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During the past month, UQ’s three main campuses have been on show to the community for the annual Open Days. The high levels of interest from thousands of people who visited St Lucia, Ipswich and Gatton reaffirmed the enduring importance of the whole of campus experience for students.

Future students and their families at Open Days were scrutinising more than the academic programs and courses on offer. Many were also interested in the recreational and cultural facilities, the services provided by the UQ Union and UQ SPORT, and the encompassing atmosphere of the campuses.

For a growing number of students, rising financial pressures surrounding tertiary education limit time for engaging in campus activities that are not strictly related to their areas of study. So it is imperative that the precious time spent on campus enriches the student experience.

The Commonwealth Minister for Education, Science and Training, Julie Bishop, highlighted the importance of a complete campus experience when she attended the opening of the Donaldson Building at St John’s College in August. Minister Bishop quoted Professor Don Markwell (a UQ graduate who is warden of Trinity College at the University of Melbourne and has been appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) at the University of Western Australia) in saying the world’s best universities “offer their students opportunities in sport, music, theatre, politics, religion and community service – from which students gain much in their personal development”.

Policy reforms and declining levels of public funding have heightened the challenge for universities, including UQ, to preserve these elements of university life. Yet it remains essential that students have opportunities to participate in campus life beyond the classrooms and the laboratories.

The so-called “Voluntary Student Unionism”, introduced in July, has already forced the shelving of a planned fitness and aquatic centre at Gatton, the end of independent cinema at the Schonell Theatre, and job losses at the UQ Union.

To ensure the continuation of a range of essential services for all students, the University will provide approximately $2 million per year to the UQ Union and UQ SPORT. This will support a range of services including legal advice, confidential counselling, campus safety, and sport and recreational services.

This action is feasible within UQ’s budgetary capacity. Increasingly, however, Australian universities will depend on relationships with graduates, business, industry and friends in the wider community to ensure that all students have opportunities to achieve academically whilst benefiting from a complete campus experience.

Professor John Hay, AC

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dolphin secrets uncovered
Science and animals feature at the ‘Ekka’
SPORT: Sprinter takes on the world

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UQ News is now delivered to our near neighbours at St Lucia. We hope you enjoy catching up with news and events at the University. If you would like to comment on the magazine, telephone 07 3365 3367 or email communications@uq.edu.au

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COVER: Chikamai Hanayagi prepares for the parade of courtesans, part of the celebration of 40 years of Japanese language studies at the University.
PHOTO: CHRIS STACEY
EXPERT GUIDANCE

UQ’S NEW SENATORS ARE WELL-QUALIFIED TO HELP LEAD AN OUTWARDLY-FOCUSED CORPORATION.

The University’s links to the State’s wider business, legal and cultural communities have grown stronger with seven prominent “downtowners” playing a leading role on its Senate. These recent appointments link UQ to a network of national and international contacts outside the academic world and are paving the way forward for a more corporate-based management style.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said the 22-member Senate, which is the University’s governing body, had adapted to reflect the complex changes that were taking place in higher education in Australia and internationally.

“UQ’s research, teaching and commercialisation initiatives are in demand internationally; our global collaborations are growing in importance; and we have students from more than 120 countries. It is, therefore, imperative that UQ operates like a modern, outwardly-focused corporation – and the Senate reflects this thinking,” Professor Hay said.

The seven recently appointed non-academic Senators, six of whom are UQ graduates, include: Queensland’s most senior public servant Ross Rolfe; company director and corporate and commercial lawyer John Story; and principal advisor for cultural heritage with the Indigenous Cultural Heritage Coordination Unit Isabel Tarrago.

Other new Senators are: Board of Trustees of Brisbane Grammar School and Crime and Misconduct Commission member Judith Bell; stockbroking executive chair Timothy Crommelin; professional company director Dr Jane Wilson; and company director and former lawyer Nerolie Withnall.

Professor Hay said the non-academic Senators ensured the University stayed in touch with what was happening in the wider community so that it could respond to new trends and developments.

“These seven relatively new faces on the Senate come from a broad section of what could be described as the ‘downtown’ community,” he said.

“They bring an invaluable wealth of business knowledge, organisational experience and cultural diversity.

“Certain cultural, sporting, support and social services will be retained for all Australian and international students, because these services are intrinsic to the UQ experience.”

Safeguards help soften VSU impact

The University is moving to safeguard a range of important student services threatened by the Commonwealth’s Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU).

Support for legal advice, confidential counselling, campus safety, and sports and recreational facilities are part of a package to be funded, Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said.

“UQ will provide approximately $2 million per year to the UQ Union (UQU) and UQ SPORT, to maintain services that would otherwise face extinction because of so-called Voluntary Student Unionism,” Professor Hay said.

“Rather than stand by as VSU diminishes the student experience, UQ established a working party which consulted with the UQU and UQ SPORT, and will offer as much support as is feasible within the University’s budgetary capacity.

“Certain cultural, sporting, support and social services will be retained for all Australian and international students, because these services are intrinsic to the UQ experience.

Services to be covered include:

• Confidential advice, advocacy and support to students on issues such as grievances, misconduct, appeals, exam arrangements and conditions, harassment and discrimination
• Legal advice on intellectual property, minor criminal and civil disputes, discipline appeals, residential tenancy agreements, and simple wills and powers of attorney
• The Safety Bus, which helps maintain personal safety
• Buses between the three main campuses
• Crisis and personal support, and assistance relating to scholarships and Commonwealth benefits and payments
• A basic capacity to support student recreational and cultural activities through clubs and societies
• The Sports Scholarship Program and the Club Sport Program
• Maintenance and operation of ovals and major sports venues
• Maintenance of UQ SPORT’s organisational support for the Gatton and Ipswich campuses, and
• International student services.

UQ Secretary and Registrar Douglas Porter said grants from UQ will enable UQU and UQ SPORT to provide services to all students this year, in spite of the VSU legislation.

The first grants would be paid in 2007, and would then be linked to the Consumer Price Index, Mr Porter said.

“As well, UQU will be supported in its strategy of improving the profitability of business and trading operations, and UQ SPORT in marketing its facilities and services,” he said.

UQU President Lucy Weber said she welcomed the package.

“Although the Union will be running on less than a quarter of its former capacity, this funding will ensure that we are able to keep our basic support services open to all students irrespective of whether they have the capacity or foresight to pay a fee,” Ms Weber said.

“Certain cultural, sporting, support and social services will be retained for all Australian and international students, because these services are intrinsic to the UQ experience”
The University invited potential students to examine it closely at Open Days at its three campuses at St Lucia, Ipswich and Gatton in August.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said before students invested years of their lives in a university, it made sense to examine staff, facilities and offerings.

"UQ has many advantages to offer prospective students," he said.

"We invited students to experience our beautiful campuses first-hand and chat to staff and students about what they can expect to find here."

More than 12,000 visitors attended the St Lucia campus Open Day on August 6, and Ipswich Open Day visitor numbers increased by 25 percent from last year.

Campus bus tours, musical entertainment by college bands, University music DJs, animal nurseries, rock climbing walls and sausage sizzles were part of the Open Days, which made for entertaining but informative events for potential students.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Michael Keniger said there was a tremendous "vibe" at the Open Days and they were a huge success.

"The aim of the events was to provide a taste of the UQ student experience," Professor Keniger said.

"With activities and market stalls, there was a great energy on all campuses. Information booths were kept busy all day with study inquiries."

The Ipswich Open Day was held on August 20 and Gatton on August 27.

Further information about study options at UQ is available at www.uq.edu.au/study or contact UQ Admissions on (07) 3365 2203 or email AdmissionsEnquiries@admin.uq.edu.au.

