HISTORY LESSON
Pig City rocks St Lucia

BEAM ME UP
Teleportation accelerates

CROWNING GLORY
Equine researcher honoured
EXAMINE US

UQ OPEN DAYS

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

uq.edu.au/opendays
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

As developments in the University’s infrastructure continue apace, our new and refurbished teaching spaces are setting national standards as havens for learning and teaching. Students are the rightful drivers of these reforms, as their lifestyles, aspirations and technology preferences demand revision of the orthodoxies of classroom design.

The Collaborative Teaching and Learning Centre in the Sir James Foote Building at St Lucia was the benchmark when it opened in 2005, yet already the next generation of collaborative learning spaces has emerged and a third wave is imminent.

UQ’s Gatton campus boasts a second-generation facility, the newly-completed Regional Collaborative Learning Centre. As is the case at St Lucia, the UQ Gatton centre serves scholars wanting to study alone, in seminars or in groups. The Regional Collaborative Learning Centre also features pop-up monitors, a control system through which changes to lighting, screens and blinds can transform a room, and advanced projection mechanisms.

In coming months I look forward to opening our first third-generation centre, and the Advanced Concept Teaching Space (ACTS) in General Purpose North 4 at St Lucia. ACTS will be the hallmark for progressive learning infrastructure in Australian universities, and will also support research into face-to-face teaching. It is expected to generate new teaching techniques and tools, which will benefit students at UQ and other national and overseas institutions.

Most pleasing is that students are registering their satisfaction with these inventive learning spaces. The revamped Biological Sciences Library is an example. It hosted almost 300,000 visits in the first half of this year, a 50 percent increase on the whole of 2005, the last full year before refurbishment began.

The UQ Ipswich Library has won plaudits from many quarters, and the new First Year Engineering Learning Centre is also proving to be a hit. Future engineers have embraced this Hawken Building retreat, where they can congregate for peer learning, interact with their tutors, and socialise with their friends and colleagues. The centre’s design and its cutting-edge technologies and infrastructure facilitate ideal preparation for these students’ project-oriented engineering careers.

These and other creative learning spaces add a new dimension to UQ’s active leadership in teaching and learning. The University’s stature in this regard was reflected in the national and international interest in a colloquium on next-generation learning spaces, facilitated by a Carrick-funded UQ project team led by Professor David Radcliffe and held here in July.

From 25 universities it attracted 133 delegates, whose majority view was that learning technologies were intrinsic to students’ ongoing enthusiasm for higher learning.
The University has appointed leading medical scholar Professor Nicholas Fisk to head a major new clinical research centre.

Professor Fisk, formerly Professor of Obstetrics and Fetal Medicine at Imperial College London, has been appointed Director of the UQ Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR) – a $66 million facility under construction at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital.

A Sydney University medical graduate, Professor Fisk has a stellar international reputation in medical research in the fields of fetal and maternal health, stem cell biology and translational medicine.

He previously headed London research centres focused on fetal medicine and obstetrics and gynaecology, and will take up his new role at the end of this year.

Professor Fisk’s research, on topics ranging from clinical research to stem cell research, has been published in numerous high-quality research journals.

The seven-storey purpose-built UQCCR complex is funded by a partnership with the Queensland Government and major US philanthropic organisation Atlantic Philanthropies.

"Since its inception in 1989, the MSE programs have provided outstanding training to our students, and prepared them to be agents of change in industry," he said.

"We are delighted to be working with UQ to transfer that calibre of education to students in its degree programs."

Professor Lindsay said there was currently a skills crisis in software engineering and in the Information Communications Technology (ICT) industries generally.

"Employers in Australia’s burgeoning aerospace industry, defence, the finance industry and even the medical sector are suffering shortages in software engineers and the well is dry unless the skills crisis is urgently addressed," he said.

"The reverse of this is that people entering software engineering are in a happy position, with potential to command top salaries."

Those interested in finding out more about the programs can contact dbertam@itee.uq.edu.au, (07) 3365 3840 or visit www.uq.edu.au/study.

Centre head appointed

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, recently hosted the launch of Australia’s first Master of Engineering (Software Engineering) program through distance learning, enabling industry professionals working in remote locations to complete the program on site.

Professor Hay said the Boeing funding would be used to empower the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering (ITEE) to deliver top-quality software and systems engineering courses by distance learning.

The Boeing Professor of Systems Engineering at UQ, Professor Peter Lindsay, said the University had already licensed the first of seven planned courses from Carnegie Mellon University (CMU).

"Students therefore will have access to an internationally-regarded product, drawing on the world-leading expertise of CMU, which is widely-acknowledged as one of the top universities in software engineering internationally," he said.

The first course from CMU is being offered in the Master of Engineering (Software Engineering) from this semester.

"We’re delighted to be the catalyst in getting this highly-regarded course to Australia," the President of Boeing Australia, Craig Saddler, said.

"The course will be of great interest to many of our 4000 Australian employees, and others looking for an aerospace career," said Mr Saddler, who was also recently appointed Boeing executive focal for UQ.

The Director of the Master of Software Engineering Programs at CMU, Professor David Garlan, said the collaboration would complement his university’s existing base of international collaborations in the area of professional software engineering programs.

"The reverse of this is that people entering software engineering are in a happy position, with potential to command top salaries."

Those interested in finding out more about the programs can contact dbertam@itee.uq.edu.au, (07) 3365 3840 or visit www.uq.edu.au/study.

"The University has appointed leading medical scholar Professor Nicholas Fisk to head a major new clinical research centre."

The facility will house around 300 researchers focused on patient-orientated research, conducted in response to questions that arise “at the bedside”.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay, AC, said Professor Fisk would oversee the establishment of the Centre, which aims to provide better treatment and results for patients, as well as adding to the body of knowledge about particular diseases and health problems.

"Professor Fisk has a distinguished record and we are delighted to have attracted a researcher and clinician of the highest calibre to head this exciting new development," Professor Hay said.

"Under his leadership, UQ will develop an international node of excellence in clinical research in Queensland."

Faculty of Health Sciences Executive Dean, Professor Peter Brooks, said the appointment represented a new and exciting stage in the development of health and medical research in Queensland.

"Professor Fisk will enhance our growing health research capacity," Professor Brooks said.

"We are looking forward to completion of the UQCCR building at the end of this year and the operation of this dynamic new centre of excellence."
Pig City Goes Full Boar

About 6000 music fans celebrated a slice of Queensland’s rock music history at UQ on July 14.

Under the big-top on Playing Field 4 at St Lucia, some of Brisbane’s best known bands re-formed and played for Pig City: Brisbane’s Historical Soundtrack.

A reunited Saints headlined the bill, which also included Dave McCormack, Regurgitator, Ups and Downs, Screamfeeder, The Riptides, Kate Miller-Heidke and The Pineapples from the Dawn of Time.

The concert, inspired by Andrew Stafford’s book Pig City: From the Saints to Savage Garden, published by UQ Press, celebrated Brisbane’s musical heritage as part of Queensland Music Festival celebrations.

