Sun and fun at the Bridge’s Big Day
UQ Careers Fair 2007

Wednesday 21 March
UQ Centre
11am - 4pm

MEET WITH OVER 140 EMPLOYERS & AGENCIES

www.uq.edu.au/careersfair
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

There is growing national recognition of the importance of high-quality university teaching, as shown by the establishment of an enhanced program of national awards for university teaching, the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund, and the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education.

UQ’s teachers have thrived in this increasingly competitive environment, collecting more awards than any other institution’s teachers in the past decade, reaping outstanding results from the fund and the Institute’s grants and fellowships program, and generally ensuring that UQ’s reputation for teaching and learning excellence is second to none.

This position will only be sustained if the University continually updates strategies, policies and practices, enhances the student experience, and promotes a culture of excellence in teaching and learning. Ongoing success in national funding and awards will demand a commitment of time and resources to evaluation, improvement and accountability.

Since July 2005 the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Michael Keniger, has provided tremendous leadership in teaching and learning and contributed to UQ’s successes in this area. In the second half of 2006 I gave him the additional responsibility of external and community relations, encompassing the vitally important area of alumni engagement.

To ensure that UQ continues to advance in teaching and learning, while simultaneously delivering better service to alumni and the broader community, I have created the position of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning). Professor Keniger and I are delighted that Professor Deborah Terry has agreed to undertake the position as a half-time role. Professor Terry will continue as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences and will receive strong support from the Deputy Executive Dean, Professor Cindy Gallois.

Professor Terry will report to me through Professor Keniger, whose wide range of responsibilities will continue to encompass the overall direction of teaching and learning, academic policy, and overseeing the integration of teaching and learning resources and services.

I thank both Professor Keniger and Professor Terry for their leadership in what will most certainly be a challenging era. As our Teaching and Learning Enhancement Plan is scheduled for review this year, it is highly opportune to ensure that all of UQ’s teaching-related strategies are aligned to deliver the best results for students and to augment the University’s global reputation.

Professor John Hay, AC

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UQ News is delivered off-campus to our neighbours at St Lucia and across the Eleanor Schonell Bridge. 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

UQ NEWS is produced by the Office of Marketing and Communications, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Qld, 4072, Australia. Telephone: (07) 3365 3367. Facsimile: (07) 3365 1488
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Printing: Scarlson Printing Virginia
Circulation: 15,000
Advertising: Tina Hannan (07) 5460 1739
Registered by Australia Post Publication No. QBH 0104
The University of Queensland’s Web address is: www.uq.edu.au
Universal appeal of BrisScience

A series of entertaining science lectures will begin with a journey into the final frontier.

Astrobiologist and cosmologist Dr Charles Lineweaver will deliver the first 2007 BrisScience lecture at 6.30pm on Monday, March 19 at Brisbane City Hall where he will explore questions about the origins of the Universe and life: where and when the first stars and terrestrial planets formed; the locations of liquid water in the Universe; the age of life on Earth; and whether life is common in the Universe.

Now coordinator of the Planetary Science Institute, Dr Lineweaver was part of the Cosmic Background Explorer team which discovered fluctuations in the cosmic microwave background.

BrisScience, a UQ outreach initiative, made a successful debut in 2006, showing the popular potential of public science lectures. BrisScience director Jennifer Dodd, of UQ’s School of Physical Sciences, said the nine 2006 lectures had built a loyal following.

“The success of BrisScience shows that science has popular appeal,” Dr Dodd said.

“If you give talented science communicators an opportunity to explain their work in a relaxed evening forum, the audience will follow.”

Speakers in 2006 included UQ’s Professor John Mattick and Professor John Quiggin; the University of Sydney’s Professor Ed Blakely; the Australian National University’s Professor Brian Schmidt; and writer and commentator Margaret Wertheim.

“BrisScience has drawn a diverse audience including school and university students, retirees, public servants, academics, and business people,” Dr Dodd said. “The events are free, and because we provide wine, soft drinks and cheese after the lectures, they are an occasion for social and professional networking.”

Dr Dodd has teamed up with charismatic UQ physicist Dr Joel Gilmore to develop the professional networking.

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE

UQ’s first Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning, Professor Deborah Terry, sees great opportunities for strengthening the UQ student experience.

Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, appointed Professor Terry in February. The role expands her portfolio as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, and comes at a time of leadership by UQ in teaching and learning, and of ongoing changes in higher education policy and the marketplace.

“We’ve seen in teaching and learning a move from making sure the right processes are in place, to treating teaching and learning more like we treat research: monitoring, understanding and being responsive to the key indicators of quality in this area,” Professor Terry said.

Reforms billed for both the national higher education scene and within UQ will create new opportunities, she believes.

“Done right, the (Federal Government’s) Research Quality Framework (RQF) will enhance teaching and learning,” Professor Terry said.

“We will continue to build the research profile of the University, and that will be recognised through the RQF.

“This will, in turn, enhance teaching and learning quality, through the staff we attract and the way in which we engage research excellence in our teaching and learning.

“The challenge will be to bring together what we’re doing in different areas in teaching and learning, to align them more closely to ensure that teaching and learning remains strategically important in the RQF environment.”

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Michael Keniger retains responsibility for the overall direction of teaching and learning and academic policy. He will also oversee the integration of teaching and learning resources and services. UQ’s policy of regularly updating core strategies affords an opportunity to sharpen the teaching and learning focus.

The University’s five-year Teaching and Learning Enhancement Plan is scheduled for review this year, as is the curriculum review process. The outcomes of these will feed in to the ongoing review of teaching quality appraisal.

Professor Terry will chair the enhancement review committee and sees the next plan, covering 2008 to 2012, as an opportunity to identify the current key priorities in teaching and learning, and to incorporate a stronger focus on outcomes.

“The ideal end result will be better experiences for UQ students, as measured by factors including student satisfaction, retention rates and employment outcomes,” Professor Terry said.

“Close attention to program structures, flexibility, and the role of pedagogical technologies will be integral.

“We need to respond to the fact that some of our students want to fast-track their studies, and many are working and have other responsibilities.

“We need to look more closely at how we can enhance the online experience, and how we can make better use of the Summer Semester and other concentrated modes of course delivery.”

Outcomes will be measured by UQ’s success in attracting national awards for teaching and learning, the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund outcomes, and grants and fellowships from the Carrick Institute.

However, Professor Terry stresses the importance of global standing and the international currency of a UQ qualification.

“It’s imperative that we put in place strategies that will ensure that we have national and international recognition for excellence in both our program offerings and in our teaching and learning,” Professor Terry said.
REHAB FOR ORANGUTANS

LIVING IN INDONESIA AND STUDYING ORPHANED ORANGUTANS WAS THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME FOR UQ STUDENT KRIS DESCOVICH.

Rapidly escalating deforestation is destroying the habitat of Indonesia’s orangutans and sending the numbers of orphaned infants soaring.

Many of the baby primates are so young their parents have not had a chance to teach them the survival skills needed for life in the remaining jungle areas.

The task of nursing the orangutans and preparing them for reintroduction into the wild has fallen to staff at increasingly busy rehabilitation centres.

UQ student Kris Descovich travelled to Indonesia to study the rehabilitation techniques and the behaviour of the orangutans during their reintroduction.

