LASTING SOLUTION
Breeding breakthrough for koalas
Quality postgraduate education starts with a little research

At The University of Queensland you’ll discover why we deliver such high quality postgraduate courses.

UQ is one of Australia’s leading universities. In the latest major nation-wide funding rounds, UQ won $95 million to conduct new research. This was almost 80% of all funding for Queensland universities.

This research funding assists researchers at The University to achieve amazing research outcomes such as the development of a vaccine to prevent cervical cancer and flying an engine four times faster than the Concorde. We apply this level of thinking and innovation to our coursework, research and honours programs. Which is why UQ wins more teaching awards than any other Australian university.

If you’re looking for a world-class postgraduate program, do a little research on us.

Apply now. Visit www.uq.edu.au for more information.
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Recent news underscores UQ’s preeminence for matching sustained success in national teaching awards with outstanding results from national research funding rounds.

UQ teachers amassed more than one-quarter of all new Carrick Fellowships and our 10 nominations for Carrick Institute citations achieved a 100 percent success rate. In quick succession, UQ researchers scored highly from the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the National Health and Medical Research Council. In fact, our researchers dominated Australian institutions in winning income from the ARC combined with funding from industry and other non-government partners.

The integration of outstanding research with excellent teaching is strongly encouraged at UQ. Initiatives with this aim include the UQ Teaching and Learning Excellence Awards, and a fund (begun in 2006) which will offer a total of $2 million in 2007 to encourage teaching by research staff.

So the views of Professor Mick Healey, an international expert on linking research and teaching excellence, proved highly pertinent when he visited UQ for Teaching and Learning Week. Professor Healey, of the University of Gloucestershire, gave a series of presentations, including as guest speaker to the 2006 Excellence in Teaching and Learning Awards on October 30.

Among his messages was that the quality of students’ learning experiences would be increasingly influenced by the relationship between teaching and research. Professor Healey said developing the scholarship of teaching was about more than striving to be an excellent teacher, or being scholarly. It additionally involves communicating and disseminating the teaching and learning practices of one’s subjects, and also entails researching into how students learn within a discipline”, he said.

Winners of our Excellence in Teaching and Learning Awards exemplify these qualities, and I congratulate every person who received an award or a commendation.

The record shows that leadership among UQ teachers and researchers is a stamp of excellence on a national scale. Thirteen winners of UQ teaching awards have later won national teaching awards (three of this group also won Prime Minister’s Awards for University Teacher of the Year), and two teams in receipt of UQ institutional awards have gone on to win national awards, since the national programs began in 1997.

Five recipients of UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards have subsequently achieved Federation Fellowships, under a prestigious national program that began in 2002.

The most important winners from this confluence of teaching and research leadership are UQ undergraduate and postgraduate students, who are able to share the wisdom of mentors and colleagues of the highest standard.

Professor John Hay, AC

contents

04 Carrick Awards success
05 Koala Artificial Insemination breeding advance
06 Chinese honour for UQ Professor
09 Teaching and Learning Week celebrated
13 Medical research excellence rewarded
16 Technology students show work at Innovation Expo
18 Greek myths modernised in Metamorphoses
21 IN PRINT: Justice Frank Brennan on speaking your mind
22 Blues and UQ sporting scholarship recipients
UQ graduate Ryan Goss added another chapter to an 80-year family history on October 24 when he was named the 2007 Queensland Rhodes Scholar.

His grandfather, UQ medical graduate Konrad Hirschfeld, was the Queensland Rhodes Scholar in 1927. Mr Goss is also the son of UQ graduate and former Queensland Premier Wayne Goss.

With a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Law (both first class honours) and two University of Queensland medals behind him, Mr Goss is grateful for the opportunity to further his achievements.

Mr Goss will begin his studies in Oxford in 2007. The selection committee received 20 applications for the scholarship this year. Mr Goss joins five winners from other States and five from Australia-at-Large.

For two out of the three past summers, Mr Goss has been doing volunteer work in India.

“I worked for six weeks each time with a non-government organisation, conducting research and doing legal writing. I learnt a great deal about human rights law during this time,” Mr Goss said.

“I’m very grateful to for the opportunities the Rhodes Scholarship will provide.

“I plan to study human rights law and to hopefully further my experience in this field in the developing world.”

With a Bachelor of Arts majoring in American studies and history, his passion for human rights law has developed with a greater understanding of international politics.

Mr Goss is also an adept debater and was successful in debating and moot competitions as a student.

He has continued relations with the University, coaching internationally successful UQ moot teams. He was a coach of the 2006 UQ Philip C Jessup International Law Moot team that represented Australia in Washington DC earlier this year. He also co-edited the UQ Law Society’s satirical Obiter magazine.

Since graduating from UQ in 2005, Mr Goss worked as an Associate to the Hon Justice Patrick Keane of the Queensland Court of Appeal.

TEACHERS TOP CARRICK AWARDS

UQ academics have won three of a total of 11 prestigious new Carrick Fellowships 2006, including one of only three Senior Fellowships.

Four UQ academics will share in awards valued at up to $510,000 in the inaugural round of Carrick Fellowships announced last month.

The Fellowships are awarded to outstanding scholars who are respected advocates for excellence in learning and teaching in higher education.

The Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education has awarded a Senior Fellowship (to a maximum of $330,000) to Professor Ian Cameron of UQ’s School of Engineering for his study “Engineering, Science and practice: alignment and synergies in curriculum innovation.”

Associate Fellowships, valued at up to $90,000, have been awarded to:

• Joint winners Professor Peter Adams and Associate Professor Phillip Poronnik of the Schools of Physical Sciences and Biomedical Sciences, to implement a project to examine “Embedding quantitative principles in life sciences education”; and
• Associate Professor Merrilyn Goos of UQ’s School of Education, who will examine “Building capacity for assessment leadership via professional development and mentoring of course coordinators.”

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said all the recipients had outstanding teaching and research records.

“UQ is the leading University in Australia when it comes to teaching. We have won more national teaching awards than any other university and we have a long-term commitment to quality teaching and learning to benefit students,” he said.

“Professor Cameron’s Fellowship recognises his international leadership in his field.

“Earlier this year he won a Carrick Institute grant to improve higher education teaching and learning practices in Australia.

“In 2003 he won the Prime Minister’s Australian Award for Individual University Teacher of the Year, and a national Australian Award for University Teaching (AAUT) in the Physical Sciences and Related Studies category.

“Dr Goos is a previous national winner of an AAUT in the Social Sciences category, while Professor Adams and Dr Poronnik are both winners of UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards.

Professor Adams won a Carrick Institute grant earlier this year and is also a previous winner of a UQ Award for Excellence in Teaching.
UQ scientists have unveiled koala joeys produced by artificial insemination (AI) as part of the development of the world’s first koala sperm bank.

Three of the eight joeys, all born on the Gold Coast, made their first public appearance at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary on October 30.

They were conceived using new breeding technology, which uses sperm mixed with a special solution prolonging the sperm’s shelf-life for up to 40 days in the laboratory.

The research is a joint project for UQ advanced reproductive technology scientists, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Dreamworld, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, David Fleay’s Wildlife Park and the Zoological Society of London.

Dr Steve Johnston, the project leader and reproductive biologist at UQ’s School of Animal Studies, said his team now had the technology to use transported koala semen in Australia and eventually overseas.

He said when the sperm bank was up and running, the genetic background of each animal would be recorded to ensure there was appropriate genetic management.

Samples are also being screened for common koala diseases such as chlamydiae and retroviruses.

Dr Johnston has been researching koala breeding for 12 years and produced the world’s first AI koalas in 1998.

Twenty-five koalas have now been produced by AI with a success rate approaching that of natural mating.

He said the technique as the solution to koala conservation but more of a tool for genetic management and animal welfare — an extra insurance policy.”

Dr Johnston said.

He said this technology could help manage the genetic diversity of koala populations but eventually also help conserve other threatened marsupials.

Funding for the work has been provided by a three-year, Commonwealth Government (ARC Linkage) grant to investigate artificial breeding, population genetics, disease resistance and improved semen freezing.

UQ PhD students Camryn Allen, Yeng Peng Zee and Kristen Lee have also been heavily involved in the project.

