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MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING VICE-CHANCELLOR

The University can be rightly proud of its outstanding research track record, confirmed once again in the announcement of the second round of the 2003 Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Project grants (see story page 5).

UQ was awarded 16 Linkage grants which attracted $3.45 million in ARC funding, bringing the total number of new ARC grants for UQ in 2003 to 42 – the second highest number in Australia. The total value of ARC funds and partner contributions to these projects will exceed $23 million over the next five years.

UQ also achieved an excellent result in the recently announced 2004 National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Program Grants Scheme (see story page 11). From a total of 11 grants awarded nationally, UQ researchers are leading two program grants and are supporting another two, with funding for these four grants worth nearly $34 million over five years.

These are excellent results, testimony to the commitment of the UQ research community. From the most stellar performers to young scholars starting out, I am constantly amazed by the depth and dedication of our researchers. It is gratifying that so many of our academics have been recognised for their achievements. What is more, the solid industry and partner support for our research endeavours is an indication that the University’s research is making a vital contribution to the development of our new knowledge-based economy.

Professor Paul Greenfield
Acting Vice-Chancellor
Birthday honours
In the 2003 Queen’s Birthday Honours announcement this month, Officers of the Order of Australia (AOs) were awarded to: Emeritus Professor Maxwell Howell, School of Human Movement Studies, for service to education as a pioneer in the development of sports studies and sports science as academic disciplines in Australia and overseas, and to the study of sports history; Professor Mary Sheehan, formerly of Social and Preventive Medicine, for service to education and to public health through research work into the causes and prevention of road, work and social accidents in Australia, and through the development of community awareness programs raising the level of debate in the area; and Emeritus Professor Ray Stalker, School of Engineering, for service to aerospace engineering, particularly the research and development of scramjet powered hypersonic vehicles and the Stalker tube.

Tertiary studies expo
UQ staff will be on hand to provide tertiary studies options at the 2003 TSXPO on July 19 and 20. Open from 10am–4pm each day, the free event will be held in the Exhibition Building at the RNA Showgrounds.

Staff will answer questions about admission, undergraduate study, career opportunities, accommodation options, facilities, student support and fees.

E. S. Meyers lecture
The 2003 E. S. Meyers Memorial Lecture will be held on July 15 at 6.45pm for 7pm at the UQ Centre exhibition hall, St Lucia.

UQ graduate Professor Jonathan Sprent from The Scripps Research Institute in California will discuss T cells and the thymus.

UQ’s Medical Society has held the event annually since 1957 in commemoration of Professor Errol Solomon Meyer, co-founder of UQ’s School of Medicine.

RSVP: 07 3365 5261

New Head for Law School

A highly qualified commercial law specialist will soon take over the leadership of a key UQ School.

Professor Charles Rickett will formally take up his position as Head of UQ’s T.C. Beirne School of Law in August.

A graduate of both the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge law schools, he was formerly Professor of Commercial Law at the University of Auckland and Director of the university’s Research Centre for Business Law.

Professor Rickett said he wanted to create an atmosphere of scholarship and “care for the intellectual and spiritual well-being of the student body, mutual respect amongst the community of scholars that make up the school and commitment to excellence in all aspects of the School’s life.”

He said his teaching interests included equity, banking law, restitution, theories of obligations and legal ethics.

Professor Rickett has also been involved in consultancy work, advising on a range of major equitable and restitutionary commercial litigation in New Zealand.

He was advisor to the Crown in the multimillion dollar Equiticorp litigation and has also advised a number of banks on equitable and restitutionary claims against them.

Professor Rickett said he stumbled into academic life after originally intending to practice as a barrister in England.

“When I was at Oxford as an undergraduate I was taught by a profoundly inspiring teacher who is now the Regius Professor of Civil Law at the university, Peter Birks,” he said.

“He taught me to value scholarship for its own sake, he taught me never to use the word academic in an apologetic way and he was such an inspiring teacher and such an inspiring scholar I just found myself caught up in the whole razzmatazz of academic life.”

Professor Rickett said once he had completed postgraduate studies at the University of Cambridge he went straight into teaching.

He said he loved teaching and that it had been Professor Birks who had first ignited the teaching flame in him.

“I have occasionally flirted with going into practice but I have always pulled back from the brink because I know in my heart of hearts I wouldn’t be as happy in practice as I am doing what I am doing,” he said.

Despite recognising he will have a heavy workload, Professor Rickett said he would like to maintain an active teaching role.

He said leadership was about setting an example and not demanding from others what you are not going to try and do or have already done yourself.

Professor Rickett has taught at University College London and the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom as well as Victoria University of Wellington, the University of Auckland and Massey University in New Zealand.

He said important research was happening within the School that needed to be recognised with research in law schools often as active as in other schools but less easy to see.

“Legal scholarship is actually about better understanding the way in which our liberal democratic society finds its identity and continues to operate successfully,” he said.

“At the end of the day it is the law that keeps society cohesive and gives us confidence in our ability to be free and creative.”

Audit plaudit for UQ staff

The Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) visited UQ earlier this month to conduct a four-day Quality Audit of the University.

The five-member Audit Panel comprised: Professor Adrian Lee, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education), University of New South Wales, Sydney (Panel Chair); Emeritus Professor Mairéad Browne, University of Technology, Sydney; Emeritus Professor John Gavin, Executive Director, NZ Cancer Control Trust, Auckland, New Zealand; Professor Colin Macleod, Department of Psychology, University of Western Australia; and Dr David Woodhouse, Executive Director, AUQA.

An official report from AUQA will be received by the University later this year.
Stronger linkages forged

UQ has received the nation’s second highest funding in the latest Federal Government grants round, with the highest UQ funding for biodegradable materials research.

The second round of the 2003 Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Project grants were announced last month by Federal Education, Science and Training Minister Dr Brendan Nelson. UQ was awarded 16 Linkage grants that attracted $3.45 million in ARC funds, to which institutional and industry partners will add approximately $4.69 million.

The grants will also fund 16 new Australian Postgraduate Awards – Industry (APAI) PhD Scholarships. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor David Siddle said he was delighted with the results. “UQ will be able to build on its existing successful partnerships with industry to deliver the research outcomes they require. These partnerships are critical to the development of a knowledge-based economy,” he said.

This second round of funding brings UQ’s total of new grants for the scheme in 2003 to 42 – the second highest in the nation.

The total value of ARC funds and partner contributions to these projects will exceed $23 million over the next five years.

The funding was second only to the University of Melbourne, which was awarded 29 Linkage grants with ARC funding valued at $6.19 million.

