UQ NEWS

OCTOBER 2002 NO. 519

AUSTRALIA

UQ NEWS

GENERATION NEXT
Young innovators on show

► ARC grants 4  ▶ Rhodes Scholar 6  ▶ Plover spurs poetry 21
REWARD UP TO $100,000

WE FOUND THEM!

Following on from last year's discoveries, we've uncovered more great business plans!

Don’t miss the final chapter in the ENTERPRIZE story for 2002.

Come 1 November, ENTERPRIZE – the UQ Business School competition – will reach fever pitch. In the Open Category, five finalists will pitch their business plans to some of the shrewdest business minds in the country to collect a $100,000 reward. In the Student Competition, three teams will do their best to secure the i.lab $25,000 prize.

For more details visit www.enterprize.uq.edu.au

FINALISTS PITCH DAY: 1 NOVEMBER
The University of Queensland has reinforced its burgeoning research credentials with an outstanding performance in the recent round of Australian Research Council (ARC) grants.

UQ topped the nation in number of Linkage Project grants, rated second in Linkage – Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities funding and attracted nearly $20 million in the Discovery-Project scheme, including two grants worth more than $1 million each.

In particular, a UQ-led project has attracted $500,000 to establish the world’s first cell-sorting facility. This will add to the growing cluster of research infrastructure which is helping us to become a significant global player in a variety of research areas.

This issue of UQ News highlights some of the research strength that is feeding our ARC success. It ranges from important neuroscience breakthroughs, to disease prevention, disability support, ageing and transport.

Our students are also pushing the boundaries. The creativity and skill of many of them will be highlighted at the 2002 Innovation Expo on October 29.

Through all this work, the University can make an important difference to the lives of people all over the world.

Professor John Hay
Vice-Chancellor
The University of Queensland remained a national leader in this month’s ARC grant allocations.

UQ has topped the nation with the most grants awarded in round one of the recently-announced 2003 Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Projects.

The universities of Queensland and Sydney were equal first with 26 grants each of the total 325 awarded Australia-wide for research involving university and industry partners.

Nationally, UQ placed a close third after the University of Sydney and the Australian National University (ANU) for total projected funding. Of the total ARC funding of $58 million, nearly $6 million was allocated to UQ projects.

Deputy-Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor David Siddle said this was an outstanding result for UQ. “UQ’s success in this grants round will advance knowledge in areas as wide-ranging as environmental protection, crime prevention, public health services, the therapeutic value of honey, drug development and delivery, and animal production,” he said.

The largest single grant, of $660,000 over three years, will address greenhouse gas emission issues surrounding the use of coal and gas.

The second-highest grant of $574,000 over three years will focus on the wastewater treatment industry’s increasing (but costly) use of external carbon to remove nitrogen.

UQ was the nation’s second largest recipient of ARC Linkage – Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) 2003 funding grants.

It was awarded seven LIEF grants that attracted $2.265 million in ARC funds, to which institutional and industry partners will add approximately $2 million. This was second only to the University of Sydney, which was awarded nine LIEF grants.

UQ was also a partner institution in a further four projects headed by universities in New South Wales and South Australia and a participant in the Ocean Drilling consortium project.

The highest funding allocation to a UQ-led project was $500,000 to establish the world’s first cell-sorting facility dedicated to the production of nerve cells suitable for molecular characterisation and screening.

Other UQ grants included $400,000 for a high-performance computing and web facility for genome bioinformatics to provide a common software development environment for molecular biosciences, systems biology and complex systems modeling.

UQ also attracted two grants worth in excess of $1 million each in the ARC Discovery-Projects scheme.

Awarded nearly $2 million from the scheme, UQ remained one of the nation’s leaders in the Commonwealth Government’s funding allocations.

UQ researchers were awarded $1.39 million over five years (2003-2007) to examine the properties of micro Bose Einstein Condensates (BEC) – collections of atoms in the same quantum state – and will develop methods to count small numbers of ultra-cold atoms, engineer their state and build a prototype device.

$1.03 million was also awarded to UQ researchers to develop the next generation of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanners used to examine soft tissue injuries.

They will develop new engineering design methods to generate novel super-conducting magnet systems to improve the accuracy and speed of MRI scans as well as better patient safety, comfort and clinician access.

UQ also performed well nationally in the three fellowship categories integrated into the Discovery grants. It received the second highest number of Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (14) and equal-second highest number of Australian Professorial Fellowships (3), both after the ANU (17 and 5 respectively), and two Australian Research Fellowships.

The University was awarded the fourth highest amount of $19.76 million for 81 new Discovery grants after the ANU ($40.63 million), the University of Sydney ($28.15 million) and the University of Melbourne ($25.85 million).

Excellence recognised by ARC

Switch found for brain cell growth

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The ability to produce new cells in the brain has the potential to change the lives of stroke victims or those suffering a neurodegenerative condition such as Parkinson’s Disease.

A recently-appointed UQ researcher has made a world-first discovery of a mechanism that may stimulate the production of new nerve cells in the brain.

The groundbreaking discovery was led by UQ Foundation Chair in Molecular Neuroscience Professor Perry Bartlett with a team from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in Victoria.

“Last year we isolated for the first time the stem cell in the brain responsible for producing new nerve cells and this has allowed us to start to identify how this stem cell can be regulated to produce new nerve cells in our brains,” Professor Bartlett said.

“We have identified the first major mechanism that may regulate this process.”

He said stem cells were normally blocked from producing new nerve cells by the action of growth hormone.

“We have discovered a mechanism that can overcome this blockage. By inhibiting growth hormone action with the molecule SOCS-2, a normal regulator of the hormone, we can stimulate new nerve production.”

Professor Bartlett said by stimulating the production of new nerve cells in the brain, normal brain function – such as memory formation – could be enhanced.

It could also allow for the replacement of nerve cells lost because of a stroke, trauma or neurodegenerative ailments such as Alzheimer’s Disease, Parkinson’s Disease or Motor Neurone Disease.

“It is now clear that the brain is a highly plastic organ with the ability to undergo rapid changes in neural circuitry at the anatomical, cellular and molecular level,” he said.

“A major part of this plasticity is the production of new nerve cells in response to various environmental stimuli.”
Golden eggs no longer a myth

A researcher who spent more than 20 years developing a simple Newcastle disease vaccine for village chicken flocks has received international recognition.

UQ Emeritus Professor Peter Spradbrow has been honoured for his long dedication to improving life in developing countries by developing a simple vaccine for the killer poultry virus Newcastle disease.

Professor Spradbrow has been chosen as one of five finalists in the Accenture Economic Development category of annual awards presented by the California-based The Tech Museum of Innovation.

A panel of international judges assembled by The Center for Science, Technology and Society at Santa Clara University chose Professor Spradbrow and the four other finalists in the category from a field of 460 candidates from 56 countries.