The use of AI technology is a component of the Queensland Government’s Koala Conservation Plan and builds on previous collaborative research under an historic agreement between UQ and the Queensland Government.
Their research interests varied, but when students from nine countries met at UQ for the 2006 Universitas 21 (U21) Undergraduate Research Conference they forged friendships with like-minded peers.

More than 30 undergraduate researchers from a dozen U21 universities gave seminars on subjects as diverse as fast food trends in China and the spread of Neolithic farming.

They were chosen based on their achievements, Chinese origin and potential to influence the future.

Professor Lu, 43, is the Director of the Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre for Functional Nanomaterials at UQ.

He is an ARC Federation Fellow and Professor in UQ’s School of Engineering and the Australian Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology also at UQ.

He tweak physical structures at a molecular level to make advanced materials useful in areas such as clean energy, the environment and health care.

“It came as a complete surprise to me as I knew nothing about the nomination and selection process,” Professor Lu said.

He said he was proud and honoured to be in the list and that he enjoyed playing important roles in Australian science and Australia-China relations, particularly in nanoscience.

Professor Lu grew up in Shandong Province in eastern China and studied engineering at Northeastern University at age 16.

He came to Brisbane in 1987 to study for his PhD at UQ and has been a full time academic at the University since 1994.

Professor Lu, who last week won a UQ Award for Excellence in Research Higher Degree Supervision, is regarded as one of the University’s most innovative scientists and is a role-model for researchers.
The latest addition to a cluster of research institutes at the University, the $70 million Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN) opened on October 23 at the St Lucia campus.

The opening followed two years’ construction of the six level facility on College Road.

The AIBN is Australia’s first purpose-built facility for research combining the biological, chemical and physical sciences. It also has a strong focus on working with industry and commercialisation of outcomes.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said the AIBN was the latest outcome of a highly-successful partnership between UQ, The Atlantic Philanthropies and the Queensland Government.

Professor Hay said the AIBN had attracted team leaders, post-doctoral researchers and students from around the world.

“Many of these researchers are part of international collaborations of the highest calibre, with organisations including the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre in the US, the Chinese Academy of Science, and the European Union,” he said.

“The presence at UQ of UniQuest, a national leader in technology commercialisation, will ensure that commercially-viable outcomes of AIBN research are available to industry and the community in an optimal timeframe.”

AIBN Director Professor Peter Gray said the new AIBN building represented the latest in laboratory design. It currently houses more than 250 staff and students, with a capacity of 350.

“Furthermore, the facilities and equipment found within the building are among the most advanced, enabling research at the cutting edge of the bio and nano fields,” he said.

Residents of the new building include research groups with interests ranging broadly from genes to nanoparticles.

Their projects include developing technologies to help prevent chemotherapy patients from contracting life-threatening infections; to a needle-less syringe for the delivery of vaccines; to biological markers for early cancer diagnosis; molecules with detergent properties known as surfactants to improve recovery of crude oil from oilfields; and bio-plastics from sugarcane.

Premier Peter Beattie said the government and leading experts at UQ identified at an early stage the enormous potential of marrying bioengineering with nanotechnology.

“The government contributed $20 million towards the building which is the first project from the Smart State Research Facility Fund to be completed,” Mr Beattie said.

Professor Hay said the facility’s completion reasserted that UQ identified at an early stage the enormous potential of marrying bioengineering with nanotechnology.

“Furthermore, the facilities and equipment found within the building are among the most advanced, enabling research at the cutting edge of the bio and nano fields.”

The government contributed $20 million towards the building which is the first project from the Smart State Research Facility Fund to be completed,” Mr Beattie said.

Professor Hay said the facility’s completion reasserted that UQ – substantially supported by the government and The Atlantic Philanthropies – was building Australia’s finest cluster of new science research institutes.

“Having opened in recent years the $105 million Queensland Bioscience Precinct housing the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, and the $24 million Sir James Foots Building housing the Sustainable Minerals Institute, UQ will next year commission the new $64 million home of the Queensland Brain Institute,” he said.

In coming years, a $80 million UQ Centre for Clinical Research and a $300 million translational medical research facility would also become Brisbane research landmarks, he said.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

A NEW BUILDING HAS ADDED TO UQ’S BURGEONING RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

T

HIGHER RANKINGS

The annual top 200 ranking of world universities, produced by the UK’s Times Higher Education Supplement, has seen UQ climb two spots to 45.

UQ was the only Queensland university in the top 50 in the world and one of only six in the country.

UQ was also recently announced as among the top five Australian universities of the top 100 Asia Pacific universities in the Shanghai Jiao Tong university’s rankings, based on academic and research performance.

UQ also featured in the Newsweek rankings of the world’s top 100 universities, ranked at number 91.

JOURNALISM WIN

UQ’s Barry McAlister was named Student Journalist of the Year at the inaugural Excellence in Student Journalism awards in September.

Mr McAlister’s story The Quadfather won the category Australian Sport or International Sport with an Australian participation.

Alyssa Betts of UQ won the category Matters of Contemporary Australian Politics or Public Policy or Indigenous Issues for Profiles of Patients of Dr Death.

PERPETUAL PRIZE

Australia’s first woman stockbroker Dr Margaret Mittelheuser, AM, has been honoured by a UQ MBA prize established in her name by Bruce Wallis, Chairman of ABN-AMRO Morgans Ltd.

The Dr Margaret Mittelheuser AM and ABN AMRO Morgans Ltd Prize in MBA Accounting and Finance is awarded to an MBA student in each graduating year to achieve the highest combined marks in the first attempt at both ACCT7020 and FINM7065.

The inaugural winner is Michael Young.
UQ PhD student Sarah Joseph is researching alternative methods for managing Australia’s feral horses.

Feral horses, or brumbies, are an invasive species in Australia. With helicopter shooting banned in Queensland and New South Wales, and opposition to lethal control, new methods of dealing with the horse problem are being sought.

“Management of feral horses is an increasing problem for property owners and protected area management alike,” Ms Joseph said.

Ms Joseph, who has just submitted her PhD thesis on equine behaviour and feral horse management, has tested a range of potential repellents for small-scale exclusion of feral horses from refuge habitats for native wildlife.

She also measured behavioural indicators of stress in both domestic and feral horses to identify the most humane control method.

Changes in heart rate and behaviours such as vocalisation, defecation rate, and gait were used as benchmarks to measure the stress levels of feral horses in the field.

“The research aims to gain a better understanding of the underlying mechanisms of fear and repellency in horses,” she said.

“It tests the theory that fear-provoking stimuli are more effective repellents, and I also developed a novel screening method to compare repellents without costly field trials.”

The University’s domestic horses were initially used to screen 23 repellents divided into three groups — visuals, sounds, and smells.

Ms Joseph said sound stimuli consistently caused the strongest reaction, followed by visual stimuli, with smells being the least effective.

“This is interesting in light of the fact that most commercially available herbivore repellents are either smell or taste-based,” she said.

Ms Joseph, an avid horse rider since childhood, came from California to UQ to study three years ago.

“My general research goal is to improve wildlife conservation through a better understanding of animal behaviour. I hadn’t planned on studying horses for my PhD, but this allowed me to combine several of my passions,” she said.

Ms Joseph completed her undergraduate degree in wildlife, fish and conservation biology at the University of California, Davis.

“My fascination with Australian wildlife began as a child, and I was determined to do my PhD here,” she said.

“My general research goal is to improve wildlife conservation through a better understanding of animal behaviour. I hadn’t planned on studying horses for my PhD, but this allowed me to combine several of my passions,” she said.

Ms Joseph, an avid horse rider since childhood, came from California to UQ to study three years ago.

“The research aims to gain a better understanding of the underlying mechanisms of fear and repellency in horses,” she said.

“It tests the theory that fear-provoking stimuli are more effective repellents, and I also developed a novel screening method to compare repellents without costly field trials.”

The University’s domestic horses were initially used to screen 23 repellents divided into three groups — visuals, sounds, and smells.

Ms Joseph said sound stimuli consistently caused the strongest reaction, followed by visual stimuli, with smells being the least effective.

“This is interesting in light of the fact that most commercially available herbivore repellents are either smell or taste-based,” she said.

Ms Joseph, an avid horse rider since childhood, came from California to UQ to study three years ago.

“My general research goal is to improve wildlife conservation through a better understanding of animal behaviour. I hadn’t planned on studying horses for my PhD, but this allowed me to combine several of my passions,” she said.