As part of the Bachelor of Applied Science program offered at the Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics at UQ’s Gatton campus, Ms Descovich studied more than 40 juvenile orangutans at a rehabilitation centre in Central Kalimantan.

Her study included a six-month investigation of aspects of the rehabilitation process including observing the behaviour of the pre-adolescent orangutans when they were introduced into a small area of forest under the guidance of their carers.

Ms Descovich said the young orangutans were taken into the forest daily to help develop the survival skills needed after release from the rehabilitation centre.

She said many factors influenced the behaviour of the orangutans during their gradual re-exposure to the forest.

“Variables such as general health, weight, gender, the social group in which they were housed in the rehabilitation centre, as well as the amount of time spent in rehabilitation, had the greatest effect on their behaviour,” Ms Descovich said.

She said by determining which factors affected important behaviours necessary for survival, it was hoped that more orangutans would be successfully reintroduced into their natural forest habitat.

“We need to ensure that each orangutan is provided with the correct education and possesses the physical attributes required to be reintroduced to the wild.”

“We need to ensure that each orangutan is provided with the correct education and possesses the physical attributes required to be reintroduced to the wild” Ms Descovich said.

Ms Descovich is now focusing on developing techniques to optimise successful reintroduction.

GROWING SMART STATE PHD RESEARCH FUNDING

UQ Business School student Martina Linnenluecke has been awarded a grant of $12,000 under the Growing the Smart State PhD Funding Program.

Supervisor Associate Professor Andrew Griffiths said Ms Linnenluecke was the third UQ PhD student to win funding from the Queensland Government in the past two years.

“Martina and her fellow students Sally Russell and Nardia Haigh are directly contributing to the stock of knowledge we have about the impacts of climate change on business,” he said.

Ms Linnenluecke said her research would compare organisational responses to global climate change in two different cultures.

“By researching both Australia and Germany, I hope to be able to identify how the institutional environment affects the way organisations respond to climate change,” she said.

The potential impacts of climate change include rising temperatures, sea level changes, and changes in rainfall patterns.

“These changes will inevitably affect businesses and industries, opening up significant risk factors and probably increasing the cost of doing business.”

Ms Linnenluecke presented a concept model of her research thus far at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Switzerland late last month.
HELD ACROSS UQ’S THREE CAMPUSSES, THE 2007 ORIENTATION PROGRAM OFFERED A WEEK OF FUN AND GAMES FOR THE UNIVERSITY’S APPROXIMATELY 8000 BEGINNING STUDENTS.
New UQ students were given their first taste of campus life during annual Orientation celebrations held in February.

Highlights of the week-long program included the popular campus market days, which drew thousands of students happy to take advantage of faculty demonstrations and hundreds of informative exhibits.

With more than 150 clubs, societies and groups affiliated with The University of Queensland Union and UQ SPORT on display, students took the opportunity to sign up to sporting teams, meet new friends, and take part in the many social events on offer.

Kelly Chapman from UQ SPORT said a growing number of students were taking advantage of the University’s sporting facilities each year.

“It seems like more than ever, students are interested in keeping themselves active while studying,” she said.

Capping off the packed O Week program across the University’s three campuses was the Big Bang concert at St Lucia, featuring some of the biggest names in Brisbane music across three stages.

But it wasn’t all fun and games, with the UQ Student Centre and UQ Union running a range of tours, seminars and workshops to advise students on anything and everything from budgeting and cooking tips to how to settle in to their studies.

UQ Union President Julie-Ann Campbell said the event had provided the perfect start to the 2007 academic year.

“Thousands of new students were given a great start to their UQ experience at O-Week 2007,” Ms Campbell said.

“O Week is always a great way to kick off first semester, not only because it’s a fun and laid-back introduction to UQ, but because it shows students the Union is here to help and support them in any way we can.”
Nominations are being invited for The University of Queensland’s 2007 Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Awards for the Enhancement of Student Learning.

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
These awards were established in 1988 to recognise, encourage and reward sustained excellence in teaching at the University. Academic staff with teaching or teaching/research appointments who have a minimum of two years academic teaching-related employment within the University are eligible for nomination. Candidates must be nominated by at least five members of the University’s academic staff or current or former students (those who have been taught by the nominee within the last five years). Of the five people who nominate, at least one must be an academic staff member and one a current or former student. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

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

Nominations, completed on the appropriate form, should be submitted by Friday May 4, 2007 to the Director of Studies of the nominee’s faculty.

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

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

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

Applicants should submit their completed application form with appropriate endorsement and a two-page synopsis of the nominated project by Friday May 4, to Jenny Bjarnesen, Room 629, Level 6, J D Story Building.

SMART KIDS GETTING HEAD START
THE NEWEST STUDENTS TO STUDY AT UQ MAY BE YOUNG, BUT THEY SURE ARE BRAINY.

For their first five weeks of school, students of the new Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology at Toowong are spending one day a week working with top UQ academics at the University’s research institutes.

As part of their UQ practical experience, the students are taking part in workshops and tutorials in biology, biomedical science, chemistry, mathematics and physics. But their UQ experience will not end there – the “Smart State” Academy will maintain an ongoing and close link with the University, allowing its high-achieving students to develop their skills through a leading-edge curriculum.

Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said the arrangement would provide academy students with an enhanced learning experience and the opportunity to develop research and investigation skills in a world-class environment.

“The University has cultivated a tradition of research and teaching excellence that will afford students every opportunity to fulfil their potential,” Professor Hay said.

“As well as being provided with access to cutting-edge technologies in innovative fields such as robotics, biomedical science, forensic science and gene technology, students are being exposed to a groundbreaking research environment that has produced research successes of the likes of our scramjet project and life-saving cervical cancer research.”

The 242 inaugural academy students are taking on the International Baccalaureate Diploma program, a two-year curriculum that prepares 16-to-19-year-olds for university.

As well as being able to fast track their learning by combining their schooling with tertiary studies, students are presented with opportunities to gain valuable work experience.

Rewarding excellence
IT’S NO JOKE...

FUNNY BUSINESS IS SERIOUS WORK FOR A UQ LECTURER WHO’S RESEARCHING HUMOUR IN THE WORKPLACE.

UQ Business School academic Dr Bob Westwood believes the TV program Big Brother can tell us something profound about humour at work.

Dr Westwood said the Big Brother Office Olympics episode broadcast last year was funny precisely because it was subversive.

“Most research on humour at work to date has come out of a functionalist framework with, ultimately, the idea of capturing the benefits of humour as a way of improving productivity,” he said.

“But the Office Olympics episode, with its mockery of the “boss” figure, showed humour at work at its most subversive and dangerous.”

Dr Westwood has recently co-edited (with Carl Rhodes, University of Technology, Sydney) a book looking at humour in the workplace. Humour, Work and Organisation is published by Routledge and brings together academics from Australia, New Zealand, England, Ireland, and the US to provide an alternative to the managerialist perspective that Dr Westwood believes continues to drive much of the research.

With examinations of gender, humour, and organisations; humour in workplace meetings; an in-depth look at TV’s The Simpsons; a chapter entitled “The comedy of ethics”; and a final section examining the organisation of humour, the book is a surprise package.

