Leisl Packer

OUR YOUNG QUEENSLANDER OF THE YEAR

BE INSPIRED AT UQ OPEN DAYS 12–13
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Leisl Packer, a PhD student at The University of Queensland and the Young Queenslander of the Year for 2004, exemplifies the achievements of UQ’s researchers.

Ms Packer, based at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, is investigating the genetic background of melanomas to try to find new treatments. In her new role, she plans to promote Queensland as an important centre for medical research.

Hers was among many accolades and grants UQ has received in recent weeks. Our scientists won five of the 25 prestigious 2004 Australian Research Council (ARC) Federation Fellowships. Two of the Fellows – Professor Matt Trau and Professor Michael Nielsen – are at UQ while three more – Professor Alan Mark, Associate Professor Rachel Wong and Professor Paul Griffiths – will soon join them.

At BIO2004 in San Francisco, Queensland Premier Peter Beattie announced $20 million in funding for three UQ research centres, including a Centre for Advanced Animal Science at UQ Gatton.

UQ again topped the nation’s universities in funding for Round 2 of the ARC’s 2004 Linkage Projects, with $7.4 million in ARC funding and $12 million in industry partner contributions.

UQ researchers will share in more than $23 million in funding as part of the latest round of National Health and Medical Research Council program grants scheme.

In addition, UQ is extensively involved in the national Awards of Excellence in Innovation from the Cooperative Research Centre Association. Of the four awards, UQ is a lead partner in the CRC for Cast Metals Manufacturing and CRC Mining.

All this is further evidence the University remains as one of Australia’s premier research institutions.

Professor John Hay, AC

Cover photo: Leisl Packer, 2004 Young Queenslander of the Year.
Fellows lead ‘new science’

by Andrew Dunne

Five researchers at the cutting-edge of their disciplines have received Australian Research Council Federation Fellowships.

UQ ranked second nationally in the prestigious 2004 Australian Research Council Federation Fellowships announced last month.

The University attracted five of the 25 Federation Fellowships – second only to the Australian National University with six – with two already based at UQ and three international researchers to join the University.

The Fellowships are part of the Government’s $3 billion Backing Australia’s Ability program and are designed to retain the nation’s leading researchers as well as encourage international researchers here.

Each Fellow will receive an indexed annual salary of around $235,000 for five years, making the Fellowships Australia’s most valuable publicly-funded support.

UQ awardees were:

- **Professor Michael Nielsen**
  Project: Principles of Quantum Information Science
  The project investigates the fundamental theory of quantum information science and aims to formulate general principles governing the power and behaviour of quantum information. Areas to be addressed include conditions for a physical system to be usable for quantum computation, the development of new algorithms for quantum computers, the development of new quantum communication protocols, and the theory of quantum entanglement.

- **Professor Matt Trau**
  Project: Beyond Microarrays: Nano-Scaled Devices for High Throughput Biomolecular Sensing
  Current developments in nanoscience and nanotechnology hold many promises in terms of revolutionising our industrial base, transforming biology, medical science and practice. The project strives to achieve some of these aims for the first time by building and testing nano-scaled devices with the capacity to “read” massive amounts of biological information. Opportunities exist to provide major advances in human health care.

International awardees were:

- **Professor Alan Mark** (University of Groningen, Netherlands)
  Project: Self-organisation in biomolecular systems: Simulating the folding and aggregation of peptides, proteins and lipids
  Molecular self-assembly is a basic property of living systems. Most proteins fold spontaneously and then further self-organise into “biological machines”. Work will focus on developing methods to simulate, computationally, the folding and aggregation of peptides, proteins, and lipids. This will help the development of peptide-based therapeutics.

- **Associate Professor Rachel Wong** (Washington University School of Medicine, US)
  Project: Assembly of neural circuits during development
  The program aims to understand how nerve cells “wire up” accurately during development. It will determine how neuronal connections are made in the retina to produce a sensory structure essential for vision. Discoveries will increase the knowledge base of how the nervous system develops or degenerates and the results will provide crucial information for future studies based on genetic approaches, drug therapies and bioengineering technology to repair the injured nervous system.

- **Professor Paul Griffiths** (University of Pittsburgh, US)
  Project: Biohumanities: Philosophical, Historical, and Socio-Cultural Studies of Contemporary Bioscience.
  The project aims to improve understanding of the meaning and implications of contemporary bioscience, especially genetics and molecular biology, through research in the humanities and social sciences, and conversely through better assimilation of bioscience and its significance by the humanities and social sciences.
Funding totalling almost $20 million towards three major projects in which UQ is a key participant was announced by Queensland Premier Peter Beattie at the recent BIO2004 in San Francisco.

Each of the initiatives, part of the latest round of Smart State Research Facilities Funding, will have an important impact on the Queensland economy, as well as the University’s research and teaching activities.

Mr Beattie announced:

· $9.5 million in funding for the Centre for Advanced Animal Science (CAAS), researching livestock health and production, at UQ Gatton;

· $8.1 million for the Queensland Preclinical Drug Development Facility, with a further significant contribution from UQ;

· $2.2 million to help establish the Queensland Hypersonic Testing Facility.

The Centre for Advanced Animal Science (CAAS) will be established to further research into animal nutrition, diseases and vaccines, biotechnology, animal welfare, and food quality and safety.

CAAS will be a partnership between UQ and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, which will contribute $9 million to the $18.5 million centre.

Executive Dean of the UQ Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science, Professor Roger Swift, said the Centre was a sound investment in Queensland’s animal and allied industries.

“An outstanding feature will be collaboration among leading researchers from universities and government research institutions,” he said.

“The multi-institutional collaboration will harness human capital and build critical mass in areas of strategic importance to Queensland that will attract large-scale national and international investment and maximise the efficient use of high-quality modern facilities.”

Research will be in the key areas of health and disease, nutrition and growth, adaptation and animal welfare, new products, and food quality and safety.

UQ will also be at the forefront of drug development with the funding for Australia’s first integrated preclinical testing facility, the Queensland Preclinical Drug Development Facility.

The facility will be developed in partnership with the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, clinical trials company Q-Pharm, and UQ researchers and Professors Istvan Toth, Ron Dickinson, Rod Minchin and Maree Smith.

It will be the first Australian facility to integrate the four core areas of preclinical drug development, taking new drugs from discovery to readiness for human clinical trials.

Professor Smith, facility director designate, said the bulk of preclinical development work currently went overseas but the new facility would reduce the costs and delays of assessing new drugs.

“This will bring a very high value-add industry to Queensland with many spin-offs for employment and the economy in this State,” Professor Smith said.

The new Queensland Hypersonic Testing Facility will be part of UQ’s Centre for Hypersonics, which is at the forefront of research into scramjet technology to revolutionise high-speed travel and space exploration.

Centre Director Professor Richard Morgan said the funding would increase facilities and boost research.

“It is with this research that we are creating a niche market in international circles,” he said.

The facility will combine the world’s most advanced hypersonic and super-orbital, ground-testing facilities with advanced computational modelling abilities and hypersonic, free-flight testing facilities.

“An outstanding feature will be collaboration among leading researchers from universities and government research institutions.”

Almost $20 million in State Government funding will help boost UQ research and the Queensland economy.
Prostate detection advance

Work by a UQ researcher will make the trip to the doctor for a prostate cancer check less intrusive for men.

Associate Professor Frank Gardiner, from the University’s School of Medicine, is developing a more precise and less invasive procedure for prostate cancer detection by retrieving prostate cells from ejaculate.

This project is designed to optimise retrieval of the cells and compares two methods for profiling selected genetic changes to diagnose prostate cancer.

