GOING APE
Monkeys mad about microchips
Stimulating Innovation
Advancing UQ Research

All UQ researchers and students are invited to enter UniQuest’s fourth annual Trailblazer innovation competition for a chance to win a share in $40,000 prize money.

The competition will reward original ideas and innovative early-stage research, which have the potential to benefit the community, industry or business as well as generate a financial return.

The purpose of the competition is to stimulate and motivate innovative and entrepreneurial activity. Entries from all research disciplines are encouraged, whether they relate to businesses, products, services or technologies.

UniQuest is already working with many previous winners to turn their ideas into real-world commercial applications.

Winners
Open* (x4): $7500
Student (x3): $2000

Highly commended
Open (x2): $1000
Student (x2): $1000

* All entries will be judged for the open section prizes.

Entries close Friday, 26 May 2006. To enter or for more information visit: www.uniquest.com.au/trailblazer

Trailblazer is the initiative of UniQuest, UQ’s main technology commercialisation company.

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The latest injection of Queensland Government Smart State funding into the University is a potent investment in life-enhancing products of the future, and a clear vote of confidence in the potential of UQ research.

In April the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for State Development, Trade and Innovation, Anna Bligh, pledged almost $11 million in Smart State funding for UQ. The announcements came before and during BIO2006 in Chicago — an event with a strong UQ presence.

To add value to the government commitments, UQ and our researchers attracted support from leading global, Australian and Queensland businesses and institutions. Among them are Boeing, Carl Zeiss, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre, vivoPharm, Industrial Research Limited, Ground Zero Pharmaceuticals, Coridon, Arthritis Queensland and various Australian and overseas universities.

The winning research has potential to snowball into products and services that will directly benefit people around the globe.

For example, Professor Allan Paull will head a new $8.5 million alliance to continue research that could revolutionise passenger flights, satellite communications and the delivery of human organs for transplant.

Professor Ian Frazer, the Smart State Premier’s Fellow, received $2.5 million to continue work that may spawn treatments for cancer and chronic viral infections.

Professor Mark Kendall, awarded a three-year Smart State Senior Fellowship, will use $540,000 to research how nanotechnology may replace syringes.

Information about all the recipients, including Professor Andrew Whitaker, Professor Matt Trau, Professor Maree Smith, Professor David Fairlie and Professor Mark Ragan, can be found on page 4 of this edition of UQ News.

UQ also has two new Smart State Fellows, Dr John Power and Dr Brendan O’Sullivan. As well, Professor Rod Minchin and Dr Simon Finigan and their research colleagues received grants to facilitate applications for major funding.

Congratulations to all Smart State grant recipients and their teams, who secured the funding against competition from corporations, institutes, universities and government agencies.

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Editor: Brad Turner (07) 3365 2659, b.turner@uq.edu.au
Editorial: Chris Saxby (07) 3365 2479, c.saxby@uq.edu.au; Miguel Holland (07) 3365 2619, m.holland@uq.edu.au Art: Wendy Oakley
Photography: Chris Stacey (07) 3365 1735, c.stacey@uq.edu.au; Diana Lilley (photo librarian) (07) 3365 2753, d.lilley@uq.edu.au Printing: Scanlon Printing Virginia
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Cover photo: PhD student Julia Hoy is part of a UQ Galton team developing an enrichment and husbandry system for microchipped captive animals such as squirrel monkeys.
GETTING TO THE HEART OF A NEW STEM CELL PROGRAM

A $2 MILLION PROGRAM COULD BE CRUCIAL TO THE PRODUCTION OF SAFE BLOOD PRODUCTS.

UQ's Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN) in collaboration with the Australian Stem Cell Centre will initiate a national program to make transfusable blood products from stem cells.

Queensland’s Deputy Premier Anna Bligh, announced the Bioreactor Development Program at BIO 2006 in Chicago earlier this month.

The $2 million-plus program will use a bioreactor, a device that can incubate and stimulate the growth and development of blood-producing stem cells in quantities.

Ms Bligh said the program brought together cell biologists, clinicians and bioengineers from Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales.

"An initial target of the program will be to produce blood products such as those that help cancer patients recover from chemotherapy," she said.

"The global spread of diseases such as AIDS, hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases reduces the population of healthy potential blood donors in our communities.

"If successful, the stem cell bioreactor program will be of crucial importance worldwide in producing a reliable, renewable source of safe blood products."

"The overall aim of the Bioreactor Development Program will be to produce stem cells in large enough quantities for clinical trials and for the commercial manufacture of therapeutic products."

"The absence of a technology to produce reliable and repeatable stem cell populations is a significant barrier to using stem cell technology to treat diseases because many more stem cells are needed in clinical and commercial applications than in research."

AIBN Director Professor Peter Gray will spearhead the program, which has secured more than $2 million in funding from the Australian Stem Cell Centre (ASCC) for three years.

Professor Gray said the challenge was to develop platform technologies to apply to a broad range of medical conditions, to produce stem cells in a reliable and repeatable fashion while satisfying regulatory authorities.

"The program depends on and embodies the fundamental science developed by the ASCC while also requiring the successful development of microdevices and smart surfaces capable of reproducing the microscale control of conditions involved during differentiation," Professor Gray said.

Scientific research at UQ is to benefit from almost $11 million of State Government funding.

The Smart State funding will be invested into research in areas including cancer treatment, drug delivery and disease detection.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, congratulated all UQ recipients and their teams, who secured the funding against strong competition from other research institutions.

"The winning research has potential to snowball into products and services that will directly benefit people around the globe," Professor Hay said.

Queensland Deputy Premier Anna Bligh announced the recipients during BIO2006, the world’s premier biotechnology conference, which was held in Chicago.

UQ WINNERS

• Professor Allan Paull will head a new $8.5 million alliance to continue research that could revolutionise passenger flights, satellite communications and the delivery of human organs for transplant. The State Government will contribute $2 million towards the project (see page 8).

• Professor Ian Frazer, the Smart State Premier’s Fellow, received $2.5 million to continue work that may lead to cancer treatments.

• Professor Mark Kendall is a Smart State Senior Fellow and will use $540,000 to research how nanotechnology may replace syringes in administering therapeutics (see page 9).

• Professor Andrew Whittaker will lead a $4 million biomaterials synthesis alliance working towards improvements in bone repair, vascular regeneration, vision and medical imaging.

• Professor Matt Trau received $6.2 million for a partnership that aims to give patients early warning of a developing disease.

• The Centre for Integrated Preclinical Drug Development, under Professor Maree Smith, received a $1.73 million boost to its aim of streamlining the delivery of safe, effective medicines to the market. Professor David Fairlie will lead an $860,000 partnership to foster commercialisation of new biotechnology products to detect and treat human diseases.

• Professor Mark Ragan will head a $4.9 million alliance for a bioinformatics facility.

• UQ has two new $150,000 three-year Smart State fellows, Dr John Power and Dr Brendan O’Sullivan.