PHOTOS: Jeremy Patten and Lyle Radford
The meeting of the deck spans mid-river of the $55.47 million cable-stay bridge between Dutton Park and St Lucia took place on August 11.

On August 28, Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman announced an independent evaluation panel had chosen the name Eleanor Schonell Bridge for the Brisbane River crossing.

Ct Newman said Eleanor Schonell had made "an internationally recognised contribution to testing for dyslexia and was renowned for her generous and humane approach to life."

An educationist whose work with cerebral palsy children led to international recognition, Eleanor Schonell was married to Sir Fred Schonell, who was UQ Vice-Chancellor from 1960 to 1969.

At the joining of the span, Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said the bridge would improve the accessibility of the campus for bus, cycle and pedestrian use.

"The University's governing Senate 80 years ago had a choice of establishing the University at either Victoria Park near the hospitals, or at St Lucia, a suburb which in 1926 was inaccessible," he said.

"Senate on December 10, 1926, voted for the St Lucia site on the understanding the Brisbane City Council would agree to make the campus accessible with a bridge."

"Although the Council has since provided buses and ferries, the University is pleased that the promise of a bridge has now been kept."

"Since that time, the St Lucia campus has become the second largest traffic generator in the Brisbane area, with up to 40,000 people a day visiting the campus at the beginning of first semester."

In October 9, 2003, the University Senate set out stringent conditions on support of construction of a bridge to, but not through, the St Lucia campus.

Senate noted the worsening traffic congestion on Coronation Drive and Sir Fred Schonell Drive in St Lucia and supported a bridge that would encourage the use of public transport to the campus.

Senate also affirmed there would never be a connection to the campus road network, and no through-running bus services to preserve the amenity of the area.

This intent had been further strengthened in the final designs that isolated College Road, St Lucia, from the bus turn-around circle at the St Lucia campus to return buses to Dutton Park shortly after they arrived on campus.

College Road will no longer connect between Thynne Road and Sir William MacGregor Drive. Cyclists and pedestrians will have easy access to a network of campus pathways.

Professor Hay said the Senate resolution three years ago also strongly urged the Council to commit to a timetable for the construction of two pedestrian/cycle bridges from West End and Yeronga to UQ.
Clinical Professor Fiona Wood, who received an Order of Australia in 2003 for her work with victims of the Bali bombing, will speak at the UQ Medical Society’s ES Meyers Memorial lecture on September 19.

The lecture is at Centenary Hall, Brisbane Grammar School, Gregory Terrace, Spring Hill, at 7pm. Professor Wood is Director of the Western Australian Burns Service and co-founder and Director of Clinical Cell Culture.

She was appointed a Member in the Order of Australia in 2003 for her work with Bali victims and has been involved in a number of education and disaster response programs.

Decorated doctor to give Meyers lecture

A researcher who played a major role in the emergence of Brisbane as a centre of biological research has been recognised for his achievements by being awarded the $10,000 CSIRO Eureka Prize for Leadership in Science.

Professor John Mattick, AO, from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB), received his award on August 22.

Professor Mattick completed a UQ double in the award, which was last year won by 2006 Australian of the Year Professor Ian Frazer.

Under Professor Mattick’s guidance, IMB became one of Australia’s leading research institutes, with more than 400 staff and students working in areas such as the human genome, cancer biology, organ development, repair and regeneration, cystic fibrosis, alternative energy sources, and diabetes.

Professor Mattick originally joined UQ in 1988 when he founded the Centre for Molecular and Cellular Biology, which was later merged with UQ’s Drug Design and Development Centre, established by Professor Peter Andrews, AO, to form the IMB.

Professors Mattick and Andrews were appointed co-Directors of IMB, until Professor Andrews left in 2003 to become Queensland Chief Scientist.

Professor Mattick then became the sole Director of IMB until the end of 2005, when he stepped down.

With an Australian Research Council Federation Fellowship, he is challenging the dogma of so-called “junk DNA”, the 98.5 percent of human DNA that does not code for genes and until now has not been thought to do anything.

A second UQ researcher, Christian Weedbrook of UQ’s School of Physical Sciences, will share in the $10,000 University of New South Wales Eureka Prize for Scientific Research.

Mr Weedbrook is a PhD student in the Quantum Optics and Quantum Information Group at the University, led by Professor Tim Ralph.

Professor Ralph said Mr Weedbrook helped to develop a new, more efficient Quantum Cryptography scheme that was experimentally demonstrated by collaborators at the Australian National University.
The endangered Mary River Turtle has learned the perfect way to avoid being eaten — stay underwater.

UQ PhD student Natalie Mathie, who has been studying Mary River hatchlings for the past two years, has shown that the turtle can stay submerged for at least three days, possibly up to a week in the right conditions.

Ms Mathie said unlike most freshwater turtles, the Mary River Turtle could extract about half of its oxygen requirements from river water using special sacs in its bottom.

The endangered Mary River Turtle is unique to the Mary River and it’s believed only hundreds of eggs are laid each breeding season.

Ms Mathie, with UQ’s School of Integrative Biology, has been studying how changes in water temperature, oxygen levels and also the presence of predators affect the turtles’ respiration and diving behaviour.

She believes their diving is a survival strategy to lessen their chance of being eaten by birds on the surface or by fish and eels.

She also tested the turtles’ performance in cooler and hotter temperatures and found that they didn’t adapt well to any temperature changes.

Ms Mathie said the Mary River Turtle was under threat because turtle eggs were being eaten by cats, dogs and foxes or their nests were being trampled by cows along the river.

She is also worried about how the planned Traveston Dam will change the Mary River landscape and damage turtle habitat, washing away undercut banks, nesting banks, fallen logs and well-oxygenated streams.

She said the Mary River Turtles needed riffle zones, which were shallow rocky areas that ran into big pools keeping water oxygen levels high.

“The Dam will have a lot less oxygen and it will also be cooler because it’s deeper,” she said.

Ms Mathie, who has been supported by the local Tiaro Landcare group, will soon fix depth recorders and transmitters to the shells of adult turtles.

She said this would allow her to exactly measure their diving rates and where and how far away they were living and nesting.

### Fellowship Honours Vaccine Co-Founder

A new $450,000 Smart State Fellowship in honour of late UQ scientist Dr Jian Zhou has been announced by the Queensland Government.

Dr Zhou was a research partner of UQ immunologist and Australian of the Year Professor Ian Frazer. Together, they founded the technology behind the first preventative cervical cancer vaccine — Gardasil.

At the Gardasil launch last month, Queensland Treasurer Anna Bligh said the three-year Jian Zhou Fellowship would be offered to a Queenslander to advance research and development in immunology and cancer research.

The Government will contribute $100,000 a year for three years, matched by a $50,000-a-year commitment from Melbourne based pharmaceutical manufacturer CSL.

Professor Zhou’s son Andreas said his family was proud of his father.

“We’re really happy that the vaccine has come through with 100 percent on the test trials but also really sad because my father can’t be here with us today,” Mr Zhou said.

“We’re happy it’s finally out there and people can start getting vaccinated.”

The Australian-made vaccine prevents four of many strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV) which cause genital warts and cervical cancer.

The prescription-only vaccine, which has been approved for use in girls and women aged nine to 26 in Australia and the US, is distributed in Australia and New Zealand by CSL and distributed worldwide by US drugmaker Merck & Co.

It sells for $465 for a three-dose shot but there are plans to have it considered for subsidy under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and eventually added to the national vaccination program for girls aged 12.

Cervical cancer kills about 270,000 women worldwide each year.

