of Africa," Dr Harley said.

Chikungunya means "to walk bent over" in some East African Languages, and leads to dehydration, severe pain and fever in sufferers.

Dr Harley was approached by the CRVOI after completing his PhD thesis and subsequent research on reducing risk factors in the spread of Ross River Virus, which is related to Chikungunya.

He said although the call up was unexpected, he looked forward to using his expertise in the fight against future outbreaks.

"Like all communicable disease control problems, appropriate responses depend upon the host (humans), agent (the virus) and environment," Dr Harley said.

"Control measures will often incorporate a variety of measures, including surveillance systems, diagnostic methodologies, health education, biological and chemical vector control, and possibly vaccines and other methods."

## 1991: Mining new safety standards

Great business ideas come about in many ways, but for **David Noon** (BE Hons I 1991, PhD 1996), it was vacation work at a Mt Isa mine that inspired him to become a successful entrepreneur.

"That experience left a lasting impression on me – I really engaged with the mining culture, and I realised that people's safety and mine productivity were two values that the industry in general strives to improve," Dr Noon said.

Realising there was a gap in the market, he and UQ colleagues Professor Dennis Longstaff, Dr Bryan Reeves and Dr Glen Stickley worked to create a new product to help companies capitalise on the resources boom without compromising the wellbeing of workers.

Their research led to the development of GroundProbe – a "radar speed gun for rocks" – which detects instability in slope walls and is used in open-cut mines worldwide.

"Conventional methods to monitor the stability of the rock wall were low-tech – mainly wires or point sensors on the wall," Dr Noon said.

"We were able to demonstrate that with an advanced radar, we could measure the early signs of slope movement before the wall collapses, and provide complete area coverage from a standoff position and without any requirement for installing hardware or sensors on the slope – which is dangerous in itself."

GroundProbe launched as a company with a staff of four in 2003, and has quickly grown to employ more than 100 people on four continents.

Their radar technology has been well received by the industry, with Noon and his business partner Lyle Bruce named the 2006 Australian Entrepreneurs of the Year in Technology.

"It's been a very fast road, and the successes have been because we have a unique product that overcomes the limitations of the alternative methods," Dr Noon said.

"It is no longer acceptable for any injury or loss of life to occur on a mine site. At the same time, mining companies are ramping up their production rates, but must be cautious with regards to people's safety."



## 1992: Appreciating Australian art

**Renai Grace** (BA 1992) has moved from collecting stamps with her pocket money to curating corporate art exhibitions worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Completing a double major in Art History, Ms Grace was on track for teaching but had a change of heart after scoring a scholarship at one of the world's most famed museums.

"I have always wanted to be involved with the visual arts and art collecting. Ever since my postgraduate fellowship at the Guggenheim Museum in Venice, I have been passionate about raising the profile and patronage of the visual arts in Australia," Ms Grace said.

"I plan my annual holidays around international art fairs and exhibitions and survey auction house results, somewhat similar to a stock market report."

Ms Grace works as a consultant for Brisbane company Positive Solutions, negotiating with artists and galleries to purchase pieces on behalf of clients.

Other tasks include sourcing artists in residence, assisting collaborations

between architects and designers, and organising permanent works to enhance corporate spaces.

And in a line of work that's inherently subjective, a touch of diplomacy doesn't go astray.

"My job is all about communication," Ms Grace said.

"It is always difficult when you have to inform a creative professional that their client does not want to proceed with their proposed concept, but it is equally difficult trying to convince a committee to commission or purchase an artwork that some people may find confronting or challenging."

A recent project involved gathering almost 200 original works for the Mater Mothers Hospital in Brisbane, with the exhibition and an accompanying book to be ready early next year.

Other work on the horizon includes expanding the art portfolios of top law firms, and beginning to build a collection for a company in Saudi Arabia.



## 1995: Speech therapist makes history

**Professor Gail Gillon's** (PhD 1995) first day as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) at the University of Canterbury was officially marked on September 5 with a powhiri – a formal Maori greeting welcoming her to the College of Education.

A leading researcher in the University's Department of Communication Disorders and College of Science, Professor Gillon is the first woman to hold the post of Pro-Vice-Chancellor at UC.

This new appointment sees her returning to her academic roots as it was at the former Christchurch College of Education where she completed her professional qualifications in education, teaching, and speech-language therapy.

