The sky’s the limit

Take your career to new heights through postgraduate coursework at The University of Queensland. Our comprehensive range of programs will enable you to boost your qualifications or take your career in a new direction.

Apply now.

Find out how at uq.edu.au/study
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

A student organisation with a passion for building understanding with scholars of all cultures is the deserving group winner of the Vice-Chancellor’s Equity and Diversity Awards 2006.

The student members of International Association of Students in Economics and Management – known as AIESEC – and Dr Sean Tweedy, who won the individual category of the Equity and Diversity Awards, embody the practical value of diversity at UQ.

AIESEC will use its $10,000 prize to help UQ students deepen their understanding of our international community by attending international conferences and pursuing overseas internships.

In accepting his award, Dr Tweedy emphasised that his Clinical Exercise Sciences students give meaning to his work. The students take his program into the homes and communities of people with significant physical, cognitive and behavioural disabilities, and help them to be physically active.

Dr Tweedy, his students and the AIESEC members were the champions of UQ’s annual Diversity Week in May. Along with the others who were nominated for an award, they reaffirm that university life is about much more than getting a degree or doing a job.

Diversity contributes to our academic strength – a strength reaffirmed by the Australian Research Council in its latest round of Federation Fellowships.

UQ garnered virtually one quarter of the nation’s 2006 fellowships – six out of 25. Congratulations to UQ incumbents Professor David Fairlie, Professor Hugh Possingham, Professor Graeme Turner, Professor Guifre Vidal and Professor Andrew White, and to Dr Paul Burn - who will return from the University of Oxford to pursue his fellowship.

A further two UQ identities, Professor Max Lu and Dr Paul Meredith, were honoured by the Queensland Government as Smart State Fellows in April and May.

UQ was one of the few universities recognised in the Federal Budget, with the Queensland Brain Institute receiving $10 million to invest in equipment for the QBI complex, which is due for completion next year.

The University’s contributions to cultural life will feature in the coming months, with activities including: hosting the VIII World Shakespeare Congress; sponsoring a world premiere of Johnno (a play based on a novel by alumnus David Malouf) and a production of Richard Strauss’s opera Salomé; and exhibiting prints by James McNeill Whistler.

Professor John Hay, AC

CONTENTS

04  Six new Federation Fellows explore the frontiers of science
05  Diversity Week 2006 rewards life-changing projects
06  New research centre will improve aged care
07  Planning for better train and bus stations
08  UQ Gatton invests $1.5 million into horse research
14  Design awards for UQ buildings
17  Breast or bottle? A history of infant feeding
18  Six new scholarships for UQ Ipswich students
20  IN PRINT: Six Children’s Book Council nominations for UQP
22  SPORT: Four in a row for Great Court star

UQ NEWS is produced by the Office of Marketing and Communications, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Qld, 4072, Australia Telephone: (07) 3365 3367 Facsimile: (07) 3365 1488
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
Circulation: 14,000
Advertising: Tina Hannan (07) 5460 1739
Registered by Australia Post Publication No. QBH 0104
The University of Queensland’s Web address is www.uq.edu.au

Cover photo: a high school student celebrates Shakespeare’s birthday by taking part in a film workshop at UQ. PHOTO: Jason Weeding, courtesy lime.net.au
The University Senate has appointed three new Senators who are all distinguished members of the business community. The Government has also appointed Queensland’s most senior State public servant to fill a remaining vacancy on the Senate.

The new Senators are:
- Ross Rolfe, Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Coordinator-General;
- John Story, a company director whose various positions include being Chairman of Suncorp-Metway, Director of TABCORP Holdings and Director of CSR;
- Dr Jane Wilson, a company director whose current positions include Chairman of IMBcom and Director of UQ Holdings, Cath-RX, Protagonist and the National Archives of Australia; and
- Nerolie Withnall, a company director whose various positions include Chairman of QM Technologies and Director of Campbell Brothers Group, Pan Australian Resources, Alchemia and the Major Sports Facilities Authority.

UQ Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Hay, AC, welcomed the new members and thanked them for their commitment to the governance of a flagship education and research institution.

“The new members bring expertise that will be crucial to the University’s development during their four years on the Senate,” Professor Hay said.

“Their high professional standing will be vitally important at a time when national and international networks are fundamental to the success of critical and cultural studies and research institutions.

“Their skills and experience will complement the strengths of others on the 22-member Senate.”

The new appointments run until December 31, 2009.

The Senate now comprises eight official members (Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and President of the Academic Board) and three elected members appointed by Governor-General; eight elected members, three official members appointed by the Senate; and three official members appointed by the Senate.

AN ELITE GROUP OF RESEARCHERS ARE EXPLORING THE FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE THROUGH A DIVERSE RANGE OF IMPORTANT PROJECTS.

Federation Fellows look to the future

The quality and depth of research at UQ and the quality of the University’s research environment have been recognised with the awarding of six prestigious Australian Research Council (ARC) Federation Fellowships.

UQ academics account for almost one-quarter of the nation’s 25 new Federation Fellows, who are regarded as exceptional researchers of world renown in their fields.

UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor David Siddle said the addition of the six Fellows to UQ meant “an unparalleled convergence of world-leading researchers at the University.”

The six UQ winners this year will bring the number of Federation Fellows at UQ to 18.

The 2006 Fellows are:
- Dr Paul Burn, from the University of Oxford, will return to Australia to establish a Centre for Organic Semiconductor Research at UQ. It will be a world-leading initiative focusing on the development of new materials and an understanding of how they work in opto-electronic devices.
- Professor Graeme Turner, Director of UQ’s Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, will look at finding solutions to some of the world’s most pressing global biodiversity problems; that are central to Australia’s long-term environmental sustainability. His work will devise methods to make better decisions about where to invest conservation dollars among the biodiversity hotspots of the world.
- Professor Andrew White, from UQ’s School of Physical Sciences, will launch a major new initiative to develop optical quantum technology that integrates many photons to form powerful quantum devices. This will not only lead to advances in quantum information but also extend Australia’s early lead in quantum technology research.
- Professor David Fairlie, from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience, will develop new chemical technology for creating smaller, safer, cheaper, more stable and more bioavailable molecules that can execute selected functions of proteins. This approach could present new ways of influencing infection, diseases of the aged and could enhance preventative medicine in the form of drugs, vaccines and diagnostics.
- Professor Hugh Possingham, from UQ’s Ecology Centre, will devise methods to make better decisions about where to plant vital ecosystems. His work will consider the role of the Internet, tackling an international comparative study of the Internet, the Internet as a component of the Internet.
- Professor Guifre Vidal, from UQ’s School of Physical Sciences, will develop new chemical technology for creating simpler, smaller, cheaper, more stable and more bioavailable molecules that can execute selected functions of proteins. This approach could present new ways of influencing infection, diseases of the aged and could enhance preventative medicine in the form of drugs, vaccines and diagnostics.
- Professor Andrew White, from UQ’s School of Physical Sciences, will launch a major new initiative to develop optical quantum technology that integrates many photons to form powerful quantum devices. This will not only lead to advances in quantum information but also extend Australia’s early lead in quantum technology research.
A project to help people with significant physical, cognitive and behavioural disabilities stay physically active is one of the winners of this year’s University of Queensland Vice-Chancellor’s Equity and Diversity Awards.

Dr Sean Tweedy, from the School of Human Movement Studies, won the $5000 Individual Award for his work with the Adapted Physical Activity Program. The program allows students studying Clinical Exercise Sciences to deliver a community-based physical activity promotion service to people with acquired brain injury.

The money will be used to help students meet the transport costs associated with travelling to meet with their clients in their homes and local communities, an aspect of the program which Dr Tweedy believes is one of its hallmarks.

“Delivering the program in homes and communities, rather than hospitals or clinics, allows a much broader educational experience for the students,” Dr Tweedy said.

“It provides students the opportunity to gain a unique, personal insight into the effect that catastrophic injury has on the life of a person, their family and their living circumstances.

