REEF REVIVAL
Heron Island Research Station reopens
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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

One of the great embodiments of learning, discovery and engagement is located on a tiny Great Barrier Reef coral cay, 80km from mainland Queensland.

It is UQ’s Heron Island Research Station, a destination for academics and students for well over half a century. For years it has yielded revelations about tropical coral reefs that, in the past decade or so, have evolved into insights that are influencing how the world understands and anticipates climate change.

Pioneering scientists hand-built their research facilities, before a permanent research and accommodation structure was completed in 1953.

Early this century the University spent $7 million to build the Great Barrier Reef’s best marine research centre. It became a knowledge haven not only for UQ students and staff, but also for overseas institutions of the calibre of Yale University, for Australian school children and teachers, and for scientists from commercial and research institutions.

Then, just months after the new complex was finalised, fire razed the station. Although nobody was physically injured, the blaze of March 2007 caused great material and emotional loss to researchers and resident staff.

With the help of insurance funding, UQ immediately committed to rebuild, and academic and general staff joined the effort with their sights on the importance of Heron Island’s science and education activities. Programs in learning and discovery soon resumed.

Within a few months the boatsheds were serving as labs and seminar rooms and students had tents to stay in. By August 2008 students had moved up-market into a new accommodation block, and in the second semester of that year almost 500 school and university students from Australia and the USA made field trips to the station.

Nine million dollars and two years later, it is undeniably back in business. Some of the new generation equipment is even better than the previous versions. And there is another new feature, artist in residence Judy Watson.

When the Queensland Minister for Education, Training and the Arts, Rod Welford, relaunched the centre on February 20, it was more a celebration of the spirit of staff and students than it was a salute to the material infrastructure.

A mark of the reopening was the presence of delegates from industry, government, research collaborators and the not-for-profit sector.

UQ’s connections in these spheres are of growing importance, which is one of many reasons why I am delighted to welcome a leading business identity, Mr John Story, as Chancellor.

John, whose roles include chairing Suncorp-Metway, Tabcorp Holdings and the Australian Institute of Company Directors, has been a UQ Senator for almost three years and was voted Chancellor by his Senate colleagues. He is a UQ graduate and has been an adjunct professor here. He never trades on it, but his is a UQ name to conjure with: his grandfather John Douglas (‘JD’) Story was our first full-time Vice-Chancellor, in the days when the position was honorary.

With great respect and admiration, I thank him for Life Membership of the University. I also thank him for his unswerving support of students and staff here, as Chancellor. It is fitting, therefore, that this special issue of 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

Professor Paul Greenfield AO
BACTERIA BUSTING

A group of scientists in London have collaborated with a UQ researcher to discover a way of using tiny nano-probes to help understand how an antibiotic is effective against bacteria.

Bacteria such as MRSA (commonly known as Golden Staph) are becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotics, posing a major community health problem.

Professor Matt Cooper (pictured), has recently joined the Institute for Molecular Bioscience at UQ on a $4 million Australia Fellowship.

Through the fellowship, he will establish a research program to develop antibiotics and antifungals that are active against drug-resistant pathogens.

"In order to attack this problem we need to understand not only the ways in which bacteria develop and exhibit resistance to antibiotics, but also how new antibiotics can work to kill or slow the growth of resistant bacteria," Professor Cooper said.

To study antibiotic action, the London team made nano-probes coated with molecules found in bacterial cell walls from normal bacteria and bacteria resistant to antibiotics.

They then added doses of the "last resort" antibiotic, vancomycin, to the system and found that probes from normal bacteria were stressed and changed shape, whereas probes from resistant bacteria were only weakly affected.

The team are now screening other antibiotics with the goal of finding a drug that is able to bind strongly to resistant bacteria and cause substantial structural weaknesses to the cell wall.

REACHING FOR THE STARS

Queensland high school students recently reached for the stars at a UQ event to explore the future of life in space.

About 100 students from 10 different high schools from throughout the state took part in the annual Australian Space Design Competition in January.

Hosted by UQ’s School of Information Technology & Electrical Engineering (ITEE), the event involves four teams of students assuming it is the year 2058, and then preparing and presenting a tender response to design and build a settlement in space suitable to accommodate up to 5000 humans.

ASDC chairman Mark Shaw said teams addressed issues in their space settlement design such as structural design, operational requirements, human factors, automation, IT and business initiatives.

"The three-day competition involves students from many different backgrounds and schools working collaboratively in order to solve space settlement issues and ultimately win the chance to visit the USA and compete on an international scale," Mr Shaw said.

ITEE Head of School Professor Paul Bailes said the event allowed students to communicate in a group, demonstrate teamwork, work on projects and showcase their ideas and futuristic inventions.