Ms Joseph completed her undergraduate degree in wildlife, fish and conservation biology at the University of California, Davis.

“My fascination with Australian wildlife began as a child, and I was determined to do my PhD here,” she said.

“The research aims to gain a better understanding of the underlying mechanisms of fear and repellency in horses,” she said.

“It tests the theory that fear-provoking stimuli are more effective repellents, and I also developed a novel screening method to compare repellents without costly field trials.”

The University’s domestic horses were initially used to screen 23 repellents divided into three groups — visuals, sounds, and smells.

Ms Joseph said sound stimuli consistently caused the strongest reaction, followed by visual stimuli, with smells being the least effective.

“This is interesting in light of the fact that most commercially available herbivore repellents are either smell or taste-based,” she said.

Ms Joseph, an avid horse rider since childhood, came from California to UQ to study three years ago.

“My general research goal is to improve wildlife conservation through a better understanding of animal behaviour. I hadn’t planned on studying horses for my PhD, but this allowed me to combine several of my passions,” she said.

Ms Joseph completed her undergraduate degree in wildlife, fish and conservation biology at the University of California, Davis.

“My fascination with Australian wildlife began as a child, and I was determined to do my PhD here,” she said.
THE UNIVERSITY RECOGNISED THE CONTRIBUTION OF SOME OF ITS MOST INNOVATIVE, DEDICATED AND EXCEPTIONAL TEACHERS AT ITS ANNUAL TEACHING AWARDS NIGHT ON OCTOBER 30.

The UQ Teaching and Learning Excellence Awards this year recognised the contributions of seven individual winners and two group winners.

Among the winners was Dr Victor Galea, a senior lecturer in Plant Pathology with the School of Agronomy and Horticulture based at Gatton.

Dr Galea has developed a highly interactive CD learning resource called “The Virtual Plant Pathology Lab” to help students understand and apply clinical processes to the diagnosis and management of plant diseases.

Dr Galea combines class and fieldwork with this technology to better prepare his students so that they not only enjoy their studies, but develop appropriate professional skills.

Another winner was Dr Ian Tibbetts, a senior lecturer from the Centre for Marine Studies, whose passion and enthusiasm for the study of marine biology is an inspiration and a motivation for his students.

Part of Dr Tibbetts’ work involves developing international study programs allowing non-science students from overseas to discover Australia’s marine organisms and ecosystems.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Michael Keniger said the award winners were a credit to the University.

“The University recognises the importance of excellent teaching and these awards demonstrate that UQ values the significant contribution our staff make to the education of our students,” he said.

“UQ is a significant player in the future of its students who must not only achieve to benefit themselves but contribute to the cultural and economic vibrancy of Australia.

“To many students their teachers are more than just the people who mark assignments.

“They awaken curiosity and inspire a commitment to the pursuit of knowledge and skills in their disciplines and professions.”

“I congratulate all the award winners as our students and the community are the beneficiaries of their desire to constantly improve our teaching and learning practices.”

Professor Keniger said the awards were designed to recognise, encourage and reward sustained excellence in teaching, in higher degree research supervision and excellence in the learning environment.

The winners were:

**Awards for Excellence in Teaching ($10,000 each)**
- Patricia Clarke, School of Veterinary Science;
- Dr Victor Galea, School of Agronomy and Horticulture;
- Dr Paul Mills, School of Veterinary Science;
- Dr Karen Moni, School of Education; and
- Dr Ian Tibbetts, Centre for Marine Studies

**Awards for the Enhancement of Student Learning ($10,000 each)**
- Supporting first year student learning through Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS), School of Molecular and Microbial Sciences; School of Integrative Biology; School of Physical Sciences; School of Geography, Planning and Architecture; and
- An integrated package of innovative rural education: enhancing student outcomes and increasing the medical workforce.

**Awards for Excellence in Research Higher Degree Supervision ($10,000 each)**
- Professor Max Lu, Director of ARC Centre for Functional Nanomaterials; and
- Associate Professor Anne Goldizen, School of Integrative Biology

The awards are funded by the University and The Alumni Association of The University of Queensland Inc.

**UQ researchers are discovering the commercial benefits of burying environmentally harmful carbon dioxide (CO2) gases underground.**

Using the process of geosequestration – where CO2 gas produced from industry is captured and stored in deep coal seams rather than released into the atmosphere – researchers from UQ’s Energy and Environment Engineering group have almost halved the cost of capture and storage.

Group leader Professor Victor Rudolph said the cost reductions were due to the commercial value of the methane extracted from the coal seam and replaced by CO2.

“Geosequestration of CO2 into deep coal seams can reduce the net cost of capture and storage in Queensland by some 46 percent,” Professor Rudolph said.

“The process reduces the costs down to $25/tonne of CO2 avoided when applied to a large-scale 1400 megawatt coal-fired power plant.”

Principal researcher Dr Paul Massarotto said the cost reduction technology was part of a research project nearing completion and supported by an Australian Research Council Linkage grant and six Australian and international organisations.

The group is now proposing a joint project with Germany’s leading research organisation into CO2 absorption in coal, the RWTH Aachen University of North Rhine-Westfalia.

“The aim is to investigate further technology improvements by injection of the whole flue gas stream into deep coal seams in Queensland and North Germany and abandoned underground coal mines of North Rhine-Westfalia,” Dr Massarotto said.

“In Queensland, both the Surat Basin-Wallaroos and the Bowen Basin-Rangal and Bandana coal measures will be investigated for this potentially-optimum geosequestration path, as it can do away with the capture costs which are some 75 percent to 80 percent of a total project, partly replaced by higher compression costs.”

He said Queensland had a vibrant coal seam gas industry and could sequester over 3.7 giga tonnes of CO2.
Welcome to a NEW ERA
of conferences & functions at UQ, St. Lucia!
Attention to detail • Great customer service

- New Menus
- Corporate Packages
- Increased Flexibility
- Conference Packages
- Themed Seasonal Events

The only choice for
- Theming
- Event Management
- Wedding Planning
- Flexible Menu Design
- Reception Venue

Quality function venues, exceptional value and excellent food.

There are a variety of newly renovated venues to choose from for your function.

The perfect location for
- VIP Events
- Product Launches
- Seminars
- Conferences
- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Cocktail
- Morning & Afternoon Teas

A package to suit your needs
For a quote tailored to meet your specific needs, for your special event contact Heidi on 3377 2206

www.uqunion.uq.edu.au/catering
Ph : (07) 3377 2206
Fax : (07) 3377 2223
Email : catering.union@uq.edu.au
UQ has marked its first graduate celebrations in China with a landmark neuroscience agreement and has also unveiled a new alumni vision to better serve its more than 150,000 graduates.

Personal ceremonies were held in Beijing, Shanghai and in Singapore. About 100 people including graduates, their friends and family joined the Beijing celebration on October 10 at the Peninsula Hotel in the heart of the city.

UQ Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards, AC, congratulated about 40 graduates from all UQ faculties.

A similar number of graduates, families and friends took part in the graduate celebration in Shanghai on October 12 at the Hilton Hotel.

Chinese students are UQ's biggest international student group. More than 1000 Chinese students are studying at the University this year, mostly in the fields of commerce and engineering.

UQ has about 30 agreements with Chinese institutions to foster research and academic collaboration and student and staff exchanges.

While in Shanghai, UQ also formalised a neuroscience agreement with China’s Institute of Neuroscience (ION) to share research and student exchanges.

The ION is part of China’s premier science agency, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which works to improve the health and welfare of about 1.3 billion people.

Professor Trevor Grigg, UQ’s Acting Vice-Chancellor during the visit, and the ION’s Deputy Director and Senior Investigator Dr Ai-Ke Guo, signed the agreement at the ION as senior executives looked on.

Leading scientists and students from UQ’s Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) and China will collaborate and study at UQ’s new Advanced Imaging Centre within the QBI.

QBI Director Professor Perry Bartlett said both institutes shared similar expertise to study brain function and explore how memory, learning and behaviour worked.

"It makes good sense to work together to accelerate the discovery processes that will lead to the development of new therapeutics to treat mental and neurological diseases."

"It's also a coming of age of the Asia Pacific region, which is now a force in neuroscience."

"By working together we will build a major collaborative team among the best in the world."

