Refugee’s struggle REAPS REWARD
Now in its seventh year UQ Business School’s Enterprize competition offers emerging innovators the chance to make their mark with a $100,000 cash prize to help get great ideas out of the pipeline and into production.
The competition closes on Monday 23 July 2007. For entry details visit our website www.enterprize.uq.edu.au. For more information please email events@business.uq.edu.au or call Amy Hyslop on (07) 3365 8561.

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

A $100 million item in the 2007 Federal Budget has rewarded meticulous strategic planning by UQ and partners, as it virtually clinches a “missing link” in Australian health research, development and commercialisation.

Matched with a commitment made last year by the Queensland Government, the $100 million is a solid down-payment for construction of a Translational Research Institute at a UQ teaching and research hospital, the Princess Alexandra. The facility will be the first of its kind in Australia and will house UQ’s Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology and Metabolic Medicine, (led by 2006 Australian of the Year, Professor Ian Frazer), along with other important health research centres.

Further funds must be raised, and I am optimistic in this regard. UQ’s record of the past decade manifests our success in leveraging matching contributions towards world-class infrastructure from various sources, including governments and The Atlantic Philanthropies.

Sophisticated fundraising strategies are bread and butter for American universities. In the USA, governments have boosted tax incentives for philanthropy and many benefactors expect that their giving will coax open other wallets.

Depending on how intelligently another 2007 budget initiative is executed, Australian universities may be inspired to follow American fundraising practices. The $5 billion Higher Education Endowment Fund will begin providing a perpetual pool of income to universities in 2008. It will supersede the existing Capital Development Pool, and while the income stream will run to an estimated $912 million in the first three years, the $300 million available in 2008 will not cover Australian universities’ priority infrastructure needs.

Universities will be encouraged to match endowment fund allocations, but this will not be a requirement. When more details about the fund become available, we will be better able to judge if it will become a catalyst for major cultural change in Australian higher education – or a lost opportunity.

Other budget measures will have a mixed impact. More funding for some disciplines raises hopes of less overcrowding in learning spaces, but fewer funds for accounting, economics and commerce will inflate some students’ HECS bills.

Lifting the cap on full-fee paying Australian students will have negligible impact in the foreseeable future, as demand is very low and unlikely to increase for some time. And I don’t expect the new funding arrangements to have a major impact on many universities’ dependence on international, full-fee-paying students.

One Australian government proposal clearly unworthy of praise is the referral of regulation of universities’ financial management from the states and territories. My concern is that this would diminish the incentive for states to fund universities. It also prompts recollection that Queensland was the first government to commit to the Translational Research Institute as well as some other world-class UQ projects.

Professor John Hay, AC
NEW WATER ALLIANCE TAPS INTO EXPERTS

Researchers from UQ will have a key role in a strategy that could more than double the water recycling capacity of Australia’s capital cities.

UQ scientists, engineers and social scientists will lend their expertise to the $50 million Urban Water Security Research Alliance launched in April.

The five-year initiative will develop Australia’s largest urban water research program, and its findings will underpin the third-largest water recycling scheme in the world.

UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor David Siddle, said UQ was excited about being part of a team which would provide evidence for future urban water policies.

“The Alliance will link with other universities, the CSIRO and the Queensland Government will collaborate on high-quality research into urban water challenges,” said Professor Siddle, who signed a memorandum of understanding on UQ’s behalf, to launch the Alliance.

“The three research institutions intend to build a critical mass of water researchers, so that southeast Queensland has resident experts to inform its water system management. “UQ will contribute multi-disciplinary expertise, from groups including the Advanced Wastewater Management Centre, the Institute for Social Science Research and the National Research Centre for Environmental Toxicology,” Professor Siddle said.

The Alliance is the first water research project with a specific focus on urban water recycling, and its immediate concern will be the needs of Australia’s fastest-growing urban region, which is in the grip of drought.

Goals set by the Alliance include:
• Building reliability and safety in recycled water systems providing up to 90 GL per annum to southeast Queensland (short term).
• Delivering water security by recycling wastewater and stormwater through the innovative treatment, storage and use of aquifers to provide up to 20 percent of the total water supply (long term).

The Alliance will link with other water-related research initiatives such as the International WaterCentre, eWater Co-operative Research Centre and Health Waterways.

It will have close contact with the Expert Panel advising the Queensland Water Commission, which is led by UQ Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield.

The research results will be applicable to other major urban water utilities.

A management agreement between the University and UQ’s student union has secured the future of the student support body.

UQ Secretary and Registrar Douglas Porter signed the three-year agreement with UQ Union President Julie-Ann Campbell on May 10, providing an indexed grant starting at $975,000 this year.

The agreement seeks to help UQ Union ease the loss of funding due to voluntary student unionism, which came into effect in July 2006.

Mr Porter said voluntary student unionism had meant a loss of $7.5 million annual income at UQ, $5.5 million of which would have gone to the student union.

He said the University recognised the importance of the services UQ Union provided to students and would provide the grant to help it adjust to its new, lower income.

“It’s not a grant that comes anywhere near the income that they’ve got, it’s just under $1 million, but it does give them an opportunity to regroup and to continue to provide essential services to the students,” Mr Porter said.

Ms Campbell said UQ Union was fortunate to receive the grant, observing that many student bodies at other Australian universities had not been given similar support.

“Most of the Go8 universities are providing support but there have been some student unions that have just been left behind,” she said.

Ms Campbell, UQ Union Business Unit manager Ray Thorne and Mr Porter

“It’s an interim management agreement to allow us to get back on our feet but at these unis it’s a massive blow.”

The reduced level of funding means UQ Union will not be able to provide the same level of support it did previously.

Ms Campbell said the number of student union services would stay about the same, although the depth of service would be reduced, for example, shorter trading hours at the Red Room and refectories.

The current grant runs for three years and will be assessed in 2009 to see whether it should continue. A similar grant is being negotiated with UQ SPORT.

“My expectation is that the University will be very sympathetic to considering renewing it,” Mr Porter said.

UQ Union facilities and services being preserved include:
• Confidential advice, advocacy and support
• Legal services, including advice, simple wills and powers-of-attorney and minor disputes
• St Lucia Campus Safety Bus – union is jointly responsible with the University for day-to-day operating costs
• Welfare services, including crisis and personal support, help with Centrelink benefits and issues arising from tuition fees and scholarships
• Student representation on University boards and committees
• Some services at UQ Ipswich and Gatton
• Basic support for clubs and societies
The Our Way, Contemporary Aboriginal Art from Lockhart River exhibition shows what can be achieved “when talent, hard work and strategic planning on the part of the community and government are combined,” said UQ Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Hay, AC.

Queensland’s Deputy Premier Anna Bligh officially opened the exhibition, the first to survey the work of the Lockhart River Art Gang, at the UQ Art Museum on May 5.

“The exhibition recognises the extraordinary achievement of this group of young artists from a remote Aboriginal community in Queensland’s Cape York, many of whom as recently as 12 years ago were virtually school students,” said Professor Hay.

“Several of these young artists have now achieved national and international recognition.”

The exhibition includes more than 100 works depicting Cape York’s “Sandbeach Country”, with work including the fine art printmaking of the Art Gang’s early years and major paintings.

Rosella Namok, Samantha Hobson and Fiona Omeeny lead the movement with spectacular and diverse insights into country, culture and history.

Exhibition curator Dr Sally Butler travelled to Lockhart River and Cairns to research the art and the development of the Art Gang.

