On the road to Italy

A $3 million bequest will fund research into Motor Neuron Disease

A new building will benefit the mining and minerals industry

Urban development is threatening to wipe out wild koala populations
Especially with employers. Surveys confirm UQ graduates out-perform the national average in launching full-time careers. In fact, UQ is the only uni in Queensland awarded a five star rating for graduates ‘getting a job’. If you’re ready for a first-rate uni experience, enrol at UQ.

To see why UQ is so desirable, attend one of UQ’s Open Days.

**UQ’s Open days**
- St Lucia Campus,  
  Sunday August 7, 9am-4pm
- Customs House,  
  Wednesday August 10, 11.30am-2.30pm
- Ipswich Campus,  
  Sunday August 21, 10am-2pm
- Gatton Campus,  
  Sunday August 28, 9.30am-3pm

If you can’t make it to one of our Open Days, visit [www.uq.edu.au/study](http://www.uq.edu.au/study) for information about UQ programs or contact UQ Admissions on (07) 3365 2203 or email AdmissionsEnquiries@uq.edu.au

For further information about UQ’s Open days visit [www.uq.edu.au/study](http://www.uq.edu.au/study)
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

A pioneer and leader in the Australian mining industry was honoured with the official opening last month of the Sir James Foots Building.

Sir James Foots had a long and distinguished career as one of the leaders in the industry, and also played a major role at UQ and made a significant contribution to mining research at this institution.

He was General Manager of Mount Isa Mines Limited and then Chief Executive and Chairman of MIM Holdings Ltd. He steered the MIM Group through major expansion in metal production and into product and geographic diversification over three decades.

In 1970, Sir James was appointed to the Senate of the University. He was inaugural Chair of The University of Queensland Foundation from 1982 to 1985 and Chancellor from 1985 to 1992. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Julius Kruttschnitt Mineral Research Centre in 1970.

I was delighted Sir James could join us for the official opening of the building that bears his name.

The Sir James Foots Building is home to the Sustainable Minerals Institute (SMI), the Earth Systems Science Computational Centre, and the Collaborative Learning Centre.

It was officially opened by Premier Peter Beattie, whose Government accepted my recommendation that it contribute $10 million towards the establishment of the SMI. Of that sum, $2 million went towards research while $8 million went to the construction of the $24 million building. UQ funded the balance of the construction.

The building represents a significant investment in research and teaching at the University. I was most gratified that the Queensland Government supported the project and saw its value as part of the Smart State strategy.

The Sir James Foots Building is a magnificent addition to UQ and it is fitting that it be dedicated to Sir James.

Professor John Hay, AC

Cover photo: UQ SPORT scholarship holder Hannah Banks who will race in the Giro d'Italia Donne in July. PHOTO: courtesy UQ SPORT
Cancer pioneer continues work in US

A UQ student has won a national award that will allow him to further his research into breast cancer.

Spending up to 12 hours a day, five days a week, in the laboratory researching breast cancer has paid off for Brisbane scientist David Bryant. The UQ student has received Cure Cancer Australia’s Young Researcher of the Year PhD student award.

He earned the $5000 prize for studying the movement of cancer cells in the breast, for his PhD in molecular cell biology at UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB).

“We’re trying to understand when a tumour arises in the breast, why it doesn’t simply stay there. Why does it move somewhere else in the body?” Mr Bryant said.

A key piece of the puzzle was to understand how cells stuck to each other, even when they were growing and dividing.

“If we understand that, then we can understand how they begin to move away from each other,” Mr Bryant said.

The 23-year-old began his studies at UQ as a science student, then finished his honours in science and won the Biochemistry Alumni Prize before starting his PhD at UQ’s IMB.

He said he was nominated for the Cure Cancer prize by his supervisor Associate Professor Jennifer Stow.

Dr Stow said Mr Bryant’s work shed new light on the regulation of proteins that suppressed tumour growth and those that regulated a cell’s ability to spread elsewhere.

Mr Bryant has accepted a position with the University of California at San Francisco to further his research.

The IMB also had four finalists in the Queensland Premier’s Awards for Health and Medical Research.

Grant Challen won the Postgraduate Student Award for his work on kidney stem cells and Becky Conway-Campbell won the Post-Doctoral Award for her work on treating multiple sclerosis. Masa Cemazar and Dagmar Wilhelm were also finalists.

Aiming to help business

UQ has established a business consulting company to help improve the organisational performance of businesses.

Communication Partners has had a busy month.

It has developed a training program to improve safety at a mining company in Laos, an economic model to establish the existence of a relationship for a company in Brisbane and a nationwide community engagement project for a national science organisation.

The Centre for Social Research in Communication’s Helen Burns, a consultant for the company, said it brought together research, education and management consulting expertise from many different fields.

“Communication Partners’ main area of expertise is in improving organisational performance through improved communication and management,” Ms Burns said.

“We offer training, research and consulting in these areas. Our consultants have worked in the sectors of health, science, education, social services, justice, border control and telecommunications.”

Communication Partners was established in collaboration with the Centre for Social Research in Communication and UniQuest, UQ’s main commercialisation company.

Ms Burns said the company was made up of a team of core consultants who had a mix of skills from academic research in business to senior management experience.

“We are able to call upon the expertise of over 30 academics working within the University,” she said.

The Director of Communication Partners is Dr Anne Pisarski, a senior lecturer in communication at the UQ Business School. The company’s Business Manager is Peta Ashworth.

Mr Bryant

Ms Burns
Mr Goodenough

A businessman’s $3 million donation will help fund important projects being carried out at the University’s Queensland Brain Institute.

Bequest drives MOTOR NEURON DISEASE RESEARCH

UQ Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Hay, AC, has accepted a $3 million donation as part of a bequest to further research into Motor Neuron Disease (MND).

The University’s Queensland Brain Institute (QBI), an initiative of Professor Hay, will carry out the research.

Peter Goodenough, who died in Cairns in November 2004 from MND, gifted the $3 million to the University.

Mr Goodenough directed the money go towards research into MND being carried out at the QBI, based at the University’s St Lucia campus.

Director of the QBI, Professor Perry Bartlett, said he was extremely grateful to Mr Goodenough for his generous bequest and for his foresight in recognising that it was only through innovative, well funded research that debilitating diseases such as MND will eventually be conquered.

Professor Hay has secured $20 million grants from both The Atlantic Philanthropies and the Queensland Government, as part of its Smart State strategy, for a dedicated Institute building.

Construction of a new building to house the QBI will soon get underway at the St Lucia campus.

At a presentation of the donation at the Brisbane Customs House on May 23, Professor Hay announced the naming of the Peter Goodenough and Wantoks Research Laboratory within the new building in acknowledgment of Mr Goodenough’s generosity to UQ.

Mr Goodenough, who negotiated with the University about his bequest for 18 months prior to his death, owned a large civil engineering firm and other assets in Bougainville, an island east of Papua New Guinea, in the 1970s and 1980s.

Director of the University’s Development Office, Margaret Burke, said while the disease robbed Mr Goodenough of his speech, it had not dampened his fighting spirit.

“He was keen to ensure that he could put his wealth to fighting this disease even though he knew he would personally not benefit from the research,” Ms Burke said.