“This exposure to the live experience of disability assists students to develop a broad, authentic understanding of the need for personal and community attitudes that foster equity and permit diversity.”

The winner of the $10,000 Group Award was AIESEC – UQ’s International Association of Students in Economics and Management. AIESEC is an international platform for young people to discover and develop their potential to have a positive impact in society. Established in 1948 in France, the Association is represented in 94 countries and 800 universities.

The money will be used to help students, particularly those who are significantly financially disadvantaged, attend international AIESEC conferences as well as provide internship opportunities around the world.

The winners were honoured at an awards ceremony held at the UQ Centre on May 19.

The awards were held on the final day of UQ’s fourth annual Diversity Week, which recognises people who have improved diversity and equity at UQ.

The aim of the week is to increase the understanding of diversity, including of cultures, linguistic and religious diversity, disability, sexuality, gender, family and carer responsibilities, racism and Indigenous Australian history and culture.

The award winners were congratulated by guest speaker at the ceremony Perry Cross who, at 19, broke his neck in a football accident and was left a quadriplegic.

Mr Cross shared his experiences on being one of the first quadriplegics in the world to attend university and gain a degree and what motivated him to keep striving for success.

UQ staged about 30 events during Diversity Week including public concerts, forums, lectures and tours at its three campuses.
Gene study to combat diseases

An international consortium of scientists, including a team from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB), is a step closer to the next generation of treatments to combat disease, after publishing a comprehensive analysis of the human and mouse transcriptomes.

IMB researcher Professor David Hume said transcriptomes described all the information read from the genome by a cell at any given time.

“Essentially, we need to understand the language that cells use to read DNA in order to know how processes in the body are controlled,” Professor Hume said.

“This knowledge will be a major resource to the biomedical research community.”

Part of understanding the language of cells lies in identifying promoters - the DNA regions at the start of genes that regulate their activity.

“We have identified the core promoters of the large majority of genes in the mouse and human genomes, expanding the number of known promoters by five to ten-fold,” Professor Hume said.

The findings of the consortium have also upended the traditional view that each gene has a single promoter and a single starting position.

The team found that, while genes that are only turned on in a specific tissue or at a specific point in time use the traditional model of a single start site, genes used in many tissues have a broad distribution of start sites.

This new model may help explain why some organisms, such as humans, are much more complex than simple organisms such as worms, despite having a similar number of genes.

If some genes have a broad range of start sites, individual species can differ subtly in the way they control these genes, meaning the genes can evolve faster, and organisms with these genes can become more complex.

The consortium also found that many pseudogenes - traditionally thought to be “fossils” of ancient genes - are actually active, and are therefore likely to have some as yet unknown function.

The results obtained by the consortium, led by the Japanese scientific institute RIKEN and Genome Network Project, were recently published in the Nature Genetics journal.

Research centre tackles community and aged care

A NEW JOINT UQ AND BLUE CARE RESEARCH CENTRE BASED IN BRISBANE WILL MEAN BETTER SERVICES AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR QUEENSLAND’S AGED POPULATION.

U Q’s Nursing School opened its first research centre on May 4 — a $1.5 million centre focused on improving community and aged care.

The Research and Practice Development Centre is a joint project between UQ and Queensland’s largest community and aged care provider Blue Care, best known for Blue Nursing.

The Centre, based at Blue Care’s Head Office in Toowong, was opened by Federal Minister for Ageing Santo Santoro and Queensland’s first Blue Nurse Olive Smith (nee Crombie).

Initially it will have six staff but there are plans to employ support staff and several clinical nurse specialists from Blue Care.

Head of UQ’s School of Nursing Professor Elizabeth Davies said staff would research chronic conditions such as incontinence, social isolation, dementia, palliative care, depression, wound healing, heart failure, diabetes and arthritis.

Professor Davies said the Centre would also develop products, turn research into practice and eventually contribute to aged care policy.

Blue Care Executive Director Stephen Muggleton said the work of the Centre would mean better care and less suffering for Queensland’s aged population, which is expected to grow from 350,000 people today to 1.4 million in 35 years.

“We want to make sure our staff have access to the most effective treatments for the problems they encounter every day,” Mr Muggleton said.

“It’s going to make a difference to the lives of people who are frail, who are disabled, people who’ve been robbed of their lives by the cruel effects of dementia and people struggling with chronic or terminal illnesses.

Rural and remote area nursing expert Professor Desley Hegney leads the new Centre.

Professor Hegney said the Centre was different to other aged care research centres because it had a clinical partnership with a private, not-for-profit organisation instead of links with government units, hospitals or commercial businesses.

“This Centre is different because it will combine UQ’s expertise in clinical research and Blue Care’s extensive practical experience in assisting frail, aged, sick and disabled people in their homes,” she said.

Mrs Smith, who spent more than a decade as the State’s first blue nurse, said it was a tremendous opportunity for Blue Care and UQ, which would benefit the aged.

“It is so important that we continue to progress and collaborate, particularly in the area of research,” 77-year-old Mrs Smith said.

The new Centre (top) and above: Mr Santoro, Mrs Smith, Professor Davies and Mr Muggleton at the opening.
BUSY HUBS ACCELERATE FUTURE OF TRANSPORT

A NEW URBAN DESIGN PROJECT IS HOPING TO TURN DULL CONGESTED TRANSPORT CENTRES INTO ATTRACTIVE MULTI-PURPOSE DEVELOPMENTS.

Brisbane should be developing its busiest train and bus stations and building an extended subway system, according to urban economist Chris Hale.

Mr Hale, a PhD student studying land use and transport with UQ’s Centre for Transport Strategy, said the city’s main stations should be transformed into expertly designed transit hubs called Transit Oriented Developments (TODs).

The hubs are a mix of private buildings such as convenience stores, cafes, shops, offices and homes built in and around upgraded public transport.

Mr Hale said Brisbane, Toowoomba, Ipswich and the Gold and Sunshine Coasts could support many TODs of various sizes by 2015.

“In Brisbane you see a lot of transit stations and they have no development whatsoever,” Mr Hale said.

“They are in desperate need of European styling and Japanese transport technology.

“You’ve got to spend a lot of time and effort on the architecture and design of the public space and also on the quality of the buildings and the finishes such as paving and planting.”

He said the hubs would become vibrant community centres that would generate rental revenue for State authorities to help run more efficient and popular public transport.

There would also be less urban sprawl and better access to jobs. Mr Hale and his colleagues with the Centre for Transport Strategy, Professor Phil Charles and Dr Kathi Holt-Damant, are working on a three-year research project entitled Emerging Futures – transit oriented development as a strategy for dealing with urban sprawl and congestion in Southeast Queensland.

The project is a collaboration between UQ, Columbia University, Rand Corporation, Queensland Rail (QR) and Queensland Transport.

During the next three years Mr Hale will be examining the institutional arrangements required to encourage TODs while increasing mode share and productivity in rail passenger patronage.

Mr Hale said a Brisbane City Council plan to link the city centre, Eagle Street, Spring Hill and Centenary Place via a subway, needed to be extended to South Brisbane, St Lucia and Indooroopilly.

The cost of building a subway system was comparable to road tunnels but more efficient in transporting many people.

“I think mass transit tunnels for Brisbane are going to happen but for some reason we’re more comfortable as a community with the idea of building road tunnels,” Mr Hale said.

A trial TOD is planned for Brisbane within three years, possibly at Park Road in the Boggo Road Precinct.

Mr Hale said the TODs could spread in Brisbane by shifting the reliance on cars, improving transit hub design and encouraging developers to invest in transport centres.

He said outstanding recent examples of Australian TODs were Federation Square and the Southern Cross Station in Melbourne.

Brisbane’s first TOD was the Queen Street Mall Bus Centre.

“Kyoto and Nagoya Stations in Japan for example have absolutely massive office-retail-hotel type development and these things go some way in paying for the transport infrastructure,” Mr Hale said.

The TOD project has been paid for by an Australian Research Council grant with additional linkage funding from Queensland Transport and QR.