The work has been given a boost by the recent announcement by the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing, Tony Abbott, of more than $100,000 in funding for the project through the National Health and Medical Research Council’s Development Grants Scheme.

Associate Professor Gardiner was one of three UQ researchers who will share in around $280,000 of funding aimed at encouraging research with commercial potential.

Professor Istvan Toth, from UQ’s School of Pharmacy, has been granted $99,750 to look at gene therapy to cure choroidal neovascularisation, the most severe form of age-related macular degeneration and the major cause of blindness in the developed world.

Dr Keith Mitchelson, from the Australian Genome Research Facility at UQ will receive $79,750 to work on new sequencing technology for recalcitrant and repetitive DNA.

Many repetitive regions of genomes are difficult to sequence and to assemble but “Sequencing Aided by Mutation” (SAM) overcomes many of the difficulties hindering current sequencing methods.

Panaceas for pain

Research into serious human diseases and ailments will be significantly advanced through recently announced grants.

U Q researchers will share in more than $16.1 million in funding through National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grants announced this month.

The five-year grants include:

- $4.7 million to develop therapies using the human immune system to treat disease (led by Professor Ian Frazer of UQ’s Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research);
- $7.1 million to use marine snail toxins to improve understanding of chronic pain (led by Dr Richard Lewis of UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB);
- $4.3 million to study the molecular genetics of sex determination and gonad development (project involving the IMB’s Professor Peter Koopman); and
- $7.07 million to bring together a multi-skilled team of researchers to better understand diabetes, heart and kidney disease in Indigenous Australians (project involving Professor Wendy Hoy and Dr Zhiqiang Wang from UQ’s School of Medicine).

Professor Frazer said the funding would greatly advance the work on immunotherapy he is conducting with Professor Ranjeny Thomas of UQ’s Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research and Dr Geoffrey Hill of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR).

The program members are leading scientists with expertise in investigating the mechanisms and treatment of diseases in which the immune system plays a role. These include cancers of the cervix and blood system, and autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis.

Professor Frazer said the aim of the new program was to discover mechanisms regulating the immune response, and to use the knowledge to define new ways for switching on or off specific immune responses.

“We particularly hope to develop novel vaccines for chronic infections and autoimmune diseases, and to improve the safety of bone-marrow transplantation,” he said.

Drugs derived from the venom of one of Australia’s most poisonous creatures will lead to safer and more effective treatment of pain, as a result of a $7.1 million NHMRC grant to a collaborative team from UQ’s IMB and the Pain Management Research Institute at the University of Sydney.

IMB’s Associate Professor Richard Lewis said chronic pain remained poorly managed due to the lack of drugs providing pain relief without side-effects.

“Using the venom from cone snails, found on Queensland’s Great Barrier Reef, we hope to isolate, purify and synthesise novel ‘active ingredients’ and use these to selectively fight pain,” he said.

“The active ingredient, called a conopeptide, will be optimised in our labs to a point where they can be considered for pre-clinical development in conjunction with commercial partners.”

Patients with disorders of sexual development will benefit from collaborative research conducted at UQ’s IMB, and the Victorian-based Murdoch Children’s Research Institute and Prince Henry’s Institute of Medical Research.

IMB’s Professor Peter Koopman said intersex disorders were surprisingly common.

“About four percent of live births are affected by these disorders, which can result in infertility, genital abnormalities, gender mis-assignment and long-term psychological trauma,” he said.

“These are most often caused by disruptions to the network of gene regulation responsible for proper development of testes and ovaries in the embryo.

Experts in diabetes, heart and kidney disease research have been brought together to treat and prevent an epidemic of the diseases in Indigenous populations.

The team is led by the Menzies School of Health Research, including UQ School of Medicine researchers Professor Wendy Hoy and Dr Zhiqiang Wang.

The project aims to better understand the development of these chronic conditions.
Building a good customer base for a business is as much about emotion as economics, a UQ study has revealed.

Breakthrough UQ research has pinpointed the triggers of consumer anger when service failures occur, helping business come to grips with customer gripes.

The two-year study by UQ Business School Professor of Marketing Janet McColl-Kennedy found the way people felt they had been treated after a negative interaction with an organisation, coupled with their overall assessment of the service provider’s conduct, were the critical triggers of negative feelings among customers.

“According to customers, not feeling respected made them feel ‘like a number’ and/or receptacles for company patter or worse, recorded messages,” Professor McColl-Kennedy said.

“By itself, low levels of ‘feeling respected’ caused a 48 percent rise in negative emotions whereas customer perceptions of unfairness led to a 68 percent increase. However, when the two factors were combined, negative emotions skyrocketed by a staggering 75 percent.”

“Understanding these triggers will help organisations not only to avoid future service failures but to effectively recover from negative situations should they arise.”

Her study found that if employees dealt with situations quickly, trying to resolve the problem fairly and treated the consumer with respect and dignity, negative emotions were reduced by 100 percent.

“Some measures include simple things like putting a bit of effort into resolving the problem, checking details for the customer, involving a supervisor, being sympathetic and looking the customer in the eye,” Professor McColl-Kennedy said.

“Business recognises the damage caused by dissatisfied customers to both reputation and sales through loss of repeat business or decreased custom and negative word-of-mouth – it has been estimated that a dissatisfied customer will tell his or her story to around 11 other people, kicking off a domino effect.”

Negative emotions experienced by customers range from mild frustration to overt rage. These negative interactions or service failures can come from the service itself, such as waiting too long; the wrong service being delivered; staff rudeness; or the customer themselves, for example, the customer being too ill to take a prepaid holiday.

Australians tended to be less likely to complain about service failures than British or Americans, Professor McColl-Kennedy said.

“Our tendency to be backward about coming forward is counterproductive as it does not give organisations a chance to fix problems.”

Some measures include simple things like putting a bit of effort into resolving the problem…
Win has (viola) strings attached

Winning a major national musicians’ award in July this year definitely had strings attached for long-time UQ School of Music Associate Professor Patricia Pollett.

Ms Pollett, who has been playing the viola since she was 15, won a highly prestigious 2004 APRA — Australian Music Centre Classical Music award for her latest CD entitled Still Life.

Winning the category of Most Distinguished Contribution to the Presentation of Australian Composition by an Individual was a great honour and fitting reward for Adelaide-born Ms Pollett who has played her 20-year-old viola before thousands of people at concerts throughout the world.

Introduced to the violin by her parents, both well-versed in music, especially piano and singing, Ms Pollett said her teacher, Rob Collins, suggested she may be more suited to the viola given her taller-than-average height.

“I agreed to go and listen to a viola recital and immediately loved the sound,” she said.

“It’s similarly to the tone and range of the human speaking voice and an absolute delight to play.”

Ms Pollett, whose husband Dr Philip Pollett also works at the University (School of Mathematics), said she had been thrilled to receive dozens of telephone calls and SMS mobile telephone messages from her students after her win was aired on ABC Radio National.

She was also feature interview in the July issue of the pre-eminent, string-playing journal The Strad.
Cancer sleuth’s youth role

by Chris Saxby

The 2004 Young Queenslander of the Year is ... surprised!

Twenty-four-year-old UQ PhD student Leisl Packer was shocked to hear her name announced at a recent ceremony to recognise the Queenslander and Young Queenslander of the Year.

“I honestly didn’t expect to win,” she said modestly.

Ms Packer doesn’t see her achievements in aiding the fight against skin cancer as anything to boast about – it’s just something she enjoys.

“I’ve always loved learning about science, but it wasn’t until studying biochemistry at UQ that I became particularly interested in cancer genetics,” she explained.