POP APPEAL

UQ research has gone backstage to some of Australia’s biggest music festivals to discover what makes them tick, and the answers may surprise you.

Dr Nic Carah, a Lecturer with UQ’s School of Journalism and Communication, has studied the way corporations use music festivals to help build their brands and found rather than alienating young people, these branding practices were embraced.

"Global corporations have become very adept at co-opting popular music culture into their marketing strategies," Dr Carah said.

"Instead of being seen as an outsider of youth culture, they gain authenticity by being part of these events."

He said while in the past some of these strategies may have been looked upon as suspicious, young people today understand the marketing practices and accept it as part of the culture.

He said events such as the V Festival – a very overt branding exercise – are acceptable as long as there is value in it for the concert goer.

"If Virgin brings popular bands to a festival, then the audience is comfortable to use their phones and cameras to send texts and pictures to giant branded screens," he said.

"They also share these experiences on web 2.0 spaces such as MySpace and Facebook, pushing the corporations’ reach even further.

"Music events like the V festival work because they try to develop a meaningful and natural engagement with the audience."

Dr Carah is working on a book about his research to be titled Pop Brands: branding, popular music and young people, which is expected to be published next year.
FACTS + FIGURES

146 — number of inaugural UQ Excellence scholars who received their awards at a special ceremony on February 22. More than 200 further students were awarded UQ Merit Scholarships, also in their first year.

60,000 votes cast in the UniJobs 2008 Lecturer of the Year award, which was won by UQ Associate Professor Julie Walker. Dr Walker, who teaches accounting, edged out 2,500 colleagues from across the country.

1200 attendees at the launch of Margaret Olley: Life's journey at the University of Queensland Art Museum last month. The exhibition was opened by Governor-General Dr Quentin Bryce, AC, and runs until April 19.

36 teams participating in the Rotman International Trading Competition in Canada, where UQ placed third in the challenging sales and trading division.

9 million — cost of refurbishments to the UQ Heron Island Research Station off Gladstone, which was officially reopened last month after a fire in 2007. The facility is one of the oldest and most advanced marine research stations in the world.

ROMANCE IN THE AIR

A UQ academic has shared her passion for romance fiction at a recent event in Melbourne.

Dr Toni Johnson-Woods was invited to discuss her research into 1950s romance at the inaugural Australian Romance Readers Convention last month.

Dr Johnson-Woods was one of two Queensland academics asked to attend the event to discuss genres and trends within Australian romance fiction, alongside readers, authors and publishers.

“Romance is the most neglected of all popular fiction genres,” she said.

“Too date, academic research has tended to focus on readership and largely American romances — my focus is post World War II Australian romances.

“Overseas books were banned and so local companies suddenly found themselves with a golden publishing opportunity.”

The research forms part of an Australian Research Council project titled “Australia’s Forgotten Culture”.

REPORTING UNDER FIRE

Victoria’s fire grounds have been the site of a massive relief effort, and a UQ journalism expert has done his bit to help.

Bruce Redman (pictured centre) from the School of Journalism and Communication was called in by The Salvation Army to help manage the hundreds of journalists who descended on the disaster site, and to assist in recording the massive relief effort.

“I was moved by the enormity of the devastation and how quickly organisations like the Salvos had responded to the needs of the thousands of survivors,” Mr Redman said.

“I recorded interviews with workers, survivors and media. Everyone concerned was numb with the shock of so many lives lost and a feeling of helplessness.

“On the upside, people were buoyed by the renewed sense of community. It was a privilege to be involved in such a sad yet significant event in Australia’s history.”

Mr Redman appears regularly on ABC Local Radio as a film and television reviewer, and while in the firefields was asked to contribute a number of live reports via mobile phone.

Mr Redman will present his experiences as a case study to students later this semester.

RIGHT RECIPE

They’re among the most needed workers in Australia, and now UQ research has uncovered why chefs may be so difficult to recruit and retain.

In a recent report, “Employing Chefs in Queensland”, School of Tourism researchers Dr Charles Arcodia and Mr Richard Robinson suggest the content and listing of job vacancy ads may need greater attention.

“Job vacancies that articulate more appropriately the skills and attributes which are deemed essential in the various roles in cookery and list employer and industry benefits may have a greater capacity to attract the right candidate,” Dr Arcodia said.

Preliminary findings also show the terms “chef” and “cook” have been used interchangeably and that different employment statuses such as “full-time” and “permanent full-time” are confusing.

“Developing standardised terminology across the hospitality industry may clarify the different job titles and employment status leading to more efficient and effective job matching which could reduce turnover,” Mr Robinson said.

The authors also suggest that job advertisements provide a wealth of information which is rarely used in academic circles.

“Job advertisements are an under-utilised data source as they are current and available to the public,” Dr Arcodia said.