The highest funding allocation to a UQ-led project was worth $480,000 over four years with Plantic Technologies Ltd contributing $787,200 bringing the total external funding for the project to $1,267,200.

Dr Stewart McGlashan and Dr Peter Halley from UQ’s School of Engineering, Dr Greg Lonergan from Swinburne University of Technology and Dr Rulande Rutgers on secondment from UQ at Plantic Technologies Ltd, are aiming to engineer and produce biodegradable injection molded products.

Plastic Technologies Ltd is a $6 million venture-capital funded spin-off company launched last year based on flexible biodegradable materials research conducted by the Cooperative Research Centre for International Food Manufacture and Packaging Science of which the UQ team are members.

"Only 20 percent of plastic packaging is recycled. The remainder accounts for fifty percent of Australia’s landfill,” Dr McGlashan said. “The diversity of packaging materials makes roadside collection and recycling very difficult and expensive with limited environmental benefit. “Sustainable, renewable and biodegradable packaging materials provide a genuine solution to a global waste and fossil resources depletion problem.”

He said the lead technology was a corn-starch based, water-soluble and biodegradable transparent and glossy sheet material, suitable for numerous thermo-forming applications such as biscuit trays and blister packaging.

Other major UQ grants included:
- $377,000 plus $618,280 from SAP Australia (Corporate Research Centre Brisbane) for an information systems-based project creating the next generation of messaging technology. Researchers include Professor Maria Orlowska, Dr Shazia Sadiq and Dr Wasim Sadiq from UQ’s School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering and UQ graduate Dr Karsten Schulz from SAP Australia.
- $330,000 plus $541,200 from Nanomics Biosystems Ptd Ltd for interdisciplinary research into bead-based technology to be used in applications currently requiring DNA hybridisation to overcome existing deficiencies in microarray technology. Researchers include Professor David Hume from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB) and School of Molecular and Microbial Sciences (SMMS), Dr Gwendolyn Lawrie from the SMMS and Dr Matt Sweet from the IMB.

These partnerships are critical to the development of a knowledge-based economy.

Dr Halley (left) and Dr McGlashan
Internet music warning

UQ staff members or students, as well as the University, might be subject to legal action if the University’s computer networks are used to download and distribute music which has been copied in breach of the copyright owner’s rights.

This includes the overwhelming majority of so-called free MP3s available on the Web through services like KazAA and Grokster. It also extends to a range of other “pirated” material, including films, games and software.

UQ Librarian Janine Schmidt warned that copyright owners could not only sue individual downloaders and file traders, as has happened often in the United States and is beginning to happen in Australia. Universities could also be held liable for copyright breaches carried out over their networks by students or staff.

There are already preliminary court proceedings in this country between major record companies and a number of southern universities.

UQ staff and students must at all times comply with the University’s Internet Code of Practice when using any computer connected to the University network.

This includes dial-up use from home via UQconnect as well as use within the University’s facilities.

Failure to observe both the Internet Code of Practice and illegal downloading of music or any pirated material may render the staff member or student liable for disciplinary action or legal action brought by copyright owners.

“The Internet is a great resource but staff and students should remember that not all material available is free or legal,” Ms Schmidt said.

Endeavour latches on

A new chapter for an innovative UQ literacy program was officially launched at Customs House in May.

UQ’s Literacy and Technology Hands On (LATCH-ON) program has been providing a literacy program for young adults with intellectual disabilities for five years and has recently announced a new collaboration with the Endeavour Foundation.

From next year the Endeavour Foundation will make the LATCH-ON program available to its clients under a licensing agreement through the University’s main technology commercialisation company, UniQuest Pty Limited.

LATCH-ON was initiated in 1998 by Dr Anne Jobling, a UQ researcher in Down’s Syndrome, with the help of Dr Karen Moni, a lecturer in English curriculum and literacy education in UQ’s School of Education.

The program is based on years of research within UQ’s Fred and Eleanor Schonell Special Education Research Centre and collaborative efforts with researchers in Australia, Europe and North America.

“LATCH-ON has graduated 24 students since the program began and we are hoping to reach many more through the Endeavour Foundation,” Dr Jobling said.

“An annual highlight for students, their parents and staff is the graduation ceremony that has featured special guest speakers such as Bronco’s coach Wayne Bennett, Brisbane Lion Luke Power and Paralympian Paul Cross.

“It gives Karen and I and the other staff a huge amount of satisfaction to see young people break through the boundaries of what other people thought was possible for them and emerge as far more confident and assured individuals.”

As well as being a former UQ Vice-Chancellor, the late Sir Fred Schonell, after whom the Special Education Research Centre was named, was also inaugural president of the Endeavour Foundation.

“I’m sure Sir Fred would be very pleased to see two organisations with which he had a strong association working so closely together to improve the lives of people with an intellectual disability,” said UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Margaret Gardner.

From left: Dr Jobling, Professor Gardner, Endeavour Foundation Chief Executive Officer Gerard Menses and current LATCH-ON students Emma White and Stephen Rooney.

In brief

Alumni donation

UQ’s Anthropology Museum received a $10,000 donation from The Alumni Association of The University of Queensland Inc last month.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield accepted the cheque from Alumni Association Senior Vice President Joan Cribb on behalf of the University.

Museum Director Dr Leonn Satterthwait said the cheque would be used to assist in the continuation of curatorial activities and the maintenance of artefacts.

The museum is located on Level 2 of UQ St Lucia’s Mitchie Building and is open to the public for free from Tuesday to Thursday from 11am–3pm during semester. Information: 07 3365 2674

Exchange agreement

UQ has signed a postgraduate student exchange agreement with one of India’s top universities, Jawaharlal Nehru University, following a recent visit by its Vice-Chancellor.

The agreement aims to promote cooperation in teaching, research and service to the community through an international exchange of students, staff and knowledge.

Financially supported by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training, it will initially cover research in the fields of genomics, proteomics and phenomics, with specific focus on bioinformatics, drug design and development and structural biology.
Queensland Premier Peter Beattie, University of Queensland Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay and President of the Australian Rainforest Conservation Society Dr Aila Keto launched the Centre for Native Floriculture at Parliament House last month.

The State Government is providing $2 million over three years to establish the Centre, which grew out of the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement to gradually eliminate bush harvesting of native flowers and foliage.

Professor Hay welcomed the establishment of the Centre, which is located at UQ’s Gatton campus, and thanked the State Government for its support.

He said he expected the work of the Centre would attract further support from other interested stakeholders.

He said the basic genetic resources to further the development of the floriculture industry could be found in Queensland.

“The existing skills and knowledge in value chain management, breeding and biotechnology and capacity building at The University of Queensland and other Queensland institutions and agencies can be utilised to ensure industry development,” he said.