“The work of the Lockhart River artists featured in the 2003 Queensland Art Gallery exhibition Story Place: Indigenous art of Cape York and the Rainforest, but up until now no exhibition has attempted to bring the major works together and look at exactly what has been achieved by this group”, Dr Butler said.

“There are traces of Quinkan figures, traditional body painting and totemic motifs in Lockhart River contemporary art, but most of the forms and stylistic techniques are new creations.

“So not only do we have five of the original group of about 30 school students having solo exhibitions – an extraordinary success rate – but we also have a concept of innovation that is most unusual in the art of remote Indigenous communities,” Dr Butler said.

The exhibition will remain at UQ until July 1 before moving to the National University of Singapore Museum from July 19 to August 19, then Stony Brook University, New York, in October and November.

A new book has been launched to accompany the Our Way, Contemporary Aboriginal Art from Lockhart River exhibition at UQ.

Published by UQ Press, the book was launched by Queensland’s Deputy Premier Anna Bligh at the May 5 exhibition opening.

It was officially launched in the United States by Queensland Premier Peter Beattie at a function in New York on May 8.

The book is written by Dr Sally Butler, curator for the Our Way exhibition and a UQ lecturer who has spent more than a decade working with a group of young artists from far north Queensland.

The book surveys the Lockhart River art scene through hundreds of photographs of the works themselves and the remote community which inspired them.

Dr Butler said the work was unique because each of the Lockhart River artists had developed a distinctive style, allowing them to express traditional stories in new ways.

“I think it’s something that is very much an expression of young Aboriginality, where they have to live as individuals and as community members at once in this world and that comes through in their art,” Dr Butler said.

“Their contemporary art is a spectacular example of the diverse ways that Australian Indigenous people keep the Dreaming alive.”

“The exhibition and book just tell their story,” Dr Butler said. “It’s inspirational that Aboriginal youth are taking the lead like this, they’ve taken on the professional side of the art world extremely well.”

The book can be purchased at the UQ Art Museum and from the UQ Bookshop.
BACKING FOR RESEARCH BASE

A major medical research base to test and produce new drugs and vaccines in Brisbane has received Federal Government backing.

The $100 million commitment in last month’s Federal Budget means the proposed Translational Research Institute (TRI) at the Princess Alexandra (PA) Hospital at Woolloongabba will go ahead.

The TRI, brainchild of 2006 Australian of the Year UQ Professor Ian Frazer, will bring together a consortium of some of Queensland’s leading research groups.

Professor Frazer said the TRI would be a one-stop shop for medical research and health care, catering for medical discoveries, clinical trials and drug manufacture.

Consortium chairman Dr David Watson said the TRI was expected to house about 500 scientists who would work on translating science into better patient outcomes for those with cancer, infection, diabetes and inflammatory disease.

Dr Watson said building was expected to start in 2008 with the TRI taking shape on the existing PA Hospital helipad.

The TRI is a joint project for the Queensland Government, UQ and its Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology and Metabolic Medicine, Mater Medical Research Institute (MMRI), PA Hospital and Queensland University of Technology.

The Diamantina, MMRI and other research groups will move to the Institute which will also accommodate other groups such as BioPharmaceuticals Australia.

Professor Frazer, whose work led to a vaccine that could eradicate cervical cancer, said the TRI was a major step forward to grow Australia’s research capacity and showed how collaboration could expand medical research through efficient use of research funds.

“Building this Australian facility for small and medium scale production and testing of biopharmaceuticals to the highest international standards will make our growing biopharmaceuticals industry world competitive,” Professor Frazer said.

“It will also bring significant social and economic benefits to Australia.

“Co-locating the production facility with state-of-the-art basic and clinical research facilities and a world class hospital will accelerate the development of exciting new therapeutics.”

The Federal money matches the $100 million commitment from the Queensland Government. More money will need to be raised from philanthropists and other sources.

Professor Frazer said Australia had missed hundreds of millions of dollars in pharmaceutical revenue because of the lack of local drug-making and testing facilities.

He estimated Australia missed out on up to $300 million a year because his vaccine could not be developed locally.

He believes a vaccine for genital warts could be one of the first products to come out of the TRI.

A clinical trial treating the papilloma viruses responsible for genital warts is on target at the halfway mark, according to Professor Frazer and trial manager, sexual health specialist Dr David Jardine.

More than 200 patients in China and Australia have taken part in the trial, run from the PA Hospital.

“The new treatment has so far proven safe, and we want to know if it improves the outcome after conventional therapy, which all patients also receive,” Dr Jardine said.

Trial researchers aim to use a tweaked version of Professor Frazer’s cervical cancer vaccine to treat genital warts.

Needle-free injections and making electricity from sewage are just two examples of innovative UQ research to have received almost $5 million in funding.

Announced last month as part of the latest round of the Queensland Government’s $200 million Smart State Innovation Funding Program, four projects led by UQ researchers have received $4.859 million in Innovation Project Funds.

Professor Mark Kendall, from UQ’s Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, has received $1.24 million to further develop his research into nanopatches that could replace needles.

Professor Kendall said the patch contained tiny projections that when applied to the skin would deliver the vaccine to target cells below the surface.

The funding comes on top of Professor Kendall’s Smart State Senior Fellowship, which he received last year.

MedTeQ, an international research partnership led by UQ, will receive $2 million to create the next generation of medical imaging and monitoring systems.

MedTeQ director Professor Stuart Crozier, from UQ’s School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering, said the project aimed to improve health care efficiency through faster diagnosis of select cancers and cardiopulmonary diseases.

Professor Melissa Little, from UQ’s Institute of Molecular Bioscience, will receive $1 million to further her research into cell-based regenerative therapies for chronic kidney disease.

Professor Little said the aim of the research was to enable repair to damaged kidneys and is expected to be more effective than current treatment such as dialysis.

Dr Damien Batstone, from UQ’s Advanced Wastewater Management Centre, will receive $619,000 to develop better technology for organic solids handling.

Dr Batstone said the technology could potentially benefit 2.5 million people across rural Queensland by reducing the amount of energy it takes to process waste as well as using the biosolids to produce enough energy from large communities to power almost 600 households.
A project to raise awareness of Indigenous issues among psychologists won this year’s major UQ Vice-Chancellor’s Equity and Diversity Award.

Members of UQ’s School of Psychology and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit won the $10,000 award for their Indigenous Mental Health Day project.

The project aims to raise awareness among psychology students, practitioners and academics of Indigenous Australians’ mental health needs via a one-day workshop conducted in 2006.

The runner-up $5000 award went to UQ’s Physics Demo Troupe, which consists mainly of undergraduate student performers.

The troupe travels Queensland doing science shows, talks and workshops for schools and the general public on a volunteer basis.

The winners were honoured at an awards ceremony held at the UQ Centre at St Lucia on May 16.

The ceremony took place during UQ’s fifth annual Diversity Week, which is held to increase the understanding of diversity, including of cultures, linguistic and religious diversity, disability, sexuality, gender, family and carer responsibilities, racism and Indigenous Australian history and culture.

The week featured events including forums, lectures and tours held at UQ’s St Lucia, Ipswich and Gatton campuses.

The ceremony also featured a lively panel discussion featuring Tom Calma, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner; Dr Jackie Huggins, Co-Chair Reconciliation Australia and Deputy Director UQ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit; and Frances Peters-Little, well known filmmaker and academic from the Australian National University.

The discussion topic for the panel was Do we enjoy full citizenship?

