O Week 2008
Academic year starts with fun and fact finding
AES+F Group (Russia): Last Riot

The hit of the Venice Biennale 2007, Last Riot is a three-screen video installation by four Russian artists, together known as AES+F Group. In collaboration, Tatiana Arzamasova, Lev Evzovitch, Evgeny Svyatsky and Vladimir Fridkes have created this shockingly assertive new work, inspired by Caravaggio.

Exhibition dates: 28 March until 11 May 2008

Exhibition and public program details at www.artmuseum.uq.edu.au

Supported by Dr Dick Quan

AES+F Group
Last Riot 2, Panorama N.A 2005-2006
digital print
Private Collection, Australia
© AES+F and courtesy Triumph Gallery (Moscow)
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The start of every academic year brings anticipation of generational change as new students and staff appear on campus or enrol for distance learning. The first day of UQ’s 2008 academic year brought an added dimension, with two distinguished alumni launching a major endowment fund which for many years will reap benefits for UQ students, research staff and the community at large.

The UQ Endowment Fund (UQef) is an initiative of Andrew Brice and Graeme Wood, founders of the watershed online accommodation company, Wotif.com. Both UQ graduates have been philanthropists for some time, but at the start of 2008, they stepped into a new realm by committing approximately $18 million to UQef. Initial outcomes will include postgraduate scholarships in the humanities and social sciences, plus a Faculty of Health Sciences centre and professorial chair providing research for distance learning. The first day of UQ’s 2008 academic year brought an added dimension, with two distinguished alumni launching a major endowment fund which for many years will reap benefits for UQ students, research staff and the community at large.

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This is one of the most generous private endowments for UQ, and is being interpreted with hope in some quarters as an early portent of abuse. and academic leadership on youth substance centre and professorial chair providing research for distance learning. The first day of UQ’s 2008 academic year brought an added dimension, with two distinguished alumni launching a major endowment fund which for many years will reap benefits for UQ students, research staff and the community at large.

Addressing a well-attended Customs House event organised by UQ in appreciation of Andrew, Graeme and their families, Graeme explained the logic of UQef. As well as wanting to attract contributors to the fund, he and Andrew aspire to encourage a culture of philanthropy among future UQ graduates. They were looking for new ways for wealthy individuals and companies to engage with UQ “to change the things that they really believe need changing – and starting right now”.

UQef has a board of high-powered business people and alumni, whom UQ looks forward to working with to deliver optimum outcomes, and to communicate results to donors. Diversification of UQ’s funding platform is imperative. Over the past decade, we have done incredibly well from the generosity of Chuck Feeney and his group, The Atlantic Philanthropies, but we cannot assume this will continue. We welcome donors’ desire to identify areas for support, and are fully committed to delivering on their philanthropic objectives.

Professor Paul Greenfield AO


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COVER: New students Heidi Mitchell and Pip Hodgson make the most of Market Day at the Gatton campus. PHOTO: LYLE RADFORD

UQ News is delivered off-campus to our neighbours at St Lucia and across the Eleanor Schonell Bridge. We hope you enjoy catching up with news and events at the University. If you would like to comment on the magazine, telephone (07) 3365 3367 or email communications@uq.edu.au

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International communication expert and former Deputy Executive Dean and Research Director in UQ’s Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences (SBS), Professor Cindy Gallois, has been appointed Executive Dean for 2008.

Professor Gallois succeeds Professor Deborah Terry, now Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) to the position.

She will lead SBS for the next 12 months while an international search for a new Executive Dean takes place.

Recognised as one of Australia’s outstanding scholars in communication, Professor Gallois last year became the first Australasian to be made a Fellow of the International Communication Association. She is also a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.

Professor Gallois is a former President of the UQ Academic Board, and has been President of two international and one Australasian academic society in social psychology and communication.

She said 2008 was shaping up as an exciting year in both teaching and research, with developments across the spectrum of the social and behavioural sciences.

“The achievements of the Faculty would not be possible without partnerships with other faculties and institutes at UQ and with government and industry,” Professor Gallois said.

“Our aim is to build on these partnerships to enhance the relevance and quality of our teaching and research.

“The recent decision by the Queensland Government, through Disability Services Queensland, to partner with UQ in the $10.5 million Centre of Excellence for Behavioural Support is evidence of our growing stature as a premier social science research hub.”

It may be the year of the rat in Chinese astrology, but it’s the year of transformation for UQ’s School of Biomedical Sciences.

With the appointment of a new Head of School, a new Deputy Head of School, and two new academics, the School has a fresh leadership team and a new direction.

After five years as Deputy Head, Professor Brian Key has been promoted to Head of School.

“2008 sees the first stage in the implementation of the outcomes of the Bachelor of Science curriculum review, the introduction of the new Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences and the VC’s review of the structure of Science,” Professor Key said.

“The School of Biomedical Sciences will play a major role in ensuring the Science program here is the best in the country, and we have the staff to carry this out.”

Professor Key, who completed a Bachelor of Human Movement Studies and a PhD in Neurobiology at UQ, will be working closely with the new Deputy Head, Professor Shaun Collin.

Professor Collin graduated from UQ in 1987 with a PhD in Neuroscience and has previously held a number of Research Fellow positions.

Both professors have spent considerable time abroad and at different universities around Australia, but returned to UQ’s School of Biomedical Sciences in 2000.

The new leadership team will be supported by the appointment of Professor Walter Thomas, Chair of General Physiology, and Professor Chen Chen, Chair of Endocrinology, both recruited externally.

“Professors Thomas and Chen were attracted to UQ by the success of the biomedical precinct and are keen to contribute to its continued growth,” Professor Key said.

Professor Thomas graduated from UQ with a Bachelor of Science (1982) and a PhD in Physiology (1992), spending time as a postdoctoral fellow in the USA before returning to the Baker Medical Research Institute as an NHMRC Fellow.

Professor Chen graduated in medicine from Shanghai Medical University (1982) and completed a Master of Science in Beijing.

After two successful post doctoral fellowships in France and the USA, Professor Chen moved to Prince Henry’s Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne.

Professor Chen, who holds honorary professorships with six Chinese universities, is keen to develop the University’s research relationship with China in the biomedical sciences.
Brisbane firms Wilson Architects and Donovan Hill have won an architectural design competition for an Australian-first centre which will house leading medical research and commercialisation teams including a UQ institute.

Premier Anna Bligh congratulated both companies on their design for the Translational Research Institute (TRI), which will take Queensland and Australia to the next level of medical research, development and commercialisation.

"It will be the first institute of its kind in Australia – and one of only a few in the world – to have the ability to discover, produce, clinically test and manufacture new biopharmaceuticals and treatments all in the one place," Ms Bligh said.

"Bringing everything together under the one roof means our scientists will be able to more quickly take their research from the labs to the bedside, which is very good news for Queenslanders."

The State Government has contributed more than $100 million to the construction and that has been matched by the Federal Government.

Construction is due to begin next year with the Centre expected to open in late 2011.

The Premier said the Institute would pay for itself with the development of just one blockbuster drug.

"Australia missed out on up to $300 million during the development of Gardasil®, the cervical cancer vaccine discovered (at UQ by 2006 Australian of the Year Professor Ian Frazer and his late research partner Dr Jian Zhou), because we couldn’t fully trial and commercialise the drug here," Ms Bligh said.

The TRI will be at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, a UQ teaching hospital in Brisbane, and will include UQ’s Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology and Metabolic Medicine – which Professor Frazer directs.