“You’ve got to spend a lot of time and effort on the architecture and design of the public space”

NO OFFENCE INTENDED

Queensland’s public nuisance and offensive behaviour laws need to be brought into the 21st Century, according to a new law report.

A UQ report on the enforcement of offensive language and behaviour in Queensland, says current laws are flawed but could be improved by updating police procedures, sentencing options and ensuring police only intervened when public safety was threatened.

The report says police should avoid charging people for public swearing, vomiting, drinking or urinating.

It recommends offenders be directed to health or welfare services instead of the criminal justice system.

Report author, law lecturer Dr Tamara Walsh, said police could use public nuisance as a catch-all charge.

Dr Walsh said vulnerable people such as the poor, homeless and minority racial groups were more likely to be charged for being offensive than the general population.

“Many homeless, Indigenous, impaired and young people in Queensland are prosecuted for being offensive when they are really just living out their lives,” Dr Walsh said.

“Nuisance laws are being applied to situations that do not warrant the intervention of the criminal law and it impacts disproportionately on disadvantaged people.”

Dr Walsh, a law reformer who specialises in public order, poverty and marginalised people recommends a reasonable excuse or vulnerable persons clause be created to protect these people.

Dr Walsh’s report was based on an 18-month study that included observations of arrest cases at the Brisbane and Townsville Magistrates Courts.

Between July 2004 and July 2005, the number of people before the courts for public nuisance increased by 44 percent in Brisbane and 38% in Townsville.

Many public nuisance defendants were unemployed and homeless and most were under 25, unrepresented in court and fined an average of between $212 and $233.
The University has unveiled the $1.5 million expansion of its equine teaching and research centre at its Gatton campus.

Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries Minister Tim Mulherin officially opened the UQ Gatton Equine Precinct on May 30.

The expansion, around UQ Gatton’s historic stable block Farm Square, includes eight new crushes for reproductive, dental and performance testing, holding yards, teasing lanes, a mechanical horse walker and new dressage and show jumping arenas.

A new reproduction laboratory allows semen evaluation, embryo transfer and a clean dust-free serving area for semen collection.

Professor Wayne Bryden, Head of the School of Animal Studies, said the UQ Gatton Equine Precinct development had taken two years of careful planning.

"UQ now has the most comprehensive set of equine facilities of any Australian university," Professor Bryden said.

"The new facilities and those that have been replaced or upgraded provide best practice for horse handling and welfare.

"It gives us extremely good facilities and resources to further our links with the thoroughbred breeding and racing industries, the stock horse industry and the recreation horse industry."

Professor Bryden said the Equine Precinct was linked to many other UQ units such as the Australian Equine Genetics Research Centre at St Lucia, which DNA profiles all Australian thoroughbreds for the Australian Stud Book.

The expansion comes as UQ Gatton prepares for the relocation of the School of Veterinary Science from St Lucia as well as the development of the $30 million Centre for Advanced Animal Science in conjunction with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

There are also future plans to build an equine veterinary clinic at UQ Gatton.

"These developments totalling about $120 million, will result in the best animal education and research amenities in the Southern Hemisphere," Professor Bryden said.

"These projects will provide additional opportunities and facilities for equine and livestock research into areas such as health and production, nutrition, reproduction, diseases and vaccines, biotechnology and animal welfare.

"The equine precinct development is just one small part of the overall development plan for UQ Gatton during the next five to 10 years."

In front of the field in horse research

TWO YEARS OF PLANNING HAVE GONE INTO EXPANDING THE SUPERBLY EQUIPPED EQUINE FACILITY AT THE GATTON CAMPUS.

CHINESE CONFERENCE Focuses ON AUSTRALIAN STUDIES

The high number of Australian Studies Centres in China highlights the growing interest in Australia by Chinese people, according to the Director of UQ’s Australian Studies Centre (ASC), Professor David Carter.

Professor Carter is helping promote Australian Studies in China and will attend the Biennial Chinese Australian Studies Association Conference at Inner Mongolia University in July.

China has more than a dozen study centres, compared with only four in Australia.

"This is quite a significant achievement when there are probably 30 or 40 students at any time completing Masters degrees in Australian Studies in China," Professor Carter said.

ASC has a contract with the Australia China Council within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to promote Australian Studies in China through educational programs.

The UQ centre conducts research into all aspects of Australian history, culture and politics and runs a fellowship scheme for the Council.

Professor Carter’s research focuses on Australian cultural history, particularly print cultures.

As project manager for the Australian Studies in China Program, Professor Carter will speak at the Chinese conference’s opening ceremony and will give a paper focusing on trends in literary studies research in Australia.

"A lot of the cultural and academic activities centre on the larger cities so taking the conference to Inner Mongolia was an attempt to take it to an area that might not otherwise have been part of the Australian Studies network," he said.

The UQ Gatton Equine Precinct was opened by Mr Mulherin, pictured with Gatton Starlight. PHOTO: Lyle Radford
UQ's status as a centre for neuroscience excellence has been recognised with a $10 million grant to the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) in the Federal Budget. The QBI is dedicated to understanding the molecular basis of brain function and applying this knowledge to the development of new therapeutics to treat brain and mental health disorders. QBI Director Professor Perry Bartlett said the funding had come at a strategic time.

“Work is currently underway on new purpose-built facilities for the QBI, which will dramatically increase our research capacity,” Professor Bartlett said.

Funds for construction of the $60 million facilities have been provided by the Queensland Government, The Atlantic Philanthropies and UQ. “The Australian Government funding is further recognition we’re doing research that’s highly valuable for Australia’s long-term future, and it will help the QBI consolidate its position as a leading centre of excellence in the Asia Pacific region,” Professor Bartlett said. “It will also allow us to purchase sophisticated equipment that will enable us to more rapidly expand our research into cognitive neuroscience and neuro-imaging. Such technology will be vital if we are to address the burgeoning incidence of mental illness in the community.”

Professor Bartlett and Professor Brent Reynolds, a QBI Professorial Research Fellow, codiscovered neuronal precursors in the adult brain, leading to a paradigm shift in our understanding of neuro-regeneration. This discovery provided neuroscientists the opportunity to develop ways of stimulating the production of new functional nerve cells to overcome diseases such as dementia and Motor Neuron Disease.

BRAIN FUNDING A SMART MOVE

Scientists are about to test microscopic sieves that trap environmentally destructive greenhouse gases before they escape coal-fired power stations and refineries.

The new gas separation technology can be fitted to existing power stations and petrochemical plants to produce hydrogen, a clean energy carrier, and capture carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas which worsens global warming.

Brisbane and German scientists have teamed up in a $4.2 million project to build and test the technology. The Queensland Government on April 26 announced it would contribute $1.05 million to the project. The scientists working on the technology are from the Australian Research Council’s (ARC) Centre for Functional Nanomaterials at UQ and a German industrial research institute, Forschungszentrum Julich (FZJ).

Professor Max Lu, the Director of the ARC Centre for Functional Nanomaterials, said the technology involved pumping synthesis gas from coal through a metal-supported molecular sieve in a pressurised chamber.

Professor Lu said the nano-sieve was coated with thin film of zirconium and titanium oxides which separated hydrogen from the greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide.

“The film we coat it in behaves like the sieve, which has tiny nano-holes, one billionth of a metre, that allow the smaller hydrogen molecules to go through,” Professor Lu said. “It will turn dirty coal use clean and leave hydrogen that can be used in many other sectors such as transportation using fuel cells.” Water would be the only by-product for coal power stations using the sieves as the carbon dioxide could be buried and hydrogen converted into electricity in fuel cells.

The research is also funded by UQ, the Centre for Low Emission Technology which is backed by Queensland power and mining companies and FZJ, the German state of North Rhine Westphalia and German industrial partners.

Project manager Dr Joe da Costa said UQ’s molecular sieve technology was cheaper and had superior engineering performance compared to conventional gas separation technologies.

Project manager Dr Joe da Costa said it was important environmental technology, especially given more than 80 percent of Australia’s power came from coal-powered plants.