“Rich insights can often be gained from advertisements given the occupational, organisational, industry and societal artefacts they contain.”
$22 MILLION BOOST FOR UQ RESEARCH

Vaccines for cancers, better pain relief and getting people off the couch and exercising are some of the UQ research programs given a multi-million dollar boost last month.

Three UQ teams will receive almost $22 million as part of the National Health and Medical Research Council 2010 Program Grants that are aimed at giving scientists the ability to expand the scope of their research. UQ was awarded more than 20 percent of the national total.

Professor Ranjeny Thomas’s team at UQ’s Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology & Metabolic Medicine received $10.13 million to work on vaccines for cancer, chronic infections and autoimmune diseases such as diabetes.

“There is a large unmet need for effective solutions with fewer side effects in these diseases, which cause a high disease burden in our society,” Professor Thomas said.

Professor Neville Owen, who leads the Cancer Prevention Research Centre in UQ’s School of Population Health, received $5.39 million to examine ways to increase physical activity in an increasingly less active society.

“The majority of Australian adults spend most of their waking hours sitting,” Professor Owen said. “This leads to weight gain and to diseases of inactivity particularly diabetes, heart disease, cancer and depression.

“Our research will measure sitting time and the physical activity in people’s daily lives, what factors encourage inactivity, and how to increase activity levels, especially among the ageing baby boomer population.”

Associate Professor Richard Lewis, from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience, has received $6.36 million to develop new drugs to treat chronic pain.

“The goal of our research is to improve treatments for pain, especially persistent pain,” Dr Lewis said.

“We are investigating the venom from animals such as cone shells to develop a new class of pain killers that can treat persistent pain.”

UQ’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor David Siddle said the three grants would fund work that had the potential to reshape the health of Australia.

“Work by our outstanding researchers such as Professor Thomas has the potential to revolutionise the way we treat cancer and disease,” Professor Siddle said.

“In much the same way that many diseases were controlled last century by the use of vaccines, the new generation of vaccines could do the same this century.”

– ANDREW DUNNE

UQ welcomes new Chancellor

The University’s new Chancellor is Mr John Story, a highly experienced corporate leader with strong familial, professional and personal links to UQ.

Members of UQ’s governing body, Senate, voted Mr Story into the honorary position, which carries important governance, ceremonial and symbolic responsibilities.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield congratulated Mr Story, and said his acceptance of the role showed a generous commitment to serving UQ and the broader community.

“John’s paternal grandfather, John Douglas (‘JD’) Story, was UQ’s first full-time Vice-Chancellor, serving in an honorary capacity, and John has continued the affiliation by studying here and formerly giving legal advice to UQ,” Professor Greenfield said.

“He has held two voluntary positions, as a Senator since May 2006 and formerly as an Adjunct Professor, and whilst he was a partner of Corrs Chambers Westgarth he initiated supportive links between the legal firm and UQ’s TC Beirne School of Law.

“He is a lawyer with deep and broad corporate experience, being Chairman of

Suncorp-Metway, Tabcorp Holdings and the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Director of CSR, and a member of the Queensland Public Service Commission.

“John’s loyalty to UQ and his extensive business experience are fitting qualities for the Chancellor who will take UQ – which will mark its centenary in 2010 – into its second century.”

Mr Story thanked his Senate peers for honouring him with the position, and paid tribute to his predecessor Sir Llew Edwards AC, who was Chancellor for 16 years.

“I look forward to working with the Vice-Chancellor to fulfil the office’s duty of maintaining high standards of accountability by the University executive to the Senate,” Mr Story said.

“Equally importantly, this office encompasses the spirit, traditions and values of Queensland’s oldest university, and it grants opportunities for interaction with members of the UQ community and with partners in the broader community.

“Sir Llew was a superb Chancellor, and I am very conscious of the responsibilities associated with being his successor.”

Mr Story’s term as Chancellor will extend until December 31, 2012.
Australia’s first female Governor-General Dr Quentin Bryce, AC, was last month presented with the University’s Alumnus of the Year for 2008.

Dr Bryce, formerly Governor of Queensland from 2003 until 2008, was announced as UQ’s Alumnus of the Year late last year along with UQ’s International Alumnus of the Year, Cambodian labour camp survivor, Path Heang, and Young Alumnus of the Year, music therapist Alissa Phillips.

Dr Bryce received her award at a special presentation ceremony at Customs House, attended by UQ’s former Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards, AC, and Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield, AO, as well as President of the Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland Inc. Feona Walker and the group’s Senior Vice-President Dalma Jacobs.

Dr Bryce, who was the official Visitor to the University, is a University of Queensland graduate, former UQ academic and an honorary Doctor of Laws recipient.

She was sworn in as Australia’s 25th Governor-General at a ceremony at Parliament House in Canberra on September 5, 2008.