Ms Packer is based at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) with her studies supervised by Drs Sandra Pavey and Nicholas Hayward.

She is working in a significant field of medical research with potential implications for every Queenslander given the State’s reputation as “the melanoma capital of the world”.

“There are currently no effective treatment options for patients with advanced-staged melanoma,” Ms Packer said.

“The research I’m involved in aims to better understand the genetic bases of melanoma in the hope of assisting the development of more effective treatment regimes for these patients.”

Ms Packer is only into the second year analysis phase of her research and said she hoped something novel would be discovered to assist worldwide efforts to find better treatments.

“We are currently analysing the huge amount of data we have generated using DNA microarrays. These look at the expression of thousands of genes in a series of melanoma cell lines. The analysis involves selecting individual genes that are potentially involved in melanoma development,” she said.

Ms Packer, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science with first-class honours in biochemistry from the School of Molecular and Microbial Sciences, said she had been overwhelmed by all the attention.

“I’m actually amazed at how many people are touched by such an award,” she said.

“I’ve been contacted by people I’ve never met, such as science teachers who see me as a role model to encourage their own students to pursue interests in science.

“I’m really humbled by the whole experience.”

A University Medal winner, Ms Packer said in her role as Young Queenslander of the Year, she hoped to attend international conferences promoting Queensland as an important centre for medical research.

Customs House countdown

Customs House may have been part of UQ since 1994, but there are still many things about the building of which the University community is unaware.

As part of the Customs House 10-year anniversary celebrations, UQ News highlights some of these lesser-known facts.

The heritage-listed building, built between 1886 and 1889 using sandstone quarried from the Helidon district, housed the offices of Customs until 1988.

More than 155,000 visitors have passed through the building with about 20 percent of these coming from overseas.

It has one of Australia’s most unconventional coats of arms showing a rising sun, an emu and a kangaroo. However, unlike the Australian coat of arms, neither animal is looking across the shield.

The multi-purpose building is now used for educational, cultural, business and social activities and was part of the set for the Hugh Jackman film "Paperback Hero."

One client converted The Long Room into the dining room from the "Titanic." The scene was complemented by uniforms for staff, deck signs and a lifeboat on the front steps. The menu was also designed around one of the last dinners on the "Titanic."

Former Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Humanities) Professor Malcolm Thomis wrote a book about the building entitled "The Brisbane Customs House."

On October 24, the University will celebrate 10 years of occupancy at Customs House during an open day.

For information about the open day or any other events/activities at Customs House: 07 3365 8911, info@customshouse.com.au
There is so much more in 2004...

- Aerobics
- Aiki Tai Jutsu
- Athletics
- Australian Rules
- Badminton
- Ballet
- Basketball
- Beach Volleyball
- Belly Dancing
- Bike Maintenance
- Boardriders
- Body Combat
- Boot Camp Training
- Boxing
- Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
- Break Dancing
- Canoeing
- Capoeira
- Celtic Dance
- Circus Skills and Acrobalance
- CPR Training
- Cricket
- Cycle Outback Queensland
- Cycling
- Deep Sea Fishing
- Deep Water
- Running
- Feldenkrais Method
- Fencing
- First Aid Courses
- Fit Chicks
- Fitness Assessments
- Fitness Groups
- Fraser & Moreton Island Safaris
- Fun Runs
- Golf
- Golfing Weekends
- Handball
- Hip Hop Dance
- Hockey
- Holistic Health
- Horse Riding
- Hot Air Ballooning
- Ice Hockey
- Inter collegiate sport
- Judo
- Karate
- Kickboxing
- Kung Fu
- Latin Dance
- Learn to Swim & Stroke Correction
- Lunchtime Social Fixtures
- Massage Courses
- Netball
- Orienteering
- Paragliding
- Personal Training
- Pilates
- Power/Weightlifting
- Self Defence
- Resistance Training
- Rockclimbing
- Rowing
- Rugby League
- Rugby Union
- Sailing
- Sailing Canoe Adventures
- Scuba Diving
- Sea Kayaking
- Ski New Zealand
- Soccer
- Social Dance
- Social Sport
- Softball
- Squash
- Strength & Conditioning
- Stretch
- Surf Camps
- Swim Clinics
- Swim fit
- Swing
- Table Tennis
- Taekwondo
- Tai Chi
- Tangalooma Day Cruise
- Tango
- Target Shooting
- Tennis
- Tennis Coaching
- Touch Football
- Triathlon
- Ultimate Disc
- University Games
- Voice Power
- Volleyball
- Water polo
- Water Skiing/Wakeboarding
- Yoga

Grab your copy of the
UQ SPORT & RECREATION GUIDE
Available around campus NOW!

www.uqsport.uq.edu.au
The UQ Veterinary School is seeking owners of Burmese cats to volunteer their pets for a quick test aimed at earlier detection and prevention of feline and human diabetes.

PhD student Rose Lederer is looking for healthy Burmese between the ages of two and eight and the offspring of Burmese with diabetes for a glucose-tolerance test. Test results will help understand the causes of diabetes in both humans and cats, with hopes of earlier detection and prevention. Ms Lederer’s research will also greatly benefit cat owners and cat lovers by determining whether there is insulin “insensitivity” in the Burmese breed. This will help explain why Burmese are more predisposed to developing diabetes. It is also expected that findings will assist studies on genetic links to diabetes.

Diabetes and Obesity Unit head Professor Jacquie Rand said the cat was the closest model for human type-2 diabetes. Both humans and cats have a protein deposit in their pancreas which destroys insulin-producing cells. “Cats are also more likely to be affected by modern lifestyle changes such as obesity and lack of exercise,” she said.

Societal concerns over overweight children are increasing and type-2 diabetes is now occurring more commonly in people aged younger than 20. Professor Rand said the possibility of Burmese developing diabetes increased to one in 10 when the cat was aged older than eight.

“By understanding why Burmese develop the disease, there is a greater chance of finding preventative treatment, especially when the cat reaches middle age,” she said.

“If diabetes is detected and treated early, there is an increased likelihood of diabetic remission. We can achieve remission rates exceeding 80 percent with early detection and use of an ultra-long-acting insulin combined with a low-carbohydrate diet.”

Owners will receive a $100 voucher for consultations and pet food at the Veterinary School’s clinic.

Information: (07) 3346 9606 or r.lederer@uq.edu.au

The University scooped the pool in the recent Awards of Excellence in Innovation for the Cooperative Research Centre Association.

From the four awards given nationally, UQ is a lead partner in two of the winning CRCs.

Representatives from the CRC for Cast Metals Manufacturing and CRC Mining were presented with the awards by Federal Science Minister Peter McGauran in Adelaide.

The CRC Association Awards recognise outstanding examples of cooperative research transformed into practical benefits for all Australians.

CRC for Cast Metals Manufacturing won an award for work on alternative technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Professor David St John, CEO of the CRC, said industrial trials of a new cover gas (AM-cover) had demonstrated significant environmental, process and cost improvements for the magnesium industry.

Cover gases are required in magnesium smelting to prevent molten magnesium from burning in air.

“We developed the alternative to the industry standard SF6, a very potent greenhouse gas, as a cover gas for magnesium melting,” Professor St John said.

“The AM-cover melt protection system reduces greenhouse gas emissions by more than 95 percent.”

“This is important given that production of magnesium is expected to increase rapidly due to its being both light and strong.”

The award to CRC Mining was presented for new mining technology called the Universal Dragline System (UDS) that improves production and operational flexibility at open-cut mines.

Professor Michael Hood, CEO of the CRC, said the UDS could improve dragline productivity levels by 25 percent.