Dr Westwood said it was a scholarly academic book, produced from within the academy, by an established and establishment publishing house.

Contributors include Sam Warren and Stephen Fineman, who examine the intriguing idea of “prescribed fun” at work, while Martin Parker studies the interplay of organisational culture and popular culture by providing a long list of satirical books, television shows and websites, all predicated on the stereotype of work as the last place you’d want to be and “the boss” as a tyrant.

“It constitutes a location [for his chapter [Theory as Joke]] within the extant power structures that largely militate against the possibility of subversion and transformation,” he said.

In other words it’s no joke.
AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

A number of people associated with the University featured in this year’s Australia Day Honours List. They included the following:

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA COMPANION (AC)
- Dr Bridget Ogilvie, for service to science in the field of biomedical research. Dr Ogilvie, a UQ graduate, was formerly Director of the Wellcome Trust.

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA GENERAL DIVISION
- Former Queensland Premier and UQ Bachelor of Agriculture Science graduate, the Honourable Michael Ahern, for service to the Queensland Parliament and to educational and charitable organisations.
- Former UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and current Vice-Chancellor of RMIT, Professor Margaret Gardner, for service to tertiary education and industrial relations in Queensland.

MEMBER (AM) GENERAL DIVISION
- Associate Professor Con Aroney, of the School of Medicine, for service to medicine in the field of cardiology.
- Veterinary science graduate and UQ Gatton Gold Medalist Professor Keith Entwistle, for service to the beef industry and to veterinary education.
- Richard Ian Hanger QC, an Adjunct Professor in the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, for service to the law, and to music.
- The late Professor Brian Hills, formerly an Adjunct Professor with the University’s Medicine Department, for service to medical research, particularly in the fields of respiratory physiology and decompression sickness.
- UQ graduate and member of the Queensland Brain Institute Professor John McGrath, for service to medicine in the field of schizophrenia research.
- The Chairperson of the Dental Board of Queensland, UQ Master of Dental Science graduate and Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Dentistry Dr Richard Olive, for service to dentistry and dental education.
- UQ graduate Professor Michael O’Rourke, for service to medicine and medical education.
- UQ PhD graduate and Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Sunshine Coast, Professor Paul Thomas, for service to higher education.

MEDAL (OAM) GENERAL DIVISION
- Dr Brian Cass of the former Faculty of Education for service in the field of continuing education.
- Ms Leah Horwitz, who was a board member of the School of Music, for service to music education.
- The Rev Canon Emeritus Bruce Maughan, for service to education through a range of administrative roles and as a teacher, and to the Anglican Church of Australia.
- UQ MBBS graduate Dr Brian Wilson for service to medicine in the field of ophthalmology as a researcher, clinician and teacher.

PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL
- UQ graduate Dr Anthony (Tony) Pressland, for outstanding public service in the field of sustainable management of natural resources in Queensland.

US Fulbrights welcomed

Five top American scholars are studying at UQ in 2007 under the prestigious Fulbright Program.

Australian–American Fulbright Commission Executive Director Mark Darby said the achievement was unprecedented and reflected the high quality and range of research endeavours at UQ.

“It is the first time that there have been five Americans actually at one Australian university in the same year,” Mr Darby said.

“Given that they have 39 universities to go to in Australia, to have five of a group of 20, that’s very unique.”

Coming from a range of research backgrounds, the five Fulbright scholars and their projects are:
- Michael Deceglie, a physics and mathematics researcher who will be working with UQ’s Dr Paul Meredith to look at increasing the efficiency of solar energy;
- Dr Jeanette Simmonds, who is conducting historical research into the leaders of the international Biological Nitrogen Fixation (BNF) community. Dr Simmonds is based at UQ’s Centre of Excellence for Integrative Legume Research;
- Postdoctoral researcher Kate Murray, who will be working with the research team at UQ Ipswich’s Boilerhouse Community Engagement Centre on the topic of refugee resettlement;
- Working with Professor Andrew White at UQ’s Centre for Quantum Computing Technology, Devon Biggerstaff is undertaking research into creating entangled photons for use in experimental quantum optics and quantum computing; and
- Associate Professor Geralyn Schulz, who will explore alternative methods of speech therapy to assist brain-damaged individuals.

Since 1949, more than 2500 Australians and 1800 Americans have been Fulbright Scholars across the two countries, with alumni including a distinguished list of Nobel and Pulitzer prize winners, artists, ambassadors and heads of state.

Scholarships lure nation’s brightest

Sixteen of Australia’s brightest students have been awarded scholarships that will see them financially supported for the duration of their studies at UQ.

The Dean’s Excellence Scholarships, which are awarded by the University’s Faculty of Engineering, Physical Sciences and Architecture (EPSA), are aimed at encouraging and supporting talented students as they study at UQ.

EPSA Executive Dean Professor Stephen Walker said South–East Queensland’s status as the most rapidly growing area in Australia meant engineers, scientists, planners and architects looked set to be in demand for some time to come.

“Locally, the South–East Queensland population is expected to rise to about 3.5 million people by 2021, so planners, scientists, architects and engineers will be essential in developing and managing the infrastructure required to cater for the expanding population.

“It makes sense to encourage our brightest students to study in these areas, and in this way, to help secure both their future, and the future development of our own communities.”

Worth $5000 a year, the scholarships are principally based on academic merit, with a small number also awarded to talented but socio-economically disadvantaged students.

The scholarships are in line with Queensland Government initiatives to encourage more students to pursue higher education study and careers in the sciences, as well as engineering and technology, as part of the Smart Queensland Smart State Strategy.
It’s not that often that an engineer finds inspiration for their research at the ballet. But for UQ graduate Aaron Tan, the theatre was the perfect place to start his search for smarter lighting design.

Working with Dr Ralf Muhlberger from UQ’s School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering (ITEE), Mr Tan hopes to create the world’s first interactive or affective lighting system, which can respond intuitively to the mood of audience members and performers.

At present, lighting design is both time and labour intensive, requiring each effect to be plotted manually during rehearsals and then followed on cue during each performance.

Mr Tan said two of his primary goals were to digitise the process – making it faster and more efficient – and to produce lighting effects that better reflected the emotions of those both on and off the stage.

“There’s really no intelligence behind current mood lighting,” he said.

“The technology in question enables more control and accuracy in classifying emotion, providing a more robust and efficient approach to visual storytelling.

“This will also reduce the mental workload of the operator and lighting designer.”

Central to the project is the development of “emotional impact sliders”, which would allow designers to portray stock sensations (happiness, sadness, anger, shock, fear and disgust) more easily and effectively.

Mr Tan’s undertaking is part of ITEE’s broader research program into how emotions are expressed and affected through technologies such as video conferencing, computer games and email.

“A lot of what we currently know about emotions is conjecture, and wishful thinking just isn’t science,” he said.

“The measure of emotion is elusive in nature and I’m trying to improve that process.”

As part of his research, Mr Tan attended technical rehearsals for a recent Queensland Ballet production, and consulted industry experts including Steven Newman, director of photography on the blockbuster film *Superman Returns*.

He said a possible experiment involved placing sensors on a person’s skin to measure their emotional reaction to different lighting effects.

Once these values were quantified, Mr Tan said lighting design could become a “smart” technology, which could sense the mood of users and adjust in real time.