Some of the highlights were the quirky songs of Dave McCormack, whose set included a ray gun solo and tidy versions of Anatomically Correct. I want to execute your ex-boyfriend and Apartment.

Regurgitator also got the crowd moving as lead singer/guitarist Quan Yeomans and bassist Ben Ely bounced around the stage belting out The song formerly known as and ending with Kong Foo Sing.

Kate Miller-Heidke took on what was always going to be a challenge in her big band tribute to the Go Betweens, but there was unanimous support for The Saints when they launched into I’m stranded — a song largely credited as the birth of punk.

Amongst the crowd of teenagers to baby boomers were Triple J presenter Myf Warhurst, Powderfinger guitarists Ian Haug and Darren Middleton, Democrats Senator Andrew Bartlett, blues legend Mick Haile, author Nick Earls, Hoodoo Gurus guitarist Brad Shepherd and Go Between Robert Forster.

Queensland Music Festival Artistic Director Paul Grabowsky, who came up with the idea to stage the concert after reading Pig City, said it felt like a big reunion.

“A whole lot of people were celebrating a time of their lives that is worth celebrating,” Mr Grabowsky said.

“It’s part of our Festival and our Festival is really about telling stories through music and that seemed like an obvious story to tell as far as Brisbane was concerned.”

Pig City is one of the biggest concerts staged at UQ in recent years since O Week concerts, the first Livid Festival in 1989 and previous Queensland Folk Festivals.

The concert followed a Pig City symposium on July 13 discussing the history and future of Brisbane’s underground and rock music industry, organised by UQ’s Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies.
Part-time work hits youth hard

Five UQ Ipswich Bachelor of Business students have found the impact of part-time work on university students is even more significant than previously thought.

Candice Forbes, Justine Simmonds, Meredith Bell, Reina Kuypers and Stephanie Scott undertook the project as part of their business degrees.

Ms Forbes said the study showed students were working an average of 8.5 more hours per week than the 14.5 hours acknowledged by the Federal Government in 2005.

“The students we surveyed are working on average 23 hours per week,” she said.

“A University of Canberra study in 2001 identified a measurable negative impact when individuals worked more than 22 hours work per week.

“Another study showed full-time students who did not work had a significantly higher Grade Point Average than full-time students who were working part-time.”

Ms Forbes said there was evidence students who worked part-time could also experience less integration with university life, potentially leading to lower commitment.

“With full-time students expected to find up to 40 hours of study time in addition to lectures and tutorials and working as much as 23 hours per week, the stress factor becomes significant,” she said.

The students are all enrolled in the Bachelor of Business or Bachelor of Business Communication.

The Bachelor of Business, which is only offered at UQ Ipswich, allows students to combine majors in Accounting, Advertising and PR, Communications Management, Event Management, Hospitality Management, Online Business, Sport and Leisure Management and Travel and Tourism Management.

A world of job opportunities will be on offer for students when UQ takes part in the 2007 International Careers Fair this month.

The event provides international students with a chance to explore career options in their home countries and Australian students an opportunity to explore international career possibilities in their chosen field.

This year’s International Careers Fair, which will take place at City Hall, follows in the success of the inaugural fair held at UQ last August.

UQ Dean of Students, Dr Lisa Gaffney, said the chance to meet face-to-face with international employers was invaluable to students.

“The meetings will allow students to make an impression on prospective employers. In addition, students will be able to have specific career questions answered.

“The International Careers Fair brings some of the world’s biggest employers into one room, which is a tremendous networking opportunity for students,” Dr Gaffney said.

A host of international employers will be at the careers fair, including Bloomberg LP, Deutsche Bank, Ernst & Young, Accenture, Siemens Ltd, Eton House Singapore and Chongqing Personnel Bureau.

Students are encouraged to visit the International Careers Fair website to find out about the specific disciplines employers are hoping to recruit from and for which countries.

The Fair is organised by the Queensland Government and UQ, Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology and University of Southern Queensland, which in total teach more than 17,000 international students across a wide range of degree programs.

The 2007 International Careers Fair will be held in the Main Auditorium of Brisbane City Hall from 11am to 4pm on Thursday, August 9.

For more information, go to www.careersfair.org.au or email enquiries@careersfair.org.au

STUDENTS CHASE GLOBAL CAREERS

“The International Careers Fair brings some of the world’s biggest employers into one room, which is a tremendous networking opportunity for students.”

Mentoring future legal leaders

The UQ Law Graduates Association and the TC Beirne School of Law have launched a mentoring program for final year law students to help smooth the transition into the profession.

Program coordinator, Dr Nick James, said the journey through law school and the transition to legal professional practice could be challenging and confronting for many law students.

“The journey is much easier if the student is able to establish connections with the profession before graduation,” Dr James said.

“The program matches law students with a legal professional who can provide an insight into the realities of legal practice and who can be approached for practical advice and guidance about improving study techniques, choosing a career path and locating job opportunities.”

Law School graduates or final-year students interested in participating should visit www.law.uq.edu.au/mentor to register their interest.

Dr James
NEW VIRUS TREATMENT

A UQ researcher studying yeast is hoping to find better ways of fighting viruses.

Dr Alan Munn, from the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, said there was a need for virus treatments that worked in the way antibiotics do when treating bacterial infections.

"Folding clothes or ironing as you watch TV, standing while on the phone or walking to see an office colleague rather than emailing them are simple and easy ways to do this," UQ School of Population Health researcher, Genevieve Healy, said.

ES MEYERS LECTURE

Pre-eminent and controversial neurosurgeon at the Prince of Wales Hospital in Sydney Dr Charles Teo will present the 50th anniversary ES Meyers Memorial Lecture at the UQ St Lucia campus on August 31.

Dr Teo, one of Australia’s top neurosurgeons, is an expert in the removal of brain tumours, and is internationally recognised in his field.

Entry to the lecture, organised by The University of Queensland Medical Society, is by donation, with money raised donated to the society’s Ashintosh Trust.

The lecture will be at the UQ Centre starting at 7pm.
A UQ neuroscientist is hoping to discover why some people have problems maintaining stable vision after suffering a stroke.

A scientist at UQ’s Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) has uncovered evidence that could help explain why some stroke patients have trouble maintaining a stable image of their visual world when they make eye movements.

The research, by QBI neuroscientist Professor Jason Mattingley and colleagues at the University of Melbourne and University College London, has implications for understanding “spatial neglect.”

This is a disorder associated with damage to the brain’s parietal lobe – an area that plays an important role in integrating sensory information from various parts of the body and planning eye and limb movements.

Professor Mattingley said the neurological condition tended to be associated with poor recovery for individuals who had suffered a stroke.

“After a stroke, many people with damage to their parietal lobe behave as if one-half of their visual world has simply disappeared,” Professor Mattingley said.

To examine this problem under controlled conditions, the researchers applied painless and reversible brain stimulation to the parietal lobe in 16 healthy volunteers.