After graduating in 1983 she spent several years working in New Zealand and Australia in the special education sector, before coming to UQ to complete her Doctorate in Speech and Hearing.

Professor Gillon is well-known internationally for her work on the prevention of reading disorders for children at risk.

Her research has been widely published in leading speech-language pathology, reading, and education journals and she recently became the first New Zealander to be made a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.





## 1998: Reaching out to the community

Enterprising graduate **Sharyn Efimoff** (BEng 1998) is pouring her technical expertise into Greenduck, an online portal where people can post free classifieds.

After completing an MBA at Harvard University in 2005 and undertaking internships at Amazon.com and Motorola, Ms Efimoff said her role as CEO of the company allowed her to engage both sides of the brain simultaneously.

Greenduck is a website dedicated to connecting people, particularly those in the tertiary student demographic.

"You can use the site to buy and sell secondhand text books, furniture and electronics, and to connect with other locals, whether to find a sports team or a French speaking partner," Ms Efimoff said.

"At the moment we're trying to attract users and create awareness. We want to keep the site free to use for individuals."

With Engineers Australia naming 2007 the Year of Women in Engineering, Ms Efimoff said more young women should consider taking up the profession and see where their skills take them.

"I draw upon both the technical and process aspects of my training on a daily basis," she said.

"The process aspect is particularly useful, whether it be used for engineering or marketing, and the skills acquired would be beneficial to a management role, or any other within a technical field."



Photo: courtesy Cath Pillans

## 1999: Double doctorate a day to remember

**Richard Pillans** (BSc Hons I 1999, PhD 2007) had an added incentive to finish his doctorate in July – to join his wife Sue (PhD 2007) who was receiving hers on the same day.

The husband and wife met as Coastal Cooperative Research Centre scholarship students in 2000, and although originally working to different timelines decided they would try and finish their studies together.

"Once we knew it would be close we both put in extra hours to make sure we could hand in our theses on the same day," Richard said.

"It was certainly much easier working all weekend and late at night when we were in the same room with our backs to each other, rather than one of us sitting back relaxing."

With both studying in the field of marine science, the couple often worked as each other's research assistants – a particularly memorable experience taking place late one evening as Richard tagged sharks in the Burrum River.

"Sue was on board despite her fear of small boats, being on boats at night and of

course being on a small boat at night in a river with big bull sharks," Richard said.

"After a long struggle I finally got the shark next to the boat, and then had to persuade her that she had to hold it by the tail in order for me to lift it in by the head, all the time being careful not to tip the boat over as it was listing to one side."

Sue had her own run-ins with wildlife while studying the effectiveness of "green zones" in the Moreton Bay area – often while waist-deep in muddy water.

"Once I had to pull my seine net full of fish through a nursery area for sharks. Even though they were only small, it is a bit disconcerting having a metre-long shark bump into your leg!"

The two have since put their skills to good use, with Richard joining the CSIRO's Marine and Atmospheric Research team and Sue becoming a Marine and Coastal planner with the Environmental Protection Agency shortly before graduation.

And with everything going to plan on their big day, the couple wouldn't have had things any differently.

"I would have to say that it was one of the most special days for both Richard and myself and our families since celebrating our wedding," Sue said.

"It was so great in fact that I would consider doing another PhD just to celebrate the day again...well maybe."

## 2003: Career hits a top note

These days **Kathleen Parker** (BMus Hons I 2003) spends most of her time running between rehearsals and recitals, and she couldn't be happier.

Based at the Australian Opera Studio in Perth, Ms Parker is one of only four young performers selected in this year's intake, and has already sung her way through a number of roles (including Mrs Peachum in *The Threepenny Opera*, pictured below) since starting the course in February.

"There is an enormous amount of music to learn, work on and perform regularly. The stamina required just to get through each day is enormous but it's so much fun that mostly you don't notice," she said.

The move to Western Australia came shortly after a six-month stint in Florence, where the Sunshine Coast local experienced a crash course in Italian culture and opera traditions.

"Going to Italy and throwing myself in the deep end with the language was one of the best things I could have done," she said.

"I arrived knowing little more than how to count from 1 to 20 and romantic phrases I had learned from Italian songs. I knew how to say 'my heart is breaking' but not 'which way to the bus stop?'"