Queensland Regional Development and Industry Minister, Desley Boyle, said the TRI would focus on a wide range of health and medical research areas including cervical cancer, breast cancer, melanoma, liver and kidney disease, malaria, HIV, osteoporosis, obesity, arthritis and diabetes, and accommodate more than 600 researchers.

"They will be drawn from UQ’s Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology and Metabolic Medicine, the Mater Medical Research Institute, the Queensland University of Technology’s Institute for Health and Biomedical Innovation and the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

“The Institute will also house a new pilot-scale manufacturing and testing facility for BioPharmaceuticals Australia which will develop drugs and vaccines for use in research."

Professor Frazer said the project provided an exciting opportunity for collaborations between scientists, clinicians, and bioengineers, and should bring treatments developed through Australian research into the clinic faster.

“This project is an investment in our children’s future health. The TRI will be focused on providing solutions for major health problems that are becoming more common in all societies worldwide, including diabetes, cancer and arthritis,” Professor Frazer said.

“The partnership between the Institute and BioPharmaceuticals Australia will ensure that Australians can be first in line to get the benefits of new treatments.”

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield, AO, said the TRI would have an exponential impact on Australia’s capacity for medical research and commercialisation.

“By co-locating hundreds of researchers who are collaborating on complementary projects, the TRI will boost productivity in terms of the numbers of drugs that enter trials and eventually reach the market,” Professor Greenfield said.
Finance legend’s dual honour

UQ has twice-recognised a lifetime of service to the University and the field of finance by naming a Professorial position and establishing a scholarship fund in honour of a retiring academic.

The Frank Finn Professorship in Finance and the Frank Finn Scholarship Fund are named after the former Director of Studies for the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law who finished working at the University in December.

The Professorship will be held by the senior Professor of Finance in the UQ Business School, currently School Head, Professor Tim Briersford.

The Frank Finn Scholarship Fund has been established from generous donations by many of Frank Finn’s former students and colleagues.

Professor Finn had been working at the University since he was first appointed Lecturer in the then Department of Commerce in 1969. His association with UQ began in 1983 when he started a Bachelor of Commerce degree.

Executive Dean of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law and a long-time colleague of Professor Finn, Professor Ian Zimmer, said the establishment of the Professorship and the fund recognised Professor Finn’s great contribution to UQ, its students, and his field of study.

“Professor Finn is one of the most respected finance academics, not only in Australia, but also in the Asia-Pacific region,” Professor Zimmer said.

“He has had a lasting impact on the students he came in contact with, many of whom he still keeps in touch with.”

Professor Finn’s positions at UQ included Senior Lecturer, Reader, Professor of Finance (appointed 1983), Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Economics, Head of the School of Commerce and Director of Studies in the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law.

His main areas of academic interest lay in accounting and finance, where he contributed to literature via books and papers and served as Editor of the journal Accounting and Finance and on the editorial advisory board of four journals.

In recognition of his many achievements, Professor Finn has recently been conferred the title of Emeritus by the University Senate.

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2008

UQ congratulates the following Australia Day Honour recipients:

**Companion of the Order of Australia (AC)**

**Dr Bill Glasson**
UQ graduate and former lecturer in clinical ophthalmology. For service to medicine through contributions to people in rural and remote areas, to the eye health of Indigenous people, and to professional medical organisations.

**Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)**

**Leo Keliher**
UQ graduate in Economics and Arts. Former Director-General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (2001-2005). Service to public administration in Queensland and NSW, particularly as leader in the implementation of public sector reform initiatives.

**Ross Rolfe**
UQ Senator and graduate. Director-General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet after Mr Keliher (2005-2007). For service to the community through the development and implementation of major infrastructure policies and in the co-ordination of whole-of-government program initiatives in Queensland.

**Member in the General Division (AM)**

**Denis Feeney**
Former UQ Director of Human Resources. For services to human resources management in the tertiary education sector through the implementation of best practice industrial relations, change management strategies and staff development, particularly in leadership.

**Loftus Harris**
UQ Graduate in Arts. Currently, Director-General, Department of State and Regional Development, NSW (since 1997). Former Queensland Director-General of Tourism, Small Business and Industry and Department of Premier, Economics and Trade Development. For service to economic and regional development in NSW and the promotion of international trade and investment policies.

**Rev the Hon Patrick Comben**
UQ Graduate in Arts with Honours and PhD. Former Queensland Government Minister: Education (1992-95) and Environment and Heritage (1989-92). For service to the Parliament of Queensland, to the Anglican Church of Australia, and to the community through heritage, environmental and social welfare organisations.

**Professor Francis Monsour RFD**
UQ PhD graduate and former UQ Clinical Professor in Surgery. For service to dentistry in oral and maxillofacial surgery and education.

**Kevin Knight**
External member of UQ’s Risk Management Committee. For service to risk management through executive roles with professional associations and as a contributor to the development of principles and practices.

**Medal in the General Division (OAM)**

**Emeritus Professor Roger Lovell**
Worked at UQ Gatton for 20 years, including as Pro-Vice-Chancellor. For service to business and commerce for the food and packaging sector, particularly in education and training.

**Hugh Grant**
UQ law graduate. For service to the law through the Queensland Law Society and to the community of Rockhampton.

**Public Service Medal**

**Emeritus Professor Michael Ward**
Previously, Professor and Head, Central Clinical division, UQ School of Medicine, Outstanding public service to health services in Queensland.
Bipolar trek to two poles

A UQ academic is aiming to raise $1 million to fund research into Bipolar Disorder through bi-polar expeditions.

Dr Tim Silk, a researcher with UQ’s Queensland Brain Institute (QBI), pitched the idea of The Bipolar Expedition at a 2007 Brightest Young Minds Conference, and now has a registered charity, a dedicated team and two adventurous trips planned.

All that’s missing are the sponsors.

The expedition involves a trek to the South Pole in November and another to the North Pole in April 2009, both with the aim of generating awareness of, and funding for, Bipolar Disorder.

“We’re hoping to attract a team of 12 people which will include some bipolar sufferers, psychiatrists and others from the community,” Dr Silk said.

“The trip will be filmed for a documentary, which will hopefully raise awareness and generate more funding for research.”

For those who prefer a slightly slower pace, Peregrine Adventures is offering a luxurious 13 night Antarctic Cruise, and will donate 10 percent of each fare to Bipolar Disorder research.

The voyage will set off from Ushuaia, at the southern tip of South America, in December.

Dr Silk said his desire to increase bipolar awareness resulted from frustration with the condition’s frequent misdiagnosis.

“Relative to a lot of brain disorders, bipolar is one we know a fair bit about and can be reasonably well managed,” Dr Silk said.

“About 70 percent of people with bipolar are misdiagnosed, so there’s a huge race to get a correct diagnosis and put the research which has been done to good use.”

Bipolar Disorder, sometimes called manic depression, causes extreme mood swings.

People with the condition typically experience episodes of mania (emotional highs) and episodes of depression (emotional lows), with periods of normal mood in between.

For more information on the expedition, visit www.bipolarexpedition.org

Pain trigger

Conditions such as anxiety disorders could be treated thanks to research into the link between how people experience pain and their emotion at the time.

Researchers at UQ’s Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) have discovered a new brain mechanism that plays an important role in regulating how humans experience pain.

Scientists discovered the new mechanism while studying the amygdala – the part of the brain that deals with emotional responses.

QBI has one of few laboratories around the world looking at how the amygdala deals with pain inputs.

QBI’s Dr Andrew Delaney said there were essentially two aspects to pain.