By measuring eye movements during brain stimulation, Professor Mattingley’s team showed specific areas of the parietal lobe use signals from motor areas of the brain to integrate each new snapshot of the visual world into a coherent whole.

The findings, published recently in the Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences of the USA, build on a body of research by Professor Mattingley which confirms deficits in human spatial updating contribute to vision problems in some stroke patients.

“Broadly speaking, our findings have implications for understanding a range of disorders of spatial perception associated with parietal damage, and point to promising new approaches to rehabilitation,” Professor Mattingley said.

Scientists have isolated at least 25 genes that cause seven of the most common hereditary diseases, including diabetes and arthritis.

The genes are responsible for heart disease, hypertension, type 1 and type 2 diabetes, Crohn’s disease, bipolar disorder and rheumatoid arthritis, according to results from the world’s largest genetic study, recently published in the international science journal Nature.

Another 58 genes with possible links to the same family of diseases have also been uncovered by British and Australian scientists working on the $16.6 million study funded by the Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium.

UQ Professor Matthew Brown, one of the project’s principal investigators, said the genetic signposts would allow researchers to pinpoint who was at most risk from the diseases and would also help produce better treatments.

“Using genetic markers is far more accurate than just using family history,” Professor Brown said.

“The family history doesn’t tell you which individual genes are involved so it doesn’t tell you anything about the mechanism by which these diseases occur.”

Professor Brown said the research analysed 540,000 varying DNA sequences from each of the 19,000 Britons who took part, making it 10 times bigger than previous population genetics studies.

More results will be released shortly on the genetic makeup of breast cancer, multiple sclerosis and other diseases, with all genetic data from the study available to researchers.

“That’s a really important precedent because it makes it a huge resource for anyone researching these diseases,” Professor Brown said.

UQ alumni and University Medalist, Professor Peter Donnelly, now a Professor of Statistical Genetics at Oxford University, leads the study project.
Pacific Islander students were encouraged to dream big at the inaugural PolyVision: Pacific Youth of Tomorrow event hosted at UQ’s Ipswich campus last month.

Coordinator Savali Harvey said the initiative targeted Pacific Island high-school students in the Inala to Ipswich corridor, seeking to inspire them to broaden their horizons and consider higher education.

“PolyVision aims to plant a seed in the minds of Pacific Islander students so they start to think that no dream is ever too small and no dream is ever too big,” she said.

“We’re telling them not to allow their situation to dictate what they can achieve. We’re saying ‘let university or let TAFE be options that are open to you’.

“You don’t have to be the smartest kid in the class to succeed. Whatever you want to do in your life is within your reach. You just have to be willing to put in the work.”

PolyVision is one of a number of outcomes of an 18-month research project undertaken by the UQ Boilerhouse Community Engagement Centre. The equity project was designed in collaboration with local Samoan and Tongan communities to identify and address issues impacting on higher education access for young people.

Initial research revealed that in recent years the numbers of Pacific Islander students entering tertiary education did not reflect the growth in the population.

“Pacific Islander students face all of the challenges which go hand-in-hand with coming from a lower socio-economic background,” Ms Harvey said.

“We want them to know that they have options and that education is the key that opens up your options.”

The inaugural Polyvision was a great success, with 50 students attending alongside Pacific Islander mentors and community elders.

The day was co-ordinated by UQ-Link and the UQ Boilerhouse Community Engagement Centre with the assistance of staff from the University of Auckland.

Above: Polyvision participants Anna-Maria Taufa, Jason Otto, Jaequelinda Ilalio and Larry McCulloch and below: Christina Siu

Brisbane school students will help unlock the secret of how bullying affects mental health when they are given the chance to take part in a new University of Queensland study.

Erin Wolfe, a PhD student from UQ’s School of Psychology, will launch a study into bullying later this year that she hopes will improve the way schools deal with the problem.

“Bullying is increasingly being recognised as a big problem in our schools and has been linked to mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, poor social adjustment, low self-esteem, as well as poor academic achievement,” Ms Wolfe said.

“It can have a huge impact on the kids involved, academically, socially and mentally, and I believe it’s an issue that really needs to be addressed.”

The study will initially involve developing an intervention program, and then over time will use feedback from the schools involved to further improve the program.

Ms Wolfe’s research is expected to run for three-and-a-half to four years, with the project partially funded by a $48,000 grant from the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund.

Those interested in finding out further information can contact Ms Wolfe on ewolfe@psy.uq.edu.au

Rhodes Scholarship for study at the University of Oxford

www.uq.edu.au/rhodesscholarship

Closing Date – 3 September 2007.

Applications are invited from women and men aged between 19 and 25 for the Queensland Rhodes Scholarship for 2008.

Information seminars will be held at The University of Queensland, Griffith University, QUT and Bond University.

Details of dates and venues are available by ringing (07) 3365-1318 during office hours.

Information about the Scholarship and application forms can be obtained from Mr D Porter, Honorary Secretary, Queensland Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee, The University of Queensland, Brisbane Qld 4072.
Keen to fast-track your studies and achieve your career goals sooner?

Would you like to learn something completely different over the Summer break?

Make the most of your break by enrolling in the wide range of courses offered at UQ over the Summer Semester.

Both undergraduate and postgraduate courses are available and there are nearly 250 on offer across all the Faculties. Undergraduate places are also available on a Commonwealth-supported basis for eligible students.

Enrolments close on Friday 9 November.

Visit www.uq.edu.au/study/summer for more details and to search the huge range of courses on offer.
in brief

TOP RATING FOR TETRAQ
TetraQ, UQ's integrated pre-clinical drug development service provider, has attained official Good Laboratory Practice recognition from the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) for one of its key facilities.

With this status, TetraQ's ADME (absorption, distribution, metabolism and elimination) laboratory's work will be accepted internationally for regulatory review, providing clients with a high degree of assurance.

This achievement follows TetraQ's work with NATA in 2005 to develop a Research and Development accreditation program, the first of its kind in Australia.

COMPANIES HELP CLIMATE
A new study by UQ Business School academic Associate Professor Andrew Griffiths and PhD student Nardia Haigh shows companies are finding innovative responses to climate change.

Dr Griffiths said although most of the debate on climate change focused on the negative impacts, the private sector was proactively engaging with the issues at hand.

Ms Haigh said the study found small teams working firstly on energy efficiency projects developed skills and capabilities that were then transferred to larger issues, such as fleet management, facilities design and management, and the development of carbon-accounting systems.

NATIVE TITLE LAW LECTURE
International Law and Native Title in Australia will be the focus for the 3rd Annual Richard Cooper Memorial Lecture hosted by the TC Beirne School of Law.

This year's lecture will be delivered by Professor Garth Nettheim from the University of New South Wales, and will be the first in the series to focus on native title law.

The lecture series was established in 2005 in memory of Justice Richard Ellard Cooper – a judge of the Federal Court of Australia and a former judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland.