The panel discussed how far Indigenous people had come in the past 40 years since the 1967 Referendum, which enabled Indigenous people to be counted in the national census for the first time as well as allowing legislation to be passed for the benefit of Indigenous people.

He said only 4.6 percent of Australians wouldn’t want people of a different race as neighbours, while 24.7 percent of people wouldn’t want homosexuals to live next door.

“While countries such as Northern Ireland and Greece came out as the most bigoted countries, across the board more people were likely to be homophobic than anything else,” Professor Mangan said.

“In Australia this was very much the case, with the greatest prejudice focused on homosexuals.

“It was a surprise to see such consistency across all countries.”

Professor Mangan said the results, which were published recently in the journal Kyklos, were collected by asking people who they wouldn’t want to live next door.

“This gave us a better understanding of people’s attitudes as it was very much a case of people saying a certain groups is all right as long as they didn’t live next door,” he said.

He said only 4.6 percent of Australians wouldn’t want people of a different race as neighbours, while 24.7 percent of people wouldn’t want homosexuals to live next door.

In Northern Ireland, the figures were 11.1 percent for people of another race and 35.9 percent for homosexuals.

Professor Mangan said the factors influencing bigotry were income level, whether you were employed or not, education level and political leanings.

He said he was hoping to conduct follow-up research to look at how these attitudes evolved in particular countries.
LEADER FOR NEW INSTITUTE NAMED

Professor Brian Head has been appointed the inaugural director of the University’s newly announced Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR).

Professor Head joined UQ from the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth where he was the Chief Executive Officer. He has also held senior roles in government, academia and the non-government sector.

Through the ISSR, UQ aims to establish itself as the major centre of excellence in social science research in Australia, and as a world leader in this area.

Professor Head said the ISSR would address national and regional priority issues, and would enable UQ to capitalise on the excellent work already being undertaken by social scientists at a number of Schools and research centres.

The ISSR encompasses five research centres – the ARC Key Centre for Human Factors and Applied Cognitive Psychology, the Australasian Centre on Ageing, the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, the UQ Social Research Centre, and the UQ Boilerhouse Community Engagement Centre.

FAMILY MAN IS NO.1 IN STATE

A UQ researcher whose practical advice about children has helped millions of families has been named 2007 Queenslander of the Year.

Professor Matt Sanders, Professor of Clinical Psychology, Director of UQ’s Parenting and Family Support Centre and founder of Triple P-Positive Parenting Program was named Suncorp Queenslander of the Year on June 3.

Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said Professor Sanders’ research and its translation into practical programs were invaluable for people raising children.

“Matt, whose research began at UQ more than 25 years ago, is there for families at some of their most challenging times,” Professor Hay said.

“He is a family man, who shares his knowledge to help create a better future for our children,” he said.

GLOBAL LEADER WINS EXPAT AWARD

The University has congratulated a distinguished graduate who has been honoured with the Premier of Queensland Expatriate Achievement Award.

Dr Andrew Liveris, the President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of The Dow Chemical Company, was announced as 2007 winner by Queensland Premier Peter Beattie in New York in May.

US-based Dr Liveris, who graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical) in 1975, was named UQ’s Alumnus of the Year in 2005 and awarded an honorary doctorate.

“With John as Vice-Chancellor, UQ has established a nationally unprecedented series of research institutes and centres with funding in excess of $700 million, which are making priceless contributions towards a critical mass of researchers in south-east Queensland."

Professor Hay said although not Queensland-born, he would treasure the award.

“My wife Barbara and I were born in Western Australia; we have lived and worked in the UK and elsewhere in Australia, and have travelled widely. We are blessed with many choices after I retire from UQ at year’s end, but we so enjoy this region and its people that Brisbane will remain our home,” he said.

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If you passed Homa Forotan on campus toting her backpack full of books, you would probably think she was your everyday diligent university student.

But this young woman, who has won a Group of Eight (Go8) scholarship, grew up in a country that would have denied her an education outside the home.

Miss Forotan is an Afghani refugee who fled the oppression of her home country with her family in search of a better life and an education.

“Life was hard, we couldn’t do anything alone without protection from men.”

Miss Forotan and her family moved to Pakistan, where she was able to go to school, before coming to Australia in 2005.

She quickly demonstrated her promise as a student by graduating from Yeronga State High School with an OP1 last year, gaining entry into UQ’s Bachelor of Biomedical Science with a view to studying medicine and winning the scholarship.

The Go8 scholarship is offered by eight Australian universities for academically-gifted students who face financial hardship.

UQ offers four Go8 scholarships a year, providing each successful student with $6000 per year for their program’s normal duration.

Miss Forotan said she was overjoyed when she discovered she had won the scholarship, not just for her own sake but for the example she was setting for other refugees.

“One thing that makes me happier is telling people (who are refugees) if they work hard they can get a good OP and a scholarship as well,” she said.

The $6000-a-year the scholarship provides will go a long way to helping the aspiring doctor realise her dream.

Ultimately, Miss Forotan hopes to visit Afghanistan and use her skills to help the country.

“Honestly I feel that these three countries are all my countries. Afghanistan gave me life, Pakistan gave me education and Australia is giving me a future,” she said.

“It was not Afghanistan’s fault (it was a bad place to live), it was already destroyed and I have to give it back something.”

Fellow Go8 scholarship winner Katherina Francis also had to overcome language barriers on her journey to studying a Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Arts (Russian) at the University.

Miss Francis and her mother moved to Australia from Latvia in 1996 with limited English and little more than the clothes on their backs.

“When we came here we only had a few clothes and that’s it, not even forks and spoons,” she said.

Their problems multiplied when Miss Francis’ mother had difficulty finding work, first because she could not speak English well, then due to ongoing health problems.

Miss Francis recalled finances being so tight for her mother that they would go without grocery shopping for weeks just to buy her schoolbooks.

“Because she (my mother) couldn’t help me financially she helped me with studying,” she said.

Miss Francis’ mother’s help proved invaluable.

The 17-year-old finished Year 12 at Brisbane State High School last year with an OP1 and the school’s Academic Excellence Medallion and English Award.

English is Miss Francis’ third language after Latvian and Russian.

The next goal on Miss Francis’ horizon is to excel at UQ so she can use her knowledge of law and the Russian language to help skilled Northern European immigrants come to Australia and ease the current skills shortage.

She also wants to show her thanks to the country that has given her family so much.

“Australia has helped us, there’s no such thing as Centrelink in Latvia. So I want to work here and give back to the community,” she said.

The Go8 scholarship money will allow Miss Francis to focus on her studies and buy a car so she and her mother do not have to rely on public transport.
UQ OPEN DAYS

ST LUCIA  5 August, 10am – 4pm
IPSWICH  19 August, 10am – 2pm
GATTON   26 August, 9.30am – 3pm

uq.edu.au/opendays
**REASON TO CELEBRATE**

Pride and happiness are the emotions most often associated with UQ graduation ceremonies held outside Australia.

At the University’s celebration in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on April 16, there was also a light-hearted touch to the formalities. UQ Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards, AC, had conferred degrees, speeches had been made and the academic procession was readying to leave when Secretary and Registrar Douglas Porter called a halt to proceedings.

It was decided that the determination and enthusiasm of a late-arriving graduate Dr Stadilah Abdul Wahid should be rewarded. Dr Abdul Wahid had been delayed by late ward rounds at the Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and praised the driving of husband, Dr Sahir Sarusri.

“The hospital is usually about 30 minutes away and it felt like we made it in about 15 minutes. It was a very quick trip this time, but I don’t think he broke any rules,” she said.