Professor Bartlett said the $1.5 million (CNY8.9 million) Centre, equipped by technology company Carl Zeiss, would be part of the QBI and also a regional hub for high-end microscopy.

QBI and Zeiss also agreed to create travelling fellowships to allow scientist and student exchanges between the QBI and China.

The inaugural fellowship winners are ION PhD students Chun-Lei Wang, 29 and Ting-Jia Lu, 25.

In Singapore, more than 800 students and their families took part in UQ’s graduate celebration on October 8 at the National University of Singapore.

Sir Llew congratulated more than 110 graduates, mostly from business and engineering.

Singapore is UQ’s second biggest international student group after China, with more than 820 Singaporean students studying at the University.

The graduation celebration marked the 10th anniversary of the UQ Alumni Association of Singapore and coincided with UQ’s new vision for international alumni unveiled by Professor Grigg.

He told UQ alumni in Singapore, China and in Hong Kong the vision meant improving services and support for international alumni.

He said UQ was committed to extending its relationship with alumni after graduation, as the measure of a good university was based on the success of its graduates.

"We want to ensure that you get every support from your alma matter, not just while you’re with us but after you’ve graduated as well," Professor Grigg said.
COMPETITIVE GRANT SUCCESSES HAVE CONFIRMED UQ’S POSITION AS A NATIONAL RESEARCH LEADER

UQ performed exceptionally in the Australian Research Council (ARC) funding scheme announced on October 11. The ARC funding is regarded as a key national indicator of research quality and standing.

The round incorporated six grant schemes: Discovery Projects; Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development; Linkage Projects (Round 1); Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF); Linkage International Awards; and Linkage International Fellowships.

UQ led the nation for Federal Government funding of projects fostering research collaboration between industry and higher education.

The University received almost 18 percent of total funding under the ARC Linkage Projects scheme with 25 grants receiving $10.58 million from the ARC with a further $6.5 million cash from industry partners.

This included a grant of $2 million over five years to Professor Robert Birch from UQ’s School of Integrative Biology.

In collaboration with CSR Sugar Limited, Professor Birch is investigating “SugarBooster” technology. It will examine higher sucrose yield as a key to sustainable export profitability, as well as developing of feasible renewable biofuels from sugarcane.

For Discovery Project grants, UQ received almost $35 million with 91 successful grants, the third highest amount in Australia.

UQ’s result represented 13 percent of the total $274.76 million awarded and 73 percent of the Discovery Project grants for the Queensland universities.

UQ performed strongly in Discovery Project Fellowships, receiving 28 of the 197 awarded under four separate schemes – the Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (13), Australian Research Fellowships, Queen Elizabeth II Fellowships (eight) and Australian Professorial Fellowships (seven).

In Queensland, UQ received 78 percent of fellowships.

UQ ranked second for Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) grants with seven of 10 applications approved worth $2.2 million. The result represented 65 percent of all LIEF funds awarded to Queensland universities.

UQ also received the highest number of Linkage International Awards in the country, receiving four grants worth $68,000.

The University ranked first in Linkage International Fellowships, with five grants worth $348,000 approved, the highest funding awarded under the scheme to any Australian university and 20 percent of the available pool.

Other UQ grants included:

• $1.55 million over five years to Professor Peter Koopman of the Institute for Molecular Bioscience for a Discovery Project on how the Y chromosome makes a male. The project will identify and suggest ways to diagnose and deal with conditions related to malfunctions of the chromosome. The work paves the way for biotechnological applications in stem cell technology, pest management, wildlife conservation and animal breeding.

• $1.094 million ARC Linkage Projects grant over three years to a project led by Professor Justin Marshall of the Vision, Touch and Hearing Research Centre, with industry partner DeepOcean Quest Enterprises Limited, to design a deep-sea exploration and discovery capability. The project, an Australian first, will explore and discover life at depths from 50 metres to 3000 metres off the Great Barrier Reef through to Lord Howe Island, off Tasmania, and in the deep canyons of Western Australia and South Australia.

• $1.1 million ARC Linkage Projects funding over four years to a project led by Associate Professor Ian Godwin of the School of Land and Food Sciences to develop new turf grasses with reduced water and nutrient requirements for lawns. Industry partners are Jimboomba Turf Company, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and the Council of Mayors.

Pep for Pepfactants

Pepfactants® won $100,000 to progress its materials science breakthrough at the UQ Business School Enterprize competition on October 13.

The technology, a peptide surfactant that can reversibly make and break emulsions and foams, is expected to bring new functionality to a range of products and industrial processes, especially where biodegradability and safety is valued.

Andrew Malcolm, member of the Pepfactants management team, said the technology not only outperformed commonly-used surfactants to make stable emulsions and foams but the product’s stability could be controlled.

“Our Pepfactants have exciting new properties. They are the first truly reversible, switchable surfactants for both emulsions and foams,” Mr Malcolm said.

“This means when you use our Pepfactants to make an emulsion or foam, you can control when it will be stable and when it will be unstable.”

Winner of the i.lab technology incubator prize, GetCracking™, has a working prototype machine to control the problem of concrete cracking for highways, airport runways and industrial buildings.

The prize includes two months mentoring and support with i.lab.

BioShield, which has developed a new vaccine to boost shrimp immunity to the deadly white spot syndrome virus, won the People’s Choice award.
UQ received more than 60 percent of Federal Government funds for medical research announced for Queensland’s universities, hospitals and research institutions on October 16.

UQ researchers were awarded $40.2 million of National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding.

Federal Minister for Health and Ageing Tony Abbott announced 850 grants worth $529 million in NHMRC funding.

UQ’s share included funding for researchers working on spinal pain, cardiovascular and metabolic disease, and health economics evaluation.

It will also fund two Centres for Clinical Research Excellence worth $2 million each, a large Capacity Building grant of $1.88 million, a Research Enabling grant for $1.5 million, 61 Project grants worth $26.81 million and seven Research Fellowships and four Career Development Awards totaling more than $6 million.

“Spinal complaints contribute the greatest percentage due to long-term disability, which is greater than arthritis.”

Professor Hodges

UQ attracted 76 of the 119 project grants funded in Queensland for health and medical research.

Nationally, UQ was the third-ranked university in number of grants awarded, and fourth-ranked in the amount of funds awarded.

Projects included:

• Professor Paul Hodges of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences leads a team awarded $2 million for a Centre of Clinical Research Excellence in spinal pain, injury and health.

Professor Hodges said musculoskeletal pain and injury had a major impact on health.

“The economic burden is second only to cardiovascular disease. Spinal complaints contribute the greatest percentage due to long-term disability, which is greater than arthritis,” Professor Hodges said.

He said the exponential growth of the conditions in an ageing society had led musculoskeletal disorders to become a National Health Priority Area.

Professor Hodges said 2000–2010 was the World Health Organisation Bone and Joint Decade.

“The excessive burden of spinal pain reflects current realities; the cause is unknown, 80 percent of the population is affected, and isolated professions use a staggering array of interventions,” he said.

Professor Hodges said basic questions about spinal pain remained unanswered.

The new Centre would bring together a multidisciplinary group of chief investigators whose skills extend from basic to clinical research with a national network of Australia’s leading spine scientists.

• Professor Tom Marwick of the School of Medicine, Southern Clinical Division leads a multidisciplinary group awarded $2 million towards the Centre of Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE) in cardiovascular and metabolic disease.

Professor Marwick said the funding would build on the successes of the current CCRE in cardiovascular and metabolic disease.

“The obesity epidemic has increased the prevalence of several common clinical conditions associated with disturbed metabolism, including diabetes mellitus and chronic kidney disease,” he said.

“Our current and ongoing studies are exploring the relationship between cardiovascular dysfunction and these metabolic diseases.”

Professor Marwick said a number of biochemical abnormalities were common to these clinical conditions, underpinned their relationship to cardiovascular disease, and could be addressed by lifestyle and/or pharmacological intervention.

The team’s research has identified approaches to reverse or at least stabilise these abnormalities, and will focus on the optimal strategies to deliver these lifestyle interventions to the community.

The team is looking at five areas – liver disease, kidney disease, hypertension, diabetic heart disease and obesity and metabolic syndrome.

• Associate Professor Christopher Doran of the School of Population Health leads a group awarded a $1.87 million Capacity grant to build capacity in health economic evaluation.