Research in the QBI is focused on understanding the molecular basis of brain function and applying this knowledge to the development of new therapeutics to treat neuro-degenerative diseases and mental health disorders, especially those associated with the ageing population.

Toowong lawyer Graham Isles, who acted for Mr Goodenough, said that after being diagnosed with MND in 2002 his client had “then sought as much information as possible on the disease, including knowing who was doing the most advanced research – and that was the QBI at the University”.

Scientists at the QBI have discovered several new mechanisms that control the cellular and molecular mechanisms that underlie normal brain function, especially those governing the generation of new nerve cells and the formation of new functional connections.

MR ISLES AND PROFESSOR HAY WITH THE $3 MILLION CHEQUE

Dougie’s legacy lives on

The University’s foundation Professor of Physiology Emeritus Professor Douglas (Dougie) Lee, AM, passed away on June 10 after a short illness.

Professor Lee had celebrated his 100th birthday on February 22. The celebrations included a lunch at the Staff and Graduates Club.

As well as being the foundation Professor of Physiology at UQ (1936), Professor Lee was also its first graduate (1925) to become a professor. Aged only 31 when appointed, he still holds the record as the youngest Professor of Physiology appointed at UQ.

Professor Lee was the first signatory to the report that led to the establishment of the Mayne Medical School at Herston and was Dean of the Faculty of Medicine (1938-42) when the first UQ graduates received their degrees in 1940.

He left UQ in 1948 and for the next 42 years worked in the US as a researcher and senior administrator.

After 16 years of retirement, Professor Lee and his late wife Dottie returned to Australia in 1990, and he returned to UQ aged 86 to teach in the School of Biomedical Sciences.

Professor David Adams, Head of the School of Biomedical Sciences, said Professor Lee was an inspiration to staff and students during both his periods at the University.

“He legacy lives on at the University with his substantial contribution to the Medical School in its formative years, the Douglas H.K Lee Honours Prize in Physiology and Pharmacology since 1997 and the naming of the Physiology Lecture Theatre in his honour,” he said.

“Doug will be sadly missed by all those who had the pleasure to know this inspirational man.”

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Professor Lee
The University’s reputation as a leader in research and teaching has been further enhanced with the opening of the $24 million Sir James Foots Building on May 20.

This purpose-built building is the new home to the University’s Sustainable Minerals Institute (SMI), the Earth Systems Science Computational Centre (ESSCC) and the Collaborative Learning Centre (CLC).

It is named after former UQ Senator and Chancellor (1985-92), Sir James Foots, AO, in recognition of his distinguished career in the mining industry and long-time personal and professional support of the University.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, won Queensland Government support for the project after identifying the University’s work in the minerals sector as important to the Smart State strategy.

Queensland Premier Peter Beattie, whose government contributed $10 million towards the establishment of the SMI, officially opened the building.

Of the Queensland Government funding, $2 million went towards research while $8 million went to the construction of the building. UQ funded the balance of the construction.

Professor Hay said the building represented a significant investment in research and teaching at the University.

“This building is a symbol of UQ leading the way in providing cutting-edge facilities for researchers and students,” he said.

The SMI was established in 2001 to expand the University’s already enviable reputation in researching and developing new technologies for the sustainable development of mineral resources.

The ESSCC is a frontier research centre investigating the physics of earth processes, such as planetary dynamics and earthquake forecasting, through multidisciplinary research and supercomputer simulation.

The CLC is a series of innovative teaching and learning environments equipped with state-of-the-art audio-visual teaching equipment.

The design of the CLC provides an environment to facilitate the learning and socialisation of students.

Director of the SMI, Professor Don McKee, said the new building would further develop the valuable partnership between the University and the mining industry.

“UQ has forged a unique and highly successful working partnership with the mining industry over the past 50 years, that has developed a breadth and quality of minerals related education and research that is internationally renowned and without equal in Australia,” Professor McKee said.

“The defining vision for SMI is that it becomes an acknowledged centre for all issues associated with the sustainable development of mineral resources.

“With this new building and its marvellous facilities we take another step closer to that goal.”

The building was designed by Wilson Architects, built by Abigroup Contractors and project managed by UQ’s Property and Facilities Division.
Tsunami risk for Queensland

Queensland could be the victim of a tsunami or other earthquake-related consequences in the next 10 years, according to UQ researchers.

Director of the University’s Earth Systems Science Computational Centre (ESSCC) Professor Peter Mora said there was a high level of seismic activity within the earth’s plates surrounding Australia.

“The north-east of Australia is very exposed,” he said.

“Our international research collaboration partners in the US forecast that within the next 10 years a great earthquake with a magnitude of at least seven on the Richter scale is likely to strike to the north of New Zealand, which could mean a potential tsunami hazard for Queensland.”

“I think it is a misconception that Australia is safe from natural disasters like earthquakes and tsunamis.

“We are actually very prone. Within the Australian plate, there is a high level of seismicity compared to within other plates around the world, including the Americas.”

Professor Mora and his team of 20 staff at the ESSCC are housed in the Sir James Foots Building.

They study and simulate earthquakes and solid earth phenomena with the help of one of the most powerful computers in the country.

“UQ hosts the headquarters of the State and federally-funded Australian Earth Systems Simulator, which is a major national research facility. It enables us to study solid earth phenomena to try and improve our understanding of the planet,” he said.

ESSCC is a world leader in understanding the earth’s dynamics, working collaboratively with more than 40 prestigious national and international research centres.

Top marks for UQ water experts

UQ researchers have captured the attention of the international mining and minerals community by leading the way in advanced water management strategies.

Director of the Centre for Water in the Minerals Industry (CWiMI), Professor Chris Moran, said he had been pleasantly surprised by the reaction.

“Our title alone is attracting attention from around the world,” he said.

The CWIMI is one of the research centres located in the Sustainable Minerals Institute (SMI) housed in the Sir James Foots Building.

“The industry now has a home for its problems. It gives UQ a really clear niche in the field of water resources,” Professor Moran said.

“We are clearly here for water management in the minerals industry, and the mining community like the idea of that.”

Professor Moran said historically water management had not been seen as a major issue, but that perception had changed as a result of the price of water and its scarcity.

“Water is already constraining the expansion of the mining and minerals industry,” he said.

“Unless solutions to water management issues are found, we will see a detrimental effect on Australian communities from a downturn in revenues associated with mining and minerals processing.”

Professor Moran said water was an indicator of environmental sustainability and companies needed to implement improved water management strategies if they were to enjoy a bright future.

Design ideal for new age learning

One of the most advanced learning spaces in the southern hemisphere has officially opened.

The Collaborative Learning Centre (CLC) within the Sir James Foots Building recognises that learning does not only happen in the classroom.

The Centre has been equipped with more than $2 million in audio-visual teaching equipment.

It extends learning as a total concept through formal and informal spaces using the latest teaching technologies.

Students can relax and continue the learning experience beyond designated teaching areas.

The latest wireless network technologies will extend to adjoining outdoor areas and a coffee shop, and into wide external corridors equipped with datapoints and plasma screens.

Facilities include comfortable chairs, data projectors that can be used individually by students, or in a group fashion by teachers, study pods, flexible furniture arrangements, videoconferencing and touch-screen kiosks and display areas for student messages.