• Professor Rod Minchin and Dr Simon Finnigan and their research colleagues received grants to facilitate applications for major funding.
UQ's high powered scramjet program has received a large injection of government and corporate funds after its latest launches.

BY JAN KING

The University has welcomed the announcement of an $8.5 million partnership in scramjet development between UQ, the Queensland Government and Boeing.

The news came only days after the HyShot™ III and HyShot™ IV experimental scramjet test flights took place in South Australia.

The partnership will allow UQ to build scramjet prototypes and undertake flight tests at speeds of more than Mach 8, or 8000km/hour.

The State Government will contribute $2 million towards a project on scramjet development as one of 13 recipients of its National and International Research Alliances grants.

The project will include a matching contribution by The Boeing Company, which has committed $2.08 million over three years.

The Alliance also includes UQ contributions of $970,000 and an Australian Research Council Discovery grant of almost $1.4 million.

Queensland Deputy Premier Anna Bligh made the announcement at a meeting with Boeing senior executives in Chicago.

UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor David Siddle said Queensland was poised to be the home of a new aerospace industry.

"This Smart State Alliance will help position Queensland for continued international leadership in applied scramjet research and in the future direction of emerging scramjet industries," he said.

Dr Robert Krieger, President of Boeing’s Phantom Works Advanced Research and Development Unit, said the company was committed to research in hypersonic vehicles and looked forward to working with UQ.

"With the level of experience and success that both Boeing and UQ have in demonstrating hypersonic technology, our collaborative efforts could very well open new frontiers in aerospace globally," Dr Krieger said.

HyShot™ international program leader Professor Allan Paull said the project would provide employment opportunities for science and engineering graduates.

"The manufacturing sector will also benefit from access to learning cutting-edge technologies and exploring networking and sales opportunities with international partners," he said.

UQ conducted the $2 million HyShot™ III and the $1.3 million HyShot™ IV experimental scramjet test flights at Woomera, South Australia on March 25 and 30 using engines developed by British firm QinetiQ, and as a commission for the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

Professor Paull said both flights had enjoyed clean liftoffs and preliminary data indicated HyShot™ III achieved combustion. But it was too early to tell the scientific outcome of both flights.

JAXA has donated an $2 million advanced rocket launcher to the University for scientific purposes, which made the HyShot™ III and HyShot™ IV experiments possible.

Scramjets are supersonic combustion ramjets and are being touted as the next generation of cheap travel, allowing the possibility to launch communications satellites more cheaply or to travel across the planet in a few hours.

The HyShot™ team is planning future flights with the ultimate goal of a free-flying scramjet-powered vehicle.

UQ is an international leader in scramjet research, achieving combustion in these engines in flight for the first time in the world in 2002.

"This Smart State Alliance will help position Queensland for continued international leadership in applied scramjet research"
A stylish glass roof is the centrepiece of the newly refurbished Customs House Restaurant in the Brisbane CBD.

The outside dining area has been transformed with the split-level Riverside Terrace making way for an architecturally pleasing one-level restaurant, covered by the roof. A new a la carte menu has also been introduced.

Place Planning and Design, led by Alex Cohn, designed the roof, which was built by T.P. Turner Pty Ltd. Renowned architect Robert Riddel acted as heritage consultant and UQ’s Property and Facilities Division coordinated the project.

Customs House Director Lyn Black said the refurbishment was specifically designed so as not to detract from the cultural significance of the historic building.

“The idea was to ensure that the roof design did not compete with the building,” Ms Black said.

“It makes its own architectural statement without restricting the view of Customs House from the other side of the river.

“You come across the Story Bridge and you can’t actually see that there’s a roof here.”

Now dwarfed by modern towers of glass and steel, the Customs House still shines like a beacon on the banks of the Brisbane River.

The imposing and rare surviving masterpiece of the Colonial Architects Office took three years and 38,346 pounds to build and opened in 1889.

The University, which now owns Customs House, has turned the building into a modern, highly-functional, multipurpose centre for educational and cultural activities.

Ms Black said the refurbishment offered a different and even more comfortable environment for patrons.

“The glass cuts out UV rays and the roof is sufficiently high enough not to impede the views of the bridge and Customs House,” she said.

“It’s also a more flexible space because it is all on one level and we will soon have heaters installed ready for winter.”

Ms Black said a great deal of thought had gone into the design to make it both aesthetically pleasing and functional.

Information: Customs House Restaurant trading hours:
• Lunch: Monday – Sunday
• Dinner: Tuesday – Saturday
• Sunday breakfast: from 9am
• Cake and coffee: every day from 10am

FULL STEAM AHEAD

The Boilerhouse that powered the Ipswich Asylum almost a century ago is now driving social and economic change for the go-ahead city.

Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale opened the refurbished Boilerhouse on March 29 after a $2.1 million overhaul funded by UQ, Ipswich City Council, Bendigo Bank and Wingate Properties.

Councillor Pisasale said the distinctive 24-metre-high chimney symbolised past, present and future prosperity in Ipswich.

“The chimney reflects our University of excellence. The city has moved from a city of manufacturing to one of research and development excellence,” Councillor Pisasale said.

Built in 1913, the Boilerhouse’s two coal-fired boilers provided power and steam for the Ipswich Asylum, which later became the Challinor Centre before evolving into UQ Ipswich.

Since July 2005, the Boilerhouse has been gutted and refitted with offices as the new home for the UQ Boilerhouse Community Engagement Centre and other community activities.

The Centre was created six years ago to work with Ipswich people and give them access to UQ resources to solve local social, economic and environmental problems.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Ipswich Professor Alan Rix said Council, corporate and community support had allowed UQ to refurbish the building and enhance its community partnerships.

“The refurbishment of the Boilerhouse marks a new era in this community collaboration for the Ipswich campus and we are looking forward to the many opportunities and interactions this will provide,” Professor Rix said.

“Since its inception in 1999, the campus has been focused on engagement with the local community to develop mutually-beneficial outcomes.”

Centre Director Dr Michael Cuthill said 13 administration and research staff were based at the Centre, but this was expected to double in 12 months.

The Centre also has a research student base, which it hopes to fill with eight PhD students from diverse backgrounds such as social sciences, tourism and natural resources.

Dr Cuthill said the Centre was taking on a community engagement role.

“We don’t just do work for the community we do it with them,” he said.

UQ’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development) Professor Trevor Grigg and Boilerhouse Strategic Advisory Committee Chair Dr David Hamill also took part in the opening.

Information: to book community rooms, telephone 07 3381 1333.

“The city has moved from a city of manufacturing to one of research and development excellence”
**TECHNOLOGY PROMOTES MONKEY BUSINESS**

**BY MIGUEL HOLLAND**

Ms Hoy has surveyed zoo staff about using the system with captive mammals but believes it will work with a wider range of animals.

She said the idea for the enrichment system stemmed from her honours project and wanting to give primates more individual care.

