Aboriginal law on the map
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Recent world events, notably the war in Iraq and the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus, are a reminder of just how connected we are in the global village.

The University of Queensland, like great institutions across the world, strives constantly to build international connections to promote shared excellence. UQ’s staff, students and alumni can therefore empathise with people in other countries – especially those personally affected by current events.

SARS and the unstable international climate are also having an impact on the University. UQ has advised staff and students not to travel to a small number of countries and cities named in Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) bulletins which have been affected by the SARS outbreak or by current instability.

No-one should feel under any obligation to travel overseas at this time if this is their preference. UQ’s 4200 international students, who are a highly-valued part of the University’s student body, are also being provided with relevant advice, in accordance with DFAT bulletins.

In spite of the current difficulties, UQ remains an open and welcoming institution for international students and other visitors from beyond our shores. The current climate will pass and we remain confident our international connections will continue to thrive.

Professor John Hay
Vice-Chancellor
Popular fair has lots more than books

The queue to the UQ Alumni Association’s book fair is always longer than War and Peace, and 2003 will be no exception says convenor Feona Walker.

From a copy of Alfred Russel Wallace’s The Malay Archipelago published in 1869 to a more upbeat vinyl record of The Beatles’ The White Album (Australian version), the 13th biennial Alumni Book Fair will cater for a variety of tastes.

The event will take place from April 25–29 at the UQ Centre from 11am to 6pm daily (noon to 6pm April 25).

Featuring hundreds of thousands of books, magazines, periodicals, sheet music and records, it will be preceded by a rare book auction on April 24 at The Women’s College Playhouse at 6.30pm.

“People find books, music and other items they would never find anywhere else,” Ms Walker said.

“On the first day of the book fair they bring their camp stools and flasks and queue from 7.30am even though it doesn’t start until noon.”

There will also be a selection of watercolour paintings for sale, coffee table books in immaculate condition and even a collection of postcards.

Ms Walker said donations had flooded in from a variety of sources including UQ and Griffith University libraries and the estate of the late UQ Professor Michael Spencer.

“It is high quality, interesting material. Dealers come from all over. They are particularly interested in our Australiana section,” Ms Walker said.

She said volunteers who specialised in specific subjects had worked tirelessly to divide the donated books into specific groups such as sport, history, Australiana, gardening, cookery, foreign languages, ballet, art, children’s books, travel, science fiction and novels.

An 1877 edition of Alfred Tennyson’s Vivien will be one of the many collectible items for sale at the Alumni Association’s rare book auction.

Other items on auction include copies of Peter Pan and Wendy, The Swiss Family Robinson and David Copperfield, all with beautifully tipped-in (pasted) illustrations.

The auction and fair will raise money to support initiatives such as UQ’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching, the Alumnus and Graduate of the Year, postgraduate and sporting scholarships and students with disabilities.

The proceeds from the 2001 book fair helped to fund a number of scooters for disabled students as well as equipment for various UQ schools and faculties.

Dividend marks success of UniQuest

UniQuest Pty Ltd, UQ’s technology commercialisation company, handed over a $3 million cheque to UQ last month.

UniQuest Managing Director David Henderson said the funds were from the 2002 proceeds of UQ technology commercialisation, and cemented UniQuest’s position among the world’s leading university technology commercialisation companies.

UniQuest Board of Directors Chair Norbury Rogers presented the cheque to Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay at a UQ Senate meeting on March 20.

Mr Henderson said record revenue of $51.7 million was achieved in 2002 of which payments and provisions to UQ and its staff exceeded $24 million.

“UniQuest’s record performance is tangible evidence of the successful commercialisation of University technology,” he said.

“It is a tribute to UQ’s foresight in establishing a technology commercialisation company and properly funding the commercialisation process.”

At the Commercialisation Forum and Fair of Ideas held in Sydney on March 27, UniQuest won three Commercialisation Excellence Awards – more than any other university commercialisation arm.

In 2002 UniQuest also formed seven new companies, bringing the total number of companies formed to 48.

The $10 million raised by these technologies in 2002 is believed to be the largest single amount raised by an Australian university technology transfer company.
UQ academics received widespread acknowledgement for their research efforts last month, with a number awarded highly-regarded fellowships.

UQ received six of 24 prestigious 2003 Federation Fellowships – the largest share by a single institution. Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay said it was an “exceptional” result and spoke volumes for the quality and international standing of UQ research.

The Fellowships are part of the Federal Government’s $3 billion Backing Australia’s Ability innovation action plan and were announced by Minister for Education, Science and Training Dr Brendan Nelson in Canberra on March 20.

They are designed to attract and keep Australia’s leading researchers and encourage international researchers to Australia.

The Federation Fellows are regarded as among the best in the world in their fields.

Each Fellow will receive an indexed annual salary of around $230,000, making the Fellowships the most valuable publicly-funded support offered in Australia. In addition, host institutions will receive 26 percent of the salary amount as on-costs.

UQ awardees were:

- Professor Perry Bartlett (Project – Cellular plasticity in the brain: Discovering molecular mechanisms controlling the production of neurons during brain development, function, ageing and disease);
- Professor Kevin Burrage (Project – Stochastic modelling of genetic regulatory networks);
- Professor Max Lu (Project – Molecular engineered nanomaterials for advanced fuel cells);
- Dr Anton Middelberg (Project – Engineering nanostructured bio-inspired products);
- Professor Gerard Milburn (Project – Principles of quantum nanotechnology);
- Professor John Quiggin (Project – Sustainable reform of the Murray-Darling system: Property rights, uncertainty and institutions); and
- distinguished Cambridge researcher Anton Middelberg who will return to Australia to work at UQ.

Fellows reap fruits of funding

UQ academics received widespread acknowledgement for their research efforts last month, with a number awarded highly-regarded fellowships.

From left: Professor Bartlett, Professor Orlowska and Professor Drummond. PHOTO: CHRIS STACEY

From left: Professor Bartlett, Professor Quiggin, Minister Dr Nelson, Professor Lu, Professor Burrage and Professor Milburn. PHOTO: ANDREW CAMPBELL

Four Fellowships were awarded to the University of Sydney and CSIRO, three to the University of Melbourne and Australian National University and the remainder to the University of New South Wales, Monash University and the University of Adelaide.

Three UQ academics were also honoured last month by being elected Fellows of the Australian Academy of Science.

Each year, 16 leading scientists are recognised for advancing the world’s scientific knowledge by being invited to join almost 340 Fellows of the Academy.

Federation Fellow Professor Bartlett, the Foundation Chair of Molecular Neuroscience in the School of Biomedical Sciences, was nominated in the field of molecular neuroscience for his research into stem cells and the brain’s capacity for repair and plasticity.

Theoretical physicist Professor Peter Drummond from the School of Physical Sciences was acknowledged for his work on quantum theory and computational, laser, communication and information physics.