“The research has proved that intelligent lighting is possible today with emerging technologies,” he said.

“As current user interfaces are inadequate for the needs of emotion-based lighting, the research is also focused on new design interfaces to define and represent emotions.

“With more research, the mental control of lighting systems will be a reality in the near future.”
More than 6000 Brisbane residents took part in the biggest celebration of the Eleanor Schonell bridge to date – UQ’s Family Fun Day on February 25.

Families from around Brisbane walked, biked and bussed their way across the bridge, which links the University’s St Lucia campus with Dutton Park.

Among the free activities on offer during the day were historical tours of UQ’s Great Court led by University sculptor Rhyl Hinwood, junior sporting clinics, and a pet-friendly lunch at the Pizza Caffe.

In addition, UQ’s faculties and research centres had informational displays, and the University’s Art, Antiquities and Anthropology museums and Biological Sciences Library were open to the public.

An Indigenous welcome to country opened the event, followed by a presentation from Lord Mayor Campbell Newman, congratulating UQ for being Brisbane’s biggest water-saver.

Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said the University was pleased to host the community so people could discover the many attractions of the St Lucia campus.

“The Eleanor Schonell Bridge illustrates the University’s commitment to the local community and the environment, allowing easier and greater access than ever before to the outstanding public facilities UQ has to offer,” Professor Hay said.

“With thousands of Brisbane residents attending and proceeds from the day supporting the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Queensland, the event was an outstanding success.”

Since the bridge opened in December, many UQ staff members, students and visitors have taken advantage of the new public transport options on offer, with more than 7700 bus passengers and 1400 cyclists commuting to and from the campus per day at the start of semester.

The fun day was run in partnership with the Brisbane City Council and sponsored by Quest Newspapers.
Pictured: (clockwise from top left) The rock climbing wall proved popular; Getting around was easy thanks to the Arrow Express train; Melita Watkins from UQ’s School of Veterinary Science brought her dogs Reggie and Jazz along for the fun; Adrian Burragubba took part in the Indigenous welcome to country ceremony; Children giving a UQ SPORT tennis clinic a go; A family relaxes under the shade; Kids of all ages in a spin for free fairyfloss.

Opposite page: (from left) Ethan Bell, Andrew Bell and Trudi Border enjoy the view from the bridge; UQ’s faculties and research centres hosted informative displays on the day.
Mooters lay down the law in nationals

UQ has swept the pool at the national final of the Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition.

Students from UQ’s TC Beirne School of Law took overall honours in the final held at the High Court of Australia in Canberra last month.

On the way to victory, the team of dual Law and Arts degree students won all seven of its moots, and in addition, the team’s three main advocates made a clean sweep of prizes for first, second and third best oralist in the preliminary rounds.

Jessica Howley won the best oralist award, Laura Grant took second place and third place went to Belinda McRae. Other members of the victorious team were Anthony Bremner and Angus O’Brien.

The victory will enable the UQ team to compete at the competition’s international final held in Washington this month (March 25 to 31).

The Jessup Moot Court Competition places students as representatives in a dispute before the International Court of Justice, in the largest competition of its kind in the world.

UQ has demonstrated a tradition of excellence in the competition with the UQ team reaching the international final the past three years, winning in 2005.

Dr Jonathan Crowe of the TC Beirne School of Law said the team members were grateful for the support of the Mooting Program sponsors, Allens Arthur Robinson, Dibbs Abbott Stillman and Minter Ellison.

NEW ERA FOR NEPAL

UQ’s TC Beirne School of Law is helping Nepal’s government strengthen the country’s legal system.

The School’s Centre for Public, International and Comparative Law (CPICL), has been awarded a consultancy with AusAid’s Public Sector Linkages Program to provide training to the National Judicial Academy (NJA) in Nepal.

CPICL Director, Professor Suri Ratnapala, said the consultancy was primarily aimed at training the faculty of the NJA to better perform its mission of developing and delivering training programs for judges, lawyers and government legal officials in the country.

“What we are essentially providing the Academy with is technical assistance in course design, program development and in the various methods of training and teaching,” he said.

“We will also be giving them some substantive knowledge in selected areas of the law; in particular, constitutional law and constitutional government, judicial ethics and accountability, and aspects of criminal law and evidence.”

Nepal is recovering from years of civil unrest. After adopting a new constitution in 1990 which created a parliament under a constitutional monarch, the country descended into near civil war following a Maoist rebellion before King Gyanendra reclaimed complete control of the country.

In 2006, following weeks of public demonstrations, the King agreed to reinstate the parliament and establish an interim government leading to the election of a Constituent Assembly which will draft a new constitution.

Professor Ratnapala said the project therefore came at a critical moment in Nepal’s political transition to a constitutional democracy.

“For a democratic form of government to operate properly it has to be on the basis of the rule of law, and a strong, competent and independent judiciary is essential to having such a system of government,” he said.

“It is everyone’s hope that it will be a new beginning for Nepal.”

The project will be undertaken throughout this year and will involve training activities in Nepal and Brisbane for senior judicial staff and court administrators.
The future profitability and security of Queensland’s multi-billion-dollar animal industries has received a major boost with the awarding of a contract to develop the $33 million Centre for Advanced Animal Science (CAAS) at UQ’s Gatton campus.

Leading private Queensland construction company McNab has been awarded the contract to build the complex and started work last month.

CAAS is a joint project between the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) and the University.

UQ’s Executive Dean of the Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science, Professor Roger Swift, said CAAS would boast world-class research facilities in the areas of animal growth, adaptation, welfare, health and vaccines.

“CAAS will encourage increased national and international collaboration between scientists in the developed and developing world.

“It will also strengthen the interaction between researchers and industry and ensure that research and development leads to rapid practical outcomes.”

Acting Director-General of the DPI&F Robert Setter said CAAS would make a major contribution to the Queensland Government’s R&D priorities.

He said the CAAS would be at the forefront of developing smart industries, safeguarding Queensland and its environment, and capitalising on the advantages offered by a tropical climate.

“It will have the potential to contribute tens of millions of dollars annually to the Queensland economy through the application of groundbreaking research and technological developments,” Mr Setter said.

“CAAS is part of a major redevelopment of research facilities in Queensland.

“It will be a centre of DPI&F research in the areas of animal production, health and welfare and biosecurity and will link to the proposed development of an Ecoscience Precinct at Boggo Road and a Health and Food Sciences Precinct at Coopers Plains, Brisbane.

“DPI&F research at the Ecoscience Precinct will focus on improving the profitability of animal industries while minimising environmental impacts through innovative biological pest control technologies that reduce chemical use.

“At the Health and Food Science Precinct, Biosecurity will be a priority for DPI&F in protecting the livestock industry by allowing faster and even more accurate diagnosis of animal pests and diseases and their effective management.”

Professor Swift said CAAS would provide advanced education and training for future generations of researchers and practitioners in the animal industries.

“CAAS complements perfectly the existing animal infrastructure at the Gatton campus, which includes a modern dairy, piggery, poultry unit, equine centre and wildlife enclosure,” he said.

“Proximity to the Brisbane research facilities and an international airport, together with Queensland’s respected animal scientists ensure that CAAS will increase collaboration and visits by other leading animal researchers. There is no comparable centre elsewhere in Australia.”