Dr Abdul Wahid was also accompanied by daughters Anisah Farhana and Aishah Najeeha, and sons Amiirul Ikhwan and Amir Hakeem.

She was awarded a PhD for her studies into cancer-fighting cells in the blood at Brisbane’s Mater Medical Research Institute.

Dr Abdul Wahid is now the Head of Clinical Hematology and Stem Cell Transplantation Services at UKM and Associate Professor of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Earlier, guest speaker Dato’ Azizan Abdul Rahman, the Director-General of the Labuan Offshore Financial Services Authority, said learning should not end with graduation.

“I am sure some of you are contemplating studying further to obtain higher degrees,” said Dato’ Azizan, who was awarded a Masters of Business Administration by UQ in 1994.

“Some may be eagerly waiting to explore the opportunity to start your working life. Whatever decisions you choose to make, remember that you can never be far from education.

“Wearing the robe today does not mean that it is time to say goodbye to books. “As you start your working careers, you will realise that leveraging on your education and continuously learning will actually help your career progression.

“So count everything as a learning experience. Learn from your successes. But most importantly, learn from your failures.”

UQ also held a graduation celebration in Singapore on April 14 where the guest speaker was Professor Liew Ah Choy, the Director of International Relations Office at the National University of Singapore, and a Professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Professor Liew graduated from UQ with a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical) with First Class Honours in 1969 and completed his PhD three years later.

He told graduates their decision to study overseas would always be of great personal and professional value.

“I am sure that you valued the chance to manage your life away from home – to look after your own accommodation, cook your food, open a bank account, experience a different culture … and be able to understand that is exciting and necessary to live in a multi-cultural world,” he said.

“As you embark on life’s journey and go the distance, even with your secured advantage, you must find your niche and differentiate yourself from the competition.

“The mathematicians among you would know that if you differentiate distance with respect to time, you would get velocity or speed – speed to pick up and go.

“If you further differentiate velocity, you will get acceleration and then, indeed, the sky is not the limit.”

**SHIPPING SHOPPING**

When University of Queensland graduate Alastair Mulligan arrives in a new country he heads straight for the coast – but he doesn’t have swimming or fishing on his mind.

Instead, the New Zealand-born Mr Mulligan can usually be found checking out the efficiency and operations of the nearest international shipping terminal.

Mr Mulligan, who graduated in 2002 with a dual Science/Commerce degree majoring in financial maths and corporate finance, travels the globe assessing the value of ports as investment opportunities.

He joined the infrastructure division of the Australian-listed investment bank Babcock & Brown (BNB) in March and, with his focus on the Asian region, is based in Singapore.

“The infrastructure division of BNB looks to link private equity with investments that provide long term steady cash flows,” Mr Mulligan said.

“Ports and shipping terminals are excellent infrastructure assets.”

The shipping industry is in Mr Mulligan’s blood and was the reason he found himself in Brisbane at the start of Year 12.

“We moved from Wellington when my father was offered the job as Chief Executive Officer of the Port of Brisbane,” he said.

Mr Mulligan said with most cities only possessing one port if any, his job involved a lot of travel.

“So far I have been to Hong Kong, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Germany, London, France, the United Arab Emirates, Portugal, the United States of America and India,” he said.
SCIENTISTS TARGET MANTA MARINE MYSTERY

Manta rays are hard to miss—big, black and stretching up to seven metres wide, but scientists are still in the dark about the world’s largest ray.

A team of UQ scientists is joining forces with industry and government partners to launch Project Manta—the most comprehensive study of the species yet.

The project will detail manta ray populations, their behaviours, feeding patterns and movements, as well as tracking their migrations using satellite imagery and identifying individuals via DNA and photographic analysis.

One of the project’s lead scientists, Dr Kathy Townsend, said little was known about manta rays, which were listed as vulnerable by the World Conservation Union.

“Manta rays are a big ecotourism drawcard, forming the basis of multi-million-dollar industries around the globe,” Dr Townsend said.

Dr Townsend said local divers and snorkellers would be involved in creating an image database to identify manta rays.

“We specifically want the pictures of the underbelly of the manta ray because this can be used to identify individuals,” she said.

“The black and white pattern is as unique as a fingerprint,” she said.

She said much of the research work would start in October when the manta rays returned to Moreton Bay Marine Park.

Fellow lead scientists Associate Professor Mike Bennett and Dr Scarla Weirks, said the project built on a four-year study of the world’s largest known manta ray population off the Mozambican coast by UQ PhD student Andrea Marshall.

LUCKY AND SPEEDY HEAD FOR HAPPY ENDING

Lucky and Speedy—two brown-banded bamboo sharks, are being prepared for life in the wild several months after being saved by children on North Stradbroke Island.

The shark pups hatched in April after 12-year-olds Jai Burns and Hunter Murray, from Dunwich, found two shark egg sacks washed up on the beach at the start of the year.

UQ’s Moreton Bay Research Station Education Officer Dr Kathy Townsend said the shark pups were growing well and feeding happily thanks to the boys’ quick thinking.

“We’re just waiting until they get to a slightly bigger size that they’re less tasty to predators,” she said.

“They were found dry up on land so there was good possibility they would have died.”

“A lot of the kids around here have been to our station open days and they are really savvy about what to find and what to look for.”

BRIGHT SPARKS LEARN ON $2 MILLION MOBILE LAB

A dozen of the best up and coming neuroscience students from Australia and New Zealand have taken part in a master class on North Stradbroke Island.

The students learned how to run state-of-the-art experiments using about $2 million worth of specialised laboratory equipment that had been shipped over to UQ’s Moreton Bay Research Station.

Co-organiser Professor Pankaj Sah said top neuroscientists had taught the students skills including how to design and conduct specialised experiments about the firing of cells in the brain and how to interpret the complex data.

MEDICAL POTENTIAL FROM BOTTOM FEEDERS

Moreton Bay sea cucumbers may have more to offer than just being a culinary delicacy.

UQ biotechnology Honours student Sean Greenhalgh is testing two common types of sea cucumbers found in the area to see if they contain antibacterial agents which could potentially fight disease in people.

Working from the UQ’s Moreton Bay Research Station, Mr Greenhalgh has collected and dissected about 60 samples to identify and extract antimicrobial peptides, sub-cellular particles which make up the sea cucumbers’ natural immune system.

“They create a natural protection for the creatures against bacteria and other microbes like fungus and also prevent viral infections,” Mr Greenhalgh said.

He said his long-term goal was to characterise useful peptides and synthetically create them as antibiotics for humans.

HUMBLE SPONGE GIVES UP ITS GENETIC SECRETS

UQ researchers are exploring what has been termed the “Rosetta Stone” of the gene world by tracing the development of the humble sea sponge.

A team led by Professor Bernie Degnan, from UQ’s School of Integrative Biology, has found sea sponges don’t have Hox genes—those responsible for determining in animals where the head and bottom should go.

“Sea sponges are basically living fossils and haven’t changed since before the Cambrian explosion—the time when most of the major groups of animals first appear,” Professor Degnan said.

“Sea sponges offer us a window into the past. But they are also showing us a window into the future as they are an immense source of bio-active compounds that could have pharmaceutical and industrial benefits.”
RAY VISION NO LONGER A BLACK AND WHITE ISSUE

UQ researchers have shown that stingrays, once thought to be colour-blind, may be capable of seeing more than black and white after all.

Susan Theiss, a Californian PhD student studying the blue-spotted maskray common to Moreton Bay, said seeing in colour could help the animals find mates, detect prey and avoid predators.