Head of the Information Systems Group in the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering, Professor Maria Orlowska, was recognised for her research into information systems, including e-business collaboration, business process modelling and verification, workflow technology and transaction processing, and integrated databases.
Disease SOS answered

A UQ virologist is working with the World Health Organisation, leading a team of four infectious disease experts in China to investigate Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

Professor John Mackenzie from UQ’s School of Molecular and Microbial Sciences is in Beijing to examine whether cases of atypical pneumonia in Guangdong Province are early cases of SARS.

An expert team was requested by the Chinese Government to jointly review the cases with Chinese experts and to advise the Ministry of Health and other Chinese authorities on additional investigations.

“The importance of the investigations can be understood when it is realised that there has possibly been more cases of SARS in Guangdong Province than the rest of the world and that most cases predated the known index case,” Professor Mackenzie said.

He said the Chinese authorities had been cooperative and frank.

“The information provided allowed the team to conclude that an epidemic of SARS had indeed occurred in Guangdong with the epidemic peak occurring in February,” Professor Mackenzie said.

He said the earliest case found so far had been in November.

“This is very important information in trying to trace the origin of the SARS outbreak,” he said.

“However, further studies are necessary to find the source of the outbreak.

“The information the team has been made aware of has also had major implications on understanding the epidemiology of the causative agent.

“We also have new data from Hong Kong University and the United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention on the possible identity of the virus responsible for SARS.

“Together with early-case samples kept frozen by Chinese health authorities, we should have a strong lead in understanding its origin.”
After 23 years of research, a UQ academic has mapped for the first time the sacred knowledge of an Aboriginal community into atlas form.

by Joanne van Zeeland

Sacred site for Aborigines

Forget About Flinders is a 380-page atlas of Yanyuwa country in the southwest Gulf of Carpentaria.

“The atlas comprises hand-painted maps, photographs, illustrations and text,” said Dr John Bradley from UQ’s School of Social Science.

“It is the work of myself, artist Nona Cameron and the Yanyuwa people.”

“It is the repatriation of more than two decades of my field research back to the Yanyuwa people and their country.”

Yanyuwa country is 970km southeast of Darwin and outside the area of northeast Arnhem Land.

It is on the shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria, which British explorer Matthew Flinders named when he chartered the area in 1802.

The Yanyuwa people live in the town of Borroloola, which has a population of between 600 and 1000 people, mostly comprising descendants of the Yanyuwa, Marra, Garwa, Gudanji and Binnigka language groups.

“The aim was to map the sacred knowledge of the community into atlas form so future generations of Yanyuwa people could learn, in part at least, some of the knowledge their ancestors used to manage life and affairs on the savannah lands, islands and sea they call home,” Dr Bradley said.

He describes the atlas as equivalent to western common law.

It explores indigenous views of geography, weather, landscape and spirituality, with text explaining each map’s story, argument of law and intergenerational wrangling.

It comprises three volumes: Wirdiwalangu Anthawirriyarr (the authority of those descended from the sea), which discusses the five main islands in the area; Wirdiwalangu Mayangwarr (the authority of those from the mainland); and Wondayarra a-yabala (following the paths of the songs of the country), a pictorial reproduction of five public but sacred song cycles.

“The atlas is not a white man writing about matters Aboriginal, rather a side-by-side collaboration, exploring and finding ways in which the oral can be made visual and still hold its original vibrancy,” Dr Bradley said.

“It’s a unique document because it’s a new way for anthropologists to write and record information.

“Many non-indigenous observers do not understand a spirituality dependent on landscape and on its human component.”

He said the title, Forget about Flinders, was not meant as an insult. Rather, it was a comment made by a Yanyuwa elder when viewing one of the atlas’ maps. It had more than 150 places named on it, compared with the three Flinders had named when exploring the area by boat.

He said the idea for an atlas was conceived by a Yanyuwa woman who was visiting Brisbane and saw a street directory being used.

The Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies provided 12-months funding for the project last year, which allowed Ms Cameron to finish drawing the maps she had been working on for two and a half years.

Two UQ students who worked on the project received first class honours last year.

A further two students have started their honours thesis on the Yanyuwa people this year.

Dr Bradley, who has visited the Yanyuwa people every year since he taught primary school there 23 years ago, will present senior clan members with 21 atlases later this month.

Following this, he plans to produce an interactive DVD of the atlas and update and publish a Yanyuwa dictionary, the first version of which he completed 10 years ago.
Timorese delegation welcomed

East Timorese defence force personnel visited UQ Gatton during a tour of the Lockyer Valley last month.

They were accompanied by Australian Defence Force staff, their families and UQ Gatton staff.

Three academics from the Faculty of Agriculture at the National University of East Timor also attended to help translate information.

The academics are visiting UQ Gatton for one month under an Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) funded project designed to rehabilitate the East Timorese university.

“The staff are developing course materials and examining methods of research support and supervision at UQ’s Gatton campus,” said Jean Russell from the School of Natural and Rural Systems Management.

“UQ is a partner in the rehabilitation project and myself and Gordon Dryden from the School of Animal studies have been involved since the re-establishment of the university three years ago.”

Ross Murray from UQ’s School of Agronomy and Horticulture led the delegation’s tour of the Gatton campus, which included an explanation and tour of the newly-constructed poultry production systems by Geoff Stewart from the School of Animal Studies and a visit to the dairy for an afternoon milking session hosted by Robyn Curling from the School of Animal Studies.

UQ will hold a major community event next month to express appreciation for the generosity of anatomy donors.

This year’s multi-faith Thanksgiving Service for Anatomy Donors will be held for the first time in the $20 million UQ Centre on Union Road, St Lucia at 5.30pm on May 7.

Chair of the Thanksgiving Service Committee Leo Brown said the service would acknowledge 51 donors whose bodies have been used in teaching human anatomy to health and medical students over the past two years.

“The University of Queensland has a long tradition of paying tribute to donors who have willed their bodies for medical science and anatomy teaching,” he said.

“The service is a public demonstration of the appreciation shown by University staff and students for this valuable gift.”

The Thanksgiving Service is attended by University staff and students, members of the public, representatives of government, community and various faiths as well as families and friends of recently deceased donors.

During the service, the names of recently deceased donors are publicly recognised.

Their names are also recorded in a Book of Remembrance which is on display in the foyer of the Otto Hirschfeld Building at UQ.

“The Thanksgiving Service was the first such ceremony established in Australia (in 1992) and has now been accepted as a benchmark by other universities,” Mr Brown said.

This year a UQ graduate and family member of three former donors will participate in the service.

Mrs Zan Bond (nee Atkinson), who graduated Bachelor of Educational Studies in 1978 will read the poem To an Anatomy Student.

“My father, aunt and mother were all donors to the program and last year when my mother’s gift was recognised I wished she could have been at the service,” Mrs Bond said.

“It’s a warm service with a lot of dignity and I know she would have enjoyed the splendid music selection.

“People who become donors make a wonderful gift to the enlightenment of students.