The project will bring together a critical mass of Australian experts in economic evaluation and priority setting methods in health.

This will include priority setting for Indigenous Australians and a number of other groups who have special needs.
Archaeology founder heads for new digs

Popular, charismatic and award-winning teacher and Head of UQ’s Archaeology Program, Associate Professor Jay Hall, will soon retire after more than 30 years at the University.

Dr Hall, also editor of Queensland Archaeological Research since he started the publication in 1984, won a Teaching Excellence Award in 2002 and was twice commended for his innovative teaching style in the awards rounds of 2000 and 2001.

His departure from the University did not go unheralded with a packed program of events held including a symposium at Women’s College attended by 100 people, a book launch and a formal dinner at the University Staff and Graduates Club attended by more than 80 people on September 29.

Born in the United Kingdom and raised in New Zealand, Dr Hall received his PhD in 1979 from the University of Chicago.

He developed UQ’s archaeology courses on his appointment as lecturer within the then Anthropology and Sociology Department in 1976.

Currently on Long Service Leave until his “official” retirement date in the middle of next year, Dr Hall described his departure as “bittersweet”.

“I’m not really retiring, just salary sacrificing to the University 100 percent as I’ll still be conducting research and supervising postgraduate students in an honorary capacity,” Dr Hall said.

“I have very fond memories of the University especially the early days in the 1970s and 1980s and the field trips to places such as Moreton and Stradbroke islands, Wivenhoe and the Lamington Plateau. It’s wonderful to see so many of my former students now in senior academic positions themselves.”

Dr Hall’s courses bridged a gap between archaeology and ancient history. He also established Australia’s first on-campus archaeological teaching site, Teaching Archaeological Research Discipline in Simulation (TARDIS), to better train students in excavation and other archaeological field methods.

The 25-metre-square TARDIS area contains elements of the African Lower Palaeolithic, the French Middle Palaeolithic, the Ukrainian Upper Palaeolithic, the Mesoamerican Formative and generic European Bronze Age.

It’s creation led to Dr Hall’s many teaching awards.

Thanks to Dr Hall, UQ also became only the second Australian university to research the Mayan civilisation in Mesoamerica (including Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize and El Salvador), working alongside international teams including those from the Universities of Pennsylvania and Harvard.

Along with their team of local Honduran workers, and UQ students, co-principal investigators Dr Hall and Dr Rene Viel completed a study of pre-Classic Mayan remains from about 1400BC, preceding the Classic Maya occupation in the Copan River Valley between 250 and 900AD.

Dr Hall and his wife, Alice, recently bought a half-share in a house in Copan, Honduras, near the Maya ruins from where he will conduct research three months of each year.

A robot named Eliza is being used by UQ telemedicine researchers to conquer the tyranny of distance and improve delivery of specialist medical care to regional and remote areas of Queensland.

Eliza, who began work at Mt Isa Hospital last month, is a creation of the University’s Centre for Online Health – a world leader in telemedicine research.

Eliza and her robotic siblings can be wheeled to the bedside of sick children for video-link consultations with Brisbane specialists, greatly reducing the need for families to travel to the city for specialist care.

Local doctors take the robot to the bedside and thanks to a video-link established via the Centre for Online Health, the sick child can see their Brisbane specialist on the robot’s television-like screen.

A built-in camera and microphone enables the specialist to see and speak with the child.

Eliza is one of four robots that will be commissioned over the next three years, through a $335,000 grant provided by mining company Xstrata (Community Partnership Program) in collaboration with the Royal Children’s Hospital Foundation.

The robot project is an extension of the tele paediatric research led by the Centre for Online Health, in collaboration with the Royal Children’s Hospital in Brisbane.

An earlier model robot, known as Roy, is already a successful addition to the children’s ward at the Gladstone District Hospital, in Central Queensland.

The Xstrata funding will support the development of four new robots which will be deployed in selected central and north Queensland hospitals, as well as employment of a senior research officer to manage the project at the Centre for Online Health.

Senior Research Fellow Dr Anthony Smith said the new robots would enable the Centre to build on the successful trial conducted in Gladstone.

“This funding gives our research team the opportunity to investigate how this ground-breaking service can be expanded to other regional hospitals throughout Queensland and to evaluate its capacity to deliver high quality clinical care to patients,” Dr Smith said.

“It will also provide professional support and educational opportunities to health staff in regional areas, such as Mt Isa.”
CASTING OFF
RIVER HISTORY

IT WILL BE THE END OF AN ERA WHEN
THE DUTTON PARK FERRY MAKES ITS
FAREWELL VOYAGE BETWEEN DUTTON
PARK AND UQ NEXT MONTH

The Dutton Park Ferry Service may have begun life as a result of student prank but it has more than proved its worth after nearly 40 years of service.

Brisbane Ferry Service owner, Robert (Bob) Kent, 83, said while he was said the service would be discontinued with the opening of the Eleanor Schonell Bridge in December, it was “inevitable”.

“Bridges will always be better than ferries as they can transport more people,” Mr Kent said.

Mr Kent, his brother Kevin, late brother-in-law, Dick Hoggett, and friend Vince Downey, were co-owners of the company when approached by Lord Mayor Clem Jones to establish a ferry service between the University and Dutton Park.

UQ’s Student Union had convinced the Lord Mayor of the need for the service through a 4000-signature petition but just six months after the service began in March 1967, passenger numbers were well short of expectations.

“It turns out the petition had been gathered largely at the Regatta Hotel as a bit of a prank,” Mr Kent said.

“We took over the service with a subsidy from the Council but in the days since, it has more than paid for itself. The passage of time has proven that the students got it right and Clem Jones was right to get us to build ferry vessel Pamela Sue (named after Mr Downey’s daughter) – our first boat for the Dutton Park crossing.”

The service grew from a fare of five cents, limited running hours and 300 passengers a day in 1967 to two boats, a fare of $1.40, four captains on staff, 1900 passengers per day and crossings from 6.30am until 9.55pm, five days a week.

There have been three boats over the years with a lowlight being the washing away of landings and the destruction of ferries during the 1974 Brisbane Flood.

Mr Kent said he and his partners persevered with the Dutton Park ferry in the early years despite disappointing passenger numbers largely because their own children were studying at UQ.

“Our eldest daughter Susan was studying physiotherapy at UQ and my wife Del didn’t want her using Coronation Drive,” he recalled.

“Bob himself was Brisbane’s longest-serving ferry master (60 years) and was proved correct in sticking with the Dutton Park crossing.”

“Barry is polite and accommodating and always has a smile for all his passengers at the end of our day,” Ms Prescott said.

Smithsonian Fellowship furthers primate research

Premier Peter Beattie signed a unique Memorandum of Understanding between the Queensland Government and the Smithsonian Institution in 2000, which has since been extended until 2010.

The Fellowship Program aims to foster an interchange of knowledge and skills by providing the opportunity for up to three Queenslanders each year to undertake a project at the Smithsonian.

The National Zoo, visited by two million people a year, is part of the Smithsonian Institution consisting of 15 museums, 144 affiliate museums and nine research centres throughout the world.

Established in 1846 following a generous bequest of 100,000 gold sovereigns (equivalent to US$500,000) by British scientist James Smithson, the Institution today has an operating budget of more than $600 million.

The fellowship, a Queensland Government Smart State initiative, covers Dr Collier-Baker’s travelling and living expenses while overseas from March until September 2007.

Dr Collier-Baker, a postdoctoral research fellow working with Associate Professor Thomas Suddeckart at UQ’s Early Cognitive Development Unit within the School of Psychology, was thrilled to have won the award.

“The Think Tank is one of only a few such state-of-the-art zoo facilities for investigating ape cognition in the world so I’m really excited about the opportunity to work at the Smithsonian National Zoo next year,” she said.

“The experience could even inform the establishment of a similar facility back in Australia at some stage.”

A UQ researcher will have daily access to a large group of apes thanks to a $30,000 fellowship with a world-renowned scientific institute.

Dr Emma Collier-Baker has been awarded a Queensland-Smithsonian Fellowship and will spend six months studying the cognitive abilities of orangutans, gorillas, and gibbons housed at the Think Tank within the Smithsonian National Zoological Park in Washington DC.