Her UQ team of supervisors – Dr Nathan Hart, Professor Shaun Collin and collaborator Professor Justin Marshall – started behavioural tests on shovel-nose rays and reef sharks at UQ’s Heron Island Research Station off Gladstone in March.

Dr Hart said the animals were being trained to associate a coloured light with food and tested to see if they could discriminate between the training colour and a light of different colour.

Although rays have the apparatus to see colour, the tests should confirm if they can use this information.

Dr Hart is also investigating whether sharks have the potential for colour vision as part of a Australian Research Council QEII Fellowship.

He said knowing more about ray and shark vision could help in many ways including the design of wetsuits and surfboards to reduce attacks on divers, surfers and swimmers.

SHARK RESEARCH A REAL EYE OPENER

Baby sharks grow slowly, changing their fins as they grow and can see a month before they leave their eggs, according to ongoing UQ research.

Marine Science PhD student Blake Harahush has been studying the growth and visual development of brown-banded bamboo sharks from embryo to adult for the past three years.

After observing more than 13 pups develop, Ms Harahush found that sharks showed signs of fins at about 53 days into an average hatching period of 153 days, which varied depending on incubation temperature.

Most other sharks take between a few months and two years to develop before birth.

She also found that sharks eyes’ developed fully within their dark egg cases a month before hatching.

“It’s still a mystery why they develop their eyes so early before they hatch,” Ms Harahush said.

Her research – using animals from Underwater World at Mooloolaba – is believed to be the second comprehensive scientific study of sharks from embryo to adult.

Results of her work will be published in an upcoming edition of the Journal of Fish Biology.

WEEDING OUT A WATERWAYS PROBLEM

A marine weed native to Moreton Bay is overgrowing waterways around Australia, in California and throughout the Mediterranean Sea.

The plastic-like plant called Caulerpa taxifolia invades naturally occurring seagrass and is only eaten by an uncommon slug that can tolerate its toxins.

UQ PhD student Dana Burfeind is studying the weed to understand more about how it grows to produce a model predicting how far and how quickly it can spread and how that will impact fish communities.

Ms Burfeind said environmental authorities in Australia, Europe and America have tried unsuccessfully to remove and kill Caulerpa, with the South Australian government recently spending about $6 million and New South Wales approximately $500,000 on the problem.

Ms Burfeind is examining the basic biology of the weed which could lead to the development of ways to eradicate its spread.

SUPERMODEL SHELLS

Ever wondered why shells look as good as they do? Well University researcher Dr Daniel Jackson may have found the answer.

In a collaboration between UQ’s School of Integrative Biology and the University of Göttingen in Germany, Dr Jackson has discovered a gene found in the tropical abalone that controls the striking blue and red colours found in the mollusc’s shell.

“This is the first gene shown to play a role in molluscan shell patterning,” Dr Jackson said.

“It was a chance discovery that arose from a project where genes from specific tissues are randomly sequenced, so it was quite fortuitous.

“This gene is also distantly related to a gene family found in vertebrates, of which humans are a member, so it provides insight into how the evolutionary process can create new roles for old genes.”

He made the discovery while working on the genetics of how shells are made in abalone, something he describes as an amazing process.

“We estimate that more than 25 percent of the genes expressed in the shell secreting tissue of the abalone are involved in shell formation,” he said.

“Most mollusc shells are basically made of chalk (calcium carbonate) with a little protein thrown in making them incredibly strong.”

“No human-made calcium carbonate-based material can come close to this, so to be able to replicate this would have wide applications in materials, medical and dental science.”

Dr Jackson was recently honoured at the BioMed Open Access Research awards in London for his PhD and postdoctoral work in this area.

He is a member of Professor Bernie Degnan’s lab, which focuses on the evolutionary biology of invertebrates such as sponges, scallops and crustaceans.
Retired rugby league players have donated $48,000 to UQ’s premier cancer research institute through the Mardi Jackson Foundation.

The donation, to UQ’s Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology and Metabolic Medicine at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, has bought a specialised microscope to help scientists study the most serious form of skin cancer, melanoma.

The money was raised by the Former Origin Greats (FOGs), a non-profit group that helps rugby league, communities and charities.

Two UQ students are investigating whether puppies in prison can help reform inmates and improve the working lives of prison staff.

UQ postgraduate students Claire Eddie and Georgia Sakrzewski are following the progress of four pups delivered to prisoners and staff at the low-security Darling Downs Correctional Centre.

Eight prisoners are training the puppies in basic obedience for 16 months to become assistance dogs for people with disabilities. Corrective Services introduced Pups In Prison last year in partnership with Assistance Dogs Australia to help inmates develop patience, compassion, self-regulation, communication skills and cooperation. Similar programs have been trialled in New South Wales and the United States, but Ms Eddie and Ms Sakrzewski believe they will be the first to measure the impact on both prisoners and staff.

Ms Eddie said they were interested in changes to the prisoners’ psychological wellbeing, criminal attitudes, loneliness and parenting skills and also the job satisfaction and workplace morale of prison staff.

The University’s Centre for Companion Animal Health Director Professor Jacque Rand said she expected the puppies would help rehabilitate prisoners and hoped the program would be expanded to other open security prisons.

UQ’s Centre for Companion Animal Health initiated the research project with UQ’s School of Psychology, Assistance Dogs of Australia and Queensland Corrective Services.
UQ researchers will be at the forefront of new research possibilities with the signing of an agreement to use the soon-to-be-opened Australian Synchrotron in Victoria.

UQ is part of a Queensland consortium of universities, which was one of the founding partners in the beamline consortium that will allow researchers to access an Australian-based synchrotron for the first time.

The other partners in the Queensland consortium are the Queensland University of Technology, Griffith University and James Cook University which, along with the Queensland Government, have raised $5 million to become Foundation Investors in the facility.

A synchrotron accelerates electrons to almost the speed of light and they are then deflected through magnetic fields to create extremely bright light. The light is channelled down beamlines to experimental workstations where it is used for research.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor David Siddle, said UQ researchers were eager to start working at the Melbourne-based facility.

"We’ve been working towards this for a number of years and it’s such an honour to finally break through," she said.

"Four of the top six teams in the competition were from UQ, which hasn’t been achieved by any other university at nationals before, so it was an incredibly exciting event for the whole team."

UQ’s success in Sydney was so outstanding that the fourth-ranked team (which placed sixth overall), qualified for the finals, but could not compete due to a “three teams per university” rule.

The winning trio made their way through a series of preliminary debates before tackling the topic “The permanent members of the UN Security Council should get rid of their nuclear weapons” in the final.

Ms Heathcote said the championships were designed to allow novice speakers to compete alongside more experienced debaters, with the University fielding its largest-ever team.

“It was great to get nearly 30 new members coming to Sydney out of a contingent of over 50,” she said.

“Many of those new students had never debated before and it was impressive how rapidly their speaking confidence and general knowledge improved.”

The UQDS is one of the country’s largest debating societies, and holds a regular social competition at St Lucia.

Its next goal is to fund trips to the upcoming Australasian championships in Malaysia and the 2008 world championships which take place over the New Year in Thailand.

Research accelerates

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The Institute of Modern Languages
Leximancer Pty Ltd, a text analytics software company with an innovative approach to understanding natural language, has secured investment from a London-based strategic investor.

The University's main commercialisation company UniQuest is the major shareholder in Leximancer and negotiated the investment. The international investment will supplement Leximancer’s increasing revenue base, providing additional funds to accelerate product development and market penetration.