“Many countries have good coal resources that can last at least for another 150 years but to use that more cleanly and efficiently you have to think about new technologies,” Dr da Costa said.

This is the first project to flow from a 2004 energy technology agreement signed between Queensland and North Rhine Westphalia.
DINGOES ON LOOSE IN SUBURBIA

Packs of dingoes, some disease and parasite ridden, are living just beyond the doorstep of many homes in urban Southeast Queensland.

This is according to the recently released preliminary results of a UQ study investigating the habitat use and disease ecology of urban dingoes.

In direct contrast to their outback cousins, urban dingoes spend the majority of their time within a few hundred metres of people and houses. In the UQ study the dingoes were caught, fitted with Global Positioning System tracking collars and tested for various diseases.

So far, the urban dingo project has concentrated on built-up areas of the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane suburbs, with some unexpected results.

“Dingo problems are not only experienced in the outback. We’ve known dingoes live in urban areas for some years, but what we didn’t know was the extent of the problem; just now we’re starting to get an idea of how serious it is,” UQ dingo researcher Ben Allen said.

After analysing the samples collected from the dingoes, the parasites so far identified include: hydatid tapeworms, the “zipper tapeworm”, roundworms, hookworms, campylobacter, giardia, coccidia, Salmonella, ticks, and mites, most likely to be Sarcoptes scabei which causes mange.

While all of these can affect pet dogs, many of these diseases can affect humans, and some can be quite dangerous and even fatal, Mr Allen said.

“The preliminary findings so far indicate that dingoes could live in unusually high numbers in urban areas, with multiple parasites, which presents a potential risk to the public,” he said.

Dingoes with these diseases have been shown to regularly forage in backyards, picnic grounds, parklands, walk along footpaths and roads, and spend time in other public places.

They defecate and urinate in these places and present a potential problem for disease control agencies.

Urban dingoes are also known to have attacked people.

The study is still in progress and the final report will be completed later this year.

Open wide for croc science

Sticking your hand into a crocodile’s mouth isn’t the brightest idea, unless of course you’re studying their salt glands.

UQ ecophysiology honours student Inga de Vries has examined the tongues of 10 young saltwater crocodiles in as many months.

The crocodiles are under a metre long but their jaws still have enough pressure to cause some damage.

“You still wouldn’t want them to latch on to you,” Ms de Vries said.

Little is known about how crocodile salt glands work but Ms de Vries is trying to find out more.

She said most saltwater crocodiles had between 20 and 40 pores on the surface of their tongue which led to individual salt glands.

These glands allow the crocodile to live in fresh and salt water as they remove excess salt from their system, leaving a salty secretion on the crocodile’s tongue which is washed away.

Ms de Vries puts a laser sensor into the crocodile’s mouth to measure blood flow in the tongue and also a swab to collect the salt secretions.

Her results show that blood flow through the glands increases when the crocodile secretes, indicating that blood flow may play a role in secretion.

Ms de Vries said scientists has documented similar salt glands in birds.

But she said no one had yet measured the blood flow of crocodile salt glands and her research would lead to more of an understanding about the animal.

“When the salt glands are exposed to excess salt their capacity for blood flow increases which suggests that blood flow plays a role in controlling salt removal,” Ms de Vries said.
Scientists have begun work to help explain the population decline of the Southern Ocean’s most important species — Antarctic krill.

The small shrimp-like creatures underpin the Antarctic marine world as the staple diet for predators from penguins to whales.

Antarctic krill are found in great abundance throughout the Southern Ocean but their numbers have decreased by up to 70 percent since the 1970s.

Environmental toxicologist Dr Susan Bengtson Nash from the National Research Centre for Environmental Toxicology, part of UQ’s Faculty of Health Sciences, wants to find out why.

Dr Bengtson Nash has gone to the Norwegian Institute of Air Research to examine 10 kilograms of Antarctic krill to see if they have absorbed man-made pollutants.

She is testing for a variety of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) which are harmful chemicals that resist degradation and accumulate in the environment and in organisms.

“I’m looking at krill as the keystone species in Antarctic food webs,” Dr Bengtson Nash said.

“Most larger species feed either opportunistically or solely on the krill swarms that form during summer months.

“If you remove that species then you’ll also remove a lot of other species.”

Once Dr Bengtson Nash identifies what chemicals are accumulating in the krill, she will conduct toxicity tests with live krill at the Australian Antarctica Division in Hobart.

Dr Bengtson Nash said many POPs were moving towards colder and colder climates such as the Earth’s poles.

“Polar environments essentially act as sinks for these chemicals,” she said.

“The Arctic has proportionally higher concentrations of POPs than the Antarctic because historically these chemicals were primarily produced in the northern hemisphere.”

Dr Bengtson Nash is four months into her three-year Australian Research Council Discovery project.

A Brisbane scientist has discovered that even small doses of ultra violet radiation during mild temperatures can be fatal for frogs.

UQ zoology and wildlife biology honours student Vincent van Uitregt has shown that exposure to UVb rays, the sun’s most harmful rays, in temperatures as mild as 20 degrees celsius, kills tadpoles in 15 days.

Mr van Uitregt said tadpole growth and swimming ability declined dramatically as the mercury dropped below their ideal temperature of between 25 and 30 degrees.

“Results so far strongly suggest that UVb effects on survival and development of amphibians are dramatically exacerbated at low temperatures,” Mr van Uitregt said.

To prove the link between temperature and UV radiation, Mr van Uitregt collected 500 striped marsh frog tadpoles from the St Lucia Golf Links.

Marsh frogs are common brown frogs found around Brisbane which are sometimes mistaken for small cane toads.

Mr van Uitregt exposed the tadpoles to low and high doses of UVb radiation at temperatures between 20 and 30 degrees.

The tadpoles exposed to high doses of UVb rays at 20 degrees died after 15 days while the tadpoles at the same temperature without the UVb exposure survived.

A high dose was 30 minutes under UVa and UVb lamps which was equivalent to about half the radiation from the midday sun on a clear summers day.

Mr van Uitregt said many frogs had built-in defence mechanisms for UV rays which fixed damaged DNA but those repair processes were impaired at low temperatures.

He expected UVb and mild temperatures would also harm adult frogs, particularly those living in higher altitudes or in colder environments.

The results correlate with decline patterns in some natural populations at high altitudes.

Mr van Uitregt said his research was significant because he had proved that UVb effects on amphibians worsened at lower temperatures.

Antarctic waters teem with life thanks largely to krill.

PHOTO: Rob King

Antarctic dish under threat
A Queensland scientist who worked for the University for 20 years without pay recently celebrated his 100th birthday with former colleagues.

UQ held a birthday party for Dr Alf Howard, AM, who is best known for being the last survivor of Sir Douglas Mawson's Australasian expeditions to Antarctica.

Friends, former colleagues and journalists keen to hear about Dr Howard’s amazing life attended the birthday gathering on April 26.

In 2000 Dr Howard was awarded the title of Senior Australian of the Year for his service to science through Antarctic exploration.

“Our expedition accomplished a lot. We collected an enormous amount of data considering the limited means at our disposal and we opened a lot of doors,” he said.

“But I think our greatest achievement lay in pointing to areas where research was inadequate or non-existent, such as determining exact Antarctic currents. We showed what still needed to be done.”

In 1968 Dr Howard completed a PhD at UQ on the psychology of food preference. After retirement in 1971 he returned to the University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts with honours in linguistics at the age of 72, before joining the School of Human Movement Studies in 1978.

The educator and adventurer worked as a research fellow in the School, where he designed computer programs and provided statistical advice to assist students with their work.

On his 99th birthday in 2005, he generously donated $80,000 to fund the Alf Howard Computer Laboratory.

Dr Howard, who turned 100 on April 30, said he got a kick out of helping students with their projects.

“I’ve always thought that the University needed support from the public,” he said.

The first card Dr Howard opened during the celebration was from Her Majesty The Queen, signed “Elizabeth”. He also received birthday wishes from the Prime Minister John Howard, the Australian Governor General Major General Michael Jeffery, AC, and Queensland Premier Peter Beattie.