For her honours, she filmed 11 squirrel monkeys at Alma Park Zoo, north of Brisbane, for six months to see what would happen when she changed how their food was served.

Their diet of peeled and chopped fruit and vegetables was replaced with whole, unpeeled food which was hidden to increase their activity.

“They basically couldn’t even peel a banana when we first gave them whole food,” Ms Hoy said.

“Some of the older monkeys who had never eaten whole food began biting the keepers because they had to work hard for their food.”

Miss Hoy, who visited 19 zoos in the UK, US and Singapore in 2005, said zoos around the world were interested in the enrichment system.

This year she will visit and survey a further 10 zoos.

One of Miss Hoy’s supervisors, Dr Peter Murray, a senior lecturer with UQ’s School of Animal Studies, said the automated system could also isolate animals and dispense contraception without stressful handling.

“If we can automate this process and the animals get as much enrichment as you can program into the system, then a lot of the zoos have already said to us, if you can do that we’ll have it,” Dr Murray said.

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Ms Hoy with the squirrel monkeys.

“This has great potential for improving welfare which in turn increases breeding rates and possibilities for reintroduction to the wild”
RELIQUEOUSLY READ BY MILLIONS

BY PROFESSOR RICHARD FOTHERINGHAM,
EXECUTIVE DEAN, UQ FACULTY OF ARTS

Further, UQ has commissioned the first translation into English of Forget Hamlet by Iraqi playwright Jawad Al-Asadi. The freshly translated work will have its first public reading in Brisbane at 6pm on July 17 and Mr Al-Asadi will be present for the event.

It can be – and has been – argued that Shakespeare symbolises the intellectualisation of the educated Arabs. I have heard it said that he is better known to educated people in some Middle Eastern and East Asian countries than their national literary figures.

I read of a tragic incident in March 2005, when a suicide bomber ploughed an explosives-packed car into the stage door of the Qatar British School’s theatre, where Twelfth Night was playing.

On the other hand the British can no longer claim with a skerrick of credibility that they, exclusively, “know” Shakespeare.

He has become the universal story-teller and his works are a cultural lingua franca. He belongs to us all, to interpret as we wish. Shakespeare’s power stems partly from his eschewing of propaganda. He weaves unresolved questions into rich, complex stories. Yet he does not take sides.

In this way he can transport us beyond the banalities of arguments based on geography and trade, marrying for love. Few families in either the “East” or the “West” could deny they have grappled with these themes.

I recently read an article about Afghanistan’s first public performance of a Shakespeare play in 25 years. The article – filed by the international news agency AFP/VNS and printed in a Vietnamese newspaper – described a performance of Love’s Labour’s Lost performed in Persian and enlivened with “slapstick Bollywood songs”.

The report concluded that the closing scene “raised a big laugh from the Afghan audience, which could easily relate to the hurdle: in Afghanistan, marriages are arranged and the course of true love rarely runs smooth”.

That last phrase about the rocky nature of love would ring as true in Queensland as in Kabul. More proof – if we need it – that all the world is one stage when Shakespeare writes the lines.

• Professor Fotheringham is Convenor of the VIII World Shakespeare Congress. Information: www.shakespeare2006.net

The weekly entertainment calendar for a national capital gives lovers of Shakespeare a choice of Hamlet in three different languages: Russian, English and Arabic.

This is not New York or London, but Cairo – a city where growing interest in Shakespeare reflects a groundswell among people of Islamic faith.

When Shakespeare scholars and enthusiasts converge on Brisbane in July for the VIII World Shakespeare Congress, they will bring diverse cultural perspectives to their “Bonanza of Bardolatry”.

I expect none to be more surprising or challenging than the Islamic thinkers and scholars.

For while this Congress has great significance as the first held in the Southern Hemisphere, it is also the first since the catastrophic events of September 11, 2001.

Our headline guest with an Islamic perspective will be Professor Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, the ex-Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia who was jailed in highly controversial circumstances. Dr Ibrahim, who re-read the Complete Works of Shakespeare each year during his six year incarceration, will address the Congress about Shakespeare and progressive Islam.

Dr Ibrahim’s various public references to Shakespeare point to a view that the Bard helps him to communicate across cultural chasms, and to bring together what we loosely term “East” and “West”.

UQ, which is hosting the World Shakespeare Congress from July 16-21, is sponsoring three international speakers for a panel discussion on Arab Appropriations of Shakespeare’s Tragedies at 10.30am on Monday, July 17. They are Emeritus Professor Rafik Darragi of the University of Tunis, Yvette K Khoury of King’s College, London, and Nehad M K Sehaiha (described as “the doyen of Egyptian theatre critics”) of the Academy of Arts, Cairo.

Professor Fotheringham (front) at the launch of the VIII World Shakespeare Congress. PHOTO: Giulio Saggin, The Courier-Mail
A HIGH-ACHIEVING
DRUG DELIVERY
RESEARCHER HAS
ALREADY ATTRACTED
GOVERNMENT AND
INDUSTRY INTEREST
SINCE RETURNING TO
HIS ALMA MATER FROM
THE UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD.

Shot in
the arm for
needle-free
injections

People who have a phobia of
needles may one day have
no need to fear the doctor,
with the help of a funding injection
for UQ’s Professor Mark Kendall.

Professor Kendall won a three
year Queensland Government
Smart State Senior Fellowship of
$300,000 this month to research
how nanotechnology may
replace syringes in administering
therapeutics.

His work could eventually see
needles replaced with tiny ‘nano
patches’ on the skin.

“There is an explosion of designer
drugs requiring precise delivery to
specific locations in the skin and we
are producing new delivery methods
that are practical and needle-free,”
Professor Kendall said.

“We are targeting immunologically
sensitive cells to produce improved
immune responses in the treatment
of major diseases such as HIV,
malaria and allergies.

“This has enormous potential,
including for the delivery of cheap
and more effective vaccinations in
the developing world.”

The grant boosts funding for
Professor Kendall’s project by
$540,000 over three years, as
Queensland biotech firm Coridon will
commit $240,000 in cash and kind
as the industry co-sponsor.

Professor Kendall is a UQ
graduate who recently returned
from the University of Oxford, where
he achieved excellent commercial
success with a bioballistic gene gun.

He was the Associate Director
of the PowderJect Centre for Gene
and Drug Delivery at the University
of Oxford.

He is jointly appointed to
UQ’s Australian Institute for
Bioengineering and Nanotechnology
(AIBN), Centre for Immunology and
Cancer Research (CICR) and Faculty
of Health Sciences.

AIBN Director, Professor Peter
Gray said the fit between Professor
Kendall’s work and the aims of the
AIBN made him a valuable addition
to the organisation.

“Mark has been recognised
for his outstanding work in this
area, most notably being awarded
a Younger Engineer of Britain
prize in 2004, with one of his
technologies winning the Best
Medical Innovation 2005 awarded
by Popular Science Magazine,”
Professor Gray said.

“In his eight years of work in this
field he has authored over 80 journal
articles and conference papers, as
well as being listed as an inventor on
seven patents.