HPV causes abnormal cells or tissue growth on the feet, hands, vocal cords, mouth and genitals.

About 60 types of HPV have been identified to date with each strand infecting various parts of the body.

Professor Frazer is the Director of UQ’s Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research.

UQ’s main commercialisation company, UniQuest, licensed the vaccine technology to CSL in 1994.
Dr Steve Salisbury, from the School of Integrative Biology, in July attended the opening of the Outer Barcoo Interpretation Centre in Isisford, the centrepiece of which is a replica of a fossil crocodilian that he and his team recently discovered in the region.

Dr Salisbury said the new fossil, which he and his colleagues named Isisfordia duncani, may represent the ancestor of all modern crocodilians (crocodiles, alligators, caimans and gharials).

The $1.34 million centre, which was opened by Queensland Governor Quentin Bryce, includes a prominent display on Isisfordia duncani, along with the research that Dr Salisbury and his team have been conducting in the Isisford district since 2001.

“IT IS SUCH AN HONOUR TO HAVE OUR WORK FEATURED LIKE THIS,” DR SALISBURY SAID.

“AND FOR US TO BE ABLE TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY, WHICH HAS SUPPORTED OUR RESEARCH FOR MANY YEARS, IS SOMETHING WE ARE VERY PROUD OF.”

Discovered by former Deputy Mayor of Isisford, Ian Duncan, after whom the new species has been named, the first fossils of Isisfordia were found in the mid-1990s in a dried-up creek bed on the outskirts of town.

Initial preparation of the fossils was undertaken at the Queensland Museum, with the remainder of the work being completed in Dr Salisbury’s Vertebrate Palaeontology Laboratory at UQ from 2003 onwards, through funding provided by the Australian Research Council’s Linkage Scheme.

Isisford Shire Council, the Queensland Museum, Land Rover Australia and Winton Shire Council provided additional financial and in-kind support for the research.

Isisford Shire is in central western Queensland. It is approximately 1200km from Brisbane and about 700km inland from Rockhampton.

The town of Isisford, at the northern edge of the shire, is around 120km from Longreach to the northwest, and around the same distance from Blackall, which lies to the east.

**FOSSILS PUT OUTBACK ON THE MAP**

THE DISCOVERY OF THE ANCESTOR OF ALL CROCODILIANS HAS LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW CENTRE IN THE QUEENSLAND TOWN OF ISISFORD.

**NECK PAIN STUDY**

Researchers at UQ’s Neck Pain Research Unit need volunteers to participate in a study looking into the effects of dry needling, similar to acupuncture, on neck pain. Participants should be aged between 18 and 65 and have neck pain due to a non-traumatic cause. Participants will only need to attend one session of about an hour-and-a-half at the Neck Pain/Whiplash Research Unit. Information: Amanda 0402 682 554.

**OSTEO RESEARCH**

More than 100 osteoarthritis sufferers are needed for studies into the effectiveness of a natural alternative to current drug treatments. A clinical trial by the Australian Centre for Complementary Medicine Education and Research, a joint venture between UQ and Southern Cross University, will examine Shea butter extract benefits. Shea butter, from the Shea Nut, is already used in the cosmetics and food industries. Information: Peta-Anne Paul-Brent (07) 3840 6112 or 0438 096 095.

**HEEL PAIN HELP**

UQ physiotherapy researchers need volunteers aged 18 to 60 to take part in a heel pain study. Little is known about how to evaluate and treat heel pain. The main purpose of the research is to investigate the characteristics of pain in patients with heel pain and to recommend the most appropriate clinical tests. Tests will be conducted for approximately two hours over two sessions. Information: Ali Alshami (07) 3346 7465 (voicemail) or email: a.alshami@shrs.uq.edu.au.
GRANT TARGETS GENES BEHIND SEVERE ARTHRITIS

A Brisbane professor will jointly lead a global study to uncover the genes that cause a common form of arthritis.

Professor Matthew Brown, from UQ’s Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research (CICR), has secured a $7 million (US$5.25 million) grant from a leading American health group to pinpoint the genes behind ankylosing spondylitis.

This condition is the second-most common cause of inflammatory arthritis and affects 20,000 people, mainly younger Australians.

It stiffens the back, hips and pelvis and can also damage the eyes and heart.

“It’s a chronic condition which basically causes people in their 20s and 30s to be significantly disabled by their 50s and 60s,” Professor Brown said.

“The goal of the grant is to identify the genes that determine who gets the disease and also what determines the severity of the condition.

“Because this disease is so highly hereditary, our program has an extremely high chance of identifying at least the major genes that are involved.

“It’s thought that it’s triggered by some very common bacterial infection.”

Professor Brown, who leads the CICR’s musculoskeletal genetics group, will jointly lead a group of 15 American and British scientists working on the five-year study.

He said the only available treatment for ankylosing spondylitis was an expensive and lifelong bout of potent injections which suppressed the immune system.

He said the grant, from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases in the US, not only raised awareness of the disease but also of Australian research know-how.

“Because this disease doesn’t tend to put people in hospitals as much and instead causes chronic disability, it tends to have been under-funded,” Professor Brown said.

“This was an extremely high-rated grant and it’s an Australian group that has pulled it off.

“A lot of people look at genetic studies and say that it can’t be done in Australia because the National Health and Medical Research Council research budgets are relatively small.

“But you can be internationally competitive and get good funding from elsewhere if you do the right project on the right disease.”

He said some of the first work on the project was to collate 8000 DNA samples from the US and UK together in one place.

SPEEDY SWARM

Computational and biomedical scientists at the University have combined forces to create a powerful new tool that will greatly increase the amount of data bio-scientists can expect to process in a week.

Sophisticated software that slashes the processing time required to select high-resolution images is poised to boost biomedical research around the world.

Screening processes that once demanded hundreds of hours from a skilled operator can now be done by a less-skilled operator in a fraction of the time.

The rapid semi-automated single particle selection software (SwarmPS) speeds up the painstaking and often laborious process of selecting scientifically “significant” images from the thousands of “non-significant” images which routinely accompany them.

Incorporating cross-correlation and edge-detection algorithms, SwarmPS is an improvement on other available technologies because it uses human interaction with images to fine-tune its considerable processing power.

Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) computational scientist Geoffrey Ericksson said the software involved about 20,000 separate lines of computer code and had the potential to save researchers both time and money.

“Essentially, SwarmPS has been designed to provide a user-friendly, powerful and flexible graphical interface to manage and run particle selection jobs,” Dr Erickson said.

“It’s envisaged that users will be able to run the program in a semi-automated mode, with the ability to exert full manual override at any stage, providing maximum flexibility in terms of speed and accuracy of particle selection.

“Shielding people from mundane, repetitive tasks allows them to think about more important aspects of their work.”

Developed by scientists from the QBI and the University’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience, SwarmPS has been designed to run across most standard computer platforms.

“Once the technical hurdles are overcome, SOX18 will be an attractive target for human cancer therapy,” he said.

An Australian research team has identified a gene that could be used to stop tumours growing by blocking their blood supply.

A study led by Professor Peter Koopman, from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience, showed tumours in mice with a mutant form of the gene SOX18 actually stopped growing and became benign, unlike the lethal tumours that grew in normal mice.

“Tumours only grow and spread if they can form a blood supply, and SOX18 is a key regulator of blood vessel formation. Mice with the mutant form of the gene were unable to develop blood vessels to feed the tumour.

“We were absolutely staggered to see the tumours in these mice just stopped growing altogether at such a small size,” Professor Koopman said.

“Tumours of an equivalent size in humans would not be fatal, so if this discovery could be transferred to people, we could basically starve tumours before they could do much harm.”