Ms Parker said she hoped one day to perform at some of the world's most famed opera houses – among them La Scala in Milan and Covent Garden in London.

But with many singers training for years before getting their break, she said it was important for young artists to be committed and hard working if they were to succeed.

"It's essential to get as much performance experience as possible, even if it means creating your own opportunities. And last but certainly not least, you need a really strong work ethic and lots of persistence and determination."



## 2003: Pet project realised

For someone as passionate about animals as **Robyn Hodder** (BAppSc 2003), becoming the head nurse of Queensland's biggest animal emergency centre has proved the perfect career move.

The 26-year-old (pictured above right) manages and trains a team of 30 at Animal Emergency Services on Brisbane's southside, and said the after hours Centre handled all types of situations ranging from life-threatening injuries, to helping new dog owners choose what to feed their new puppy.

"I am a clinical nurse therefore I work on shift saving animal lives," Ms Hodder said.

"I also manage and train all the nursing staff to ensure they are all kept up to date with the latest information and the clinic runs smoothly."

She said the Centre would see an average of 15 animals per day, with the figure rising up to 60 during the Christmas holidays.

Most of the animals treated are dogs and cats but Ms Hodder has also tended to birds, turtles, rats, fish and native animals, some needing particularly tricky treatment.

"There was a case recently where an owner went to place eye lubricant in their dog's eye but placed superglue instead," she said.

"We had to break down the glue to get the eye open. Thankfully the eye was okay."

One of the most exotic animals Ms Hodder has treated is an \$8000 Macaw parrot who had a fractured leg.

"He needed an anaesthetic to repair the leg and a specialised splint placed," she said.

"It was an extremely risky procedure but the Macaw came through with flying colours."

Ms Hodder was one of the inaugural graduates from UQ's Veterinary Technology degree, and said she particularly enjoyed the educational aspects of her job.

"The Vet Tech degree gave me the skills and the knowledge to be prepared for any situation which is important in emergency and critical care," she said.

"It also gave me the confidence to be able to lead a team of nurses effectively."





## 2004: The business of beautiful music

**Courtenay Lind** (BMus Hons 2004) has turned her lifelong passion into a profitable commercial enterprise.

Now studying for her Master of Philosophy at UQ, Ms Lind founded musicians' agency Bluehaze in 2001, employing performers from across Brisbane to play at corporate events, functions and celebrations.

"I've been able to mix my love of music with my eye for business," she said.

Ms Lind first became involved in music in primary school where she was encouraged to play an instrument. She was given a cello and from there she developed a love for its melancholy tone. But she could never have imagined that her music would have such a strong influence on both her professional and personal life.

"During my six years studying at UQ, I learned that no matter where the future leads me, music will always be a strong part of my life and who I am.

"I feel so privileged to have been taught by such amazing teachers who have now become close associates and friends."

Ms Lind is a member of the Queensland Youth Symphony, has been part of

Australian Youth Orchestra activities and led The University of Queensland Symphony cello section.

On completion of her undergraduate degree she was one of five Australian cellists accepted into a highly competitive scholarship program at the Australian National Academy of Music.

"UQ helped me to succeed by encouraging me to pursue my dreams of performance while also giving me a strong grounding in music theory and history," Ms Lind said.

During her undergraduate studies, Ms Lind won the Sid Page Memorial 4MBS Chamber Competition and The University of Queensland Sleath Performance Prize.

For her Masters degree she is examining the different way cellists play, primarily with regard to the demise of the classical music scene.

Her research investigates different interpretations of a particular piece, Haydn's cello concerto in C Major, over the past 30 years and how many performers have changed it to suit public appeal.

"Studying at the UQ School of Music has given me the confidence to work within the music world with independence and passion," she said.

"Because the school is such a tight-knit community, everyone knows and is willing to help everyone else."



## 2004: Shells reveal their secrets

Ever wondered why some shells look as good as they do? UQ researcher **Dr Daniel Jackson** (PhD 2004) may have found the answer.

In a collaboration between UQ's School of Integrative Biology and the University of Göttingen in Germany, Dr Jackson has discovered a gene found in the tropical abalone that controls the striking blue and red colours found in the mollusc's shell.

"This is the first gene shown to play a role in molluscan shell patterning," Dr Jackson said.

"It was a chance discovery that arose from a project where genes from specific tissues are randomly sequenced, so it was quite fortuitous.