Animal industries are vital to the economic, social and environmental wealth of Queensland.

They contribute in excess of $4 billion annually in gross production value and are underpinned by an investment in people, infrastructure and resources in the vicinity of $25 billion.

They also provide major employment in rural and regional Queensland and are an important part of the human capital of Queensland.

Mr Setter said the CAAS had been made possible by funding from UQ, DPI&F and the Queensland Government Smart State Research Facilities Fund.
University of Queensland students will have a unique opportunity to meet with potential employers when the University holds its annual UQ Careers Fair on March 21.

Dean of Students Dr Lisa Gaffney said the event would attract more than 100 leading employers from government and private industry who recognised the quality of UQ students.

“For employers and recruiting agencies, the Careers Fair provides an opportunity to recruit some of Australia’s best and brightest graduates,” Dr Gaffney said.

“Equally, for UQ students the event offers the chance to speak face-to-face with potential employers and obtain specific information about individual companies.

“In exploring their vocational opportunities, many students may discover career options they had not previously considered.”

Employers attending the event include: ANZ; BHP Billiton; the Brisbane City Council; the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources; Education Queensland; Hamilton Island Enterprises; IBM Australia; Xstrata; Brisbane City Council; the Australian Secret Intelligence Service; Qantas; Ergon Energy; and the College of Law, Queensland.

The Fair will run from 11am to 4pm in the UQ Centre, St Lucia campus, with students able to collect information and meet employers, each of whom will have their own booth and display area.

The event also aims to showcase the services offered at the University to help students prepare for employment, and to provide them with an opportunity to explore postgraduate study and training options.

UQ’s Student Support Services will conduct presentations demonstrating job interview skills, resume writing and other career-planning opportunities.

“The Careers Fair will raise awareness of what students need to do to get a job, and will help them to make useful contacts in the workforce,” Dr Gaffney said.

“I would encourage all students to take advantage of the resources and information on offer to help them make a smooth transition from study to a rewarding career.”

For further information about the Careers Fair, including a list of attending employers, please visit www.uq.edu.au/careersfair.

UQ has performed well in a respected ranking of international university academic and research performance.

Last year, UQ was announced as being among the top five Australian universities overall of the top 100 Asia Pacific universities in the Shanghai Jiao Tong University’s Academic Ranking of World Universities.

Shanghai Jiao Tong last month released field specific rankings of world universities with UQ ranked in the top 100 in three: life and agriculture sciences (52nd); clinical medicine and pharmacology (51st); and social sciences (77th).

The Academic Ranking of World Universities is published by the Institute of Higher Education within Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

It is completed independently by a ranking team for their academic interest, without external financial support.

Shanghai Jiao Tong is one of the oldest universities in China, and was founded in 1896. With UQ, is a member of the Universitas 21 international network of 20 leading research-intensive universities located in 11 countries.

Collectively, Universitas 21 members enrol more than 600,000 students, employ more than 80,000 academics and researchers and have more than two million alumni.

Their collective budgets amount to more than US$10 billion.

Late last year, UQ advanced a further two places to be listed at number 45 in the annual top 200 ranking of world universities produced by the UK’s Times Higher Education Supplement.

UQ is the only Queensland university to be included in the top 50 in the world and one of only six around the country.

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

The University was also independently ranked as one of Australia’s best universities in the 2007 edition of The Good Universities Guide.

UQ was awarded the maximum five-star rating for six key performance indicators.

These indicators included student demand, positive graduate outcomes, staff qualifications, research grants, research intensity and toughness to get in (the University’s St Lucia campus).
Students of the Faculty of Health Sciences are set to clash for prizes and prestige when UQ hosts an innovative new health care competition.

The UQ Health Care Team Challenge, which will be held at the St Lucia campus on April 4, will see teams of students from areas such as dentistry, medicine, nursing, occupational therapy and pharmacy battle it out in a bid to find management solutions to complex health care case scenarios.

The teams, comprised of one student representative from each of the Faculty’s disciplines, will present their management plans to an audience of students, academics, clinicians and sponsors from the community.

Faculty of Health Sciences Executive Dean Professor Peter Brooks said the Challenge would offer students a unique opportunity to work in a team towards finding solutions for complex, but realistic health problems.

“Most health science professionals do not get to experience inter-professional practice on a significant level until they graduate or achieve their relevant qualifications,” Professor Brooks said.

“The UQ Health Care Team Challenge will not only give students the chance to extend their knowledge about the dynamics and possible challenges of modern health care, but will also enhance their knowledge about other health professions and their respective roles in the clinical area.

“The event will also provide them with an avenue to present themselves in a strong light to an audience of potential future employers, showcasing their abilities to work in a team and provide the highest level of patient care.”

Project Coordinator, Ms Monica Moran from the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, said while prizes would be awarded, the real benefit for students would be the invaluable opportunity to showcase their skills to clinicians and employers from around the region.

“One of the intangible but very real benefits for students will be the chance this event gives them to present their expertise in teamwork and patient management to an audience of experts and employers in their fields,” she said.

Ms Moran said the competition would aim to provide an authentic inter-professional experience via a fun, extracurricular event that would inform, educate and inspire both competitors and audience members.

$1000 Diversity design contest

UQ is holding a design competition for Diversity Week 2007 (May 14-18).

The competition is open to all current staff and students. The winning design will earn $1000 cash, and may appear in a range of UQ materials such as greeting cards and posters.

The theme of Diversity Week 2007 is “We All Count”. It links with the 40th anniversary of the referendum that changed the Australian Constitution to give fairer recognition to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Submitted designs should link to this theme.

For details: www.uq.edu.au/diversity-week
UQ SPEAKERS AMONG WORLD’S BEST

Two quick-thinking UQ students have been named runner-up 2007 World University Debating champions – the best ever result by a Queensland team.

After 12 preliminary rounds, UQ Debating Society (UQDS) members Erin O’Brien and Evan Goldman made it to the grand final in Vancouver along with teams from Cambridge, Oxford and the University of Sydney.

It’s not the first time the pair have achieved international debating success – Mr Goldman coaches the current world champion Australian secondary school team, and Ms O’Brien won the 2005 European debating championship while studying for her Masters at Durham University in the UK.

UQ had a particularly successful competition at the 2007 championships, with a second team of Tom Gole and Julian Ensbry making it late into the draw and fellow UQDS members Rob Leeds and Michael Bonning selected to adjudicate in the finals.

LAW LECTURES LOOK AT PERSONAL INJURY

Personal injury law will come under the spotlight during the 2007 McPherson law lecture series this month, organised by The University of Queensland’s TC Beirne School of Law.

Professor Peter Cane of the Australian National University will present three seminars in the series on the topic: “The Political Economy of Personal Injury Law” on March 19, 20 and 22.

Professor Cane has been Professor of Law in the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University since 1997. For 20 years prior to this he taught at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, successively as a lecturer, reader and professor.

The seminars will be held from 5.30pm-7.30pm at the Banco Court, Supreme Court Building, Brisbane. Attendance is free, however, registration is essential. Registrations close on March 15.