Professor Koopman said this type of gene therapy would have benefits over existing cancer treatments.

“A key advantage of using SOX18 in treating cancer would be that it is very, very specific in its role, unlike chemotherapy which has such broad side-effects,” he said.

The next step is to develop a drug that can mimic the effects of the mutant SOX18 gene in humans.

“Once the technical hurdles are overcome, SOX18 will be an attractive target for human cancer therapy,” he said.
Flowing silk kimonos, elaborate hairstyles and striking make-up mesmerised onlookers at a series of traditional dances celebrating the 40th anniversary of Japanese language teaching at UQ in late August.

The parade of courtesans and performance of five Japanese dances in the Abel Smith Lecture Theatre was just one of several displays and events celebrating the anniversary, and coordinated by UQ’s School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies.

Others included a Social Sciences and Humanities Library display and a Japanese Speech Contest. The celebration will conclude with a Japanese drum concert later in the year.

The parade and dancing by the Shimonoseki Traditional Dance Association preceded a cocktail party of invited guests including past students and staff, and current UQ staff, in The James and Mary Emelia Mayne Centre on August 25.

Teaching of Japanese studies at UQ began as Queensland was re-establishing trade ties with Japan. By the end of the 1960s, three major Japanese corporations, Mitsui, Sumitomo and Mitsubishi, had opened offices in Brisbane. A Japanese consulate was established in Brisbane in 1966 and was later upgraded to Consulate-General status in 1972.

Professor Joyce Ackroyd, formerly Associate Professor at the Australian National University, was appointed foundation chair of the Department of Japanese Language and Literature. She was the first female professor at the University and instrumental in introducing the teaching of Japanese as a foreign language to high schools in Queensland, ahead of other states in Australia.

Under her stewardship, the Japanese program developed into one of Australia’s main centres for Japanese studies.

Professor Ackroyd retired in 1983 with one of her final achievements, the introduction of a groundbreaking coursework Master of Arts in Japanese Interpreting and Translating (now known as MAJIT) in 1980. It is the only one of its kind in Australia. In 2001, the MAJIT program was ranked second in the world in a survey of interpreting programs conducted by the International Association of Conference Interpreters, based in Switzerland.

Professor Ackroyd’s successor was Professor Alan Rix, now UQ’s Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Ipswich. Building on Professor Ackroyd’s achievements, Professor Rix promoted Japanese by introducing combined degrees with other disciplines.

Professor Rix left the headship in 1994 and Chinese Professor Kam Louie, now Executive Dean of Arts at the University of Hong Kong, served as Head of the Department until 1999. He was succeeded by Associate Professor Nanette Gottlieb, now Professor in Japanese.

The Japanese program is among nine programs offered in the School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies.
The sensitive conversion of the former Mayne Hall into The James and Mary Emelia Mayne Centre at the University's St Lucia campus earned the State's top public architecture awards, given by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA).

The FDG Stanley Award for Public Building Architecture went to Mayne Centre project architects, Wilson Architects.

The Mayne Centre also won a Conservation Award, and an additional Architecture Award for Public Buildings.

The Centre, which opened in 2004 after a significant donation from The Atlantic Philanthropies, houses Australia's first developing National Collection of Artists' Self-Portraits and a changing program of exhibitions. It also houses the University Art Museum.

Wilson Architects also received an Architecture Award for Public Buildings for the University's $24 million Sir James Foots Building.

The Mayne Centre has already received the RAIA Brisbane Regional Commendation and a Commendation in the Interior Design – Corporate category of the 2005 Queensland Design Awards.

Professor Hay said the Mayne Centre had already received the RAIA Brisbane Regional Commendation and a Commendation in the Interior Design – Corporate category of the 2005 Queensland Design Awards.

The m3architecture-designed Micro/Health Laboratory at UQ’s Gatton Campus is one of the RAIA’s choice of 12 outstanding Australian buildings.

The buildings will be featured in the Australian Pavilion at the 10th Venice Architecture Biennale this month.
“The learning places of the future will be beyond state-of-the-art — they will be experimental and designed to demonstrate advanced teaching systems and methods”

Designs on future learning

Three UQ buildings, designed by the recipient of Queensland’s most prestigious architecture award, will inform the future design of libraries and places of learning.

The Collaborative Research Centre in the Sir James Foots Building, the Biological Sciences Library, and the Ipswich campus library will be case studies for a collaborative research project by Wilson Architects and the University.

Funded by the Federal Government’s Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, the research aims to develop a new framework for the collaborative design of libraries and learning places that consider new methods of teaching and learning, new uses of space and future technology.

The research is titled Designing Next Generation Places of Learning: Collaboration at the Pedagogy-Space-Technology Nexus.

Principal investigators for the project are Professor David Radcliffe, Thess Professor of Engineering Education and Professional Development; Derek Powell, Manager, Teaching Technology Support, Information Technology Services, UQ; and Wilson Architects’ Managing Director Hamilton Wilson.

“We each have overlapping interests and complementary expertise in the design of learning environments from the perspectives of teaching theory, technology and space,” Mr Wilson said.

“The outcomes of the research project will influence the development of future learning spaces across the Australian and international higher education sectors.

“The findings will help the sector move beyond simply designing teaching and learning spaces to consider creating places of learning appropriate for the 21st century.

“The learning places of the future will be beyond state-of-the-art — they will be experimental and designed to demonstrate advanced teaching systems and methods.

“As part of the project, at least three new learning places will be developed at the University, embodying new ways of learning, new ways to use space and next-generation technology.”

Wilson Architects has extensive experience in the specialised design of learning environments and libraries.

The $24 million Sir James Foots Building, which opened last year, began as the home of the Sustainable Minerals Institute, but the Collaborative Learning Centre was incorporated into the planning.

“These new learning environments directly respond to a pedagogical model for project-based teaching,” he said.

“Collectively, with other unrelated functional uses, the Sir James Foots Building creates a unique juxtaposition of teaching, research, offices, learning, and work environments in the one facility.”

UQ researchers will share in almost $6.5 million of funding to support greater collaboration with colleagues in other universities.

The funding is part of a $15 million Systemic Infrastructure Initiative announced on July 31 by Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, Julie Bishop.

One project, which will receive $4.545 million, will build on software developed by the Dataset Acquisition Accessibility and Annotation e-Research Technologies (DAFT) project to allow seamless access to data and information that may be in different parts of the country.

UQ is partnering with Monash University and James Cook University in the project, which will provide a common underlying research information infrastructure to enable research collaboration and cooperation especially in data-intensive research.

The second project is an extension of the current Australian Partnership for Sustainable Repositories (APSR) project, in which UQ is a partner with the Australian National University and the University of Sydney.

Funding of $1.87 million will go towards the second stage of the project, which is developing digital repositories and providing associated research-linked discovery, access and management services.

The extension of APSR will extend the scope and depth of its services to the Australian higher education and research sectors. Specifically, APSR-2 will extend the programs on digital sustainability, core development, national outreach, and international linkages.

The national outreach program performs a crucial role for the higher education sector and for government more generally, by providing opportunities for knowledge-sharing and networking for Australian researchers and information professionals and by developing skills.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor David Siddle said UQ’s involvement in such projects underpinned the vital role the University’s researchers played in establishing infrastructure to help Australian research reach its full potential.

INFRASTRUCUTRE FUNDING BOOSTS PARTNERSHIPS

UQ NEWS, SEPTEMBER 2006
New molecular techniques that provide insights into the life of threatened species are being used by a UQ researcher to study two dolphin species.