"This gene is also distantly related to a gene family found in vertebrates, of which humans are a member, so it provides insight into how the evolutionary process can create new roles for old genes."

Dr Jackson made the discovery while working on the genetics of how shells are made in abalone, something he describes as an amazing process.

"We estimate that more than 25 percent of the genes expressed in the shell secreting tissue of the abalone are involved in shell formation," he said.

Dr Jackson was recently honoured at the BioMed Open Access Research awards in London for his PhD and postdoctoral work in this area.







## 2005: Doing business in a wired world

Online entrepreneur **Adam Brownlie** (BAppSc 2005, GDipAgribus 2006) has developed Australia's first grain-trading website.

The resource – [www.brownliesgraintrading.com.au](http://www.brownliesgraintrading.com.au) – gives producers access to more markets and allows them to receive top dollar for their products.

Now in the middle of his Masters studies at UQ, Mr Brownlie completed his undergraduate degree at the University's Gatton campus while working on a grain farm in his spare time, and was given an opportunity to travel to Wisconsin to gain further knowledge about the US industry.

After returning home, Mr Brownlie said he felt that the Australian grain distribution system could be made more efficient.

"I was looking for a way to help producers find previously unknown markets, giving them access to more information to improve decision-making and confidence in what to plant, how much to invest and where and when to market their produce," he said.

Mr Brownlie said his website had the potential to benefit both producers and end-users through the promotion of a more competitive marketing system.

"Using this system, we can also level the Australian market to an extent, encouraging the flow of grain from geographic areas of surplus to areas of relative deficiency. Being able to do this has the added benefit of stabilising prices."

Mr Brownlie said studying business and agriculture simultaneously had opened his eyes to a surprising range of career possibilities.

"I originally enrolled in what I thought was a simple agronomy program but the agricultural industry is so fast-moving that young people can get a start and make a difference extremely rapidly," he said.



## 2005: Hands on healing

To his clients, **Pierre Buchholz** (BPhy 2005) is known as a man with healing hands.

Based at Baroona Road Physiotherapy in Brisbane, Pierre has worked with Olympic athletes, Formula 1 drivers and people who just want to improve their fitness and quality of life.

"The most rewarding thing about being a physio is when you get that client who is in dreadful pain and you send them home with little or no discomfort and they come back on their next visit and call you a miracle worker," he said.

"These clients can also be the most challenging as there needs to be great care to achieve this result."

Mr Buchholz came to UQ as an international student from Canada, and although acclimatising quickly did experience some slight differences between cultures.

"I really did fit right in straight away. The lifestyle isn't all that different to Canada," he said.

"It did take me a little while to be

able to order a coffee properly though as there are a few interesting names to order basic coffee and the lack of snow in the winter in Queensland does make it difficult to go skiing and ice-climbing."

In addition to his physiotherapy skills, Pierre is also a qualified teacher, having received a Bachelor of Physical Education from the University of British Columbia in 1991.

He has owned and operated his own personal training company and also worked as a consultant to the National Sports Institute of Malaysia for two years.

He said his physical education knowledge had helped him during his studies and he was lucky to now be able to use skills from both his degrees in the one profession.

"Our clinic is progressive with a great teamwork attitude and there is a great deal of sharing of knowledge of information and techniques to get great results quickly," he said.

In the long term, Mr Buchholz hopes to open his own physiotherapy clinic.

"I want to link my two degrees and work with athletes to make the return to high performance completion quicker," he said.



## 2007: Travel guides go global

While guidebooks may be a traveller's best friend when exploring new and unusual places, sometimes they fall short in providing up to date information.

But recent UQ graduate **Jeff Axup** (PhD 2007) is hoping his research could change that by employing the latest developments in mobile communication.

Dr Axup, who comes from the US, is researching the potential of "mobile information sharing", a concept that goes beyond the traditional guidebook and introduces the concept of everyday people electronically sharing their experiences with other travellers while on the road.

"We are looking at ways for communities, or in this case backpackers, to communicate in a timely and immediate way," he said.

"Imagine if, as a traveller, you were able to get first-hand information from other travellers who had just been to where you want to go.

"But instead of hoping to find the right person by chance, you could be notified when you are near them, or be able to rapidly search travel diaries of relevant people."

