Are you passionate about research?

We are. Passion for new discoveries underpins our standing among Australia’s top three research universities* and the world’s top 35 universities*. We continue to invest in that passion with more than $20 million in research higher degree scholarships per annum. We’ve eliminated scholarship deadlines and rounds with a unique, continuous application process. Only UQ lets you apply for admission and funding on one form when you are ready.

Get your research career started today with UQ. Call (07) 3365 7932, email candidature@research.uq.edu.au or visit www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/admission

*Based on Australian Research Council funding
*Ranked 33rd in the world by UK’s Times Higher Education Supplement 2007 (www.thes.co.uk)
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

If we ask alumni and current and potential partners to get involved with the University, it is reasonable for them to expect, in return, a commitment from our most senior people. There is no doubt that such a commitment has existed for some time, but it’s important that it be explicitly reaffirmed – and that’s one of the goals of a restructure across the top of UQ’s management.

From early 2009 a new Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Relations) will have a wide-ranging remit including relations with graduates, community groups, corporations and governments. Reporting directly to me, the new PVC will work very closely with all members of UQ’s senior management team, including Professor Deborah Terry, who will become Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) with specific responsibility for interaction with high schools and prospective students, and the PVC (Research Linkages).

I am keen to harness the energy and ideas of the future PVC (External Relations) so that I can give greater focus to the many people and organisations deserving of stronger UQ attention. I have in mind not only Australian and overseas-based alumni, corporations, schools, research and development organisations, industry groups and government agencies, but also the many not-for-profit groups whose community service might be enhanced by partnerships with UQ.

As is often the case at UQ, pockets of people are brilliant at external interaction and inspire my ambitions for university-wide improvements. Taking a leaf out of their book, I will spend more time listening to what people want from us and developing long-term strategies for delivery. I anticipate spending up to half my time on external relations, while working with an exceptional senior executive team to build on the high standard of achievements in other aspects of UQ’s business. In 2009 two linchpins, Mr Douglas Porter and Professor Trevor Grigg will finish years of exemplary service as Secretary and Registrar and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development), respectively, however further changes will buffer the University from the loss of their particular skills sets – which will be hard to replicate. Mr Porter’s position will evolve into two positions of Executive Director (Operations) and University Secretary and General Counsel. Professor Grigg’s “development” role (which includes oversight of capital assets) will be shared between the Executive Director (Operations) and the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the latter being the renamed DVC (Academic).

Structural change will only have the desired impact if people throughout the University stay focused on the reality that mutually-beneficial engagement is intrinsic to UQ. It matters for a multitude of reasons, not least because it maximises community gains from research and knowledge and underpins the uptake of innovation. As such it enhances the outcomes of our teaching and learning and is vital to UQ’s ongoing relevance.

Professor Paul Greenfield AO
THE RIGHT MEDICINE

Naturapaths are strongly in favour of regulation of their industry, a researcher at The University of Queensland has found.

Naturapaths believe that regulation will lift the quality of practitioners, improve patient safety, promote research and allow for greater collaboration between complementary and conventional medicines, according to Jon Wardle, a PhD student with UQ's School of Population Health.

"Studies show that around half of all health consultations are with complementary medicine practitioners," Mr Wardle said.

"By dragging their feet on this issue, governments may be putting patients at risk."

His study confirmed earlier findings that practitioners were not the barrier to regulation of complementary medicine in Australia.

"In fact naturapaths want more regulation and more collaboration with conventional medicine, rather than less," he said.

"A small, but vocal section of the complementary medicine industry disagrees with tighter regulation and this is portrayed as the industry view. However, this is not representative of grass-roots practitioners."

A review of regulation found that most professional natural therapist associations, the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and government reports from the Therapeutic Goods Administration and the Victorian Department of Human Services had strongly advocated for tighter control.

The review found that patients were overwhelmingly in favour of ensuring minimum standards of practice, while the AMA had specifically identified the lack of regulation as a major hurdle to the integration of complementary therapies.

ROBOCUP WHEELS INTO UQ

The University hosted 300 school students and their robotic creations at the 2008 RoboCup Junior Queensland Championships held at the St Lucia campus last month.

Around 100 teams from throughout the state spent months preparing for the two-day competition and participated in five different categories: Soccer, Rescue, Premier Rescue, Junior Dance and Senior Dance.

The Anglican Church Grammar School took out three divisions, with winning teams also coming from Pacific Pines Primary, Saint Francis Xavier College, Yeronga State School, Brisbane Boys’ College, St Patrick’s College, Somerville House, Morayfield State High School, Redcliffe State High School and North Lakes State College.

The RoboCup Junior Competition has been operating in Australia since 2000 and aims to encourage school students to take an active interest in scientific and technological fields.

Associate Professor Stephen Wilson from UQ's School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering said for young students, RoboCup Junior offered a new way to develop technical abilities through hands-on experience with electronics, while also learning important teamwork skills.

"The University of Queensland is committed to fostering the growth of technology and robotics skills in young people as upcoming generations will be developing the technologies of the future and robotics is very likely to be a key technology," Dr Wilson said.

The Queensland winners travel to Perth this month to compete in the RoboCup Junior Australian Open Championships.
CHASING CHEATS

Scientists at UQ and Macquarie University have received almost $360,000 in Federal Government funding to explore novel approaches to detect growth hormone (GH) drug cheats in elite sports.

Brisbane-based researcher Jennifer Wallace, a senior research fellow in UQ's School of Medicine, is a chief investigator on the project with Dr Alamgr Khan and Dr Mark Molloy of the Australian Proteome Analysis Facility in Sydney.

The work builds on an international collaboration that developed the world's first known detection test for GH abuse in athletes, in time for the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

In 1999, Jennifer, together with Associate Professor Ross Cuneo of UQ's School of Medicine and Professor Peter Sonksen of the University of Queensland, announced the preliminary GH-2000 project, which focused on the study of proteins.

“Concerns had been growing about the increased scrutiny.

“There is an increased flow of information and entertainment products into South-East Asia, particularly those driven by external influence and dominated by Western values and ideas,” Dr Woodier said. “But with closer scrutiny, it is clear that the liberal contention that the media, and the globalised media in particular, has a liberalising effect is not as clear as it once seemed.”

Woodier said with global attention fixed on China during the Olympics it had been fascinating to see how the country's politicians dealt with the increased scrutiny.

Dr Woodier’s thesis has now been accepted by leading academic publisher Edward Elgar.

UQ BRANCHES OUT

New UQ research may not be able to make money grow on trees but it’s definitely controlling the number of branches, with huge implications for the forestry, plant science and agriculture industries.

The joint research initiative between the University and researchers in France has discovered a new plant hormone that controls shoot branching.

The hormone strigolactone, a molecule with a specific four-ring structure, has been shown to inhibit shoot branching in plants.

By adding the compound directly to the buds or by supplying it in a solution into the stem of the plant, the number of branches is altered.

Chief Investigator and UQ Associate Professor Christine Beveridge said the research could have massive financial gains for the forestry and other plant industries.

Dr Beveridge said too many branches on a tree could take away the energy from the trunk and cause poor growth.

She said the manual removal of branches was labour intensive and it was hoped this finding would lead to a natural chemical approach to prevent branches from forming.

GLOWING RESEARCH

Energy savers come in all shapes and sizes, including the Tasmanian cave glow-worm, which “switches” off its lights at night.

The discovery was made during a UQ study which revealed the glow-worm’s prey-luring light output was governed by circadian rhythms, regardless of ambient light levels.

The project aimed to investigate the physiology and behaviours of the worms, which are actually the larval stage of a mosquito-like fly found in Australia and New Zealand.

The study’s leader, Dr David Merritt, said unlike their rainforest dwelling counterparts, the cave-dwelling Tasmanian glow-worm could detect the time of day, even from the deepest stretches of their caves.