“The Queensland native flower industry has nowhere near realised its potential for a variety of reasons, but the signs are entirely optimistic it will.”

The world trade in cut Australian native flowers is estimated at $400 million per annum and expanding by seven percent annually, of which Australia and Queensland are estimated to supply only 10 percent ($40 million) and 2.5 percent ($9 million) respectively.

Australia is believed to hold one of the greatest ranges of floricultural biodiversity in the world, with an estimated 25,000 native species, an estimated 30 to 50 percent of which are found in Queensland.

Business development and floriculture research at the Centre will address problems such as the small size of production units, geographic disbursement and a lack of focus on market and new product development.

Mr Beattie said the floriculture industry could become an important part of his Government’s Smart State initiative and predicted it would create jobs in regional and rural areas of Queensland.

“It is good for the environment, especially our native forests and the animals that live in them; it earns export dollars; it creates jobs; and it is perfectly adapted to thrive on Queensland’s rich biodiversity,” Mr Beattie said.

The establishment of the Centre had its roots in 2001 when the State Government commissioned UQ to conduct a feasibility study and business development plan for the commercial production of native flowers and foliage.

Andrew Cecil, Innovation and Commercial Development Manager with UQ’s main technology commercialisation company, UniQuest Pty Limited, played a significant role in developing the Centre.

This included undertaking the feasibility study and developing a business plan for the Centre, and negotiating the terms of the contract with the Queensland Department of State Development.

“UniQuest looks forward to working with key stakeholders in the commercialisation of the Centre’s research outcomes,” said UniQuest Managing Director David Henderson.

“The establishment of the Centre represents a significant milestone in the responsible exploitation of our native flora.”
Farewell to Laurie Muller

UQ has offered its thanks and best wishes to University of Queensland Press (UQP) General Manager Laurie Muller, who will retire on July 11.

Mr Muller’s retirement brings to a conclusion a career of some 30 years in Australian book publishing, including 20 years with UQP.

Under Mr Muller’s stewardship, UQP has become one of the nation’s most recognised publishers, with a publications output of some 70 books a year. Former UQP author Peter Carey won Booker Prizes in 1988 for *Oscar and Lucinda* and in 2001 for *True History of the Kelly Gang*.

Highlights of Mr Muller’s career have included the publication of an extensive children’s and young adults list, Hugh Lunn’s *Over The Top with Jim*, which sold 250,000 copies, and works by Nick Earls, Gough Whitlam, Phil Dickie and Rae Wear.

Since 1989, UQP has published works by more than 30 Aboriginal authors, including Doris (Nugi Garimara) Pilkington’s *Rabbit Proof Fence*, which sold 60,000 copies and which was made into a movie.

Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay said Mr Muller’s time as General Manager of UQP had been one of “great achievement, outstanding leadership and has as its legacy a long list of exceptional publications”.

“UQP has an almost iconic status among this nation’s publishers and Laurie has played a major role in making this possible,” he said.

In a letter to authors, customers and media, Mr Muller said he had enjoyed “every one of those years, and in particular, the professional friendships that are an integral part of publishing”.

Shining sunflowers

Plants weighing almost two kilograms have won the fourth annual UQ School of Land and Food Sciences’ Sunflower Growing Competition.

This year’s competition attracted more interest than ever in the high school division, with six new contenders among the 17 who took part.

Entrants hoisted their supersized sunflowers onto the scales at the official weigh-in at the UQ Centre on May 30.

UQ student Kate Rigg’s 1826 gram sunflower took the $275 first prize in the university division, ahead of a 1654 gram specimen grown by Colin Rigg, who received $75, and a 1413 gram giant lovingly raised by Rowena Gray, who received $50.

Judith O’Connor of Ipswich Girls’ Grammar took out the $275 first prize in the high school division for her 1124 gram giant.

The team of Daniel Smoothy, Emma McDowell, Anthony Christianson, Trent Gillyland and Reece Graham from Toowoomba State High School were second and third with plants of 879 grams and 872 grams. They received the second prize of $75 and third prize of $50.

The Ironside State Pre-school children also entered for the fun and the chance to share the delights of growing sunflowers.

Queensland Primary Industries Minister Henry Palaszczuk presented winners with their prizes.

Plants had to be grown in a container no larger than 11 litres in capacity and had to be made available for random inspection. Hydroponic growing was not allowed.
Tiny galaxies big news

A major international research effort involving a physics researcher from UQ has shed new light on a previously undiscovered dwarf galaxy.

by Jan King

Dr Michael Drinkwater from UQ’s School of Physical Sciences has led an international team in its discovery of a new type of very small galaxy, known as an “ultra-compact dwarf galaxy” (UCD).

The galaxies are so compact that astronomers previously mistook them for nearby stars in galaxy censuses based on large, ground-based pictures taken of the sky.

The finding, reported last month in *Nature*, was made by a team of eight astrophysicists from Australia, the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

Dr Drinkwater said the discovery confirmed a suspicion that had been troubling astronomers for more than 25 years.

“There has always been the concern that galaxy surveys are biased against finding very diffuse galaxies, because they are so faint, and very compact galaxies, because they look just like stars,” he said.

“Obviously, it is very important that we have a complete inventory of all galaxy types if we want to have an accurate knowledge of how much luminous (and even dark) matter is in the universe, as well as understand all the ways that galaxies are formed.”

Dr Drinkwater said the researchers found the ultra-compact dwarf galaxies while observing all objects in the direction of the Fornax Cluster – a bound system of about 300 galaxies 60 million light years away.

The UCDs were first discovered with the 3.9m Anglo-Australian Telescope (AAT) at Siding Spring Observatory, Coonabarabran.

The researchers then won rare time on the Hubble Space Telescope to measure how big the dwarf galaxies were, as well as time on the European Southern Observatory’s Very Large Telescope in Chile to measure how fast stars were moving around inside the galaxies.

These two measurements are used in combination by astronomers to “weigh” galaxies and find out how massive they are. This confirmed the UCDs to be a new type of low-mass galaxy held together by gravity.

Dr Drinkwater believes the new galaxies could help test theories as to how galaxies in large groups like the Fornax Cluster are transformed and even destroyed.

Team members were Dr Drinkwater; Dr Michael Gregg, University of California, Davis and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, California; Dr Michael Hilker, Bonn University; Dr Kenji Bekki and Professor Warrick Couch, University of New South Wales; Dr Harry Ferguson, Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore; Dr Bryn Jones, University of Nottingham; and Dr Steven Phillipps, University of Bristol.
A UQ lecturer has begun using a unique learning technique with her students to help develop their teaching skills.