He said this concept of a "social pairing system" could eventually be used by other types of mobile groups or communities such as business travellers, delivery workers or taxi drivers.

"What we are looking at is not really a replacement for guidebooks, travel agents or bulletin boards, but rather an extension or addition to existing methods to make the travelling experience richer and more rewarding."



## 2007: An underwater adventure

It's not often that a student sells off most of their possessions to finance an unpredictable research project on the other side of the world, but **Andrea Marshall** is no ordinary scholar.

Ms Marshall – a 28-year-old Californian who is due to receive her UQ doctorate at the end of the year – is regarded as one of the world's leading manta ray experts after conducting the first detailed study of the species and building her own shark and ray research centre from scratch.

The journey began for Ms Marshall while volunteering for Great White Shark research in South Africa and receiving a tip off about a local spot known for its abundance of rays.

After seeing the research potential she quickly abandoned her life in Brisbane to pursue her new passion on the remote east coast of Mozambique.

Ms Marshall arrived in 2003 and lived on the outskirts of Inhambane, which lacked bare essentials such as electricity and running water.

With her truck permanently locked in 4X4, she said she learned most things the hard way.

"The place I was living at was ridiculously remote and that's what made me a bit nervous.

"I had to learn how to drive in the sand, how to tow and launch my own boat.

"I had to learn how to fix my truck when it broke down in the middle of nowhere. It was a steep learning curve."

Ms Marshall built two homes in Mozambique using her own money and own two hands, and also helped establish the Manta and Whale Shark Research Centre, which consists of several huts including a laboratory with a growing bank of scientific equipment.

Working alongside fellow UQ researcher Simon Pierce, Ms Marshall said she was proud to have completed several world-first studies into Manta Ray ecology and behaviour.

"I spent my entire life savings on this project which is probably unheard of for a PhD student. It might have blown up in my face but I had to give it a go.

"The beauty of having a dream that works out in the end is just that, it works out."

Ms Marshall wants to expand the Centre's international reach and plans to conduct comparative studies around the world.

She encouraged those interested in finding out more about Manta Ray research and conservation to visit the Centre's website at [www.giantfish.org](http://www.giantfish.org)

**WHAT'S YOUR STORY:** Information about UQ graduates is always welcome for inclusion in Keep in Contact. If you have a story to tell, or you know someone who has, please send information to *Graduate Contact* (see contact details on page 3). Items should include degree(s) held and year(s) graduated. Articles accompanied by clear colour photographs preferred. The deadline for the Winter 2008 issue is March 3.



# Art with a new angle

A who's who of Australian artists are on show at UQ for the nation's first self-portrait prize.

// by Cameron Pegg

Sydney artist Ben Quilty has won Australia's first self-portrait prize, which was officially announced at the UQ Art Museum on October 20.

Quilty's *Self Portrait Dead (Over the Hills and Far Away)* was selected from 30 entries judged by Andrew Sayers, the Director of the National Portrait Gallery, and forms part of a special exhibition to accompany the \$40,000 prize.

Mr Sayers said the winning work was "a real tour de force".

"It shows extraordinary skill and maturity to paint a work in what are literally livid colours, with great visceral gobs of paint over just the primed canvas," he said.

"The work gives a compelling contemporary expression to one of the age-old themes in portraiture – the artist's awareness of mortality.

"It is a very worthy portrait from within a very fine selection of Australian contemporary self-portraits, to form the beginning of this initiative by the UQ Art Museum."

A previous finalist in both the Archibald and Wynne prizes, Mr Quilty is currently completing an Australia Council Studio Residency in Barcelona.

Renowned Brisbane artist, Margaret Olley, admired the work's "concept, use of paint and great presence" and said she would buy the painting to donate to the "marvellous" UQ Art Museum.