During a career spanning more than 20 years in the University’s School of Veterinary Science, he spearheaded research enabling heat-resistant Newcastle disease vaccines to be produced in remote rural centres through a simple process of culturing the virus inside locally laid fertile eggs.

Professor Spradbrow also ran workshops showing workers in rural laboratories how to make the vaccine themselves.

The master seed for the vaccine was produced at the John Francis Virology Laboratory at the UQ Veterinary Science Farm at Pinjarra Hills.

While vaccines existed for commercial flocks of chickens, these were heat sensitive and only available in large doses of perhaps 1000 shots, which was wasteful and expensive for family-owned flocks of 10 to 25 birds.

“Quite often flocks of scavenging chickens are all poor people have. They are kept for food, for cultural, social and perhaps medicinal purposes, as a source of savings and especially for barter,” Professor Spradbrow said.

Professor Spradbrow praised the University and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research for their financial support and approach to his work.

“They agreed with me that there should be no attempt at commercial exploitation of the vaccine at the expense of the rural poor in developing countries,” he said.

Working with UniQuest’s International Project Division, Professor Spradbrow has developed and delivered projects through international aid agencies to developing countries.

Professor Spradbrow will attend the Tech Museum awards evening in San Jose, California, on November 7, where the winners in five categories will each win $US50,000.

“Should I win, the funds will be offered to the University to initiate a resource centre for village poultry and to sustain work with my vaccine,” Professor Spradbrow said.

Antibodies act on deadly virus

A major licensing deal will help develop a diagnostic kit for the West Nile virus.

A UQ scientist is jointly responsible for the discovery of four antibodies, which open the way for accurate diagnoses of the deadly West Nile virus.

The antibodies have been licensed to US-based Chemicon International, a leading producer of infectious disease antibodies and testing kits, by UniQuest Pty Limited, UQ’s technology commercialisation company. Dr Roy Hall of UQ’s School of Molecular and Microbial Sciences and Dr Annette Broome of the University of Western Australia isolated the antibodies, which can detect extremely small amounts of the West Nile virus and discriminate it from other related viruses.

The virus causes a swelling of the brain and is similar to encephalitis.

The antibodies isolated and characterised by Dr Hall form the basis of a diagnostic test for rapidly and accurately detecting the West Nile virus, which is reasonably easy to control if discovered in its early stages.

The antibodies and tests can be used in research and epidemiology applications, as well as in the development of vaccines, where they are used to identify the parts of the virus that produce the best immune response.

Chemicon International will launch an antibody-based diagnostic test in the near future.

The announcement of the licensing deal coincides with a warning by UQ Professor John MacKenzie about the threat to Australia of the mosquito and bird borne virus.

He has advocated the re-introduction of fumigation on aircraft arriving in Australia from the United States, where 2405 cases of West Nile virus including 117 deaths have been reported this year.
An annual expo for IT and electrical engineering students has attracted the interest of industry bodies looking for resourceful employees.

UQ’s 2002 Innovation Expo will showcase ideas and research from some of the University’s leading information technology and electrical engineering students.

The third annual expo will be held in the UQ Centre on October 29 and is an initiative of the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering (ITEE).

It will give businesses, students and the public the opportunity to meet the innovators of the future and discover some of the products that they could be using in 10 years time.

ITEE Head Professor Simon Kaplan said the event was an opportunity for the School to showcase its research and teaching through the project work of final-year undergraduate students.

“ITEE prides itself on excellence in research and teaching in all aspects of information technology and electrical engineering,” he said.

“Strong links with industry and the general public are highly valued by the School, its staff and students.”

Projects on display will include: an invention that can create a 3D reconstruction of the human face; a device in cars that can read road signs; and a team of soccer playing robots.

Fourth-year software engineering and business management student Alex Wang will demonstrate his stereopsis software prototype that constructs grey scale 3D computer models of still objects, such as the human face, from stereo camera images.

Mr Wang’s supervisor Dr Vaughan Clarkson said the software aimed to achieve what the human visual system achieved naturally.

“The technology is used already, for example, in surveying to take measurements of distance and elevation from aerial shots of the ground,” he said.

Another important application for stereopsis is robotic navigation.

“Mobile robots are sometimes fitted with stereo cameras in order to autonomously navigate around their environment,” Dr Clarkson said.

“They use the depth information from the pair of images to determine the distance to obstacles.”

Fourth-year electrical engineering student Craig Northway’s Real-Time Traffic Sign Recognition project is based on the research work of world leaders in the automotive industry, which hopes to develop Smart Cars that avoid pedestrians and give reminders of speed limits.

It would see vehicles warning drivers of pending dangers and automatically taking evasion action.

Mr Northway’s supervisor Associate Professor Brian Lovell said he hoped the device would become marketable.

“It involves the use of a camera mounted in the car which processes the information into real time,” he said.

The project will be demonstrated at a transport mission in Ireland later this year.

In the robotics section fourth-year software engineering student Peter Cogill will demonstrate one of the major areas of Artificial Intelligence research, the co-ordination between separate entities with differing world views, using the CrocaRoos simulated soccer team.

Mr Cogill tested his co-ordination and organisation theories in the Simulation League of RoboCup, an international robotics competition focussing on soccer, held in Japan earlier this year.

Multi-Agent Planning System (MAPS) works by abstracting the soccer field to a grid of rectangles.

Each grid region is then assigned a value based on a wide range of influencing factors and the best region to move or kick to is chosen.

Expo Project Manager Jon Whitty said the event started to allow the final-year students to communicate and demonstrate their work to the public.

“This is the final part, the show and tell of the thesis work on a public platform,” he said.

Sponsors include Queensland Rail (QR), The Institute of Engineers Australia – Queensland Division, Dell and host sponsor UQ’s School of ITEE.

Prizes will be awarded in 10 different areas including, most innovative contribution to the field, the best piece of working electronics and best final-year presentation.

Projects have been divided into three main categories: engineering; information environments; and information technology.

QR will present a prize for the best poster, with the winner receiving two business-class return tickets from Brisbane to Rockhampton on the tilt train.
Half-century hailed by Joanne van Zeeland

Thousands of people with a diverse range of needs have been helped through research conducted by the University’s oldest Centre.

UQ’s oldest research centre is celebrating an important milestone – its 50th anniversary.

The Fred and Eleanor Schonell Special Education Research Centre was established in 1952 as the Remedial Education Centre and is widely-regarded as Australia’s pre-eminent centre for research into special education and disabilities.

“As its name suggests, the Centre’s main focus is to be at the forefront of research into individuals with diverse needs,” said Centre Director Dr Christa van Kraayenoord.

“This includes research into intellectual disabilities, learning difficulties, autism, inclusive education, families of individuals with disabilities, at-risk youth and community participation and quality of life.”

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Centre held a three-day conference entitled Celebrating the Past: Envisioning the Future from October 11–13.

Arguably the Centre’s best-known research is the Down Syndrome Research Program – the world’s longest continuous study of Down syndrome, having been established for 25 years.