Although Dr Howard retired from UQ in late 2003, the University is yet to find a replacement able to fulfil his duties.

Head of the School of Human Movement Studies Professor Doune Macdonald said Dr Howard was irreplaceable and described him as a living treasure.

“All worked with us full-time without pay for over 20 years as an honorary research fellow – a perfect staff member whose position is still vacant,” she said.

Dr Howard was part of the Antarctic expedition from 1929 to 1931 when Sir Douglas claimed 42 percent of Antarctica as Australian territory.

Sir Douglas’ 1911 expedition ended in tragedy when his two companions died and he was forced to walk 160 kilometres to safety.

Dr Howard was the chemist on the expeditions. His job was to analyse the seawater by recording its density and looking for micro-organisms.

Since his first trip in 1929, Dr Howard has been back to what has become a home away from home so many times he has lost count – he believes it to be about seven.

On his 99th birthday in 2005, he generously donated $80,000 to fund the Alf Howard Computer Laboratory.

“Af worked with us full-time without pay for over 20 years as an honorary research fellow – a perfect staff member whose position is still vacant.”

Ms Carlin photographed the highest recorded tide which swept across the island, reaching 3.4 meters.

“Tuvalu is on the front-line, global warming is happening. Just look at my photos,” she said.

UQ climatologist Dr Hamish McGowan said scientists could not deny global warming was causing the sea level to rise.

“There is now a weight of evidence attributing global warming to the increased melting of polar ice caps and glaciers around the world, which has caused sea levels to rise,” he said.

The exhibition was opened by Tuvaluan Prime Minister Maatia Toafa via a web-cast in front of scientists and community groups.

Supervising lecturer Dr John Harrison said the students who organised the exhibition became engrossed in their work and put in long hours.
“People don’t understand how many things need to be taken care of with an event like this,” he said.

“They started with a bunch of photos and a photojournalist in Auckland, with no venue, no sponsors and no one even knowing where Tuvalu was.

“They organised sponsorship, a venue, they got media outlets to the event and contacted everyone in Brisbane from professional photographers and scientists to community groups.”
STUDENTS TO SHINE

Student researchers from around the world will showcase their potential at a unique conference to be held at UQ in September.

The 2006 Universitas 21 Undergraduate Research Conference (URC) will be held from September 25-29.

Universitas 21 is an international network of leading, research-intensive universities.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said the URC would allow undergraduate and honours students to share the breadth and depth of their research projects with their peers, staff, mentors and the wider academic community.

BACK PAIN AWARD

Professor Paul Hodges from UQ’s Physiotherapy Division has won the world’s premier international spinal research award for lower back pain.

The International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine (ISSLS) prize is awarded every year for a paper on lumbar spine research.

Professor Hodges’ winning paper was entitled **Rapid atrophy of the lumbar multifidus follows experimental disc or nerve root injury**.

He will receive the award, and present his paper, at the annual meeting of ISSLS in Bergen, Norway, this month.

SPEECH PROBLEMS

UQ researchers are seeking people with Parkinson’s Disease who have a difficulty with their speech to participate in a research project.

The Lee Silverman Voice Treatment (LSVT) will be used to treat the speech problem.

Associate Professor Deborah Theodoros from UQ’s Division of Speech Pathology said people with Parkinson’s often developed soft, indistinct and monotonous speech.

Information: 07 3346 7467 or gabriellac@shrs.uq.edu.au

![Student researchers from around the world will showcase their potential at a unique conference to be held at UQ in September.](image)

**Designs with winning ways**

The ongoing transformation and modernisation of UQ’s built environment has received high praise, with two recent projects named finalists in the prestigious Queensland Design Awards 2006.

In the category Interior Design – Corporate the m3architecture company was a finalist for the fit-out of the Chemistry Building and in the Interior Design – Best Use of Lighting category Cottee Parker was a finalist for the Student Services Centre.

The concrete Chemistry Building was built between 1970 and 1972 and houses various strands of chemistry with research and teaching laboratories, seminar rooms, administration and storage spaces.

In its submission to the awards, m3architecture said the functional variety within the “rigid sameness of the existing structure” had been recognised as an “inherent positive quality of the building.”

“This pre-existing functional variety had not expressed itself in any manner, prior to this project, other than at the most banal level of signage.

“This observation of functional variety and recognition of the building frames robust nature was transcribed into an architectural ordering device labelled ‘experimentation within a vessel’.”

In its submission, Cottee Parker said the idea behind the lighting fit-out for the Student Services Centre was to make the area “glow from within”.

“Lighting was integrated into the mechanical bulkhead to provide an indirect lighting source and keep a clear ceiling.

“Student queuing system experimentation within a vessel”.

The impressive Building 8 at the Ipswich Campus also recently received another award for its architectural excellence.

Architect Hamilton Wilson of Wilson Architects won a commendation for the Ipswich Campus’ Building 8 at the Royal Australian Institute of Architecture Awards (Brisbane region) ceremony.

Mr Wilson was commended for the $7.5 million Building 8, which was conceived by Wilson Architects as a place for interaction between people and the printed and digital technologies.

Wilson Architects also received a commendation for their sensitive conversion of Mayne Hall into The James and Mary Emelia Mayne Centre, which opened in 2004 with a significant donation from The Atlantic Philanthropies.

Other UQ projects to feature in the awards were the UQ Chemistry Building lab fitout (m3architecture – architect Michael Christensen) and the Roche Laboratories at the Heron Island Research Station (Dimitriou Architects and Interiors).
BIRTHDAY BARD

THREE SHORT STUDENT FILMS INSPIRED BY THE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE WERE AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS OF CELEBRATIONS OF THE PLAYWRIGHT’S BIRTHDAY.

High school students have celebrated William Shakespeare’s birthday at UQ by making three short films featuring his ideas.

The 26 students edited their three-to-five-minute pieces on April 23 – which is believed to be the 442nd anniversary of Shakespeare’s birth. The Cinergy short film workshop, produced by UQ, the Queensland Department of Education and the Arts and the Pacific Film and Television Commission, ran throughout the week.

The winning film, Ronald and Juliet by Pine Rivers State High School, is a tale of two star-crossed State of Origin fans - one a Blues supporter and one a Reds fan.

The film will be shown to an international audience of Shakespeare scholars and enthusiasts at the VIII World Shakespeare Congress, to be hosted by UQ in July.

Cinergy workshop coordinator Derek Weeks said the students were challenged to transform a Shakespearean idea or scene into screenplays and then films.

“It was a fabulous opportunity for high school students to work in an intensive environment in a university context while working with professional gear,” he said.

Industry representatives, including filmmakers Jennifer Ussi and Michael Noonan, passed on their expertise.

The student teams were from Pine Rivers, Balmoral Senior High School and Mountain Creek High School.

Mr Weeks said he was impressed with the calibre of students.

“They are all so radically different. There are leaders here and there are also doers, design people and technical people,” he said.

Mountain Creek High English teacher Dawn Kirbyshire-Arnold said most of her students attending wanted to pursue studies at UQ.

“I thought what a great opportunity and what a great prize, to be actually working with professionals and making film,” she said.

Pine Rivers student Laura Noonan said the workshop gave her a chance to use UQ’s equipment, which was not available in her school.

“It’s really important because I really want to get into this area when I leave school,” Ms Johnston said.

“The students we have on board for this project are highly gifted and we look forward to welcoming many of them to UQ next year.”

PHOTOS: Jason Weeding, courtesy lime.net.au

“what a great opportunity and what a great prize, to be actually working with professionals and making film”

Professor Fotheringham, who is also convener of the Congress, said up to 1000 international and Australian delegates were expected to attend.

“The fact that the winning film will be screened at the VIII World Shakespeare Congress in July to an audience of international Shakespeare scholars and industry professionals was a real incentive for the students to create the highest quality work possible and excel beyond expectation.”

Information: www.shakespeare2006.net

Not quite Woodstock YET – but there was plenty to sing about

More than 300 people attended a recent concert to celebrate youth and the contribution that young people make to the community.