“In the rainforest, exposure to light during the day causes them to switch off, but in caves there is no light to cause that to happen, however they switch off of their own accord and they do it in synchrony,” Dr Merritt said.

“The most unexpected result was they are out of sync with their surface relatives: they glow most brightly when it is daylight outside the cave.”

Dr Merritt suggested this discovery could strengthen the Queensland and Tasmanian insect eco-tourism industries and ensure glow-worm population numbers.

ASIAN MEDIA UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

UQ research is discovering the power of the media in South-East Asia.

Dr Jonathan Woodier, who recently completed his PhD with UQ’s School of Political Science and International Studies, said despite a perception of an increased openness in some Asian countries, authoritarian states were still aided by the mass media, rather than challenged by it.

“There is an increased flow of information and entertainment products into South-East Asia and pressures for change in the region are apparent, particularly those driven by external influence and dominated by Western values and ideas,” Dr Woodier said.

“But with closer scrutiny, it is clear that the liberal contention that the media, and the globalised media in particular, has a liberalising effect is not as clear as it once seemed.”

He said with global attention fixed on China during the Olympics it had been fascinating to see how the country’s politicians dealt with the increased scrutiny.

Dr Woodier’s thesis has now been accepted by leading academic publisher Edward Elgar.
New scope for UQ science

A new Faculty of Science at UQ will give a higher profile to learning and research on climate change, sustainability and other vital scientific areas.

The faculty will begin operations on January 1, 2009, with aims including broader student career options and better links between enabling and applied sciences.

It will be led by Professor Stephen Walker (pictured), who is currently Executive Dean of UQ’s Faculty of Engineering, Physical Sciences and Architecture (EPSA).

Professor Walker’s former roles include Executive Director, Engineering and Environmental Sciences at the Australian Research Council and Principal Research Scientist in the CSIRO’s Division of Marine Research.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the Faculty of Science would bring together areas including the Centre for Marine Studies, the School of Integrative Biology, the School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management, the School of Earth Sciences and the School of Mathematics and Physics.

These and other components of the new faculty are currently grouped into two faculties – Biological and Chemical Sciences (BACS) and EPSA.

The University committed to reorganise science after Professor Greenfield set the challenge for UQ’s science program to be recognised as Australia’s best and of international significance.

“The faculty’s structure is based on recommendations of a working group which received almost 100 submissions, most of which supported change,” Professor Greenfield said.

Professor Walker said he was excited to be part of an endeavour of tremendous value to UQ students and staff, and to the advancement of science in general.

“UQ is one of the great Australian science organisations, and this initiative will help build its profile as a great international institution for science teaching and learning, research and commercialisation,” Professor Walker said.

Professor Greenfield paid tribute to Professor Mick McManus, who stepped down as Executive Dean of BACS on August 1 after 10 years in the post.

Creation of the new faculty has been endorsed by UQ’s governing Senate, and its Academic Board, with no jobs to be lost as a result of the reorganisation.

Meanwhile, innovative teaching and research practice in engineering, architecture and information and communication technology will continue in a renamed faculty of EPSA.

EXECUTIVE APPEAL

A top-level reorganisation at UQ will focus on improving links with alumni, schools and industry.

The new executive management model positions the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Greenfield, to be more active in the University’s external relations strategies – which he prioritised after taking over the position in January.

Planning for the 2009 departure of two long-serving senior executives added to the imperative for the first major senior management reorganisation since 1997.

“The new model will take effect early in 2009 when Mr Douglas Porter and Professor Trevor Grigg finish many years of exemplary service as Secretary and Registrar and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Development), respectively,” Professor Greenfield said.

“The reorganisation takes account of dramatic changes at UQ over the past decade. Our operating budget is now more than $1 billion, we have more than 6000 staff and 38,000 students, and we have never been so involved with international networks.

“Our responses to the changing environment have been patchy.

“The new structure will enable me and my senior management colleagues to pay more attention to alumni and to other essential University partners, such as schools, industry, non-government organisations and government.

“The most significant changes include:

• A new position of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Relations)
• A new position of Executive Director and Vice President (Operations) to oversee corporate services, a function carried out by Mr Porter for 22 years

• A new position of University Secretary and General Counsel to perform the University secretariat and governance responsibilities (including Secretary to UQ’s governing body, the Senate) also undertaken by Mr Porter

In determining the new structure, Professor Greenfield examined arrangements at other Group of Eight leading research-intensive universities, weighed a number of management concepts and considered emerging UQ priorities.

“I want better responses to changing demand from the many groups that the University serves, and this requires effective communication, clear lines of responsibility and a strong focus on emerging needs,” Professor Greenfield said.

UQ’s Senate has recently endorsed the changes, and the University will shortly begin global recruitment searches to fill key senior positions.
The University of Queensland is increasing medical support in rural communities through its new $4.2 million advanced clinical training facility in Toowoomba.

UQ’s Rural Clinical School, the biggest in Australia, has added a Teaching and Learning Centre to its portfolio, with space to accommodate up to 80 students.

Located next to the Toowoomba Base Hospital, the centre will provide third and fourth-year medical students access to facilities including state-of-the-art teaching spaces, a dedicated Clinical Skills Laboratory and a 24-hour computer lab.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the University was confident the new infrastructure, combined with expansion in the Rural Clinical School’s other sites, including Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Hervey Bay-Maryborough, would give students an added incentive to take part in a rural clinical experience.

“We’ve invested a total of more than $13 million in the Rural Clinical School’s teaching and learning infrastructure, libraries and student accommodation over the past six years,” Professor Greenfield said.

“Being Australia’s largest rural clinical school in the nation’s largest medical school, it has the potential to make a tangible impact on the medical workforce shortage in rural areas.”

Professor David Wilkinson, Head of the School of Medicine, said UQ would work in collaboration with the Toowoomba Health Service District and the Clinical Skills Centre at the Royal Brisbane & Women’s Hospital to position Toowoomba as an advanced clinical training centre.

Professor Wilkinson said many general practices in Toowoomba had closed their books to new patients, placing a significant strain on local emergency departments.

He said the new Teaching and Learning Centre would allow the School to provide a positive clinical training experience, which was known to increase rural medical career placements.

School students will be able to meet centre staff and students to learn about health career opportunities, while the centre will also work with local professionals to increase medical support in the rural sector.

The building’s striking design is enhanced through environmentally sustainable aspects which include self-supporting glass walls, solar energy for winter heating and a smart air-conditioning system.

The funding for the building and land was provided by the Australian Government’s Department of Health and Ageing, which includes the provision of funding assistance to an Australia-wide network of 14 rural clinical schools.

Architect Arkhefield and builders McNab Constructions were involved in the project, with Professor Greenfield officially opening the new Teaching and Learning Centre on July 25.

— ELIZA PLANT
**Brain tumour BREAKTHROUGH**

Australian and American scientists have identified the origins of the most malignant type of brain tumour in a discovery that could lead to better therapies and improve our understanding of cancer biology.

The team, led by Professor Brandon Wainwright (pictured) from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience and Dr Robert Wechsler-Reya from Duke University in the USA, studied medulloblastomas, which occur most often in children.

“Almost half the people who develop these tumours die from them, and those who survive often suffer severe side effects from the treatment,” Professor Wainwright said.

“Improved treatments are urgently required but, in order to develop these, we need a deeper understanding of the molecular and cellular origins of medulloblastomas.”

The team found that medulloblastomas can originate from two types of cell: multipotent neural stem cells (NSCs) and granule neuron precursors (GNPs). NSCs are stem cells that can become most types of cell within the nervous system, while GNPs are similar to stem cells but only give rise to one type of cells, known as granule neurons.

“There was good evidence that either cell type could be the origin of medulloblastomas, but no one considered that both sets of evidence could be correct, and that these tumours could actually begin in two different cell types,” Professor Wainwright said.

“Identifying the normal cell that gives rise to a tumour is important because it allows direct comparisons between tumour cells and their normal counterparts so that key differences and vulnerabilities in the tumour can be identified.