“His multi-disciplinary research
spans biomedical engineering
diagnostics dermatology and
vaccinology and he has already
established an important
collaboration with Australian of the
Year Professor Ian Frazier at UQ’s
CICR, as well as substantial links
to the University’s Faculty of Health
Sciences.

“We expect more collaborations
to develop as Mark’s research
programs expand.”

“This has enormous potential,
including for the delivery of cheap
and more effective vaccinations in
the developing world”
Engineering students are celebrating after receiving scholarships from both the University and the State Government. Nine outstanding students received UQ scholarships from the Faculty of Engineering, Physical Sciences and Architecture (EPSA) to help them further their studies while a further eight students were also rewarded with Smart State scholarships totaling up to $110,000.

EPSA Executive Dean Professor Stephen Walker presented the UQ scholarships on March 16. The School of Engineering and the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering jointly awarded engineering Excellence Scholarships and Engineering Equity Scholarships. Excellence scholarships went to Damian Kelly, Christopher Turner, Rachael Hanrick, Thomas Vos and Christopher James. The scholarships are valued at $12,000 over four years and are awarded to engineering students who completed Year 12 in 2005 with a high OP score and who demonstrated strong communication skills and leadership potential.

Caroline Dunning won a $12,000 Equity Scholarship, open to those from minority groups, rural and isolated areas and non-English speaking backgrounds.

Three international students received Engineering International Scholarships provided by

Some of Queensland’s most academically able women won highly prized postgraduate fellowships in March.

Queensland Governor Quentin Bryce, AC, congratulated the recipients of the 2006 Australian Federation of University Women-Queensland (AFUW-Q) Fellowships at a morning tea at Government House on March 15. AFUW-Q has awarded 156 Fellowships to women from across the world through its Fellowship Fund Branch, the Fellowship Fund Incorporated (FFI) since 1972.

“The fellowship we award now is about $20,000 a year and currently we give six to women who do postgraduate studies,” President of FFI, Agnes Whiten, said.

“We get applications from graduates from different parts of the world. Australian graduates go to universities overseas while women from other countries are required to study at a Queensland university.”

FFI runs the Academic Dress Hire Service and the income from this activity and from investments enable the group to offer the Fellowships. UQ provides space for the gown hire service to operate.

The Fellowships recipients are:

- Rebekah Scott (Freda Bage Fellowship) who is working on a PhD in literature at the University of Cambridge;
- Ingrid Barnsley (Molly Budtz-Olsen Commemorative Fellowship) who is in her final year of a PhD in international human rights at the University of Oxford;
- Dr Clementina Lwatula (Dorothy Davidson Commemorative Fellowship) who is a medical doctor from Zambia who will study for a Master of Public Health at UQ;
- Noritta Morseu-Diop (Margaret Mittelheuser Commemorative Fellowship) who will use the fellowship to fund travel while she completes her PhD in Social Work at UQ on the topic of Indigenous incarceration;
- Tamyka Bell (Audrey Jorss Commemorative Fellowship) who is completing her PhD in Human Movement studies at UQ; and
- Sara Busilacchi (Betty Patterson Commemorative Fellowship) who is an Italian student completing a PhD in Marine Science at James Cook University.

The scholarship program is designed to encourage more students to take up engineering degrees.
Researchers believe Western Queensland wildflowers could boost the growth of Outback tourism and water-wise urban gardens.

Dr Margaret Johnston and Dr Dion Harrison from UQ’s Centre for Native Floriculture (CNF) at the Gatton campus collected seeds of floricultural species from more than 50 sites during a recent Western Queensland field trip.

“They carefully examined plants growing in the wild and collected those with strong genetic traits for their breeding programs. “There is amazing genetic diversity and a surprising abundance of colourful plants in Western Queensland,” Dr Johnston said.

“The species also have promise as water-efficient garden plants and cut flowers, and our further research will examine this potential.”

Dr Johnston and Dr Harrison joined Jenny Milson, who is an expert on Rangeland species in Western Queensland, and David Loch from the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries on the trip to Longreach, Winton, Bouria, Mt Isa, Bedourie, Birdsville and Windorah.

“They carefully examined plants growing in the wild and collected those with strong genetic traits for their breeding programs. “There is amazing genetic diversity and a surprising abundance of colourful plants in Western Queensland,” Dr Johnston said.

“One of our centre’s aims is to minimise the impact of wildflower and foliage harvesting from Queensland’s native forests, so future generations can enjoy their beauty.

“In line with this, our next steps will include scientifically evaluating the newly-collected species and conducting trials in the Centre’s tissue culture lab and greenhouses.”

The CNF was established in 2003 and is funded by the Queensland Department of State Development, Trade and Innovation, the University and industry.

Its aim is to maximise the economic potential of Queensland floristic resources and its researchers are passionate about protecting the State’s native flora species.

“Some of the species have huge potential for development as potted colour species and will encourage botanical tourism in Western Queensland”

MOOTERS HONOURED

Head of UQ’s TC Beirne School of Law Professor Charles Rickett congratulated the winners of the 2005 Family Law Mooting Competition at a function on March 14.

UQ team members Breanna Hamilton, Thilini Widanagamage, Priyanka Sunder and Rebekah Jensen were presented with a replica of the Colin Davies Cup and $550. The real cup is on display in the Law Library.

The team beat the University of Western Australia at the grand final held in Canberra in September 2005 – the first UQ win since 1996.

THE NEXT STEP IN 2006

The Queensland Government will again be conducting its Statewide annual destination survey of all students who completed Year 12 or equivalent in 2005.

The Next Step destination survey is a brief confidential survey, which aims to gain a comprehensive picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school leavers.

The survey will be conducted between March and May this year.


ALZHEIMER’S UNIT

UQ’s School of Medicine, through the discipline of Psychiatry, has received $450,000 from the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital (RBWH) Research Foundation to establish a research unit specialising in Alzheimer’s Disease and related disorders.

The Alzheimer’s Disease Research Unit is a joint initiative of the RBWH Geriatric Psychiatry and Geriatric Medicine Services, the RBWH Research Foundation and the University.

It needs volunteers for studies and is interested in people with mild to moderate Alzheimer’s.

Information: Liz Arnold, 07 3365 5147 or elizabeth.arnold@uq.edu.au
Working around rapids, dense jungle and fearsome predators, Sunny Sanderson has applied a unique way of examining the variations between different species of gibbon – their call.

“In the areas where I’m working it’s very difficult to access things, whether it is permits or food or resources so I decided to use vocalisations as an inexpensive, non-invasive means of sampling gibbon populations in Indonesian Borneo,” she said.

“Ideally I would do a genetic study but that is quite often out of reach.”

In 1999 while completing her Bachelor of Arts, Ms Sanderson received a UQ scholarship to study in Indonesia. During this time she volunteered as a translator for an orangutan research station, which sparked her interest in primates. She then returned to UQ to complete a Bachelor of Science degree.