“We’ve learned from the way people use learning spaces at our hi-tech and heritage UQ Ipswich campus to create a unique facility for UQ,” said Teaching and Education Development Institute Director Denise Chalmers.

“A key feature of the CLC is to provide an environment that facilitates the learning and socialisation of students.”

“We have been encouraging our academics to ‘go play’ in the CLC this semester and think about how they can creatively use the spaces.”

UQ Manager, Academic Facilities Phil Taylor said students could work productively and independently.

The Centre has two large areas for group teaching of up to 100 students, but allows for small group work for 20-30 students and independent learning in other areas.

“We plan to extend hours of operations to 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and have conference workshop areas for external clients,” Mr Taylor said.

“To ensure the safety of staff and students at all times, an extensive security system has been installed.”
Cultural chasm

Health is only one issue faced by Aboriginal women who have been diagnosed with cancer.

Aboriginal women from rural Queensland are uncertain about seeking medical help for cancer because they believe the disease is fatal and another form of colonisation, according to a new study.

They prefer to be cared for by family members in their community with access to traditional medicines and not confined by “whiteman” methods, according to the author UQ’s Dr Deborah Prior.

Dr Prior has completed her PhD study, Cultural Strength and social needs of Aboriginal women with cancer: take away the cancer but leave me whole, through UQ’s School of Population Health.

She spent three months living with two remote Queensland Aboriginal communities for her research.

She talked with women of all ages, many of whom had personal experience of the disease, and also interviewed Aboriginal health workers and community leaders.

“They felt at home with the community was far more important than what could be offered in the health system for cancer,” Dr Prior said.

“It’s not to say the Aboriginal women didn’t want to have treatment, but they were reluctant because it separated them from their communities.”

Dr Prior said Aboriginal women felt cancer was like colonisation because the disease would control them and the “whiteman’s” hospital system compromised their cultural needs.

She said Aboriginal families and groups, not individuals, decided about cancer care.

“They’ve got this natural family and social network that is there to help them. I think that’s really quite special,” Dr Prior said.

A volunteering spirit ironically kept Kate Morioka from accepting a multicultural award from Queensland Premier Peter Beattie at Parliament House on May 12.

Ms Morioka won the Outstanding Young Achiever award in the Queensland Multicultural Awards but the full-time social planner, university student and keen community volunteer, couldn’t make it.

She was in Samoa running a Pacific youth summit and helping youth leaders from 14 Pacific islands write the Pacific Youth Declaration and Youth Statement.

Ms Morioka, who describes herself as half-Japanese, half-Taiwanese, won the Queensland Government award for her community involvement and volunteering.

As a senior social planner with the Maroochy Shire Council, she helps plan social networks and makes sure communities are consulted before developments.

On weeknights and weekends she works on her thesis for her Master of Social Planning and Development degree at UQ.

Ms Morioka also volunteers for many welfare projects. She also previously cared for her father who has dementia and grandfather who has Alzheimer’s disease.

“Being multicultural is part of who I am and I encourage others to celebrate cultural diversity,” she said.

While in Samoa, and for her studies, Ms Morioka enlisted the villagers of Solosolo to map their important cultural sites.

She said she wanted to show how communities could use spatial technology to protect their land and resources.
Cottoned on

A commitment to agribusiness has helped a UQ Gatton student to gain a prestigious scholarship.

UQ Gatton student Anna Hill is proving a city upbringing is no hurdle to striking out on a successful career in the exciting world of international agribusiness.

Ms Hill has been recently awarded UQ’s prestigious 2005 Queensland Cotton International Student Exchange Scholarship.

The scholarship entitles the third-year Bachelor of Agribusiness/Bachelor of Applied Science student to embark on a six month exchange program at Texas A&M University, one of the world’s leading agribusiness universities.

Ms Hill also impressed scholarship judges with her willingness to take on a challenge to further her learning.

That commitment saw her take a gap-year job as a station hand on a two million acre cattle station in the far southwest of Queensland.

UQ Agribusiness program coordinator Associate Professor Tony Dunne said the award was both a recognition of Ms Hill’s efforts and a launching pad for what promised to be a successful career in international agribusiness.

“To be selected to study at one of the top agribusiness universities in the US is a tremendous achievement that will provide Anna a truly wonderful experience,” Dr Dunne said.

Ms Hill will complement her overseas studies with valuable work experience with Queensland Cotton.

“I’m thrilled to win this scholarship and want to thank Queensland Cotton and UQ for the opportunity this has presented me,” Ms Hill said.

New blood flows into rural heart

Queensland’s most successful primary industries and rural groups rely on active “new blood” members, who share leadership and have not necessarily spent generations on the same family farm.

The findings are from a joint UQ and Department of Primary Industries (DPI) report on why some rural industries and their industry associations thrive while others languish.

It shows that the most innovative industries have members who are younger, well-travelled, educated, share leadership, are not shy to be innovative and use new technology. The less time they’ve spent in one industry, the better.

The report by Ian Plowman, a rural consultant, organisational psychologist and UQ Business School senior research fellow, examined six rural industry groups with between 50 and 1500 members.

Mr Plowman said the rural groups represented horticulture, animal husbandry and broad acre farming.

He found it was desirable for members of innovative rural groups to be open, aspirational, optimistic and not fear rejection.

One of the report’s 26 recommendations was for rotational leadership so that association heads only served one term to foster more participation.

“It should be expected as a condition of membership that you will be involved, as business does not stop at the farm gate,” Mr Plowman said.

He said rural groups should consider extending membership fees to their service suppliers such as, transporters, packagers, consultants, wholesalers and retailers.

The report was a follow-up to a study Mr Plowman conducted on why some small Queensland towns thrived and others struggled.

Both reports were funded by a $68,000 Australian Research Council grant and equal cash and support from the DPI.

Information: www.dpi.qld.gov.au/business/16643.html#Executive

All in bloom

UQ Gatton’s nursery has boosted its production by 50 percent over the past two years.

From the surrounds of the Sydney Opera House to southern apple orchards and along Highway One, Gatton-grown flowers are shooting up around the country.

UQ’s Gatton’s nursery has boosted production by 50 percent in the past two years and expects to earn about $400,000 this year.

Nursery manager Ian Gordon and his nine staff will supply about 300,000 plants, trees and shrubs this year, produced from seedlings, tissue culture and grafts, to 25 nurseries and growers.

Mr Gordon said dwarf fruit trees and potted colour shrubs were leading the growth.

He said Gatton was the first east-coast nursery to grow new waxflowers, which kept their pink and red flowers but were less susceptible to root rot.

“The waxflowers are a West Australian flowering shrub that are widely grown for cut flower export around the Gatton-Toowoomba area where the heavy soils and root rot fungus are a major problem,” Mr Gordon said.

He said the waxflowers and Gatton-grown rice flowers were meeting the strong export demand for native filler flowers.

The Gatton nursery also supplies New South Wales with its centennial floral emblem — the flannel flower.

Large blocks of the white-petalled flannelions were planted in a native flower display in the Botanic Gardens, near the Sydney Opera House in 2004.

UQ Gatton has also found a big market for small fruit trees from Europe.