The Queensland-Smithsonian Fellowship Program began after British scientist James Smithson made a generous bequest of 100,000 gold sovereigns (equivalent to US$500,000) in 1846.

Established in 1846 following a generous bequest of 100,000 gold sovereigns (equivalent to US$500,000) by British scientist James Smithson, the Institution today has an operating budget of more than $600 million.

The fellowship, a Queensland Government Smart State initiative, covers Dr Collier-Baker’s travelling and living expenses while overseas from March until September 2007.

Dr Collier-Baker, a postdoctoral research fellow working with Associate Professor Thomas Suddeckart at UQ’s Early Cognitive Development Unit within the School of Psychology, was thrilled to have won the award.

“The Think Tank is one of only a few such state-of-the-art zoo facilities for investigating ape cognition in the world so I’m really excited about the opportunity to work at the Smithsonian National Zoo next year,” she said.

“The experience could even inform the establishment of a similar facility back in Australia at some stage”. 
BRIGHTEST IDEAS

Detecting deafness in dogs and using robots to sort vegetables were among projects showcased by final-year UQ technology students on October 26.

The Information Technology and Electrical Engineering (ITEE) Innovation Expo event in the Sir James Foots Building at the University’s St Lucia campus showcased ideas and research from UQ’s top graduating students.

Engineering student Hannah Kelly has applied biomedical signal analysis techniques to help the early and accurate detection of hearing defects in dogs.

Her project examines the frequency characteristics of the dog auditory brainstem response, or ABR, in a similar way to testing used on humans.

Another engineering student, James Friend, developed an automated visual image grading system for broccoli heads, which is integrated into a robotic selection system.

The system allows market produce distributors to inspect and process produce more quickly, ensuring consumers obtain the freshest product available.

Mr Friend’s project has been supported by Matilda Fresh Foods, a major broccoli producer on the Darling Downs, and has been developed as a cooperative University-industry project for the company BioAust.

Other projects at the Expo included:
- An innovative program in virtual engineering education technology, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology;
- A truck driver fatigue monitoring system;
- The latest technology for diagnosing sleep apnoea disorders;
- A bird attack deterrent for power lines;
- A renewable energy and power grid connection;
- Automatic bird song recognition; and
- Electricity market data analysis.

TAKING STOCK OF THE MARKET

UQ Business School head Professor Tim Brailsford is working with colleagues at Monash University to develop the ‘holy grail’ of financial market economics.

Now in its third year, the $1 million plus project attempts to deliver a unified theory on the pricing of stock returns that transcends national borders. The quest for a universal valuation method that increases the efficiency of capital allocation has intensified in recent years in response to the increasing growth, complexity, and globalisation of financial markets.

Professor Brailsford said the need to develop a unified theory of stock return pricing was urgent in Australia.

“The capital pool in Australia is growing fast and is expected to overtake Japan as the largest pension fund market in the Asia Pacific by the year 2015,” he said.

Professor Brailsford and his research team hope to build an accurate database that will allow the back-testing of simulated portfolios to see how far the multi-factor model applies in Australia.

“Nothing of this scale has ever been attempted,” he said.

“In the absence of a comprehensive database, you can’t really test the deep-value portfolio theory in Australia and that’s one of the many great benefits of this project.”

A UQ study sponsored by one of Australia’s largest gold mines could change the way waste rock is handled at open-pit mine sites around the world.

Researchers from UQ’s Centre for Geomechanics within the School of Engineering are investigating the volume and rates of rainfall passing through a purpose-built, 200,000-tonne trial waste rock dump at the Cadia Hill Gold Mine near Orange in New South Wales.

Drilling at Cadia Hill began in 1998 and production averages almost 300,000 ounces of gold and 23,000 tonnes of copper per year.

The mine’s owners, Cadia Holdings, are the project’s industry sponsor as part of a $520,780 Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage grant, running from 2004 to 2007.

Project chief investigator Associate Professor David Williams and PhD student Tim Rohde, analyse data from 24 tanks or lysimetres buried beneath the 0.7-hectare, 15-metre-high trial waste rock dump, together with data collected from other instrumentation.

Dr Williams said the study, also involving Dr Dan Stolberg from UQ and Professor Ward Wilson from the University of British Columbia, is the most sophisticated of its kind in the world.

“It taps into often-expressed concerns by environmentalists that rainfall flowing through some mine waste dumps has the potential to contaminate the surrounding environment, including the groundwater,” he said.

After the progressive construction and instrumentation of the trial site, which took almost two years, the researchers are now able to continuously monitor seepage from tipping bucket gauges connected to the two-metre-diameter lysimeters. These results are downloaded to the researchers’ computers at UQ, with six months’ worth of data collected so far.

Professor Williams said the study has the potential to change the way waste rock dumps are constructed and covered at open-pit mines, which constitute about 75 percent of mines in Australia.

“If we can understand the way in which rainfall is both stored and released by waste rock dumps, they can be better designed and operated to limit seepage during operation and after closure.”

Researchers delve into the Deep end

Ms Kelly (left) with Dr Paul Mills and Norman the dog.
The University Library has hosted an exhibition showing the extraordinary life of Dr Alf Howard, the last surviving member of Sir Douglas Mawson’s 1929-31 British, Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition.

The exhibition, Dr Alf Howard: A Life in Discovery was curated by Dr Anna Bemrose, an Honorary Research Fellow in the School of English, Media Studies and Art History, and put together by the Library’s graphic designer, Janine Nicklin.

Dr Bemrose is researching a biography of Dr Howard, who turned 100 in April, and has gathered an enormous amount of information, some obtained on a trip to Antarctica last year.

The exhibition featured a potted biography of Dr Howard’s life, excerpts of his letters, books and articles, photos from his exploration days and press cuttings.

Other memorabilia included a large copy of the postage stamp on which he appeared and the now slightly weathered Jaeger scarf he wore to keep out the Antarctic’s frosty winds.

Dr Howard also worked as a research fellow in UQ’s School of Human Movement Studies for almost 30 years, where he designed computer programs and provided statistical advice to assist students with their research.

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

Dr Bemrose said after working as an industrial chemist for Dunlop Rubber, Dr Howard became Mawson’s chemist and hydrologist, and then went on to be a leading researcher at the CSIRO.

Dr Howard was awarded the Order of Australia (general division AM) in 1998 and in 2000 was named Senior Australian of the Year (Queensland Division).

Dr Howard shares some memories with biographer and exhibition curator Dr Anna Bemrose
UQ SCHOLAR BOUND FOR CAMBRIDGE

UQ medical graduate Nick Brown left last month for a year of postgraduate study at Cambridge University after winning one of seven prestigious 2006 Charles Hawker Scholarships awarded nationally.

Dr Brown graduated from Brisbane Grammar in 1997, then completed a Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science) in 2000 and a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery at UQ.

Dr Brown founded and chairs The Ashintosh Foundation, a not-for-profit charity with broad interests in health, education and the arts. He established and still chairs The Teddy Bear Hospital, a community health program exposing young children to healthcare, and using teddy bears and medical students to teach young children about their bodies and encourage them to live happy, healthy and active lives. He also founded and is the Musical Director of The Queensland Medical Orchestra and is the Creator and Director of Jim and Tonic, an annual QMO fundraiser with jazz musicians James Morrison, Emma Paek and Blackwood.

Established by Charles Hawker’s sister Lilias Needham, the scholarships are valued at up to $60,000.00 over four years, and are the most generous privately funded scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate students in Australia.


GREEK TALES REVISITED

LED BY A UQ THEATRE EXPERT, THE QUEENSLAND SHAKESPEARE ENSEMBLE HAS A NEW TAKE ON THE TALES OF OVID.

A UQ lecturer will examine modern psychology through ancient mythology in a performance showing at Metro Arts this month.

Metamorphoses comprises four selections from Tales from Ovid by Ted Hughes and runs until November 25 at the Sue Benner Theatre, Metro Arts, Edward St, Brisbane.

Performed by the Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble, Metamorphoses is a production involving a number of UQ graduates, including director Leah Mercer.

UQ lecturer in Linguistics and Drama and Artistic Director of the Ensemble, Dr Rob Pensalfini, is both an actor and voice coach for the production.

“The performance is a stage adaptation of Ovid’s Metamorphoses – archetypal Greek tales. The production uses Ted Hughes’ treatment of Metamorphoses to fuse text-driven training with physical theatre approaches,” Dr Pensalfini said.