“Also, recent studies suggest that cells resembling the original cell may persist in mature tumours and can be critical in ensuring its survival. If so, these cells would be an excellent target for treatment.”

The team made its discovery by examining a gene called Patched, which is involved in the regulation of both neural stem cells and GNPs. When the gene is inactivated, tumours develop.

However, when inactivation occurs, it happens in all cells, so there is no way of knowing in which cell the tumour has begun. The team took advantage of an allele, or version, of Patched that allows inactivation of the gene in either GNPs or neural stem cells, and found that the tumours develop in both instances.

The study could also have wider implications for treating other types of cancer, as the team also found that the disease doesn’t always originate in the same way.

“It has always been thought that cells had to mutate several times before becoming a tumour,” Professor Wainwright said.

“In this study we found that some stem cells only needed to mutate once. They would not turn cancerous immediately, but once they had been given an instruction to turn into a more specialised cell, the mutation would take hold.”

The study has been published in leading journal *Cancer Cell*, and is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Australian Cancer Research Foundation, the Cancer Council QLD and the John Trivett Foundation.

— BRONWYN ADAMS

**TOP MINDS MEET**

Seventeen-year-old Jayson Jeganathan from Sydney is the 2008 Australian Brain Bee Champion after an exciting battle of neuroscience knowledge at UQ’s Queensland Brain Institute.

Jayson won his way through two rounds of tough neuroscience questions, a brain-teasing anatomy exam and a doctor-patient diagnosis test, all the while stunning the judges with his seemingly limitless knowledge of brain function and disease.

As winner of the Australian Brain Bee Challenge (ABBC), Jayson is now eligible to compete at the International Brain Bee Challenge in America in 2009.

ABBC National Coordinator, Associate Professor Linda Richards said the Brain Bee remained one of the most important and exciting programs on the neuroscience calendar because it had become the showcase for the brightest young minds in neuroscience.

“The Brain Bee encourages high school students to learn about the brain, and helps to raise the profile of neuroscience research and neurological and psychiatric disorders,” Dr Richards said.

With the support and assistance of neuroscientists in Australia and New Zealand, the ABBC introduces a wide cross-section of young people to neuroscience – often called the final frontier – in a positive environment that encourages and rewards excellence.

According to Jayson, his passion for physics and maths made his foray into neuroscience all the more enjoyable.

Brain Bee winners Stephen Mackreeth, Jayson Jeganathan and Casey Linton

“I also like playing the piano and reading, but more recently I have started reading classic novels as well as non-fiction books,” he said.

Major sponsors of the Brain Bee Challenge include Carl Zeiss Pty Ltd, The University of Queensland, the Queensland Brain Institute and The Australian Neuroscience Society.
If you’re a young woman who’s passionate about life, UQ student and 2008 RSL Girl in a Million Maia Keerie is looking for you.

The 21-year-old (pictured) was awarded the prestigious title in July, and as a Youth Ambassador for the Queensland Returned and Services League and the Quest, Miss Keerie hopes to attract more young women to get involved.

“One of my aims is to increase awareness of the Quest and raise the number of entrants taking part,” she said. “Young women need to know that it’s far from a beauty pageant, it’s about young women challenging themselves to make a difference and developing themselves into the best possible people they can be.”

The RSL is the largest ex-service organisation in Queensland and provides its members (both current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force personnel) with much needed mateship, welfare and advocacy services, and youth and community programs.

Miss Keerie is currently completing her final semester of a Master of Journalism, after pursuing undergraduate studies in performing arts.

“The competition was a year-long event so I’ve been involved throughout the entire duration of my masters,” she said.

“It has been challenging at times, prioritising and keeping on top of everything, but both aspects of my life have kept me grounded.

“I have been rewarded 10 times over for any of the struggles I may have experienced.”

“With a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 6.6, Miss Keerie definitely yearns to succeed and will no doubt help raise the profile of the RSL and its importance within the Queensland community.

She entered the competition to test her inner strength and now believes other young women can also rise to the challenge.

“Each of the entrants who joined me in this Quest are just extraordinary people – you can not walk out of this Quest unmoved,” she said.

“I am always looking for opportunities to push and better myself and know it’s usually pursuing the things we fear that inspire the greatest change and growth.”

Miss Keerie said she hoped to one day further her passion for women’s rights in a PhD.

INFO ➔ Those interested in joining this year’s Quest can contact 07 3634 9444 or gim@rslqld.org

– ELIZA PLANT

UQ MANUFACTURES SMART STATE SUCCESS

Australian industry will gain a new competitive edge from a UQ-based centre built to pioneer advanced materials and manufacturing processes.

Products ranging from rockets to heart stents could be improved by the Queensland Centre for Advanced Materials Processing and Manufacturing (AMPAM) at UQ’s St Lucia campus.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said $15 million from the Queensland Government’s Smart State Innovation Building Fund, announced by Premier Anna Bligh, gave the green light to the $40 million project, due to open in 2011.

“AMPAM will consolidate Australia’s best materials processing research by combining scientists and engineers from UQ, the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Design in Light Metals, the Defence Materials Technology Centre, and three co-operative research centres (CRCs) – CAST CRC, CRC for Advanced Composite Structures and the Polymers CRC,” he said.

“Working together, scientists, engineers and business people will rapidly translate research breakthroughs into practical tools for industry, and give Queensland and other Australian businesses a vital edge over international competitors.”

AMPAM’s Acting Director Professor David StJohn said the centre would provide the critical mass of diverse expertise that was needed to efficiently invent new manufacturing technologies and products.

“By combining metals such as titanium, magnesium and aluminium, with polymers, ceramics and composites, we can create lightweight, heat-resistant products that are both cost-competitive and kinder to the environment,” Professor StJohn said.

“Innovations in products as different as rocket structures, car engines and cardiac stents could emerge from this centre within its first few years.”

The AMPAM centre was one of six major UQ projects supported by the latest Smart State Funding round, with others focusing on innovations such as turning sugar cane waste into bio-fuel, and the creation of nanotechnology to assist emerging practices in clean coal, hydrogen production and fuel cell efficiency.
Paralympic passion

Paralympic sport has been a long-time passion for UQ’s Sean Tweedy, who will attend his third Games in Beijing this month.

Dr Tweedy, the MAIC Research Fellow in Physical Activity and Disability based at the School of Human Movement Studies, has been selected to classify at the Beijing Paralympic Games by the International Paralympic Committee.

Dr Tweedy has been classifying internationally since 1993.

“Classification in Paralympic sport is challenging because athletes must be classified according to how much their disability impacts on their sports performance, and the range of disabilities varies enormously,” Dr Tweedy said.

The challenge of classifying correctly is a major research interest for Dr Tweedy, who is chief investigator on the ARC-funded International Paralympic Classification Project.

“One of the great things about the Paralympic movement and its system of classification is that it provides an avenue for people with disabilities to pursue sporting excellence, regardless of the extent of that disability,” he said.

The 2008 Paralympic Games take place in Beijing from September 6-17.

“The Paralympic Games are just a tremendous sporting event – excellent competition and truly inspiring performances,” he said.

“For me, the Olympics are a great test event – a sort of pre-Paralympic Games if you like.”

Beijing will also mark the third Paralympic Games for UQ Associate Lecturer Rowena Toppenberg, who has been appointed head physiotherapist for the athletics team, while UQ graduates Sian Pugh and Emma Whiteside also join Team Australia as physiotherapists.

NEW KNOWLEDGE WELCOMED

A study conducted at the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research (QCMHR) has contributed to a major breakthrough in understanding the cause of schizophrenia.

Prestigious scientific journals Nature and Nature Genetics recently published the results of three international schizophrenia research teams, all of which identified genetic variations associated with the disease.

Two of the studies overlapped in their findings, and all three provided statistical evidence of particular genetic factors increasing the risk of the disease.