“We’re trying to be innovative in the range of plants that we grow so that all of the plants we’re growing are commercially unique to us,” Mr Gordon said.

“It certainly improves the credibility of our teaching programs when people can see that we’re able to produce a range of commercially unique products for the nursery and the fruit industry.”
One of the most decorated players in Australian Football League (AFL) history visited UQ to answer a barrage of questions from excited media wanting to know how the Brisbane Lions could turn around their disappointing season.

But Brownlow Medallist Jason Akermanis wasn’t quizzed by the usual pack of sports journalists. Instead, UQ journalism students used his visit to test their reporting skills.

A press conference was organised in May by journalism lecturer Karen Berkman, who wanted her students to experience the intense atmosphere of a high-profile media event.

“The first objective is to create a little shock and awe, which comes automatically when you bring in a person with a high-profile and a reputation for sometimes being difficult,” Ms Berkman said.

For Bachelor of Journalism student and Lions fan, Vanessa Jaeschke, it was an experience she will take with her into her professional career.

Loyally dressed in her Lions scarf, Ms Jaeschke asked Mr Akermanis about his playing career and his team’s recent poor performances.

“It was a practical exercise and because Jason Akermanis is a Brisbane identity you can’t get any better than doing a press conference where you can ask him anything you want,” she said.

“I’ll now know what to do in the future in these situations.”

The students used the mock press conference for an assignment and had to submit a story the next day.

“For most assignments students have a deadline of at least a week, pretty unlike any real-life reporting situation apart from magazines or newspaper features,” Ms Berkman said.

“For television in particular, which involves many more processes than just the pen, the paper and the word processor, students need to get the feel of speed.”

Queensland’s Chief Scientist is concerned about the effects of a looming skills shortage.

Queensland Chief Scientist Professor Peter Andrews, AO, was guest speaker at a free public lecture at UQ’s St Lucia campus in May.

Professor Andrews discussed Making money from molecules: the role of scientists in knowledge-based economies at UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB).

The lecture examined US, Japanese and European projections that suggest a looming shortage of scientists and engineers.

His talk was followed by the School of Biomedical Sciences Awards and prizes ceremony for undergraduate students.

“Australia faces similar shortfalls, but the proportion of students enrolling in year 11 and 12 science is falling, as is the percentage of university graduates majoring in science,” Professor Andrews said.

“Queensland’s Smart State strategy is seeking to address these problems at a State level, but they are ultimately national and international issues.

“There is also a perception problem. Many in the community view science as too difficult and too poorly paid.”

“In fact, the situation is often the reverse. Over the past 50 years, economic growth in developed nations has been driven by knowledge-based industries, and the rich lists of the 21st Century are increasingly populated by scientists and engineers.”

Professor Andrews, a co-founder of the IMB with Professor John Mattick, is an eminent Queensland scientist and bio-entrepreneur with extensive understanding of the policy and economic development issues associated with science, research and innovation.

He has led multifunctional scientific teams at research institutions in Victoria and Queensland, and is the author of more than 100 publications and inventor of two patents.

During the prize-giving ceremony Professor Andrews presented Bachelor of Science graduate Amy Lewis with the $1000 Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Dissection Prize while Patrick Pearce, also a Bachelor of Science graduate, received a Certificate of High Commendation.
Speedster Hannah Banks has won selection to race in one of the world’s most prestigious cycling events in her first year on the professional racing circuit.

The journalism student will compete in the gruelling 10 day Giro D’Italia Donne in Italy from July 1 to July 10 as part of the Australian National Team.

At 18, Ms Banks will be the youngest competitor in an international field of 160.

The race is the highlight of the European Tour for women and is regarded as the equivalent of the men’s Tour de France.

In her first real test of European professional women’s racing, Ms Banks will average over 100km a day through the challenging northern Italian and Swiss Alps.

The UQ SPORT scholarship holder has increased her mileage in preparation for the 10-day event, cycling up to 750km a week, which is 250km more than her usual demanding training regime.

Ms Banks said it would be a big step from her longest road race to date – held over three days.

“I can’t wait, it’s like going from go-karting to Formula One racing. The experience will be absolutely mind-blowing,” Ms Banks said.

“This race will be my first senior professional competition and I have no expectations except to have a go.

“It is an amazing opportunity and I’m really hoping to just learn from the experience.”

Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS) women’s cycling coach James Victor said Ms Banks had the talent to go all the way.

“We are in a development stage leading up to the next Olympics and Hannah is an emerging talent who has stepped up in the last couple of months and demanded that we pay attention to her performances,” Mr Victor said.

Ms Banks will be joined on the tour by fellow QAS cyclists Lorain Graham and Candice Sullivan.

Ms Graham, a UQ cycle club member and the current Australian Road Champion, and Ms Sullivan, who has also come from the Junior World Championship program over the past two years, make up the trio of Queenslander’s in the Australian team of eight.

The women’s Giro d’Italia Donne starts in San Vendemiano, Veneto with the final stage finishing in Milan.

A UQ student will be the youngest competitor in an international field of 160 athletes in one of the world’s most prestigious cycling races.

A UQ student will be the youngest competitor in an international field of 160 athletes in one of the world’s most prestigious cycling races.

Start-up time for entries

Now in its fifth year and with $100,000 in prize money, the competition is fast becoming one of Australia’s most valuable tickets to commercialisation.

Enterprize not only provides seed capital for promising start-ups, it also gives participants the experience of drafting a professional business plan for review by potential investors and the chance to network with venture capitalists and business leaders.

The 2004 winning team, BakBalls, attracted national media attention and significant public interest with its portable self-treatment device for chronic back pain sufferers.

BakBalls team leader, Mark Alexander, said that winning Enterprize had enabled him to turn his business dream into a reality.

“Without the Enterprize competition, my self-back care business would not be where it is today,” Mr Alexander said.

“Winning the competition propelled me onto A Current Affair and had an amazing impact on my business profile.”

The Enterprize money gave me the start-up capital to build a website overnight to capture the publicity from the A Current Affair story, to launch immediately into full-scale production.”

Enterprize entrants must submit business concept plans to the UQ Business School by July 25.

Finalists will then present their full business plans to the panel of Enterprize judges on October 14.

Information: www.enterprize.uq.edu.au
Humans may be inadvertently helping to spread a deadly fungus that is killing green tree frogs and other native frog species at an alarming rate, according to UQ researchers.

Dr Pearl Symonds from UQ’s School of Veterinary Science said the fungus, known as frog chytrid, was found in a very high percentage of dying frogs and had been transferred to a large number of areas around Australia.

“One of the reasons that this fungus can spread so rapidly is a result of human activity”, she said.

“People, children in particular, should really avoid catching or exchanging tadpoles or frogs. “Research suggests that the fungus is transferred directly between tadpoles and frogs and possibly through exposure to infected water.

“It is very important not to move the amphibians from one area to another, as it may introduce the fungus to a previously uncontaminated environment.

“Wet mud on boots and tyres, wet fishing, camping or gardening equipment may also be helping to spread the disease.”

Dr Symonds said the chytrid does not appear to affect ever-resilient cane toads, but it attacks parts of a frog’s skin that contains keratin (a type of protein).