Professor Greenfield said UQ was privileged to have alumni of Dr Bryce’s calibre.

“A university’s reputation is determined largely by the character of its graduates, and Quentin Bryce is a great example to students, staff and other UQ graduates,” he said.

“She has put her UQ education to excellent use by improving conditions for people who have not shared in her advantages.”

Ms Walker said the Alumni Friends were honoured Dr Bryce had accepted the award of Alumnus of the Year for 2008.

Dr Bryce graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws from UQ where she later spent 14 years teaching Introduction to Law, Criminal Law, Administrative Law and Legal Aspects of Social Work.

Some of her appointments have included founding Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the National Childcare Accreditation Council and Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner.

– SHIRLEY GLAISTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND RECENTLY PRESENTED AUSTRALIA’S FIRST FEMALE GOVERNOR-GENERAL WITH A SPECIAL AWARD AT CUSTOMS HOUSE.

Worthy winner

Cause for celebration: (from left) Mrs Louise Greenfield, Dr Michael Bryce, Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield, Dr Quentin Bryce, former Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards, The Honourable Paul Lucas MP, and Dalma Jacobs of the Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland Inc.
TOP HONOURS

Staff, alumni and students associated with UQ have been honoured in this year’s Australia Day awards.

Those receiving honours include:

**Officer (AO) in the General Division**
- UQ alumnus Professor Brian Crommelin, for service to the law.

**Member (AM) in the General Division**
- Associate Professor Robert Beeton, for service to the environmental sciences.
- Alumnus Dr Ian Cameron, for service to civil engineering.
- Alumnus The Hon Justice Keiran Cullinane, for service to the law.
- Alumna Lesley McFarlane, for service to education.
- Alumnus Leavellyn Russell, for service to the shipping and transport logistics industries.
- Alumna Professor Julianne Schultz, for service as a journalist, editor and academic.
- Alumnus and Adjunct Professor Peter Short, for service to the law.
- Alumnus Professor James Taylor, for service to tertiary education.
- Alumnus and staff member Professor Harvey Whiteford, for service to medicine.

**Medal (OAM) in the General Division**
- Alumna Ann Bennison, for service to local government and the community.
- Alumnus Dr Ian Bunce RFD ED, for service to medicine.
- Alumna Deidre Brown, for service to the community.
- Alumnus George Curphey, for service to the community.
- Alumnus Victor Doig, for service to surf lifesaving.
- Alumnus Joseph Donnelly, for service to education as a teacher.
- Alumnus Commodore James Longden, for service to the community.
- Alumnus and staff member Associate Professor Ian McPhee, for service to medicine.
- Science student Melanie Schintger, as a gold medallist at the 2008 Olympic Games.
- Alumna Dr Gail Waterhouse, for service as a gold medallist at the 2008 Olympic Games.
- Associate Professor Robert Beeton, for service to medicine.
- Alumnus Llewellyn Russell, for service to tertiary education.
- Alumnus Dr Ian Cameron, for service to civil engineering.
- Alumnus Dr Ian Bunce RFD ED, for service to medicine.
- Associate Professor Harvey Whiteford, for service to medicine.

**Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC) Public Service Medal**
- Alumnus Dr Hugh Wirth serving as Australia Day ambassadors.

The University has welcomed several new and familiar faces to its executive team for 2009.

Among the appointments is legal leader Dorothy Collins who has been named UQ’s first Secretary and General Counsel. Ms Collins (pictured) has been General Counsel at UQ since May 2007, prior to which she practised as a commercial and corporate lawyer in Perth and was a lecturer at the Law School at the University of Western Australia.

Among Ms Collins’ responsibilities are serving as the University Secretary, leading the UQ Legal Office and supervising the operations of Assurance and Risk Management Services.

In related news, Professor Susan Hamilton has been elected the President of the Academic Board, and Professor Ian Zimmer is currently acting as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Relations). Professor Zimmer recently completed a successful 10 years as the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law, and has been succeeded by Professor Tim Braithford.

Meanwhile, Professor Graham Schaffer is the Executive Dean of the new Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology, while Professor David de Vaus will become the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences’ Executive Dean in June. Professor Mark Western has also been appointed as Director of the Institute for Social Science Research.

### Aussie Colours to grow under new CEO

Aussie Colours, the company formed to commercialise drought-resistant plants developed by UQ research has appointed Lionel Sach as its new CEO to lead the business through its next phase of growth.

Mr Sach has more than 20 years experience in the nursery industry, both in Australia and the UK, and brings a wealth of experience in the growing and distribution of unique flowering plants.

“Aussie Colours is a progressive innovative company with enormous potential,” Mr Sach said.

“l am extremely excited to be a part of the company’s expansion plans.”