PERSONAL INJURY LAW LECTURES LOOK AT PERSONAL INJURY

“Political Economy of Personal Injury Law”

QUEENSLAND BIOTECH COMPANY ECOBiotics, has progressed its existing relationship with UQ’s natural products synthesis group by establishing a three-year, $2.5 million research contract.

UQ’s Dr Craig Williams, a lecturer at the School of Molecular and Microbial Sciences in the Faculty of Biological and Chemical Sciences, will work to identify active ingredients located from natural sources provided by Ecobiotics.

Professor Alastair McEwan, Head of the School, said the contract reflected significant University funding for chemistry in recent years and demonstrated UQ’s talents in an important scientific field.

UniQuest, UQ’s main commercialisation arm, assisted the negotiations by highlighting UQ deliverables, ensuring policies were followed and that the terms and conditions of the contract were mutually acceptable.

David Henderson, UniQuest’s Managing Director, said it was a “great achievement for UQ.”

“It demonstrates the University’s ability to assist industry in its endeavour to increase value for Queensland,” Mr Henderson said.

“These works have the capacity to lead into other areas within the University that can add even more value to the research and development activities of companies like Ecobiotics.”

Dr Victoria Gordon, Chair and Chief Executive Officer of Ecobiotics, said the company was excited about expanding its relationship with UQ.

“From a commercial perspective, being able to access world-class researchers such as Dr Craig Williams on our doorstep has enormous benefits to a Queensland company like ours that operates in a highly competitive global pharmaceutical R&D market,” Dr Gordon said.

Ecobiotics is a privately held Australian company that specialises in the discovery and early development of new pharmaceuticals from the unique tropical rainforests of Australia and Melanesia.

A UQ health assessment program has helped bring about a new Medicare rebate and improved health for people with intellectual disability.

Program creator, UQ Associate Professor Nicholas Lennox, has spent the last decade researching and advocating the use of his Comprehensive Health Assessment Program (CHAP).

Dr Lennox said CHAP was a booklet that helped doctors, patients and carers detail a patient’s medical history, commonly missed treatments and conditions and made them comply with a plan of care.

Last month the Federal Government announced that a new Medicare rebate would be available, possibly by July, for about 80,000 Australians with an intellectual disability who have annual health assessments.

Assessing a patient’s health needs has traditionally been difficult due to an inability to recognise and communicate symptoms.

A joint UQ and Endeavour Foundation test proved CHAP worked well.

CHAP has been licensed to disability service groups and bodies in New South Wales, Western Australia and soon in Victoria, possibly in Queensland and also to a health trust in the United Kingdom.

Dr Lennox said it was rewarding to have good research lead to improved health policy.

He said CHAP along with combined efforts from groups of doctors, professional advocates and families had pressured the government to help.

Fellow University of Queensland staff members involved in the CHAP project include Dr Chris Bain and Therese Rey-Conde.
Life in the laboratory is a stroll along the beach for two UQ researchers, after discovering metals bear exciting similarities to granular materials such as sand.

Christopher Gourlay and Professor Arne Dahle from the CAST Cooperative Research Centre made the discovery when deforming metals as they were solidifying, publishing their findings in the journal Nature.

The authors explain that we are all familiar with wet sand drying up around our feet when we walk on the beach. This happens because our weight forces the sand grains to rearrange, opening up spaces into which the surrounding water flows – a phenomenon known as “dilatancy” which was first described in 1885.

Mr Gourlay and Professor Dahle have proven for the first time that metallic alloys can also expand in the same way when cooled from the liquid state – the process used to manufacture everyday products such as steering wheels and mobile phone covers.

Mr Gourlay said the findings were an early but important step towards understanding how metals deform during industrial casting processes.

“The experiments take us another step towards understanding the deformation of solidifying alloys within the wider context of granular mechanics,” Mr Gourlay said.

The research behind the Nature paper, titled “Dilatant shear bands in solidifying metals” formed the backbone of Mr Gourlay’s recently submitted PhD thesis.

Professor Dahle said the findings opened up new and exciting links between alloy solidification and research areas as diverse as volcano and earthquake science, soil mechanics and the processing of cereal crops.

“It puts the research area on the map and provides new opportunities for further investigation and collaboration,” Professor Dahle said.

Based at The University of Queensland’s St Lucia campus, the CAST CRC was established in 2005 with a seven-year, $200 million investment from the Federal Government and industry to support excellence in light metals research.

The pursuit of an efficient way to identify, diagnose and treat diseases in plants has led a UQ lecturer on an interesting learning curve through cyber space.

Dr Vic Galea from the School of Land, Crop and Food Sciences (LCAFS), developed the unique project, A Virtual Plant Pathology Lab CD-ROM, in response to a challenge from the University to enhance the learning opportunities for students through the use of technology.

Dr Galea’s project was recognised at the prestigious Australasian Society of Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education (ASCILITE) conference, winning not only the President’s Award for Excellence but also an individual award for outstanding achievement.

Dr Galea said the Virtual Plant Pathology Lab project was a collaborative undertaking between himself and the University’s Teaching and Educational Development Institute (TEDI), with the original concept born from the necessity to provide students in the field with a reliable and comprehensive diagnostic tool.

The Virtual Plant Pathology lab gives agronomy students the ability to work their way through a variety of scenarios in relation to the crop they are diagnosing, eliminating potential disease culprits as they examine the symptoms in the field.

“This project is a great example of the technology and innovation that characterises the agricultural industries in Australia and around the world,” Dr Galea said.

“With an increasing global population, the need to be able to minimise and eliminate diseases in food and grain crops is becoming vitally important.”
AN ANCIENT JAPANESE RITUAL HAS INSPIRED CREATIVITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS.

For generations, Japanese women have pushed themselves to their physical limit diving for valuable abalone in Ise Bay at Toba City in the Shima region 400 kilometres southwest of Tokyo.

Historical references to the women, known as ama, date from as early as 900AD, but little other published work on the cultural tradition is available prior to the early 1960s.

Dr Kumi Kato from UQ’s School of Languages and Comparative Studies is adding a unique resource to the story of the ama in collaboration with sound researcher, composer and musician Dr Ros Bandt.

Dr Kato and Dr Bandt, of the Australian Sound Design Project at the University of Melbourne, have collaborated to capture the life of the ama of Toba City in words, images and sounds.

Dr Kato has also written a chapter based on her research for Hearing Places (Cambridge Scholars Publishing), a 35-chapter book focused on the role of sound in understanding the environment which is due for release in October.

Dr Kato has become fascinated by the ama’s dedication to the natural environment, the physical extremes to which they push themselves while diving and the sounds they make in between their dives, known as isobue or sea whistle.

During a two-week fieldtrip in 2005, she and Dr Bandt recorded the sights and sounds of traditional ama life, interviewing 20 women aged between 54 and 88, in and out of the water.

“These women dive up and down quite frequently, so in between they have to breathe quickly and go down again. Because they have a time limit of 30 minutes or an hour, their breathing, the whistle, is critical,” Dr Kato said.

“1 was also interested in these women’s physical strength, but most importantly, the ethics they had towards the ocean resource, their spiritual connection with the ocean environment and their observations about environment and climate change.”

The story of the ama, titled Waiting for the Tide, will be featured in a one-hour special to be aired mid-year on ABC Radio National’s Radio Eye.