The concert was organised by UQ School of Music lecturer James Cuskelly in collaboration with the Queensland Kodály Choir and the Youth Enterprise Trust (YET).

Mr Cuskelly said music could often be a very elitist and exclusive activity and many people feel that they cannot meaningfully participate.

“This community choir is one of the few non-auditioned choirs in Brisbane and is designed to encourage everyone with an interest in music and singing to be involved,” he said.

“In a similar way, YET provides pathways for young people who, for various reasons, have been excluded or find it difficult to participate in meaningful ways in society.

“This concert is a celebration of the work of both of these two organisations.”

The concert was held on May 7 at Woodstock, a beautiful 300 acre farm on the Albert River at the base of Mt Tamborine, with the choir performing on the back verandah of the woodshed.

The decision to hold the concert at this location was further evidence of the choir’s commitment to outreach and inclusivity.

“This was a wonderful opportunity for us to perform high level art and folk music in a setting that celebrates both the cultural and natural worlds”, said Mr Cuskelly.

All members of the choir are encouraged to develop their musicianship skills and abilities by participating in weekly classes.

Money raised from the concert will help support YET.
RICH VEIN OF MINING SCHOLARSHIPS

UQ students have dominated the Xstrata scholarships winning seven out of a possible 10 awards.

The scholarships mean winning students will receive a total of $24,000 each over three years from mining group Xstrata to assist in their studies.

Students received their cheques at a ceremony on May 11.

Chief Operating Officer of Xstrata Copper North Queensland Barry Grant said the scholarships were open to second year students in the disciplines of electrical engineering, mining engineering, metallurgy/mineral processing and geology, and were for study support in second, third and fourth years.

“Through the scholarship program, Xstrata will provide these students with real life work experience, coaching and mentoring support. It also gives them a unique opportunity to develop their technical competence and most importantly, gain experience working in a local community,” Mr Grant said.

The scholarship recipients are Sarah Collins, Ty Felmingham, Jacob Booth, James Allnutt, Daniel Hitchcock, John Walz and Vanessa Fernandes.
Splitting parents who live with new partners can unwittingly push their children towards cannabis use.

UQ research has shown a link between cannabis use and marital changes after studying 3008 mothers and their children up to age 21, between 2001 and 2004 in Brisbane.

“Our study suggests that exposure to three or more changes in maternal marital status during childhood and early adolescence more than doubles the risk of a child beginning to use cannabis,” lead researcher Dr Reza Hayatbakhsh said.

“More frequent changes in marital status predict greater risk and also the earlier onset of cannabis use.”

Dr Hayatbakhsh, from UQ’s School of Population Health, said almost half of the young adults had used cannabis at some time, about a quarter before the age of 15.

Children who experienced no change in their parents’ marital partners between ages five and 14 were less likely to use cannabis.

The results are the latest from the Mater-UQ Study of Pregnancy — one of the world’s longest running health studies.

The Mater Study was started at UQ in 1981 as a health and social study of 7223 pregnant women.

Researchers continue to extract new information about social, emotional and medical issues as the families grow.

Dr Hayatbakhsh, who is now studying for his PhD in epidemiology, said mothers and children in the study were asked how often children used cannabis and when they first began to use it.

The results were published in the International Journal of Epidemiology in March.

The paper was co-written with UQ’s Mater Study founder, Professor Jake Najman and fellow UQ Population Health researchers Professor Konrad Jamrozik, Dr Abdullah Mamun, Professor Gail Williams and Dr Rosa Alati.

Breast or bottle? It is one of the most important decisions a new mother can make and the inspiration behind a unique study by a UQ researcher.

Virginia Thorley has just completed a study into the history of infant feeding in 20th Century Australia, the first such study of the entire century.

“A lot of people think the current trend back to breastfeeding is only a recent development,” Ms Thorley said.

“But as far back as the 1920s medical experts saw artificial feeding as old fashioned and recommended breastfeeding, but only until nine months.”

A lactation consultant, Ms Thorley said it was interesting seeing some of the trends in feeding babies over the past 100 years.

“Some of the best material for my research came from advertising in popular magazines and advice columns, as this was where beliefs passed on by word of mouth left a footprint that would otherwise have been hard to find,” Ms Thorley said.

“A lot of ads drew on the ideas that were already out in the community.

“So contrary to what people think about the advertisers telling people what to think, they actually were reflecting established ideas and fears.

“Unfortunately instead of allaying fears they encouraged them, such as the fear that mothers’ milk might fail or not be enough nutrition for babies on its own.”

Looking for a change of direction?

Don’t wait until 2007, apply today to study degrees in:

St Lucia
- Journalism
- Communication
- Social Science

Ipswich
- Behavioural Studies
- Education (Middle Years of Schooling)

Call 3365 7487 or visit www.uq.edu.au/sbs to find out more.

The University of Queensland
Australia
Six of the best for UQ Ipswich

Six new scholarships for first year Business students at UQ’s Ipswich campus were presented at a ceremony on April 27.

Two of the recipients, Emma Fitzgerald from Newtown, and Reece Mitchell from Eastern Heights, are locals who enrolled in business programs at the Ipswich campus earlier this year.

The students said the scholarships symbolised how far they have come since leaving school.

“When I graduated from high school I knew I wanted to study something important and be part of something big,” Ms Fitzgerald said.

“I went to TAFE to study hospitality, which was where I discovered a career in event management calling.”

In addition to event management, students in the Bachelor of Business can choose from a wide range of majors, including accounting, hospitality management, online business, sport and leisure management and travel and tourism management.

Mr Mitchell is a Bachelor of Business Communication student who returned to study following a gap year spent working.

“Taking time off was definitely what I needed and now I’m just that much more driven,” he said.

“This scholarship doesn’t just help pay for textbooks, it shows that I’ve stepped up my game and that I can succeed when I put my mind to it,”

Professor Peter Green, UQ Business School Coordinator for the Ipswich campus, said the new scholarships were intended to encourage and recognise academic achievement, work experience and community service.

AEROSPACE FORUM

The Queensland Youth Aerospace Forum (QYAF) will be held at UQ from June 26 to 30, drawing together some of the most intelligent, analytical and creative young minds in Australia.

Year 11 and 12 students from high schools across Queensland and interstate are invited to attend QYAF 2006.

Organised by students and aerospace professionals, QYAF is a five-day residential camp designed to direct students to the options available to them in aerospace.

QYAF is focused on the future of aerospace and seeks to maintain sustainable growth in Australia. The forum costs $100, which covers food, accommodation and other expenses.

Information: www.assa.com.au
The annual UQ Thanksgiving Service was held on May 3, a memorial ceremony dedicated to thanking and remembering those who have donated their bodies to health and science teaching and research.

Bequest Program Manager Leo Brown said the service had become a special event for many people. "It provides families with an opportunity to remember loved ones and is a rare occasion for students and staff to publicly express their appreciation to donors," Mr Brown said.

"UQ has held the service since 1992, then acknowledging all donors to the program since 1927. It was the first of its kind in Australia and New Zealand."

"The University has been a forerunner in establishing the Bequest Program and has set an example for other universities in the State. "Education services provided by the program extend to assisting Griffith University and Bond University on the Gold Coast and James Cook University in Townsville."

Professional bodies, including the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, the Chiropractors’ Association of Australia and Sports Medicine Australia, also use UQ’s facilities for professional development.

"The demand for quality health services in Queensland has become vital and the provision of more places for health science students is extremely important."

"UQ’s Bequest Program is essential in the provision of quality health science training."

The service is a multi-faith ceremony organised by a committee of University health and science educators and the UQ Chaplaincy Services.

"The committee takes great care in organising the event, including the selection of songs and readings. Thanksgiving Service leader and Anglican chaplain Brother Lionel said UQ Chaplaincy Services took pride in being involved in the service and considered it a very special occasion. "The event is an opportunity to add another dimension to health and science education, making students aware of people’s sensitivities and understanding the gift given by donors," Brother Lionel said.