More than 250 families have participated in the research, with children from birth to adulthood, providing unique insights into the cognitive, language and affective development and health of individuals with Down syndrome as well as information about family functioning.

To enhance the literacy development of 18-22 year olds with Down syndrome, the Centre also established the highly successful LATCH-ON Program, which uses a combination of computer technology and other methods of literacy instruction.

“We have made remarkable inroads. Fifty years ago, the goal of inclusion into the community would have been a remote, unattainable vision for many people with disabilities,” Dr van Kraayenoord said.

“However there is still a lot to be learnt and the Centre plans to continue to play an active role in advancing knowledge about how to obtain this goal for everyone.”

Current research projects include literacy development for people with learning difficulties and disabilities, training for families with children who show early signs of autism, self-regulation and juvenile delinquency, institutional reform and transition into the community, and health, eating and physical activity of children with Down syndrome and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

The conference showcased recent research by Centre staff and students into people with disabilities, learning difficulties and at-risk youth.

Speakers included previous Schonell Centre staff Dr Paul Berry, Neuerkerode Foundation, Germany; and Professor John McLeod, University of Saskatchewan; as well as former student Dr Patricia O’Brien, Auckland College of Education, New Zealand.

Other guest speakers included Professor Claude Goldenberg from the California State University.

Situated at the University’s St Lucia campus, the Centre was founded by former Vice-Chancellor and UQ’s first Professor of Education, Sir Fred Schonell.

In 1967 the Centre was renamed to honour its founder and his wife Eleanor, a respected educational psychologist, well-known for her work with children with cerebral palsy.

UQ Ipswich dinner

University staff, friends and alumni are invited the attend the annual UQ Ipswich Dinner on October 25, at 7pm in the courtyard of Building 2, UQ Ipswich.

Sponsored by Ipswich’s Own magazine, the dinner is a Friends of UQ Ipswich initiative to raise $5000 for an annual UQ Ipswich student scholarship.

Tickets are $40 per person and include a three-course dinner, entertainment, drinks on arrival and the first bottle of wine at the table.

Information: 07 3381 1011

Telstra scholars

Three UQ electrical engineering students were awarded Telstra scholarships last month.

Fourth-year student Milan Nikolic received the $5000 Telstra Australia Honours Scholarship.

Open to full-time final-year honours students with an interest in communications, the selection was based on academic records.

Second-year students Ryan Clement and Jonathan Dennis were awarded Telstra Australia Undergraduate Second Year Scholarships valued at $1000 each.

The scholarships were for full-time second-year students who showed outstanding academic performance in their first-year of studies.

Farmer’s Markets

The first Farmer’s Market at UQ’s St Lucia campus took place on October 19.

They will be held on the third Saturday of every month from 6am–12 noon, in the paved area between Stores (Building 99) and the multi-level car parks off Sir Fred Schonell Drive.

The free markets are well-known for their fresh seasonal produce from around the State.

People interested in having a UQ presence at the November 16 and December 21 markets should contact John Moller.

Information: 07 3365 2737

From left: Dan Schoch, Kate Paterson, Jamie Carrigan and Michelle Morgan at the Schonell Centre. PHOTO: CHRIS STACEY

UQ NEWS. OCTOBER 2002
Australian scientists have won a multimillion-dollar United States grant for research likely to spearhead new therapies and treatments for kidney failure.

For many of the world’s 1.5 million people affected by renal failure, dialysis is the only option at an annual cost of $US15,000 each. And one in four adults is expected to have the condition by the year 2020 as a consequence of type II diabetes.

The $A4.2 million grant ($US750,000 a year for three years) is an accolade from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the US for the Renal Regeneration Consortium (RRC), which includes Australia’s best researchers on stem cells and renal development.

RRC’s principal investigator, Associate Professor Melissa Little from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB), will co-lead the project with Professor John Bertram from Monash University.

“In this collaborative project, the RRC will be coupling the latest technology in gene expression profiling with tissue engineering and regenerative medicine to ultimately deliver key outcomes to benefit patients with renal failure or disease,” she said.

“With the awarding of this grant, the RRC will now form part of an international consortium of numerous groups working on different and related organ systems. The groups will collaborate throughout the term of the grant, with the first meeting in December.”

She said the NIH grant was the first of a series of projects the RRC hoped to receive funding for, to take research through to therapy for the global community.

Professor Bertram said the RRC was the only all-Australian group successful in this NIH request for application (RFA).

“RRC members include: Associate Professor Little, Dr Rohan Teasedale, Dr Sean Grimmond, Professor David Hume, Professor Julie Campbell and Professor Gordon Campbell (University of Queensland); Professor John Bertram, Professor Warwick Anderson, Dr Andrew Perkins, Dr Georgina Carnaca (Monash University); Professor Martin Pera (MIRD); Professor Daine Alcorn (RMIT University); and Dr Michael Falk (Canberra Hospital).”

“NIH, founded in 1887, is a world leader in medical research. Its 27 separate institutes and centres aim to uncover new knowledge likely to help prevent, detect, diagnose and treat disease and disability—from the rare genetic disorder to the common cold.”

Presenters wanted

The Institute of Continuing and TESOL Education (ICTE) is looking for people with relevant degrees and experience to offer short courses in the 2003 Community Education Program.

Subject areas include human society, science and natural environment, the arts, literature and philosophy, effective writing, personal and professional development, business and finance, and computers.

Information: 07 3365 6739

Ethics vacancies

Vacancies exist for membership in two of the three UQ institutional human ethics committees.

They are volunteer positions and need to be filled by people who could represent general community standards.

A vacancy exists for a student representative on the Human Experimentation Ethics Review Committee, which is a central policy committee.

Another vacancy exists for a religious representative (minister of religion or equivalent) on the Behavioural and Social Sciences Ethical Review Committee, which reviews research proposals.

Information: 07 3365 3924

Call for poets

Aspiring bards are invited to submit entries to one of Australia’s most prestigious poetry awards.

The 2003 Josephine Ulrick National Poetry Prize was established in 1997 as a tribute to former UQ student, writer, artist and photographer Josephine Ulrick.

Entries for the $10,000 prize close on December 13, with up to five highly-commended entries receiving $1000 each.

The prize, for a poem or group of poems not exceeding 200 lines, will be presented on February 25, 2003, at Customs House, 399 Queen St.

Information: 07 3365 2593
Pending four months working in the rugged peaks of the Himalayas may not be everyone’s idea of university study, but that is just what UQ Gatton student Luke Fletcher did recently.

An environmental management student specialising in natural systems and wildlife, Mr Fletcher completed industry placement requirements for his degree in Nangi Village, northwestern Nepal.

“I was teaching science to children from Grades 1 to 10 and the resources were far from ideal,” he said.

Fortunately I found some National Geographic magazines to use as teaching aids.”