“This service is a public acknowledgement and recognition of their choice.

“Students in such areas as physiotherapy, dentistry and exercise science couldn’t undertake their studies without the generosity of donors.”

The Thanksgiving Service will feature The Kodaly Choir directed by Dr James Cuskelley of UQ’s School of Music.

Global access service

A new Global Access service by UQconnect allows UQ staff to access the Internet or email from anywhere in the world.

Information Technology Services (ITS) provide a free service to configure laptops to be compatible with Global Access.

Users of the service dial in to a local Internet Service Provider number and can then connect to the Internet and read their emails at local connection rates.

UQconnect will however, charge the department for the time spent on the connection.

Information: www.uqconnect.net

West Nile virus

Dr Roy Hall from UQ’s School of Molecular and Microbial Sciences is developing a vaccine to the deadly West Nile virus that hit the United States in 1999 and has killed more than 200 people worldwide. Dr Hall and the Royal Brisbane Hospital’s Dr Alexander Khromykh are developing a vaccine based on the cross reactivity with Kunjin virus.

Four monoclonal anti-bodies that opened the way for accurate diagnosis of the West Nile virus have also recently been licensed to another two companies.

Cardiac arrest study

Participants are needed for a study into sudden cardiac arrest by the School of Medicine’s Associate Professor David Colquhoun. The Wesley Hospital-based study is examining the effectiveness of teaching family members Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) when some people have also been given an Automatic External Defibrillator.

Participants need to have suffered an anterior (front wall) heart attack, have a live-in partner who is able-bodied, be more than 18-years-old and not have an internal defibrillator fitted.

Information: 07 3217 8760
The western Queensland town of Boulia has built its tourist reputation on Min Min lights, mysterious lights that seem to follow travellers for long distances.

UQ’s Vision, Touch and Hearing Research Centre Director Professor Jack Pettigrew said despite intense interest in the Min Min, they had never been explained in a satisfactory way.

“The Min Min light seems to have magical qualities, sometimes following observers, even as they speed away in vehicles, while at other times seeming to retreat shyly,” he said.

Professor Pettigrew provides an optical explanation and data about Min Min lights in the current edition of Clinical and Experimental Optometry, the journal of the Optometrists Association of Australia.

He used his skills in the vision sciences combined with extensive first-hand experience of the Diamantina region of western Queensland at night.

Professor Pettigrew was studying the letter-winged kite, an elusive nocturnal bird in the region, where he encountered the phenomenon.

“The Min Min light occurs when light, from a natural or human-made source, is refracted to an observer who is tens, or even hundreds, of kilometres away, by an inverted mirage, or Fata Morgana,” he said.

“Named after the Morgan fairy, who was reputed to be able to conjure cities on the surface of the sea ice, the Fata Morgana has a real physical phenomenon, being caused by a temperature inversion.

“A cold, dense layer of air next to the ground (or sea, or sea ice) carries light far over the horizon to a distant observer without the usual dissipation and radiation, to produce a vivid mirage that baffles and enchants because of its unfamiliar optical properties.”

In a celebrated and authenticated example, the Irish sea cliffs were seen floating in vivid greens and browns above the calm Atlantic by observers on a ship more than a thousand kilometres away.

“Wonderful during the day, such Fata Morgana can be terrifying at night when a single light source gives no hint that it is actually part of a mirage emanating from a great distance.”

“Even hardened Outback observers can break down when they are unable to interpret the unusual optical properties of the light in terms of their own, very different, past experiences.

“The unusual terrain of the Channel Country makes the favourable atmospheric conditions more likely, while its isolation increase the impact of a single light source since the observer knows that it cannot be produced locally but sees it apparently there in front.”

Professor Pettigrew said some people would prefer not to have the Min Min’s mystique probed by city slickers.

“I apologise to them. However, knowing more about the unusual weather conditions responsible, could improve one’s chances of seeing it,” he said.

“Increased knowledge has certainly not lessened my own wonderment at the phenomenon on those infrequent occasions I’ve witnessed it.

“When I have invited journalists to come along for a viewing of the Min Min in the Diamantina as part of my studies, they all declined.

“They said that they did not have the time or patience to wait around for days in the Outback for a temperature inversion of the right kind!”

A UQ neuroscientist has revealed the probable basis of a bizarre Australian Outback phenomenon that has baffled observers for centuries.

Light cast on mystery of Outback

PHOTO: CHRIS STACEY

UQ NEWS, APRIL 2003
A Senior Research Officer from the University’s Koala Study Program headed to London recently to discuss his research into the ecology of koalas on a volcanic island in the Whitsundays.

by Chris Saxby
Dr Bill Ellis was invited by the Earthwatch conservation institute to speak at a Royal Geographical Society (RGS) meeting on April 10 about his work with koalas on St Bees Island off the central coast of Queensland.

“We have been running the project for about five years and it has been pretty successful,” Dr Ellis said.

“Earthwatch has been part of the project for a year and provides volunteers for field research.”

In 1998 the UQ Koala Study Program joined forces with The Koala Research Centre at Central Queensland University and the associated Central Queensland Koala Volunteers to undertake a long-term investigation into the ecology of koalas on St Bees Island.

Dr Ellis, who is also an Earthwatch Principal Investigator, told the forum in London that the research could lead to the development of a koala restoration program.

“The management problems and translocations of koalas have been well documented, representing one of the most contentious and disconcerting issues in native animal management in Australia’s history,” he said.

“There is no doubt that serious issues remain for the management of koalas in southeast Australia, and that many of these issues relate directly to the problems which have resulted from apparent overpopulation, population crashes and repeated translocations of these animals in that region.”

As part of his presentation, Dr Ellis discussed what the future held for the koala population based on his research on the island.

St Bees is a volcanic island with tropical vegetation located in the Whitsundays.

“The island is isolated and there is no power,” he said.

“We stay in two very basic houses and some people bring their own tents.”

Dr Ellis said he had placed collar-mounted radio transmitters on some koalas so he could track them.

“The terrain at St Bees is too rough for wheeled vehicles so koalas are captured by scaling the tree in which they are sitting, securing a tether to the koala and encouraging it to descend by waving a rag tied to a pole above its head,” he said.

During his time on St Bees, Dr Ellis has seen natural events rarely witnessed by humans, including . finding a koala that had given birth less than 45 minutes earlier.

“We found the pinky (joey) and it hadn’t attached to the nipple yet,” he said.

“This was probably the first time anyone in the world had seen this in the wild.”
Diverse program apla

by Joanne van Zeeland

The inaugural UQ Diversity Week from March 17–22 involved a myriad of programs and activities and culminated with the launch of the Vice-Chancellor’s Equity and Diversity Awards.

There was a tremendous response to last month’s UQ Diversity Week by the University community, according to UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Margaret Gardner.

“We have an increasingly diverse student and staff population, drawn from around the globe and representative of many cultures, religions, ethnicities, language groups and sexualities,” she said.