“Conventional rigging limits the flexibility of the dragline operation and has not changed in design for 50 years,” he said.

“The UDS technology involves major changes to the dragline’s bucket, rigging and mechanical design and includes a specially designed computer-control system.”

Burmese cats are more than just a pretty face when it comes to vital diabetes research.

Burmese cats are more than just a pretty face when it comes to vital diabetes research.

Pleas for Burmese

by Elizabeth Kerr

Burmese cats are more than just a pretty face when it comes to vital diabetes research.
Cybrarians celebrate

by Elizabeth Kerr

The knowledge and enthusiasm of UQ Library staff members has been acknowledged with prestigious professional awards.

Staff from the UQ Cybrary have won this year’s top Australian Library and Information Association’s (ALIA) Queensland awards.

Belinda Weaver won Library Achiever of the Year and Social Sciences and Humanities Library Assistant Anna Drew won Library Technician of the Year.

Ms Weaver is an expert in finding information on the Web. She helps Cybrary staff and the wider community with her monthly What’s New on the Web service.

She uses her online expertise in regular contributions to the Courier-Mail’s e-Mail section, the Online Currents journal which reviews and analyses online information, and has also recently written a book, Catch the Wave: find good information on the Internet fast.

Ms Weaver also established the award-winning website Guide to Information Sources for Australian Journalists, the weblog journoz: updates for Australian Journalists, and OZCAR, an online mailing list on Internet and computer-based resources and research for Australian journalists and journalism educators.

University Librarian Janine Schmidt praised Ms Weaver’s achievement.

“Belinda’s contribution to the library profession at large has been extensive and wide-ranging,” Mrs Schmidt said.

“She has played a significant role in transforming the role and image of the librarian.”

Anna Drew was awarded Library Technician of the Year because of her dedication and skill.

Working in the Loans, High Use and Multimedia areas, Ms Drew is also a Web writer and provides back-up and relief assistance to the psychology liaison librarian, the Remote Students service and other branch libraries as required.

Ms Drew said she felt her work at UQ greatly increased her winning chances.

“I believe that the training and experience I have gained at UQ were the chief reasons for my selection for this prize,” she said.

UQ also succeeded in taking the QUT Faculty of Information and Technology ALIA Queensland Prize.

Biological Sciences Librarian Wendy Furlan received the prize for achieving the highest aggregate result in the Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Studies for a part-time student.

Ms Furlan was the only person in the course to be on the Dean’s list for second semester 2003.

Open Days show information and interaction make the University’s annual Open Days a must for prospective students.

S

From left: Wendy Furlan, Anna Drew and Belinda Weaver
from 10am-2pm, the Multimedia and Information Environments programs will host interactive displays, and the RAAF Air Transportable Hospital Squadron from Amberley will join the nursing program for a display.

Various student services including the UQ Union, UQ SPORT, Chaplaincy and Student Support Services will be on hand and there will be rides, face-painting and other activities for children.

Be it wildlife, livestock or household pets, students interested in a career working with animals will have plenty of options to check out at UQ Gatton’s Open Day from 9.30am to 3pm.

The complete range of animal science programs will be showcased from the Diplomas in Applied Science to flexible three- and four-year Bachelor of Applied Science degrees enabling students to tailor their studies.

As well as the animal programs, there are a similarly big range of programs covering agriculture, horticulture, agribusiness and the environment.

There will also be inspections of the first-class teaching facilities on offer such as the new, $1 million equine precinct, science laboratories and refurbished on-campus accommodation.

Information will be offered on the new $18.5 million Centre for Advanced Animal Science being built on the campus and the relocation of the University’s vet school to Gatton in 2008.
UQ scientists have won Queensland's Premier's Awards for Medical Research by uncovering a defective gene for autism and developing a vaccine for two strands of cancer.

Dr Paul Dawson, a senior research officer with the School of Biomedical Sciences, won the Senior Postdoctoral Award.

In his study, titled *Involvement of Sulfate Transporters in Autism*, Dr Dawson identified a mutated gene called NAS1 in children with autism.

Autism is a brain disorder that usually limits a person’s language development and social skills.

Dr Dawson, who has been researching the NAS1 gene for five years, said the discovery was exciting because it showed autistic children had low levels of sulfate in the blood.

“We’re the first group to show mutations in this gene,” Dr Dawson said. “Although our results are really encouraging, there’s still a lot of work to do.”

He said it was likely that up to 10 genes may be involved in autism, including NAS1.

The postgraduate student award winner was Queensland Institute of Medical Research research officer at the Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) Biology Lab, Jai Kumar Duraiswamy, who recently finished his PhD at UQ.

For four years, Dr Duraiswamy and a team of scientists have been developing a vaccine which kills Hodgkin’s Lymphoma and Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma.

These cancers attack the lymph system and upper throat. “These Hodgkin’s cancer cells are ‘clever’ as they hide from the immune system,” Dr Duraiswamy said. “We have developed a vaccine which can make these cancer cells susceptible to the immune system and boost the immune response so that we can kill all these cancer cells.”

His award entry was titled *A Therapeutic Polypeptide Vaccine for EBV-Associated Hodgkin’s Lymphoma and Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma*.

Dr Duraiswamy expects human trials of the patented vaccine to start later this year before being available within the next few years.

A Brisbane family and the University have joined forces to fund researchers investigating the debilitating Motor Neurone Disease.

Successful business and family man Ross Maclean has a tough fight on his hands.

At nearly 80, he is battling a debilitating disease for which there is currently no adequate treatments or cures — Motor Neurone Disease (MND).

True to his fighting spirit and to help the cause of research into the condition, Mr Maclean and his family have joined forces with UQ’s Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) to raise funds for the appointment of a research scientist dedicated to studying MND.

Mr Maclean’s company, the Index Group of Companies, will fundraise $100,000 a year for three years for The Ross Maclean Fellowship, launched this month.

The Fellowship idea grew from Mr Maclean’s meeting with Professor Perry Bartlett, Foundation Chair in Molecular Neuroscience and QBI inaugural Director. Professor Bartlett said the Fellowship would become one of the most prestigious fellowships in the neuroscientific field especially in the search to uncover the mechanisms regulating motor neurone cell death.

The liaison between the University and the Maclean family was facilitated by the University’s Development Office.

Director, Development Office, Margaret Burke, said such donations were an example of the Office’s active program of relationship-building with the local community.

“Identifying what the donor wants rather than creating a project then seeking funds is a far more strategic and team-based approach to fundraising.” Ms Burke said.

“The Maclean family’s generous donation to establish the Fellowship has greatly contributed to the University’s fundraising efforts especially in these times of restrained government spending on higher education.”

MND, also known as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) or Maladie de Charcot, was first described by Charcot, a French neurologist, in the 1860s. It affects more than 350,000 people worldwide, with a mortality rate of 100,000 people each year. In Australia, a person dies of MND every day.

It involves a deterioration of the nerve cells or neurones controlling key muscles including those in the trunk and limbs and those controlling speech, swallowing and breathing, while leaving the brain unaffected.

Mr Maclean was diagnosed with MND five years ago after experiencing numbness in some of his limbs followed by a gradual deterioration in fine motor skills such as using keys and writing.

His son, Jeff, said his father had delayed telling his family so as not to unduly worry them. Mr Maclean Senior and his wife, Daphne, have six grandchildren, aged 15-24, through Jeff and his older brother Craig, Deputy Principal of Bundaberg State High School.

Mr Maclean Senior is also a veteran at fighting illness. As a child, he had battled osteo which left him with a slight limp for life.