“You have a sensory component that tells you where you are hurting and what sort of hurt you’ve had, and there’s the emotional response you have to that event,” he said.

“The sensory part of pain is quite well understood, but until now very little had been done to look at the emotional part of pain.”

QBI scientists used an anatomical technique which involved labelling the neurons in what is essentially the brain’s pain-relay station to identify target cells in the amygdala that receive inputs during pain.

Researchers were able to record responses when the pain inputs were stimulated electrically.

“People have long thought there’s a connection between your experience of pain and emotional responses. We’ve found that these two systems interact at the synaptic level,” Dr Delaney said.

Historically, this has been borne out by first-hand reports from people who have suffered a traumatic injury during the height of combat and yet gone on to all but ignore their injury for some time.

A similar phenomenon happens on the sporting field where, during the game’s emotional zenith, a player injures a knee or ankle but manages to finish the play or walk off.

For many years, this was thought to be a spinal cord effect, whereby the release of hormones during heightened emotions inhibit the transmission of pain – sometimes called the “gate theory” of pain.

“Our findings indicate that there is also an interaction between the stress pathways in the brain and the pain pathway that targets the amygdala,” Dr Delaney said.

“This seems to indicate that during times of stress, our emotional response to pain may also be modulated, perhaps reducing the emotional impact of a painful experience.”

QBI’s Head of Synaptic Plasticity, Professor Pankaj Sah, said chronic pain sufferers had higher incidence of anxiety disorders – conditions known to involve dysfunctional processing in the amygdala.

“This study reveals an important site for interaction between the pain and emotional systems of the brain, potentially offering a key connection as to how this might be occurring,” he said.

“Understanding how these systems interact at the synaptic level might reveal the nature of these dysfunctional states and offer an insight into how we might better treat such conditions.”
University of Queensland experts are leading the way in attempts to address a critical shortfall of trained research personnel working in the area of native title resolution.

With the help of a $100,000 grant handed down by the federal Attorney-General’s Department last year, UQ will this month host the first of three workshops devoted to tackling pressing issues of professionalism in the native title arena.

Entitled Improving Capacity in Native Title Research: Anthropological Issues and Concepts, the workshop will take place across three days (March 26-28) at the University’s St Lucia campus, and will incorporate a mix of presentations and round table discussions.

Event co-coordinator, anthropologist Professor David Trigger, said the workshop series signalled an important step towards addressing some of the key issues facing native title professionals today.

“Over the past 10 years or so we have found there is an insufficient supply of adequately trained graduates and furthermore, that there is some negative feeling across the profession about native title work,” Professor Trigger said.

As well as providing practical training and leadership, Professor Trigger hopes the workshops will facilitate much-needed debate and professional exchange, and in so doing, contribute to professional development activities and to the pool of researchers available in the field.

“Research reports prepared by people trained in anthropology (and other disciplines including history) are central to both negotiated agreement and contested court cases,” he said.

“(However), at the moment, training new graduates for this area of work is made difficult because of a lack of open availability of the results of research since the development of native title.

“To take an obvious example, connection reports that have been successful in the resolution of claims in various state jurisdictions are typically not available as models and prompts for discussion among researchers.

“As well as seeking to publish the results of one workshop in a set of professional papers, we will investigate ways to progress development of a research archive in an apt location such as the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies located in Canberra.”

Further information about the native title workshops is available at www.socialscience.uq.edu.au or by contacting c.dalley@uq.edu.au

Among the thousands of new students joining UQ last month were a select group of scholars who will help ring in a major milestone in 2008.

Since 1998, the University’s Enhanced Studies Program (ESP) has given high-achieving Year 12 students the chance to study a subject while still attending secondary school.

In ESP’s 10th anniversary year, a record 83 high students from around the State have taken up the opportunity to “test drive” University life and study at UQ.

With a growing number of courses on offer, Student Recruitment Manager, Jessica Gallagher, said the program was more popular than ever.

“Nominations for ESP have more than doubled just in the past year, and I think that’s because students realise exactly how valuable an opportunity like this can be,” she said.

“ESP students are treated like real university students – they attend lectures and tutorials and have access to all of the University’s services and facilities.

“As well as giving them a greater insight into a study area of their interest, this experience can help them to make an informed decision about their future tertiary studies.”

Nominated by their schools in the last semester of Year 11, ESP students study an introductory course fee-free during their first semester of Year 12. They may also be able to gain credit for their progress if they enroll in a UQ program at a later date.

Teah Pantano, who completed the program in 2006 and is now studying a UQ Bachelor of International Hotel and Tourism Management, said the program not only enriched her Year 12 experience but helped her decide her university preferences.

“I really enjoyed the opportunity to meet other UQ students, (taking) full advantage of all of UQ’s services and facilities (and) would recommend the ESP to anyone looking for a challenge in Year 12,” she said.

This year, students chose from 85 courses on offer at the St Lucia, Ipswich and Gatton campuses in a variety of subject areas including agriculture, law, political science, journalism, psychology and tourism.

For more information about the program, visit www.uq.edu.au/guidance/esp
Efforts add up

University alumnus Professor Jim Hill has been awarded the 2008 ANZIAM medal for outstanding achievements in Applied Mathematics and services to the field.

The prize is awarded on the basis of research achievements, activities enhancing mathematics and contributions to the Australian and New Zealand Industrial and Applied Mathematics organisation.

The Head of UQ’s School of Physical Sciences, Professor Halina Rubinsztain-Dunlop, congratulated Professor Hill on the achievement. “This is a true testament to his status as one of Australia’s leading mathematicians,” she said.

Professor Hill was awarded a Doctor of Science in 1988 from UQ and is now the Head of the Nanomechanics Group in the School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics at the University of Wollongong.

He is currently working in applied mathematical modelling in nanotechnology, including interacting molecular nanostructures, nanofluids and nanoscale heating.

Since the early nineties, Professor Hill has received almost $4million in research funding from the Australian Research Council including a five-year Senior Research Fellowship and a current Professorial Fellowship.

An active member and former Vice-President of the Australian Mathematical Society (AMS), he also held the position of Chair for ANZIAM for two years.

Professor Hill has not only been active in professional circles but has encouraged, mentored and supported a considerable number of students at all levels, many of whom have gone on to become successful scholars who have influenced the discipline in Australia, New Zealand and further abroad.

His career includes time as Associate Editor of five major international mathematical journals including the MA Journal of Applied Mathematics (Oxford University Press), the Quarterly Journal of Mechanics and Applied Mathematics (Oxford University Press), the Journal of Engineering Mathematics (Kluwer), the Journal of Mathematics and Mechanics of Solids (Sage Science Press), and, for more than 25 years, the ANZIAM Journal of Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

Professor Hill is also a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and Its Applications and a Companion of the Institute of Engineers.

NEW LOOK FOR UNION

Improving campus culture and accountability will be the focus of the UQ Union in 2008.

New UQ Union President Joshua Young hopes his year in office will mark a turning point for the University’s student body, ushering in a host of changes designed to improve student services and revitalise campus culture.

The 21-year-old swept to electoral victory in last year’s union elections on the back of his “Fresh” team’s successful platform of addressing bread-and-butter student concerns and boosting union accountability.

Previously a union councillor and National Union of Students (NUS) delegate, his election marks a changing of the guard, delivering the University with its first ‘liberal’ president in over a decade.

A fourth-year Business Management/ Economics student, Mr Young said it was the opportunity to affect practical change that drew him to the position.

“The union is a vital institution with a rich history, and the president has a unique opportunity to make an impact on the way that students are represented and provided services on campus,” he said.