The lecture will be held at Court 1, Commonwealth Law Courts, 119 North Quay, Brisbane on Wednesday, August 22, from 5.30pm. Inquiries: (07) 3365 2523.
New chapter for literary history

Pick any Australian novel, play or book of poetry from the past 200 years, and chances are The Bibliography of Australian Literature will be recording it.

The ambitious project began in 2001, with the third and newest volume (published by UQP) launched at Customs House last month.

The Bibliography is complemented by AustLit – an online literature information database housed at UQ – and lists all book-length works of Australian writers from the late 18th to the beginning of the 21st century.

UQ Vice-Chancellor and general editor of the Bibliography, Professor John Hay, AC, said the publication marked a milestone in literary studies scholarship.

“Since 1999, AustLit has built an unparalleled electronic archive of information relating to Australian authors and their work,” Professor Hay said.

“When complete, the Bibliography will stretch across four volumes and almost 3500 pages – an invaluable resource for the study of Australian literature and a major achievement of UQ and its research partners.”

Associate editor, Kerry Kilner, said the publication worked in tandem with AustLit’s digital records, which were updated daily.

“Australia has a relatively short history of print culture in comparison with European countries or even the USA, and it’s an exciting opportunity to be able to trace our literary history in this way,” she said.

“AustLit is unique in being able to claim a comprehensive record of a country’s literary achievements, and the relationship between the Bibliography and the online database allows us to create a really amazing resource.”

Once completed in 2008, the Bibliography will contain details of more than 40,000 works and 12,000 authors.

The launch coincided with the opening of the 2007 Association for the Study of Australian Literature conference on July 1, which was hosted by the University and featured some of the country’s most celebrated authors including Dorothy Porter, David Malouf, and current Miles Franklin Award winner, Alexis Wright.

Debate deconstructed

Two of the world’s most influential literary theorists weighed in to the critical literacy debate when they headlined a conference at UQ recently.

J Hillis Miller and Derek Attridge were the keynote speakers for Mourning and its Hospitality, which was organised by Dr Jude Seaboyer and Dr Tony Thwaites from the School of English, Media Studies and Art History.

Both academics were long-term colleagues and friends of the late Jacques Derrida, the famous French philosopher whose theories continue to influence research and teaching across the humanities.

The conference was inspired by Derrida’s work and followed by a special symposium addressing the challenges facing literature teaching today:

“Our cultural memory is gathered together in texts going right back through time,” Dr Seaboyer said.

“If we think that it’s important to know where we’ve come from and where we are headed, then it’s important the next generation knows about these texts, and knows how to interpret them.”

A number of UQ postgraduates and staff presented papers and participated in the symposium, including Professor Graeme Turner and Executive Dean of the Arts Faculty, Professor Richard Fotheringham.

Getting the write results

Literacy programs developed by a UQ researcher continue to achieve remarkable results, helping more than 50,000 students across the country.

Over the past seven years, the Whole School Literacy Programs developed by Dr Carol Christensen from the School of Education, have been implemented from Cairns to Hobart.

Following the success of a conference in December last year, a second conference on the programs was held at UQ on July 9, with 640 teachers and administrators attending.

Dr Christensen said data from schools involved showed remarkable gains in literacy across all students.

“We hope to have all students in the schools reading at grade level within three years,” Dr Christensen said.

“When we begin a program, many students are reading well below their grade level. However, our programs are showing that students can develop a very high level of literacy. Students routinely make a five-to-six year improvement in reading comprehension in a single year.”

“In addition to dramatically enhanced literacy, we are also seeing improvements in all subjects as students’ ability to work with text enables them to learn more effectively across the curriculum.

“Also, teachers are observing a significant reduction in behaviour-management problems and higher levels of motivation and engagement in learning.”

The programs are aimed at students of every kind – from those with difficulties in basic reading and writing to those who wish to achieve at a tertiary level.

They cover all facets of literacy including decoding, comprehension skills, enhancing students’ ability to invent and use sophisticated strategies to learn from text, and writing skills.
A record number of humpback whales passed North Stradbroke Island earlier this winter as UQ researchers started surveys to verify their numbers. A research team counted an estimated 10,000-strong humpback population from Point Lookout on North Stradbroke Island on their annual migration to the Great Barrier Reef. Among them was Migaloo, the rare all-white whale. Whale expert Dr Mike Noad, from UQ’s School of Veterinary Science, said his research crew spotted Migaloo in late June three kilometres off Point Lookout heading north. "We know he’s a male because he’s been genetically sexed. But what we don’t know is whether he is an all-white whale or an albino," Dr Noad said. "He’s more likely to be a white whale because albinism in other species is a genetic defect which usually means the animals have other problems and don’t survive." Dr Noad’s team of international volunteers and UQ researchers counted the whales as part of regular surveys of the Australian population of humpbacks usually completed every two to three years. "This population of whales is the fastest-growing whale population in the world that we know of," Dr Noad said. "It’s increasing like that because it’s bouncing back from over-exploitation. "In the 1950s and 60s, they were hunted almost to zero and what we are seeing is a recovery from those very low numbers. "While we’re not sure at what level the population will plateau when it’s fully recovered, we think that we’re roughly a third of the way there." He said the whales were growing at between 10 and 11 percent a year, with about 7000 counted in the last survey in 2004. The latest whale count, as with many of the previous Point Lookout surveys, was funded by the Federal Government’s Department of the Environment and Water Resources. Dr Noad said it was the longest and most consistent series of whale surveys of its kind in the world, with the results guiding conservation priorities and management plans and also going to the International Whaling Commission. "Because the vast majority of the whales pass within a few kilometres of land there, Point Lookout is almost unique in the world in terms of being somewhere you can stand on land and get very robust estimates of whales as they migrate past," he said. "After they pass south-east Queensland, we have less idea of how the whales disperse through their breeding grounds inside the Great Barrier Reef. "While we know a lot of whales seem to mill around the Whitsunday area, there’s also plenty of sightings much further north, particularly up around Townsville, Cairns and even in the Torres Strait."
More than 2000 students from UQ’s three campuses were rewarded for years of hard work during recent mid-year graduation ceremonies.

Representing all seven University faculties, the graduates received their awards from UQ Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards, AC, during a week of celebrations held at Ipswich and St Lucia. Alongside the undergraduate and postgraduate awards, two honorary doctorates were conferred for outstanding achievements and contributions to the community.

Chair of Thiess and Director of Leighton Holdings, Martin Albrecht, AC, was presented with his doctorate at a Faculty of Engineering, Physical Sciences and Architecture ceremony on July 18. A civil engineer, Dr Albrecht was Managing Director of Thiess for 15 years, and since his retirement has held positions on a number of boards, including Queensland Gas and the Siemens Australia Advisory Board.

Dr Albrecht also has a passion for water conservation, holding the chair of the International Riverfoundation and is a driving force behind the prestigious National and International Thiess Riverprizes.

Former Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Sally-Anne Atkinson, was also presented with a Doctor of the University honoris causa to recognise her successful political and business career. The UQ Arts graduate began her working life as a journalist and was elected Lord Mayor of Brisbane in 1985 after roles as Alderman for Indooroopilly in 1979 and Leader of the Opposition in 1982. During her term as Lord Mayor she introduced major changes in the Council’s organisation, its interaction with the public and the image of Brisbane as a city.