“Together, these three papers represent a landmark week in schizophrenia genetics,” UQ Professor of Psychiatry and Executive Director of the QCMHR, Bryan Mowry said.

“This is an important step in helping to unravel the challenging biology of schizophrenia.”

Schizophrenia affects approximately one percent of the world’s population and is characterised by disruptions in language, thought, perception, social activity, and volition.

Professor Mowry contributed to a UK-based study which identified genetic markers associated with the disease.

“The human DNA blueprint consists of three billion letters of code, most of which are the same between individuals, but about 10 million of which can take at least two forms,” he said.

“These single nucleotide (SNP) variations are scattered throughout the entire code and particular forms of the letters may either increase risk for a particular disease, or be used as a signpost for nearby variations which cause disease.

“We were able to show, in a very large sample, that a SNP within the ZNF804A gene on chromosome two was associated with an increased risk for schizophrenia.”

The investigation drew upon the expertise of more than 50 researchers from 30 international institutions and involved over 7000 schizophrenia patients worldwide, including more than 400 from Australia.

Professor Mowry said that while the results were encouraging, further research was required.

“It is crucial that we identify these mutations and work out how they contribute to the symptoms of schizophrenia,” he said.

“What we have is a clue to help unravel the genetic basis of this disease, while not forgetting that environmental factors are also involved.”

Understanding the impact of environmental factors is also a top priority for researchers from UQ’s Queensland Brain Institute, who will conduct a world-first trial into the link between prenatal vitamin D levels and schizophrenia prevalence.

Funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council and led by QBI’s Dr Darryl Eyles, a team of four researchers will study blood spots taken from newborn babies who have gone on to develop schizophrenia in early adulthood.

“Undeniably, low maternal vitamin D affects the way the brain develops,” Dr Eyles said.

“Over the past four years we’ve been able to show that low vitamin D intake in animals during pregnancy results in offspring with brain abnormalities similar to those seen in patients with schizophrenia.”

UQ has conducted research in this area since 2001 when Professor John McGrath, also of the QBI, suggested a lack of sunlight exposure on pregnant women could account for the higher incidence of schizophrenia during winter months and in colder climates.

INFO • www.qcsr.uq.edu.au
– PENNY ROBINSON

Research technician Cameron Anderson (left) and Dr Darryl Eyles
Career change for motivated mum

For the majority of students the thought of starting a university degree is challenging enough, but for Cherese Cox it also included relocating and juggling time between work, study and her two young children.

Mrs Cox moved from the Gold Coast last year to enrol in the midwifery course at UQ’s Ipswich campus.

After two semesters of successful study, the 37-year-old has been rewarded with the 2008 Ipswich City Council City of Ipswich scholarship, valued at $5000.

Mrs Cox said she realised her love for children in her twenties, when she spent time working as a nanny in England.

She travelled extensively for 10 years between Canada, England and Australia before meeting her husband and settling down on the Gold Coast.

She said it was the positive birthing experience she had with her second son which prompted her decision to change career.

“I was fortunate enough to have an amazing midwife with the birth of my last son, and a medical team that was dedicated to making it a wonderful experience for me,” Mrs Cox said.

“I wanted to try a water birth, which is often not an option in the majority of public hospitals, and the birthing team made this happen for me.

“After having my own children I wanted to help women get the best possible outcome with their birthing and for me, being a midwife involves giving other women the confidence to enjoy their birthing experience.

“Working as an assistant nurse at Ipswich General Hospital has helped familiarise me with the medical environment and has given me extra confidence to perform when I am on practical experience.”

Mrs Cox said during the past year of practical experience she had progressed from giving injections to assisting in birthing, which was both terrifying and exhilarating at the same time.

“I have assisted in seven births so far, and it is great to follow these women throughout their final stages of pregnancy and provide support during the birthing and witness their joy afterwards with their newborn,” she said.

“Women should be able to have the choice to have a home birth and be visited by a private practitioner, something that is common in countries like England but currently still shunned in Australia.”

Upon graduating Mrs Cox would like to work with Aboriginal communities in rural areas of Australia, and hopes to eventually set up her own private practice offering holistic care for mothers and families.

Each year, the City of Ipswich scholarship recipient is chosen based on academic achievement, level of community involvement and commitment to a positive promotion of the community.

The competitive award accounts for part of the $50,000 in scholarships and prizes available to students at the Ipswich campus, much of which is sourced from local donors and organisations within the Ipswich community.

“After having my own children I wanted to help women get the best possible outcome with their birthing”

SCHOOLS OF TOMORROW

UQ has welcomed the Queensland Government’s announcement of a new high school to replace Bremer State High School, with close links to the University’s Ipswich campus.

Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) Professor Alan Rix said this marked a major step in the education of Ipswich students, and opened a new chapter for UQ Ipswich and for the students, families and staff of Bremer High.

“Being able to plan a new school to work in close collaboration with a university is a rare opportunity for educators,” Professor Rix said.

“It provides opportunities for students and teachers to work with the campus in terms of curriculum, leadership development, the creation of pathways for future education and training, and access to education and recreation infrastructure.

“UQ looks forward to discussing the full range of opportunities for collaboration with Bremer State High School, and students will be able to widen their learning opportunities and this may lead them to a head-start at university.

“Importantly, the move will give Eastern Ipswich school students and their families a better insight into university life and what higher education offers to them to enhance their skills.”

Professor Rix thanked the Member for Ipswich, Rachel Nolan, staff of the Education Queensland Regional Office and Bremer State High School for their commitment to this vision for the future.

“Rachel Nolan – herself a former UQ Young Alumnus of the Year – worked hard to make this idea a reality, as she saw the great potential benefits to the students, and to the city of Ipswich into the future,” he said.

“UQ Ipswich is entering an important new stage of planning for the future, with a particular focus on health sciences, and we will be fully integrating our relationship with Bremer State High School into these plans.”

The new school to replace Bremer State High School is part of Education Queensland’s $134 million State Schools of Tomorrow program for Eastern Ipswich schools.
GRADUATION GOAL

It may have taken a decade, but Brisbane Lions midfielder and three-time AFL Premiership player Luke Power now has a UQ degree to his name.

"It’s been 10 long years…I think I must be the longest-serving arts student ever," Mr Power said.

Born in Melbourne, he moved to Brisbane in 1998 to begin his career with the Lions. That same year, he enrolled in a UQ Arts degree, majoring in journalism and psychology.

"I’m from a very academic-oriented family. My Mum and Dad both studied and always encouraged me to do something besides football," Mr Power said.

"When I had to decide what course to go for, I chose journalism because I always liked writing."

"I’m sure I’ll write the occasional article but I’d probably prefer to work in communications or marketing."

Despite the challenge of squeezing study around 209 Lions games, a gruelling training schedule and media commitments, Mr Power said he was glad to have had the university experience.

"I studied part-time and towards the end was only doing one subject a semester because of my football commitments," he said.

"I chose UQ because it had some really great features – the facilities and resources were great but I also enjoyed the historical aspect of the campus and being around the old buildings."

And while many of Power’s classmates were on-stage to receive their degrees from the Chancellor, the dedicated sportsman’s celebrations were low-key due to clashing training commitments.

EDUCATOR HONOURED

UQ has recognised the President of the University of South Carolina (USC), Dr Andrew A Sorensen, with an honorary doctorate.

A distinguished educator, researcher and government advisor in areas including medicine, biosecurity, AIDS and public health, Dr Sorensen has led USC to unprecedented success during his six-year presidency.

"I am deeply honoured to receive this degree from The University of Queensland," he said.

"It has special significance for me, given the collaboration between South Carolina and Queensland, as well as the special relationship between The University of Queensland and the University of South Carolina."

UQ Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Greenfield, said Dr Sorensen had pursued a vision to elevate his university as a catalyst for economic growth and positive societal change.