“This is the first time for quite a while that a ‘liberal’ executive will be working in the union, and it’s a real chance for us to try new strategies and succeed.”

According to Mr Young, this means making facilities more affordable, investing in the University’s campus culture, and redeveloping the internal structure of the union.

“We have already begun a union review process which is being conducted by Ernst and Young, which we hope will lead to significant gains in terms of efficiency.

“There’ll also be noticeable changes on campus with the reopening of the Schonell Theatre, as well as immediate price cuts and a more active campus culture.

“I am also very keen to see the union adopt the International Accounting Standard and begin publishing its financial information in the public space in the interests of greater accountability and scrutiny.”

As well as targeting issues of social justice — through the re-introduction of Student Emergency Loans; campaigning on public transport and car-parking charges; and a broad focus on student equity — Mr Young said the union was firmly focused on overcoming the challenges presented by Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU).

“I strongly believe in the freedom of association and the democratic right of students to choose what ideals they support, and while we do have to take a moderate approach, I’m proud to be a member of a Union that doesn’t force money from students’ pockets,” he said.

“This year, I hope to show that it’s possible, under a VSU environment, to run a revenue-neutral student union that is self-sufficient in the short, medium and long-term.”

Mr Young said he looked forward to working in a cooperative environment to achieve significant progress for students and leave the union on solid footing for 2009.

“This year, I hope to show that it’s possible, under a VSU environment, to run a revenue-neutral student union that is self-sufficient in the short, medium and long-term.”
**Stressbusting superheroine big on small screen**

Professor Niki Ellis, Director of UQ’s Centre for Military and Veterans’ Health, is a woman dedicated to eliminating stress from Australian workplaces.

In a new ABC reality television show, due to air in April, Dr Ellis, (or the StressBuster), visits four organisations – an animal shelter, a police communications centre, an aged care facility and a courier company – and offers her consultancy skills as an occupational physician.

“I’ve worked in the area of occupational stress for the past 20 years, and the key thing I’ve realised is that the best way to tackle the problem is at the root cause,” Dr Ellis said.

“It’s better to address the way work is organised and managed as opposed to developing strategies for the individual.”

StressBusters, the brainchild of Dr Ellis and two London-based TV producers, documents the four companies’ attempts at implementing strategies to eradicate workplace stress.

Dr Ellis, who worked as a medical doctor before specialising as an occupational physician, also identifies whether “key workplace stressors”, such as job security and control, are the cause of workplace stress within each company.

“I go into a workplace and look at the workplace data – things like sick leave rates, workers compensation claims and the employee counselling service, if there is one,” Dr Ellis said.

“I also conduct interviews with managers and focus groups with workers, and develop an organisational health report.

“We come up with a plan and I return two to three months later to see how they’ve done.”

Despite being Dr Ellis’s television debut, she said working in front of the camera was less daunting than she had imagined.

“I did find it quite strange, but I just coped with it by being normal and doing what I normally do. It didn’t have as much impact as I thought, and I don’t think it distorted the final product.”

Dr Ellis is Director of the Centre for Military and Veterans’ Health at UQ, which is dedicated to innovatively seeking solutions to military and veterans’ health issues through research, and offers her consultancy skills as an occupational physician.

“Where every you are you are, at the centre or at the front, stress is a major issue,” she said.

“Military and veterans’ health is very stressful, and it is something that needs to be addressed. It is a unique situation, and it is something that needs to be handled differently.”

In addition to the hospital services, the system can also provide high quality treatment services to patients in their own homes,” Dr Ellis said.

“Consulting an Allied Health Specialist could soon be as easy as sitting down in front of a computer screen.”

Patients in North Queensland requiring rehabilitation consultations may benefit from an innovative telehealth service currently being trialled by Queensland Health, UQ and statewide telehealth services.

Cairns Hospital is working with UQ in the two-year, $130,000 eHAB trial which undertakes allied health therapy assessments and treatment on-line.

UQ specialist Dr Trevor Russell, an inventor of the system, said the University had developed the specialised videoconferencing system to allow professionals to undertake speech pathology, physiotherapy or occupational therapy consultations in a cyber environment.

“In addition to the hospital services, the system can also provide high quality treatment services to patients in their own homes,” Dr Russell said.

“For example, we can have a physiotherapist, an occupational therapist or a speech pathologist sitting in front of one system here at the hospital, and a patient sitting in front of another system in another facility, or indeed their own home – and they can carry out an on-line consultation.

“The system basically allows allied health professionals to undertake clinical measurements such as balance, gait analysis, swallow assessments, and so on, over the Internet from wherever the patient might be located.”

Cairns Base Hospital physiotherapist Tania Cavanagh is the project manager for the trial.

She said the hospital had been given six eHAB units by statewide telehealth services with which to conduct the research.

“The hospital is trialling a wireless network model and they will have eHAB units situated in Cairns hospital, as well as Innisfail, Tully, Mareeba, Atherton and Mossman hospitals,” Ms Cavanagh said.

“From any of these systems, clinical staff will be able to connect to any other system.

“Wherever an appropriate allied health professional might be located and available within the network, an on-line consultation with a patient from another facility is possible.”

“This eHAB service will enable allied health professionals to perform real-time, objective evaluations of their clients to assist with accurate diagnostic and treatment procedures.”

Dr Russell said the eHAB trial would be evaluated to determine how much patient and staff travel time it saved, as well as gauge improvements in access for those in country areas to allied health professionals.

“We expect there will be improvements in all these areas,” Dr Russell said.

“We also expect the eHAB service will result in improved professional supervision, confidence and support for allied health professionals, wherever they are based.”

The eHAB trials are backed by the Cairns and Hinterland Health Service District, and the statewide Telehealth service, which is a Queensland Health unit dedicated to developing a standard model of telehealth service and rolling out the new technology State-wide.

Allied health staff have been trained in the use of the eHAB systems in recent weeks, with the tele-rehabilitation trial going live early this month.

Patients in Southern Queensland can also look forward to a similar trial coming on line shortly from Toowoomba hospital.
funding the future

TWO HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL UQ GRADUATES HAVE PROVIDED THE UNIVERSITY WITH AN $18 MILLION ENDOWMENT – AND A FIRM VISION FOR HOW IT SHOULD BE USED.

“Donors are interested in being actively involved in the process and seeing the positive impact that their support has on the individual, industry or the community.”

Examples include scholarships, named professorial chairs and contributions to specific research programs.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield AO enthusiastically welcomed the fund and praised Mr Brice and Mr Wood.

“This initiative is tremendous for its foresight as well as its generosity,” Professor Greenfield said.

“We are delighted that Andrew and Graeme have chosen UQ as the target of their personal generosity and the prescribed private fund,” Professor Greenfield said.

“It is rare for an Australian university to benefit from this scale of donation from alumni, yet graduate philanthropy is likely to be a hallmark of internationally competitive Australian universities in the not-too-distant future.”

Mr Brice and Mr Wood said the motivation to create the fund followed a universal trend of benefactors wishing to become more engaged with their contributions.

“Engagement with the donation process is desirable because it offers accountability and motivation,” Mr Brice said.

“Donors are interested in being actively involved in the process and seeing the positive impact that their support has on the individual, industry or the community.”

Mr Wood said he and Mr Brice hoped the motivation and opportunity to personalise the process would help spark an increase in the level of educational philanthropy throughout Australia.

UQef will work in partnership with UQ to provide the best possible outcomes for the students of UQ and the future of the University.