Leximancer is developing revolutionary software tools that enable users to find meaning from text-based documents. It automatically identifies key themes, concepts and ideas from unstructured text with little or no guidance.

The innovative concept map allows users to interact with the analysis – navigating the true meaning of the text.

Its unique approach is attracting a rapidly growing user base of individuals and organisations struggling with the problem of understanding unstructured data.

“Generally, text-mining tools approach natural language by trying to shoe horn it into database-style models only suited to structured data,” Leximancer Chief Scientist, Dr Andrew Smith said.

“Applying preconceived rules and categories generally results in both the destruction of complex meaning and the introduction of bias.

“Leximancer adopts a complex systems approach which allows meaning to emerge from documents, and presents the user with a map of the major themes, concepts, and their relationships.”

UniQuest’s Managing Director, David Henderson, said Leximancer represented a milestone for UniQuest as it was the first start-up company from the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences.

“We are very proud of Leximancer and excited by its potential,” Mr Henderson said.

“Leximancer is operating in a large global market and having a quality investment partner with good connections in Europe, Asia and North America is very important.”

A UQ diagnostic tool used by US Customs, the British Museum and the Brisbane City Council has recently been released in a new and expanded version.

Created by the University's Centre for Biological Information Technology (CBIT), Lucid3 is a powerful software system that allows experts to produce easy to use subject identification “keys” on DVD, CD-ROM and the internet.

CBIT assistant director Matt Taylor said the applications of the program were endless.

“Subjects can range from plants, animals and insects to medical problems, crop diseases and even minerals – anything that may need identifying or diagnosing,” Mr Taylor said.

“The software also supports the addition of supporting materials such as images, videos, URL links and fact sheets to help users when using a key.”

Thousands of information keys have been created using the program – a number of them by UQ researchers – detailing everything from Australian spider species and African flowers to medicinal plants and dragonflies.

The software has been particularly useful for the American Quarantine Service, which has used Lucid to produce guides so staff can quickly and easily identify suspect items.

The Brisbane City Council also uses the product, recently sponsoring the development of a new guide for environmental officers to identify troublesome weed species.

Mr Taylor said the software supported all languages, and was compatible across Windows, Macintosh, Linux and Solaris platforms.

“Lucid is unique in that it is the only identification system of its kind that supports a rich ‘scoring’ model to encode data rather than using a binary method,” he said.

“It also has the ability to scope parts of the key so that it unfolds when needed by the user.

“This is particularly useful in large keys where the user can be overwhelmed by the amount of information that can be presented.”

Lucid was launched in 1998 as a collaboration between CBIT staff and other UQ researchers.

Further information about the software and other technologies being created by the Centre can be viewed by visiting www.cbit.uq.edu.au
Burrowing frog LEAPS AFTER SLEEP

A rare Australian frog that burrows underground for a summer siesta resurfaces more than nine months later in just as good a shape as before its rest, according to UQ research.

Long hibernations usually waste mammal and amphibian muscles, but the green-striped burrowing frog has proven to be an exception to the rule.

UQ PhD student and zoology research assistant Beth Symonds has shown this frog's muscles were unaffected during its subterranean break to avoid the summer sun and dehydration.

Miss Symonds found that muscle contraction speed slowed slightly but the frog retained its power, muscle mass and muscle fibres after waking.

"If you immobilised a person for nine months they wouldn't even be able to walk," Miss Symonds said.

The 29-year-old is now collecting data on three enzymes in the frog's muscle tissue to understand how it preserves energy. She said it would take more research to explain exactly how the green-striped burrowing frog maintained its muscles after the big sleep.

She also believes that Australia's other burrowing frogs, of which there are more than 13 different species, were probably capable of the same feat.

Her research is funded in part by an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant to one of her supervisors, Professor Craig Franklin from UQ's School of Integrative Biology.

RIGHT CLIMATE FOR REEF FEARS

UQ SCIENTISTS WERE AMONG AUSTRALIANS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO A GLOBAL GREENHOUSE STUDY WHICH FOUND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF WAS AT SERIOUS RISK FROM CLIMATE CHANGE.

The two main threats facing the reef are rising sea temperatures, which cause mass coral die-offs due to bleaching, and the gradual acidifying of the oceans from CO2 in the atmosphere, which prevents corals from forming their limestone skeletons.

Other impacts such as increased cyclone intensity, drought and flood runoff from the land and coral disease outbreaks will play a lesser but important role, they said.

Professor Terry Hughes and Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg of the Australian Research Council Centre for Excellence for Coral Reef Studies advised the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which recently released its latest report in Brussels.

They contributed to sections dealing with observed changes to the Earth's natural systems due to climate change and a detailed analysis of the likely outlook for Australia and New Zealand.

The report says coral bleaching has become increasingly common in the ocean's corals since the 1980s, with the worst event in 1998 killing 16 percent of the world's corals. There has also been an upsurge in disease among reef species and a tendency for seaweeds to replace corals. If corals become rare, the report adds, many other reef organisms will also become vulnerable.

The IPCC report also noted the oceans were becoming more acidic: "Evidence indicates that the average pH of surface seawater has fallen by 0.1 units in the last 200 years. This represents a 30 percent increase in the concentration of hydrogen ions in the surface oceans," it says.

"Based on current trends, sea temperatures at the northern tip of the Reef today are likely to apply to the southern parts by 2050," Professor Hoegh-Guldberg said.

He said temperatures a degree above the current summer average could cause mass bleaching of corals, and if they persist at two to three degrees warmer the corals would die.

In 1998, 42 percent of the reef's total area was hit by varying levels of bleaching. In 2002, 54 percent of the reef was affected by rising water temperatures.

"bleaching is likely to be an annual event on at least parts of the GBR, possibly by 2030, and almost certainly by 2050"
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No mucking around in mining win

A team of UQ mining and minerals processing students has won the 2007 National Mining Games.

The group of fourth year UQ Bachelor of Engineering (Minerals Processing) students beat 25 rival teams from eight Australian universities to claim the winning trophy and the Sir Bruce Watson Award in May.

Hundreds of students had gathered at the University’s Experimental Mine in Indooroopilly to compete over two days in activities including rock-drilling, the laying of railway tracks, mucking (where students perform the old fashioned practice of shovelling gravel into a cart) and simulated blasting.

Co-captain of the winning team Casey Jarman congratulated her team-mates Jennifer Meikle, Eddie Paul, Fraser Burns, Matthew Taylor, Grant Ballantyne, Henry Connor, Saleem Varghese and Simon Gunn.

“It was great that a fourth-year UQ team won the competition as there will always be a rivalry between the students,” she said.

The team was sponsored by BMA (BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance).

UQ Bachelor of Engineering (Mining) student and coordinator of the Games, Spiro Pippos, said the annual event was an opportunity for students from around Australia to get together, network and test their skills in a challenging and physical competition.

“It’s great for students who are up-and-coming in this field to be able to meet and form relationships, as many of us will work together on projects out in industry after we graduate,” he said.

“Importantly, this event also brings industry and students closer together. It is a good opportunity for students to meet employers, to ask questions and to learn about opportunities in the field.”

The 2007 event was the biggest in the competition’s 42-year history thanks to the boom in the mining and minerals industries in Australia, and industry sponsorship of a number of interstate teams.

The Experimental Mine was acquired by the University in the 1950s for teaching and research projects. Students use the facility to gain experience in mine surveying, ventilation, ore extraction, drilling, pumping, and mining engineering processes.