“Frogs use their skin in respiration, so when the skin is infected, it makes it difficult for the frogs to breathe,” she said.

“The behaviour of the sick frog changes and they are often seen out in the daytime when they are normally hidden.

“The disease does not always kill frogs immediately. “They can swim or hop to other areas before they die, spreading the fungal spores to new ponds and streams.”

In an attempt to help preserve native frogs, UQ researchers are urging the public to keep their hands off ‘Kermit’.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Queensland Frog Society have provided advice on how to stop the spread of chytrid fungus. Please observe the following precautions if you intend to visit a natural frog habitat such as a pond, mountain stream, rainforest or park:

- Only touch frogs when absolutely necessary. Use disposable gloves, sample bags and sterile equipment.

- Clean and dry all equipment and wet or muddy footwear before and between visiting frog sites. This may include cleaning the tyres of your vehicle before visiting known high-risk sites where threatened frog species may live.

- Never move a frog from one area to another.

Warning signs that a frog may be sick. It may:

- have discoloured skin

- be sloughing or peeling on the outside layers of its skin.

- sit out in the open, not protecting itself by hiding

- be sluggish with no appetite

- have its legs spread slightly away from itself, rather than keeping them tucked close to its body. In more extreme cases, the frog’s body will be rigid and its back legs will trail behind it.

What to do if you find a sick frog

Some of the symptoms of chytrid fungal infections are described above. If you think you’ve found a sick frog please follow these steps:

- Place the frog into a container without directly touching it.

- Make sure the container is escape-proof and has a few small air holes and a small amount of water.

- Contact the Queensland Frog Society (www.qldfrogs.com.au) for a list of frog coordinators in your area who will be able to provide assistance and advice.

Frogs keep croaking it

by Tiffany Lippett

A team of UQ geography, planning and architecture researchers is aiming to find out how koala habitats can be configured to help halt the decline of the unique marsupial.
In future, koalas may be confined to national parks and zoos if their natural habitats continue to be destroyed at alarming rates, according to UQ researchers.

Dr Clive McAlpine, a Senior Research Fellow at the University’s School of Geography, Planning and Architecture said koala numbers had declined dramatically as a result of increased development, particularly in Southeast Queensland.

“If land clearing patterns do not change, it is possible that we may see the occasional isolated koala in the wild, but not viable populations,” Dr McAlpine said.

“More pressure needs to be applied to planning departments at all government levels to force planners to consider koala habitat when they evaluate development applications and proposals.”

Dr McAlpine led a team of four UQ researchers on a project that examined the impact of tree clearing, roads and dogs on koala populations.

“The aim of the project is to find out how much habitat is needed and how this habitat can be configured to preserve koala numbers,” Dr McAlpine said.

The study revealed that at least 40 to 50 percent of a landscape should consist of koala habitat.

This habitat should be arranged in large patches, preferably greater than 100 hectares in size.

Dr McAlpine said the team’s research outcomes would form the basis of a set of landscape-scale guidelines.

The guidelines are being developed to help inform planning departments in local, state and federal governments.

“The key issue is that governments need to adopt stronger policies to protect remaining koala habitat and also minimise the threats from roads and dogs, otherwise populations will continue to decline,” he said.

Dr McAlpine said ordinary Australians could also make a difference by implementing a few simple ideas that would help to protect koalas.

“Protecting and planting native trees in the backyard can help to create natural koala habitat that will support and sustain local koala populations,” he said.

“The threat from dogs can also be substantially reduced by securing pets, particularly large dogs, when they are left unattended.”

The research team of Jonathan Rhodes, Carol de Jong, Dr McAlpine (seated), Michiala Bowen and John Callaghan.

UQ RESEARCHERS SAY:

Koalas not cranes

PHOTOS: courtesy Dr McAlpine
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German library visit’s
operatic outcome

Dr Samantha Owens stumbled upon a rare, 300-year-old opera in a German library.

The UQ historical musicologist and lecturer said she was researching in the state library of Württemberg in Stuttgart, Germany, when she made the find of her career.

Dr Owens had asked to see any uncatalogued music, and a library worker handed her a pile of old music that was last opened in 1979.

Inside was *Adonis*, a 460-page, 18th Century opera in German.

She said the 300-year-old opera was a massive find for German music history and the opera community.

“It’s amazing that this has survived fully intact,” Dr Owens said.

In Greek mythology, Adonis was the God of Desire and the opera tells of his love for Venus and his death while hunting wild boar.

The opera was written for a five-part oboe band with strings and harpsichord and presented in two hardbound volumes, covered in marbled paper.

The composer and date were missing from all 14 orchestral parts but the names and scribblings of the musicians linked it to the Stuttgart court.

Dr Owens is verifying whether the opera was written in 1699 or 1700 by a roaming German composer called Johann Sigismund Cousser.

Cousser was a central figure in Germany’s operatic history even though little music from his 10 operas survived.

Dr Owens, an oboist specialising in baroque music, said *Adonis* was a unique discovery because of the opera’s age, completeness, that it was in German not Italian and unusually scored for an oboe band.

“No other opera from around this time in Germany is known to survive in a full set of parts, so it brings us much closer to solving some of the mysteries surrounding how opera was originally performed,” she said.

Super conductor

One of Australia’s foremost conductors was conferred with an honorary doctorate in May for his outstanding contribution to music.

Dr Richard Mills, AM, was presented with a Doctor of Music *honoris causa* at a School of Music concert at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC).

Dr Mills has worked with leading orchestras in Australia and numerous music organisations around the globe and has composed works for major festivals.

He is Artistic Director of the West Australian Opera, Artistic Consultant with Orchestra Victoria and Director of the Australian Music Project for the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.

His growing number of commissions include the critically-acclaimed opera *Batavia*, which won Green Room and Helpmann awards. He is currently working on *The Little Mermaid* for the Perth International Arts Festival in 2007.

The first of the School of Music’s 2005 QPAC concert series, *To Bach and Back*, featured the UQ Symphony Orchestra and the University Chorale.

The concert was a major event of the 4MBS Classic FM *Festival of Classics* featuring the works of Johann Sebastian Bach.

Dr Mills accepts his Doctor of Music from UQ Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards and (inset) Dr Mills. PHOTOS: Brian Condron
Smarter women

The Queensland Government’s Office for Women is currently inviting nominations for the 2005 Smart Women — Smart State Awards.

The awards recognise the State’s brightest females achieving in the traditionally male-dominated fields of science, engineering and information technology.

They have seven categories including postgraduate students, undergraduate students and research scientists.

These categories will recognise the achievements of a female student or team of female students studying or participating in activities that relate to science, engineering or information and communication technology.

Supervisors are invited to nominate outstanding students or encourage students to nominate themselves.

Nominations will be open until July 1, 2005 and winners will be announced in August.


Cleaning up septic systems

A study by a UQ PhD student is challenging the current design recommendations for septic trenches – the most common on-site treatment system in Australia.

Cara Beal, from UQ’s School of Land and Food Sciences, has been examining the key water and pollutant pathways in septic trenches and how they vary with soil type.

“Pathways and flow rates in trenches determine how efficiently the effluent is treated,” Ms Beal said.