Before being appointed President of USC, Dr Sorensen served as President of the University of Alabama, Executive Director of the AIDS Institute at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, and Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

He has also been a Visiting Faculty Member at the Harvard University School of Medicine and the University of Cambridge School of Medicine.

A tale of two sisters

They crossed oceans to begin a new life as students in Australia and now sisters Manroop and Charanpreet Soin have farewelled their time at UQ to embark on new experiences.

Call it luck, an act of fate or divine intervention but the Kenyan-born sister act not only graduated on the same day, but at the same ceremony.

The sisters (pictured first and third left respectively), were joined by their parents who flew in from Kenya specially for the occasion.

Charanpreet, who finished a Bachelor of Environmental Management (Sustainable Development) last year, deferred her graduation six months to tie in with Manroop’s big day, but wasn’t aware at first that they would be attending the same ceremony.

"It was just luck that this year both our graduations fell on the same day and even luckier that we managed to get into the same ceremony," Charanpreet said.

Manroop chose to study a Bachelor of Business Management/Law dual degree to broaden her career options.

UQ is a long way from the cultural surrounds of Nairobi, with both girls being each other’s pillar of strength as they juggled new beginnings in a foreign country.

“As we both studied completely different subjects and courses there was no rivalry and competitiveness in that respect, however it does make life very easy having family close by,” Charanpreet said.

She said both UQ and Australia were leaders in the field of sustainability, making the decision to study in Brisbane easy.

“University was always part of the plan, initially I had wanted to undertake a degree in marine biology but changed my mind once I read about the environmental management course offered here at UQ.”
If crossing the Sahara Desert in a Kombi van, dodging civil war and interacting with great apes sounds like an adventure and a half you may want to read Annette Henderson’s memoir.

To be published by Random House in 2009, *Wild Spirit: Halfway Through Africa* forms part of Annette’s Master of Philosophy (Creative Writing) degree which she received at UQ graduation ceremony on July 16. Annette was one of more than 2,500 students to graduate at UQ’s mid-year ceremonies in July.

She said her book was inspired by the time she and her husband Win spent in Gabon, West Africa while attempting to cross the continent from north to south 30 years ago.

“Many people over the decades have told me: ‘you really must write this book’. Completing the memoir and having it published means a great deal to me. It’s like closing the circle that began in 1975 — an outcome I never could have envisaged,” she said.

Annette and Win arrived in Gabon during the Angolan war and, unable to travel to South Africa as planned, found themselves working at an iron ore exploration camp 600km from the coast.

“The first night we were in Gabon we were robbed. One $20 traveller’s cheque was all we had left,” Annette said.

“So we knew no one, we had almost no money and we couldn’t go anywhere because of the war further south – we were totally stuck.”

By chance, the couple met the New Zealand Director of the mining project who offered them work and accommodation for a year.

During their time in the forest they met and cared for Josie, an orphaned baby gorilla, but it was an encounter with Ikata, an eight-year-old male gorilla who had been raised in captivity, that changed Annette’s outlook on life.

“We were visiting a research station where orphaned gorillas and chimpanzees were being rehabilitated to the wild. I was coming up the pathway, as he was coming down and I thought ‘I’ll have to indicate to him that I’m very peaceful in my intent’ so I stretched out my arms towards him palms upwards and he just kept walking towards me,” she said.

“When he got within reach he just enfolded me with a gentle embrace and he put his face beside my cheek and I rubbed the top of his head. It was just the most wonderful moment.”

Having read about the pioneering work with great apes by primatologists such as Jane Goodall, Annette decided she would pursue tertiary studies in anthropology after returning to Brisbane.

After several years working in London, Annette completed her Bachelor of Arts with first-class honours in anthropology at UQ in 1983, and used her skills to contribute to Indigenous land and cultural studies projects in the Northern Territory.

She then took up university teaching in Brisbane before spending a memorable five months in Indonesia – teaching social science in the local language, which she learned in just four months before taking up the position.

Annette’s life took another unexpected turn when she began what would be a 17-year career as a senior administrator within UQ’s School of English, Media Studies and Art History (EMSAH).

Over the years the gorilla photos in Annette’s office intrigued former EMSAH colleague and award-winning author Amanda Lohrey, who encouraged her to return to study in 2006 under an APA scholarship and finish the book she’d always wanted to write.

Interest in *Wild Spirit* took off in February after Mrs Henderson was interviewed on ABC Radio, and within hours was contacted by major Australian publishers and literary agents eager to read the story in full.

“This is the third degree for me in three very different fields. It’s not something that I had planned to do, but I see it as the start of another phase of life,” Annette said.

“I plan to spend the rest of my life writing and continuing my involvement with conservation.”
Stressed out corals unable to adapt

Great Barrier Reef coral communities may not be able to recover from bleaching as easily as previously proposed, according to new UQ research.

A two-year study by a team from the Centre for Marine Studies has found that contrary to popular theory, it is not possible for bleached corals to recover or become resistant to bleaching by taking up more heat-tolerant species of their micro-algae partners.

All corals have a symbiotic (sharing relationship) with single-celled creatures known as zooxanthellae. The coral provides a habitat for the organisms, which in turn produce essential nutrients for the corals.

Under stressful conditions, such as high or low water temperatures, the zooxanthellae are expelled from their host, causing a whitening of the coral tissue. Coral bleaching events have caused significant mortality of corals worldwide and the frequency as well as intensity of bleaching events is predicted to increase as a result of climate change.

Dr Eugenia Sampayo, who performed the study as part of her PhD, said past research had suggested that bleached corals could take up new, more tolerant symbionts, which would make them less susceptible to future stress.

“Our research, however, shows that this may not be possible for all corals,” she said.

“This study is one of few that follows individual colonies over a two-year period and shows that individual colonies of the stony coral, Stylophora pistillata, do not change their symbionts as a response to temperature stress.”

The research team, which also included Dr Tyrone Ridgway, PhD student Pim Bongaerts and Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, found that individual colonies of the same coral species on the same reef are sensitive to bleaching depending on the type of zooxanthellae present.

“The important message here is that this shift is not due to the uptake of different symbionts by individual colonies but by differential mortality between sensitive and tolerant colonies,” Dr Sampayo said.

“The result is a decrease in diversity of both the coral host and their symbionts.

“The reduced diversity will have a negative effect on reef resilience since it makes the ecosystem more vulnerable to fluctuations in other environmental factors.

“This is worrying since coral reefs are likely to face a suite of stressors in the future.”

The research paper “Bleaching susceptibility and mortality of corals determined by fine-scale differences in symbiont type” was recently published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

— ELIZA PLANT

UQ CONSULTANTS TO LEAD EMISSIONS TRADING PANEL

A tender submitted by UniQuest Pty Limited has resulted in UQ experts being selected to a panel advising the Federal Government on the design and implementation of Australia’s Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).

As part of an effective framework for meeting the environmental challenges of the new century, the Australian Government’s Department of Climate Change called for tenders at the end of 2007 to assist with establishing the ETS.

The panel was established to provide research, expert analysis and advice on policy, legal and technical aspects of the design and implementation of the scheme.

The scope of the consultancy services offered by UniQuest includes setting greenhouse gas emission targets, allocating emission permits and identifying taxation and accounting implications of the scheme.

UniQuest’s Managing Director David Henderson said the number of projects relating to climate change and issues such as carbon emissions contracted by the company’s Consulting and Research Division is growing.

“We have identified UQ expertise across various related sectors, including economic modelling, emissions trading, market design, greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation, policy and social issues,” Mr Henderson said.

“The Australian Government has recognised UQ’s strengths in this area and UniQuest is the only university-based commercial entity represented on the panel.

“Auditing, calculating carbon footprints and implementing reduction schemes require responses that are based on evidence.

“With the depth and breadth of its research base in the physical, life and social sciences, UQ is well-placed to capitalise on opportunities to assist organisations and industries with their diverse management, compliance and training needs.”