“UQ Diversity Week highlighted the University’s commitment to a more equitable and tolerant world and provided us with an opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved and what we can improve upon.”

Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay officially launched the Vice-Chancellor’s Equity and Diversity Awards during a UQ Diversity Week lunch on March 21 in the UQ Centre.

“The awards have been established to support initiatives of staff, students and organisational units that address the broad issues of equity and diversity, in particular those related to the University’s strategic and operational objectives,” Professor Hay said.

The awards, $10,000 to an organisational unit and $5000 to an individual staff member or student, will be presented for the first time in 2004. They will replace the Affirmative Action Awards established in 1997 and will be administered by The Equity Office.

Third-year arts/social science student and 2003 Young Queenslander of the Year James Unsworth was guest speaker at the launch of the awards.

As President of the United Nations Student Association (UNSA) and an executive member of the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA), Mr Unsworth spends most of his time educating and involving youth in international issues.

He is also Executive Director of Policy for The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN) Youth Network (TYN).

Last year he was named Gold Coast Young Citizen of the Year and was the only Australian, and one of 15 young people worldwide, selected to attend the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa.

Mr Unsworth’s international involvements have included the Malacca International Youth Dialogue on globalisation in Malaysia, a THIMUN Youth Assembly in the Netherlands and a visit to Kuwait to work with high school students preparing for THIMUN.

Other UQ Diversity Week activities included a multi-faith celebration of the commencement of the academic year, the opening of the UQ Ipswich Family Room, a Student Exchange Fair, library displays at the St Lucia and Ipswich campuses, a special exhibition on cross-cultural diversity by the Anthropology Museum and an international cuisine fair at UQ Gatton.
Dr Aileen Moreton-Robinson from UQ’s Australian Studies Centre is the Australian Research Council’s first female Indigenous postdoctoral research fellow and is a Geonpul woman from Quandamooka (Moreton Bay).

“My research revolves around the study of white race privilege and the assumption that everyone is raced,” she said.

“Race had been crucial to the formation of Australia’s nationhood. However, when the concept of race is invoked, it tends to be applied only to non-white people.

“Instead of looking at racial oppression, whiteness studies examine the issue of race privilege.

“You can’t have one without the other but most research on race only focuses on oppression.”

As part of her research, entitled Black on white: Indigenous social constructions of race, Dr Moreton-Robinson will examine how three generations of Indigenous people racialise others and experience racism.

“I hope that my research will help further develop this important new area of study in Australia and I am pleased to have been given the opportunity to work in such a supportive environment,” she said.

Dr Moreton-Robinson deployed the concept of whiteness in her PhD where she engaged with feminist theory and practice.

Upon completing her PhD at Griffith University in 1998, she became the first Aboriginal PhD graduate from a Queensland university.

Ten years earlier, she was the first Aboriginal to receive first class honours in sociology at the Australian National University as part of her Bachelor of Arts studies.

The University of Queensland Press used her PhD research to produce a book in 2000 entitled Talking Up To The Whitewoman, which sold more than 2500 copies.

Since starting at UQ earlier this year, Dr Moreton-Robinson has also begun editing Australia’s first collection of essays on whiteness. Entitled Whitening Race, it is due for release in September this year by Aboriginal Studies Press.

Dr Moreton-Robinson said her three-year Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship would be used to pay her salary, on-costs and some expenses occurred as part of her research.

Various forums were held on topics such as breastfeeding, parental leave, multi-cultural Australia, experiences of staff from non-English speaking backgrounds and employment for students with special needs.

UQ Diversity Week also incorporated national Harmony Day and the International Day for the Elimination of Racism, both on March 21.
His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and his brother, His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Qawi, met with a number of University officials and Brunei students during their visit of March 14.

“The visit provided a unique opportunity for UQ to brief the Crown Prince first-hand on the growing collaborative links between UQ and the University of Brunei Darussalam,” said Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development) Professor Trevor Grigg.

“It also allowed us to discuss links with the Brunei government in the fields of biomedical science, medicine and medical training, as well as business and education management. In addition, the Crown Prince had the opportunity to mingle with the growing number of Brunei students currently studying at UQ in large measure as a direct outcome of our collaboration.”

During his visit, the Crown Prince met with a number of senior University officials, including UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, Professor Grigg, International Education Directorate Director Dr Robert Coelen, Faculty of Biological and Chemical Sciences Executive Dean Professor Mick McManus and Faculty of Health Sciences Executive Dean Professor Peter Brooks.

The High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Australia, His Excellency Dato Jocklin Kongpaw, was also in attendance.
Employment fair a careering success

Career and employment options were plentiful at the University’s annual UQ Careers Fair earlier this month.

More than 7000 students attended the April 2 event, which provided an opportunity to speak individually with representatives from more than 60 major private industry and government employers.

“This year’s event has been an outstanding success,” said Dean of Students Dr Lisa Gaffney.

“Numbers were well up on last year and the feedback from students and employers has been very positive.”

In a new initiative, Student Support Services (SSS) developed a parallel series of presentations, which took place throughout the day.

“The presentations were designed to assist students entering the job market by providing increased opportunities for them to gain careers and employment information useful for their job-search activities,” said SSS Director Dr Maureen Burke.

“Both the career and employment panels and the industry presentations were well attended throughout the day and we hope to incorporate the idea into next year’s event.”

The UQ Careers Fair was a joint initiative of the Dean of Students, Student Support Services and the Office of Marketing and Communications.

Dr Gaffney said students who were unable to attend the event could still visit the UQ Careers Fair website for details about the participating organisations and their employment requirements.

Uni award nominations open to staff

Nominations are now open for the 2003 University of Queensland Awards for Excellence in Teaching and the newly established Awards for the Enhancement of Student Learning.

All University academic staff are eligible for nomination for the five individual Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

Candidates must be nominated by at least five members of the academic staff or current or former UQ students who have been taught by the person within the past five years.

At least one of the nominators must be an academic staff member and one a current or former student.

Details of the nominations process, nomination forms, how to prepare a submission, and the selection criteria and procedure can be found in the award guidelines, copies of which are available from Faculty, School and Centre offices, from the Student Centres and at www.uq.edu.au/teaching_learning/awards

The Awards for the Enhancement of Student Learning were established in 2001 by the Academic Board to recognise and promote excellence in the provision of services that support student learning.

The self-nominated awards are open to innovative teaching and learning projects or services initiated by curriculum teams, groups or units within support services, administrative units, centres, schools, or programs of study. They can also be University-wide initiatives.

The project or service should have improved the quality of the student-learning environment.

Up to two annual awards may be granted to further the enhancement of teaching and learning at the University.

The nomination form and further information concerning eligibility, the selection criteria and procedure, and preparation of applications can be found in the award guidelines, available from Faculty, School, Centre or Division offices, or at www.uq.edu.au/teaching_learning/awards

Nominations on the appropriate forms for both awards should be forwarded to Jenny Bjarnesen, Room 639, Level 6, J.D. Story Building, by May 23.
Policy-making comes of age

Two University of Queensland academics have brought research and policy development on ageing and the baby boomer generation to the forefront.