Dr Guido Parra of UQ’s School of Veterinary Science is using some of the non-invasive genetic techniques, together with photo-identification of individual animals, to understand the ecology and genetic health of some of Australia’s rarest coastal dolphins: the Australian snubfin and the Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin.

These species are found in coastal waters of Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia. Despite their apparent wide distribution, little is known about their ecology, behaviour, and genetics. Recent research by Dr Parra in both remote and more urbanised regions of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area indicated that the two species occurred in very small populations close to coastal and estuarine environments.

Because of these biological characteristics, populations of both species are vulnerable to human impacts on their environment.

Dr Parra said understanding the ecology and genetics of these species was critical for their conservation.

“In the past, it was often necessary to capture and/or sacrifice the dolphins to obtain ecological and genetic information,” he said.

“Now, minuscule samples of their skin and blubber can be obtained remotely without having to immobilise or disturb the dolphin for more than a few seconds.

“In addition, individual animals can be identified through photographs of their dorsal fins.

“Skin samples are obtained by firing a dart designed so that, on impact with the animal, a small sample of skin tissue is retained. The dart bounces off the dolphin and floats at the surface until it can be retrieved.”

The samples and photo-identification data are then used to determine sex, social relationships, movement patterns and genetic variability in a population.

A shark and ray forum on North Stradbroke Island has led to the establishment of research networks and conservation solutions for the south-east Queensland region.

Delegates to the Southern Queensland Elasmobranch Research Forum (SGERF), held for the first time last year, met at UQ’s Moreton Bay Research Station on July 25 and 26.

Elasmobranchs are sharks and batoids (stingrays) and are represented in southern Queensland by 116 species from 37 families.

This equates to approximately 10 percent of the global fauna and around 70 percent of the total number of Queensland species known.

In recent years, elasmobranch research has increased globally, largely due to heightened awareness of the vulnerability of this group from human activities.

SGERF was organised and initiated by students and its aim was to showcase postgraduate student research, leading to better research networks and industry collaboration.

University researchers and academics from around Australia attended, as well as representatives from government, policy-makers, aquarists and a representative of Moreton Bay’s fishing community.

Keynote speakers were elasmobranch researchers Terence Walker (Primary Industries Research, Victoria) and Barry Bruce (CSIRO, Hobart).

The forum was organised by UQ students Vera Schluessel and Blake Harahush, and Griffith University student Clint Chapman.

It was sponsored by schools from UQ and Griffith University and the Sea World Research and Rescue Foundation.

Ms Schluessel said the event gave students a chance to introduce their research projects and to access animals for tissue samples.

“It is difficult for research students to meet with industry partners and other researchers and gain access to samples and equipment,” she said.

SECRET LIFE OF DOLPHINS

PHOTOGRAPHS AND SMALL SKIN SAMPLES ARE SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE LIFE OF AUSTRALIA’S RAREST COASTAL DOLPHINS.

PHOTO: Jeremy Patten

Vera Schluessel (left) and Blake Harahush
PHOTO: courtesy Ms Schluessel
PhD student Stephen Carleton, from the School of English, Media Studies and Art History, has an impressive and varied work history but is now able to focus on his passion for writing. Constance Drinkwater and the Final Days of Somerset won the 2004 Patrick White Playwrights’ Award, after being chosen over 195 other entries. The play was also short-listed on the 2004-05 Queensland Premier’s Drama Award and, in 2005, won the Australian National Playwrights’ Centre’s New Dramatists’ Award.

As part of the dramatists’ award, Mr Carleton will take part in an exchange which includes a three-week stint in New York, a trip to Broadway and the opportunity to read Constance Drinkwater to international playwrights.

But recent performances at the Brisbane Festival gave the play national exposure.

“I think the Brisbane Festival went really well, I think audiences went out and saw most shows,” Mr Carleton said. “It confirmed there is a real appetite in Brisbane for new and locally-themed work.”

The festival and Patrick White Award opened professional doors for Mr Carleton. “The festival and award helped build professional relationships for me. The director of Constance was Marion Potts who is a Sydney-based director. She works with Bell Shakespeare Company and as a freelancer for the Sydney Theatre Company. She was one of the judges on the Patrick White Award,” he said.

“She phoned Michael Gow at the Queensland Theatre Company and asked if he was programming the play at the festival, and could she direct it. That would not have happened if it were not for the Patrick White Award.”

Mr Carleton is now able to focus more on his writing and is working on a project this year for the Darwin Theatre Company. He is also coordinating a series of projects for the Regional Wave Cohort, a professional network encompassing theatre professionals in Darwin, Cairns and Townsville primarily, but also Mackay and Alice Springs. The project series has received funding from the Federal Government’s arts funding and advisory body and Mr Carleton has a residency at the Queensland Performing Arts Council to oversee the series.

He is an experienced actor, director and playwright, completing a Master of Philosophy (Creative Writing) at UQ in 2002. He also teaches drama, as part of a three-year appointment at the University.

“It confirmed there is a real appetite in Brisbane for new and locally-themed work”
A DOSE OF SCIENCE WAS ADDED TO THE UNIVERSITY’S REGULAR FAVOURITES AT THIS YEAR’S ‘EKKA’.

UQ celebrated National Science Week at the Royal Queensland Show, better known as the Ekka, this year with science and technology displays as well as the popular animal nursery and beef expo. Strawberry DNA, robots, slime, flowers, telemedicine and rockets were some of the activities showcased at the UQ stand in the Walter Burnett Pavilion from August 10 to 19.

UQ’s Ekka organiser and National Science state coordinator Jackie Mergard said UQ had daily demonstrations and talks.

Armed with a handful of chocolate biscuits and marshmallows, showgoers did their best to build tasty towers at the UQ stand.

Families had improved access to the ever-popular UQ Animal Nursery with reconfigured animal pens for better access to the animals.

Dr Mark Hohenhaus, the animal nursery coordinator and UQ School of Animal Studies senior lecturer, said display products helped children make the link between the animal and their products.

A woollen suit was displayed with the sheep, while milk, cheese and soap were displayed with the goats, and leather and oil with the emus.

The nursery also plays an important role for UQ Gatton students studying for the Certificate in Agriculture.

These students were on hand to answer the tough questions about how the babies were bred, fed and raised.

The UQ Cattlemans’ Club presented the Beef Expo in the cattle pavilion.

Cervical cancer vaccine pioneer and Australian of the Year Professor Ian Frazer talked about the wonders of science and his experiences as Australian of the Year.
Island stations on top of the world

CONDUCTING MARINE-BASED RESEARCH AND TEACHING AT UQ’S ISLAND STATIONS IS EASIER AND BETTER EQUIPPED AFTER A FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM OF IMPROVEMENTS.

A new two-storey laboratory at Heron Island is the most recent part of a multi-million-dollar program to upgrade UQ’s island-based research stations. With funding from the University and support from the Federal and Queensland governments, more than $7.3 million has been spent upgrading Heron Island, Moreton Bay and Low Isles Research Stations in the past four years.

The stations are managed by UQ’s Centre for Marine Studies (CMS).

“The island research stations have gone from strength to strength in recent years and Heron Island and Moreton Bay can be counted among the best marine research stations in the world,” CMS Director Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg said.

The Heron Island station is on an eight-hectare coral cay, 80 kilometres offshore from Gladstone on the current southern boundary of the Great Barrier Reef.

The Queensland Architecture Award-winning research laboratory complex, designed by Dimitriou Architects and built by Hutchinson Builders, has nine research laboratories, equipment rooms, library, computer room and a large indoor/outdoor aquaria complex.

Research and accommodation services at Moreton Bay Research Station and Study Centre, on North Stradbroke Island, have also been enhanced recently.