It will be overseen by a board consisting of UQ alumni and business people including Mr Wood, John Wylie of Lazard Carnegie Wylie, Tim Crommelin of ABN AMRO Morgans and Darryl McDonough of Clayton Utz, who will ensure the expectations of benefactors are met.

Mr Wood during his address

Teamwork focus of healthy weekend

More than 1200 first year health students took part in a two-day teamwork activity at UQ last month in a unique and fun introduction to interprofessional education.

Instead of patients, students from a range of disciplines from midwifery to speech pathology worked together on challenging and fun team activities, including constructing an improvised stretcher for use in a “field emergency”.

The activities, on February 23 and 24 at St Lucia, involved around 600 students each day and were designed to introduce students to the importance of teamwork, a focus that will continue throughout their education.

The students who participated have enrolled to study dentistry, health sciences, human movement studies, medicine, midwifery, nursing, occupational therapy, oral health, pharmacy, physiotherapy and speech pathology.

UQ Faculty of Health Sciences’ Director of Interprofessional Education, Professor Peter Baker, said he believed UQ was the first university to hold a Teamwork in Action Weekend for all new health students.

He said starting this year, interprofessional education would be integrated into the curriculum of all health students within the Faculty.

“Health professionals working as an effective team are the key to achieving the best outcomes for patients,” Professor Baker said.

“Despite this, the need for teamwork is not a concept that is widely taught at universities. “This event heralds the introduction of a Faculty-wide curriculum in interprofessional education.

“As a result, UQ health graduates will understand that their profession is not an isolated silo of knowledge and skills, but that they have an important role to play as part of a health delivery team.

“They will enter the workforce better equipped to work with their fellow health professionals and this will deliver better outcomes for patients.

“During each year of their degree, students will be required to complete modules reinforcing the importance of collaboration.

“Modules will increase in complexity with their studies, with some requiring a teamwork approach to solving patient cases.”
THOUSANDS OF NEW STUDENTS HELPED MAKE THIS YEAR’S UQ ORIENTATION PROGRAM ONE OF THE BIGGEST AND BEST YET.
The five-day event, held from February 18–22, provided an opportunity for first-year students to familiarise themselves with their new surroundings, attend relevant information sessions and enjoy a variety of social activities across the University’s three campuses.

Market Day at UQ St Lucia was the highlight of the week, with thousands turning up to visit the stalls, watch demonstrations and collect the freebies on offer.

Orientation Coordinator, Jenny Knowles, said Market Day had allowed students “to get a feel for the ‘whole’ UQ experience”.

“It’s a chance to learn about all the academic and non-academic facilities and services on offer to you as a UQ student,” Ms Knowles said.

“It’s about promoting social life on campus, be it through sporting or cultural activities.”

UQ SPORT had an impressive display including cheerleading, boxing and karate demonstrations, illustrating the range of sporting and recreational options available.

Fitting with its Fiesta theme, Mexican jugglers and a Mariachi band entertained crowds at the UQ Union stalls, where giveaways included student diaries and calendars.

Recently elected UQ Union President, Joshua Young, said he hoped the positive atmosphere present during O Week remained on campus throughout the academic year.

“There was a great buzz of excitement and optimism in the air for what the New Year could bring,” Mr Young said.

“Overall, it was one of the best Market Days UQ has had in a long time.”

And while most of the week was spent getting used to the social side of University life, students still made an effort to attend relevant information sessions and library tours.

UQ’s seven faculties were on hand with advice for the coming semester, with Social and Behavioural Sciences (SBS) offering prizes including dinners for two at Customs House.

SBS Development Manager, Gordon Lynn, said O Week was a way of extending the hand of friendship to new students as well as providing course and program information and details of support services available.

Indigenous students new to UQ got a head start on their peers during an annual orientation camp held in February.

Coordinated by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit, the three-day program introduced the group to UQ’s campuses and encouraged them to make the most of the resources, support and scholarships on offer.

Organisers Georgina Baira, Stephen Corporal and Judy Dale said the event was a good way for first-year students to find their feet.

“The whole reason behind having the camp was to introduce our new students to a whole new environment. For our school leavers we try and make that transition easy, and also for mature-aged students it’s a way of easing them back into University,” Ms Baira said.

“Settling in and having a look at what we offer on all of our campuses just makes this part easier for them.”

The new students include those from interstate and overseas, and are enrolled in a variety of programs including Business, Social Work and Science.

Bachelor of Arts student Philippa Coral Fitz-Henry said being able to talk to staff one-on-one took some of the stress out of orientation.

“It lifts a load off your shoulders because everything that you’re going to need is there and the Unit has clearly made sure of that,” she said.

“You might think ’I can’t go and ask someone for help’ or ‘I can’t go for that scholarship’ but this highlights the opportunities and makes it a whole lot less daunting.”

The camp is part of wider UQ initiatives to encourage and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students throughout their studies.

For further information, visit www.uq.edu.au/atis
Careers Fair opens doors

Students will have a unique opportunity to explore career pathways and meet with potential employers when the University holds its annual UQ Careers Fair on March 12.

Every year the event lures major employers from around the country and Dean of Students Dr Lisa Gaffney is predicting a record turnout this year. 

“Employers and recruiting agencies have long recognised the Careers Fair as a wonderful avenue for recruiting some of Australia’s best and brightest graduates, but with more than 160 companies already signed up to meet and network with students, this year’s Fair looks set to be our best ever,” Dr Gaffney said.

“Students will be afforded an invaluable opportunity to gather information, ask questions and meet face-to-face with a wider pool of potential employers than ever before.

“In exploring their vocational options, I’m sure many will also discover a host of career prospects they had not previously considered.”

The 2008 Fair, which will run from 11am to 4pm, will be held at the UQ Centre, St Lucia campus. Students can drop by at any time to gather information, ask questions and meet with employers, each of whom will have their own booth and display area.

Among those scheduled to attend are the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Brisbane City Council, Centrelink Graduate Program, the Department of Natural Resources and Water, Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd, Newmont Asia Pacific, Queensland Treasury, QANTAS, Sunwater, Thess Pty Ltd, Westpac and Xstrata.

Importantly, the University and a number of other participants will also be giving away useful information on finding employment, preparing resumes and performing well at job interviews. Representatives will also be on hand to discuss opportunities for postgraduate study at UQ.

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

For more information, visit www.uq.edu.au/careersfair

Addiction BUSTER

A UQ Pharmacy Graduate is starting clinical trials of a drug that could potentially curb addictions such as smoking, drinking and gambling.

The drug, marketed as Chantix by Pfizer, has reduced alcohol consumption in laboratory rats by 50 percent and will be trialled in humans this month by Dr Selena Bartlett, who graduated from UQ in 1994, and her US colleague Dr Markus Heilig.

Chantix latches on to “good feeling” receptors in the brain to block cravings for addictions such as nicotine or alcohol.

Dr Bartlett is the Director of the Preclinical Development Group at the Ernest Gallo Clinic and Research Centre, one of the world’s top alcohol and addiction research centres, at the University of California in San Francisco.

She said she was convinced of the drug’s potential but it had been hard to convince others, despite the drug gaining widespread media attention in the US.

“Big companies still do not believe in the potential of addiction as a market,” Dr Bartlett said.

The Chantix trials are just one of 10 major projects for Dr Bartlett’s lab team, which is working on reducing ethanol consumption and new drug screening technologies.

Dr Bartlett was asked to set up her preclinical lab to study addiction and how it modifies brain function.

“I wanted to make a difference in the world and develop treatments that would help people. Addiction is currently one of the most under-served and least understood,” she said.