Mr Fletcher also took part in village life, helping locals collect firewood and ploughing fields with yaks and wooden ploughs.

“I helped out in the village plant nursery where plants are grown for erosion control, beautification and commercial purposes,” he said.

The villagers were also conducting trials on medicinal plants that they hope to sell on the lucrative alternate medicine market.”

He said he was surprised at how environmentally conscious the villagers were.

“They build temporary cow sheds which are dismantled and moved periodically, helping to fertilise the fields,” he said.

Also, when felling trees, they build retaining walls on the downslope to stop erosion because the mountains are so steep.”

Lecturer and Industrial Placement Coordinator Greg Siepen from UQ’s School of Natural and Rural Systems Management said placements made students very employable after graduation.

The experience provided opportunities to learn practical, real-life skills and build career networks.

Other recent novel examples included a placement in Wolf Park, Indiana in the United States, where a student investigated the behaviour of leading females in wolf packs.

Mr Fletcher said the experience was life-changing and plans to return to Nangi after graduating.

UQ researcher Dr Guy Elston has begun groundbreaking investigations of the brain that could impact on the study of mental illnesses such as epilepsy, Parkinson’s Disease and dementia as well as the brain’s recuperative ability following injury.

Dr Elston has been awarded the James S McDonnell Foundation 21st Century Bridging Brain Mind and Behaviour Research Grant worth around $920,000 to assist with funding of his neuroscience research into how differences in the complexity of brain circuits and in different species, influence cognitive abilities.

“The cells in our prefrontal cortex, the site generally believed to initiate and modulate our thought processes, appear to be the most complex in our brains,” Dr Elston said.

“Furthermore, pyramidal cells in our prefrontal cortex are much more complex than those of other primates studied so far.”

Dr Elston, who is based at UQ’s Vision, Touch and Hearing Research Centre at the School of Biomedical Sciences said his findings had wide-ranging consequences for the medical world as well as understanding the evolution of thinking, decision-making and other cognitive processes.

His research follows that of Professor Santiago Ramón y Cajal who concluded the brain was not built of the same repeated circuit.

“The challenge is to convince many of my colleagues that what I have reported is actual fact,” he said.

“More experiments are required to determine the underlying trends and extent to which the most ubiquitous cortical neurone, the pyramidal cell, has become modified to subserve its functional requirements.”
New string to lecturer’s bow

Gwyn Roberts is looking towards sub-branches in regional Australia as a way to expand the national strings association.

Senior Lecturer in the School of Music Gwyn Roberts has been elected National President of the Australian Strings Association (AUSTA).

Together with its sister organisations in America, the United Kingdom and Europe, AUSTA represents and liaises with thousands of string players worldwide at a time when string music is flourishing, particularly in Queensland.

Mr Roberts who lectures in cello, pedagogy and conducting said he intended to take an active leadership role during his three-year term.

“In terms of my vision for the organisation, I would like to see the recent member survey continually acted upon, membership pass the 1000 mark, an international cello congress and a 30th anniversary conference with a significant focus on Australian presenters,” he said.

“One of my goals is to increase the membership by establishing more sub-branches in regional Australia.”

Since graduating from the Tasmanian Conservatorium Mr Roberts, a Churchill fellow, has maintained a career involving high profile performance as a cellist and conductor while remaining employed at four institutions at different times between 1969 and 2002.

He has been the Musical Director and organiser of the 80-piece Queensland University Symphony Orchestra since 1983, overseeing at least four major projects each year.

The orchestra performs on campus at St Lucia and also splits into the String Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, and Brass Ensemble to perform in Brisbane schools and regional centres.

“String music, indeed instrumental music in Queensland is really flourishing, with the biggest instrumental program in government schools in Australia, coupled with vibrant programs in a number of private schools,” he said.

Mr Roberts said there was a need to increase interest in AUSTA from teachers in regional areas and from secondary and tertiary students.

“AUSTA is also playing a role in an Advocacy Forum to bring the attention of government and education leaders to the very important role music can play in a child’s cognitive development, ability to study, motor skill development and a range of other areas in which there is increasing research interest,” he said.

Robocup winners

Robocup Junior Queensland teams scooped the pools at the RoboCup Junior National Competition held in Melbourne from September 12–14.

The E-Strikers from Brisbane Grammar School were the soccer champions and the Thunderbots from John Paul College were the open age rescue champions.

Starbucks from The Cathedral College, Rockhampton, won the senior dance championship, Charlie’s Angels were runners-up and third place went to the Freaky Cowgirls from St Peters Lutheran College.

Bolto’s Gods from Toowong State School were the junior dance champions with Kung Fu Kids from Mingela State School runners-up.

SBS teaching honours

Faculty of Social and Behavioural Science (SBS) staff were honoured this month with awards for excellence in teaching.

Developed by the SBS Teaching and Learning Committee, they were presented by Executive Dean Professor Linda Rosenman.

The Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence was won by Dr Julie Duck. David Conley and Dr Donna McAuliffe co-won the Faculty Teaching Excellence award.

Awards for Program Innovation in Teaching were granted to the Middle Years of Schooling Team – Dr Donna Pendergast, Dr Nan Bahr, Dr Victoria Carrington, Lisa Hunter, Dr Cushla Kapitzke, Dr Diane Mayer, Dr Jane Mitchell and Dr Lisa Stevens.

Tutor awards went to Rose Deo, Janie Busby, Amanda Lake and Matthew McDonald.

Economics scholars

International students in a UQ School of Economics scholarship program are achieving outstanding results. The 22 students, from Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia and China are getting some of the highest scores possible and topping the course.

After at least one semester, 12 of the 18 students have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 6 (out of a possible 7) or higher. Six have a GPA of 6.5 and one student – who has completed three semesters – has a GPA of 7.
Two entrepreneurial UQ students have created a discount card to raise funds for charities and non-profit organisations.

Fourth-year students Michael Fox (commerce/law) and Alastair Mulligan (commerce/science) created The Brisbane Card, which is being sold for the United Nations Student Association’s (UNSA) drive to raise funds for East Timor.

“We were shocked to find that many of the schools in East Timor had no furniture, ceilings or toilets, much less books and computers,” said Mr Fox.

“Our goal is to raise $5000 through the sale of the cards and give it to UNSA to upgrade schools in the Lautem District of East Timor.

UNSA also plans to create jobs for local tradespeople by employing them to repair the buildings and to build basic furniture, such as school desks and chairs.”

For $20 card bearers are entitled to more than 60 different discounts at shops, restaurants and cafes as well as entertainment venues in the Brisbane area.

Participants include Caesar’s Restaurant, Casablanca, La Kasbah Licensed Restaurant, Dendy Cinemas, Kingston Park Raceway, La Boîte Theatre, Milton Tenpin Bowling Centre, Paul Barry Menswear and the Sit Down Comedy Club.

Mr Fox said up to 50 percent of proceeds from sales would be donated to charities and local organisations.