“In all of the stories, in some way or another, someone transforms. They turn into a different shape.

“I think the idea behind the transformation or the metamorphoses in the classical texts is that it shows us the power passion has to transform us in our lives. It shows that when passion achieves a level that is mythic, it’s huge and it initiates a physical transformation in a person.

“It’s a metaphorical expression of the things we experience in our own lives. It is an exploration of society today. It addresses what we may refer to as people’s shadows.”

Dr Pensalfini said myths and fairytales had appealed to children through the centuries because they always had a deeper meaning.

He said the stories in Metamorphoses explored similar deeper meanings about life. The UQ-based Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble was created in 2001 to provide the community with accessible theatre.

The group’s core belief is that performance is most potent when actors train together, exchanging skills, experience and a sense of community.

The ensemble has built its reputation on transforming complex texts into exciting and easily accessible performances, and was featured in the World Shakespeare Congress staged in Brisbane earlier this year.

For bookings to Metamorphoses, phone 3002 7100 or visit: www.metroarts.com.au.

“In all of the stories, in some way or another, someone transforms, they turn into a different shape”
The University Art Museum is presenting a survey of Brisbane artist Pat Hoffie’s 15-year series of works produced under the title **Fully Exploited Labour**.

Hoffie has been described as a constant traveller, compulsive collector of images, cultural activist, and leading artist of her region.

This exhibition brings together a variety of works and installations previously exhibited in Australia and overseas, new works and others that have not been exhibited before.

They include billboards and banners, screen-printed deckchairs, hand-woven and dyed mats, a sculpture of a loud-speaker tower, fake scrimshaw carvings and a series of dolls.

In many of these works the artist has highlighted the superb crafting skills of communities with whom she works in the Asia-Pacific region.

Exhibition curator Timothy Morrell said **Fully Exploited Labour** was a phrase Pat Hoffie used as an ironic reference to the labels on manufactured goods.

“Works in the **Fully Exploited Labour** series question how less privileged peoples have been used as a source of cheap labour while their cultural achievements have been overlooked or denigrated,” he said.

“Through this series of exhibitions and works, Hoffie deliberately places herself in the ethically awkward position of the Westerner who exploits the culture of others just as our trade partnerships exploit them economically.

“She celebrates the poetry of art-making in a combination of the crafts of Pacific and Asian artisans, the highly skilled techniques of Manila’s billboard painters, and the radical optimism of Russian revolutionary artists,” Mr Morrell said.

Two 16 by 10 metre outdoor banners featuring early Australian paintings were among works created by Hoffie with the Galicia family, a group of artists from Manila, for a five-part installation during the 1994 Adelaide Festival.

**Hero Walk I: No such thing as a level playing field**, based on the 1854 portrait of Indigenous cricketer Nannultera by J.M. Crossland, was displayed at The Vic Richardson Gate of the Adelaide Cricket Ground.

**Hero Walk II: I Croak/You Croak (I stuff/you stuffed)** is based on a painting of the artist Thomas Baines shooting a crocodile in the Northern Territory, was hung at the entrance to the South Australian Museum.

Works which have never been exhibited before include a series of dolls made during a residency in Barcelona in 2002, and **Blackbirding**, fake maritime scrimshaw carvings, which use historical imagery of South Sea Island labour at Queensland sugar plantations from the mid-19th to early-20th centuries.

A dramatic banner, **The Children Overboard Affair**, was originally in the exhibition ‘Inadequate Language’, held at the Brisbane Powerhouse in 2002.

The exhibition also includes Hoffie’s confronting sculpture of a loud-speaker tower, which she based on a Russian Constructivist drawing.

A professor at the Queensland College of Art at Griffith University, Hoffie combines her prolific artistic career with her myriad of roles as an academic, researcher, writer, curator, contributor to leading national and international journals and forums.
UQ’s pharmacy students spent September 29 helping educate visitors at the Toowong Village shopping centre as part of a National Pharmacy Week campaign.

The students spoke to shoppers about important health issues, with a particular focus on asthma and heart disease.

The public had access to a number of free tests, including lung function, blood pressure and body mass index.

The shopping centre campaign was part of National Pharmacy Week, held nationwide to showcase to the community the role pharmacists play in society as easily accessible healthcare professionals.

The campaign was jointly run by the Queensland Pharmacy Students’ Association (QPSA) and the National Australian Pharmacy Students’ Association (NAPSA) in conjunction with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.
A new book detailing monumental stuff-ups in Australia's history was launched on October 27 at UQ.

The Great Mistakes of Australian History, a 256-page book published by UNSW Press, explores some of Australia’s worst errors in judgement and historical tragedies and failings.

UQ history lecturer Dr Martin Crotty, who came up with the idea for the book with co-editor David Roberts, said it not only detailed how mistakes happened, but also what could be learned from them.

“It’s the first book to explicitly deal with the mistakes and blunders in our past and to try and tease out a lesson from them,” Dr Crotty said.

“It’s accessible and easy to read but deals with broad and serious issues that remain relevant today – like how much we can exploit the land, race relations, and Australia at war.”

The introduction of cane toads, the stolen generations, the misuse of pastoral land and loss of some 60,000 lives in World War I are some of the historical low points featured in 13 chapters.

Dr Crotty said the biggest blunder in Australia’s history was the naïve militarism surrounding World War I which cost Australia 60,000 men dead and another 150,000 wounded.

“It resulted in incredible suffering among the soldiers and it just about tore Australian society apart.”

Dr Crotty said he believed Australians today compounded the errors of World War I by sanitising the historical realities.

“The book features contributions from a number of UQ academics including Dr Greg Baxter, Dr Manda Page and Associate Professor Clive Moore.

“It’s the first book to explicitly deal with the mistakes and blunders in our past and to try and tease out a lesson from them”
Michelle puts flesh on Aussie skeleton bones

Winter Olympian Michelle Steele was named Sportswoman of the Year at UQ’s Annual Blues and Sporting Awards Dinner on November 3.

An occupational therapy student, Ms Steele was awarded the University’s most prestigious sporting honour for her performances in the extreme Olympic downhill sled-sliding winter sport of skeleton in 2006. For the third year in a row, World Champion Fower and UQ business student Sam Conrad claimed the top male accolade, winning Sportsman of the Year.

A UQ SPORT scholarship holder, Ms Steele thanked the University for its support in what she said had been a whirlwind year. “It is a wonderful surprise to be recognised tonight in this way,” Ms Steele said. “It’s a great honour and has capped off a thoroughly surprising, amazing and fast-paced year for me.”

A former Australian beach sprinter Ms Steele was introduced to the sport of skeleton through the Australian Institute of Sport’s national talent search program.

As a relative newcomer to the sport, she created history in February this year when she became the first Australian female skeleton athlete to compete at a Winter Olympic Games.

Ms Steele’s qualification for the Torino Games came three months after her first World Cup outing and after only six months of training on ice. The Blues and Sporting Award Dinner celebrated the achievements of a host of other Australian representatives who received University Blues on the night.

Blues, the highest sporting award given by a University, were awarded to Andrew Logan (Powerlifting), James Horwill (Rugby Union), Melanie Schlanger (Swimming) and Anthony Martin (Water Polo).

Half Blues recipients were Kate Leitch (Athletics), Matthew Boyd (Athletics), Benedict Farrell (Rowing), Brett Gillespie (Rugby Union), Daniel Linde (Rugby Union), James Hanson (Rugby Union), Peter Moore (Soccer), Michael Hobbs (Rugby Union), Donald Weerheim (UQ Soccer Club) was named Club Coach of the Year, Brett Smith (UQ Men’s Hockey Club) the Club Administrator of the Year and John Burnett (UQ Waterski Club) won the Volunteer of the Year.

The Hulbert Bursary, awarded to Club of the Year, went to the UQ Boat Club while the UQ Athletics Club was again recognised with the President’s Cup for the many outstanding performances of its members at University sport level.

UQ law student and sports scholarship holder Suzie Fraser took another step towards the 2008 Beijing Olympics, following the Australian Institute of Sport’s announcement that she has been selected into its women’s water polo squad for the next six months.

Ms Fraser has also been named as one of 15 women to represent Australia in December during the National Women’s Squad’s tour of the United States.