It is scripted and narrated by Dr Kato and with Dr Bandt’s specialist recordings it provides an in-depth illustration of the women’s life.

An Australia Council grant enabled them to earn artist/research residency at ABC Radio, Sydney to compile and produce the material.

Plans are also underway for a two-disc CD featuring the recordings and images, as well as ama-inspired musical improvisations and compositions by Dr Bandt.

The project appears timely as modern hazards seriously threaten the survival of the centuries-old tradition.

“Where once ama dived naked from boats rowed by men, they now wear wetsuits and goggles and only dive off the shore for 10 to 30 days a year,” Dr Kato said.

“It is interesting to know that women resisted both goggles and wetsuits, fearing they would lead to over-harvesting.

“In the region, women believe they are connected to the Sun Goddess, who their abalone is still offered to three times a year at the Ise Shrine.

“I believe the isobue symbolises the women’s strict sense of ethics and their sense of connection with the mythology and the ocean environment.

“In the last 20 years the catch is a tenth of what it used to be and the women are fully aware of social and environmental changes that surround them – illegal fishing, pollution, erosion and climate change.”

Dr Kato believes preserving the kinds of cultural traditions practised by the ama has much to contribute to conservation of natural environment, and as a whole, to the understanding of sustainability.

“Such cultural practice is intangible and invisible, but intangible cultural heritage, I believe, makes a vital linkage between nature and culture, science and humanities,” she said.

“Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage is a new concept, and then of course there is the question of what do you do with it, and what can be done about it.”
calling all cat lovers

lovable feline companions who have done their bit to advance important science are now looking for friendly families.

daisy, Butler and Pepper are among three healthy and cared-for cats who are ready to be adopted after helping out in a study investigating the factors involved in feline diabetes and obesity.

UQ PhD scholar Marcia Coradini, who conducted the research with veterinarians from The Centre for Companion Animal Health in UQ’s School of Veterinary Science, said the study not only provided an insight into how diabetes developed in cats and how to prevent it, but also afforded an avenue for many pound cats to be re-homed.

“Just like in human medicine, diabetes is a major problem in veterinary medicine, and as in people, obesity and lack of physical activity are important contributing factors in cats,” she said.

“Thirty-two healthy cats helped us in this study during the past year, many of whom have already been adopted, however there are still several wonderful cats looking forward to finding new homes to go to.”

All of the cats are healthy, de-sexed, vaccinated, de-wormed, on flea control medication, and microchipped.

“They cost $55 (the price of the microchip) and all have very different personalities,” Ms Coradini said.

“Many of them are tolerant of dogs, some are cuddly, others love to play and some are shy and prefer not to be among other cats,” Ms Coradini said.

“One thing they all have in common is they love attention.”

The Centre for Companion Animal Health commonly re-homes rescued animals through its unwanted pet re-homing program and has a strong commitment to promoting responsible pet ownership and the health and welfare of furry and feathered friends.

Through their studies, researchers at the Centre discovered that an early treatment with a novel insulin and low carbohydrate diet resulted in remission for most newly diagnosed diabetic cats.

The discovery has been hailed worldwide, and is also being used towards furthering understanding of the mainstream medical issue of diabetes and obesity in humans.

Research is also underway to investigate why some owners make the decision to give up their pets. This study will look at the health and behaviour of abandoned or surrendered pets, as well as the owners’ knowledge, bond with the pet and expectations of the pet’s behaviour.

For more information, phone 3365 2110 between 8am and 5pm weekdays, or Ms Coradini on 0414 011 393.

Pictures of the cats and a brief description of them are available at the Centre’s website: www.uq.edu.au/vetschool/centrecah/
Former Wallabies head west

Two former Wallabies answered the call to develop rugby in the country by traveling to Condamine as part of The University of Queensland Rugby Academy’s (UQRA) two-day camp last month.

Nick Stiles, a veteran of 93 games for the Queensland Reds and 12 tests for Australia, joined former ACT Brumbies and Wallaby centre James Holbeck in delivering the professional camp to players and coaches on February 10 and 11.

Boasting three teams, rugby union is a growing sport in Condamine as young people decide to stay in the country.

Without the facilities of metropolitan clubs, there is a great need for professional coaching in country areas.

Mr Stiles said it was important to develop the game in the west.

“It was a great opportunity to go to the rural areas and do some work with the country guys out there,” Mr Stiles said.

“I think it’s definitely important to develop rugby in the country. When I was playing for the Reds we were very aware that we weren’t just representing Brisbane but that there was a very strong following of rugby in the bush.

“I’ve done a few visits to the country regions with the Reds and the guys out there are very talented and passionate about their rugby.”

More than 50 players and coaches from Condamine participated in the camp, that covered a wide range of topics including rugby-specific skills, tactical game play and strength and conditioning.

A sponsor of the event, Jason Johnson of Rural Insurance, said Darling Downs rugby gained much from the expert coaching at the camp.

“It benefited many of our clients and their family members, from players to spectators of quality Darling Downs rugby,” Mr Johnson said.

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Riding high

A UQ GATTON STUDENT CONTINUES TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES ON THE WAY TO ACHIEVING HER SPORTING DREAM.

Para-Equestrian dressage rider Susan Seipel has to jump many fences in her life, the most important of which is not allowing her disability to get in the way of her education and sporting ambitions.

Ms Seipel, who is studying for a Diploma in Applied Science (Equine Studies), is national Para-Equestrian champion. She won a bronze medal at the Pacific Rim International and was a runner-up in the Rebel Sport Rookies program for talented young Australian athletes.

She was born with Arthrogryposis Multiplex, a rare condition characterised by fusion of joints and absent muscle formation in the legs.

She said that through her studies she was able to combine both her sporting and academic interests and set herself up for a career in the equine field.

“I chose this course because it was the only one in Queensland that offered the Equine Studies stream. It was a very easy decision for me as I have always had a passion and interest for horses,” she said.

“I have really enjoyed the course so far. I like the diversity in the course as it not only covers all aspects of the horse industry but other livestock and agricultural management, which has been challenging but interesting as it opens up further work and study opportunities.”

Ms Seipel trains every day on her horse Menora Wildfire.

“The object of dressage is the development of the horse into a happy athlete through harmonious education. As a result it makes the horse supple, loose, flexible and also confident, attentive and keen, thus achieving perfect understanding with the rider,” she said.

Ms Seipel said it was a challenge combining both her academic and sporting passions but she said the University had offered her excellent assistance and support.

“Through Student Support Services, I have been able to organise help ranging from having a person drive me around the paddocks, to having a seat in the dairy,” she said.

She said her long-term goal was to represent Australia at the Paralympic Games, the World Championships, and World Cup.