Her passion for understanding brain functions stemmed from her late sister who had schizophrenia.

“She is still very much a driving force in my life and the reason I am doing this type of translational research,” Dr Bartlett said.

Dr Bartlett grew up in the small South Burnett town of Nanango, where her parents ran the pharmacy for 35 years until last November.

Like many of her immediate and extended family, Dr Bartlett attended UQ, with the tradition stretching back to the 1920s.

She studied pharmacy at Bachelors, Honours and PhD level, with the expectation that she would eventually work in the family business.

But by the time she finished her studies she had found two new loves — her husband and neuroscience.

“I loved my time at UQ. It changed my life. I went in with all intentions of becoming a practicing pharmacist and left a neuroscientist,” Dr Bartlett said.

Dr Bartlett and now husband Peter, also then a UQ student studying electrical engineering and computer science, met while windsurfing.

After working in Australia they moved to the US where Dr Bartlett was offered the job of setting up a lab to develop a new model of translational research.

“i was advised not to do it. This is where being Australian and my experiences in Nanango kicked in. I decided to give it a go,” she said.

Peter Bartlett is now a Professor of Computer Science and Statistics at the University of California Berkeley and is an Honorary Professor within UQ’s School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering.
The UQ School of Veterinary Science recently completed an ear-flushing trial on five rescued dogs, and is now keen to find new homes for its canine study partners.

Dogs for adoption include Delilah, a purebred German shorthaired pointer; Buffy, a female staffy; Rusty, a male German shepherd cross; Basil, a male kelpie cross; and Cookie, a female cattle dog cross.

Animal welfare technician, Nicole Richards, said the dogs had been great to work with and deserved a comfortable place to live.

“The dogs were rescued from the pound and have been staying at UQ for the five-month study duration,” Ms Richards said.

“Throughout their stay they have received daily exercise, socialisation, enrichment and training by an animal welfare technician.

“Our dogs are all beautiful, healthy with very bright personalities; they need to go to loving homes with new owners who are going to give them as much love as they will give you.”

The dogs, who are all one to two-years old, de-sexed, vaccinated, wormed and micro-chipped, and have received basic training, are available for an adoption fee of $150.

Anyone interested in offering one of the dogs a new home should contact the vet clinic on (07) 3365 2110.
If you are boating in Moreton Bay and happen to see what appears like a man pointing a rifle at dolphins, don’t panic – it’s all in the name of research.

Dr Guido Parra, from The University of Queensland’s School of Veterinary Science, is running a study to collect small skin samples from two types of dolphins in the Bay.

“Moreton Bay supports significant populations of the rare humpback dolphin and the more common bottlenose dolphin,” Dr Parra said.

“The sampling represents no harm to local dolphins and will provide a wealth of information important for their conservation and management.

“Rapid urban growth and development in this region threatens the long term-survival of humpback and bottlenose dolphins in Moreton Bay and ecological studies are of great importance in guiding their conservation and management,”

Dr Parra said skin samples were obtained by firing a dart from a modified rifle, which is designed so that on impact with the animal it bounces off while retaining a small sample of skin tissue. Darts are buoyant and can be retrieved afterwards by researchers.

“This technique is the safest, most straightforward, cost-effective, and commonly used method of obtaining skin samples from live dolphins,” he said.

Dr Parra said ongoing sampling in other areas along the Queensland coast would also allow researchers to determine the amount of genetic interchange that is occurring among populations of humpback and bottlenose dolphins in Queensland waters.

“DNA extracted from these skin samples can then be used to determine the sex of the animals sampled, their social relationships, the genetic variability found in the population and their dispersal patterns,” he said.

This information will allow the definition of relevant conservation units and improve current management of humpback and bottlenose dolphins in Queensland.

The project has been approved by Queensland Parks & Wildlife and UQ’s animal ethics committee, and is one of the many efforts and long-term commitments to whale and dolphin research by UQ’s Cetacean Ecology and Acoustics Laboratory, headed by Dr Michael Noad.

**SEEING eye to eye**

UQ researchers have launched a new online archive of more than 770 retinal topography maps covering 160 different species.

Created by Professor Shaun Collin, from UQ’s School of Biomedical Sciences, the database is the first to bring together previously published retinal maps from around the globe.

Professor Collin said the database was a step forward in the evolutionary and ecological study of the visual system of a large range of vertebrates.

“The distribution and density of retinal neurons is a powerful means of defining the way that a species interacts and adapts its physiology with the surrounding environment,” Professor Collin said.

“The examination of retinal topography can give researchers an insight into the environmental conditions of a particular species, such as the levels of available light, the complexity of the natural environment, the spatial resolving power of the eye and therefore the size and mobility of potential prey, and ways in which the eye scans for predators. *

“Bringing together these previously published maps into a single and searchable database will allow neuroscientists, visual ecologists and students from around the globe to access these maps for their own study and discussion.”

The online database is the result of nearly three years of research and compilation by Professor Collin and his team.

Sourced from libraries and universities around the globe, and the Professor’s own collection, each of the maps in the database shows a whole mounted retina with orientation axes, a scale and the density of various retinal cells.

Professor Collin has also invited the publication of new maps in the database with both published and unpublished topography maps able to be submitted online to the database by the publisher or copyright holder.

The Database of Retinal Topography Maps can be accessed at www.optometrists.asn.au/CEO/retinasearch

**IMB investment**

Scientists from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB) have developed a proprietary technology to help other researchers understand fundamental aspects of growth, development, and disease.

The technology has been licensed to US company Invitrogen via IMBcom, UQ’s company for the commercialisation of intellectual property arising from Institute research.

Dr Marcel Dinger and Professor John Mattick of the IMB have designed a new type of microarray RNA (ribonucleic acid) chip, used by researchers to analyse which genes are being expressed at any one time in a particular cell.

In the past these genes were thought only to code mainly for proteins, via the production of “messenger RNAs”, but it is now evident that many other genes produce non-coding RNAs whose functions have yet to be determined.

“There is increasing recognition that these RNAs control various levels of gene expression in physiology and development, as well as in the brain,” Professor Mattick said.

Products commercialised by Invitrogen will use a novel set of probes designed by the researchers, which can uniquely identify tens of thousands of coding and non-coding RNA sequences.

The CEO of IMBcom, Dr Peter Tisdale, said the technology would allow researchers to obtain more accurate information about the relationship between messenger and non-coding RNA expression.

“It has the potential to make a real impact in cancer and stem cell research, as these RNAs are implicated in both of these areas,” he said.
Why leave UQ for southern India? That’s the question I’ve been asked countless times since 2006, when I decided to study for two semesters of my Journalism/Arts degree with UQ Abroad. My plan was to spend nearly three months holidaying in South America, take a semester of Political Science at Charles University, Prague and then head to India for a semester of my Journalism degree at Manipal University.

Nobody had a problem with Prague. Einstein was a professor at Charles University and the city’s history is tied up with illustrious figures like Mozart, Johannes Kepler, Alfonso Mucha and of course Kafka – how could I go wrong? Besides, the beer was cheap.

It was India that people struggled to comprehend: why leave Brisbane to study in a country that’s still developing? Will there be electricity or hot water? Internet? Computers? What about the food? How will you get around? Can you even find safe, clean accommodation?

The five months studying in Prague were like nothing I’d ever experienced. The atmosphere in the city was amazing; every brick and cobblestone had witnessed countless empires and revolutions. Students from all over Europe and the world came together to study and exchange ideas; my fondest memories were of evenings up in the Castle ruins at Vysehrad watching the sun go down over Prague while discussing the great complexities of life with my fellow students.