Ms Sanderson is currently studying a Master of Philosophy with the School of Integrative Biology under the supervision of Associate Professor Anne Goldizen, looking at the variations in calls between gibbons in Borneo in order to determine where they are hybridising and the impact of this on the gibbon population.

Gibbons are medium-sized arboreal primates that live throughout the rainforests of South East Asia in family groups.

“This research allows us to consider questions about speciation. If these are truly different species then how is it that they can be interbreeding?” she said.

“It’s believed the calls the gibbons make are a pre-mate isolating mechanism, so I am looking at the effect of altered call structures on hybrid groups.”

Every morning the female gibbons make a Great Call as part of a duet with their mates to re-establish their pair bonds and their territory.

“The male and female will start whooping, then the female will do a few notes to silence the male and then she does her Great Call, which starts with a few introductory notes,” Ms Sanderson said.

“Then she peaks and gets quite vigorous until she reaches her climax and then after that the male does a few notes and they go on like this for about half an hour every morning.”

The climax portion of the call is used to determine the species. Different species of gibbon are separated geographically across South East Asia. In Borneo there are two species that have been hybridising: the Bornean Gibbon and the Agile Gibbon.

“The female Agile Gibbon will do
between six and 15 notes over 20 seconds whereas the Bornean Gibbon does between 50 and 96 notes over a shorter period of time, so it’s very easy to pick out the differences between hybrids and pure species,” she said.

The only other study in the region to have examined these calls was conducted about 20 years ago.

Working in the geographical centre of Borneo, it takes between three and five days to get to the base camp using transportation including light planes, motorised boats and canoes.

The University of Cambridge runs the camp and Ms Sanderson is assisted by four Indonesian field assistants. She is one of the few foreign researchers to have had the opportunity to work in the area.

During her fieldwork, Ms Sanderson gets up at 3am, has a quick breakfast and is then off in the canoe in the dark to a listening point.

“The male will do a pre-dawn solo so I use the male to locate the family group,” she said.

“Then it is a matter of getting under the group as quickly and as quietly as you can without them knowing you are there.”

Once the female starts her call Ms Sanderson records the sound. She is looking at variation in the calls and therefore travels to a range of different sites throughout central Borneo.

“To get to different sites can be difficult because there are a lot of rapids,” she said.

“I have two people with me but we can only carry enough supplies for two weeks at a time. We carry our boats around the rapids, hike in and then set up camp in the forest.

“Every day when I get to a new site I can tell what sounds interesting because generally on one side of the river you will have the pure species and on the other side you will have the hybrid zone.”

Ms Sanderson is now back in Australia analysing the recordings of the calls.

“This research allows us to consider questions about speciation. If these are truly different species then how is it that they can be interbreeding?”
It’s never too late to get involved!

Are you engaged in an activity that would fit with the aims of Diversity Week 2006?

Does your work demonstrate good practice in equity and diversity?

Would you like to showcase how your teaching or research enhances equity or diversity within the University?

Do you have another idea?

Then register your initiative on the Diversity Week website so others can hear about it. If you have any ideas or questions, contact The Equity Office: equity@uq.edu.au or phone 3365 3052

Check out other registered events including the Vice-Chancellor’s Awards ceremony, at www.uq.edu.au/diversity-week
ECO HOME ON THE RANGES

UQ architectural design students will have a chance to see their competition-winning accommodation “pod” creation turn into reality near the Lamington National Park.

A design named The Basket won $500 for the team of Will Downes, Ricky Hill, Eden Mathews, Briony McKauge and Jasmin Ong, and it will now become part of a new eco village.

Second prize of $250 went to The Lantern designed by Stephen Bull, Kirstin Evans, Jim Hampson, Gina McKenzie and Josh Spillane.

The two teams were among nine groups of students to pitch their visions for a rainforest living “pod” to the backers of the new development.

The competition was a collaboration between The Ridge on Binna Burra and UQ’s School of Geography, Planning and Architecture.

The Ridge is an eco village of holiday homes, apartments and cabins set in 40 acres of eucalypt forest.

Teams worked with Associate Professor Peter Skinner to design a “pod” as a deep retreat experience within the rainforest.

The ‘pod’ will be used for overnight accommodation for guests of the Ethos Centre, a holistic education retreat.

Under the design criteria for the competition, the ‘pod’ had to provide sleeping accommodation, a small living area, and low-impact servicing.

Dr Skinner said the students were highly motivated for the competition.

“It was an extraordinary opportunity for students to apply their creative design skills to a genuinely innovative project with rich ecological repercussions,” he said.

REWARDING EXCELLENCE

Nominations are being invited for UQ’s 2006 Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Awards for the Enhancement of Student Learning.

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

These awards were established in 1988 to recognise, encourage and reward sustained excellence in teaching at the University.

Academic staff with teaching or teaching/research appointments who have a minimum of two years academic teaching-related employment within the University are eligible for nomination.

Candidates must be nominated by at least five members of the University’s academic staff or current or former students (those who have been taught by the nominee within the past five years). Of the five people who nominate, at least one must be an academic staff member and one a current or former student. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

Information, including posters, guidelines and nomination forms, is available in faculty, school and centre offices, Student Centres and at www.uq.edu.au/teaching_learning (select Teaching Excellence) or by contacting Jenny Bjarnesen on 07 3365 3206 or email j.bjarnesen@admin.uq.edu.au

Nominations, completed on the appropriate form, should be submitted by Friday May, 12 to the Director of Studies of the nominee’s faculty.

AWARDS FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING

These awards were established in 2001 by the University’s Academic Board. They recognise learning and teaching support programs and services that make an outstanding contribution to the quality of student learning and the student experience of higher education.

Self-nominations are being invited for these awards, which are open to innovative teaching and learning-related projects or services initiated by curriculum teams, groups or units within support services, administrative units, centres, schools, or programs of study. They can also be University-wide initiatives.

Information packages, including posters, guidelines and application forms, are available in divisions and central services and school offices and at www.uq.edu.au/teaching_learning (select Teaching Excellence) or by contacting Jenny Bjarnesen on 07 3365 3206 or email j.bjarnesen@admin.uq.edu.au

Applicants should submit their completed application form with appropriate endorsement and a two-page synopsis of the nominated project by Friday May, 12 to Jenny Bjarnesen, Room 829, Level 6, J.D Story Building.

VIRTUAL TRADE FAIR

More than 350 business management students from UQ’s Foundation Year program are organising Brisbane’s largest Virtual Business International Trade Fair from May 11 to 13.

On the theme of Entrepreneurs: the youth of today and leaders of tomorrow, the Trade Fair is expected to attract 1000 Australian and overseas participants.

Delegates will be provided with virtual cash vouchers to purchase virtual products through online trading at virtual practice firm booths.

Information: zlobicki@fdn.uq.edu.au

HEADACHE RESEARCH

Volunteers are needed for a study to help improve the diagnosis and treatments of headaches in the elderly.