A large open plan research laboratory has been partitioned into smaller more versatile laboratories.

The purchase of a house and flat across the road from the main station has increased the amount of self-contained accommodation available for researchers.

“The new research labs allow a larger number of scientists and postgraduates to conduct research in a private work environment with minimal disruption,” station manager Kevin Townsend said.

A commercial caterer is another new service to be offered to guests at Moreton Bay. A commercial grade kitchen was completed late in 2005.

UQ’s reach stretches as far north as Port Douglas, in North Queensland, where the Low Isles Research Station is nestled in the lagoon area of the Great Barrier Reef.

The Low Isles was the base for the first combined expedition by the Royal Society of London and Great Barrier Reef committee in 1928–29 to study the biology and ecology of the reef.

Data collected in this first expedition is still used as a baseline for measuring temporal variation in the ecology of the reef.

The Low Isles is also quite rare ecologically because mangrove forests, mudflats, sea-grass beds and coral reefs are seldom found in such close proximity.

The main research station building, formerly the assistant lighthouse keeper’s house, has been recently renovated and refurnished throughout.

Guest accommodation on the second floor of the two-storey house is modest but comfortable and the laboratory area on the ground floor has been outfitted with basic laboratory equipment.

“The Low Isles provides an exciting and stimulating location for tropical marine research,” he said.

Because the research station is located in a Marine National Park Zone, researchers and educators need to be extremely sensitive to the local environment and permits are needed for all activities.”

PHOTOS: courtesy Brad Muller of Dimitriou Architects
First-year UQ medical student Tanya Trinh of Sunnybank has won the 2006 Lions Miss Personality Quest.

The personality quest first prize will enable Miss Trinh to embark on a four-week research project in Kenya, Africa, followed by a sightseeing trip to London.

The Miss Personality title, awarded in July at a gala dinner at the Carlton Crest Hotel, is the culmination of six months preparation for the 21-year-old.

Major fundraising activities combined with a hectic study load have ensured a fast-paced journey for Miss Trinh.

“As a medical student, the opportunity to experience first-hand the research projects in progress at the Princess Alexandra and Royal Brisbane Hospitals has been of enormous value,” she said.

“It really brings home how vital the fundraising efforts of the Lions Club are in helping people all over the world today and in the future.

“I often think that maybe one day I will be a doctor applying for a Lions research grant and all the hard work feels so worthwhile.”

Richard Jolly, managing director of the major sponsor Affinage, a Brisbane hair product company, was delighted to be able to contribute to three major medical research units, and supporting Miss Trinh’s efforts.

“We are thrilled to have Tanya wear the crown and have every faith she will represent the Quest in the best possible light,” he said.

For Miss Trinh, being able to interact with so many people within the community and all the generous donors, is another rewarding aspect of her fundraising ventures.

“Last year’s winner Rebecca Haigh is a former high school friend and she invited me to consider participating in the Quest at Christmas last year,” Miss Trinh said.

“Since then, I haven’t looked back and the support I have been given is overwhelming!

“I hope to not only raise much-needed funds for the Lions Medical Research Grants, but also to encourage other young ladies to consider the Lions Miss Personality Quest.

“It is a marvellous opportunity for growth and education, and to give something back to the community.”

Richard Jolly, Tanya Trinh and June Jolly.

MEDICAL STUDENT IS CROWNED MISS PERSONALITY

Saturday 28 October
Cox Plate Day Doomben Racecourse

UQ kicks off the 2006 Spring Racing Carnival with an official fundraiser event for the sporting scholarship program. For only $2 entry come along and enjoy the fun, fashion and entertainment of Cox Plate Day.

• Live Music
• Fashions on the Field
• Competitions & prizes galore!

$2 tickets! Purchase at any UQ Sport venue

For more info Ph: 3346 7242 or visit: www.uqsport.uq.edu.au

Tickets also available for a corporate function in the ‘Campus Travel’ marquee.
UQ-based chamber choir So-La Voce have returned home from a European tour with many prizes after competing in the International Festival of Academic Choirs in Pardubice, Czech Republic.

The UQ group was among 18 international university choirs from countries such as Czech Republic, Poland, Russia, Hungary, Estonia, Austria, Germany and USA. The choir achieved outstanding results, including first place in the Mixed Chamber Choir category, and first place in the Folklore category. Additionally, they were awarded the Special Prize for the best university choir and the Grand Prix prize, first place overall in the International Choral Competition.

Conductor and musical director Réka Csernyik was also awarded the most outstanding conductor at the competition.

The 14-voice choir, formed by UQ music students, also had a great experience travelling around Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Italy, Germany and Austria. They sang in many venues such as St. Paul’s Cathedral in Rome, St. Stephen's Basilica in Hungary and even a German beer garden.

They were able to work with some fine European choirs and musicians including a workshop with Professor Eva Kollar, head of the Faculty of Music Teaching and Choir Conducting of Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music in Hungary.

The Brisbane choir made such an impact in Europe it has since been invited to participate in a number of international choir festivals and competitions in 2007.

So-La Voce gave members of the UQ community a chance to see why it was so widely-acclaimed in Europe by performing a “welcome home” concert on August 24 in the Nickson Room, School of Music.

The choir performed its European competition program including early music works by Palestrina and Gallus Hanai and modern pieces by Poulenc, Britten, Martinu and Leighton-Jones.

One of Vietnam’s top musical training centres has joined UQ’s musical performance program.

Students from the Hanoi National Conservatory of Music (HNC) will do their first year of the Master of Philosophy in Music (Performance) in Hanoi before finishing the degree in the second year at UQ.

HNC’s Rector Professor Tran Thu Ha and Deputy Rector Professor Ngo Van Thanh toured UQ to discuss details of the joint agreement, inspect UQ music facilities and take part in master classes with UQ musicians.

UQ School of Music Head Professor Philip Bracanin said five HNC students would be chosen from a field of 12 students in October.

“They are expected to commence their studies at UQ in February 2008,” Professor Bracanin said.

“The agreement between the two institutions is for five years.

“It is envisaged that this venture will lead to possible further collaborations in other areas such as composition, music therapy, musicology and music education.”

SINGERS WIN DOUBLE GOLD AT WORLD DEBUT

UQ singers have helped a Brisbane-based choral group win two gold medals and a silver at its World Choir Games debut in China.

The group, The Australian Voices, won gold in the contemporary and sacred music sections, and a silver in the chamber choir section.

More than 400 choirs competed in the sing-off for medals in various categories judged on their performance and repertoire.

Fourteen of the 25-member Australian Voices are UQ students, teachers, or alumni aged between 17 and 25 years.

UQ singers in The Australian Voices are: Alexandra Dyer, Alyssa Mills, Amy Francis-Cairns, Andrew Pennay, Celia Fitz-Walter, Erinn Marrington, Fergus Parker, Leah Hallett, Meg Tait, Meredith Brown, Sarah Jane-Welch, Scott Griffin, Taufiq Hoven and Tom Gardner.

Some of the UQ singers are music students, but some are also involved in computers, law and business.


Vietnamese hit the high notes

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inbrief

SCHOOL FUNDRAISER
One of Australia’s foremost fundraising professionals has been appointed to the position of Director, Capital Campaign, UQ Veterinary School.

Janice Wilson will conduct a fundraising campaign to underpin the relocation and construction of new facilities for the School of Veterinary Science at Gatton.

Ms Wilson has been a fundraising professional since 1981 and has been instrumental in raising millions of dollars for national and state charities, educational institutions, medical research institutes, hospitals, welfare agencies and the arts.