University of Brighton Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir David Watson will be a guest speaker. Early-bird registrations close April 30.


Higher Education
Postgraduate Student Conference:
May 2, Royal Brisbane Hospital
The UQ School of Medicine Central Clinical Division’s first bi-annual Postgraduate Student Conference for 2003 will showcase student research projects and encourage collaboration.

Prizes will be awarded to student presentations in the categories of best pre-confirmation presentation, best pre-submission presentation and best poster presentation.

Information: 07 3365 5137, m.wienert1@uq.edu.au

Conference
Charting Uncertainty: Capital, Community and Citizenship: July 3–5, UQ Ipswich
The International InsideOut conference on higher education and community engagement will be hosted by the UQ Community Service and Research Centre.

Information: www.emsah.uq.edu.au/awsr/

Feminism
(Other) Feminisms:
Women’s College, UQ St Lucia
The international women’s and gender studies conference will be held by the Australian Women’s Studies Association.

Themes are likely to include: indigenous women; histories of feminism; feminist theory, critiques, debates and controversies; work and sexual politics; international issues for ‘western’ feminism; the body; lesbian studies and politics; sexualities; gender, race, ethnicity and class; women and power; generational feminisms; culture, art and literature.

Information: www.emsah.uq.edu.au/awsr/

The presenter of the conference will be Australia’s leading authority in the application of marketing and strategic concepts to educational organisations, Dr Stephen Holmes.

Information: 07 3365 7343

University of Brighton Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir David Watson will be a guest speaker. Early-bird registrations close April 30.


EDUCATION
External relations in education: May 23–24, UQ St Lucia
Hosted by UQ’s School of Education as part of the 2003 Education Marketing Seminar Series, the conference is designed to be of value to educational administrators who want to extend the scope of their organisation’s marketing perspective.

The presenter of the conference will be Australia’s leading authority in the application of marketing and strategic concepts to educational organisations, Dr Stephen Holmes.

Information: 07 3365 7343

IT SECURITY
AusCERT 2003: May 11–15, Gold Coast
UQ’s Australian Computer Emergency Response Team (AusCERT) is holding its second Asia-Pacific IT Security Conference.

A number of high calibre speakers have been confirmed for the event, entitled Towards a secure business environment: Grass roots and beyond.

More than 600 delegates from international and local organisations in the public and private sectors are expected to attend.

Honours list grows for President of Ireland

The President of Ireland received an honorary doctorate at a special UQ ceremony last month.

Her Excellency Mary McAleese was presented with a Doctor of Laws honoris causa on March 12 in recognition of her distinguished career and outstanding contribution to Ireland’s social and economic development.

“President McAleese is respected internationally as a leader in the law, higher education and government and is a worthy recipient of an honorary doctorate,” said UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay.

“She is dedicated to the causes of justice, equality, social inclusion, anti-sectarianism and reconciliation, and her efforts continue to support and encourage social and economic development in Ireland.”

Professor Hay said that honorary doctorates were a traditional means by which universities recognised outstanding personal achievements across a wide spectrum of fields and activities.

He said a committee set up by the University Senate evaluated candidates before accepting or declining the nomination.

“It is a great honour for the University that President McAleese graciously chose to accept this award,” he said.

Born Mary Leneghan in 1951, President McAleese attended St Dominic’s High School before graduating with honours in law from Queen’s University of Belfast in 1973.

In 1986, she completed a Master of Arts at Trinity College, Dublin and a Diploma in Spanish at the Institute of Linguists in 1994.

Before becoming President of Ireland on November 11, 1997, President McAleese achieved success as an academic and university administrator, a published author and experienced radio and television broadcaster.

In 1975 she was appointed Reid Professor of Criminal Law, Criminology and Penology at Trinity College, Dublin; Director of the Institute of Professional Legal Studies at Queen’s University, Belfast in 1987; and in 1994 became the first female Catholic Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Queen’s University.

She is a Barrister-at-Law of the Inn of Court of Northern Island and Barrister-at-Law of the Honourable Society of King’s Inns, Dublin.

She has been recognised internationally with numerous awards, including 13 honorary degrees, six honorary fellowships and membership of the Royal Irish Academy.

Attendees at the Customs House event included Dr Martin McAleese; the Governor of Queensland, Major General Peter Arnnson, AC CVO and wife Barbara Arnnson; University of Queensland Chancellor Sir Llewellyn Edwards, AC and wife Lady Edwards, AM; Barbara Hay; Anna Bligh, Queensland Education Minister; and members of the diplomatic corps.

From UQ to the UK

UQ PhD student Bradley Ladewig and arts/law graduate Darren White are among the 2003 global winners of the prestigious Chevening Scholarships for postgraduate study in Britain.

In September, Mr Ladewig will undertake nine months of research towards his PhD at the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine in London.

Mr White, who won the Chevening-Landerer Scholarship for the Study of Commercial Law, will undertake a Master of Law at the University of Cambridge.

At just 22, Mr Ladewig was the youngest of the eight national recipients to receive a scholarship.

In 2001 he graduated from UQ with a Bachelor of Engineering (first class honours).

He is currently undertaking a PhD at NanoMac, UQ’s NanoMaterials Centre, studying nanocomposite proton conducting membranes for direct methanol fuel cells.

Mr White graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1997 and a Bachelor of Law (first class honours) in 1999.

He has since worked as the Associate to Justice Margaret White of the Supreme Court of Queensland and as an articled clerk and solicitor at McCullough Robertson Lawyers.

“I want to specialise in market regulation and deregulation and Cambridge offers a number of subjects that will help me to develop that speciality,” he said.

“The United Kingdom has also been through a major deregulation process in the past 20 years and I hope to be able to gain knowledge from meeting with people who have been involved in that process.”

Britain provides around 2300 Chevening Scholarships each year to outstanding graduates and young professionals from more than 150 countries.
SOME OF THE STORIES THAT PUT UQ STAFF IN THE MEDIA
March/April 2003

COMMERCIALISATION
The Australian Financial Review acknowledged UniQuest Pty Ltd, UQ’s commercialisation arm, as “one of the best” at translating ideas to reality.

CORAL REEFS
Channel Ten’s Totally Wild program and Brisbane News interviewed Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg from the Centre for Marine Studies about coral reef changes and his career in marine studies.

HEALTH
The Australian reported that Professor John Mackenzie from the School of Molecular and Microbial Science was in China leading a World Health Organisation team investigating Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

HIGHER EDUCATION
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development) Professor Trevor Grigg was interviewed by Radio Programas de Mexico about Australia’s higher education systems and UQ–Mexico education links. The program was broadcast to approximately eight million listeners.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor David Siddle was quoted in The Australian calling for a re-examination of the Research Training Scheme.