Lead researcher and UQ Physiotherapy PhD student Jinny Uthaikhup needs healthy volunteers aged 60–75 who have suffered from regular headaches (at least monthly) in the past year.

She is studying if and how the neck contributes to headaches.

Participants are needed for one three-hour visit to UQ’s Neck Pain Research Unit where a physical examination of neck joints and muscles will be conducted.

Information: 07 3365 4568.

James Hall and Victoria Stoddart, with their entry The Web, which they designed with Oggie Latinovic, Matt McCarthy and Lasan Nguyen.
The University has welcomed a new student recruitment team for 2006, maintaining UQ’s vital links with future students.

University student recruitment staff, under the direction of Dean of Students Dr Lisa Gaffney, have begun an extensive schedule of visiting secondary schools, hosting campus tours for future students, and participating in a range of tertiary and career expos throughout Queensland and interstate.

If 2006 is similar to past years, the team will visit over 150 secondary and interstate schools, hosting over 70 visits by the team will visit over 150 secondary and interstate. Recruitment team members make formal presentations to groups about UQ programs, services and facilities, as well as speaking individually to future students, their teachers and parents.

The new Student Recruitment Coordinator, Jessica Gallagher, was previously the Events Assistant at UQ SPORT and worked on the Scholar-Athlete Games. She has an Arts degree from UQ and is presently completing her PhD.

The Recruitment Officers are Kim Emery and Jessica Krause. Miss Emery has a Business and Arts qualifications and Ms Krause is completing her Arts degree, majoring in music.

Ms Gallagher said the team was passionate about student recruitment at UQ.

Being present and past students themselves, they relate well to prospective students and have a broad knowledge of the University.

“I still remember what it was like to be a first year student at UQ. I wasn’t from Brisbane and remember what it was like coming on campus for the first time,” Ms Gallagher said.

“Being a UQ graduate helps when relating to prospective students and when talking about the University. “I’m a UQ PhD student now and so know what it’s like to be a postgraduate student as well.”

Recruitment staff are keen to work closely with faculties and schools in promoting events and disseminating information to future students.

“The new student recruitment team members are very excited about their positions and are passionate about UQ and promoting University studies to students,” Ms Gallagher said.

Managing our risk

UQ’s Internal Audit Office has a new name and increased responsibilities after an external audit.

Assurance Risk Management Services (ARMS), as it is now known, will have responsibility for the coordination of Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) University-wide.

ARMS previously provided 100 percent internal audit coverage to all areas of the University on a rolling five year cycle.

But to make its role more effective it will now focus more strongly on University-wide operational areas.

“We are moving towards risk-based internal audit as this is what is happening nationally and internationally and this is what industry standards dictate,” ARMS Director Phil Procopis said.

Senate has approved the formation of a Risk Management Committee and an ERM framework has been developed, which will provide the basis on which strategic and operational risk will be identified, assessed, managed and reported to the Committee.

The newly appointed Manager for ERM Services, Phil Hunt, said ARMS promoted good administrative and financial management across UQ.

He said the new framework would allow managers University-wide to have input into the high-level strategic risks that the executive would be responsible for managing.

“Good risk management is not just about mitigating the negative impacts of perceived risks but more about taking effective advantage of the opportunities that present themselves to the University,” Mr Hunt said.

“Instead of risk management being a top-down, imposed structure, this framework allows information to be fed from the bottom up.

“All UQ staff have a responsibility to uphold and even enhance our reputation.”

Mr Hunt, who joined the University in September 2005, has spent the past nine years undertaking risk management functions for the Northern Territory Government.

Information: for further details about the ERM framework visit www.uq.edu.au/about/index.html?Page=29157 or contact Mr Hunt on 07 3365 8282 or p.hunt@uq.edu.au
Ladybeetle mounts natural defence against crop bugs

A TINY NATIVE IS AN ECO-FRIENDLY ALTERNATIVE FOR CONTROLLING COSTLY FARM INTRUDERS.

AUQ research project is promoting the humble ladybeetle as one of the best pest solutions for citrus and custard apple growers. Mary Finlay-Doney, as part of her PhD research, has been studying how effective ladybeetles are as a natural biological control against mealybugs, which affect a range of crops.

Aptly named the “mealybug destroyer” (*Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*), the particular species of native ladybeetle Ms Finlay-Doney has been looking at are able to effectively control the spread of the pest in an orchard, thereby reducing the need for chemical pesticides.

“Ladybeetles have been released, usually in large numbers, as a natural pest control in modern monocultures for more than 100 years,” Ms Finlay-Doney said. “The problem is trying to ensure that they will work each time they are released.”

Ms Finlay-Doney said her research looked at the best way to distribute the ladybeetles in an orchard as well as how many were needed to get optimal results. “What the research has shown is that the ladybeetle larvae are more effective than the adult beetles and we are working to set a protocol for the number of beetles per tree that is needed,” she said.

“With the right number we have found that we can control pests in under a week and only one application is needed.”

She said growers were extremely interested in her research as they were always looking at ways to control pests without heavy pesticide use. “The great thing about my research is using a native organism to improve agriculture provides a long term environmentally sensitive and sustainable solution,” she said.

The 26-year-old said she always knew she wanted to be an entomologist from a young age when she was fascinated with insects. “Bugs are found everywhere and they have such important roles in the world. I find the diversity intriguing,” she said.

The project is funded by an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant and is a collaboration between UQ and the biological control company Bugs for Bugs, which is based in Mundubbera.

MONEY DOESN’T GROW ON TREES

UQ researchers have developed a unique approach to guide conservation spending that will revolutionise the way environmental bodies allocate funding.

The new rational approach to determining how to spend money for conservation actions is a decision-support tool developed by UQ’s Ecology Centre researchers Professor Hugh Possingham and Dr Kerrie Wilson along with mathematics students Michael Bode and Marissa McBride.

The model takes into account the cost of acting in an area, the biodiversity value of an area and the threats to that area. It also accounts for uncertainty in data, such as rate of forest loss.

“The problem was how do we spend a finite budget among all conservation activities – how do we get the biggest bang for our buck?” Professor Possingham said.

Dr Wilson said the Nature Conservancy and Conservation International, US organisations that spend hundreds of millions of American dollars a year, had provided funding to develop the tool further. “The approach will certainly change the way these organisations think about how they do business,” Dr Wilson said.

“They are starting to think about how they can maximise their returns for every dollar invested. This research has helped them to think like that.”

The mathematical model is the result of an Australian Research Council funded project, Conservation Planning in a Dynamic and Uncertain World, and was announced to the scientific world in the March 16 edition of Nature.

“Existing methods ignore the cost of acting in these areas. When you include this cost your conclusions about where to spend money can change significantly,” Professor Possingham said.

The Earth is currently in the midst of an “extinction crisis” and well-directed conservation action is required to address the problem, according to Dr Wilson.
Swim safety and children’s health are the major winners following the announcement of a new junior swimming program at the University.