RESEARCH BREWS GREEN ENERGY

A joint project between UQ and Foster’s to turn beer wastewater into electricity has won $140,000 from the Queensland Government’s Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund.

The team from UQ’s Advanced Wastewater Management Centre (AWMC) was one of six presented with the funding by Minister for Environment Lindy Nelson-Carr at Foster’s Yatala brewery last month.

AWMC postdoctoral research fellow Dr Korneel Rabaey said the technology worked by creating a microbial fuel cell, which feeds continuously on the organics in the brewery wastewater, turning it into watts.

The process also produces clean water and renewable (non-polluting) carbon dioxide.

Dr Rabaey said with the current drought, the smart use of natural resources had never been more important.

“Energy and water supply are among the biggest challenges we will face in the coming decades,” he said.

“Therefore, we must learn how to diversify our portfolio of fuels – and we must learn to reduce our energy and water usage.”

AWMC Director Professor Jurg Keller said the focus in wastewater management had shifted away from simply treating waste, to recovering valuable resources such as water, energy and nutrients.

“Technology that can do this should be supported, therefore the decision by the Queensland Government to support this project is a very important signal, both to universities and industry,” he said.

The team’s work is in collaboration with the University of Ghent, Belgium, and is backed by a $1.3 million Australian Research Council Discovery grant in addition to on site and financial support from Foster’s, who have been recognised for their innovative water reduction and recycling programs.

A patent is pending for the technology – believed to be a world first – which is designed for small to medium operations and could be used across a number of industries.

Professor Keller said the team were achieving good progress with a 10-litre prototype, with plans to have a pilot-scale model up and running to coincide with an international bio-energy conference hosted by UQ in September.
Paid maternity leave could be the answer to halting Australia’s ageing population, according to new research.

In an analysis of the Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey, UQ School of Economics PhD student Leonora Risse found that the availability of paid maternity leave elevated pregnancy rates for younger women. Ms Risse’s research found that 6.9 percent of women aged 24 years or less, who had access to paid maternity leave, reported becoming pregnant, compared to 3.8 percent for women in the same age-group who did not have access to paid leave.

“Statistically, women in the 24 years or less age-group who have access to paid maternity leave are 11 percent more likely to become pregnant than those without it,” Ms Risse said.

“Only one out of every three women in employment 24 years-of-age or less actually has access to paid maternity leave. If all women in this age-group were provided paid maternity leave, the age-specific annual pregnancy rate would rise from 3.29 percent to an estimated 3.54 percent. That’s equivalent to an extra five children per every 2000 women in this age-group.”

Ms Risse said this in turn could influence Australia’s ageing population.

“Potentially, the provision of paid maternity leave could encourage women to have children sooner rather than later,” she said.

“The provision of this leave has the capacity to boost aggregate birth rates and alleviate the economic pressures of an ageing population by encouraging women to have children without severing their ties to the labour force.”

Other findings from the research showed that one in five women in the workforce did not know whether or not they had access to paid maternity leave and that women in higher-skilled occupations and higher-paying jobs were more likely to be entitled to paid maternity leave.

Ms Risse said this suggested employers rely on maternity leave as a means of retaining valued workers.

She said her findings could have direct implications for government policy, industry and society as a whole.

“Paid maternity leave allows women to have children and maintain their attachment to the labour force over the long run which means we are not losing out on the skills and knowledge that they bring to the workforce,” she said.
An exhibition of photographs of historic architecture and mining infrastructure will mark the 100th anniversary of Broken Hill becoming a city.

Line of Lode: Photographs by Peter Liddy will be on show at Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery from June 22 until July 29.

Mr Liddy is the Operations Manager at the UQ Art Museum located in the James and Mary Emelia Mayne Centre at St Lucia.

Rebekah Butler, Manager of Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery, said the exhibition documented the historic architecture and sites along the Line of Lode — a potent symbol of Broken Hill’s mining heritage.

“The Line of Lode is a 7.5-kilometre-long stretch of partially disused mines, buildings, equipment, open cuts and tailing heaps.

“Through his camera lens, Liddy captures the inherent beauty and detail of Broken Hill’s industrial heritage, its landscape and architecture,” Ms Butler said.

“The photographs focus on the North and South mines providing insight into the different approaches to mining plant construction used in Broken Hill, and the history of mining on the Line of Lode.”

The 40 photographs include architectural compositions of forms and spaces; landscapes evoking the scale of the Line of Lode and the relationship between buildings and the vast environment; documentary images recording external and internal aspects of buildings and tunnels; and abstract compositions which aim to illustrate the textured surfaces and trays of core samples.

Heritage analyst Professor Peter Spearritt, who will open the exhibition, said Mr Liddy’s photographs captured long-redundant industrial landscapes.

“Broken Hill is Australia’s richest site of remnant industrial heritage and our most dramatic example of both the starkness and the intimacy of late-nineteenth and twentieth century mining,” Professor Spearritt said.

“Liddy’s series of photographs attest to the power of this extraordinary landscape.

“He has documented the Line of Lode structures with finesse, recording a sense of both past activity and abandonment.”

Line of Lode continues Mr Liddy’s interest in photographing industrial and abandoned architecture and environments, which have included Brisbane’s now-demolished Tennyson Power Station, the North Ipswich Railway Workshops, and the Blair Pavilion, a disused building on UQ’s Ipswich campus, formerly a hospital for the mentally ill.

The exhibition grew out of an artist-in-residency Mr Liddy undertook with Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery in 2006.

Mr Liddy’s last exhibition was on show at the State Library of Queensland from March to May. It comprised photographs of the construction of Brisbane’s Gallery of Modern Art and the redevelopment of the State Library.

Broken Hill City Council, Arts NSW, CBH Resources, Perilya Mining, The University of Queensland, Conservation Resources and Ilford supported the exhibition and accompanying publication.

LEGACY OF FINE ART
The University and art followers will enjoy the legacy of the UQ Art Museum’s Director, Ross Searle, Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said.

Professor Hay said Mr Searle, who left at the end of April after more than 11 years, presided over an era of unprecedented growth and development of the UQ Art Museum in the new James and Mary Emelia Mayne Centre.

Professor Hay said a focus of the UQ Art Museum was a national collection of Artists’ Self Portraits.

“It is the only collection of its type in Australia, which Ross began building from the exhibition that opened the Mayne Centre,” he said.

SMART WOMEN AWARDS
Nominations are open for the Queensland Government’s Smart Women – Smart State Awards 2007.

The awards, in their fifth year, focus on high-achieving women in the traditionally male-dominated fields of science, engineering and information communication technology.

This year there are 13 categories, with entries closing on June 29. The winners will be announced on August 29.

For more information, visit www.women.qld.gov.au/smartwomenawards or phone 1800 177 577.

BIOCHEMICAL INITIATIVE
Australia may take a prominent place in the global biochemical industry through a new partnership between UQ and a major South Korean academy.

UQ and the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology will develop and patent technology to convert sugar cane into “green” plastics and chemicals.

UQ Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the $2000 billion global chemical industry was expected to shift from reliance on oil to reliance on biomass in coming decades.
UQ physiotherapy PhD student Thor Egerton has been selected to join the Australian team to contest the upcoming World Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships.

Ms Egerton, from Toowong, is one of a group of six men and three women who will represent Australia at the Championships in the Czech Republic from August 19–26.

Teams from more than 25 countries will compete in the event, which comprises long, middle and sprint distance individual events as well as a relay.

Mountain bike orienteering incorporates the skill of bike riding in rough terrain with map reading and navigational skills.