The Chinese martial art of Tai Chi is used by Dr Lisa Hunter as part of the Middle Years of Schooling Bachelor of Education program that started in 2003 at UQ Ipswich.

Dr Hunter said Tai Chi was used in the health and physical education and maths curriculum frame of the program to change perceptions of what learning involved and to open up new ideas and methods of teaching.

“The benefits to the students are played out through learning how the curriculum can be integrated and how the body and movement can become central to what kids learn at school, which is something kids indicate is very important to them,” Dr Hunter said.

“The students also practice teaching a movement to the rest of the class. They are building their language and demonstration skills around the movement.”

Dr Hunter said she had been practicing Tai Chi for four years and other similar arts for twenty years.

She said it helped improve breathing, balance, flexibility and mobility.

“Initially learning the movements in sequences challenges how people understand their bodies and movement,” she said.

“However, it’s not so much about how many movements you do, it’s about applying the principles of flow, balance, posture and breathing that’s important. It’s the doing that counts rather than the knowing about it.”

Dr Hunter said students had overcome initial concerns that they wouldn’t be able to do the movements and could now see the benefits within the wider school curriculum.

“The course is attempting to look at integrating curriculum areas and therefore we’ve not only focused on the movement of Tai Chi but also how it can be used across all curriculum areas,” she said.
Flying flag at UNU

A UQ postgraduate student has become the first Australian selected to participate in a prestigious United Nations University PhD program based in the Netherlands.

Geoffrey Jones, a UQ Master of Business Administration and Master of International Economics and Finance student, has been selected as one of 12 people worldwide to complete a PhD at the United Nations University (UNU).

Mr Jones said growing up in Papua New Guinea had given him a desire to focus his upcoming PhD research on technological change in developing countries.

“The experience of growing up among people living in tremendous poverty drove me to focus on how technologies could be adapted to benefit people in less developed countries,” he said.

Mr Jones said he had always been fascinated by how people used technology. He previously worked in behavioural psychology at the Australian National University and later as a systems consultant for Microsoft in Washington.

“My passion for technology began with my first job after school; driving satellite tracking systems with NASA at the Australian Capital Territory’s Orroral Valley Tracking Station,” he said.

“It was during this time I taught myself to program by using NASA’s computers.”

Mr Jones said he decided to study at UQ after the dotcom crash.

He said the Head of UQ’s School of Economics, Professor John Foster, encouraged him to apply for the PhD program at UNU.

He will begin his studies in September at the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands, which runs the program in conjunction with the UNU.

“The attraction of the PhD was the opportunity to contribute to the development of economically disadvantaged countries,” he said.

“With all we have in our lives today it is simply unacceptable that people are still living in poverty.”

“I plan to focus on how the benefits from technological change and innovation processes can be captured by developing countries such as Vietnam.

“Ideally I would like to do this by working in research and advisory consulting roles to government and industry.”

Mr Jones said he was looking for sponsorship in order to fund his studies.

“This is the world’s peak research program of its kind, however, the UN only offer scholarships to candidates from developing countries, which means I have to find my own funding,” he said.

Mr Jones said he was proud to be the first Australian selected to be part of the program.

He said he was looking forward to working with so many gifted and well intentioned people.

“I am pleased that through this I might be able to contribute in my own personal way to economic growth in poorer countries,” he said.

With all we have in our lives today it is unacceptable that people are still living in poverty.

New funds for health research

UQ researchers will share in more than $34 million in funding as part of the latest round of National Health and Medical Research Council Program Grants Scheme.

The researchers will lead the way in two of the four projects, which cover a range of topics including the control of nerve cell production, a program aimed at improving the health of people through exercise, work to develop vaccines for common infectious diseases such as malaria and finding out how bacteria causes diseases in people.

Renowned neuroscientist Professor Perry Bartlett from UQ’s School of Biomedical Sciences will lead a team that was awarded $6.47 million over five years for their continuing work in the control of nerve cell production in adult brains.

The team’s previous work, which demonstrated stem cells in adult animals could generate new nerve cells has opened up the possibility of repairing some forms of brain damage through stimulation of a patient’s own stem cells.

Discovering the molecular mechanisms controlling this process is the current goal of the researchers and will hopefully change the way we treat stroke, injury and other neurodegenerative diseases.

Professor Neville Owen from UQ’s School of Population Health, along with Professor Adrian Bauman and Professor Wendy Brown from the School of Human Movement Studies, were awarded $4.39 million over five years for their work to find ways to get more people in better shape.

Targeting what they term as the “diseases of inactivity”, the team are looking at new ideas and practical tools to help get people active to combat weight gain, type 2 diabetes, heart disease and breast and colon cancer.

Combining approaches from psychology, epidemiology and exercise physiology, the approach will combine theories and methods for public health use.

Professor Istvan Toth from UQ’s School of Pharmacy will join a Queensland Institute of Medical Research project that received a $8.521 million grant to develop vaccines for malaria, scabies and streptococcal, diseases that affect people around the world on a massive scale.

Associate Professor Mike Jennings Professor Alastair McEwan, both from UQ’s School of Molecular and Microbial Sciences will join a team from Monash University looking at how bacteria cause disease with a view to developing more effective vaccines and drugs.

UQ NEWS, JUNE 2003
The national and international contributions of two of Australia’s most eminent and high-profile citizens were recognised with the awarding of honorary doctorates at UQ graduation ceremonies held in May.

Ms O’Gorman and UQ Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards.
Former Governor-General The Honourable Sir William Deane AC, KBE was awarded an honorary doctorate at UQ’s Faculty of Business, Economics and Law graduation ceremony on May 29.

During the 5pm ceremony, which took place at the UQ Centre, Sir William spoke of the importance of maintaining the mutual respect and acceptance he said lay at the heart of the Australian multiculturalism of which all Australians should be proud.

Sir William said there was one challenge for the future leaders of the nation that he would particularly emphasise: “It is the challenge of justice and truth. The challenge never to be indifferent in the face of injustice or falsehood.”

Sir William, who was Australia’s 22nd Governor-General from 1996 to 2001, was presented with a Doctor of Laws honoris causa in recognition of his distinguished career and outstanding contribution to Australia in his role as Governor-General.

In his previous role as Justice of the High Court of Australia he sat in judgment over significant cases such as the 1983 Franklin River case and the 1992 Mabo case.

He said for him multiculturalism meant inclusiveness and not division.

“I’m convinced that it is our multiculturalism which has made possible our national unity notwithstanding that we Australians directly or indirectly come from all the regions, races, cultures and religions of the world,” he said.

Sir William also offered the country’s future legal professionals some words of advice.