"It’s an opportunity for students to meet donors’ families and allows time for that connection."

Medical student Patrick Pearce was one of a number of students who took part in this year’s service. "The contribution made by donors is not only essential to the study of medicine but also greatly appreciated as it allows students to understand anatomy and the human body in a more complete way," Mr Pearce said.

It takes someone special to give blood. Can you?
Call 13 14 95 or visit donateblood.com.au
THE YEAR NICK MCGOWAN CAME TO STAY, REBECCA SPARROW, $22.95

It's 1989 and Rachel Hill is the girl most likely to succeed. And the girl most likely to have everything under control – until her father invites the moody Nick McGowan to live with them. With the help of her best friend Zoe, Rachel battens down the hatches in preparation for Nick to move into her old bedroom and into her life.

SWALLOW THE AIR, TARA JUNE WINCH, $28.00

When May’s mother dies suddenly, she and her brother Billy are taken in by Aunty. However, their loss leaves them both searching for their place in a world that doesn’t seem to want them. While Billy takes his own destructive path, May sets off to find her father and her Aboriginal identity. Her journey leads her from the Australian east coast to the far north, but it is the people she meets that teach her what it is to belong. In this startling debut, Tara June Winch uses a fresh voice and unforgettable imagery to share her vision of growing up society’s fringes.

JOSH, IVAN SOUTHLAND, $19.95

Hurry along boy, don’t sit there like a fool. That’s not the Plowman way. From the minute Josh steps off the train at Ryan Creek, he knows that fitting in is going to be hard work. Maybe that’s because he’s a Plowman, which in Ryan Creek is the next best thing to being royalty. Josh doesn’t know anyone, and no one knows him. So why does the entire town have expectations of him?

LUKU AND THE SHARK ATTACK, DEBORAH CARLYON, $16.95

This is an adventure story with a soul. It is about a young village boy, Loku, who undertakes some serious risks to prove to his twin bother that he has guts. To do this Loku must abandon his tribe’s rules and his conscience. The problems he faces as a result include an out of control bush fire and being kidnapped while unconscious.

NATHAN NUTTBOARD: FAMILY MATTERS, ANTHONY EATON, $16.95

Nathan, Gnarly and the Nuttboard family are back again in a sequel to Eaton’s Nathan Nuttboard: The Plowman. Which in Ryan Creek is the fool. That’s not the Plowman way. Maybe that’s because he’s a Plowman, which in Ryan Creek is the next best thing to being royalty. Josh doesn’t know anyone, and no one knows him. So why does the entire town have expectations of him?

ON COUNTRY: STORIES OF NYRLOTT, FIONA DOYLE, $16.95

A collection of childhood memories brimming with adventure, family relationships and customs on Cape York. The story revolves around Nyrlotte, a mischievous Alngith girl who lives with her family on Wik country. Her granny helps keep her safe, while teaching her about culture and traditions.
Moorooka State School is hosting its Winter Carnival Fete on Saturday, July 29. A quarter of Moorooka’s student roll comprises new arrivals and refugee children. Donations of books on any subject as well as children’s videos, are sought. Books can be dropped off at the UQ School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies (Gordon Greenwood Building, St Lucia campus), or contact Dr Roberto Esposto on 07 3365 7990 or r.esposto@uq.edu.au.

The University of Queensland Press (UQP) has received a staggering six nominations for the 2006 Children’s Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Awards.

It is the most nominations UQP has ever received for the prestigious awards and sees them leading the shortlist alongside Penguin Books, also with six.

The UQP nominations are:
- Book of the Year: Older Readers
  - Brian Caswell – Double Exposure
  - Bill Condon – No Worries
- Book of the Year: Younger Readers
  - Catherine Bateson – Mille and the Night Herron
  - Pat Flynn, Illus. Chantal Stewart – To the Light
- Book of the Year: Early Childhood
  - Nike Bourke, Illus. Stella Danalis – What the Sky Knows

Picture Book of the Year
Nike Bourke, Illus. Stella Danalis – What the Sky Knows

Children’s Publisher Leonie Tyle, who has been with UQP for 12 years, said she submitted 11 books for the awards.

“Getting six out of 11 is amazing, particularly when some of the larger publishers would have entered more than 100,” Ms Tyle said.

The CBCA Award winners will be announced on August 18 during the Children’s Book Week celebrations.

Publishers regard the awards as the most important children’s book prizes in Australia and the shortlist is commonly used as a buying guide, especially by schools and libraries, but also by young readers and those choosing books for them.

“It’s an honour to work with such talented Australian writers and I’m thrilled these titles have been acknowledged by the CBCA as among the best Australian literature for young people.”

Brian Caswell, author of Double Exposure, is no stranger to the awards shortlist having previously been nominated.

“Being shortlisted is always an incredible acknowledgment and honour,” Mr Caswell said.

“Working with Leonie all these years has been wonderful; she knows how to get the best out of an author and not only offers support, encouragement and advice but also friendship.”

Stella Danalis, illustrator of What the Sky Knows by Nike Bourke, said she was excited about the awards.

“The book is about everything to do with the sky and more. I was inspired by Nike’s text,” she said.

Ms Tyle (left) and illustrator of the What the Sky Knows Stella Danalis
A VERY GOOD SPORT

Financial concerns for some of UQ’s brightest young athletes have been allayed following the announcement of the 2006 Clem Jones Sporting Scholarships.

Former Brisbane Lord Mayor Dr Clem Jones, AO, will personally help another seven student athletes achieve their dreams through a $5000 annual grant each year for three years.

The number of Clem Jones scholarships has now extended to support for 13 student athletes over six years across sports as varied as weightlifting, triathlon and orienteering, as well as more traditional sports such as athletics.

LIONS ROAR FOR 50TH

UQ’s Australian Football Club will celebrate its 50th anniversary on July 15.

Past player and Channel Nine sports presenter Steve Haddan will compere the gala dinner at the Hillstone Function Centre, St Lucia, from 7.45pm.

Club President Anthony Lee said the Red Lions dinner and fundraising auction would follow a 2pm grudge match against old rivals Yeronga.

The 50th reunion night costs $95, which includes finger food, a two-course dinner and drinks.

Information: www.redlions.org.au

WORLD AT HER WHEELS

UQ soil science student Anna Sheldon has been selected for a 10-person-team to contest the World Orienteering Championships in Denmark in August. It is the first time a Queensland woman has been selected for the event but Ms Sheldon competed in 1998, 2000 and 2001 in the junior championships.

Ms Sheldon was selected after competing at the Australian Championships earlier this year.

The number of Clem Jones scholarships has now extended to support for 13 student athletes over six years across sports as varied as weightlifting, triathlon and orienteering, as well as more traditional sports such as athletics.

FOUR IN A ROW FOR DAINA

Pharmacy student Daina Surka wrote herself into the record books when she won the 22nd annual University of Queensland Great Court Race on May 17.

The 800 metre specialist became the first female athlete in the event’s history to claim four consecutive women’s titles.

Surka built an impressive lead to comfortably win in a time just outside the women’s course record of 1.41.68 set by five-time champion Sandra Dawson in 1993.

Surka was rarely troubled in the race and said she intended to try and equal Dawson’s overall record of five wins next year.

The 636-metre dash around the sandstone cloisters of the Great Court is based on the University of Cambridge Race, as featured in the film Chariots of Fire.

The challenge for competitors is to finish before the University bell tolls 12 times to be assured of a race record.

In the men’s race Queensland 1500 metre champion and Human Movement student Mitch Kealy repeated his 2005 win.

Kealy, who recently returned to Australia after a month in California racing on the American college circuit, said it was a tough race to win.

“Unlike track running, you have to slow down and speed up around the corners of the court, which makes it hard work,” he said.

Kealy ran an impressive time of 1.28.80 but didn’t challenge Simon Still’s seemingly untouchable record of 1.26.40 set in 1988.

FIJIAN RUGBY’S FUTURE

Fiji’s future Prime Ministers and Presidents took to the UQ rugby fields recently as part of a Fijian national rugby development pilot program.