When diagnosed with MND, he was Managing Director of the Index Group Companies, one of Queensland’s top 400 privately owned companies and Souths Rugby Club sponsor.

Jeff said even though his father was now immobile and connected to a ventilator 24-hours-a-day, he remained very mentally alert and hopeful for a cure or treatment for MND in the years to come.

The Maclean family: Jeff and Craig (back) and their parents, Daphne and Ross.
Chemistry for change

by Miguel Holland

The demands of modern science and teaching have driven a major building refit.

The University’s Chemistry Building has gained modern research and teaching space after a $14.5 million refit.

It’s the first step in a major overhaul which will bring the 35-year-old building in line with all current Australian regulations.

Level 2 now has a 65-seat lecture theatre and a modern laboratory for 120 first-year students.

Level 11 has been refurbished for organic chemists while glass-blowing equipment, including furnaces and lathes from Level 10, have been moved to Level 1.

There is new lab space for the Centre for Computational Molecular Science, Centre for Biomaterials and Nanotechnology, Brisbane Surface Analysis Facility, and Queensland’s headquarters for the Future Materials Program.

Project manager Jeff Arnold from UQ Property and Facilities said the refit had been overdue because the building was occupied and contained chemicals and specialised equipment not easily moved.

“The building had been overdue for refurbishment for some time,” Mr Arnold said.

“This stage of the work has set a blue print for future renovations of the individual floors.”

He said the builders, John Holland Group, had fixed corroded windows as well as leaks and built a 100,000-litre water storage tank to boost water supplies in the event of fire-fighting.

A scaffold was built on the roof to raise many of the telecommunication dishes and antennae above the range of the builder’s cranes, avoiding transmission interruptions from the dishes which serve UQ and much of Queensland.

A concrete slab was also poured on the roof to extend Level 12 and make space for a plant room.

Professor John de Jersey, Head of the School of Molecular and Microbial Sciences, said the research and teaching space in the first-year laboratory was a project highlight.

“The innovative layout provides five sections, each able to accommodate 24 students, and each integrating wet and dry laboratory spaces.” Professor de Jersey said.

A $4.8 million upgrade is planned to refit Level 5, Level 4 and build a covered area on Level 3, with work scheduled to start in November.

Another significant UQ project completed recently was the refurbishment of the north end of the Hartley Teakle Building.

The building, home to the School of Land and Food Sciences at the St Lucia campus, received an internal facelift, so that it looks like the future of scientific education.

Constructed in the 1960s, the building underwent a complete refit during the two-year project.

New food science laboratories are licensed to prepare and serve food.

The new facilities also include high-quality analytical laboratories for the chemical analysis of biological, food and soil samples.

Monash scholarships

Eight postgraduate students will receive up to $150,000 over three years to study at leading overseas universities from next year. Applicants must show academic excellence, leadership and community service.

Scholarship applications can be made at: http://www.monashawards.org/application1.asp

Conference bid wins
A consortium led by UQ, the Australian Institute of Energy, the Brisbane City Council and the Brisbane Convention Centre has won an international bid to host the 2008 World Hydrogen Energy Conference.

The win for Brisbane of the 17th World Hydrogen Energy Conference in 2008, to be held for the first time in Australia, was announced following a presentation by the bid committee in Japan this month.

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Media clipping access
The Office of Marketing and Communications has introduced a new method for staff to receive the daily e-clips. UQ Mediaclips is a searchable database of press clippings and provides daily media summaries online with the ability for UQ staff to access the full news articles for 90 days.

UQ mediaclips is located at: http://www.uq.edu.au/news/mediaclips Only UQ staff have access via their UQ Sign In usernames and passwords.

Engineers’ evening
The Young Engineers Australia – UQ Careers Evening will be held on Wednesday, August 4, at 4pm in the UQ Centre, St Lucia. It is an opportunity for engineering and high-school students to meet company and UQ representatives and discuss the engineering profession, careers, and job and study opportunities.

Information: 0408 886 429 or email s363295@student.uq.edu.au or at http://www.engqld.org/group/yeauq/
AUSTRALIAN STUDIES
Postcolonial Australia Masterclass:
September 3-5, Staff and Graduates Club, The University of Queensland
Designed primarily for postgraduate and early career researchers, this three-day intensive masterclass is the third in the Australian Studies Centre’s annual series. It will focus on research questions at the interface of Australian studies, critical race studies and postcolonial studies. Session leaders include Professor Graham Huggan (University of Leeds, UK), Professor Ann Curthoys (Australian National University), and Dr Patrick Wolfe (Victoria University).
Information: Marilyn Barton, 07 3365 1369 or m.barton@uq.edu.au

ENTOMOLOGY
XXII International Congress of Entomology:
August 15-21, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre
This landmark event will cover topics including genetics and evolutionary biology, managing insects on plants, biodiversity and biogeography, and physiology and immunity. Abstracts for the congress must be received by March 31. Speakers include Peter Raven (Director, Missouri Botanical gardens, United States), Professor May Berenbaum (University of Illinois, United States), Professor Fotis Kafatos (European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Germany), and Professor Scott O’Neill (UQ).
Information and submissions: www.ice2004.org

FEMINISM
Australian and international feminisms: where we’ve been and where we’re going:
December 12-14, Boston University Sydney Campus, Chippendale
Papers are invited for this conference celebrating 30 years of HECATE Interdisciplinary Journal of Women’s Liberation. Closing date for the submission of abstracts is August 30. They should be up to 800 words in length and accompanied by a 250-word CV. Proposed themes include but are not restricted to: women in sport; women and the law; women, power and politics; women and Indigeneity; and women and sexuality. Speakers will include: Professor Claire Moses (Department of Women’s Studies, University of Maryland, United States).
Information and submissions: Dr Sharon Clarke, 02 9514 9828, sclarke@iinet.net.au or Marilla North, 02 4784 3442, marillanorth@optusnet.com.au

HIGHER EDUCATION
Australian University Alumni Council (AUAC) national conference: August 25-27, Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast.
This conference will bring together alumni professionals from around Australia to network and exchange ideas. The theme of the conference is Advancing the Connection. Speakers include: UQ Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards, AC; Executive-
and other evolutionary biology; DNA; genetics; microbiology; academics and postgraduate students; conference was held at UQ together international experts from Australia for the first time. The aim of the event is to develop the conference experience of current or recently graduated advanced-level research scholars who intend to pursue careers in the fields of mining, mineral processing or mining technology services. For the first time in its 12 year history this annual conference will be open to postgraduate and advanced level mining and minerals engineering research students from around the world.

Information: http://www.jkconference2004.com or 07 3365 5204 or BBHC@ccs.uq.edu.au

MINING
Julius Krutttschnitt Mineral Research Centre (JKMRC) International Student Conference 2004: September 6-7, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

The one-day symposium presented by the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital Research Foundation and Betty Byrne Henderson Women’s Health Research Centre will look at a diverse range of women’s health issues ranging from menopause management to ageing of the cardiovascular system. Speakers will include Dr Ramesh Manocha (Natural Therapies Unit, Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney), Dr J Nicklin (Gynaecologist/Oncologist, Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital), and Dr Nancy Pachana (UQ).

Information: 07 3365 5204 or BBHC@ccs.uq.edu.au


The conference of the Australian Science Communicators (www.asc.ans.au/) and the Australasian Medical Writers’ Association will incorporate activities of value to all communicators working in science and medicine. A major focus will be networking and professional development sessions. Expected topics are writing and assessing communication strategies, communicating science/research outcomes to business and industry, using new media, magazine feature-writing, and preparing TV documentary proposals.