“By understanding this interaction we can reduce the potential for water pollution from these systems.”

Ms Beal’s research has focused on the biomat zone, a biologically active layer on the bottom and lower sidewalls of a trench.

“My work shows the resistance of the biomat zone creates a narrow range of flow rates through a trench, regardless of whether the soil is sand or clay,” she said.

“I have found that the unsaturated soil characteristics are more important as water flow occurs more slowly in these drier soil conditions.

“But the current standard is based on the saturated characteristics of a soil.”

Ms Beal’s work is believed to be the first to predict a range of long-term acceptance rates for Australian soils using the biomat zone as the governing factor in effluent flow.

“The underlying assumption is that effluent will be travelling through the bottom of the trench system,” Ms Beal said.

“But I am finding that in permeable soils, effluent flows sideways at high rates, particularly during peak trench usage or heavy rainfall, which in turn limits the frequency of the effluent surcharging from the trench.”

“This creates conditions where poorly treated effluent may enter groundwater.”

Ms Beal conducted her research by building miniature trenches and using a computer model. She is supervised by Dr Neal Menzies, Dr Gunnar Kirchhof and Adjunct Associate Professor Ted Gardner from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

Commercial success for humanities

Innovative ideas and commercialisation are alive and well in the social sciences, according to a UQ Executive Dean.

At the launch of a new commercialisation report, Professor Linda Rosenman, Executive Dean of UQ’s Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences (SBS), said innovative ideas, commercialisation of research and knowledge in the social sciences, humanities and arts were alive and well.

Speaking at Parliament House at the launch of Commercialisation of Research Activities in the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences in Australia, Professor Rosenman spoke of the SBS faculty’s success in commercialising its products, and cited examples of how the faculty has commercialised its research and intellectual property through licensing, consultancy and the development of innovative approaches to addressing social issues.

The report was conducted by the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) and explored the experiences of researchers and educators in commercialising their work.

Seven case studies were used to illustrate the tangible contribution and impact of the HASS sector in cultural, social and economic terms.

It was launched by Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, Dr Brendan Nelson.

“The first and so far most successful program SBS has commercialised is Triple P, the positive parenting program,” Professor Rosenman said.

“This is now a global program with over 15,000 practitioners internationally.

“We are delighted that literally millions of people around the world have directly benefited from this Australian innovation.”

Professor Rosenman, who is also the Vice-President of CHASS, described other commercial products from SBS research including Latch-On, a literacy program for adults with intellectual disabilities and Leximancer, a software tool capable of objectively analysing the content of text.

Dr Nelson said the report found that the commercial work undertaken in the humanities sector, in collaboration with industry and community partners, had not only enhanced life in Australia economically, but had also contributed to solving important social and community problems.

Professor Rosenman said any misconceptions about the commercial potential of research in the humanities sector had been proven wrong.

Information: a full copy of the report is available from the CHASS website at www.chass.org.au
UQ Secretary and Registrar Douglas Porter captained his team to victory in the inaugural Town vs Gown cricket match on May 29.

The match was a fundraiser for the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) and was organised by the Development Office and UQ SPORT.

The Gown team scored 134-7 to the Town’s total of 108-4. They were presented with their trophy by UQ Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Hay, AC.

Development Director Margaret Burke said the event acted as a bridge between the University and the Brisbane community.

“It provided an opportunity to meet outside the administrative hub of the University in a social setting,” Ms Burke said.

Former Lord Mayor of Brisbane Clem Jones, AO, tossed a 1951 penny to decide which team batted first at the Wep Harris Oval at the St Lucia campus. The Town team won the toss and sent the Gown team into bat.

Man of the match Mr Porter took two great catches to help defeat the Town team, which was made up of Brisbane business leaders and was captained by the Chief Executive Officer of the Index Group Jeff Maclean.

Executive Dean of the Faculty of Biological and Chemical Sciences, Professor Mick McManus, got a good start to hit a six with his first ball but was caught out on the very next ball.

Top scorer for the Gown team was the School of Engineering’s Justin Scott with 42. He played well against the talents of three Queensland Bulls players Mitchell Johnson, Brendan Nash and Ryan Le Loux.

Barrister Ross Dickson kept the score while St Lucia resident Kevin Ward umpired the match. The QBI social club also put on a sausage sizzle for the spectators.

Ms Burke said the cricket match would become a permanent fixture on the UQ calendar.

“Significant advances in determining the molecular regulation of nerve cell function will have a major impact on our understanding of more complex areas such as memory and learning and this knowledge will be applied to the development of new therapeutics to treat mental and neurological diseases,” he said.

Lexus of Brisbane, Dreamworld, Kingfisher Bay, the Regatta Hotel and the Post Office Hotel sponsored the event.

Information: 07 3377 1300 or friends@cromwell.uq.edu.au

TSXPO 2005
Anyone wanting to expand their educational horizons can meet with expert advisers from UQ at the 2005 Tertiary Studies Expo (TSXPO).

The annual event, where UQ representatives provide the latest information on tertiary studies and career pathways, will take place at the RNA Showgrounds on July 16 and 17 between 10am and 4pm.

Staff from academic schools, admissions and accommodation services will be on hand to give advice.

All the fun of the fete
The Munro Childcare Centre will hold its annual Fete on Saturday July 16.

The Centre, which is located at UQ’s St Lucia campus, is hoping to raise money to build a new playground.

The Brisbane community is invited to come along between 9am and noon to enjoy the festivities.

The centre is located on the corner of Munro Street and Sir Fred Schonell Drive.

Information: 07 3365 2840.
Being organised, efficient and prepared for anything is all in a day’s work for Denise Overell but last month her exceptional standards saw her thrust into the limelight.

Ms Overell was crowned Ipswich Office Professional of the Year at a breakfast ceremony at the Brothers Leagues Club in Raceview, having been nominated by her colleagues for the award.

She joined the UQ School of Tourism and Leisure Management (TALM) as a receptionist/administrative assistant in January this year and very quickly made her mark.

School Manager Lyn Howells said TALM staff noticed from the outset that Ms Overell was the consummate professional.

“Denise is in a demanding position that requires her to manage a wide range of tasks simultaneously,” Ms Howells said.

“In a very short space of time she has become indispensable to the School, she has an efficient and methodical approach to everything.”

Ms Overell said the office environment has simply added to her performance and satisfaction in her work.

“Before joining TALM it had been a while since I had worked in a team environment rather than as something of a solo act,” she said.

“You can really feel the team spirit in this School and it is such a wonderful thing. It just makes the job that much more enjoyable.”

Ms Overell said that for her the award reflected well on the standard of office professionals at the University and the Ipswich campus in particular.

“The office professionals at Ipswich have excellent skills and like myself, most are members of the Australian Institute of Office Professionals (AIOP) and I think that attests to the standard we hold here at UQ Ipswich,” she said.

“This is part of what the Institute has been working towards, ensuring that AIOP stands for something in the workplace and reflects upon the assured quality of its members throughout Australia.”

Russell Richards, a UQ chemical engineering PhD student has used oysters to show how microscopic algae can affect their copper absorption.

A single oyster can filter about 50 litres of water a day, sifting out impurities and absorbing a suite of heavy metals and pesticides.