Print and radio media throughout Queensland reported the President of Ireland, Her Excellency Mary McAleese, had received an honorary Doctor of Laws at a special UQ graduation ceremony in March.

IRAQ
UQ experts were quoted in a wide range of print and electronic media about various aspects of the war in Iraq. They included: Professor Martin Stuart-Fox (School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics); and Dr Marianne Hanson, Dr Alex Bellamy (School of Political Science and International Studies); Dr Virginia Slaughter, Professor Candi Peterson (School of Psychology); Associate Professor Barry Noller (National Research Centre for Environmental Toxicology); Professor John Quiggin (School of Economics); Dr John Harrison (School of Journalism and Communication); Professor Roly Sussex (School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies); and Professor Graham Martin (Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine).

LANGUAGE
Professor Roly Sussex from the School of Language and Comparative Cultural Studies was interviewed by Channel 7’s Today Tonight, AAP, ABC radio and 4BC radio about a range of English language issues, including Americanisms and Short Message Service (SMS) messaging.

MIN MIN LIGHTS
Local and national media widely reported on research by Professor Jack Pettigrew of the Vision, Touch and Hearing Research Centre into the curious phenomenon of Min Min lights in Outback Australia.

NEUROSCIENCE
The Australian and radio ABC 612 interviewed Foundation Chair of Molecular Neuroscience Professor Perry Bartlett about recent accolades (Federation Fellowship, Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science) and his research into how the brain makes and regulates nerve cells.

QUEENSLAND
National and local media prominently reported that UQ arts/law graduate and former lecturer Quentin Bryce, AO would become the next Governor of Queensland.

TRANSPORT
The Courier-Mail and ABC National Radio interviewed Professor Bob Stimson from the School of Geographical Sciences and Planning about transport issues in Brisbane and southeast Queensland.

WILDLIFE
The Queensland Times interviewed Dr Marc Hockings from the School of Natural and Rural Systems Management about his work saving endangered species.
Skills the best therapy

Research by a UQ student has been used to develop and pilot a University teaching aid for occupational therapy students and provide valuable support services to Indigenous children.

A lison Nelson trialed a six-month visiting occupational therapy service at a local Indigenous school as part of her Masters research, which she completed in 2000.

Following the trial, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community School at Acacia Ridge requested ongoing occupational therapy services from the UQ School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences’ Children’s Life Skills Clinic.

“As part of my research I developed practical strategies for occupational therapists working with Indigenous children and formed community links between UQ and several Indigenous schools in Brisbane,” said Ms Nelson, who is now the Clinic’s Assistant Manager.

“These strategies and links are now being used to provide clinical training for students and valuable support services to children.”

In addition to helping with handwriting, coordination, concentration and reading, a Skills for School program specifically targets Grade One children and provides on-the-spot training for their teacher.

The clinic is one of several offered by UQ under the management of Carolyn Burrows.

Ms Burrows said the Children’s Life Skills Clinic had been established for almost seven years as part of the UQ Health and Rehabilitation Clinics, which provide on and off-site programs in occupational therapy, audiology, speech pathology and physiotherapy.

She said they provided a valuable service to the community and increased students’ practical experience.

Ten undergraduate and graduate-entry Masters students currently work with Ms Nelson at the Acacia Ridge school for one morning per week as part of either an elective course or compulsory clinical placement.

“It provides hands-on experience increasing the students cultural knowledge and further developing vital professional qualities such as patience, respect and flexibility,” Ms Nelson said.

“The children appear to be improving their literacy, scissor skills, writing, concentration and motor coordination as well as their confidence and self-esteem.

“The Grade One teacher has also further developed her teaching strategies and we have been able to provide valuable practical experience to UQ students as well as offer input to other programs at the school.”
Innovator gets piece of history

A UQ researcher has received one of Australia’s oldest applied science and technology awards.

Centre for Magnetic Resonance Director Professor David Doddrell was awarded one of seven Clunies Ross National Science and Technology Medals at a function in Melbourne last month.

“The award demonstrates the importance of establishing manufacturing industries in Australia that can supply the world market and I am honoured to accept this award on behalf of the Centre,” he said.

During the past 30 years, Professor Doddrell has linked chemistry, mathematics, engineering and business to develop a scientific and commercial base for magnetic resonance (MR) in Australia.

A global pioneer of MR, Professor Doddrell’s work has developed new ways of using medical imaging to help detect damage caused by stroke and Alzheimer’s disease.

His research has produced nine patents which have contributed nearly $9 million in royalties, two start-up companies and a commercial workshop.

The world’s leading MR company, Bruker, even sources key components from the UQ Centre he founded in 1990.

Established in 1991, the awards recognise researchers who have shown outstanding personal commitment over an extended period of time to successful innovation involving the application of science and technology for the benefit of Australia.

This year’s winners join 64 other medal recipients, with no limit set on the number awarded each year by the Ian Clunies Ross Memorial Foundation.

Each winner receives a 280-gram silver medal embossed on one-side with the image of Sir Ian Clunies Ross, CSIRO’s first chairperson, and his favourite bird, the brolga, on the other side.

Author’s 25-year journey to The Speed of Light

United States author and UQ graduate Elizabeth Rosner’s widely-acclaimed first novel has been released in paperback form.

As an international student, Ms Rosner attended UQ with the support of a Graduate Fellowship from Rotary International.

She graduated from UQ in 1991 with a Master of Literary Studies.

Her novel The Speed of Light is set in contemporary northern California.

It is narrated by three characters who must come to terms with the past.

Two of the characters, Julian and Paula Perel, have grown up in the shadow of a silent father whose untold Holocaust story continues to haunt their adult lives.

Ms Rosner said the book was connected to her past in that both of her parents survived the Holocaust.

“Much of my writing focuses on my attempts to explore the impacts of their experiences on my language, my identity and my imagination,” she said.

Although Ms Rosner has been writing for nearly 25 years, The Speed of Light is her first published novel.

Since its publication in 1991, Ms Rosner has won two literary prizes in the US – the 2002 Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writers Award in Fiction and the 2002 Harold U. Ribalow Prize.

A paperback version was released in April 2003 and the book has been scheduled for translation into nine languages.

The film option for the novel has been purchased by X-Files star Gillian Anderson who is currently working on the screenplay adaptation.

Ms Rosner. PHOTO: MARION ETTLINGER

**in brief**

**PRESENTERS WANTED**

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

Subjects 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, t.fiegel@ict.e.uq.edu.au, www.ict.e.uq.edu.au

**CURRENT BEST SELLER LIST**

   TRAVEL/SPECIAL OFFER
2. Stupid White Men, Michael Moore (Penguin, $22.95) 
   POLITICS/HUMOUR
3. Dark Victory, D. Marr and M. Wilkinson (Allen and Unwin, $29.95) 
   AUSTRALIAN STUDIES/POLITICS
4. Power and Terror, Noam Chomsky (Seven Stories, $19.95) POLITICS
5. Girl Most Likely, Rebecca Sparrow (UQP, $22) FICTION
6. Life of Pi, Yann Martel (Canongate, $27) FICTION
7. Mangroves, Laurie Duggan (UQP, $22) POETRY
8. Lonely Planet Australia (11th edition, $39.60) TRAVEL
9. Pianist, Wladyslaw Szpilman (Phoenix, $21.95) BIOGRAPHY

**in PRINT**

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Ms Rosner. PHOTO: MARION ETTLINGER
Since arriving in what she describes as her dream job in April 2002, Madonna Duffy has had many challenging pages to turn, not least the defection of Peter Carey to multinational publisher Random House.