“The most I can do is to urge you to be true to your own personal principles and to the ethical standards which are essential to the proper practice and administration of law in this country,” he said.

At the 8pm faculfies of Arts and Social and Behavioural Sciences ceremony, iconic author and accomplished teacher Professor Janette Turner Hospital was awarded an honorary doctorate.

Professor Turner Hospital thanked the University for the award, comparing it to the feeling of receiving rave reviews for her books.

She was presented with a Doctor of Letters honoris causa in recognition of her distinguished career and outstanding contribution to literature.

Professor Turner Hospital’s short stories and novels have won numerous international awards and her new book of short stories *North of Nowhere South of Loss* was published in May by UQ Press.

Professor Turner Hospital will deposit her literary papers with the University Library as part of an agreement reached in 1995.

Under the arrangement, the Library has purchased the manuscripts of *Charades*, *The Last Magician* and *The Ivory Swing*.

Notable graduates included 2003 Queensland Rhodes Scholar Kateena O’Gorman, who received a Bachelor of Laws with first class honours.

She will travel to the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom later in the year to take up her scholarship. She will enrol as a probationer research student and hopes to then complete a Doctor of Philosophy.

She said her research would draw on her interests in corporations law and international human rights law.

“The project will examine how the legal system in Australia and England can be used to make corporations accountable for breaches of human rights standards,” she said.

Executive Director of the Australian Community Safety and Research Organisation Dr Clive Begg was awarded a PhD for his thesis based on “third way” politics.

Dr Begg said he returned to study in July 2000 because of a concern about the future of the non-governmental sector in the context of the politics of the “third way”, which charts the middle ground between social democracy and neo-liberalism.

His research drew on the perceptions of 35 informants within government and non-governmental organisations and for-profit union and community sectors in the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States and Australia.

“The findings indicate the primary intent of the ‘third way’ is the maintenance of government at all costs,” Dr Begg said.

Siobhan McKeering, who received a Bachelor of Laws with first class honours, delivered the valedictory address at the 5pm ceremony.

Validictorian at the 8pm ceremony was Phoebe Ling, a Bachelor of Arts graduate with first class honours.

I’m convinced that it is our multiculturalism which has made possible our national unity...
A UQ arts student and photographer has been awarded a highly coveted accolade at a recent Australian photographic competition.

Arts student Andrew Merry’s black and white photograph of Toowong’s “bagman” has won him a gold medal at the 2003 Australian Institute of Professional Photography (AIPP) awards.

The second-year journalism and political science student said the “bagman”, known to locals as Tim or Ziggy, was a local icon and he was initially reluctant to bother him for a photo; however, after having a chat and getting permission he enjoyed having his portrait taken.

“He placed conditions on having his photo taken. One of these conditions was that I gave him two copies of every photo I shot,” Mr Merry said.

“When I returned with the photos he told me that he now charged a fee because he had so many people asking to photograph him.”

The judging for this year’s awards was held in Melbourne.

A panel of five industry professionals scored each photograph out of 100, with a score of 90 or more receiving a prestigious gold award.

Mr Merry also received a silver with distinction and a silver award for two other prints in the Illustrative category of the awards.

Mr Merry has more than 10 years professional photography experience and last year completed a Master of Photography with the AIPP. He has worked in advertising, editorial and portrait photography and believes in doing plenty of his own personal expression photography to keep a fresh approach to the medium.

“From a way, it had been a strange decision to study in a different area than photography, but said he found the fields complementary.

“I reached a point with photography where I was happy with my ability to communicate visually but realised my written skills and understanding of the humanities were underdeveloped,” he said.

Mr Merry said he found the challenge of juggling both study and running a small business in photography difficult at times but rewarding by offering new ideas and directions.

Health ceremony
The Director of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) was guest speaker at a UQ School of Population Health ceremony on June 13.

Professor Michael Good discussed the importance of public health research during the ceremony at QIMR’s Bancroft Centre.

School of Population Health postgraduate program coordinator Kenneth Rouse said some students graduated at the ceremony – many in the Master of Public Health program.

“These students have all completed three months of group fieldwork in a country in South-East Asia or the Pacific,” he said.

UQ Gatton visitors
Rural producers will have an opportunity to hear world experts in soil science and see the latest tillage technology in action at the University’s Gatton campus on July 16.

The aim of the day is for scientists to meet with farmers during the International Soil Tillage Research Organisation’s 16th world conference to be held at UQ St Lucia campus in Brisbane from July 13–18.

Organisation President and lecturer in farm mechanisation Dr Jeff Tullberg from UQ’s School of Agronomy and Horticulture said a series of short presentations and a range of field demonstrations and displays were being organised.
A new wildlife enclosure at UQ’s Gatton campus is in constant use providing students with practical experience and facilities for a variety of research projects.

It covers a large area of almost 0.75 hectares divided into 16 separate pens each 225 square metres with a series of five metre wide connecting laneways.

Dr Peter Murray from UQ’s School of Animal Studies said the enclosure bridged the gap between the laboratory and the open field.

“We built it to be totally secure. Metal sheeting fences extend a metre into the soil with a base of blue metal and concrete. The structure is also covered with hail netting to keep out hawks and falcons,” he said.

“It sits in a natural creek side area so animals can make the transition from wild capture and release back into the local environment.”

A small tractor has been purchased to allow a variety of crops to be grown in the enclosures for teaching and research.

Most of the use to date has focused on mice and the common Northern Brown Bandicoot, but Dr Murray said there were plans to work with endangered species including the Eastern Barred Bandicoot, bilbies and even small wallabies.

“It also has potential to be used for bird research work and to test the effectiveness of chemicals to kill rodents,” he said.

“We use the facility for research projects and also to familiarise undergraduate students with capturing, handling and tagging small animals prior to them doing field work.”

A crop of grain sorghum has been grown in several pens this season to test the impact of mice at a range of population densities.

A crop of wheat is about to be planted to research mouse damage to Queensland’s major cereal grain.

Japanese student Naoko Maeda is using the wildlife enclosure to research the mortality rate of juvenile bandicoots as part of her Master of Animal Studies.

“It’s a very good facility to work with bandicoots in their natural environment,” said Ms Maeda who came to UQ Gatton after completing an agricultural science degree in Japan.

She hopes to get a job working with Australian wildlife after completing her studies at UQ Gatton.

A unique wildlife enclosure that allows a range of small animals to be studied in a controlled environment is proving a boon for University students.

Ms Maeda, Dr Murray and a bandicoot. PHOTOS: LYLE RADFORD

Top-ranked researcher

Director of UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience’s Office of Public Policy and Ethics Professor Wayne Hall has been identified by the US-based Institute for Science Information as one of the foremost experts in his research field ranking him in the top 0.5 percent of publishing authors worldwide over the past 20 years.