Scientists can tell the quality of water from the amount of copper in an oyster.

Mr Richards, who is based at the Cooperative Research Centre for Coastal Zone, Estuary and Waterway Management, has found it’s not just dissolved toxic metals that control how fast oysters ingest copper.

It is controlled to a greater extent by microscopic algae called phytoplankton that absorb copper from the water and riverbed.

Algae and nutrients from sewage and grey water runoff can stir up more trouble for polluted waterways, according to new Brisbane research.

These algae are the preferred food for Moreton Bay’s most common oyster — the Sydney Rock Oyster.

“It is well known that oysters are good biological indicators of water quality and have been used all over the world for this purpose,” Mr Richards said.

“My work indicates that planktonic algae play a significant and previously under estimated, role in the accumulation process.

“Better knowledge of these uptake processes allows better judgement of the water quality based on the concentration in the oyster.”
A new study led by a UQ academic has challenged popular theories about the rates of schizophrenia around the world.

Our data shows that the incidence and prevalence of schizophrenia varies much more around the world than previously acknowledged.

Schizophrenia is more common in developed countries than poorer nations, but it is less widespread than previously thought.

These findings were reported in a Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research (QCMHR) study, published in the American-based journal Public Library of Science Medicine. The report debunks a popular textbook definition that schizophrenia will affect 10 in every 1000 people no matter where patients live.

It says this rate is too high and more likely, between seven and eight in 1000 people, although this varied between sites.

Poorer countries also had more women with the illness than men.

The University of Queensland’s Professor John McGrath, who led the research team, said the 21-page report was the biggest and most comprehensive survey of schizophrenia rates around the globe.

His team collected 188 schizophrenia studies dating from 1965 to 2002 from 46 countries.

"Our data shows that the incidence and prevalence of schizophrenia varies much more around the world than previously acknowledged," he said.

Schizophrenia is a group of brain disorders with symptoms such as hallucinations, delusions, disorganised communication, poor planning and reduced motivation.

Professor McGrath said he believed schizophrenia varied from region to region.

"Our data shows that the incidence and prevalence of schizophrenia varies much more around the world than previously acknowledged," he said.

"My hunch is that the subtypes of schizophrenia vary between countries.

"Maybe the mix of illnesses we see here in Australia are different to the mix they get in Mumbai or Zambia or Tokyo."

He said to explain the results his team would try to match up new cases with current case data from the same sites and same times to help answer prognosis and illness duration questions.

The report is a companion to an earlier study by the same team on the number of new cases of schizophrenia worldwide.

It revealed that schizophrenia affected more men than women, more migrants than native-born citizens and was more common in cities than rural areas.
UQ academics have set up a webpage for people hooked on the Sudoku puzzle craze.

Professor Street said there was a popular perception that mathematical skills were not necessary to solve Sudoku puzzles, but this was incorrect.

“Solving these puzzles needs skills in logic and in critical and analytical thinking, all part of the tool chest of the mathematician,” Professor Street said.

“Sudoku helps develop the same skills that underlie some of the internationally-recognised research being carried out by mathematicians and computer scientists at the University.”

Research areas related to skills Sudoku can develop include: experimental design, which is used in agriculture, engineering and efficient survey sampling; educational and psychological testing; coding theory, which is used to correct errors in electronic transmission and for recording music on CD; and cryptology, which is used to protect confidential messages and PINs and for general computer security.

Dr Donovan, who coordinates a UQ maths club, Club Infinity, for high school students, said she was pleased Sudoku had gained widespread popular appeal.

“Our new website gives examples of puzzles based on squares and similar problems from past Australian Mathematics Competitions, a leading international assessment event for primary and high school students.”

“The skills developed by tackling these and related logic problems will not only be useful for solving Sudoku puzzles but also for answering sections of the Queensland Core Skills Test or even the Graduate Australian Medical School Admissions Test.”


RULES: The symbols 1, 2, 3, 4 have to be entered into the empty cells in the 4 x 4 square in such a way that each symbol occurs once in every row, once in every column and once in every coloured 2 x 2 sub-square.

(Answer next page)
A right turn

With extremist groups in Australia making media headlines, a new book by a UQ PhD student adds a broader historical perspective to the debate by looking at the Australia-First Movement.

T he Australia-First Movement and The Publicist looks at the policies and ideas of the ultra-right during World War II and the lessons to be learned to prevent its resurgence.

The book shows how the Australia First Movement (AFM) grew out of strong anti-British sentiment and vigorous Australian nationalism.

Author Barbara Winter said during the 1930s the AFM strengthened the anti-Semitic feeling in Australia in those who were already that way inclined.

“There were a lot of decent, well-meaning people connected with the AFM, but they were politically naïve and gullible,” she said.

The book was launched on May 19 by lecturer in history at UQ Dr Andrew Bonnell.

Dr Bonnell said at a time when issues relating to detention and internment were all too topical, it was important to get as accurate a record of the past as possible, so that differences as well as similarities with the present situation could be made clear.

“In this work, Barbara Winter has performed a prodigious feat of research, furnishing as thorough an account of the people involved in the AFM as we are likely to get for some time, reconstructing the networks connecting them with other far right groups and even espionage circles,” he said.

Several elements fuelled the creation of the AFM, including the severity of the Great Depression and the imperialistic attitude of some prominent Britons in Australia. A growing sympathy towards German, Italian and Japanese governments was attributed to the movement and it received support from Nazi groups.

Between 1936 and 1942 it published a monthly newsletter entitled The Publicist, aimed at arousing Australian patriotism.

“Many, but not all, supported some form of Fascism or Nazism. The strongest support for Japan was found among a few Western Australians, but they were not bona fide members,” Ms Winter said.

She said some members of the movement expected the Japanese to break Britain’s political hold on Australia.

“While there was a possibility that the Japanese could have conquered parts of Australia, there was no chance that, in the long run, they could have defeated America, nor that the Americans would let them stay in Australia,” she said.

Display a knockout

The University of Queensland’s Fryer Library celebrated the centenary of women’s suffrage with the opening of a new display.

Worth Fighting For! A display on women in Queensland political life was officially unveiled on June 9 at the library.

The display is part of the State-wide celebrations for Queensland Week and the 40th anniversary of the Indigenous vote.

It includes material from the personal papers of poet and political activist Oodgeroo Noonuccal and political activists Daisy Marchisotti and Kath Thomas.

It also contains records of the Queensland Branch of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, the Union of Australian Women and the Women’s Bookshop.

Guest speakers at the event included UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, and Minister for Local Government, Planning and Women, Desley Boyle.

The Fryer Library is open to the public seven days a week at UQ’s St Lucia campus. The display will run until December 1.