Then I landed in Mumbai, and the great complexities of life slapped me in the face. By the time I’d travelled the 18 hours down the west coast to Manipal, I’d realised that although there was electricity, internet and computers, a sea of humanity 1.2 billion people deep can still be a tad disconcerting.

However, life in Manipal wasn’t quite the same as the rest of India. The University grew out of a Medical College, established in 1953, and is now considered one of the premier Universities in India. Students from North America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Oceania bring a strong multicultural atmosphere to the small, rural town. Even though the Institute of Communication is new to Manipal it had fully equipped television and recording studios, and was building a new library. An amazing beach was just 20 kilometres away and Goa only 4 hours by train to the North.

Although some aspects of life there were, at times, hard to deal with (I don’t know how many times I got food poisoning) the differences in culture and world view taught me things I previously took for granted; the joy of community, the importance of identity and the fulfilment a hard yet simple life can bring.

Coming home has been the hardest part so far (a lot changes in 14 months) but I now believe studying overseas towards your degree shouldn’t be optional. Go to the UQ-Abroad website and check out the 27 countries you could study in. The challenges and opportunities you’ll come across and the people you’ll meet will change your life forever; it did for me.

To learn more about studying overseas during your UQ degree, visit www.uq.edu.au/uqabroad/
UQ Business School academic Dr Jamie Alcock and graduate Trent Carmichael have solved a financial problem that has puzzled researchers for more than 10 years.

Posed in 1996 by Professor Michael Stutzer, of Leeds School of Business at The University of Colorado, the problem challenged the world’s finance scholars and practitioners to come up with a nonparametric method of pricing American options at the time.

Dr Alcock said it had taken over a decade to solve the problem.

“A nonparametric method is one that doesn’t make any assumptions about the statistical distribution of underlying stock prices,” he said.

“Most methods used to price stock and derivatives do rely on a model of stock price movements – so if the model doesn’t reflect what actually happens, the pricing method can become useless.”

UQ Business School graduate Trent Carmichael, who was UQ’s Graduate of the Year in 2006, worked with Dr Alcock on the project.

Mr Carmichael said the new method did not require observed option prices, only stock prices.

“Our method is unique among nonparametric methods because, thanks to using only stock prices, it works even when the options are not traded securities,” Mr Carmichael said.

“Our method can be applied to real options, credit risk models and executive stock options.”


The research will be published in the Journal of Futures Markets later this year.

“Most methods used to price stock and derivatives do rely on a model of stock price movements – so if the model doesn’t reflect what actually happens, the pricing method can become useless.”
BIOFUEL SUCCESS

The thought of powering your house on banana waste may sound a little unrealistic, but two years ago Associate Professor Bill Clarke proved it was a possibility.

Between 2004 and 2005, Dr Clarke, supported by the Queensland Government and The Australian Banana Growers’ Association Inc, uncovered the potential to produce energy from banana waste.

Growcom, a peak horticulture organisation, has recently transformed Dr Clarke’s research into a commercial-scale project in North Queensland, a location where bananas are far from scarce.

The venture is supported by additional Queensland government funding.

“We demonstrated in 2004-2005 that waste bananas and stalk material within the banana bunch are a great source of methane,” Dr Clarke said.

“There are no technical problems with producing methane from bananas. “However, for the process to be economically viable, we need to develop a cheaper and simpler digester compared to those that are currently used for organic waste in Europe.”

While extracting methane from bananas is technically possible, it is no simple task.

“Methane is produced by loading the bananas into an air-tight reactor, with careful control of pH and, ideally, temperature,” he said.

“Growcom has built a pilot scale bladder reactor which sits in an excavation in the ground.

“The bladder contains the bananas and biogas.”

Biogas is a combination of methane and carbon dioxide and could potentially be used as an alternative energy source.

“The biogas can either be stored at moderate pressure, possibly for use as a transportation fuel, or directed to a gas engine to generate electricity, as is currently done in Australia at a number of landfills,” he said.

Dr Clarke has taken on an advisory role with the Growcom plant, and has provided design and operational advice.

Using renewable energy is economically viable for tourist accommodation despite being considered expensive and inefficient, a new UQ study has found.

UQ PhD graduate Gordon Dalton, who conducted the survey, found 70 percent of operators were interested in adopting renewable energy although they were worried about set up costs, reliability and efficiency.

Dr Dalton canvassed 150 regional Queensland tourism operators and 350 tourists, mostly Australian, who were asked about their attitudes to renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power while on holiday.

About 70 percent of tourists said they would change their energy consumption habits such as turning off lights and turning down air conditioners while away, while a majority said they would even tolerate a blackout as a result of renewable energy failure.

“Tourists are in favour of renewable energy, they want their hotels to have renewable energy, they’re willing to accommodate its inconveniences and are willing to adapt to some extent,” Dr Dalton said.

Going green for good

UQ has become one of the first universities in Australia to draw its electricity from renewable energy sources.

As part of an ongoing commitment to reducing its ecological footprint and encouraging environmentally-sustainable practices, the University has signed up to use 2.5 percent GreenPower in 2008.

UQ Engineering Manager Stewart Hobbs said the purchase was likely to be the first of many, as the University works to cut greenhouse emissions and consolidate its leading environmental credentials.

“We have thousands of students and staff on campus each week and an impressive network of facilities, the University is a major energy-user,” Mr Hobbs said.

“In light of this, and our standing within the community, we think it is imperative that the University leads the way with green initiatives such as this one.”

“With this initial purchase alone, we stand to reduce emissions by a whopping 3400 tonnes of CO2 this year – that’s enough to run about 580 homes every month.”

The switch to renewable energy is the latest in a string of water, power and waste management strategies employed at UQ.

Since 2002, the University has invested well over $1 million in water saving measures, reducing water consumption by 50 percent, and earning UQ the title of “Top Water Saver” for the Brisbane City Council area in 2006.

Savings to date have been achieved through a range of initiatives including retrofitting toilets, urinals, hand basins and showers with water efficient devices; using recycled water for irrigation of campus grounds; installing water meters to monitor water consumption and identify leaks; and installing two 110,000 litre rainwater tanks as part of a new building being constructed at St Lucia.

The University’s “Green Office” Program has similarly contributed to significant energy cutbacks, with the adoption of eco-friendly practices throughout UQ’s offices and affiliated businesses.

Results include estimated energy savings of over 91,000 kilowatts per year, a 44 percent reduction in the amount of recyclable material going to landfill, and an increase in the purchase of environmentally preferred products.
ADVENTURER LLOYD GODSON IS ABOUT TO EMBARK ON HIS MOST AMBITIOUS JOURNEY YET, ALL IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE.

Adventure of the Year and UQ graduate Lloyd Godson never fancied himself as a strong swimmer, but later this year will strap on a shark tail and swim 500 kilometres for science.

Mr Godson and his partner, Carolina Sarasiti, will swim down the west coast of Greece in custom-built submarines powered by their own legs.

They will be inside carbon-fibre submarines and wear 1.5-metre hydrofoil tailfins – designed by Ms Sarasiti’s brother, Alex Sarasitis – on their legs to propel them through the water.

The pair recently returned from Greece seeking project partners and planning their two-month voyage for September to October.

“**If I can inspire people to study science through TV or other projects that’s great, because science can take you to some pretty cool places.**"
If landing a top job in London, Boston or Santa Cruz sounds appealing, enrolling in UQ’s Writing, Editing and Publishing (WEP) program may be a good idea.