UQ SPORT Director Kim Guerin said the new program would deliver positive outcomes for Brisbane youngsters.

“The junior program will commence in July and fills a void between learn to swim and senior squad programs offered at the UQ Aquatic Centre,” Ms Guerin said.

“It also provides a complete pathway for children of all ages to participate in swimming programs, develop essential skills in the water and maintain an active and healthy life.”

The introduction of the program coincides with the need for UQ SPORT to chase new opportunities as a result of financial pressure from the Federal Government’s Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) legislation.

“It is essential for UQ SPORT to explore new program opportunities to supplement the significant loss of income as a result of VSU,” Ms Guerin said.

“Brisbane also has a distinct lack of available heated pools and this program is important to provide participation opportunities for children in the area.”

Ms Guerin said more than 3500 children aged up to eight years take to the water for learn to swim lessons at the UQ Swim School each year.

“This new initiative also provides opportunities and pathways for children who progress through our learn to swim program and want to maintain their swimming,” Ms Guerin said.

Ms Guerin said the junior swimming program complemented UQ SPORT’s vision to create communities built on active minds and healthy bodies.

“This junior swimming program further demonstrates UQ SPORT’s commitment to provide a whole-of-life approach to health and well-being,” she said.

Youngsters participate in the swim for life...
UQ AND QR GET SIGNALS ON TRACK

UQ researchers are teaming up with Queensland Rail (QR) in a signalling project.

Researchers from the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering headed by Associate Professor Paul Strooper, Dr Kirsten Winter and Dr Peter Robinson are working on a project to automate parts of the checking of designs for signalling interlockings, which control the safe movement of trains.

Researchers Lionel van den Berg and Wendy Johnston said the Siglink project would help detect errors early in the design process to avoid costly fixes further down the track while helping to maintain QR’s high level of safety.

“QR stands up well in the world of railways and we are helping to strengthen that reputation,” Mr van den Berg said.

“The purpose of the research is to make the design process simpler and more accurate,” Mrs Johnston said the team had achieved exciting results.

“We can now automatically perform a number of checks in just a few hours that takes weeks to do manually,” she said.

“Our work supports and complements current processes by detecting errors earlier in the design phase and automating the process to reduce costs,” Siglink will deliver results that will improve the current state-of-the-art process in the practical application of model-checking technology and check complex safety properties.

“This is an excellent example of research put into practice.”

The research follows on from another successful collaboration with QR that has resulted in Sigtools, which supports the generation of control tables that define how the railway interlocking should behave.

Sigtools performs some early checks to eliminate errors during the design and generation of the control tables, while Siglink checks the tables more extensively for safety problems once they are fully defined.

Mrs Johnston said Siglink extended Sigtools using model checking software that tested the system to guard against derailment and collisions.

The Siglink project is jointly funded by QR and an Australian Research Council Linkage grant and is one of many projects QR has been involved in with UQ in recent years.

AWARD FOR PHYSIO

Professor Paul Hodges from the Faculty of Health Sciences is the first Australian to be awarded the Isla Prize for Lumbar Spine Research, the premier international spinal research award.

He received the honour from the International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine.

The award is considered the most prestigious award for low back pain research internationally.

Professor Hodges received the award for his paper Rapid atrophy of the lumbar multifidus follows experimental disc or nerve root injury.

This study solves a 50-year debate about the changes in the back muscles that are found in people with back pain.

BRAZILIAN BOND

Australia’s scientific ties with Brazil took a step closer recently with a conference aimed at building greater research links between the two countries.

The Australia Brazil Bio Nano Technology Conference, held at UQ in March, brought together some of the best and brightest researchers from both countries to explore ways to share knowledge.

Conference organiser Dr Joe de Costa said while there were already many research links with Brazil, it made sense to nurture further collaboration.

“When you have two countries with such similar climates and environments the opportunities to enhance our research collaborations are obvious,” Dr de Costa said.

The conference attracted top researchers from both Australia and Brazil.

WASHINGTON DEAL TO BROADEN HORIZONS

UQ students and staff will have opportunities to work alongside their peers at a top American university as a result of a new partnership with the University of Washington.

The two leading universities signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Seattle, Washington, on April 6, to set a framework for collaboration on high-level research and student exchanges.

UQ Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield signed the agreement with the President of the University of Washington (UW), Dr Mark A. Emmert.

“The trans-Pacific partnership will open exciting new opportunities for UQ undergraduate and postgraduate students and staff,” Professor Greenfield said.

“UW is a leading American state University with strengths that complement those of UQ.

“Signing a Memorandum of Understanding has enabled us to work through the fine details of our partnership, which will focus on student exchanges and research collaboration.

“UQ anticipates that both undergraduates and postgraduates studying here will have opportunities to undertake an immersion semester at UW, whereby they work intensively for a few months in the USA and gain credit towards their UQ degree.

“Areas in which we would expect to forge collaborative research include bioengineering, neuroscience and imaging, technology commercialisation, marine science and kindergarten to Year 12 science and maths education.

“Both UQ and UW have international strengths in these areas.

“The differences between us in terms of facilities and expertise will add diversity and challenge for students and researchers from both sides of the Pacific.

“By pooling some of our resources, UQ and UW will enrich the opportunities for students and staff and also enable better results for the countless people who will benefit from research in our areas of collaboration.”

inbrief
A former national swimming champion and a cousin of Wallaby Brendan Cannon are the first UQ Rugby Academy products to be selected for national honours.

Daniel Linde and James Hanson have been chosen in the Australian Under-19 team for the International Rugby Board World Cup, which is due to take place later this month in Dubai.

The duo secured their berth in the 26-man squad after impressing the selection panel during intensive trials in Sydney in March.

For Linde, a Human Movement Studies student, it has been a rapid rise from his days as a national schoolboy swimming champion.

“I really made the move to focus on rugby in the past year because of the team atmosphere and mate-ship between players,” Linde said.

“I knew that if I played my best during the trials I would be in with a good chance of being selected.”

Australia placed third in the 2005 tournament and Linde and Hanson believe the 2006 team will put up a strong showing against New Zealand, England and South Africa.

The rugby blood runs thick through the Hanson family with the Business Management student set to follow in the footsteps of his older cousin, powerful Wallaby Hooker Brendan Cannon.

Playing in the same position as Cannon, Hanson is a step closer to achieving his future goal of securing a Reds contract.

UQ Rugby Academy Director Nick Leah said Hanson had the right ingredients to make the move to elite level rugby in the near future.

“He’s a hard-working hooker who is always looking to improve and develop his game and this next challenge in his career should see him benefit even further,” Leah said.

Linde and Hanson are both members of the Academy’s High Performance Squad, which focuses on individual development through on-field player analysis, one-on-one feedback and strength and conditioning components.
Medical student Robert Newbery has dived into the medals at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games winning gold, silver and bronze for Australia.

The second year Bachelor of Medicine/Surgery student partnered Mathew Helm for gold in the men's synchronised 10m platform with a winning score of 440.58.