Information: http://www.hotelnetwork.com.au/conferences/conferences#science

WOMEN’S HEALTH Symposium 2004: topical and controversial issues in women’s health: September 4, The Wesley Auditorium, Chasely St, Auchenflower

This one-day symposium presented by the Lake Mungo 3.

As a pioneer in studies of ancient DNA, Dr Tom Loy is glad the crime scenes he usually investigates date back at least 30,000 years.

The UQ School of Social Science researcher was one of the speakers at an international conference on ancient DNA, hosted in Melbourne for the first time.

The Ancient DNA and Associated Biomolecules Conference is held every two years and brings together international experts from a variety of fields. The seventh conference was held at UQ between July 12 and 16. Conference attendees included academics and postgraduate students in areas as diverse as ancient DNA; genetics; microbiology; microscopy; biochemistry; human and other evolutionary biology; palaeontology; isotopic and trace element analysis; medicine; and criminal and wildlife forensics.

Dr Loy, who developed and teaches Australia’s first forensic archaeology undergraduate course involving a simulated crime scene, is renowned for his work on the mummified body of a Copper Age ice-man discovered 11 years ago in Austria’s Tyrolean Alps.

Other speakers included Dr Carney Matheson (Assistant Professor, Lakehead University Canada) who has examined the DNA in leather from the Dead Sea Scrolls to shed light on the Scrolls’ authors, and Dr Greg Adcock from the Australian National University, who has reopened debate over human origins with his work on Australia’s oldest human skeleton, The Lake Mungo 3.

The “sledgehammer of military force” was a last resort in combating terrorism, Australia’s Defence Force (ADF) chief has said.

Speaking at a UQ-hosted conference on terrorism, General Cosgrove said long-term military and civilian cooperation was vital to fending off attacks.

“Defending Australia particularly from terrorism is not a task in which Defence or the ADF has the lead,” General Cosgrove said. “Military forces quite rightly provide capability to kill and destroy an enemy on behalf of our nation if required.”

“That is part of our professional job. However that part itself should be the option of last resort for our forces.”

General Cosgrove gave the keynote address at the Fulbright Symposium on Civil Military Cooperation and the War on Terror at Customs House on July 5.

More than 180 of Australia’s key defence strategists, academics, policy makers, overseas aid managers and US defence experts attended the three-day conference.

Delegates heard views on how Pakistan and Saudi Arabia posed more of a terror threat than Iraq and Afghanistan and how Papua New Guinea was the biggest threat in the South Pacific.

Aldo Borgu, director of operations and capability at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute and a UQ graduate, warned terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) would either show its relevance in the region soon or another group would.

“Should JI prove itself to be incapable of mounting serious operations against Australia, we may well witness Al-Qaeda taking more of a direct interest in targeting Australia,” Mr Borgu said.

He said the war on terror should be a campaign against radical Islam which could be won with moderate Muslim support rather than military means.

Australian Federal Police (AFP) Commissioner Mick Keelty said the AFP was building up regional police in the South Pacific to allow Australia to “walk away”.

He said steps were also being taken to create a Pacific Islands United Nations contingency.

Spotlight on terrorism

General Cosgrove

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Olympic greats gather

The University welcomed back 22 Olympians this month to celebrate its contribution to the world’s showpiece sporting event. The Olympians Dinner brought together past and present UQ Olympians at the UQ Centre on July 1 to recognise their achievements in the countdown to the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

Dual swimming gold medallists David Theile and Alex Baumann were guest speakers along with 2004 Olympian Bronwyn Thompson (long jump), softball coach Bob Crudgington, sprinter Denise Boyd (nee Robertson), and Nancy Welch (nee Lyons).

Ms Welch holds the honour of being the University’s first Olympian, having competed at the 1948 London Games where she claimed a silver medal for the 200m breaststroke event.

UQ SPORT Director Kim Guerin said the dinner showcased the University’s rich sporting history.

“UQ has more than 60 athletes who have represented their country at an Olympic level,” Ms Guerin said.

“It was great to be able to bring so many together on the night and recognise their success ahead of the 2004 Athens Olympics.”

ABC Radio Olympic commentator Gerry Collins was Master of Ceremonies at the dinner, which recognised the performance of UQ athletes across 19 sports and 17 Olympic Games, Summer and Winter. Auction items on the evening including signed memorabilia from UQ gold medallists Kieren Perkins, Natalie Cook, Susie O’Neill and David Theile raised money for the University’s Sports Scholarship program.

Staff from the UQ Centre for Olympic Studies presented dinner guests with a history of the Olympic movement featuring Olympic memorabilia.

Birthday honours

Several current and past UQ staff were honoured in the recent Queen’s Birthday Honours list.

Deputy Director of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research and UQ Professor Adele Green received a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AC).

Dr Yvonne Burns, Physiotherapy, and Associate Professor Leigh Atkinson from the Medical School both received the award of Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO). Professor Graham Hughes, Centre of National Research on Disability and Rehabilitation Medicine, and Professor Greg Seymour, School of Dentistry, both received a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) award.

A Medal in the General Division of the Order of Australia was received by Emeritus Professor Colin Apelt from the School of Engineering and also Professor John Mainstone, Physics.

Past staff member Professor Mark Bartold also received a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM).

Elite engineers

UQ chemical engineers Professors Paul Greenfield and Max Lu and mechanical engineer Professor John Simmons were recently listed in the Top 100 most influential Australian engineers.

The inaugural list appeared in the June Engineers Australia, a monthly magazine which divides the top engineers into the categories including industry, association, consulting, academia/research, and defence.

Engineers Australia editor Dietrich Georg said an advisory panel of engineers considered hundreds of engineers across all fields.

Mining safety

A mining website on hazard and risk management from mineral-processing to quarrying, has been launched by UQ’s mining safety centre.

The website, called the Minerals Industry Risk Management Gateway (MIRMgate), was created as a one-stop portal for quality hazard-related information during a mine’s lifetime.

It is a database of electronic and hardcopy records, on everything from handling dangerous goods to fatigue.

MIRMgate leader Dr Guldidar Kizil said the site was unique because it had quality information at one entry point, browsable by hazard, task or subject.

MIRMgate is a project of UQ’s Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre (MISHC), which was set up with funding from all state governments and UQ’s Sustainable Minerals Institute and sponsored by mining companies.
Genetic tests tested

The growing use of genetic testing has raised a host of issues being studied in a new survey.

Over 3500 people are expected to take part in Australia's first large-scale study into genetic discrimination.

The survey of people who have had a predictive, genetic test for various inherited conditions aims to investigate the advantages and disadvantages of genetic test information on people's lives and to examine cases of alleged discrimination.

Dr Sandy Taylor from UQ's School of Social Work and Applied Human Sciences said the survey was being conducted with the help of clinical genetics services.

It is part of a larger project, funded by the Australian Research Council, investigating genetic discrimination in Australia.

"As yet, we do not have large-scale information in Australia on what people's experiences have been after they have undertaken a predictive genetic test," Dr Taylor said.

"The more people who fill out the questionnaire, the greater our understanding will be of the positive and negative implications of genetic testing for people in the community.

"We are hoping for a great response as this will be unique and important information for Australia."

The overall project is being jointly undertaken by Dr Taylor; Professor Margaret Otlowski, from the University of Tasmania; and Dr Kristine Barlow-Stewart from the Centre for Genetics Education in Sydney.

Increasing numbers of genetic tests have become available due to the enormous scientific advances that have been occurring in genetics. New technology can now give people precise information about whether they are at risk or not.