Since the company’s formation in June 2007, Aussie Colours has released a number of new native flowering plant varieties to nurseries throughout Australia. The Outback Princess® (Piloutus nobilis), has also been sold for cut flowers to the Japanese market, and in 2009 one Aussie Colours variety will be released for sale in the USA and Canada.

“We are very pleased with the progress of Aussie Colours,” said interim CEO Brian Ruddle.

“Our rapidly expanding product range will benefit from the expertise of a full-time CEO of Lionel’s calibre.”

Mr Sach is a prominent figure on industry bodies including Treasurer of the International Plant Propagators Society Australian Region, President of the Horticulture Media Association Australia, Industry Advisory Committee member for Horticulture Australia Limited, and Chairman of NGIQ Nursery & Garden Industry Queensland Technical & Environment Committee.
Research by UQ Business School’s Renee Adams has found women appear to significantly enhance the monitoring capacity of the boards they join.

Using detailed data sourced from the US Investor Responsibility Research Centre, Professor Adams and co-researcher Dr Daniel Ferreira found boards with more female directors were characterised by greater participation of directors in decision making, tougher monitoring of the CEO, and more alignment with the interests of shareholders.

Professor Adams said the research provided solid evidence to support what had until now been a largely ideological debate.

“Boards around the world are under pressure to recruit more women with some countries legislating quotas to improve diversity on boards,” Professor Adams said.

“From January last year, companies in Norway have been required to ensure at least 40 percent of directors are female. Spain is following suit with their quota, also 40 percent, coming into effect from 2015 and Sweden is threatening to do the same.

“The research suggests there will be a measurable improvement in the monitoring capacity of boards incorporating more women. However, our findings do not support the argument for quotas as increased monitoring can be counter-productive in well-governed companies.

“Ultimately decisions about board composition must be made at the company level, taking into account other board characteristics. What our evidence does show is that women board members are not mere tokens.”

The research is to be published in the Journal of Financial Economics.
UQ researchers will participate in a new $60 million National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training announced by the Rudd Government.

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, and Minister for Innovation and Research, Senator Kim Carr, said the new centre, led by Flinders University, was an important investment in helping secure Australia’s future water supplies.

The UQ component of the research will be led by Chair in Hydrology, Professor David Lockington, whose team will focus on the groundwater dynamics and biogeochemistry of key coastal environments from local to regional scales.

Other key UQ investigators will be Professor Ling Li, Associate Professor Catherine Lovelock, and Associate Professor Massimo Gasparon.

“Australia’s extensive coastline has an incredibly diverse range of terrestrial and shallow water conditions and habitats, which are home to complex and sensitive ecosystems of rich biodiversity, and are subject to major development pressure as well as climate change impacts,” Professor Lockington said.
Purple and green coloured donuts, UQ frisbees flying their way around campus and the chatter of new friendships summed up Orientation Week 2009.

From St Lucia to Ipswich and Gatton, the week again proved an important part of the academic calendar with thousands of students attending.

Student Centre Manager (Orientation Coordinator) Kenneth Aberdeen said Market Day was one of the highlights of OWeek 2009, especially the Physics Student Society “walking on water” demonstration.

“The sporting and social clubs proved to be favourites again this year and there were lots of ‘freebies’ for students as well as fun activities,” Mr Aberdeen said.

“From the University’s perspective, the success of OWeek is best judged by how well students transition to University life and access the information and services we are trying to highlight.”

These include workshops on study skills, understanding the academic timetable, discovering the UQ Library, computer help and training, faculty welcomes and course advising sessions.

The week culminated in the Big 0 on tour at UQ, with acts including The Music, The Fratellis, Ben Lee, Bluejuice, Yves Klein Blue and Cassette Kids, held at The University of Queensland Amphitheatre, St Lucia.

Mr Aberdeen said Orientation Week gave students a chance to be informed about what support was available to them before the hectic academic year started.

“Building social and study networks is also a very important focus of orientation and many faculties have devoted considerable effort to that outcome again this year,” he said.

“Universities worldwide are putting a great deal of effort into their orientation and transition programs. This period can be a key differentiator in students’ success and it is great to see students having fun in the process.”

– ELIZA PLANT

THE UNIVERSITY GAVE A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS DURING ORIENTATION WEEK ACTIVITIES LAST MONTH.
Reef renewal

UQ MARINE RESEARCH IS READY TO TAKE FLIGHT AGAIN AFTER A $9 MILLION UPGRADE OF HERON ISLAND FACILITIES WAS UNVEILED LAST MONTH. PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEWART GOULD
“My research group has focused on global climate change, exploring how corals and other organisms are responding to increasing temperatures and growing ocean acidity.”