“It’s my first gold at a Commonwealth Games. I finally got a gold in front of my home crowd,” Newbery said.

Earlier in the competition he was flipped into second place in the men's 3m springboard by Canadian diving sensation Alexandre Despatie who scored 941.60 points to Newbery’s 906.30.

The UQ student later won bronze in the 3m synchronised springboard.

Newbery, who was competing at his third Commonwealth Games, is one of the stars of the Australia diving team.

He was a bronze medallist in the men's synchronised 10m platform at the Athens Olympics and won bronze at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in the 3m springboard. At the Kuala Lumpur Games in 1998 he picked up a silver in the 10m platform and a bronze in the 1m springboard.

Newbery said the atmosphere of the home crowd in Melbourne helped to spur him on.

“The whole crowd was barracking for the Aussies and it was so great to have their support behind you for every dive,” he said.

Other UQ gold medal winners included Bachelor of Physiotherapy graduate Bronwyn Thompson, who won gold in the women's long jump, and legal studies graduate Caitlin Willis, part of the victorious Australian women's 4x400m relay team.

In the rhythmic gymnastics first year science student Amanda Lee See picked up a bronze medal in the overall team event.

Earlier in the competition UQ Commerce and Law graduate Andrew Mewing grabbed a bronze medal as part of the men's 4x200m freestyle team. Mewing came 13th in the individual men's 200m freestyle while Dolphins team-mate Leith Brodie, a UQ Engineering student, made his Games debut in the pool by placing fourth in the men's 200m individual medley.

In the triathlon Master of Applied Law student Annabel Luxford came fifth while Arts student and track star Melanie Keeberg made it through to the semi-finals of the women's 200m.

UQ Racing has recorded its best overall results in an Australian student racecar competition and also set an acceleration record.

The team recently finished second overall at the Australian Formula Society of Automotive Engineers Australasia competition, where students designed, built and raced their own formula-style race cars.

“It’s the students’ best result as they beat many of the 25 competitors from Australian universities as well as teams from Japan, India and New Zealand.

Cars were judged on their design, cost, presentation, acceleration, cornering performance, fuel economy and endurance during the three-day competition at Victoria University, Werribee.

Associate Professor David Mee, the team’s advisor from UQ’s School of Engineering, said it was UQ Racing’s third straight acceleration win and in record time covering 75 metres from a standing start in 3.95 seconds.

“This is the first time in Australia that a car has broken the four second barrier for this event,” Dr Mee said.

He said a stiffer, lighter body and carbon fibre wheel rims instead of steel rims, improved the car.

UQ Racing came second in the endurance event, which tests reliability, speed and fuel efficiency over 22 kilometres or 32 laps.

The University of Western Australia won the competition overall and University of Wollongong placed third.
How walking can help fight Motor Neurone Disease

Motor Neurone Disease is an insidious condition that slowly destroys a person’s ability to control their own muscles. This debilitating brain disorder leads to loss of mobility, speech and finally the ability to breathe. Because there is no cure or effective treatment for MND, leading Queensland businessman Mr Ross Maclean established an MND research fund at the Queensland Brain Institute.

Support the Ross Maclean Fellowship today by making a donation or sponsoring participants in a forthcoming trek to the Kokoda Track.

Help fight MND
For information about the Kokoda trek fundraiser or how to support the Ross Maclean Foundation in other ways, please call the number below.

Queensland Brain Institute
Telephone (07) 3346 7543
www.qbi.uq.edu.au
**FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT, The Brass Ensemble and the University Chorale (12.30pm, St Leo’s College).**

**FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT, The Symphonic Wind Ensemble (12.30pm, Chapel, St Leo’s College).**

**FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT, pianists Myfanwy Holm and Christopher Scherker (12.30pm, Nickson Room).**

**FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT, clarinets John Cotty, Ben De La Rue, and Mitchell Leigh, piano (12.30pm Nickson Room).**

**FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT, The University Chorale directed by Robert Csernyik (11.30am, The Long Room).**

**Saturday, May 21 SUNDAYS AT CUSTOMS HOUSE, The University Chorale, directed by Robert Csernyik (11.30am, The Long Room).**

**Friday, May 25 FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT, pianists Myfanwy Holm and Christopher Scherker (12.30pm, Nickson Room).**

**Saturday, May 28 UQ SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, Mozart in the Middle (2pm, Concert Hall, QPAC).**

**Thursday, June 1 FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT, Leonie Buyte, flute, Michael Webster, clarinet (12.30pm, Nickson Room).**

**Friday, June 2 TC BERINE SCHOOL OF LAW, Judicial activism in some aspects of construction and interpretation of non-marine insurance contracts, Bala Rao (noon-1pm, Room 1-W3341, Forgan Smith Bid). Detailed: c.foresett@law.uq.edu.au**

**Wednesday, June 7 SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, Completion of CAPTION (1-2pm, Room 1-E212 Forgan Smith Bid). Detailed: s.tett@pharmacy.uq.edu.au**

**Wednesday, May 31 SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, Completion of CAPTION (1-2pm, Room 1-E212 Forgan Smith Bid). Detailed: s.tett@pharmacy.uq.edu.au**

**Friday, May 26 SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES, The opposing roles of monocytes in atherosclerosis, De Heather Medbury, Westmead Hospital (1-2pm, Room 305 Skerman Bid). Detailed: s.collin@uq.edu.au**

**Saturday, April 29 SCHOOL OF LAND AND FOOD SCIENCES, Oxygen transport to plant roots, Freeman Cook, CSIRO (1-2pm, Room 305 Skerman Bid). Detailed: s.collin@uq.edu.au**

**Thursday, May 11 FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT, The Brass Ensemble and the University Chorale (12.30pm, St Leo’s College).**

**Thursday, May 11 FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT, The Brass Ensemble and the University Chorale (12.30pm, St Leo’s College).**

**Thursday, May 8 SUNDAYS AT CUSTOMS HOUSE, The University Chorale, directed by Robert Csernyik (11.30am, The Long Room).**

**Friday, May 5 FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT, pianists Myfanwy Holm and Christopher Scherker (12.30pm, Nickson Room).**

**Sunday, May 8 UQ SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, Mozart in the Middle (2pm, Concert Hall, QPAC).**

**Thursday, June 1 FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT, Leonie Buyte, flute, Michael Webster, clarinet (12.30pm, Nickson Room).**

**CONCERTS**

**Thursday, April 27 FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT, Jack Glazier, oboe, Nickson Room.**

**Sunday, April 30 SUNDAYS AT CUSTOMS HOUSE, The Brass Ensemble directed by Phil Ryan (11.30am, The Long Room).**

**Friday, March 26 SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES, thalamus anti-Imperialism? Pamela How**

**Saturday, May 21 SUNDAYS AT CUSTOMS HOUSE, The University Chorale, directed by Robert Csernyik (11.30am, The Long Room).**

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