The UQ Rugby Academy played host to a 22-man squad of emerging Fijian schoolboy rugby players from the nation’s top private schools.

The under 17 Presidents XV squad was put through its paces at a three-day intensive program aimed at developing and enhancing skill and playing ability.

They are part of a pilot program run by Global Sports Ministries, a Christian initiative that aims to educate, edify and evangelise through sports such as rugby union with the support of the International Rugby Board and the Rugby Fijian Union.

Most of the boys were from schools such as Queen Victoria School and Suva Grammar, which are the breeding ground for Fiji’s future leaders.

All players are currently part of a Christian Rugby Academy in Fiji but had never previously been exposed to the elite high performance player tuition they received during their camp at the UQ Rugby Academy.

Fijian school kids take part in a UQ Rugby Academy training program
SEMINARS
• Tuesday, June 13
Queensland Alcohol & Drug Research & Education Centre, Predicting young adults’ illicit drug use. Mohammad Reza Hayattbaksh (10am-noon, Room 113, School of Population Health, Herston). Details: qadres@aph.gov.au (bookings essential).
Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, The Afghan peace process: an inside view, Professor Damien Kingsbury (noon-2pm, Room 537, GFN3). Details: acpcs@uq.edu.au

• Tuesday, June 20
Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Crime as conflict – victim offender mediation in Europe – theory, experience, research, Professor Thomas Trenzke (noon-2pm, Room 537, GFN3). Details: acpcs@uq.edu.au

• Tuesday, July 18 Wednesday, July 19
UQ Social Research Centre, Contemporary Inequalities: new dimensions of social and economic change, world renowned social scientists (Customs House). Details: h.burns@uq.edu.au

• Wednesday, June 14
Australian Centre on Ageing, Keeping your joints moving, Professor Peter Brooks (Customs House, $32, includes breakfast). Details: acaevents@uq.edu.au
UQ Social Work and Applied Human Sciences Alumni and Friends, Hot debates: the current social justice challenges, Julie McCrossin (noon-2pm, Grand Ballroom, Level 5, Chifley Bldg). Details: info@uq.edu.au

• Thursday, June 15
Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, The Return of Tragedy in Contemporary Australia Conference 2006: July 9-15, UQ Students of Sustainability provides students the chance to meet and talk to leading national and international academics, activists, industry experts and researchers. About 600 students are expected to attend the conference. Information: environment.union@uq.edu.au

CONFERENCE CALL
ENVIRONMENT
Students of Sustainability 2006: July 9-15, UQ
Students of Sustainability provides students the chance to meet and talk to leading national and international academics, activists, industry experts and researchers. About 600 students are expected to attend the conference. Information: environment.union@uq.edu.au

LINGUISTICS
Applied Linguistics Association of Australia Conference 2006: July 5-8, UQ
The conference theme is Language and languages: global and local tensions. Presentations exploring this theme and related topics from different regional, national, international, disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives will be held. Information: www.alaa.org.au

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

TO RENT/HOUSE RENT
• Corinda: 2 bd hse and study, furnished, quiet area, pool, double garage, air-con, close to transport. Avail July-Dec 2006. Non-smoking. $260/ wk plus expenses. Tom: 07 3379 6006 or 3365 3143 or t.stevenson@uq.edu.au
• Fig Tree Pocket: 4 bd, 2 bth, den or granny flat downstairs, all car-in, 2 car garage, pool. Avail July, unfurnished or furnished. Min lease 12 mths. Ahmed: 07 3720 1636.

WANTED TO RENT/House RENT
• Visiting professor needs accommodation close to UQ from the July 2-16. Tracey: t.dagger@business.uq.edu.au

PRIZES
• The Dalley-Scarlett Memorial Scholarship 2007: for a music student who is at least 20 at the close of applications and is a current or former resident in Queensland and/or a current or former student at UQ or the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University. Worth: $9000. Closing: June 30. Information: 07 3365 4949.
• The Ethel Osborn Scholarship 2006: for singers who are graduates/diplomates or third or fourth year students at UQ or for at least three years and who demonstrates the most outstanding achievements in self-development (academic or non-academic). Worth: $150. Closing: June 30. Information: 07 3365 1894.
• The Thomas Morrow Prize: for a music student who is at least 20 at the close of applications and is a current or former resident in Queensland and/or a current or former student at UQ or the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University. Worth: $9000. Closing: June 30. Information: 07 3365 4949.

AUSTRALIA’S SOCIAL CONSCIENCE
The University will celebrate the opening of its Social Research Centre (UQSRC) by hosting a conference examining how economic, political and environmental change is impacting on modern society.

Ten world renowned social scientists will discuss topics ranging from social policy and inequality to economic change in urban and rural communities at the Contemporary Inequalities: new dimensions of social and economic change conference from July 18 to 19.

Conference convenor Helen Burns said the UQSRC had been promoting evidence-based policy formation in both the public and private sectors for the past three years and it was time to recognise its contribution to society.

“The conference is an unprecedented opportunity to bring some of the world’s leading inequality researchers to Queensland to showcase their most recent ideas and the strengths of advanced social science research in this State,” Ms Burns said.

“The event is essential for anyone who wants to activate their social conscience and learn about the direction in which society is heading.”

Since its inception in 2003, the UQSRC has become the largest social science research Centre in Queensland and one of the most respected in Australia. Its staff base has grown from three to more than 40 in the space of three years.

The official opening will take place on Tuesday, July 18 at Customs House from 11am. The conference will start at 1.15pm Information: contact Dimitry Glasby (email d.glasby@uq.edu.au) or Helen Burns (email h.burns@uq.edu.au).
The University is currently presenting a 10-year survey exhibition of acclaimed Brisbane photographer Carl Warner’s work. Sensing the Surface: 1995–2005, is on show at the University Art Museum in The James and Mary Emelia Mayne Centre from May 12 to July 23.


In Sensing the Surface, a publication to be launched with the exhibition, art critic Dr Sally Butler writes that Carl Warner “performs the role of trickster or shaman” who transforms overlooked surface details into exceptional insight.

Warner photographs surface details of everyday things, such as plants, concrete girders, freeway pylons, corrugated iron fences, and graffiti-painted walls. By reordering these elements in a series of works, or in a single work comprising a synthesis of images, Warner creates new meanings and reveals unexpected aesthetic qualities.

His dark, brooding and mysterious images of introduced plant species, from the ‘Sense’ series, explored the processes of nature and of photography.

He described the black and white photographs as big black entities, which absorbed light like the original plants.

Two works from his A Concrete Pasture series, which focused on the urban and industrial landscape, are included in the exhibition. They include an installation of large translucent screens, suspended from the ceiling, with images of abstract fragments of graffiti-covered surfaces of concrete bridge girders, corrugated iron fences and weatherboard walls.

The Under series investigated and gave artistic attention to the unseen, unloved, underside of the contemporary landscape – in this instance underneath a freeway overpass.

Demonstrating his painterly approach to photography, Warner’s abstract and minimal images reveal the simple beauty in the geometry and surface of concrete struts and pylons. Banyan, from the Nature Is series, is a panorama of banyan tree-trunks, cropped to include the mid sections of the trunks and the upper reaches of their super-terranean root system.

Born in 1965, Carl Warner has exhibited in solo exhibitions for more than a decade in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.

Group exhibitions have included Idiosyncracy: Painting and Photography (Queensland Centre for Photography, 2005), Sleight (Redland Art Gallery, 2004), Fortitude (Queensland Art Gallery, 2000), Minimal (Australian Centre for Photography, 2000) and Flash (Institute of Modern Art, 2000).

His work is included in the collections of the Queensland Art Gallery, the University Art Museum, Artbank, and other regional galleries and private collections.

THE JAMES AND MARY EMELIA MAYNE CENTRE
OPEN: from 10am to 4pm, Tuesday to Sunday. Admission free.
GALLERY INFORMATION: 07 3365 3046, www.maynecentre.uq.edu.au
PARKING is free on weekends.