UniQuest is widely recognised as Australia’s largest and most successful university commercialisation group. Established by The University of Queensland in 1984, UniQuest fosters links between the University – with its valuable emerging technologies, expertise and facilities – and the financial and entrepreneurial resources of industry, business and government.

INFO → For more information visit www.uniquest.com.au

— LEANNE WYVILL
UQ researchers believe we need to consider the radical step of moving plants and animals to help them survive the impact of climate change.

Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, Director of UQ’s Centre for Marine Studies and Deputy Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, is lead author on an article in the prestigious journal *Science* that sets out the principles of “assisted colonisation” to help save species threatened with extinction.

Together with his co-authors, Professor Hoegh-Guldberg said many species were already unable to disperse or adapt fast enough to keep up with the high rates of climate change.

“If we are to take the latest climate science seriously, then our current conservation strategies will not work for the majority of the species,” Professor Hoegh-Guldberg said.

“Consequently, the future for many species and ecosystems is so bleak that assisted colonisation might be their only chance of survival.”

Professor Hoegh-Guldberg outlined how the group had developed a decision framework for guiding decision making on whether or not to move species.

“It comes down to assessing the risks and consequences carefully. You don’t want to get this wrong,” he said.

He said the framework would assist managers to develop appropriate strategies for vulnerable species, while allowing the more adaptable species to cope where they are.

“Timing is also everything. Our ability to respond to these future issues depends largely on when we get started on the solutions,” he said.

“These grim projections require serious thinking outside the box.

“While it might seem an anathema to managers today, these solutions may be our only hope for the future.”

– ANDREW DUNNE
I have just returned from six months in Kenya as part of my PhD in Sociology. With food being traded internationally, supermarkets are realising the need to assure consumers that food production is not harmful to the environment or to the people who grow it. Ethical trade – by incorporating environmental and social sustainability into trade regulations – attempts to address some of these concerns through strict standards for food production. Around 60-80 percent of the workers in export horticulture in Kenya are women, but unfortunately these farmers are rarely advantaged by ethical trade. This paradox informed my study of gender and ethical trade.

In Kenya, I worked with women who are growing French beans on their small, family-owned farms, and who are affected by different kinds of “ethical” regulations. Through a series of workshops, field visits and interviews with women food producers, my study questions the extent to which ethical trade is delivering positive social and environmental outcomes for these women, based on their own understandings of their experiences, priorities and participation in the local food system.

My findings suggest that women farmers are largely unaware of the ethical trade rules they are working under, despite the fact that they experience improved livelihoods. My research also suggests that their definitions of well-being are diverse, reflecting some of the issues that ethical trade seeks to address while including many others that ethical trade ignores. The women in my study had very clear visions of what mattered most in their local food systems, but very little knowledge of ethical trade and how it relates to their everyday practices. It is therefore not surprising to learn of very little overlap in values between these women farmers and global “ethical trade” regulations.

To conduct this hands-on research, I chose to collaborate with local non-governmental organisations (NGOs). I worked alongside a Kenyan NGO, Sustainability Africa, whose work includes providing water tanks, roofing, toilets, kitchens and health education for needy rural schools. I also collaborated with AfricaNOW, an international NGO involved very closely with ethical trade projects across Africa. Despite many challenges, this was an excellent way to learn about the local culture. It also means that my work will be relevant for future projects by these organisations, as well as enabling the participation of women who might otherwise be excluded. Indeed, it was so rewarding to hear that the participants really felt empowered and informed in my workshops.

The next step in my study is to attend the biannual conference of the Ethical Trading Initiative in London in October. Here, I plan to talk with people involved in creating ethical trade regulations about their perspectives on women’s involvement at the grassroots level. This conference is an excellent opportunity to gain the most up-to-date knowledge, meet with policy makers, and conduct more interviews.

My experience in Kenya really highlights the importance of farmers’ lived realities for understanding how ethical regulations might more accurately reflect the needs of women whose lives they are designed to improve. But most of all, I have been on a special journey through amazing scenery and cultures – I saw the great wildebeest migration across the Mara river while on safari in the Masai Mara, met with Masai warriors in Samburu, hand-fed a giraffe, sailed a dhow on the Swahili coast, and climbed an extinct volcano in the Rift Valley. These are experiences I will treasure for life!

“...It was so rewarding to hear that the participants really felt empowered and informed in my workshops.”
A UQ marine biologist will use satellite technology to track tiger sharks to better understand the greatly feared sea dwellers and prevent future attacks on bathers.

PhD student Bonnie Holmes (pictured) said the lack of knowledge about tiger sharks and their decreasing numbers in south-east Queensland motivated her to focus on the large ocean predator, with her field work beginning this month.

“This information will be very valuable to the community because limited knowledge exists about tiger shark migratory patterns, preferred areas to hunt or breed in, or how they are impacted by humans,” Ms Holmes said.

“They’re thought of as mindless killers, but I want to show what lies behind their behaviour and why they are important to the Australian ecosystem.”

Ms Holmes will attach satellite tags to tiger sharks of different ages, gender and size to gain information about their migration, feeding and mating patterns under varying conditions and circumstances.

The research is the first of its kind in southern Queensland and will be conducted between Kingscliff in northern New South Wales and the Town of 1770 in Queensland.

The use of satellite tags will provide essential shark tracking data, with industry support crucial to sustain the project over its three-year lifespan.

The tags cost between $1700 and $3500 each with current research partners including the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, and the Queensland Wildlife Preservation Society.

Ms Holmes plans to monitor at least 30 tiger sharks and collect data via the satellite tracking tags that transmit information each time the shark surfaces.

“I’m planning one four-day field trip each month during winter and two each month in summer when there appears to be more tiger sharks in SEQ waters,” she said.

INFO → To find out more, contact b.holmes@uq.edu.au
TAKING OFF TO NASA

Rowan Gollan considers himself fortunate to be the first person to go to NASA under the new memorandum of understanding (MOU) between UQ and the renowned space agency.

As part of a two-year experimental and numerical hypersonics study, UQ researcher and imminent PhD graduate Mr Gollan (pictured) is visiting NASA Langley for a 12 month period.

He is part of a new breed of Australian space researchers being trained at UQ’s Centre for Hypersonics, which studies velocities of Mach 5 (five times the speed of sound) or more.

Mr Gollan said local space research was important because of Australia’s potential to have commercial launch services, giving the example of Christmas Island which is close to the equator and an ideal satellite launch site.

Equatorial launch sites give an advantage to launching communications satellites by reducing the rocket’s fuel needs, enabling the same rocket to launch heavier satellites than it could from locations further from the equator.

“It is important that we have a body of trained professionals in the area of space research in Australia for down the track,” he said.

UQ HyShot Group Head and Chair of Hypersonic Propulsion Professor Michael Smart worked on the exchange agreement with NASA 10 months ago. So far, UQ has had one visitor from NASA and Mr Gollan will be the first to represent UQ under the agreement.

His passion for aeronautics started when he was learning about astronomy in high school.

“I wanted a degree that had some sort of job security while still being able to maintain my interest in space studies,” Mr Gollan said.

Outside his passion for hypersonics, Mr Gollan is an accomplished oboe player and has performed with the Queensland Youth Orchestra Wind Symphony.

Once back from his stint at NASA, Mr Gollan said he was interested in pursuing an academic career.

SAYING ‘YES’ TO SUSTAINABILITY

UQ engineering students will represent Australia and help plan for a better world at this month’s Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES) in Switzerland.

Environmental Engineering student Bronwyn Edwards and Chemical Engineering student Katie Quinn will participate in the course, which educates university students on global sustainable development issues through academic work, debate, field trips and practical training.

Approximately 35 participants from around the world are selected for each intensive, two-week YES course, based on their leadership skills, academic capabilities and commitment to sustainable development.

Associate Professor in Environmental Engineering Bill Clarke said the School of Engineering was regularly represented at YES, reflecting the high quality of UQ engineering students.