UQ’s Heron Island Research Station on the Great Barrier Reef was officially reopened by Minister for Education, Training and the Arts Rod Welford on February 20 following a $9 million upgrade.

The refurbishments come after a fire destroyed most of the station in March 2007. UQ Centre for Marine Studies director Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg said having a research station in one of the healthiest parts of the Great Barrier Reef was an asset, not just to UQ, but also to researchers worldwide.

“This proximity enables researchers to explore coral reefs using the latest laboratory facilities and equipment while only being situated literally metres away from a living and breathing coral reef,” Professor Hoegh-Guldberg said.

“There are very few places in the world that have this type of access and sophisticated study platform. Investigators and students come here from all over Australia and the world.”

Professor Hoegh-Guldberg said coral reefs were important to people in Australia and surrounding countries due to their ability to support industries like tourism and fisheries.

“Over $6 billion flows into the Queensland economy each year from tourists coming to see the Great Barrier Reef, for example,” he said.

“Unfortunately coral reefs both here in Australia and all over the world are being affected by human activities such as declining water quality, over-fishing and global warming. This has generated an imperative for research.”

Research at Heron Island has already led to major discoveries, including medicinal properties associated with cone shells, and using sea sponges and abalone to better understand evolution.

Professor Hoegh-Guldberg’s own research area relies heavily on studying the reef at close hand.

“My research group has focused on global climate change, exploring how corals and other organisms are responding to increasing temperatures and growing ocean acidity,” he said.

“This work has turned out to be fundamentally important to our understanding of how coral reefs, the most biodiverse marine ecosystem in the ocean, are going to respond to increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide.”

Heron Island Research Station is one of the oldest marine research stations in the world, having been in operation for more than 50 years.

Thanks to the reconstruction, the station now includes seven research labs, three teaching labs, two instrument rooms, aquaria infrastructure and seminar and computer rooms, along with an 80-bed student accommodation block.

It has extensive facilities for accommodating undergraduates including teaching laboratories and dorm accommodation.

THE HERON ISLAND RESEARCH STATION

Located at the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef National Park, Heron Island Research Station (HIRS) is the largest and most sophisticated marine research station in Australia, providing research laboratories within metres of Heron Reef.

The research station is located at the leeward end of a coral cay on a 10 x 5 kilometre platform reef, 80 kilometres east of Gladstone and 600 kilometres north of Brisbane.

Heron Reef is home to approximately 60 percent of the fish species and 72 percent of the coral species found on the Great Barrier Reef, as well as the cay’s rich terrestrial flora and fauna.

The research station is one of only four centres of excellence recognised in the global Coral Reef Targeted Research Program funded by the World Bank.

It was established more than 50 years ago and is a cornerstone of the Australian Research Council’s Centre of Excellence in Coral Reef Studies.

HIRS is recognised as one of the key facilities for marine research as well as undergraduate teaching and training. Many high schools also come to Heron Island to teach their students about coral reef ecosystems.

INFO → www.cms.uq.edu.au
When a mother breastfeeds she is essentially protecting her child from herself, according to UQ researcher and developmental paediatrician, Dr Lane Strathearn.

By linking data from the Mater-University of Queensland Study of Pregnancy – Australia’s largest longitudinal study tracking mothers and their children – with reports of maltreatment recorded by the Department of Child Safety, Dr Strathearn (pictured), found mothers who breastfed were less likely to neglect their children. “Mothers who didn’t breastfeed were almost four times more likely to be reported for maternal neglect than mothers who breastfed for four or more months,” he said.

“For mothers who breastfed for less than four months, the risk was about 2.3 times.”

In what is believed to be the first population study to provide statistics on the rate of child abuse in Australia, seven percent of children were identified as victims of maltreatment.

Of the 7223 children in the birth cohort, 512 were confirmed cases of maltreatment, with the mother identified as the perpetrator 60 percent of the time.

While it was impossible to conduct a randomised trial, Dr Strathearn said breastfeeding offered a realistic explanation.

“The difficulty with this research subject is that you can’t randomly assign a woman to breastfeed her baby and another one not to, so there’s always potential for bias,” he said.

“But, these results make sense biologically because breastfeeding is associated with oxytocin release, and we know from animal studies that oxytocin is produced in the brain and helps activate areas of the brain that are involved in maternal care and behaviour.

“There are some other functional MRI studies which show how an intranasal dose of oxytocin actually affects how the brain responds to stressful or anxiety-provoking situations and increases trust in a dyadic exchange between two people.”

While the biological function of oxytocin offered a logical explanation, Dr Strathearn said the physical bond created between the mother and baby during breastfeeding could also be a contributing factor. “Breastfeeding may simply promote that interpersonal bond between a mother and her baby – the physical touch, the holding, the eye-to-eye contact,” he said.