Professor Trevor Grigg, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development) welcomed Ms Wilson and said she had gained the respect of some of Australia’s most influential leaders.

ROMANCE STUDIED
The UQ School of Psychology needs volunteers for a study on romantic relationships and jealousy.

PhD student Rachel Elphinston chose the topic because she wants to better understand obstacles couples face.

She said rates of relationship breakdown were relatively high in Australia and many other Western countries.

She is particularly interested in issues such as security and romantic jealousy.

Men 17 or older and currently in a romantic relationship (dating, defacto or married) of at least two months duration are needed.

Participants need to complete a written questionnaire, which will take about 45 minutes.

Information: Ms Elphinston on (07) 3346 7284 or email: rachelel@psy.uq.edu.au.

LEARNING LATEST
Gatton students will soon have access to a $2.8 million innovative teaching and learning facility equipped with the latest audio-visual teaching technology.

The Regional Collaborative Learning Centre (R-CLC) is partly funded by the Commonwealth Government’s Capital Development Pool.

UQ’s first CLC is located in the Sir James Foots building at St Lucia.

The highly innovative collaborative spaces can operate in three distinct modes: individual study, seminar and/or group mode where the space can be divided into multiple learning “pods”.

The St Lucia CLC has attracted worldwide interest with groups from Europe, the United States, the Middle East, South Africa and Japan visiting the campus to study its unique learning concepts.

DRIVERS NEEDED
Men with a current driver’s license are needed for a UQ project investigating driving performance and the effects of age while driving a simulated underground coal mine shuttle car.

Men aged 20-35, 40-50 and 55-65 years are needed as volunteers for the School of Human Movement Studies experiment.

The task involves one session of approximately two hours duration, including initial instruction, driving a simulated underground coal mine shuttle car down a straight simulated mine tunnel for about 90 minutes, and a debriefing interview at completion of the experiment.

The experiment will be conducted at the Human Movement Studies Building, St Lucia campus.

Information: Christine Zupanc (07) 3202 9301 or email: czupanc@optusnet.com.au.
A UQ study has found that any alcohol consumption quadruples the risk of injury for the first six hours after drinking alcohol and this risk remained at 2.5 times that of a non-drinker for the next 24 hours.

Quantitative and specific drinks such as beer or spirits did not increase injury risk but mixing drinks increased injury risk five-fold.

Binge drinkers were more at risk of being injured than regular drinkers.

And people who sustained serious injuries were more likely to have consumed beer and be drinking in a licensed premises.

Dr Kerrianne Watt, who studied for her PhD with UQ’s School of Population Health, said her results might seem obvious but there had been few studies about drinking and all injuries, not just those from car crashes.

And these previous studies had not taken into account other possible explanations for injury such as drug use and risk-taking behaviour.

Dr Watt’s results came from interviewing about 500 people admitted to the Gold Coast Hospital Emergency Department between October 2000 and 2001.

Patients, aged 16 and above, were asked about their injuries which varied from head injuries, falls, assaults, cuts, piercings, choking, burns and near drownings.

They were asked how they were injured, where they were injured and the severity.

The most common injuries were falls, being hit by or against something and car and motorcycle crashes.

The highest blood alcohol reading was 0.31 percent.

“Car crashes are important and we need to continue to care about those,” Dr Watt said.

“But this research indicates that drinking alcohol increases all types of injury, not just car crashes.

“There are a whole variety of other alcohol-related injuries that we need to worry about and take notice of.

“We have been conditioned to think I’m drinking but not driving, I’m fine, I don’t need to worry about anything, but that’s not necessarily true.”

Some venues have banned serving some drinks such as rum because of a perception that it makes drinkers aggressive.

“My findings suggest that it’s not a property of the beverage that increases aggression and risk of injury, it’s more a personality characteristic that is attracted to a certain type of alcohol,” Dr Watt said.

“We have anecdotally seen that some beverages, for instance spirits, result in increased risk of injury.

“But we haven’t known whether it’s because people who drink spirits drink more alcohol, because they have a particular personality type or because they engage in more risky behaviour.”

Dr Watt is Clinical Research Coordinator at the Australian Centre for Pre-hospital Research with the Queensland Ambulance Service.

This year, she is also managing a national study on pandemic influenza.
UQ's “pocket rocket” Kate Leitch produced strong performances at the IAAF World Junior (under 20) Championships held in Beijing from August 15-20.

In her first international event, the psychology student’s consistent season paid off when she ran 11.97 seconds for the 100 metres and 25 seconds flat for the 200 metres.

She narrowly missed finals qualifications in both events by only 0.15 seconds and 0.63 seconds in the 200 metres.

The UQ team is the 2006 champion in the Brisbane women’s competition after defeating minor premiers Easts in the Grand Final at Ballymore.

University posted seven tries to three in its 39–21 romp over Easts, the Red Heavies’ first premiership since 2000.

Easts dominated in the early encounters and scored two early tries to lead 14–0 after only 15 minutes.

The students hit back with some sustained pressure in the Tiger’s half that resulted in 19 unanswered points, courtesy of tries to Sarah Hind, Tricia Brown and Angie Wam.

With the half-time score poised at 24–21 after both teams traded tries, University asserted its dominance in the second half as the forwards created a great attacking platform from which the backs were able to run in three further tries to seal the premiership.

University captain and Wallaroo Jacqui Cutts said the team had progressed throughout the season.

“It was fantastic. The girls put a lot of work in throughout the year and they really deserved it,” Ms Cutts said.

“When we started the season, somewhere between a quarter and a half of the girls had never played rugby before, so there’s been a lot of development over the year and to come out and win the final was hugely impressive,” she said.

“Our stand-out players were tighthead prop Christine Wanma and our number five Bridget McNee. They both had absolutely fantastic games.”

Ms Cutts, Trish Brown and Kelli Donnelly all made the Wallaroo squad preparing for the World Cup in Canada.

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Ms Cutts, Trish Brown and Kelli Donnelly all made the Wallaroo squad preparing for the World Cup in Canada.

Ms Leitch earned her shot at the world titles with strong qualifiers at the Australian under-20 championships in March.

She was part of the largest ever Australian team of 53 athletes to compete at a junior world championship.

The young sprinter has recovered well after suffering stress fractures in her back in 2003.

She is now going to have a brief rest before beginning preparations for the Australian University Games in Adelaide from September 24-29.
**SEMINARS**

- **Wednesday, September 6**
  Australasian Centre on Ageing, Breakfast Colloquium Series 2006, Our wide brown land: the demographic profile of ageing, Professor Martin Bell (7.15-9am, Customs House). Details: acpacs@uq.edu.au ($32, bookings essential).

- **Thursday, September 7**
  School of History, Philosophy Religion and Classics, A judicial response? Evidence of traditional law as a factor in Indigenous responses to Europeans at Moreton Bay, Dr Libby Connors (4.15-5.30pm, Room 816, Michie Building).

- **Tuesday, September 12**
  Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre, Tackling drugs: changing lives in Queensland prisons, Jeff Pows (2-3pm, Room 113, School of Population Health, Herston).

- **Thursday, September 14**
  Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, Learning to tolerate heresies: religious peace and the secularisation of the State, Professor Ian Hunter (5.30-6.30pm, Mayne Centre).

- **Tuesday, September 19**
  Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies Seminar Series, Iraq and WMD: lessons for the future, Rod Barton (noon-2pm, Seminar Room, Level 4, Sustainable Mining Institute, Sir James Foots Building). Details: acpacs@uq.edu.au.

- **Thursday, September 21**
  School of History, Philosophy Religion and Classics, Navigating Tasman’s 1862 voyage of exploration: cartographic instruments and navigational decisions, Avan Stallard (4.15-5.30pm, Room 816, Michie Building).