Ms Fraser will be given further opportunities to impress selectors and stake her claim in the Olympic team when Australia competes in Melbourne next March at the 2007 FINA World Championships.

In the lead up to the 2008 Olympics, Ms Fraser is taking nothing for granted and will have to train hard to maintain her position in the team.

“Individually, I would love to make Beijing. It's such a highly competitive squad that no one’s position is safe … so I’ll have to train hard and keep doing everything I can to put my case forward,” Ms Fraser said.

The highest goal scorer in the National League competition and named most valuable player, Ms Fraser was also a key member of the Australian Women’s Water Polo team that took out the XIV FINA World Cup in China this year.

Ms Fraser said the victory signified the coming of age of women’s water polo and contributed the success of the Australian team to self-belief and hard work.

“Beating Olympic Champions Italy in the final represents a new era for women’s water polo,” she said.

“The team has had to build since the gold medal in Sydney 2000 and now we’ve shown we can mix it with the best teams in the world.

“It really was a culmination of a lot of hard work and training, and served as a reminder that all the effort we put in was worth it.”

ON THE PATH TO BEIJING

Michelle Steele trains at the UQ athletic track.

Michelle Steele was introduced to the sport of skeleton through the Australian Institute of Sport’s national talent search program.

As a relative newcomer to the sport, she created history in February this year when she became the first Australian female skeleton athlete to compete at a Winter Olympic Games.

Ms Steele’s qualification for the Torino Games came three months after her first World Cup outing and after only six months of training on ice. The Blues and Sporting Award Dinner celebrated the achievements of a host of other Australian representatives who received University Blues on the night.

Blues, the highest sporting award given by a University, were awarded to Andrew Logan (Powerlifting), James Horwill (Rugby Union), Melanie Schlanger (Swimming) and Anthony Martin (Water Polo).

Half Blues recipients were Kate Leitch (Athletics), Matthew Boyd (Athletics), Benedict Farrell (Rowing), Brett Gillespie (Rugby Union), Daniel Linde (Rugby Union), James Hanson (Rugby Union), Peter Moore (Soccer), Michael Hobbs (Rugby Union), Donald Weerheim (UQ Soccer Club) was named Club Coach of the Year, Brett Smith (UQ Men’s Hockey Club) the Club Administrator of the Year and John Burnett (UQ Waterski Club) won the Volunteer of the Year.

The Hulbert Bursary, awarded to Club of the Year, went to the UQ Boat Club while the UQ Athletics Club was again recognised with the President’s Cup for the many outstanding performances of its members at University sport level.

UQ law student and sports scholarship holder Suzie Fraser took another step towards the 2008 Beijing Olympics, following the Australian Institute of Sport’s announcement that she has been selected into its women’s water polo squad for the next six months.

Ms Fraser has also been named as one of 15 women to represent Australia in December during the National Women’s Squad’s tour of the United States.

Ms Fraser will be given further opportunities to impress selectors and stake her claim in the Olympic team when Australia competes in Melbourne next March at the 2007 FINA World Championships.

In the lead up to the 2008 Olympics, Ms Fraser is taking nothing for granted and will have to train hard to maintain her position in the team.

“Individually, I would love to make Beijing. It’s such a highly competitive squad that no one’s position is safe … so I’ll have to train hard and keep doing everything I can to put my case forward,” Ms Fraser said.

The highest goal scorer in the National League competition and named most valuable player, Ms Fraser was also a key member of the Australian Women’s Water Polo team that took out the XIV FINA World Cup in China this year.

Ms Fraser said the victory signified the coming of age of women’s water polo and contributed the success of the Australian team to self-belief and hard work.

“Beating Olympic Champions Italy in the final represents a new era for women’s water polo,” she said.

“The team has had to build since the gold medal in Sydney 2000 and now we’ve shown we can mix it with the best teams in the world.

“It really was a culmination of a lot of hard work and training, and served as a reminder that all the effort we put in was worth it.”

ON THE PATH TO BEIJING

Michelle Steele trains at the UQ athletic track.
**prizes**

Queensland Freemasons’ Scholarships: three scholarships are available to full-time students enrolled in the fourth or subsequent year of an undergraduate program. Awarded on academic merit with preference given to Freemasons, and sons and daughters of Freemasons of at least five years good standing of the United Grand Lodge of Qld. **Worth:** $1000. **Closing:** February 28, 2007. **Information:** www.uq.edu.au/myadvisor/other-scholarships-and-bursaries or ugscholarships@uq.edu.au or 07 3365 1984.

**George Essex Evans Scholarship:** open to students undertaking an honours program in English. **Worth:** $1440. **Closing:** March 16, 2007. **Information:** 07 3365 1984.

Alfred and Olivea Wynne Memorial Scholarships: open to full-time undergraduate, part-time internal undergraduate or postgraduate internal) who can demonstrate financial need. **Worth:** $1000. **Closing:** March 23, 2007. **Information:** www.uq.edu.au/myadvisor/other-scholarships-and-bursaries or 07 33651984.

**Constantine Aspromourgos Memorial Scholarship for Greek Studies:** open to UQ full-time students or masters graduates of not more than five years standing who are undertaking a postgraduate program involving studies which pertain to at least one area of Greek studies. **Worth:** $5750. **Closing:** March 30, 2007. **Information:** 07 3365 1984 or ugscholarships@uq.edu.au.

---

**conference call**

**LOGIC**

Logic Summer School: December 4-15, Australian National University.

The summer school is a two-week course of pure and applied logic. It consists of short courses on a range of topics taught by local and international experts. The level is advanced introductory and basic knowledge of logic is assumed.

**Information:** http://lssraise.anu.edu.au or Professor John Slaney on 02 6125 8607 or Diane Kossatz on 02 6125 8630.

---

**BLOOD CURSE**

A young UQ scientist is looking for a cure to a debilitating genetic disease

Queensland researcher has been awarded a prestigious international research fellowship to help cure the world’s most common single-gene disorder.

Dr Janelle Keys from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience has received a Cooley’s Anaemia Fellowship, worth nearly $54,000. The fellowship is awarded by the Cooley’s Anaemia Foundation, based in New York, and provides support to young scientists at the early stage of their career who are researching Cooley’s Anaemia.

Cooley’s Anaemia, or beta-thalassaemia major, is a genetic blood disease that occurs when adult red blood cells are unable to produce haemoglobin—the molecule that carries oxygen around the body.

Sufferers must undergo blood transfusions every few weeks in order to receive normal red blood cells.

The constant transfusions lead to a build-up of iron in organs such as the liver and heart, resulting in severe organ dysfunction and ultimately, death.

“Although adults with Cooley’s Anaemia are unable to produce haemoglobin, they were able to produce it as a foetus,” Dr Keys said.

“We know that if we can reactivate production of foetal haemoglobin during adulthood, then the symptoms of the disease are abated.”

Haemoglobin production is controlled by many different proteins, one of which is called Ikaros.

“My aim is to define how Ikaros works to alter the levels of foetal and adult haemoglobin, using this fellowship as support,” Dr Keys said.

“Knowing how Ikaros works should then be useful in developing novel treatments for the reactivation of foetal haemoglobin, and therefore curing Cooley’s Anaemia.”

Dr Keys
We can give you a loan for your car
and if you want to park it in the school carpark, we can help insure it too.

Call 1800 TEACHERS (1800 832 243)
or go to www.qtcu.com.au/teachers or visit our branches
They’re also open Saturdays 9am – 12noon (except Fortitude Valley)

Let’s face it. Teachers’ lives are different. And if your life is different, you can bet your financial needs are also unique. So Queensland Teachers’ Credit Union is delighted to announce a competitive new financial package that is designed around teachers’ lives.

It has been created for all kinds of teachers. For new teachers who are attempting to set up prior to their first pay, there’s an offer of finance. Because teachers often keep personal possessions and tools of the trade at school, there’s added cover in the contents insurance product. And there are loans that can be tailored to suit teachers and your rather different income flows.

We really do believe that teachers have unique financial needs and Queensland Teachers’ Credit Union has always placed a high priority on its teacher members. So if you’d like to know more about our Teachers’ Life financial package and take advantage of our commitment to our teaching members, give us a call.

QTCU’s lending policies, conditions, fees and charges apply. Full details of the terms and conditions are available on...