She led Brisbane’s bid for the Olympic Games of 1992 and was subsequently Chair of the Australian Olympic Committee’s Sport for All Commission, the Committee to Organise the Sydney Olympics and Deputy Mayor of the Sydney Olympic Athletes Village.

In 1994, Dr Atkinson accepted the position of Senior Trade Commissioner in Paris. Returning to Brisbane in 1997, she was appointed chair of Tourism Queensland.

She continues to hold high-level positions including Director of APN News and Media, Millhouse IAG Ltd and The Australian Ballet. She is currently chair of ABC Learning Centres, and the Federal Ministerial Taskforce on Dementia and the Crawford Fund (Qld). Dr Atkinson is also a special representative for the Queensland Government in South East Asia.

Presenting the valedictorian address at the ceremonies were new UQ graduates Sasha Jesperson, Melissa Langridge, Kristy Nash, Toni Risson, Tanya Patel and Alison Dunn.

The first class of UQ Master of Mental Health (Art Therapy) students have completed their studies, skilled with creative ways to help others.

The program is offered part-time over three years and comprises theory, art therapy workshops and supervised clinical practice in a range of mental health and community agencies.

Program Coordinator Claire Edwards said it is one of only three art therapy masters-level degrees in Australia and the only one available in Queensland.

“It is unique in Australia in being located within a school of medicine,” Ms Edwards said.

“It’s offered to meet an increasing demand for creative therapy in mental health services for children, adolescents and adults, and also in response to a growing interest in the area from potential students who usually have a combined visual arts and social welfare or counselling background.”

Art therapists combine clinical skills with their knowledge of art processes to design effective and creative interventions with individual clients or in therapy groups.

“The growing research base suggests that art therapy is at least as effective as other forms of psychotherapy and may be more palatable for those who are not comfortable with verbal therapies,” Ms Edwards said.

A final assignment for the group was to produce a number of artworks in conjunction with a research project, with the pieces exhibited in the Kids in Mind Management unit at the Mater Children’s Hospital.

Art Therapy graduates make their mark

Art Therapy graduates Marion McConaghy, Gabrielle Gilmore and Shelley Perkoulidis
Australian researchers have studied and documented the effect of the “sundried tide”, a force of nature that can silently wipe out coral reefs. Their analyses have revealed for the first time that these are highly predictable events that can seriously impact the state of coral reefs when they are preparing for the stresses of summer.

In a paper published in scientific journal Marine Biology, Dr Ken Anthony and Dr Ailsa Kerswell, of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies (CoECRS) at The University of Queensland (UQ) and James Cook University (JCU), have revealed that extreme low tides on clear sunny days can lead to widespread damage of coastal coral colonies.

“Really low tides, where the local sea level gets to its extreme low for the year, can occur at different times of the day,” UQ’s Dr Anthony said.

“In years where this occurs during the middle of the day when the sunlight is at its most intense and the reefs are almost fully exposed, there is a real risk of severe coral stress and death in the shallow reef zone.”

Just like cyclones and other natural disasters, these severe “sundried tides” rarely occurred since they relied on the alignment of numerous natural extremes, he said.

However, when these factors all aligned, by a combination of sun, moon and chance weather, an extreme event occurred which could leave coral colonies bleached and devastated.

One such event occurred in September 2005 while Dr Anthony and Dr Kerswell were taking JCU students on a field trip to Orpheus Island off the Queensland coast.

“While doing some field work we noticed that all the corals in the area were about to die, so we took the opportunity to record the event,” Dr Kerswell said.

Their observations led the researchers to investigate the mysterious coral deaths on Orpheus Island — a study that would reveal what they had witnessed was a rare event, the extent of which had never previously been recorded on the Great Barrier Reef.

“At first we thought it was a major outbreak of disease,” Dr Kerswell said.

“We collected samples and took hundreds of photos and sent a series off to colleagues to be analysed. The response was that it was not a disease, but something else.

“So we looked back through hourly records of tidal patterns over the previous eight years and combined it with data on solar records and models.”

Dr Anthony said the researchers aligned what the tide would do with the sun and weather patterns and ran an analysis of the risk of corals being out of the water and exposed to the sun. During September 2005, Dr Anthony, Dr Kerswell and the students were present the week following a rare, extremely low tide, during which the sun had been shining from a clear sky.

These “natural disasters” occur silently but can devastate the tidal zone. From past records Dr Anthony estimated that the September 2005 event was the worst in the eight-year record. However, the “sundried tides” could also be anticipated.

“These events are highly predictable,” Dr Anthony said.

“We can go into the weather reports, align them with tidal charts and predict the times of greatest risk.”

The high-risk time of year is July–October, when corals are building up resources for spawning and preparing for summer stressors such as thermal bleaching.

Since studying the cause and impacts of these major events, Dr Anthony hopes that their predictable nature will lead to improved warning systems and better models for predicting stress and mortality in corals.

EXTREME LOW TIDES AND CLEAR SUNNY DAYS ARE AMONG NATURALLY OCCURRING EVENTS THREATENING CORAL SURVIVAL.

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Using the corals on the Great Barrier Reef as a history book, researchers have linked land use along the coast to decades of declining water quality and poor coral health.

Their work is pioneering the development of new tools for better management of the quality of Australia’s coastal waters by the communities that depend on them.

The study by researchers from the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies (CoECRS) focusses on the 100-year history of coastal development around the Queensland town of Mackay and its impact on nearby coral reefs which have been gradually disappearing. According to the study, a history of land clearing, agriculture and flooding is linked to nutrient-rich waters flowing out of the Pioneer River catchment.

These excess nutrients are directly taken up by coastal corals, affecting their survival and ability to recover from adverse conditions.

“We found that the nitrogen isotopes from particles in water samples collected all along the catchment area were highly enriched, especially in the lower reaches of the river. This reflects nitrogen from fertilisers,” said Dr Guy Marion of UQ and CoECRS.

Dr Stacy Jupiter, a postdoctoral fellow at the Australian National University and CoECRS, said inshore reefs were covered in widespread stands of algae, a condition that may reflect chronic nutrient excess.

“The reef condition didn’t improve until 50 kilometres offshore,” she said.

She said while the study was local, its findings had national and even global significance.

The study also uses coral skeletons to reveal the history of nutrient and sediment runoff into the river and coastal waters from human activities in the catchment dating back to European settlement of the Mackay area.

Using skeletons more than a century old, the team was able to analyse chemicals and sediments taken up by the corals and link them geochemically to their place and time of origin.

“We observed a large increase in the delivery of land-based sediments after the surrounding areas were cleared for farming in the late 19th century,” Dr Marion said.
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Three 2007 American Fulbright Postgraduate Scholars will continue their research projects using UQ expertise and facilities this semester.