As the only Queensland researcher and one of only 50 Australians listed, Professor Hall said it was encouraging and gratifying to find his work in the fields of addiction, mental health and public policy had been so widely cited.

Law student prize

The Licensing Executives Society of Australia and New Zealand (LESANZ) has announced a UQ postgraduate law course has been selected for recognition through an annual prize for the best student.

Coordinator of the Intellectual Property (IP) Transactions course Amanda McBratney said it had been a coup for UQ to gain selection.

“Previously the award has only been given to the University of Melbourne so it’s quite an accomplishment for us,” she said.

Analysers liberated

Four major mining organisations in three countries have acquired Mineral Liberation Analysers (MLAs) from UQ’s Julius Kruttschnitt Mineral Research Centre (JKMRC) in recent months.

BHP Billiton, Anglo Platinum, Teck Cominco and Mintek have all ordered an MLA, which is a relatively new tool providing fast and accurate mineral liberation analysis.

Liberation is the degree to which mineral processors succeed in grinding ores to separate minerals from waste.
debate fashion, identity, the body and consumption. It will provide an opportunity to discuss how dress is central to gender, culture and race and critique its current place, meaning and future.

Details: www.fashion2003.net

FASCISM
(Other) Feminisms:
July 12-16, UQ St Lucia

The women’s and gender studies conference will be held by the Australian Women’s Studies Association. Speakers include Professor Ann Curthoys (Australian National University); Professor Vijay Agnew (York University, Canada); and Gabriele Griffin (University of Hull, UK).

Details: d.whitehead@uq.edu.au

FRENCH
Soi-disant: Writing, screening, theorising the self in French: July 7-9, UQ St Lucia and UQ Ipswich

Speakers for the 11th annual international conference of the Australian Society for French Studies include Professor Michael Sheringham (University of London); Professor Raylene Ramsay (University of Auckland); and Professor Ross Chambers (University of Michigan).


FASHION
Making an appearance: An international conference on fashion, dress and consumption: July 10-13, Brisbane

Hosted by UQ’s Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, the conference will

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MARINE SCIENCES
Marine biocomplexity: July 9-11, UQ St Lucia

Speakers at the Australian Marine Sciences Association’s annual conference include Professor Michael Hadfield (University of Hawaii), Dr Joe Baker (Queensland Department of Primary Industries) and UQ’s Professor Hugh Possingham (Schools of Physical Sciences and Life Sciences). Online registration closes June 28.

Details: 07 3870 5095

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology: June 29-July 3, Brisbane

The International Society for Computational Biology and UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience will present the 11th International Conference on Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology, a multi-disciplinary conference for scientists in computer science, molecular biology, mathematics and statistics.
Brabhams drive car planning

UQ mechanical engineering students, who are designing and building a racing car for an international challenge, have attracted the interest of the legendary Brabham family.

The students are developing a car to take part in the Formula SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) event to be held in Adelaide in December.

Triple Formula One grand prix world champion Sir Jack Brabham OBE and son Gary, a successful driver in Formula Three, Indy Car and Le Mans racing, recently visited the University team.

Sir Jack holds a unique place in motor racing history through winning both the driver and constructor Formula One world championships in 1966.

Gary Brabham is the now the chief driving instructor of Modern Driver Concepts, a company providing driver training to some of Australia’s largest organisations.

After driving the UQ car on racing slicks on a wet skidpan at a Mt Cotton driver training centre, he agreed to provide the team with training, test driving and tuning.

Team captain and fourth-year engineering student George Commins said Mr Brabham told the team that driving the car in wet conditions was the best way to discover handling faults.

“Gary said the car had neutral handling and we had done well. Both Gary and Sir Jack gave us invaluable advice on getting sponsorship for the team,” Mr Commins said.

Sir Jack also offered advice on chassis design and the importance of chassis stiffness for a racing car.

“He also emphasised the importance of keeping the weight of the car central and reviewed each section of the car and gave useful advice to each member designing parts for our new car,” Mr Commins said.

“He said that the best way to improve and tune the car would be with Gary as the test driver, as he has been employed as a test driver for Benetton Formula One.”

Hockey star signs on

by Rowan Foster

Australian Hockeyroos vice-captain Nikki Hudson made her debut in UQ colours last month.

The 2000 Olympic gold medallist returned from State duties with the Queensland Scorcher to bolster the UQ Women’s Hockey Club in the Brisbane competition.

Ms Hudson’s signing is a major coup for the University club with its young side set to benefit under the guidance and strike power of the Sydney Olympics top goal scorer.

A veteran of 174 international caps, Ms Hudson said the switch to represent the University was born from a desire to level the playing field in the Brisbane competition.

“The Brisbane competition is at a stage where there are few top teams packed with Queensland and Australian representatives,” she said.

“It’s important to spread the competition amongst Brisbane clubs to continue the development of the game.

“It helps develop younger players because they get to train and play alongside representative players.

Ms Hudson said representing the University would keep challenging her game ahead of an important national schedule.

Queensland coaching director and University coach David McNeil said Ms Hudson’s presence was bringing renewed confidence to his players.

“The experience she has brought to the club gives confidence to the side and lifts the bar of expectations and standards for the season,” he said.
Spraying expertise
Leading-edge science in aerial spraying of forests was the focus of a successful national training short course recently held at UQ Gatton.

The course was hosted by the Centre for Pesticide Application and Safety and attracted government and private industry participants from eastern Australia.

Director Nicholas Woods said the Centre was well-equipped to support the forestry sector with information on the latest spray technology.

“We have run courses in other parts of Australia, but this was an opportunity for hands-on training using the advanced facilities at UQ Gatton,” he said.

The Centre has just undergone a significant upgrade with a state-of-the-art laser imaging system installed.

SOME OF THE STORIES THAT PUT UQ STAFF IN THE MEDIA
May/June 2003

AGEING
Professor Helen Bartlett from the Australasian Centre on Ageing was interviewed on ABC television’s Statewide program and ABC radio about the Centre’s submission and public evidence to the House of Representatives inquiry into ageing.

BUSINESS
The Australian Financial Review cited research by UQ Business School’s Professor Neal Ashkanasy and Marta Sinclair in an article about how business leaders make good decisions.

Business Review Weekly quoted Tony Dunne from UQ’s School of Natural and Rural Systems Management about modern farm management practices.

COMPUTER GAMES
National and local media including the Australian Financial Review, The Courier-Mail, The Sydney Morning Herald, PC World and numerous radio stations reported on UQ and Queensland University of Technology jointly hosting Brisbane’s first academic conference on computer games studies.