“We want to create a mutually beneficial relationship between business, consumers and civil society,” he said.

“With today’s emphasis on good corporate citizenship and social responsibility, we aim to run a successful Queensland owned and operated business with a strong commitment to community values.”

http://www.thebrisbanecard.com

University gives muscle to manned space mission research

UQ researchers are embarking upon a project in conjunction with the European Space Agency (ESA) to examine the effects of microgravity on the human musculoskeletal system.

The research, funded by ESA, will look at the effects of reduced gravity, in this case mimicked by strict bed rest on a group of subjects to be performed in Berlin later this year.

The changes in muscle activity will be measured using models developed in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences by Associate Professor Carolyn Richardson as part of her work into degenerative lower back conditions.

“People with low back pain exhibit many of the symptoms and abnormal patterns seen in astronauts returning from missions in space” she said.

“These changes have fast become one of the key limiting factors in manned space exploration.

“Our anti-gravity muscles waste and lose the ability to function in a coordinated fashion.”

Dr Richardson said the ESA recognised this problem and were enthusiastic about studying the effects and testing novel monitoring and rehabilitation measures.

The cross-disciplinary nature of the project has been a stimulus for collaboration between Dr Stephen Wilson from UQ’s Centre for Magnetic Resonance and the biomedical engineering program sponsored by the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering.

The team will now use monitoring equipment and imaging techniques developed at UQ specifically for the bed-rest study in Berlin to measure muscle strength and electrical activity in manoeuvres designed to test the subject’s performance in so-called open and closed loop conditions.

Daniel Belavy, a masters student in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, will set up the equipment and supervise the acquisition of data in conjunction with ESA scientists.
A School of Engineering team believes design advances made in its Formula SAE car since last year will make it a force to be reckoned with among the 20 vehicles from universities around the world who will compete in Victoria in December.

Rower strikes world title gold

by Rowan Foster

UQ physiotherapy student Marguerite Houston shrugged off the fear of failure to claim gold in a stunning senior debut at the World Championship Regatta in Seville, Spain last month.

The former UQ SPORT scholarship holder was part of an all-new women’s lightweight quad scull that delivered victory over the 2000-metre course in world-record time on September 22.

Ms Houston, 21, said the rapid rise from under-23 ranks was motivation enough to prove she was a worthy member of a powerful Australian line-up, named only 10 days out from the competition.

“Being the youngest and newest member of the team brought its own challenge,” Ms Houston said.

“If I had thought about everything that had gone on over the past couple of months to get me there it may have all been a bit too much.

“I basically tried to focus on one last two-kilometre race, which made it seem manageable.”

Australia finished in 6:29.55 seconds to edge out the Netherlands by 0.46 seconds and better the world mark by 0.13 seconds, set by last year’s Australian crew.

Ms Houston said it was a significant achievement for the new-look crew to continue Australia’s dominance in the event.

“It was the first time we had all competed for Australia at a world championship level,” she said.

“I didn’t know who won initially and had to look up at the scoreboard to see AUS.

“It was a great satisfaction and sense of relief for the crew because we knew we would have to go under the record to win.”

Ms Houston said much of the honour for being Queensland’s first rowing world champion since 1995 lies with her coach Tim Kerrison.

“I did rowing to keep fit when I left school but Tim pulled me aside and said I should start training seriously,” Ms Houston said.

“There aren’t too many girls that row up here at all after school, which is a shame because there is so much talent.”

The depth of lightweight women’s rowing in Queensland means Ms Houston spends the majority of her time training alongside men.
The engines down at UQ Racing are hoping to rev much louder this season.

After finishing a discouraging 15th out of 19 entrants in last year’s Formula SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) car racing competition, the UQ team is optimistic about the 2003 event and the possibility of competing for a top five finish.

UQ Racing’s spokesperson Donald Nguyen said anything less than a top five position would be unsatisfactory.

“The car has undergone a major facelift. We have used more Computer Assisted Design (CAD) technology and data acquisition to improve the performance of the car,” he said.

Unlike their high-profile relatives, Formula SAE cars must balance high performance with low cost, easy maintenance and reliability.

This year’s competition will be the third in Australia and will be held in Victoria from December 6–9.

The team is currently in the process of testing the car at Queensland Raceway and as these terriers of the car world scramble around the track, it is easy to see why the sport is becoming more and more popular with students at the University.

The blue and white team colours whizzing past and the smell of engine oil are what makes these dedicated students hungry for success.

However, Mr Nguyen, who is a third-year mechanical and space engineering student, said although the team had progressed enormously since 2001, there was still a lot to be done.

“It is difficult with little time and money. We need a bigger team,” he said.

UQ Racing, which is based within the School of Engineering, is therefore looking for sponsorship and any students who want to take part, particularly in the marketing and management areas.

“At the moment we only have about three-quarters of the funding we need,” Mr Nguyen said.

UQ Racing currently has around 20 sponsors providing financial and material assistance, including CAD-soft Solutions, which provides Solid Edge software, ELSA graphics cards, computer hardware, training, and technical support.

As part of its publicity campaign, UQ Racing will publish its first newsletter this month. It already has a website (www.uq.edu.au/fsae/home.htm) and will also take part in trade shows around Queensland.

The Formula SAE competition will involve students and their cars from around 20 universities from all over the world.

The restrictions placed on the car frame and engine by Formula SAE are limited so that the knowledge, creativity, and imagination of the students are challenged.

A major difference from last year in the design of the car has been the addition of side pods, which will help cool the car’s engine and house ancillary systems.

The Formula SAE organisation aims to provide young engineers with the chance to work on a meaningful engineering project as well as the opportunity to work as part of a dedicated team.

“Building of the car has started and much of the design is complete,” Dr Walker said.

He said two Queensland University of Technology industrial design students were working on the interior and exterior design of the car.

UQ postgraduate student Andrew Simpson, who is one of the senior members of the team, is studying the design optimisation of series hybrid-electric road vehicles as part of his PhD and said the construction of the vehicle was well underway.

“The chassis is in the lab. By the end of the year the mechanical systems will be bolted on and we will be able to drive it,” he said.

Upon completion the UltraCommuter will be entered into the World Solar Challenge as a demonstration car.

“It won’t be racing, it is in the demonstration class, but we still hope to be up with the other cars,” Mr Simpson said.

In cooperation with partner companies, the vehicle may facilitate the development of a production-capable commuter vehicle suitable for market.

Dr Walker said there was no reason solar-charged cars could not be the cars of the future.

“If you park in the sun during a summer day you can power a solar-charged car to travel between 40 and 50 kilometres a day,” he said.

“As a second car this would fulfil most people’s needs.”

The highly efficient UltraCommuter will be a practical and sustainable passenger vehicle featuring design concepts proposed by the Rocky Mountain Institute’s Hypercar, which unlike other efficient vehicles does not compromise performance, comfort or safety.