Nevertheless, University of Queensland Press (UQP) is looking to the future and with Ms Duffy as Managing Editor, the future chapters for the 55-year-old publishing house are looking more exciting than ever with a new generation of writers pushing through.

“This was the job I had always been working towards – I just wasn’t sure what it was,” she said.

“I now see us developing the new generation of Peter Carey’s.”

Ms Duffy a UQ Bachelor of Arts graduate left Brisbane after completing her degree in 1988.

She headed for London, where she landed her first job in publishing, working for Penguin Books.

She said it was an exciting time to be working in the publishing industry, particularly at Penguin with the economic changes taking place and in the wake of the fatwa, an Islamic death sentence, on Salman Rushdie after the publication of *The Satanic Verses*.

“I thought it must be an occupational hazard of publishing to stand out in freezing winter streets during bomb scares,” she joked.

She recalled how she used to work in Penguin’s Kensington Office and would see a stream of famous authors visiting their editors and publishers.

That exposure plus an endless supply of books to read convinced her that publishing was the kind of career she was looking for.

“I had no experience – just a lot of enthusiasm and determination,” she recalls.

Ms Duffy returned to Australia in 1994 where she worked as an editor for several major publishing houses, including four years at Pan Macmillan.

She also wrote and co-published *Noosa: The Cookbook*, a full-colour food and lifestyle book released in 1998 with great commercial success, selling more than 15,000 copies.

“This background allowed me to hone my critical and commercial judgement,” she said.

“Being an editor is not just about loving reading – it is about understanding what will make a good book.”

She said she was excited about the number and variety of interesting titles UQP would be publishing over the coming year.

These include *The Lambing Flat* by Nerida Newton, winner of the 2002 Queensland Premier’s Literary Award for Best Manuscript by an Emerging Queensland Author; and *Sushi Central* by Alasdair Duncan, also short-listed for the award.

Iconic Australian author Janette Turner Hospital will also have five of her previous titles re-issued in retro style jackets and her new book of short stories, *North of Nowhere South of Loss* will be published in May.

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Living the dream

Ms Duffy. PHOTO: CHRIS STACEY
Artistic challenge

Former UQ student John Kotzas was recently appointed the Artistic Director of Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC).

Mr Kotzas took up his position in May 2002 and has more than 20 years experience in the arts industry.

His previous appointments include positions with Grin and Tonic, La Boite, Street Arts and most recently as Producer of QPAC’s Public Programs Unit.

He said he would aim to establish a level of transparency within QPAC and make the arts open to everyone.

“We are working to make QPAC as accessible as possible; to stem the tide of rising ticket prices but at the same time maintain the quality,” he said.

Since graduating from UQ with a Bachelor of Arts and a Graduate Diploma in Education in 1982, Mr Kotzas has worked in the arts industry at both an amateur and professional level.

He initially worked as a teacher at Brisbane State High School.

“It is very difficult to maintain a full-time career in the arts,” he said.

“Teaching allowed me to sustain a full-time profession, while still being involved with the industry at an amateur level.”

In 1989 Mr Kotzas took up the position of QPAC Education Officer.

He was also the first Artistic Director of the Out of the Box Festival of Early Childhood and played an instrumental role in turning the Warana Festival into the widely recognised Brisbane Festival.

Mr Kotzas said he would use his previous experience and QPAC’s strength to fulfil his role as Artistic Director.

“I think QPAC is a cultural shaper of the new century and I would like to realign the organisation with contemporary arts practices,” he said.

UQ Ipswich celebrates excellence

More than $50,000 was awarded at UQ Ipswich’s annual Scholarships and Prizes Presentation this month.

The Friends of UQ Ipswich sponsored event on April 15 showcased students’ academic prowess and allowed the local community to recognise and reward the outstanding achievements of nearly 40 students.

“The scholarships, prizes and bursaries were generously donated by a number of individuals, organisations and businesses within the Ipswich community who recognise and support the unique teaching environment at UQ Ipswich,” Campus Manager Warren Kerswill said.

“It is this level of support which places the Ipswich campus in the opportune position of hosting strong links with the local community which has resultant benefits for our students.”

This year’s donors included Ipswich City Council, Friends of UQ Ipswich, Boeing, Mick Young Trust, RT Edwards and Sons, UFS Pharmacy, Queensland Club Buying Group, Ipswich RSLA Sub-branch, Bendigo Bank, Ipswich Club of the War Widow’s Guild of Australia Queensland, Ipswich City Rotary Club, Allen and Unwin, Pearson Education Australia, Tri Rhosen Day Hospital, Accenture, Australian Computer Society, Ipswich and District Law Association, The Queensland Times, Zonta Club of West Moreton, Channel View Publications, Ipswich Region Chamber of commerce and Industry, Regional Arts Ipswich, Jan Akroyd Bailey, West Moreton Anglican College, Vicky Doig and CS Energy.

We are working to make QPAC as accessible as possible...

PRIZES

- The Eleanor Mary Hinder Bursary 2004: for a female graduate to undertake research in South-East Asia. Applicants must be financial members of the Australian Federation of University Women. **Worth:** $4000. **Closing:** July 31. **Information:** www.afuw.org.au

- The Thomas Morrow Prize 2003: for an undergraduate who, as part of a course, writes the best essay on a topic in the field of Australian exploration and history. **Worth:** $360. **Closing:** November 22. **Information:** 07 3365 1984.

- The Richard Baker Senate Prize: for the best essay, article, thesis, dissertation, book, or piece of journalism in any medium relating to the work of the Australian Senate. **Worth:** $3000. **Closing:** July 31. **Information:** 02 6277 3078 or wayne.hooper@aph.gov.au

- Zonta International Foundation Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarships: for a third or fourth year female undergraduate in a business-related field of study who has an outstanding academic record. **Worth:** Club Award, $350; District Award $400; International Award $4000. **Closing:** April 24. **Information:** 07 3365 7112.

New student paper

A weekly tabloid newspaper produced for students will be a feature of UQ’s new undergraduate communication degree.

The Good Times will contain course content and co-curricular activities information as well as examples of student work.

“It will allows us as staff to model both writing and design in a variety of styles,” said program coordinator Dr John Harrison from the School of Journalism and Communication.

“It will enable students to see how re-purposing of material works by having a print edition and an online edition.