"Some of the positive benefits of gaining genetic information can include being able to plan for the future and to take preventive action to avoid or minimise symptoms of the condition," Dr Taylor said.

"Disadvantages, however, can include feeling burdened by the genetic information, having problems with employment or not being able to buy insurance."

Dr Taylor said there were many potential, ethical considerations surrounding genetic testing.

"Issues have been raised about the rights to privacy of individuals regarding genetic test information, as well as their obligations to disclose this information to others," she said.

"There are also questions about the rights of others, such as employers or insurers, to access genetic test information and the uses to which such information should be put."

The results of the survey will be known later this year. Dr Taylor said the findings from the joint projects would be used to inform policy and law reform.

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Beating the odds on filth

UQ is one of the sponsors of the seventh International Riversymposium to be held in Brisbane next month.

Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield will be among a large group of international experts participating in the Riversymposium. To be held from August 31 to September 3, it will focus on best-practice river management. This year's theme is Threats to sustainable river systems – beating the odds.

Professor Greenfield is a board member of the International Riverfoundation, Chair of the Riversymposium strategic planning committee and a judge for the International Thiess Riverprize.

Keynote speakers include: Dr Vandana Shiva, author of Water Wars and one of the top five most powerful people in Asia according to Asia Week Magazine; and Professor Andras Szöllösi-Nagy, Deputy Assistant Director-General of UNESCO's Natural Sciences Sector.

Other keynote speakers will include Dr Bryson Bates, Director of the CSIRO (Australia) Climate Change Program; Professor Christopher Gordon from the University of Ghana; and Joan Mulhern, from the US-based EarthJustice Legal Defense Fund.

Riversymposium case studies include the Ishikari River, Japan; the Skjern River, Denmark; the Volga River, Russia; the Zambezi River, Africa; and the Klamath Basin in the US.

The 2004 International and National Thiess Riverprize winners and finalists will present their work as part of the speaking program.

A free, public hypothetical case study, which will focus on food and water shortages in Australia in 10 years, is expected to attract up to 1000 people.

“If there’s a God, he’s got a sense of humour.”

This, according to critically acclaimed author and lecturer in creative writing at UQ, Amanda Lohrey, is the point-of-view taken by her new novel *The Philosopher’s Doll*.

The book follows the lives of a married couple in their late 30s. Kirsten feels her “biological clock” is ticking and wants to have a child whereas her husband Lindsey isn’t sure he wants children yet.

“It’s about choice and free will,” Ms Lohrey said.

“It looks at the idea that we live in a very evolved, consumer culture in which theoretically we have reached this high point of evolution where we have more choice than people from any other culture at any other time of recorded history.

“But how much of that is real choice and how much is illusory?”

Known for her focus on contemporary life, Ms Lohrey described the book as a black comedy, basically about the choices people make.

“And how the smallest little things you do that may seem like minor decisions at the time end up instead creating major changes,” she said.

Since Ms Lohrey wrote the book, the issue of when to have children has become even more topical.

“We even have the Treasurer advising us to have a baby for ourselves, one for our partners and one for the country,” she joked.

In terms of the best time to have a child, *The Philosopher’s Doll* did not reach a conclusion.

“It looks at the way people try to be rational and reason their way through decisions but how being rational can only get you so far with some issues,” she said.

“If you are really rational about having a baby, you’ll just keep postponing it.”

Ms Lohrey said she thought teaching was a great job.

“We have Australia’s biggest and best postgraduate writing school,” she said.

“There is such a pool of talent here that working with the students is an absolute pleasure.”

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**UQ PRESS: NEW RELEASES – JUNE**

- **Pauline Luke, Amber Pash on Pink** ($17.95)

  Rebecca is 14 and finding out that life is becoming increasingly complicated.

  Having to live with a gross brother nicknamed “Frog Face”, a grandfather who is into colour meditation, and the world’s ugliest dog is no picnic.

  Throw in a best friend called Amber and a worst enemy dubbed “The Grasshopper” and you have the ingredients for a fast-paced, fun, and insightful glimpse into being a teenager.

  In this original and remarkably assured debut novel, Pauline Luke deals honestly and sympathetically with friendship, love and families through a series of snappy poems, diary entries, emails, recipes and drawings.

- **Pat Flynn, Alex Jackson Dropping in** ($14.95)

  Before Alex Jackson was a pro skateboarder, he was a kid.

  Before he met Becky Tonella, beat up Billy Johnstone, boardslided 15 stairs, he was searching for the one thing that would make his life make sense. This is the year he found it.

  Set when Alex was in Year 6, this is a fun-filled, rollicking adventure that introduces Alex and his mates.

- **Robert Newton, Saturday Morning Mozart and Burnt Toast** ($16.95)

  When his mum’s new boyfriend moves in, 14-year-old Wolfgang McManus, musical genius, takes off for the wilds of Tasmania.

  But, with the Russian mafia hot on his heels, a missing chimp to locate, and a world famous violinist suffering from memory loss to baby-sit, life in the Apple Isle turns out to be a whole lot more complicated than he’d bargained for.

  Throw in a lip-pierced farmer’s daughter with a bad attitude and Wolfgang McManus is in for the ride of his life.
No reserve in financial tale

It has politics, conflict and a fight for independence – it’s the story of the Reserve Bank of Australia over the past two decades.

The central bank may not be the obvious subject for a riveting read but author Stephen Bell, Associate Professor of Politics at UQ’s School of Political Science and International Studies, has drawn on interviews with the main players to tell the tale of a tumultuous period in the bank’s history in Australia’s Money Mandarins: The Reserve Bank and the Politics of Money.

One of those players was Bernie Fraser, Reserve Bank Governor from 1989 to 1996. Mr Fraser, along with the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences Professor Linda Rosenman, helped launch the book at the UQ Bookshop last month.

Mr Fraser revealed he had considered writing such a book himself before reading Australia’s Money Mandarins, saying: “It’s a story that I think is important, it’s a story that I think had to be told and it’s been told extremely well… in Stephen’s book.”

Mr Fraser guided the bank to monetary policy independence as Australia’s financial system was deregulated, the market began determining interest rates and the currency was floated.

He credits the Reserve Bank, through maintenance of balanced and pragmatic monetary policy, with making a significant contribution to the sustained economic growth and modest inflation of the past 13 years. However, the benefits carried a cost. In his understated way, Mr Fraser referred to the conflict and intrigues that accompanied such momentous changes and acknowledged the bank had to be political at times to gain and maintain its independence.

Associate Professor Bell was less circumspect.

“I don’t know how Bernie slept some of those nights with 18 percent interest rates, titanic struggles, the economy burning around him, running arguments and fights inside the bank and Treasury, and (then Treasurer) Paul Keating running around talking about a soft landing,” he said.

Associate Professor Bell said he sought to explain the drama and conflicts, as well as the workings and culture of the Reserve Bank during this period.

“This was a time of great, great drama and yet it had not been written about. And we have never had a debate in this country about why the central bank and not the government is making monetary policy. In fact, most people don’t even realise that’s how it works,” he said.

Associate Professor Bell says the Reserve Bank of Australia is now a model for central banks around the world.

“Bernie steered the bank in an incredibly innovative way and the Reserve Bank, after much criticism globally for a long time, has arguably steered a new course for central banking and monetary policy worldwide,” he said.
SOME OF THE STORIES THAT PUT UQ STAFF IN THE MEDIA IN JUNE

STATE BUDGET
The South West News reported on the State Budget, which includes funding of $20 million towards the University's $60 million Queensland Brain Institute.

MEDIA CELEBRITIES
ABC Radio Newcastle interviewed Professor Graeme Turner from the Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies in relation to celebrities in the media.