UltraCommuter sponsors include: Lotus Cars/Hydro Aluminium; Vector Fields; Automotive OEM Australian Arrow; and the Queensland Manufacturing Institute. The team is also in negotiations with French company SAFT.

However, the team are still looking for sponsors and financial support, with total costs estimated at $300,000.

“We have sufficient to get the chassis on the road but we need more to carry the project all the way,” he said.

The whole project will take approximately two years, with completion by October 2003, when the World Solar Challenge begins.

It is difficult with little time and money. We need a bigger team.
The breadth of the University’s world-class research portfolio was showcased during the inaugural UQ Research Week last month.

Held from September 23–27, the event attracted considerable interest from the University community, members of the public and the media.

“The University’s research initiatives and achievements are playing a pre-eminent role in establishing Queensland as the ‘Smart State,’” said UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay.

“Research Week highlighted some important projects and, through the UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards, introduced the work of some of our brightest young researchers.”

Queensland Premier Peter Beattie presented the awards, which recognise outstanding performance and leadership potential in early career researchers, at a gala Celebration of Excellence ceremony in the new UQ Centre on September 26.

The Governor of Queensland, His Excellency Major General Peter Arnison, AC, CVO was also awarded an honorary Doctorate of Laws at the event.

On September 23 hundreds of people attended 2020Vision: Creating the Individual, which was presented by Institute for Molecular Bioscience Co-Director Professor John Mattick and UQ Foundation Chair of Molecular Neuroscience Professor Perry Bartlett.

A full contingent of Brisbane media turned up for the 2002 UQ Research Report launch on September 24, and research stories released during the week received widespread local, national and international coverage.

Other activities that proved popular included a Postgraduate Information Expo and a Research Careers Forum.
Innovative research aimed at the debilitating human disease leptospirosis is being undertaken by UQ researchers.

A scientific study of rodent populations in banana plantations at Innisfail and Tully is an important step to controlling the spread of the disease in the tropical north.

Wildlife experts in the School of Animal Studies at UQ Gatton have collaborated with the banana industry and Queensland Health to develop the project.

Wildlife biology lecturer and project supervisor Dr Luke Leung said the high incidence of leptospirosis among banana field workers was a major concern.

Rodents in sights

Wildlife biology lecturer and project supervisor Dr Luke Leung said the high incidence of leptospirosis among banana field workers was a major concern.

The globally important disease is spread to humans through water or soil contaminated with urine of infected animals.

The disease causes a range of severe influenza-like symptoms and in rare cases can lead to death.

Dr Leung said there were many different strains of the disease, some more virulent than others.

“We need to know which rodent species in the region are carrying and spreading which strains,” he said.

“When we have this information, it will be possible to develop ecologically-based pest management targeted at the species.”

“The farmers have been very supportive as has Queensland Health which made its laboratories in Brisbane available for the project.”

The first phase of an extensive trapping program on farms at Innisfail and Tully has been completed by overseas masters student Dario Rivera, with more than 200 rodents captured for study.

Blood samples have been taken from all animals captured and a selection of kidneys also collected.

Mr Rivera said a second round of trapping was planned in early 2003 to compare rodent populations in banana fields between the dry and wet seasons.

Tackling injuries head on

Childhood injury, young adult risk-taking behaviour, workplace injury, injury in older people, and injury within Indigenous communities were discussed at the launch of a $20 million centre in Brisbane on October 1.

Federal Minister for Health and Ageing Kay Patterson launched the new centre, known as Injury Prevention and Control (Australia) Ltd (IPCA) at Customs House.

IPCA Chief Executive Officer, Associate Professor Rod McClure of UQ’s School of Population Health, said researchers from across Australia presented results of major research initiatives on injury at the launch.

“Injury is the leading cause of death in people under 45-years-old and a leading cause of serious disability in all ages, costing the community an estimated $13 billion a year,” he said.

“Unlike so many cancers, genetic diseases and many chronic conditions which are well advanced before detection, we already know enough about what causes injuries to prevent their occurrence in the vast number of healthy individuals who this year will become new statistics.

“However, while we may often know ‘what works’ to prevent injury we do not know ‘how to make it work’ at the population health level.”

Dr McClure said IPCA was a $20 million investment by Federal and State Governments, research institutions and private enterprise, to address injury prevention and management.

“It’s a collaboration between research organisations, community and industry partners and government entities from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia,” he said.

“With backing from the National Health and Medical Research Council, IPCA is already the largest enterprise of this kind operating in this context in Australia.”
Photographs of post-World War II houses by influential Queensland architecture practice Hayes and Scott are being showcased at the University Art Museum until November 23.

The practice, which was set up in 1946 by Cam Scott and Eddie Hayes, developed a unique architectural ethos in response to post-war housing material, size restrictions, and international trends.

They were also strongly influenced by émigré Austrian architect Karl Langer, who advocated architectural responses appropriate to the local climate, and émigré German architect Marcel Breuer, and more generally the case study houses of Los Angeles.

Hayes & Scott: Post-war houses draws on the Hayes and Scott archive held in the University’s Fryer Library, as well as personal collections.

Wayne Petrie, President of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (Queensland Chapter) opened the exhibition on October 3.

Art Museum Director Ross Searle said the Hayes and Scott practice was a training ground for a new generation of Queensland architects.

“While resources and concerns are rightfully centred on preventing young men from killing themselves, particularly in terms of years of life lost, I think there should also be a community priority on helping older men in distress.”

Ms Cartwright said suicide figures might even be higher, as suicide could be under-reported.

“There’s still a widespread belief in the community, even among health professionals, that committing suicide is a criminal offence.

“It hasn’t been the case in Queensland since 1899, but I think that doctors might be loathe to report an elderly death as a suicide, because of any likely ramifications.”

She said relatives, friends and neighbours of older men should be aware of the main suicide risk factors.

“While one of the leading causes is social isolation, which can be linked to recently being widowed or living alone, they also include a recent serious physical illness or mental illness,” she said.

She said people should take particular notice if an older relative or friend became withdrawn or depressed.

“Simply talking to them is a good starting point. If the problem seems too great, work out who to go to for help – a GP, the mental health unit, even the police can provide assistance, especially in smaller towns,” she said.

“Set up some community support, and keep in touch.”

Ms Cartwright is conducting ongoing research on suicide prevention and the effects of social isolation in older Australians and recently completed evaluations of State Government initiatives for older people.
Mood test patented
UniQuest Pty Limited, UQ’s technology commercialisation company, has patented an easy-to-administer test and apparatus for diagnosing mood disorder.

UQ’s Professor Jack Pettigrew and Dr Steven Miller invented the test, which offers the possibility of cost effective analysis of patients and high-risk groups for early diagnosis of mood disorder.

It is particularly applicable to the diagnosis of bipolar disorder, a common condition characterised by recurrent bouts of mania and depression.