Joshua Meisel, a Biological Sciences and English graduate from Stanford University, and Jesse Silverman, who is completing his Bachelor of Science majoring in Biology and Philosophy at Duke University, have arrived at UQ.

Leland Turner, a graduate of the University of Tulsa and current PhD student in history at the Texas Tech University, arrives this month and will attend both UQ and the Australian National University.

Mr Meisel is currently completing his Masters in Biological Sciences and has enrolled in an Honours year with UQ’s Centre for Marine Studies.

“I will conduct research on the Great Barrier Reef aimed at protecting the reef ecosystem from global climate change and expanding our knowledge of its symbiotic biology,” he said.

Mr Silverman will be a visiting scholar in UQ’s School of Integrative Biology where his project will characterise the genetic and genomic processes responsible for shell development in abalone.

“Through understanding the molecular basis of abalone shell formation, we will gain a better evolutionary understanding of the processes involved, and may also gain knowledge that will provide useful insights for commercial and biomedical applications,” he said.

Mr Turner will examine the growing Americanisation of Australian cultures through research into the American cowboy and the Australian "bushman".

"Those cultures left frontier legacies that continue to define national identities in a rapidly globalising society," he said.

“The effect of environment on economic activity in grasslands cattle cultures of America and Australia and how frontier experiences influenced regional mythology and subsequently, national identities, need to be examined.”

Pioneering research into a devastating equine disease has resulted in UQ Professor Chris Pollitt receiving the highest honour awarded by a British professional organisation dating from 1356 and which was given Royal Charter in 1674.

The Master of the Worshipful Company of Farriers, Pauline Halliday, conferred an Honorary Fellowship on Professor Pollitt in the presence of the Past Master, Her Royal Highness Princess Anne at a court luncheon in Saddlers Hall, London.

Professor Pollitt, a researcher in UQ’s School of Companion Animal Sciences for 30 years, is recognised internationally for his research into the deadly hoof disease laminitis, the second biggest killer of horses after colic.

Mrs Halliday said the Honorary Fellowship was given only to exceptional people who had made a special and longstanding contribution to the art, craft and science of farriery.

“Professor Pollitt is one such exceptional person,” she said.

“A veterinary graduate of New Zealand, he has spent his working life in Australia where he founded the Equine Laminitis Research Unit with the object of discovering the biological mechanism that causes laminitis and to make this a preventable disease.

“With countless publications to his name, no one has done more to advance scientific understanding of the intricacies of the horse’s foot than Professor Pollitt.”

Professor Pollitt also received the Ian Clunies Ross memorial award last year for his outstanding contribution to veterinary science in New Zealand and Australia in the past five years.

Professor Pollitt said laminitis occurred when the tissue connecting the foot bone of a horse to its hoof started to disintegrate. The bone then separates from the hoof and can eventually penetrate the sole of the horse’s foot.

“Laminitis normally affects all four feet and is extremely painful and distressing. While mild to moderate forms can be treated with varying degrees of success, many horses have to be destroyed.

Dr Pollitt said laminitis affected about two percent of all horses.

“The onset of the disease can be devastatingly swift – as little as 36 hours – and usually strikes while the animal is vulnerable because of some other infection or sickness,” he said.
BROADLY MISTAKEN

Both major Australian political parties have got it wrong on broadband, according to a recent UQ PhD graduate.

Social science researcher Dr Lucy Cameron said the future broadband strategies of both Labor and the Coalition would wipe out many smaller local telcos.

"Instead of building on the previous investment and promoting a competitive telecommunications environment, Labor wants to introduce a monopoly on wholesale broadband, while the Coalition is now supporting a virtual duopoly between Telstra and Optus reminiscent of the early 1990s," Dr Cameron said.

“Optus and Telstra have business models that also supply media and business services which pose the risk of further media concentration in Australia.”

Dr Cameron said smaller wireless, ADSL and community owned telcos which had already invested millions in their own infrastructure and received more than $1 billion of Federal Government subsidies in the past five years, would suffer.

She said the Federal Government should set minimum bandwidths for any Australian telco to tender for, instead of engaging one or two companies to install a single, faster network.

"It doesn't really matter who supplies the connections so long as the all the networks are able to talk to each other via internet protocol.

"If the government wants everyone in Australia to have 12Mpbs (more than 20 times the speed of 256kpbs broadband connections), then it should examine ways for any company with the capacity to be able to improve their services to meet that." In her thesis, Dr Cameron proposes that telco fund areas of market failure through an industry levy paid to local councils.

Local councils would then have the financial capacity to either build or tender for contracts. Telco services would have to meet minimum bandwidth levels and provide public access points and training for users of newer technologies.

Dr Cameron said consumers shouldn't be limited to one provider as there could be mix of fibre cable, ADSL2+, wireless networks and even powerline technology.

"We've already started down the track of opening up competition in the Australian environment, and both parties now seem to be taking a retrograde step in closing it.

"A number of Federal Government schemes such as the Higher Bandwidth Incentive Scheme could also be improved to upgrade minimum bandwidths, without shutting down half the industry."

RECORD LISTING FOR UQ COMPANY

UQ's pharmaceutical start-up company, QRXPharma Limited (QRX), has listed on the Australian Securities Exchange, making history as Australia's biggest biotechnology float.

The company, which had an initial market capitalisation of $150 million, issued 25 million shares to new investors to raise $50 million.

QRX was formed five years ago by UniQuest Pty Ltd, UQ's main commercialisation company, to develop innovative research in the areas of pain therapy, neurodegenerative disease and venomics.

The company's patented portfolio of drug candidates were developed from research at the University, led by Professor Maree Smith from the School of Pharmacy; Professor Martin Lavin from the Queensland Medical Research Institute; Dr Paul Masci from the School of Medicine; and Professor John de Jersey from the Faculty of Biological and Chemical Sciences.

Funds from the QRX float will be used to finance the phase III clinical trials of the company's most advanced drug candidate – the "dual opioid" painkiller, Q8003IR, which was developed by Professor Smith.

With its unique combination of morphine and oxycodone, QRX hopes that the drug will be more effective with fewer side effects than competing drugs. In addition, a sustained-release version of this product is ready to enter phase I clinical trials.

If the phase III trials proceed well, QRX had the potential to hit the market with the drug in 18 to 30 months, according to UniQuest Managing Director David Henderson.

“QRX is looking to complete the phase III studies in 2008 and 2009 with the first sales of the drug in 2010,” said Mr Henderson.

"If both these drugs are approved for release and show the predicted reduced side-effects, sales have been estimated by J.P. Morgan Securities Australia Limited to be in the order of US$300–500 million annually."

"Also, J.P. Morgans envisages QRX shares will be worth 10 times their current price, so we’re certainly optimistic about the financial return to UQ from the drug."

At this stage, QRX is planning to distribute its products in the United States and out-license to other pharmaceutical companies the right to distribute their products in other countries.

Ray finds his way

IT student Raymond Leung was in for a surprise last year when he undertook an industry placement as part of his studies.

After choosing to work on a new mapping system, he discovered the project client was none other than the University’s Office of Marketing and Communications (OMC) – the producers of UQ News.