REALITY TV
The Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin quoted lecturer in contemporary studies Dr Toni Johnson-Woods who commented on the type of contestant likely to win Big Brother.

WOMEN’S COLLEGE
The Sunshine Coast Daily mentioned the Women’s College at UQ’s St Lucia campus was celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.

HUMAN MOVEMENT
In an interview with ABC NSW Regional Radio, Professor Doune Macdonald from the School of Human Movement Studies discussed ways to get children physically active.

CANCER THERAPY
The Sunday Mail (Brisbane) interviewed Professor Ian Frazer from the Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research on advances in cancer screening and chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatments.

Credit to Credit Union
Uni Credit Union’s new Chair of the board is John Coker, who replaces longserving Keith McDonald. Mr McDonald, finance and administration manager at University of Queensland Press, announced his resignation in May after 28 years on the board of directors. The Credit Union has more than 12,000 members, nine branches at Queensland’s biggest universities and assets and reserves worth $97.3 million.

Law School heritage
A new heritage program is recognising the achievements of staff and students at the TC Beirne School of Law. The program encourages pride in the School, a strong sense of mutual identity among graduates and the development of moral and material support for the School from its alumni. The program has already recognised the sacrifice of five Law School members who died during World War II through an ANZAC Day display in the Walter Harrison Law Library.

Boiling success
Third-year students from the PR Campaign Class at UQ Ipswich, Siew Pin Chor, Felicia Goh and Belinda Whitte, ran a highly successful media campaign for the launch of the Letting Off Steam seminar series at the Community Service and Research Centre. It featured in The Queensland Times, The Ipswich Advertiser and on 612 ABC radio.

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Library hours are available on the Library’s homepage at www.cybrary.uq.edu.au
Concerts, special lectures, seminars and UQ events of general interest are published in this section. Entries, including date, time, contact name and telephone number, should be sent to c.saxby@uq.edu.au.

SEMINARS

- **Wednesday, July 28**
  - Queensland Brain Institute, neuroscience seminar series 2004, Importance of DNA damage response in neurodegenerative disorders, Professor Martin Lavin, Queensland Institute of Medical Research (noon, Seminar Room 305, Skerman Bldg).

- **Friday, July 30**
  - School of Land and Food Sciences, Fortification of rice, Dr Ashok Shrestha (3pm, Room 323, Hartley Teakle Bldg).

- **Wednesday, August 4**
  - Australian Centre on Ageing, Breakfast Colloquia Series 2004, Aged care in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities: lessons from the past, Christine Sindicly, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (7am, Royal on the Park, Brisbane CBD, bookings essential). Details: 07 3346 9084.

- **Thursday, August 5**
  - Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, Travelling multimedia circus: the spectacular career of Frank Hurley, Professor Robert Dixon (5.30-6.30pm, The Mayne Centre). Details: 07 3346 9764 or admin.cccs@uq.edu.au.

- **Friday, August 6**
  - School of Land and Food Sciences, Flora and vegetation of Crete and Rhodes, Grant Wardell-Johnson, School of Natural and Rural Systems Management (3pm, Room 323, Hartley Teakle Bldg).

- **Wednesday, August 18**
  - UQ Law Graduates Association, breakfast seminar, date and venue to be confirmed. Details: gradeventls@law.uq.edu.au.

- **Thursday, September 9**
  - Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, Whiteness matters: Indigenous studies and Australian studies, Dr Aileen Moreton-Robinson (5.30-6.30pm, The Mayne Centre). Details: 07 3346 9764 or admin.cccs@uq.edu.au.

- **Friday, September 10**
  - UQ Law Graduates Association, law graduates dinner, date and venue to be confirmed. Details: gradeventls@law.uq.edu.au.

WANTED TO RENT/HOUSE-SIT

TO RENT/HOUSE-SIT

- Fortitude Valley: 1bd, f/furn unit close to transport, with pool, spa, gym and sauna. From July to September, and car can also be provided if needed. $225/wk.
- Taringa: 4bd, 3bth and study house, f/furn, with polished floors and pool and walking distance to UQ. Available August to January. Janeen: 07 3365 2871 or jbxter@uq.edu.au.

WANTED TO RENT/HOUSE-SIT

- Professional house-sitter available from July 27. Would prefer long sit but short sits also possible. References available. Lesley: 0423 765 259 or l.forest@uq.edu.au.
- Postgrad. student needs house-sitting position or affordable accommodation for her and 9-month-old, from July onwards (flexible). Clean, quiet, reliable and happy to care for pets, yard and pool. Susan: 07 3849 5464 or s3337738@student.uq.edu.au.
- Academic needs f/furn accommodation for 2 people from July to December. References can be provided. Judith: 03 5762 4374 or judithwilkie@iexx.com.
- Academic needs 3bd+ house with air-con, access to pool, near Ironside School, public transport, Jan–Jul. Coastal: 07 3362 0275 or coralP@qmr.edu.au or Naomi: Wmattir@ed.ac.uk.
- Visiting academic needs accommodation for family of 4 near UQ from September to December. Rochelle: r.hahn@ncn.com.
- Visiting academic needs f/furn house/unit near UQ for 6 months from July. Graham: 07 3365 4500 or g.schaffer@mimnet.uq.edu.au or Wojtek: wojtek@lehig.edu.
- Academic needs accommodation 1-2 nights per week close to St Lucia campus. Tracey: t.dagger@business.uq.edu.au.
- Responsible housemate/s needed for renovated 3-bedroom house at Clayfield close to public transport and shops. $90/week plus amenities, 4 weeks bond ($360). Alana: 0402 711 232.

Elections

SENATE

Elections for the elected members of the Senate of The University of Queensland for 2005–2007 will be held on the dates specified. 3 members of the full-time, graduate staff – Wednesday, October 27

1 member of the full-time, non-graduate staff – Friday, October 29

2 students – Monday, November 1

1 member of the Academic Board – Wednesday, November 3

8 members of Convocation – Thursday, November 4

STANDING COMMITTEE OF CONVOCATION

An election of 16 members of Convocation to the Standing Committee of Convocation for 2005–2007 will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2004.

NOMINATIONS AND VOTING PAPERS

Nominations, on the official nomination papers, signed by the candidate, and by two nominators qualified to vote at the appropriate elections, must be delivered to the Office of the Secretary and Registrar at St Lucia before 4pm on the following nomination dates:

- **Senate** – Tuesday, August 31
- **Standing Committee of Convocation** – Friday, September 17

Nomination forms are available from the Secretariat Services Office, Room 625, Level 6, J D Story Building, The University of Queensland, Queensland 4072 or by telephoning (07) 3365 3009.

Secretary and Registrar

Warden of Convocation

www.uq.edu.au

PRIZES

- Roger Pysden Memorial Fellowships: for Australians employed in or studying any aspect of manufacturing. Fellows undertake an investigative project or study opportunity overseas. Up to six fellowships will be awarded.

  Worth: up to $6000 each.

  Closing: August 13.

  Information: www.abfoundation.com.au

- The Thomas Morrow Prize 2004: for an undergraduate student, who, as part of a course of study, writes the best essay on a topic in the field of scientific inquiry in Australia. Worth: $400.

  Closing: November 19.


CLASSIFIEDS

* Classifieds are free, but are available only to staff, students and visiting academics.

CLASSIFIEDS

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- St Lucia Open Day Sunday 1 August, 9am–4pm
- UQ Ipswich Open Day Sunday 15 August, 10am–2pm
- UQ Gatton Open Day Sunday 22 August, 9:30am–3pm

www.uq.edu.au