ETHICS
Dr Malcolm Parker from the School of Medicine was quoted in Australian Doctor discussing clinical experience and ethical distinctions of artificial nutrition and hydration. Dr Parker was also interviewed on ABC radio about the ethics of life extension.

FLORICULTURE
The Courier-Mail, Sunshine Coast Daily, The Toowoomba Chronicle and ABC radio news reported on the launch of a new Centre for Native Floriculture at UQ Gatton.

GENDER EQUITY
Associate Professor Janeen Baxter from the School of Social Science received nationwide coverage of her 10-year gender equity study.

HEALTH
Channel Nine’s Extra program and Brisbane and Adelaide radio shows interviewed the School of Medicine’s Associate Professor David Colquhoun about coronary heart disease.

LITERATURE
The Courier-Mail ran a feature on The Bibliography of Australian Literature, a project instigated by UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, one of its two general editors.

RESEARCH
The Courier-Mail reported that UQ scored Australia’s second-highest funding in the second round of the 2003 Australian Research Council Linkage Project grants.

The Age, Herald Sun, Sunshine Coast Daily, Gold Coast Bulletin, The Advertiser and Rockhampton’s Morning Bulletin were among the media who reported on UQ research led by Chris Roelfsema from the School of Life Sciences into grey nurse sharks in southern Queensland.

National and local media including The Canberra Times, The Age, Townsville Bulletin, Sky News Australia, Channel Nine Brisbane and ABC Radio National reported the discovery of a new type of galaxy by an international research team including Dr Michael Drinkwater from the School of Physical Sciences.

MOVING OVERSEAS?

Oss World Wide Movers (Qld) P/L, 30 Anton Rd, Hemmant Qld 4174
email: sales@ossbrisbane.com           website: www.ossworldwidemovers.com

3348 2500

Oss World Wide Movers (Qld) P/L, 30 Anton Rd, Hemmant Qld 4174
email: sales@ossbrisbane.com           website: www.ossworldwidemovers.com
A major public place recycling initiative for Queensland was launched at the University earlier this month as part of UQ’s Unigreen Awareness Day.

Queensland Minister for Environment Dean Wells launched the Environmental Protection Agency’s Wastewise Program at UQ’s inaugural Unigreen Awareness Day on June 4.

Mr Wells praised the work of the Unigreen team and said he was pleased to be launching the public place recycling program at the University.

“I think the Wastewise Program is going to be an example to other public institutions in the State,” he said.

The launch was one of many environmental activities that took place during Unigreen Awareness Day.

UQ’s Property and Facilities Environmental Coordinator Kay Ollett said the event had captured the UQ community’s interest in environmental issues.

“The event helped raise awareness about environmental management on campus and emphasised the importance of sustainable living,” she said.

Ms Ollett said the highlight had been the Our Water – Our Future public lecture attracting more than 180 people.

Guest speakers included UQ Environmental Management Director Professor Tor Hundloe, Director of the Institute for Sustainable Futures Professor Stuart White and ABC Four Corners journalist and environmental author Ticky Fullerton.

The Grounds Boombalahs team took out first place in the recycling relay and children’s favourite Whizzy the Waterdrop was on campus reminding everyone to conserve water.

“The kindergarten kids had a great time with Whizzy the Waterdrop, he was a big hit,” she said.
Peaceful visit for Rotarians

Rotarians visited UQ for a special event during the Rotary World Convention in Brisbane this month.

A reception for donors and friends of the Rotary World Peace Scholarship program was jointly hosted by UQ and The Rotary Foundation on June 2.

Nine international Rotary World Peace Scholars began study at the University earlier this year as the first cohort at UQ’s Rotary Centre for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution – one of seven centres established around the world to promote scholarship in conflict resolution and diplomacy.

“Rotary’s vision to help build a world where conflict and hatred can be replaced gradually by peace and understanding is an immensely important and necessary endeavour. The University remains honoured and delighted that we were chosen to be a partner in this exciting and worthwhile project,” said UQ Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards at the UQ St Lucia event.

“This vision, of educating young people in the field of international relations and conflict resolution, is one that we have embraced warmly at the University and we are very proud to have received our first class of Rotary World Peace Scholars.”

More than 60 people attended the event, which included a plaque unveiling by Sir Llew, UQ Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences Executive Dean Professor Linda Rosenman and past Presidents of Rotary International, Sir Clem Renouf and Royce Abbey.

Program Director Dr Marianne Hanson said the nine scholars were studying towards a two-year Master of International Studies (peace and conflict resolution), which covered issues such as human rights, ethnic conflict, peacekeeping and arms control.

“The 20th century was the bloodiest century in human history – more than 80 million people lost their lives in some 250 conflicts worldwide. The peace and conflict studies program at UQ looks at the causes of various conflicts and explores different ways of resolving them,” Dr Hanson said.
Communicate for a better lifestyle

Maintaining hearing and speech skills as an essential part of a healthy lifestyle is the subject of a new book by UQ researchers.

Communication Disability in Ageing: From Prevention to Intervention (Thomson Delmar Learning, New York) was launched earlier this year.

It is the work of Associate Professors Linda Worrall and Louise Hickson from UQ’s Communication Disability in Ageing Research Unit (CDARU) within the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

“It is the first time communications skills have been advocated as a preventative measure and we are confident therapists working in the areas of audiology and speech therapy will soon be promoting this innovative approach and delivering an enhanced quality of life for our ageing population,” CDARU Director Dr Hickson said.

“Hearing loss is highly prevalent in older people and the effects can be devastating. It can leave them lonely, isolated and depressed and their quality of life suffers.”

The book is based on Drs Worrall and Hickson’s Active Communication Education (ACE) project, funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

“The project takes a pro-active approach and aims to educate healthy older people before major hearing difficulties occur so that their social interactions are not badly affected,” Dr Hickson said.

The project involves five weekly education sessions for groups of older people. They discuss, with an audiologist or speech pathologist, practical solutions and strategies about how to cope in various situations.

“We have had a very positive response from people involved in the program and are confident it can deliver an enhanced quality of life for the hearing impaired,” Dr Hickson said.

Dr Hickson (standing) and Dr Worrall.

ONE BOOK ONE BRISBANE 2003

Brisbane residents have chosen The Mayne Inheritance by Rosamond Siemon (University of Queensland Press) as their preferred book for this year’s One Book One Brisbane city-wide reading campaign.

The book was selected after it received 26 percent of the 4400 votes in the selection campaign.

Ms Siemon, a UQ PhD graduate in the field of history, tells the story of the Mayne family, the original owners of Moorlands house (overlooking Coronation Drive) and the Brisbane Arcade and Regent Theatre in the city’s Queen St Mall, who donated much of their estate to the University.