“It will also demonstrate the concept of ‘narrowcasting’ – directing material to a very specific target audience, which is possible with current digital production technologies.”
target for gingerols, Professor Basil Roufogalis, University of Sydney (1pm, Room 305, Skerman Bldg).

School of English, Media Studies and Art History, New insights into Australian theatre history part cne: Jon Gerald — The Early Years (1891-1951), Clay Duval (1pm, Room 540, Michele Bldg).

School of Life Sciences, Anarchy in the bee hive: How worker sterility evolved, Associate Professor Ben Oldroyd, University of Sydney (1pm, Room 139, Goddard Bldg).

School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics, Yablo's Paradox and referring to infinite objects, Professor Mark Colyvan (3pm, Room 348, Forgan Smith Bldg).

School of Psychology, tba, Kieren Moffat (3.30pm, Room 302, McElwain Bldg).

UQ SPORT, From junior athlete to Olympic champain, Steve Ovett (7pm, UQ Athletics Centre, Sir William McGregor Drive). Information: 07 3365 6055

Wednesday, May 7

Australasian Centre on Ageing, Mature age work: From international to local perspectives, Professor Margaret Steenberg, Queensland University of Technology (7.30am, Royal on the Park, cnr Albert and Albert Sts). For bookings, contact 07 3346 9084, email aca@uq.edu.au or visit www.uq.edu.au/aca

UQ SPORT, Introductory advice and training patterns, Krishna Stanton, Pat Clohessy (6.30pm, UQ Athletics Centre, Sir William McGregor Drive). Information: 07 3365 6055

Friday, May 9

School of Land and Food Sciences, The water use efficiency of tree legumes and its cutting management to maximise herbage production, Esnawan Budisantoso (noon, Room 323, Hartley Teakle Bldg).

School of Biomedical Sciences, Myogenesis and morphogenesis in the developing mammalian heart, Professor Richard Harvey, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, St Vincent's Hospital (1pm, Room 305, Skerman Bldg).

School of English, Media Studies and Art History, The 'phantom limb' reversal: Questions of disability, desire and subjectivity, Lalita McHenry (1pm, Room 540, Michele Bldg).

School of Life Sciences, Ecosystem function in dryland river refugia – bethic algal production and its role in waterhole food webs, Dr Christy Fellows, Griffith University (1pm, Room 139, Goddard Bldg).

School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics, The limits of moral obligation, Damian Cox (3pm, Room 348, Forgan Smith Bldg).

School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics, Two days in the life of Pompeii, Professor FrankScar, University of Melbourne (6pm, Abel Smith Lecture Theatre).

Friday, May 16

School of Land and Food Sciences, New directions for the Mongolian cashmere industry, Dr Barrie Restall, Capratec (noon, Room 323, Hartley Teakle Bldg).

School of Biomedical Sciences, Response properties of spinal cord sensory neurons to artificial and natural stimuli, Dr Robert Callister, University of Newcastle (1pm, Room 305, Skerman Bldg).

School of Life Sciences, Plant ecological strategies: Dimensions of variation among species, Professor Mark Westoby, Macquarie University, Sydney (1pm, Room 139, Goddard Bldg).

School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics, Objects, Professor Calvin Normore, University of California, Los Angeles (3pm, Room 348, Forgan Smith).

School of Psychology, tba, Professor William Doherty, University of Minnesota (3.30pm, Room 302, McElwain Bldg).

Thursday, May 22

School of Life Sciences, Rhizobium, legumes, non-legumes and proteins, Professor Barry Rolfe, Australian National University (1pm, Room 139, Goddard Bldg).

School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics, Exhibiting outliers: The story behind the development of a major museum exhibition in progress, Dr Ann McGrath, National Museum of Australia (4pm, Library Conference Room, Level 1, Duhig Bldg).

Friday, May 23

School of Land and Food Sciences, The effect of various supplements on intake substitution in beef cattle, Mr Marsetyo (noon, Room 323, Hartley Teakle Bldg).

School of Biomedical Sciences, The important role of chloride channels in kidney disease, Dr Deanne Hrycyszyn (1pm, Room 305, Skerman Bldg).

School of English, Media Studies and Art History, The United States and Israel — Legacies of the Holocaust, Angi Buettner (1pm, Room 540, Michele Bldg).

Saturday, May 4

School of Land and Food Sciences, Restrains and opportunities for improving dairy production in China, Dr Bob Elliott, Roche Vitamins Australia (noon, Room 323, Hartley Teakle Bldg).

School of Biomedical Sciences, VR1 (Vanilloid) nociceptors: Mechanisms of desensitisation and potential drug
Two UQ academics are attempting to uncover why temperatures in parts of the world are cooling when in many other areas they are increasing.

In November 2002 the School of Geography, Planning and Architecture’s Dr Hamish McGowan and Dr David Neil began a four-year study to uncover the reason for regional climate inconsistency.

They studied the geographic landscapes of the McMurdo Dry Valleys in the Antarctic where temperatures are decreasing at about 0.7˚C per decade.

During their month-long expedition they studied land forms such as sand dunes to reconstruct the wind regime of the Victoria Valley – part of the McMurdo Dry Valleys.

“The sand dunes in the Victoria Valley preserve a record of wind direction and wind speed which in turn can be linked to changing weather patterns,” Dr McGowan said.

“Wind direction is the overriding control on temperature as it determines whether the air mass in the McMurdo Dry Valleys originates from the relatively warm Ross Sea region or the much colder Ross Ice Shelf.”

The study is part of an ongoing initiative between UQ and the Antarctic Research Centre at the Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand.

Dr Neil said previous studies in the Victoria Valley had suggested the sand dunes were frozen, however, air photos indicated otherwise.

“We wanted to see if the literature was correct or if, as the air photos indicated, that the dunes responded to changes in wind direction,” he said.

“Even the Antarctic field manual we were given suggested the dunes had remained stable for thousands of years.”

Dr McGowan said it was clear on arrival at the Victoria Valley that the dunes were active.

He said meteorological monitoring equipment was used in conjunction with sediment traps to measure sand transport rates. Sand samples were also collected for dating.

“From this information we can determine how the dune field has responded to past changes in climate and we may even be able to extract a record of precipitation from the buried snow lenses that are preserved in the dunes,” Dr McGowan said.

Although there is little snow in the Dry Valleys, both researchers worked in temperatures well below zero.

“The freezing winds and sand being blown at you made the task of operating the instruments many times more difficult,” Dr Neil said.

“It was often a juggling act between trying to do the job and avoiding frost bite.”

During the expedition the research team lived in polar tents about one hour by helicopter from the base.

Before flying into the Victoria Valley they were required to complete an Antarctic field training program, with instruction on snow-craft and survival methods.

Dr McGowan and Dr Neil will return to the Victoria Valley in late 2003 to carry out further research.

They also hope to install a weather station in the Antarctic to monitor meteorological conditions in the dune field and will begin a program to retrieve sand cores from the dunes for laboratory analysis at UQ.