Offered through the School of English, Media Studies and Art History (EMSAH), and convened by Dr Roslyn Petelin, the WEP courses allow students to acquire professional writing and editing skills across corporate, creative and academic styles.

“Writing is so central to the corporate sphere, and if you write well you really can develop a niche for yourself,” Dr Petelin said.

Several graduates of the WEP program have launched successful careers in the publishing industry, including Fiona Tucker, Head of Books Publishing with Express Newspapers in London. Ms Tucker, who was part of the first cohort to study WEP at the postgraduate level in 2001, and completed her Graduate Diploma in 2002, said the qualification had provided an advantage when job-seeking.

“After graduating I worked as an editorial coordinator with UQ press, and moved to London in 2003,” Ms Tucker said.

“No one in the UK had heard of that sort of degree which I think worked well in my favour.

“I arrived in London without anything lined up and was offered jobs with Penguin, Macmillan and HarperCollins.” Ms Tucker worked with HarperCollins until February this year, when she took up an appointment with Express Newspapers.

In April, Dr Petelin and Ms Tucker plan to attend the Oxford Literary Festival, accompanied by a group of WEP students.

To make the trip possible for one student, the School is offering $1000 towards travel expenses. The cash will go to the student who submits the best 1000 words prompted by the Henry James quote: “Oxford lends sweetness to labour and dignity to leisure.”

A donation of scientific calculators by UQ to Brisbane high schools has given disadvantaged students a boost in their studies.

In total, 202 calculators and 116 USB memory sticks were donated to Yeronga State High School and Kelvin Grove State College.

Having a high population of refugee students and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, the donation of learning equipment was greatly appreciated.

It is the first time UQ has donated calculators and USB sticks, having already established projects giving sun and prescription glasses to developing countries through the Lions Club and textbooks to the UQ Alumni Association to sell to students at reduced prices.

Yeronga High School Principal Terry Heath said the donation was greatly appreciated.

“The calculators will greatly enhance the school’s ability to lift science and maths opportunities for students,” Mr Heath said.

“Currently, only some senior students have access to scientific calculators, however this donation will assist us to enable all students to have access to this level of equipment, regardless of socio-economic ability.”

UQ Security runs the calculator and USB stick donation project. The learning equipment, which is lost property, used to be sold to Government auction. Little financial benefit was gained for the valuable items at auction and donation was considered an alternative solution.

UQ Secretary and Registrar Douglas Porter said UQ Security Manager Warren Collyer and colleague Melissa Petrie came up with the concept.

“It is important to give valuable learning equipment to those who require the resources to benefit learning, when otherwise they may not have access to them,” Mr Porter said.

“The project also allows UQ to remain in contact with Brisbane high schools and to play and important role in supporting maths and science education in the state.”
A UQ TRIATHLETE IS TRAVELLING TO THE WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS AFTER A STRING OF STRONG PERFORMANCES.

Q SPORT scholarship holder Joshua Amberger has secured his place in the Australian Junior Triathlon Team for the 2008 World Championships after an impressive win in Canberra recently.

The top spot was awarded to Mr Amberger after an impressive win in race two of the 2XU Australian Junior Triathlon Series. Competing in the junior category, Mr Amberger made a break for the lead early, beating 60 other competitors to be first out of the water.

After being overtaken on the bike, Joshua caught up in the run and held off stronger and more experienced competitors to win the race with a time of 55 minutes and 13 seconds.

“It was really tough racing against the bigger guys,” Mr Amberger said.

“I used it to my advantage though and managed to stay ahead of them in the run and was very happy to come home with the win.”

The Junior Triathlon series was a qualifying race with the top three finishers receiving automatic qualification into the Australian Junior Team. The 2008 World Triathlon Championships are being held in June in Vancouver, and Mr Amberger is thrilled at once again earning a chance to compete at an international level.

After falling seriously ill the night before his first World Triathlon Championship in 2006, Mr Amberger placed an outstanding sixth at the 2007 event in Hamburg and is confident he will improve on that this year.

“My primary goal was to make the Australian Junior Team, now my aim for this season is to get a podium finish at the World Championships,” he said.

In the meantime, Mr Amberger is focusing on racing well in Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Amberger was a 2007 recipient of a University Half Blue, the highest level of recognition for student athletes, acknowledging his achievement of finishing second in the 2007 Junior Australian Triathlon Series.

He is also the holder of a UQ Clem Jones Scholarship, which runs for three years and provides access to some of Queensland’s best sporting facilities and coaching services.

The UQ Rugby Academy has welcomed a new crop of international talent for 2008.

Chris Birkett and Charlie Ingall from Europe and Ryan Sullivan from the US are part of the intake, and have already demonstrated international differences in playing style and technique and their dedication to the game.

Both European recruits come from passionate rugby nations and developed a keen interest in the sport at an early age, both beginning their playing careers at Marlow RFC at age six.

Mr Birkett’s love of the game was fostered in particular by his father, who represented Scotland.

The players have since excelled, with Mr Birkett representing the Scottish Exiles and Mr Ingall capturing the Irish Exiles and competing in the European Championships.

Half a world away, Mr Sullivan became involved in rugby by default, signing up for his college’s team after missing the soccer tryouts. He has since played for his university, Virginia Tech, for almost five years.

All three players have high ambitions for their time at the Academy and hope to develop their game and get an edge on their team mates at home.

They said the most valuable aspect of their UQ training so far had been learning to pay greater attention to detail.

“Play in Australia is much more technical; everything is broken down into technique,” Mr Birkett said.

“In the UK, training is just based on set play – practising line-outs, scrums and tackles, they don’t pick up on the technical aspect at all.”

Mr Sullivan was also full of praise for the play-making shown in Australia.

“In general, the quality of the game is much higher in Australia,” he said.

There is absolutely no attention to detail in the US and it is amazing how much is focused on technique at the Academy compared to home.”

Several UQRA players represent the UQ Rugby Club’s premier division team the Red Heavies, who kick off their 2008 season this month.
National health in focus

Professor Bush

The Healthy Communities Research Centre at UQ Ipswich is calling for a national focus on “health literacy” after a survey found most Australians don’t have the basic knowledge to keep themselves healthy.

The recently released findings were based on the 2006 Adult Literacy and Life Skills survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Research Centre Director Professor Robert Bush said the survey had included questions on health literacy for the first time.

“The research revealed that nine million Australians – or 60 percent of the population between the ages of 15 and 74 – don’t have the basic knowledge and skills to understand and use information about their own health,” he said.

“Health literacy for the first time.

The effectiveness of medical treatments assumes patient competence for carrying out instructions. The information from this survey should send alarm bells ringing.”

Based on the survey, the Centre estimates that more than 500,000 Queenslanders, aged between 15 and 74, would report their health as less than “good”. Of these, more than 350,000 would not have basic health knowledge and skills to support their own health.

“Our effectiveness to manage health promotion and disease prevention depends on, to a large extent, people having the skills to change their behaviour for better health,” Professor Bush said.

The Healthy Communities Research Centre was launched in 2007 through a partnership between UQ’s Faculty of Health Sciences and the Ipswich Hospital Foundation.
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All UQ postgraduate students from all faculties are welcome to apply.
Applications close Friday 21 March 2008.

All UQ academic staff active in research are invited to apply.
Applications close Friday 4 April 2008.

Workshop details (for both workshops)

Venue:
Novotel Twin Waters Resort, Sunshine Coast.

Cost:
Workshop fees and materials, accommodation, meals, transport to and from the St Lucia campus are provided by UniQuest.

Application/Registration:

Further information:
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