Suduko answer

1.  Vincenzo’s Garden (Clancy, J) UQP, $22.95 - FICTION
2.  Street Fighting Years (Ali, T) Verso, $29.95 - POLITICS/MEMOIR
3.  Collapse: How Societies Chose to Fail or Survive (Diamond, J) Allen Lane, $32.95 - HISTORY/SCIENCE
5.  French Explorers and the Aboriginal Australians 1772-1839 (Dyer, C) UQP, $32.95 - AUSTRALIAN HISTORY
6.  Zorro (Allende, I) 4th Estate, $29.95 - FICTION
7.  Italian Romance (Carroll, J) UQP, $22.95 - FICTION
9.  March (Brooks, G) 4th Estate, $29.95 - FICTION
10. Da Vinci Code (Brown, D) Corgi, $19.95 - FICTION

From left: Professor Hay with Acting Librarian Mary Lyons, patron of the Friends of Fryer Kaye de Jersey and Ms Boyle
Buddy, the “mew on cue” Siamese cat owned by UQ’s Director of Student Support Services, Dr Maureen Burke, has just released his latest potential hit recording to help people with depression.

**Buddy Targets Depression** is the latest contribution to physical and psychological health and well being, following his previous releases **Buddy Targets Cancer** and **Buddy Targets Feeling Good About Yourself**.

Dr Burke said depression was common and that in Australia one person in five would probably experience the illness.

“Depression is characterised by feelings of sadness and hopelessness for most of the time,” Dr Burke said. “A person suffering from depression sees no joy in life. Sometimes it can be difficult for others to recognise that a person is depressed. “A change in mood may be noticed but not always linked to the illness.”

Dr Burke said **Buddy Targets Depression** tackled areas of depression common to all sufferers, such as negative thought patterns, rule driven behaviour, rigid thinking, blame and criticism.

“The first part of the program deals with the theoretical aspects of the issues and the second part deals with relaxation, visual imagery and affirmations,” she said. Dr Burke said Buddy’s vocal contributions had proven popular and helpful because people with depression often found it difficult to accept themselves.

“This is where the love of an animal is important, as we can learn from our pets the importance of unconditional love and acceptance,” she said.

“Students can also access Centrelink using either the phone or the Internet, and a trial of SMS technology is also proving very popular.”

“Centrelink system trial

A Web-based initiative aimed at increasing the accuracy and immediacy of Centrelink payments to students is being tested at UQ.

The Academic Reassessment Transformation (ART) project allows students who get study support from Centrelink to have their study workload information, which affects their rate of payment, electronically sent to Centrelink in ‘real time’.

UQ Secretary and Registrar Douglas Porter hosted a visit on June 8 by Federal Minister for Human Services Joe Hockey, who saw the ART in use in the Student Centre and listened to presentations by Centrelink and University staff in the Senate Room.

UQ, Curtin University and Swara TAFE are the three Australian tertiary institutions testing the ART initiative.

Mr Hockey said the system was designed to ensure accurate payments were made to students, while boosting study retention and minimising demands on their time, through real-time study load updates.

“It makes sense for Centrelink to look at ways of reducing the need for students to visit offices, and this technology has the added advantage of enabling students to advise their university of changes in study arrangements at the same time,” he said.

“Students can also access Centrelink using either the phone or the Internet, and a trial of SMS technology is also proving very popular.”

Mr Porter said UQ had incorporated specific Centrelink pages into its online enrolment facility, mySI-net, to capture student consent to participate in the pilot.

“By providing study workload data on a weekly basis, Centrelink can more quickly identify those students at risk of losing study support due to changes in their studies.”
Just like home

A new electronic accommodation database provides students with a range of options to make finding a home much easier.

UQ Rentals Online, a joint initiative between UQ’s Accommodation Services and the UQ Union, can be found at www.uq.edu.au/rentalsonline

The system allows students to search for either shared accommodation or vacant properties based on price, location, size and furnishings.

Academic Registrar Linda Bird said one of the main concerns new students faced when moving to university was finding suitable accommodation.

“It can be a daunting prospect for first-year and international students who are moving away from home for the first time,” she said.

“The website will do much of the groundwork for the students as it will list properties based on the criteria the students enter.”

Rental accommodation is the most popular choice among UQ students and the demand for housing in the area around the St Lucia campus is high in the weeks leading up to the start of each semester.

UQ Union President Leah Sanderson said the collaborative site was a fantastic tool for students moving to Brisbane or out of home for the first time.

“When I first came to Brisbane I found a share house within a week after accessing the old database,” Ms Sanderson said.

“The new site is even easier to use and much funkier than the previous one.”

UQ Rentals Online covers the suburbs surrounding the St Lucia, Ipswich and Gatton campuses.

Accommodation Officer Audrey Brown said international students were the main client base. She recommended they look at the website and then attend an Accommodation Services information session.

“The website also has an expanded search function and contains specific information such as whether the property would suit someone who eats Halal food or is vegetarian or whether the accommodation is queer friendly,” she said.

Information: www.uq.edu.au/rentalsonline

PRIZES


SEMINARS

- Friday, July 1 Centre for Buddhist Studies and Brisbane Buddhists Exhibition, Buddhist art, Rosemary MacBride (7-9pm, Room E302, Forgan Smith Bldg). Details: p.peccenko@uq.edu.au

- Monday, July 11 Australian Legal Philosophy Students Association, Philosophical foundations of commercial law seminar series, The philosophy of contract interpretation, Professor John Carter, University of Sydney (1pm, Lady Thiess Room, Customs House). Details: www.alspa.net

- Friday, July 15 Centre for Buddhist Studies and Brisbane Buddhists Exhibition, Bireligionism: Buddhism and Christianity, Dr Primoz Pecenko (7-9pm, Room E302, Forgan Smith Bldg). Details: p.peccenko@uq.edu.au

- Friday, July 22 Centre for Buddhist Studies and Brisbane Buddhists Exhibition, Buddhist and education, Venerable Wu Chyuan, Pure Land Learning Centre for Buddhist Studies and Brisbane Centre for Buddhist Studies and Education (7-9pm, Room E302, Forgan Smith Bldg). Details: p.peccenko@uq.edu.au

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CLASSIFIEDS

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

TO RENT/HOUSE SIT

- Indooroopilly: student couple offers unfurnished room (min 5 months) to non-smoking vegetarian, $100/wk. Close to transport and shops. Manish or Toral: 07 3378 8890 or compugoes@yahoo.com

- Brightown: 2bd unfurnished house available from July 23 to Sept 15 (negotiable), $200/wk, near Sandgate beach. Jill: 07 3346 2976 or 0433 410 457 or j.turner@imb.uq.edu.au

- Toowong: 3bd hse, would suit staff members, 5 mins to UQ, study, big living area, balcony and outdoor entertaining area, $520/wk negotiable. Sue: 07 3871 1270 or 0439 650 167.

- Kelvin Grove: 3bd hse, can come furnished, available August 2005. Close to transport, and universities. Home exchange in Vancouver, Canada available. Haid: haidaluke@yahoo.ca or haidaluke@uq.edu.au

WANTED TO RENT/HOUSE SIT

- Female relocated from Perth wants share accommodation with male or female professional(s): 0416 932 636.

- Visiting research fellow needs long-term rental for himself and family with two children, two-bd furnished house or unit in St Lucia or surrounding suburbs or Gatton from July/August. Edson: 07 5460 1320 or e.leite@uq.edu.au

- Visiting academic needs rental accommodation for family of 5 from July 2-24. Peter: peter@elec.canterbury.ac.nz

UQ LIBRARY HOURS FOR 2005

Library hours are available on the Library’s homepage at www.cybrary.uq.edu.au
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