“I would love to make it to Beijing but it is going to be tight with just over a year to go. I am more focused on the 2010 World Cup in Kentucky, which will be the first World Cup to incorporate equestrian classes for people with disabilities with able-bodied classes,” she said.
around campus

SEMINARS
• Tuesday, March 20
Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Seeking Peace in the Midst of Civil War – Are Local Zones of Peace the Answer?
Dr Chris Mitchell (noon–2pm, Sustainable Mining Institute Seminar Room, Level 4, Sir James Fouts Building). Information: acpacs@uq.edu.au.
• Tuesday, March 27
Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Signs of Hope in Hard Times, Dr Mary-Wynne Ashford (noon–2pm, Don Carruthers Room, Dorothy Hill PSE Library). Information: acpacs@uq.edu.au.
• Thursday, March 29
Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, Literary Phrenology (or learning to love the middlebrow). Professor David Carter (5:30pm–6:30pm, James and Mary Emelia Mayne Centre). Information: r.rahle@uq.edu.au.
• Tuesday, April 3
Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, North Korea’s Nuclear Ambitions. Prof Herbert Wulf (noon–2pm, Don Carruthers Room, Dorothy Hill PSE Library). Information: acpacs@uq.edu.au.
• Tuesday, April 17
Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, The ICC’s Prosecutorial Mandate for Sexual Crimes Against Humanity, Dr Tania Steinmuller (noon–2pm, Dorothy Hill PSE Library). Information: acpacs@uq.edu.au.

CONCERTS
• Thursday, March 15
Free lunchtime concert, violinist Ronald Woodcock performs a selection of Ysaÿe’s sonatas (12:30pm, Nickson Room).
• Thursday, March 22
Pianists Brachi Tilles and Jenni Flemming perform music by Barber, Andriessen, Schubert and Mendelssohn. Free concert (12:30pm, Nickson Room).
• Sunday, March 25
The School of Music’s Sanctuary String Quartet plays pieces by Beethoven and Mendelssohn at this free Customs House concert. (11:30am, The Long Room).
• Thursday, March 29
Guitarist Anthony Garcia and cellist Gwyn Roberts present an original work alongside pieces by Bach, Nin and Villa-Lobos.

prizes
• Alfred & Olivea Wynne Memorial Scholarships
• EOH Handy Memorial Scholarship 2007
• WH & HW Harris Bursary 2007
Open to female students who attended a Queensland secondary school in 2005 and are of lineal descendant to a person eligible to be accepted as a member of the War Widows Guild, Australia, Queensland Branch. Based on best academic results in 2006. Closing: 23 March 2007. Worth: approximately $800 per annum for three years. Information: (07) 3365 1984 or http://www.uq.edu.au/myadviser/other-scholarships-and-bursaries.
• RN Hammond Scholarships
Open to assist Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students who have successfully completed at least one year of a program. Preference given to applicants studying in the fields of science, engineering, medicine, dentistry, architecture, agriculture and vet science. Closing: March 30, 2007. Worth: $2000 per annum for duration of program, subject to annual review. Information: (07) 3365 1984.

The General Staff Prize 2007
Available to members of the general staff with a period or periods of full-time service totalling at least three years, who graduated in 2006. Awarded to the applicant who achieved the best results throughout that degree, with completion of a higher degree regarded as an advantage. Closing: March 30, 2007. Worth: approx $410, to be used for the purchase of books. Information: Please forward appropriate details to Jodie Howes, Undergraduate Scholarships and Prizes Office J.D. Story Building, marked “Confidential”.
• The Constantine Aspromourgos Memorial Scholarship for Greek Studies
Open to UQ bachelors or masters graduates of not more than five years standing who are undertaking a postgraduate program involving studies which pertain to at least on area of Greek studies. Closing: March 30, 2007. Worth: approx $3750. Information: (07) 3365 1984 or scholarships-and-bursaries.
• RD Airda Bursary 2007
Open to students who have undertaken no previous study at tertiary level and whose home residence is in Charters Towers City, or one of the shires of Dalrymple, Flinders or Cloncurry. Awarded on the basis of financial need. Closing: April 13, 2007. Information: (07) 3365 1984.

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

WANTED TO RENT/HOUSE SIT
• House/apartment wanted for visiting academic from August–December 2007. Prefer furnished with two or more bedrooms, close to UQ or transport. Contact: m.hanson@uq.edu.au.
• Visiting Swedish professor with wife and son requires furnished unit or house from late June 2007 to May 2008 near UQ St Lucia. Non-smoking. Contact: petrfr@ida.liu.se.

TO RENT/HOUSE SIT
• Nest 3 bedroom unfurnished house at Tennyson available during Semester 1, $290/wk. Contact: Ann Bourke 0421 573 147.
• Charming house in quiet area, door-to-door bus route to UQ. Available April 1–June 30, $325 (negotiable) per week. Would suit visiting academic couple. Contact: dorotheydwnning@ozemail.com.au.

ugnews deadlines 2007

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School reviews for semester 1, 2007
Listed below are details for the school review being undertaken by the Academic Board Office in semester 1, 2007:

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<td>Business</td>
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Submissions are invited from all interested persons. Terms of Reference for the review can be obtained from Secretariat Services by telephoning extension 51321. Please note that submissions must be received by the due date.

Library hours are available on www.library.uq.edu.au
The exhibition *New Ground: Construction Photographs by Peter Liddy* at the State Library, South Bank, from March 10 to May 7, documents the doubling in size of the State Library of Queensland and construction of the Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA), the largest in Australia.

Mr Liddy is the Operations Manager at The University of Queensland’s Art Museum located in the James and Mary Emelia Mayne Centre at St Lucia.

“Liddy also captures the humour of the construction site, with portraits of workers who have stopped briefly to have their pictures taken, putting a human face on the project”

His detailed photographic study reveals the immense scale of the Queensland Government’s South Bank Cultural Centre construction project, its architectural achievements and the work of the people who built it.

Mr Liddy photographed the site from May 2004, when work began, until both buildings were completed in December 2006.

The 50 black and white photographs in *New Ground* tell the story of the construction – ranging from the first stark scenes of excavated ground and inside the gutted State Library to images of the completed buildings.

His variety of approaches includes architectural compositions of forms and spaces, documentary images recording construction progress and cityscapes, closely observed studies of people and distinctive architectural features, and abstract compositions.

Exhibition curator Timothy Morrell said *New Ground* was an important change of direction in Liddy’s work, because it focused on the buildings being brought to life by people.

“In the past his photographs have responded to the feeling of space and atmosphere of architecture, capturing a mood of eeriness or desolation in abandoned, empty buildings, devoid of people,” Mr Morrell said.

“These photographs are a reminder of the human dimension essential to the success of the buildings.

“Liddy has swapped his nail bag for the camera. He has first-hand experience of the construction industry, construction sites and the diverse technical procedures carried out there.”

Many photographs in the exhibition show the builders doing their specialised jobs – men up to their ankles in wet concrete, with backs arched fixing steel in preparation for a concrete slab, on GoMA’s immense roof dismantling the crane, pulling cables, fixing steel, installing pipes — or taking a break in the empty State Library overlooking the Riverside Expressway.

“Liddy also captures the humour of the construction site, with portraits of workers who have stopped briefly to have their pictures taken, putting a human face on the project.”

Photographs taken from the platform above the cabin of a crane, 40 metres above the ground, capture the immense scale of the project, and in some cases place it within the context of the city.

The project was an opportunity to record the huge architectural compositions of forms and spaces that now occupy Kurilpa Point.

“Liddy has captured surprising views of adventurous architecture in the making,” Mr Morrell said.

The abstract compositions include images of mangled steel-reinforced rods extracted for recycling, decaying shoes uncovered by the excavation, random prints of workmen’s boots in a puddle of cement slurry, and intricate patterns of scaffolding and cloth-draped escalators.