Mr Leung, a fourth-year student from Hong Kong, used Google Maps technology to comprehensively chart UQ’s campuses, working for 12 months within OMC’s web team.

“This system is specially designed for students since they usually know the number of the building instead of the name,” Mr Leung said.

“The user can just type in the number and click ‘Go’, and then the location will appear immediately.”

Another new function developed by Mr Leung directs people from their address to a UQ site with the click of a button.

“A hyperlink will suggest the driving route between these locations. This is ideal for new students from overseas and people who are not from Brisbane originally,” he said.

Mr Leung said the placement had been worthwhile as he had learned how to juggle different tasks simultaneously.

"I experienced a heavy workload during this project as I needed to perform many tasks by myself that usually would be done in a group. I also had to study other courses at the same time," he said.

Now a graduate of the University, Mr Leung plans to work in project management or IT marketing before beginning postgraduate study in Hong Kong.
UQ has reinforced its commitment to fighting global poverty after launching a new partnership with Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Australia.

The School of Engineering now houses its own chapter of the organisation, which was founded in 2003 to help disadvantaged communities through education and sustainable engineering initiatives.

EWB president Daniel Almagor said UQ staff and students had been quick to get behind the partnership, which already has more than 100 members.

“My goal for EWB-UQ is for it to be the most active and exciting chapter in Australia, raising awareness about the issues and values that EWB promote and encouraging people to commit to being part of the solution,” Mr Almagor said.

Head of the School of Engineering Professor Jim Litster said the University was proud to support the work carried out by the organisation.

“All the big issues of the 21st century require engineering input on a local and global scale,” Professor Litster said.

“This collaboration enables our students to use their skills and work on real projects that will make a significant difference in the lives of others.”

The announcement comes after 900 UQ students began the EWB Challenge in March, which sees young engineers across Australia create design solutions for a children’s home in India.

Mr Almagor commended the University for its support and said he hoped it would inspire others to become involved.

“It is crucial for the next generation to take on the ideas of sustainable and appropriate engineering,” he said.

“The health of the planet depends on it, as do the lives of billions of people currently living in poverty and disadvantage.”

Launched before industry partners at the School of Engineering, the UQ chapter is the newest in the EWB network, joining more than 20 others nationwide.

Current projects involving UQ students include building sanitation facilities in Papua New Guinea and teaching refugees computer skills.

For more information call 03 9696 9040 or visit www.ewb.org.au

There are many ways to study over the summer break, but taking classes on a floating museum must rate as one of the more exotic options.

The unique experience was recently shared by a group of UQ postgraduates, who worked on a string of sites in the Ha Long Bay area of Vietnam as part of their Museum Studies program.

Offered annually, the summer school is organised by UQ’s Professor Amareswar Galla, who has spent more than a decade working in the World Heritage Listed areas of Vietnam for UNESCO.

Professor Galla said the school drew together people from areas as diverse as archaeology, anthropology, applied history, gender studies, environmental science and law to determine the benefits of museums to the local community and analyse the flow-on effects of heritage tourism.

“One of the most gratifying outcomes of our work has been witnessing the creation of thousands of jobs that contribute to poverty alleviation, an outcome that has been measured and applauded by international agencies,” he said.

Professor Galla said the 16-day course had a hands on focus, with the evaluation work carried out during the visit submitted to the Vietnam National Cultural Heritage Department.

“Students literally get their fingers in the dirt working on problem-solving exercises in a collaborative learning partnership to understand sustainable heritage development,” he said.

The field school is part of a series of lectures, tours and workshops made possible by UQ’s links with the International Council of Museums and the Smithsonian Institution.

For further information about the 2007 Summer School, contact Dr Kim Selling on (07) 3346 9804 or k.selling@uq.edu.au
UQ’s spaces showcased

More than 130 Australian and international leaders in higher education met in Brisbane last month for a ground-breaking discussion about the relationship between university teaching spaces, technology and pedagogy.

The inaugural “Next Generation Learning Spaces Colloquium” was held at the University on July 4 and 5.

The colloquium was facilitated by a Carrick-funded UQ project team, led by Professor David Radcliffe, and was an integral part of a Carrick Priority Project entitled “Designing Next Generation Places of Learning”.

Principal investigators Professor David Radcliffe, Thies Professor of Engineering Education and Professional Development; Derek Powell, UQ Manager, Teaching Technology Support, and Wilson Architects Managing Director Hamilton Wilson worked together to research the nexus between space, technology and pedagogy.

Mr Wilson and one of the principal investigators said this was the first time such a group of senior members of the international university community had met to discuss the future shaping of education spaces.

“We are delighted that 133 people from 25 universities in Australia, New Zealand, PNG and the United States met here in Brisbane to exchange ideas about the design of spaces in relation to technology and best practice pedagogy,” Mr Wilson said.

Keynote speakers included Dr Phillip Long, Senior Strategist for Academic Computing and Director of Learning Outreach for iCampus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr Kenn Fisher, Director, Learning Futures, Rubida Research Pty Ltd, and Professor Peter Jameson, Policy Adviser to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), University of Melbourne.

These national and international perspectives on learning space design set the scene for an innovative program of activities.

During the program, colloquium participants – including deputy vice-chancellors, facility managers and directors, information technology directors and heads of libraries – experienced a range of learning activities and technologies in UQ’s state-of-the-art learning spaces.

They visited and heard about the University’s innovative next generation learning spaces, including the $4 million Collaborative Teaching and Learning Space, the First Year Engineering Centre, and the recently refurbished Biological Sciences Library.
They were a quintessential part of Australian life for decades, then quietly faded away.

But UQ academic Toni Risson is not letting the phenomenon that was the Greek café be forgotten.

Ms Risson, a PhD student at the University’s Ipswich campus, recently released Aphrodite and The Mixed Grill, a chronicle of Greek cafés in Australia.

The book outlines how these Greek immigrant-operated shops combined the benefits of milk bars, rest stops and diners and brought American treats such as ice-cream sodas and sundaes to Australian towns from the turn of the 20th century to the 1970s.

Ms Risson said Greek cafés had been part of the Australian landscape as a place to meet after going to the pictures, for travellers to stop on long journeys or families to visit while window shopping in the days before television.

Towns such as Ipswich had more than a dozen Greek cafés when the trend was at its peak.

“They were just everywhere; they were like McDonald’s,” she said.

“Apart from the face behind the counter, and sometimes the name of the establishment, nothing else was Greek; they served milkshakes, toasted sandwiches, the mixed grill, simple British-Australian food.”

While the food was familiar, the Greek faces and accents were not, and Ms Risson said many café proprietors bore the brunt of racism in a way other ethnic groups did not.

“They were at the forefront of multicultural Australia, the Greeks were at the centre of the business district, they were at the centre of people’s lives,” she said.

Ultimately, Greek cafés began to close down in the 60s and 70s due mostly to the rise of television, better cars and American fast food outlets.