“YES provides a great opportunity for young leaders to meet and discuss environmental issues with like-minded students and promote possible solutions here in Australia,” Dr Clarke said.

“It builds on the skills developed through their studies at UQ and enables our students to take leading roles in making sustainable development a reality.”

By collaborating with international experts from leading universities, delegates achieve greater understanding of global issues and develop fresh approaches to address sustainability challenges.

Ms Quinn said YES brought together students who were passionate about global sustainable development.

“Coming from a chemical engineering background, I’m looking forward to understanding international and multidisciplinary perspectives on these issues,” she said.

Past UQ YES representative Lizzie Brown said the program inspired her to work with Engineers Without Borders Australia, helping disadvantaged communities through sustainable engineering.

“Working with delegates from around the world on these issues completely changed my perception of Australia’s role in the global community,” Ms Brown said.

“YES made me realise every one of us is responsible for global sustainable development.”

Ms Brown went on to be highly commended in the inaugural UQ Vice-Chancellor’s Alumni Equity and Diversity Awards in May this year for her work.

Delegates to YES come from more than 180 universities worldwide and represent a range of disciplinary backgrounds.

YES has also introduced programs in other countries, with UQ Environmental Engineering student Amanda Binks attending a course in Japan earlier this year.

“YES provides a great opportunity for young leaders to meet and discuss environmental issues with like-minded students”
UQ science added to the Ekka’s colourful carnival atmosphere this year, with entomologists, mathematicians and bioscientists lured to the iconic, 10-day Brisbane event.

Extracting DNA from strawberries and handling stick insects were among the range of interactive and fun educational activities facilitated by the University’s staff and students at the National Science Week pavilion.

Ekka enthusiasts solved maths puzzles, viewed insects through microscopes, tested their responses to stimuli with a reaction timer, learned about the commercialisation of science discoveries, and uncovered the secrets of the human body through a variety of anatomy displays.

On August 14 and 15, the display also featured a team from UQ’s Sport and Exercise Psychology Service offering activities that showed the potential to affect performance, the interplay between thoughts, feelings, and behaviours, attention control and concentration, and the types of communication and their role in a team environment.

The UQ Science display offered activities that were popular with young and old alike.

2008 marked the Ekka’s 132-year anniversary and a UQ researcher has been instrumental in documenting the event’s history.

Dr Ross Laurie, a lecturer in Australian History at UQ’s Ipswich campus, and co-author Associate Professor Joanne Scott from the University of the Sunshine Coast, recently launched Showtime: A History of the Brisbane Exhibition, published by UQP.

The colourful 250-page publication explores many aspects of the iconic event, from Ekka foods, such as strawberry ice-creams and dagwood dogs, to entertainment in the main ring and what it is like to work at the Ekka, and provides a fascinating insight into Queensland’s development as a state.

As for the fate of the Ekka beyond 2008, Dr Laurie and Dr Scott chose not to speculate.

“Historians are notoriously bad at predicting the future,” Dr Laurie said.

“Clearly the RNA is at a crossroads and they have ambitious plans for the site of the show.

“Ekka enthusiasts are staunch and it will have to be a fine balance between tradition and innovation to keep everyone happy.”

– PENNY ROBINSON
CELEBRATING MILTON
400 years on

Fans of the great poet John Milton gathered at UQ recently to celebrate the 400th anniversary of his birth.

Excerpts from his works – including passages from his epic poem Paradise Lost – were read aloud at A Life Beyond Life, a public event held at Duchesne College on August 17.

Event organiser Dr Peter Holbrook said the celebrations commemorated Milton’s extraordinary poetic achievement.

“Milton is one of the most ambitious and prodigiously talented literary geniuses ever to have lived; among English writers only Shakespeare matches him for sheer imaginative splendour and dazzling command of the language,” Dr Holbrook said.

“He was also a courageous and militant champion of the causes of liberty and equality.

“His passionate love of freedom, and hatred of tyranny, is a message we still need to hear.”

A central focus of the day was to explore the experience of hearing, rather than silently reading, Milton’s poetry.

Readers included well known author and UQ alumnus David Malouf, award-winning poets Anthony Lawrence and Jaya Savage, actor Eugene Gilfedder and members of the Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble.

Dr Holbrook said the reading day showed that Milton was, as the famous poet William Wordsworth once hoped, still “living at this hour”.

The morning part of the program showcased selections from the earlier part of Milton’s career, while the afternoon featured selections from Paradise Lost.

As well as marking the 400th anniversary of Milton’s birth in 1608, A Life Beyond Life wrapped up an international symposium at the University concerned with “Milton in Intellectual and Cultural History”.

Professor Stephen M. Fallon, of the University of Notre Dame in the US, a major contemporary scholar of Milton, also delivered a public lecture on the poet’s work on August 14 entitled “Why Milton is Not a Religious Writer.”

The symposium was supported by the School of English, Media Studies and Art History, the Centre for the History of European Discourses, the Australian Research Council Network for Early European Research and the Shakespeare Roundtable interest group.
The question of whether the egg or the chicken came first may not have been solved, but UQ research is helping find how the humble chook moved around the world.

Archaeologist Dr Sean Ulm (pictured), from UQ’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit, worked with colleagues in Australia and abroad to explore the chicken genome to help understand the spread of chickens and people across the globe.

In a paper recently published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the team challenged claims for the presence of chickens in South America before Christopher Columbus’s arrival in the 15th century.

Dr Ulm said it was known European chickens were introduced into the American continents by the Spanish after their arrival in the 15th century, but there was ongoing debate about the presence of pre-Columbian chickens in South America.

“This is a crucial issue for archaeology, because if chickens were in South America before the Spanish arrived it means people must have brought them there, across the breadth of the Pacific Ocean,” Dr Ulm said.

The team generated partial mitochondrial DNA sequences from native Chilean chickens and compared them with a database of domestic chicken sequences from across the globe.

The modern Chilean sequences were found to cluster closely with European, Indian subcontinental and South East Asian chickens, indicating a European genetic origin.

The study found chicken sequences from two archaeological sites on Easter Island group with sequences from Indonesia, Japan and the Philippines and may represent a genetic signature of an early Polynesian colonisation of the Pacific.

RIGHTS EXPERT VISITS

More than 100 people attended an intensive workshop on human rights hosted by the School of Political Science and International Studies in July.

Titled “Promoting International Human Rights and Good Governance”, the event was presented by Professor Brian Burdekin, Australia’s first Federal Human Rights Commissioner, and Special Advisor on National Institutions to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Professor Burdekin gave an overview of the legal instruments relating to human rights and drew upon his experiences with numerous case studies.

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

A team from UQ’s School of Natural and Rural Systems Management has been involved in organising an international symposium on small-scale rural forest use and management in Gérardmer, France.

The conference explored the important role of local knowledge in managing small-scale rural forests and the implications of global policies in the area.

The quality of forestry research being undertaken at UQ was also recognised, with Associate Professor Steve Harrison being awarded the 2008 Helmut Brandl Medal for outstanding contribution to the field of small-scale forestry research.

GUIDE RATES UQ RESEARCH

The University has again received five-star rankings as one of Australia’s best research universities in an independent ranking of Australian universities released recently.

The 2009 edition of The Good Universities Guide awarded UQ the maximum five-star rating for research grants and research intensity – the only Queensland university to receive this highest rating – and a further five stars for toughness to get in (St Lucia campus).

UQ also earned four stars for staff qualifications, International enrolments, graduate salaries and equity group access.
UQ NEWS, SEPTEMBER 2008

UQ King's College students Jonathon Lance and Luke Morahan have been selected by the Queensland Rugby team to tour to Ireland and France, continuing the college's strong rugby tradition.

Both Kingsmen study at UQ and play club rugby at Premier Colts level for the University. Mr Lance, who plays flyhalf with UQ, is the son of former Canberra Raiders premiership winning captain and now NRL coach, Dean Lance, and will join the Reds Academy in 2009.