– PENNY ROBINSON

US ENDORSES TRIPLE P PROGRAM

A landmark US study has found that the University’s Triple P – Positive Parenting Program can significantly lower rates of child abuse injuries and foster care placements when offered to parents community-wide.

Results of the five-year study, which was funded by the prestigious Center for Disease Control and Prevention and led by Dr Ron Prinz at the University of South Carolina, were published in the online edition of the Prevention Science journal.

It is the first large-scale study to show that providing all families – not just families at risk – with access to proven parenting information and support can reduce rates of child maltreatment.

The study found that making Triple P available to all parents led to significantly lower rates of confirmed child abuse, fewer out-of-home placements and fewer hospitalisations from child abuse injuries, when compared to communities without access to Triple P.

Researchers estimate for every 100,000 children under the age of eight, the results could translate annually into 688 fewer cases of child maltreatment, 240 fewer children in care and 60 fewer children being admitted to hospital or emergency departments with abuse injuries.

Study co-author and Triple P Founder Professor Matt Sanders (pictured), said the research added to the already strong evidence base of the program.

“This research shows that by providing all parents – not just those at risk – with parenting support through evidence-based programs, we can have a major impact on child maltreatment,” Professor Sanders said.

“We would expect similar results in Australia if all families here were offered easy access to Triple P.”

INFO ➔ www.triplep.net

BREASTFEEDING POSITIVES

When a mother breastfeeds she is essentially protecting her child from herself, according to UQ researcher and developmental paediatrician, Dr Lane Strathearn.

By linking data from the Mater-University of Queensland Study of Pregnancy – Australia’s largest longitudinal study tracking mothers and their children – with reports of maltreatment recorded by the Department of Child Safety, Dr Strathearn (pictured), found mothers who breastfed were less likely to neglect their children.

“Mothers who didn’t breastfeed were almost four times more likely to be reported for maternal neglect than mothers who breastfed for four or more months,” he said.

“For mothers who breastfed for less than four months, the risk was about 2.3 times.”

In what is believed to be the first population study to provide statistics on the rate of child abuse in Australia, seven percent of children were identified as victims of maltreatment.

Of the 7223 children in the birth cohort, 512 were confirmed cases of maltreatment, with the mother identified as the perpetrator 60 percent of the time.

While it was impossible to conduct a randomised trial, Dr Strathearn said breastfeeding offered a realistic explanation.

“The difficulty with this research subject is that you can’t randomly assign a woman to breastfeed her baby and another one not to, so there’s always potential for bias,” he said.

“But, these results make sense biologically because breastfeeding is associated with oxytocin release, and we know from animal studies that oxytocin is produced in the brain and helps activate areas of the brain that are involved in maternal care and behaviour.

“There are some other functional MRI studies which show how an intranasal dose of oxytocin actually affects how the brain responds to stressful or anxiety-provoking situations and increases trust in a dyadic exchange between two people.”

While the biological function of oxytocin

INFO ➔ www.triplep.net
Never before has comprehensive data on homeless and unwanted cats been collected and analysed to the magnitude currently being undertaken by UQ PhD student Corinne Hanlon.

Ms Hanlon (pictured), from the Centre for Companion Animal Health, is conducting research which will provide evidence-based solutions to Australia’s unmanageable population of unwanted cats and kittens.

Nationwide, an estimated 60 percent of cats that enter shelters are euthanised and this figure is higher in council pounds. Across Australia, there have been a number of strategies put in place in an effort to curb euthanasia rates, including mandatory desexing, pet registrations and community awareness programs.

However, none of these strategies have been successful in reducing the numbers and there has been a 28 percent increase in the euthanasia of cats nationwide in the last year.

By working closely with RSPCA shelters across Australia, Ms Hanlon’s research is specifically investigating the cat population entering shelters.

This data is being analysed to identify which factors have the greatest impact on why cats and kittens end up in shelters.

“We are looking into specific factors such as demographics and the environment and whether the temperature, rainfall and day length have an effect on entry of cats and kittens to shelters, and if so, what factors are most influential,” Ms Hanlon said.

“Analysing the reasons why people surrender their cats and the human demographics of those who surrender will also allow us to determine if socio-economic status, housing situations or local legislation have any influence.

“Additionally we are investigating the characteristics of these cats – which cats are at a higher risk of euthanasia once in a shelter and what shelter factors improve the outcome for kittens and cats.”

The analysis of this data will provide a comprehensive nationwide view of the unwanted cat population which will enable shelters and government to build on current management strategies to not only reduce the number of unwanted kittens born, but cats entering shelters.

“Ultimately, our goal is the reduction of cat euthanasia through the development of targeted management strategies,” Ms Hanlon said.

“This project has substantial support from two private donors, however additional ongoing funding is still required.

“We welcome any donations from the community who want to help make a difference.”