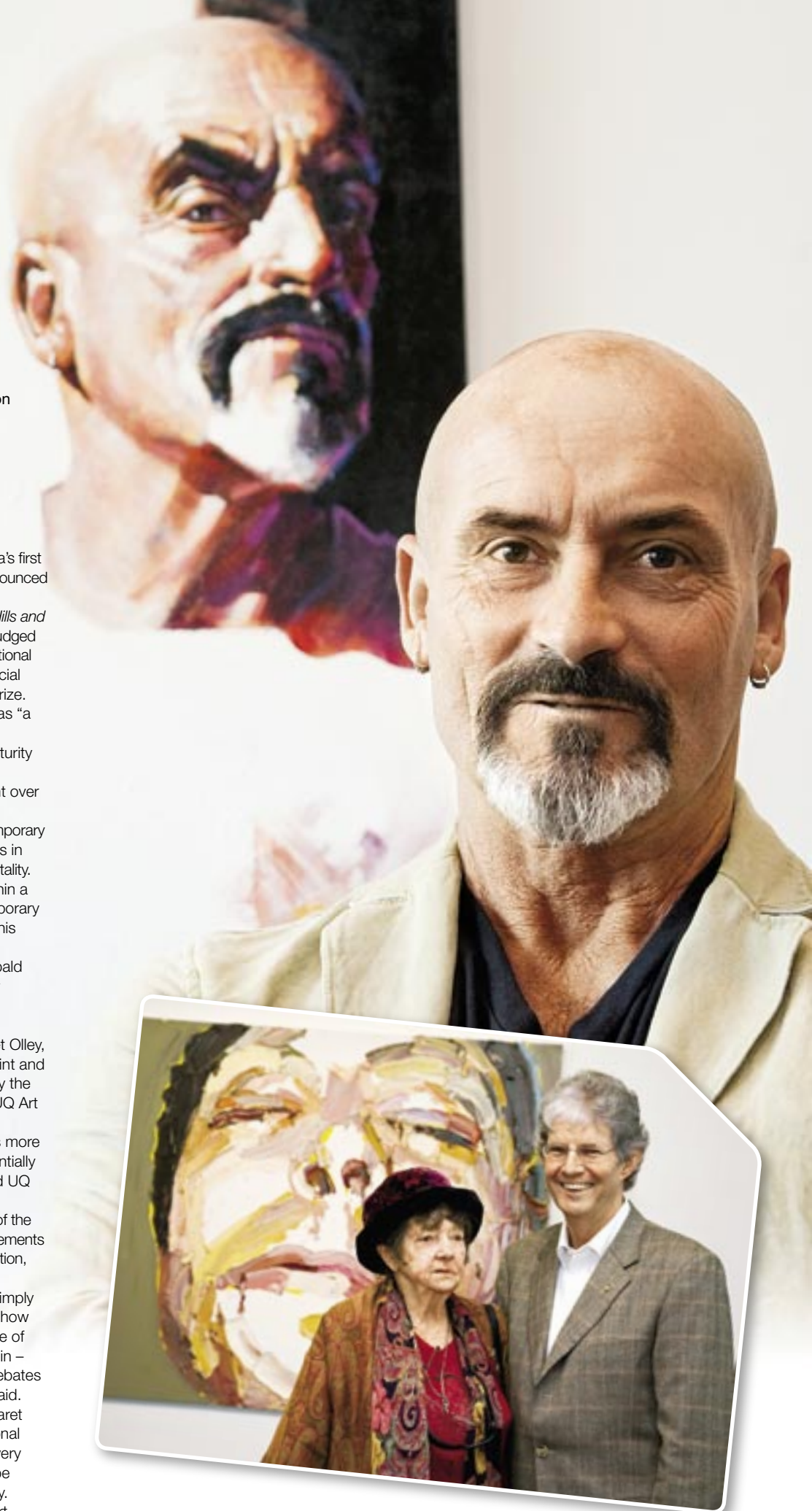
"It's called *Self Portrait Dead* but it's more so the artist probably asleep, from potentially having had a few too many drinks," said UQ Art Museum Director, Nick Mitzevich.

Mr Mitzevich encouraged members of the public to visit the exhibition, which complements the University's existing self-portrait collection, the only one of its kind in the country.

"Self-portraits are compelling, not simply because of the insight they give us into how artists see themselves, but also because of what they say about the world they live in – incorporating all of the contemporary debates about representation and identity," he said.

Generously supported by the Margaret Hannah Olley Foundation, the UQ National Artists' Self-Portrait Prize will be held every second year, with all works entered to be available for acquisition by the University.

The exhibition appears at the UQ Art Museum, St Lucia, until February 10, 2008. Admission is free.



A study in self-reflection: (top) artist David Paulson with his self-portrait, and above: Margaret Olley and Professor John Hay, AC, in front of Ben Quilty's winning entry