The new company, Bireme Pty Limited, will conduct international clinical trials and market the patented test and apparatus.

It is currently seeking potential partners to assist in the production and distribution of the apparatus.

ASTHMA
A $112,000 grant to Dr William Young and Associate Professor Peter Davies to study ways of protecting asthmatics’ teeth was reported on October 1 on Sydney 2SM radio, Melbourne 3AW radio and in The Newcastle Herald, The Courier-Mail, The Age, The Herald-Sun and The Daily Telegraph.

COMMERCIALISATION
UniQuest’s launch of HaemPatch Pty Ltd, to test and market a blood-clotting agent from brown snake venom, received widespread print and radio publicity on September 23 and 24 in The Courier-Mail, The Daily Telegraph, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Advertiser, Hobart Mercury, The Age, The Canberra Times, Northern Territory News and on Sydney 2UE radio, B105 radio and ABC Radio. People mentioned included Dr Mark Harvey, Dr Paul Masic, Professor Martin Lavin and Professor John de Jersey.

HIGHER EDUCATION

HYPERSONICS

KIDNEY RESEARCH
A $4.2 million grant from the United States to a Renal Regeneration Consortium led by Associate Professor Melissa Little received widespread media coverage from October 1 on River FM, 4KQ radio, ABC Radio and in The Courier-Mail, The Mercury, The Australian and The Daily Telegraph.

MARINE STUDIES

MOSQUITOS
Professor John Mackenzie was interviewed about mosquito transmitted diseases by a number of media outlets on October 1 including The Courier-Mail, The Australian, The Mercury, The Advertiser, The Herald-Sun and on Brisbane 4BC radio and ABC Radio.

SOCIAL SCIENCE
Professor Jake Najman’s involvement in research linking breastfeeding and IQ was featured nationally from September 25 in The Daily Telegraph, The Advertiser, The Herald Sun, The Courier-Mail, The Australian and on national radio. His work on childhood resiliency was also in a number of September publications including ninemsn.com.au, The Mercury, The Age and The Herald Sun.

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The $600,000 redevelopment of the Wep Harris Cricket Pavilion at the University’s St Lucia campus was officially opened last month.

The pavilion’s name honours the late Wep Harris, a stalwart of the University Cricket Club.

Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay marked the opening with representatives from the University, UQ Sport, the University Cricket Club (UQCC) and the Harris family.

A cricket game between a Vice Chancellor’s team and President’s team followed the official opening. Players included Queensland and Australian representatives Martin Love, Michael Kasprowicz and Wade Seccombe.

The major donor to the refurbishment fund was former Brisbane Lord Mayor Clem Jones AO who played for the club and is a long time supporter.

“The cricket club will benefit greatly from the new pavilion, which was designed to provide first class facilities and great flexibility of use,” said UQCC representative Keith Jennings.
Muscling in on idle frogs

by Chris Saxby

A UQ researcher recently won the chance to give national exposure to his work on how a native frog can survive months of inactivity.

Research done by UQ student Nicholas Hudson into some remarkable Australian burrowing frogs that can tolerate months of inactivity without their muscles wasting away, could shed light on human muscle development.

He recently presented his work as part of Fresh Science – a national competition to identify some of Australia’s most exciting but unreported science achievements by younger researchers.

Mr Hudson came to UQ from England in 1999 to undertake a PhD in zoology at the Physiological Ecology Laboratory where he is focussing on muscle function in aestivating frogs.

“It is possible that our improved understanding of the preservation of skeletal muscle in frogs could eventually shed light on human muscle development,” Mr Hudson said.

He said many Australian frogs, such as the Green-Striped Burrowing Frog, survive lengthy droughts by digging an underground chamber and becoming dormant.

“They can emerge months, even years, after a drought with a fully competent muscle and movement system,” he said.

However, he said the question of how his research could be transferred to the human muscle system was still difficult to answer because humans and frogs were completely different animals.

Nevertheless, he said they both had similar muscle structures and it was not impossible that his findings could be furthered to eventually lead to an understanding of human muscle development.

“Muscle structure responds to the physical demands placed on it. Limb immobility for just a few days in most animals including humans can lead to degenerative changes,” he said.

Mr Hudson was one of 16 young scientists presenting their discoveries at Fresh Science to the media, the public and students for the first time.

Also representing UQ was PhD student Matthew Hynd, who presented research focussing on the brain cells of people with Alzheimer’s Disease.

Fresh Science was part of ScienceNOW!, a national forum held during National Science Week each year.

The 16 scientists were chosen from 105 nominations to present their work at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre.

“I thought my research would be of interest to the public and was extremely happy to be selected,” Mr Hudson said.

UQ literary success

Lecturer Venero Armanno from UQ’s School of English, Media Studies and Art History won the $25,000 Best Fiction Book prize at this month’s 2002 Queensland Premier’s Literary Awards.

His fifth book, The Volcano (Random House), won from a record field of 809 nominations from around Australia.

Nerida Newton, a UQ Master of Philosophy (Creative Writing) student won $20,000 and a UQ Press publishing contract after winning the Best Emerging Queensland Author award and has since been offered a publishing contract.

Walkway challenge

The 2002 Gatton Walkway Challenge took place last month with the individual female event won by former national champion of Honduras Jennifer Mackay (1:18:34.34 seconds).

The annual 500-metre UQ SPORT event is UQ Gatton’s equivalent of the Great Court Race at St Lucia.

Brad Rickard won the individual male event and a team from UQ’s School of Natural and Rural Systems Management won the Staff Challenge Relay.

A Thynne Hall team won the women’s relay and an off-campus team won the men’s relay.

Around 55 people participated in the event with more than $600 in prizes given away by sponsors including Eurest Catering, Lawes Campus Club, Video Ezy and the UQ Bookshop.

First-year celebrated

UQ’s Accommodation Services has celebrated its first birthday.

Based in the St Lucia Student Union Complex, it helps with accommodation options and provides information and advice on tenants’ rights.

In its first year it organised airport reception and/or temporary accommodation for 1870 students and their families, had about 750 students attend information sessions and averaged about three tenancy cases per week, saving students between $2000 and $750 by mediating with their landlords.

From left: the Green-Striped Burrowing Frog Cyclorana alboguttata, easing its hunger and in a cocoon formed to prevent dehydration. PHOTOS: Courtesy A/Prof Craig Franklin.
UQ graduate, historian, freelance writer and poet Dr Dan O’Donnell has recently had his 18th book published.

Understanding Australia Through Poetry is an anthology of poems that includes Spur-Winged Plover, which was inspired by the birds at The University of Queensland.

Dr O’Donnell, who completed a Bachelor of Arts in history and English in 1963, before undertaking a masters in history and then a PhD in education, said his time at the University had inspired him throughout his literary career.

“I would walk past the plovers down near the sports oval and sometimes they would fly past, dive at you and attack you like dive bombers,” he said.