Ms Egerton was selected after successful races in qualifying events in Victoria in March, where she came first in the sprint, third in the long race and second in the middle distance.

Her selection follows in the footsteps of another Queensland and UQ rider, Anna Sheldon, who was an Australian representative in the 2004 and 2005 world championships.

The best scientific and technical minds of Australia’s four biggest football codes will unite at an inaugural conference at UQ this month.

Strength and conditioning expert Vern Gambetta will lead a stellar cast of presenters at the three-day event from June 4 to 6 which will include well known identities including Brisbane Lions AFL coach Leigh Matthews.

The Evolution of the Athlete conference will focus on coach education and athlete development in AFL, rugby league, rugby union and soccer, and has been made possible through a partnership between UQ SPORT, the UQ Rugby Academy and the University’s School of Human Movement Studies.

Keynote speaker Mr Gambetta has helped many athletes and teams to the top of their game including the New York Mets, Chicago Bulls, the 1998 US Men’s World Cup soccer team and tennis champion Monica Seles.

He said he is looking forward to tapping into the latest ideas being trialled in Australia and to present some of his own research and coaching tips.

“The more we can collaborate between coaches and academics to help direct their research, the more exciting results we’ll get,” Mr Gambetta said.

AFL legend Leigh Matthews will treat delegates to an insight into his day and how he took the Brisbane Lions to three premierships in a row.

One of UQ’s leading sports psychologists and Olympic coach, Dr Cliff Mallet, will present cutting edge research into elite team psychology and motivational secrets.

Delegates will be educated in the areas of long term athlete and coaching development, with practical sessions for all codes incorporated into each day’s program.

Information: www.eoaconference.com.au

COACHING SECRETS REVEALED

MAGIC MILER

Emerging superstar Lisa Corrigan produced a show-stopping run to blitz the field in the elite women’s division at the 2007 UQ Milers Meet held recently.

Corrigan proved too good for her competitors winning by more than a length of the straight to finish in a remarkable time of four minutes, 30.16 seconds, less than eight seconds shy of her own Australian record in the event.

Corrigan is Australia’s fastest woman over a mile (1609m), was a 2006 Commonwealth Games finalist in the 1500m, and is the current national champion over the distance.

Stealing the show from the elite men’s race that followed her event, Corrigan’s performance drew a rousing cheer from the crowd at the UQ Athletics Centre.

In the men’s mile, New South Wales runner Jeremy Roff narrowly missed out on an illustrious sub-four-minute run, finishing in a time of four minutes, 1.42 seconds.

Roff pipped last year’s winner Yousef Abdi who finished in four minute, 2.19 seconds and Brad Woods who crossed the line a second later in third position.

PHYSIO PEDALS INTO ORIENTEERING NATIONAL TEAM

UQ physiotherapy PhD student Thor Egerton has been selected to join the Australian team to contest the upcoming World Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships.

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Her selection follows in the footsteps of another Queensland and UQ rider, Anna Sheldon, who was an Australian representative in the 2004 and 2005 world championships.
CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

- **Friday, June 29**
  Social Work Gala Ball, Library Bar, Carana Street St Lucia, 7pm until late. $70 per person (incl food and drinks), RSVP by June 22. Contact: (07) 3346 3903 or k.hargreaves@uq.edu.au.

- **Wednesday September 19 – Friday, September 21**
  The Australasian Research Management Society is running their annual conference in Adelaide under the theme “Research collaboration with impact”. The focus will be on the benefits and challenges of collaborative research, with special attention on how Indigenous research can be managed collaboratively and ethically. Information: http://www.sapmea.asn.au/fusion2007.

SEMINARS

- **Wednesday, June 6**
  Fair Shares at UQ – A forum on School finances, restructures and new buildings. Speakers include Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Michael Keniger and Professor John Quiggin. 10am-11am, Room 206, Steele Bldg. Information: (07) 3365 2538 or m.carden@qld.edu.au.

- **Tuesday, July 3**
  Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies Seminar, “Strong for Law, Strong for Culture”: Balgo’s Grandmothers and the Circles of Cultural Learning, Dr Zoë de Ithstar (noon–2pm, Connell Building 26, Room 232). Information: acpac@uq.edu.au.

prizes

- **Elizabeth Usher Memorial Travelling Scholarship 2007**
  Awarded to a PhD student to enable overseas travel to present a paper or poster at an international conference. Applicants should have graduated from UQ no more than five years ago and be enrolled in the second or third full-time equivalent year of their program. Worth: $2500. Closing: June 15, 2007. Information: scholarships@research.uq.edu.au or (07) 3365 6101.

- **John Fox Memorial Bursary 2007**
  Awarded to an orphan or fatherless Australian born male who is pursuing a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical) degree. Preference will be given to applicants enrolled in their third semester. Closing: June 29, 2007. Worth: approximately $630. Information: (07) 3365 1984.

- **General Staff Self Development Prize 2007**
  Awarded to a member of the general staff who has been employed at UQ for at least three years who, in the opinion of the President of the UQ Secretaries’ and Office Professionals’ Association, demonstrates the most outstanding achievements in self-development, whether of an academic or non-academic nature. Closing: July 27, 2007. Worth: $150. Information: ugscholarships@uq.edu.au or phone (07) 3365 1984 or 3365 7113.

uqnews deadlines 2007

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Library hours are available on www.library.uq.edu.au

ARTHRITIS ANSWERS

UQ researchers have shown for the first time older women who exercise are less likely to get stiff or painful joints.

The landmark study, published in the journal Arthritis Research & Therapy, shows women in their 70s could avoid the pain of arthritis by keeping active.

“What we found is if women in their 70s can do as little as 75 minutes of moderate physical activity a week, they will lessen their chances of developing frequent arthritis symptoms for three years,” co-author Dr Kristi Heech from UQ’s School of Human Movement Studies said.

Dr Heech along with Dr Yvette Miller and Professor Wendy Brown undertook the research as part of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health.

CALLING CAT LOVERS

Researchers from UQ’s Centre for Companion Animal Health are looking for homes for six lovable and healthy feline companions who are ready to be adopted after helping out in a nutrition study.

Daisy, Jasmin, Stella, Amelia, Sylvia and Butler are young adult cats. They are all healthy, desexed, vaccinated, de-wormed, on flea control medication and microchipped. They cost $55 – the price of the microchip.

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

IPSWICH SCHOLARSHIPS

Six UQ Ipswich students have been awarded Bachelor of Business scholarships.

Angela Brockhurst, Emily Franke, Stephen Harling, Maryann Ledger, Sophie Wilson and Rebecca Franklin have each received $1500 to help meet some of the costs of their studies.

Ms Brockhurst, a double-degree student, said she was thrilled to win the scholarship.

“I’m the first in my family to do a degree and my first choice was always UQ because of its excellent reputation,” she said.

“Since I started here, I’ve found the Ipswich campus and staff really friendly and supportive.”
Dear Friends,

The world-class research and excellent teaching undertaken at The University of Queensland (UQ) would not be possible without the generous support of our many donors and partners. Thank you to those who have contributed to the work of the University and its future, as well as the future of our students.

Our research and teaching excellence provides positive outcomes that touch not just Australians, but people from around the world. This outstanding success is testament to the strength of our commitment and drive to create new knowledge and benefits at the local, national, and international level.

Your donation to the 2007 Chancellor’s Fund Appeal will support UQ’s world-class experts and their ongoing endeavours to shape healthier, safer and more capable communities of the future.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sir Llew Edwards AC
CHANCELLOR