- **Tuesday, October 3**
  Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies Seminar Series, Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies Seminar Series, A reformulation of the Islamic doctrines of war and peace: implications for a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Halim Rane (noon-2pm, Don Carnuthers Room, Level 5, Dorothy Hill PSE Library, Hawken Building). Details: acpacs@uq.edu.au.

- **Thursday, October 5**
  School of History, Philosophy Religion and Classics, Vietnamese Diaries: the intellectual refashioning of Australia: 1870s to 1890s, Professor Alan Atkinson (4pm, CCCS Seminar Room, Level 4, Forgan Smith Tower).

- **Tuesday, October 10**
  Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre, The statewide rollout of Indigenous risk impact screen and brief intervention, Corale Ober (10-11am, Room 113, School of Population Health, Herston).

- **Wednesday, October 11**
  Australasian Centre on Ageing, Breakfast Colloquium Series 2006, From brown to brown: older men’s health in Australia, Professor Konrad Jamrozik (7.15-9am, Customs House). Details: acpacs@uq.edu.au ($32, bookings essential).

**CONCERTS**

- **Thursday, September 7**
  Free lunchtime concert, 4MBS Musica Viva Sid Page Memorial Prize in Chamber Music (12.30pm, Nickson Room).

- **Thursday, September 14**
  Free lunchtime concert, musicians from the UQ Brass Ensemble (12.30pm, Nickson Room).

- **Friday, September 15**
  Special free recital, vocalists in the Dramatic Interpretation of Song class co-ordinated by Joseph Ward (6pm, Nickson Room).

- **Sunday, September 17**
  Sundays at Customs House, guest Mexican pianist Mauricio Garza-Salazar (11.30am, The Long Room).

- **Sunday, September 17**
  Free organ concert, Andrew Blackburn (3pm, Mayne Centre).

- **Thursday, September 21**
  Free lunchtime concert, master violinist Michael Patterson (12.30pm, Nickson Room).

- **Friday, September 22**
  Meet the Orchestra concert, an invitation to school children and public (3.00pm, Exhibition Hall, UQ Centre). Please book on (07) 3365 3503.

- **Sunday, September 24**
  Sundays at Customs House, The Symphonic Wind Ensemble conducted by Dr Brydie Bartleet (11.30am, The Long Room).

- **Thursday, October 5**
  Free lunchtime concert, Andrew Cadel (violin) (12.30pm, Nickson Room).

- **Thursday, October 12**
  Free lunchtime concert, Anna McPherson’s masters violin recital (12.30pm, Nickson Room).

- **Saturday, October 14**
  Showcase concert (7.30pm, Exhibition Hall, UQ Centre).

- **Sunday, October 15**
  Free organ concert, Christopher Wrench (3pm, Mayne Centre).

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**classifieds**

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

**WANTED TO RENT/HOUSE SIT**


- Visiting American professor and wife require furnished unit or house Jan – June 2007. David: d.vaney@uq.edu.au.

- Visiting researcher and husband require furnished unit or house Dec 2006 – Mar 2007. John: jfraser@kzoo.edu.

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**UQNEWS deadlines 2006**

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**LIBRARY HOURS** are available on the Library’s homepage at www.library.uq.edu.au

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**prizes**


- **Seize the Day Study Awards**: for a young Queenslander aged 16-21 years who has been affected by cancer. Closing: September 29. Information: 13 11 20 or www.qdcance.com.au.

- **Alumni Association Postgraduate Awards**: for UQ graduates who, in the year of application, entered the first year of a PhD program at UQ. Worth: $1000. Closing: September 29. Information: (07) 3365 1984.


- **Dr Helen Rowe – Zonta International Memorial Prize**: for people affiliated with UQ in a research role, or a student or staff member. Awarded for the best essay, published work, proposed research plan or outline of an activity which promotes the treatment or prevention of mental health problems. Worth: $1000. Closing: October 31. Information: (07) 3365 5278.

- **The Thomas Morrow Prize**: for an undergraduate who, as part of a course of study, writes the best essay on a topic in the field of Australian exploration and history. Well-presented honours theses will be considered. Worth: $430. Closing: November 17. Information: (07) 3365 2620.

- **Ford Memorial Prize 2006**: for an undergraduate who has not been twice awarded the prize. Awarded for the best poem in English. All entries are to include name, student number, current postal address, and the program in which enrolled. Entries by email not accepted. Worth: $315, designated as books. Closing: November 17. Entries to: UG Scholarships and Prizes, JD Story Bldg, The University of Queensland, 4072. Information: (07) 3365 1984.
Inshore Great Barrier Reef corals have been seriously affected by losing the competition for space with seaweed, according to scientists. The increased competitiveness of seaweeds has been triggered by nutrients and sediment moving off the land over many years, and now coral bleaching caused by the hot summer, says UQ’s Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg of the Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies.

A nine-day underwater survey by 14 researchers covering a 150-kilometre transect of reef running due east from Mackay found that the effects of poor water quality and coral bleaching were plainly evident on inshore reefs.

“Our results indicate that stresses to reef health occur along a gradient,” UQ PhD researcher Guy Marion said.

“Inshore, we observed low coral and fish abundance and consistent bleaching across all reefs, however, further offshore, we observed intact, healthy reef structure and virtually no bleaching from the stress we saw earlier this year.”

Mr Marion is also working on a novel method for assessing the condition of the reef over the past 200 years.

His research involves drilling cores from long-lived corals using underwater air tools. These are then analysed for trace metal elements and nitrogen isotopic “signatures” within the skeleton.

The cores, which can be up to 2.5m long, can take over an hour of patient drilling underwater to collect. They are then transported to the lab and sliced into thin sections where analysis of the organic matter (just 0.01 percent of the skeleton) begins.

Sections of the core showing an abnormal jump in the nitrogen “signature” can pinpoint past flood events and changes in nutrient sources in the water – a possible sign of human pollution.

Each section of the core can be dated, giving a timeline of water quality for the region, in some cases extending back to the 1880s – prior to European settlement. These changes in the Great Barrier Reef lagoon health can then be matched to records on coastal development, temperature, rainfall and floods, in order to identify the sources of pollution.

“The project is trying to put numbers on the steady, long-term change in Great Barrier Reef water quality, in order to gauge current conditions relative to baseline, pre-European water quality. We want to know how inshore reef health has changed in response to coastal land-clearing for city building and farming,” Mr Marion said.

Mr Marion’s work will be combined with the work of his supervisors and colleagues, who are using new techniques to provide fresh insights into the historical relationship between water quality and reef health in the Great Barrier Reef.

“We hope that this approach of integrating multiple land, satellite, and coral-based techniques can become a blueprint study for reef studies worldwide,” Mr Marion said.

The survey is part of a three-year project which, on completion, will provide a detailed diagnosis of aspects of the health of the central Great Barrier Reef, both past and present, so that policies and practices can be further developed to ensure that coastal development and reef use are sustainable in the future.

It is part of a collaborative research project between leading members of the ARC Centre of Excellence and Stanford University in California.

HEALTH CHECK FOR GREAT BARRIER REEF

A MAJOR CHECKUP OF THE HEALTH OF THE CENTRAL GREAT BARRIER REEF HAS DELIVERED MIXED FINDINGS, WITH CORALS ON THE OUTER REEF IN EXCELLENT CONDITION BUT IN SHARP DECLINE CLOSE TO THE QUEENSLAND COAST.

“We hope that this approach of integrating multiple land, satellite, and coral-based techniques can become a blueprint study for reef studies worldwide”