His vivid memories of the flora and fauna at the University provided the stimulus for Spur-Winged Plover.

The University is also mentioned within the text in which the poem describes the beauty and charm of these birds.

Just how do you measure beauty? You don’t judge a book by its cover nor humans by looks, nor animals, nor that bird we call a Plover.

The poem forms part of the first section of the anthology, which is divided into three sections and based on the stimulus for these birds.

The first section looks at native birds, insects and the country’s unique flora and fauna; the second section comments on the people of Australia; and the third section considers Australian perceptions of the world at large.

Dr O’Donnell, who still lives in Brisbane, also said that he had been encouraged by his former tutors at the University and said they helped him to get where he is today.

“I was lucky enough to be under the guidance of stunningly inspirational teachers,” he said.

In particular he noted Professor Paul Crook in the history department whose work on Social Darwinism was published by Cambridge University Press.

Other academic influences came from Dr Ros Gillespie in the School of Education.

“Ros was a brilliant university teacher with the gift of inspiring,” he said.

Dr O’Donnell has also worked as a teacher. He lectured in education at Newcastle Teachers’ College, now part of the University of Newcastle.

His other books include Cecilia McNally, Duchess of Spring Hill and Nora Baird MBE 1900-1991.

The former is a biography of Cecilia McNally who started the Spring Hill Fair. Dr O’Donnell sells his books there every year to raise money for the Playground and Recreation Association of Queensland, which supports the recreational needs of vulnerable children.

The latter is a biography of Queensland Conservatorium member Nora Baird, which The Sunday Mail said brought Ms Baird to life.

...presents an absorbing feature of Brisbane’s musical life in the 1930s, 40s and 50s,” said The Sunday Mail’s Barbara Hebben.

Dr O’Donnell’s publications also include hundreds of articles on Australian history and education, which have appeared in journals and major newspapers.

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Open Day at the Bay

The public will next month be able to see the wide range of important work being carried out at UQ’s Moreton Bay Research Station.

Sun, sea, sand and research will be on display next month when UQ’s Moreton Bay Research Station opens its doors to the public.

The free event will take place on November 17 from 10am–3pm at the corner of Flinders Avenue and Fraser Street, Dunwich, North Stradbroke Island.

“There will be a wide variety of activities for people of all ages, including tours of the station, exhibits of local marine creatures, seminars and even a sausage sizzle,” said event coordinator and Education Officer Kathy Townsend from UQ’s Centre for Marine Studies.

“It will give people an insight into the rich diversity of marine life that exists just metres from the shore and will also inform them about current work being undertaken,” she said.

A touch tank as well as shark and ray tanks will showcase some of the creatures commonly found in the Bay while a microscope display will show some of the less-known inhabitants.

“We’ll have tiny creatures like the arrow worm on display, which catches its prey using giant hooks attached to its head, as well as crab larvae that look like satellites orbiting in inner space,” Ms Townsend said.

The natural history museum will also have displays featuring dugongs, early oceanographic equipment and dolphin anatomy.

Children must be accompanied by an adult and it is recommended that old sports shoes be worn.

Ms Townsend said the Centre needed numerous volunteers both on the day and the day before.

For full program details visit the UniQuest website www.marine.uq.edu.au/news/mbrsopen.htm

☎ 07 3409 9058

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FREE SEMINAR

Protecting and realising value from research at UQ

Presented by UniQuest Pty Limited, UQ’s Office of Research and Postgraduate Studies and IP Australia

Featuring presentations from a range of top IP professionals and case studies by UQ researchers Professor Ian Frazer and Dr Graham Schaffer

Subjects to be covered include an overview of the IP environment in Australia, commercialisation of technology in the tertiary environment, IP infringement and much more!

When? Thursday 31 October, 8:45 am – 12:45 pm (light lunch included)
Where? Kathleen Room, Staff Club, UQ St Lucia
RSVP l.skelly@uniquest.com.au by 25 October 2002

For full program details visit the UniQuest website

www.uniquest.com.au

ALL UQ STAFF AND STUDENTS ARE WELCOME!
of Historians, Dr Robert Cribb (10am, Room 610, Gordon Greenwood Bldg).
School of English, Media Studies and Art History, Metamorphoses of the Map, Peta Mitchell (1pm, Room 540, Miech Bldg).
School of Psychology, tba, Prof Mike Corballis, University of Auckland (3.30pm, Room 302, McElwain Bldg).
School of Biomedical Sciences, Neural Mechanisms of Light Adaptation in the Retina, Prof Reto Weiler, University of Oldenburg, Germany (1pm, Room 305, Skerran Bldg).

Thursday, October 26
School of Law, Copyright in Functional Works, Dr Gillian Dempsey (Customs House, 399 Queen St). For details, telephone 07 3365 1492.

Tuesday, October 29
School of Physics, Microscopes, Mr Windsor Davies (6pm, Room G.77, Parnell Bldg).

Wednesday, October 30
School of Engineering, Capillary Rise, Dr David Lockington (4pm, Room C406, Hawken Engineering Bldg).

Friday, November 1
School of Psychology, The Validation and Reliability of Tests of Working Memory for the Assessment of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury, Veronica Comerford (3.30pm, Room 304, McElwain Bldg).

Thursday, November 7
Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, Ethnography for Hire (2pm, Conference Room, Social Sciences and Humanities Library).

Friday, November 8
School of Biomedical Sciences, What are the Consequences of Perturbing Synaptic Connections During Development and in the Adult?, Dr Peter Noakes (1pm, Room 305, Skerran Bldg).

Saturday, November 10
School of Music, Masters Recital (12.30pm, Nickson Room, Zelman Cowen Bldg).

Friday, November 15
School of Music, Orchestral Concert (6pm, Mayne Hall, UQ St Lucia). Tickets at door, UQ students free.

Sunday, November 3
School of Music, Masters Recital (3pm, Chapel, Douchene College, UQ St Lucia). Free admission.

Sunday, November 24
School of Music, Viola Recital (11.30am, The Long Room, Customs House, 399 Queen St). Free admission.

OTHER EVENTS

Tuesday, October 29
School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering, Innovation Expo 2002 (10am-9pm, UQ Centre). For details, telephone 07 3365 9797.

Friday, November 1

Saturday, November 2
School of Dentistry, Dentistry Alumni Trivia Night. For details, telephone 07 3281 3471.

Thursday, November 14
Diabetes Australia, Replacing the Missing Beta Cells in Type 1 Diabetes: Stem Cell Research – Past, Present and Future, Professor Bernie Tuch, University of NSW and What’s on the Horizon for Retinopathy, Dr Peter Cranstoun, Mater Children’s Hospital (7-11pm, Conrad Treasury Hotel). For details, telephone 07 3239 5603.

Sunday, November 17
Centre for Marine Studies, Moreton Bay Research Station Open Day (10am-3pm, Stradbroke Island). For details, telephone 07 3409 9058.
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