The official launch of the campaign will start in August, followed by a range of activities including book readings, site visits to historic locations, workshops, discussions and meet the author events.

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UQ NEWS, JUNE 2003

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Light for weight work

Research by a UQ engineering student and his former honours thesis supervisor into magnesium alloys technology could help save petrol by reducing the weight of cars.

“The density of magnesium is about half that of aluminium. This makes magnesium a very attractive material when it comes to reducing the weight of cars and saving gasoline,” Dr Cáceres said.

“There is currently a boom in magnesium applications in the automobile industry and Australia has a growing strategic interest in the development of magnesium alloys technology.”

Dr Cáceres and Mr Blake’s research was recently featured as the Editor’s Choice in the prestigious European scientific journal Physica Status Solidi.

Editor’s Choice articles are part of the publication’s 40th anniversary celebrations and are intended to call the attention of the readers to particularly timely and interesting work and alert them to important new developments in solid-state physics.

Dr Cáceres said the brittle quality of magnesium could be overcome by adding small amounts of aluminium or zinc.

He said this technique hardens it in places it is soft and softens it in places it is hard.

“Alloys are more ductile than the pure magnesium metal, a rather peculiar observation in metallurgy. There is a presumption that the softening and hardening effects are similar with high concentrations of aluminium and zinc but nobody knows for sure,” he said.

“Andrew has recently produced his first single crystals of concentrated magnesium-zinc and magnesium-aluminium alloys using a very sophisticated set up he has been developing over the past year.”

Dr Cáceres said the research was progressing well and could open the door to new alloys, both strong and ductile.

“It could therefore have a significant impact on the way magnesium alloys are used in current technology,” he said.

...Australia has a growing strategic interest in the development of magnesium alloys technology...
World-first disabilities plan

A landmark intervention program to assist parents of children with disabilities was launched at UQ this month.

Stepping Stones Triple P was launched by Queensland Minister for Disability Services Judy Spence on June 13 at the University’s St Lucia campus.

“It is the first evidence-based program of its kind in the world and is designed to strengthen families’ capacity to support their child and to help contribute to a balanced, meaningful and fulfilling life at home and in the community,” said program co-author Professor Matt Sanders from UQ’s Parenting and Family Support Centre.

The program is an adaptation of the Centre’s highly successful Triple P – Positive Parenting Program, a multi-level family intervention program for the prevention and treatment of behavioural and emotional problems in pre-adolescent children.

“It is widely recognised that children with disabilities are at greater risk of developing significant behavioural and emotional problems,” Professor Sanders said.

“Stepping Stones Triple P aims to assist parents develop practical solutions for common and potentially stressful behavioural and developmental challenges.”

The program consists of five levels of intervention ranging from a parent information strategy to an enhanced behavioural family intervention program.

The launch focused on the first of the five levels, with various resources showcased, including a practitioner manual, parent workbook, positive parenting video, and professional training course including trainer’s guide, participant notes and video.

The program is the result of collaboration between Professor Sanders and fellow co-authors Trevor Mazzucchelli and Lisa Studman of Western Australia’s Disability Services Commission.

Field-testing and evaluation of the program has been completed in two randomised controlled trials. Professor Sanders said results indicated a significant reduction in challenging behaviours, parental stress, depression and anxiety as well as increased parental confidence and competence and marital satisfaction.

Michelle Connolly, who was involved in the pilot study with her son Declan, was at the launch to discuss the program’s effect on her family.

Others attending the launch included television personality Kay McGrath (master of ceremonies), UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor David Siddle and UQ Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences Director of Research Professor Cindy Gallois.

From left: Professor Sanders, Ms Spence and Professor Siddle.

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Library Hours for 2003

Information on Library hours, including amended times during the examination period and inter-semester break, are available on the Library’s homepage at www.cybrary.uq.edu.au or by telephoning (07) 3365 6703.

Rhodes Scholarship for study at the University of Oxford

www.uq.edu.au/rhodesscholarship

Applications are invited from women and men aged between 19 and 25 for the Queensland Rhodes Scholarship for 2004.

The closing date is September 1, 2003.

Information seminars will be held at The University of Queensland, Bond University, Griffith University and QUT. Details of dates and venues are available by ringing (07) 3365-1310 during office hours.

Information about the Scholarship and application forms can be obtained from Mr D Porter, Honorary Secretary, Queensland Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee, The University of Queensland, Qld 4072.
Vietnam’s trees of life

UQ academics and recent graduates are assisting in an ambitious program to plant five million hectares of trees in Vietnam over the next 10 years.

UQ experts were awarded more than $1.8 million funding and in-kind support last year for an Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) project, which aims to discover ways of rehabilitating degraded forests in Vietnam.

The project is officially underway after a launch and week-long workshop was recently held at Tam Dao National Park, north of Hanoi.

“Vietnam’s forests have been heavily depleted over the past 50 years,” said project co-leader Dr David Lamb of UQ’s School of Life Sciences.

“We will provide advice on how to restore some of these forests, thereby improving biodiversity and ecological services as well as helping to overcome rural poverty.”

He said the UQ group’s advice would focus on finding ways of using indigenous Vietnamese tree species in mixed as well as multi-species plantations unlike most reforestation schemes where plantations of exotic species were established as monocultures.

UQ project members attending the workshop included the School of Life Sciences’ Dr Sharon Brown, the School of Land and Food Sciences’ Dr Peter Dart and the School of Economics’ Associate Professor Steve Harrison.

Recent UQ PhD graduate and project co-leader Dr Huynh Duc Nhan, UQ Master of Science graduate Ngo Van Tuan and current UQ Gatton AusAID student Pham Thu Thuy also attended.

They were joined by numerous forestry experts, rural development practitioners and worldwide donors and supporters to the Forestry Sector Support Program of Vietnam.

Researchers within UQ’s schools of Land and Food Sciences and Life Sciences are also working on an AusAID South-East Asian Regional Program (SEARP) development project at Tam Dao National Park.

“The project works within the framework of the five million hectare reforestation project and is focused on improving management systems of so-called buffer zones in protected forest areas,” Dr Dart said.

“It’s based on the premise that improved livelihoods in these zones, through agroforestry-based farming systems, would reduce the exploitation and degradation of natural resources.”

Dr Dart and Dr Brown are also co-examining buffer zone management in Mt Kitanglad Range National Park in the Philippines.

The project is funded by SEARP and focuses on soil stabilisation and livelihood generation for indigenous people living in the buffer zone.

Tam Dao National Park, Vietnam.
PHOTO: courtesy Dr Brown.