According to Ms Risson, few traditional Greek cafés remain in Australia; the Niagara in Gundagai and the Paragon in Katoomba are the best known.

Aphrodite and The Mixed Grill started out as an 8000-word dissertation for a one-semester subject Ms Risson took in 2005. She said once she began to learn about the Greek immigrants who ran the cafés, she realised the tale needed a book, not an essay.

“It’s just been a privilege for me to meet these people and be trusted with their stories,” Ms Risson said.

An exhibition of the photos in Aphrodite and The Mixed Grill, called Greek Cafés in Ipswich, opens at the Ipswich Art Gallery on August 11, coinciding with the local launch of the book.
ROWERS MAKE A SPLASH OVERSEAS

UQ Boat Club (UQBC) athletes have swapped the Brisbane River for international waters, with a number of rowers recently representing Australia in regattas around the world.

After a blistering performance in the Australian selection trials in April, Sally Kehoe has had a mixed outing in the World Rowing Junior Championships in China this month.

Angus Morton will fly the flag for UQ when part of the Australian quad scull team. Renton and Jared Bidwell race together as part of the World Under 23 Championships in Scotland – saw Sam Conrad also fly the flag for UQBC in Amsterdam, rowing in the men's eight.

As the next event on the international rowing calendar – the World Under 23 Championships in Scotland – saw Sam Renton and Jared Bidwell race together as part of the Australian quad scull team.

Meanwhile, promising young star Angus Morton will fly the flag for UQ when he competes in the World Rowing Junior Championships in China this month.

Mr Conrad and Ms Kehoe have had a mixed outing in the Australian selection trials in April, Sally Kehoe was forced to pull out of the World Cup race in Austria in June due to illness, but she bounced back to lead Australia's charge in the second World Cup event in Amsterdam.

The 20-year-old narrowly missed out on a podium position, finishing fourth in both the women's eight and women's pair events.

Sam Conrad also flew the flag for UQBC in Amsterdam, rowing in the men's eight.

The pair then turned their attention to the third and final leg of the World Cup in Switzerland, where they were joined by fellow UQBC members Michael McBryde and Margarite Houston.

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LUXFORD SECOND IN RICHEST RACE

UQ SPORT scholarship-holder Annabel Luxford battled sweltering conditions to finish a close second in the International Triathlon Union World Cup race at Des Moines, Iowa, in June.

With the richest-ever World Cup prize of $240,000 at stake, Ms Luxford was pipped by just 14 seconds as American Laura Bennett claimed first place in a time of 2.42:32.

Ms Luxford, a part-time Master of Laws student, collected $47,600 as runner-up.

Humidity and high temperatures during the race forced the withdrawal of almost half of the women’s field, including three-time Australian world champion Emma Snowsill and compatriot Erin Densham.

Earlier in June, Ms Luxford finished fourth in the World Cup in Madrid, signalling a return to the form that saw her win the World Cup series and finish second in the World Championships in 2005.

Ms Luxford’s coach Bill Davoren said he was delighted with the result as she continued her comeback from a foot injury which sidelined her for seven months last year.

WATER POLO WIPEOUT

A small but successful UQ sporting contingent cleaned up at the recent Gold Coast Challenge, with all three teams achieving outstanding results.

Both the men’s and women’s water polo teams finished top of the podium, with the men’s pair beach volleyball landing bronze in a tough field.

Women’s water polo manager and goalkeeper Nicole Bensink said she was happy with her team’s success.

“We went to this tournament with high expectations we could win, and it was really satisfying to get through undefeated,” she said.

Run for the first time this year, the Challenge invites university athletes to compete in six different team sports.

RUGBY LESSON

Former Wallaby James Holbeck and ex-All Black Tabai Matson will headline a host of expert coaches when the UQ Rugby Academy (UQRA) travels to America for a series of player and coach education camps this month.

The advanced clinics will be presented across four states in America’s northeast and follow the success of a similar tour last year.

Having visited Albright College for a coach development camp earlier this year, the UQRA is returning to Pennsylvania to provide an intensive four-day camp for its players.

The camp will focus on core skills development and acquisition, position-specific skills development and game scenarios for decision-making and nutrition.

On this trip, UQRA is also introducing a number of advanced (level two) coach and player courses at Rutgers University and the Boston Irish Wolfhounds.

Through a combination of the latest advancements in on-field and video-based coaching, attendees will have a unique opportunity to experience the highest level of professional advice.

Mr Holbeck said he was excited about the prospect of returning to help develop rugby in the USA.

“I’m really looking forward to the summer tour this year to build on the work of previous trips, introduce some new ideas and continue to see the massive improvements that are being made in US rugby,” he said.

“It’s always a significant but enjoyable challenge to adapt the coaching philosophies harnessed in Australia to an overseas environment.”

Mr Holbeck said with the right coaching education and tuition, rugby in the United States could become a force in the code internationally.

“It seems reasonable that with such a large population, the US could potentially develop into a rugby powerhouse,” he said.
SEMINARS & LECTURES

Tuesday, July 31
Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies seminar, Local Peace Commissions and Restorative Justice in Nicaragua, Prof Vernon Jantzi (12-2pm, Don Carruthers Room, Level 5, Dorothy Hill PSE Library, Hawken Building 50). Information: acpacs@uq.edu.au.

Tuesday, August 7
Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies seminar, Building a common destiny: Custom, Land and Governance in New Caledonia, Nic Maclean (12-2pm, Don Carruthers Room, Level 5, Dorothy Hill PSE Library, Hawken Building 50). Information: acpacs@uq.edu.au.

Tuesday, August 21
Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies seminar, Conflict, Memory and the Khmer Rouge Tribunal: an Analysis of Reconciliation in Contemporary Cambodia, Mneesha Gellman and Josh Dankoff (12-2pm, Don Carruthers Room, Level 5, Dorothy Hill PSE Library, Hawken Building 50). Information: acpacs@uq.edu.au.

Wednesday, August 22
The TC Beirne School of Law, Annual Richard Cooper Memorial lecture, focusing on International Law and Native Title in Australia. Attendance is free but registration is essential. Practitioners may claim CPD points for attending – QLS reference no. CPDP0531. (5.30-7.30pm, Court 1, Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane). Information: Teola Marsh, (07) 3365 2523 or t.marsh@law.uq.edu.au.

Equity Scholarships

The University currently has available a number of mid-year Commonwealth Learning Scholarships to award to financially disadvantaged students who are enrolled in an undergraduate Commonwealth-supported place. The two types of scholarships currently available for application are:

- **Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships (CAS)**
  Valued at $4240 for a maximum of four years, CAS scholarships are available for students who have lived in a regional/remote area for at least three of the four years prior to taking up university study;

- **Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships (CECS)**
  Valued at $2120 for a maximum of four years. UQ will be opening its 2008 Equity Scholarship Application round in early October with a closing date of November 14, 2007. For more information about these and other undergraduate scholarships, contact (07) 3365 7113 or visit www.uq.edu.au/study/scholarships

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Prizes

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15 August - 1 September 2007