Mr Morahan, already part of the Reds Academy, is a former Australian Schoolboy representative and plays wing and fullback positions. He is also part of the Rugby Scholarship program at King's, which recognises excellence in rugby union.

Mr Lance is studying Business Management while Mr Morahan is completing a Bachelor of Business.

SPORT

Rugby players head for Europe

UQ King's College students Jonathon Lance and Luke Morahan have been selected by the Queensland Rugby team to tour to Ireland and France, continuing the college's strong rugby tradition.

Both Kingsmen study at UQ and play club rugby at Premier Colts level for the University.

Mr Lance, who plays flyhalf with UQ, is the son of former Canberra Raiders premiership winning captain and now NRL coach, Dean Lance, and will join the Reds Academy in 2009.

Mr Morahan, already part of the Reds Academy, is a former Australian Schoolboy representative and plays wing and fullback positions.

He is also part of the Rugby Scholarship program at King's, which recognises excellence in rugby union.

Mr Lance is studying Business Management while Mr Morahan is completing a Bachelor of Business.

King's College Chief Executive and Master Greg Eddy said the duo's selection in the Queensland Rugby team reflected the college's high level of achievement in the sport.

Since winning the first Inter-College Rugby competition in 1913, 11 Kingsmen have gone on to represent Queensland, including three playing for the Wallabies.

And this is not the first time that two Kingsmen have been selected in the same Queensland team.

In 1914 two brothers, Eric and Stan Francis, played for Queensland, with Eric going on to become The University of Queensland's and King's first Wallaby.

The 17-day tour, which started in mid-August, included matches against Irish provinces Ulster, Connacht and Leinster and French province Nice.

KIDS GET MOVING

Two innovative programs by UQ SPORT are helping Brisbane kids get moving in and out of the pool.

Program coordinator Dr Chérie Harris said the MotorActive and UQCanSwim programs were achieving great results in encouraging children with additional needs to build their confidence, master new skills and get out and have a go.

"The programs are designed for children between four and 12 years of age who have a physical or intellectual disability, learning challenges, coordination difficulties, behavioural issues or social and self-esteem issues," Dr Harris said.

The programs had already had success with previous program participants, she said.

"We've had kids who start the UQCanSwim program standing terrified on the side of the pool who in a matter of weeks are duck diving and splashing around, confident and happy in the water," Dr Harris said.

INFO ➔ www.uqsport.uq.edu.au

INFO ➔ www.uqsport.uq.edu.au
Around Campus

Events

- **Friday, September 19**
  HCSNet Future Computer Applications for Managing Speech and Language Disorders Workshop. (9am-5pm, Centre for Clinical Research, Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital, Herston) Information: www.hcsnet.edu.au/hcsnetevents/

- **Tuesday, September 30**
  Linguistics Program, School of English, Media Studies and Art History, “Lexical innovation in Iatmul: From Bitter Water in a Coconut Shell to a Glass of Beer”, Dr Gerd Jendraschek, ROLT, La Trobe University (2pm, Room 437, Michie Building 9). Information: g.jendraschek@uq.edu.au

- **Thursday, October 23**
  UQ Secretaries’ and Office Professionals’ Association Annual Conference: “Completely Organised!” (8.30am-4pm, SMI Auditorium, Level 4, Sir James Foots Building 47A, St Lucia campus) Cost: UQSOPA members free, non-members $80. Information: k.hendrickson@uq.edu.au or 07 3346 7754

Throughout October

The Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies professional development workshops: “Negotiation, International Commercial Arbitration and Mediation”. Three to five days in duration. Information: profstudy@uq.edu.au, www.uq.edu.au/acpacs or 1300 364 562

GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS*

- **HOUSE OR APARTMENT WANTED:** Family of four relocating late 2008 to Brisbane looking for rental on the south side. Contact: escher@eawag.ch

Scholarships

- **Clem Jones Sporting Scholarships**
  Open to full-time students who are Australian citizens and have the apparent academic ability to study at UQ and who demonstrate the potential to perform at a high level in their chosen sport. Applicants must intend to join and represent a University sporting club. Worth: $6000 per year for three years. Closing: November 28. Information: 07 3346 6243

In Brief

Academic Board Review

Staff members are invited to make a submission to the Academic Board and Standing Committee review, to be held on October 1-3.

Review terms of reference are available from the Coordinator, Secretariat Services phone ext. 51989 or email r.macbean@uq.edu.au.

Submissions should be sent to the Secretary and Registrar, c/o the Coordinator, Secretariat Services, Level 6, JD Story Building, by August 29.

Self-Portrait Show

Highlights from UQ’s artists’ self-portrait collection will be on show to the public from September 26.

Through artists’ eyes runs at the UQ Art Museum until October 19, and features works from well known Australian artists including Tracey Moffatt, Jeffrey Smart and Ben Quilty, the winner of the inaugural UQ National Artists’ Self-Portrait Prize.

UQnews deadlines 08

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISSUE NO</th>
<th>COPY DEADLINE</th>
<th>PUBLICATION DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>578</td>
<td>September 19</td>
<td>October 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>579</td>
<td>October 31</td>
<td>November 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 2 ends Nov 15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Professional Development Workshops

Prevent, manage and resolve conflict

Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies

www.uq.edu.au/acpacs

Intensive professional development workshops in Mediation, Negotiation and Conflict Resolution.

Dates

Negotiation: 1-3 October
Mediation: 21-25 October
Advanced Negotiation: 5-7 November
Mediating Family Conflict: 11-14 November

Times

Mediation: 8.30am-5.30pm
All other workshops: 9am-5pm

Venue

UQ St Lucia campus

Cost for UQ staff members

Three day workshop: $1280
Four Day Workshop: $1440
Five Day Workshop: $1760

(All fees include GST)

ACPACS presents a range of innovative courses in Mediation, Negotiation, and Conflict Resolution in an intensive workshop format to professional development participants and postgraduate students.

As one of the largest providers of conflict resolution education and training in Australia, ACPACS’ program trainers have each established a national reputation for innovative teaching methods and the development of interdisciplinary programs.

Participants in our workshops come from varied backgrounds including law, teaching, health services, psychology, social work and community consultation and development.

Places are limited so book early to avoid missing out on these unique professional development opportunities.

For further information about venue and payment:
Phone 1300 364 562 or email profstudy@uq.edu.au

“...great mix of theory and practical skills.”
RESEARCH WEEK FEDERATION FELLOW PUBLIC LECTURE

Two of UQ’s leading thinkers and Australian Research Council Federation Fellows will deliver a public lecture on the current energy crisis and the health of the Murray Darling Basin on Wednesday, 24 September.

PROFESSOR PAUL BURN
Federation Fellow, School of Molecular & Microbial Sciences
Can Light Solve the Energy Crisis?

Professor Burn is a leading expert on organic semiconductors that have the potential to revolutionise technologies and have a substantial impact on our society, including flat panel displays, solar cells, and plastic electronics. Organic semiconductors have electronic properties similar to traditional semiconductors, but with the processibility and flexibility of plastics.

and

PROFESSOR JOHN QUIGGIN
Federation Fellow, School of Economics and Political Science
Climate Change and the Murray Darling Basin

Professor Quiggin is prominent both as a research economist and as a commentator on Australian economic policy. He has published more than 750 research articles, books and reports in fields including risk analysis, production economics, and environmental economics.

The Facilitator for this evening will be

DR GREG SMITH
Co-Founder and Director of SciVentures Investments Pty Ltd

WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2008
6.30pm – 9.00pm
Auditorium, Queensland Bioscience Precinct
The University of Queensland
Chancellor’s Place, St Lucia

RSVP by Wednesday 17 September 2008
Email: researchweek@uq.edu.au
Limited places available

RESEARCH WEEK
22 - 26 SEPTEMBER 2008
www.uq.edu.au/researchweek