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/ccah

RSPCA scholarship

UQ Business School honours student Christilene du Plessis has been awarded a $25,000 RSPCA Qld Scholarship to help in the search for an ethical way to find homes for shelter animals.

The one-off scholarship, financed by the Petcare Information Advisory Service (PIAS), will fund Ms du Plessis’ market research as part of RSPCA Qld’s one-year trial selling refuge animals through commercial pet shops.

Ms du Plessis said she was extremely excited to be the scholarship recipient as it allowed her to make a contribution to the community while also fulfilling her marketing honours thesis requirements.

“I’m very interested in corporate social responsibility and how that relates to marketing and I thought this was a wonderful opportunity to make a positive difference as part of my studies,” Ms du Plessis said.

RSPCA Qld’s trial began last month, with cats and dogs from its shelters now on sale at Petbarn in Lawnton and the RSPCA’s World for Pets Superstore at Springwood.

RSPCA Qld Scientific Research Officer Mandy Symons said the animals were de-sexed, vaccinated, wormed and micro-chipped and RSPCA staff and volunteers were responsible for the care and sale of the pets.

“We need to find ways to successfully re-home more animals because at the moment the sad truth is that we are putting thousands of animals, especially kittens, to sleep every year,” Dr Symons said.

UGBS honours academic supervisor Associate Professor Frank Alpert said the scholarship, one of the largest ever awarded from UGBS, represented a win-win situation for all involved.

“The project will use state-of-the-art methodology to address a market research need and, because it is not simply a consulting project, will also result in an original contribution to the marketing literature. It will produce an honours thesis that is academically rigorous,” Dr Alpert said.
Receiving an award from the Prime Minister and one of the world’s most prominent businessmen isn’t an everyday occurrence, and it’s an experience UQ postgraduate Carissa Klein is unlikely to forget.

Ms Klein received the Sir Keith Murdoch Fellowship at a benefit dinner for the American Australian Association (AAA) in Sydney last month, and met many dignitaries including Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and News Corporation chairman Rupert Murdoch.

The AAA is a non-profit organisation devoted to encouraging stronger ties between the two countries, particularly in the private sector.

Currently completing her PhD at UQ under the supervision of renowned ecologist Professor Hugh Possingham, Ms Klein’s research is unique in its exploration of biodiversity planning with socio-economic considerations in mind.

“The key is to find solutions that address socioeconomic issues without compromising biodiversity conservation objectives,” she said. Ms Klein completed her Master’s thesis at the University of California, where she developed ways to protect marine ecosystems whilst minimising impact to the fishing communities.

She plans to continue her exploration of this and other projects while working at UQ with Professor Possingham, UQ lecturer Kerrie Wilson and Ecotrust, a US based non-government organisation.

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Hoping for change

When the United States of America officially inaugurated its first African American president on January 20, UQ PhD candidate Noritta Morseu-Diop was in Washington D.C to offer her applause.

Ms Morseu-Diop braved the US capitol’s freezing weather to witness history unfold when President-Elect Barack Obama took his seat at the White House.

A UQ PhD candidate, with the School of Social Work and Human Services, Ms Morseu-Diop is currently completing an international study on the experiences of ex-incarcerated Indigenous people in Queensland and Aotearoa/New Zealand, looking at their perspectives on the effectiveness of prison rehabilitation programs.

“It was absolutely amazing. To be there in the crowd on that historic day was incredibly moving,” Ms Morseu-Diop said.

“When the people in the streets heard that we had come all that way from Australia for the Inauguration, many were overwhelmed.

“The presence of people from other countries showed the American people that the world was standing in solidarity with them in welcoming President Obama and his family into the White House.”

Ms Morseu-Diop can still recall the day President-Elect Barack Obama’s winning speech brought tears to her eyes.

“His election win was inspiring and his speech brought tears to my eyes and hope in my heart, because I never ever thought that Dr Martin Luther King’s dream to see African Americans being judged by the ‘content of their character and not by the colour of their skin’ being made a reality in my lifetime,” she said.

“Being the President of the most powerful country in the world and the many challenges facing him as he takes on the Presidential seat, I truly hope that Barack Obama will bring harmony, hope, peace and unity back to the people of the world and the USA.”

UQ graduate Neil Willmett also joined Ms Morseu-Diop and three other Indigenous Australians in Washington D.C.

As owner of the Willmett Group, Mr Willmett provides human resource and business advice to government and business and is also the author of How to Establish a Successful Aboriginal Business in Australia, the first small business book written by an Indigenous Australian.

– ELIZA PLANT

“His election win was inspiring and his speech brought tears to my eyes and hope in my heart”
GP boost

The University will contribute $1.7 million towards a GP Super Clinic to be established at Redcliffe.

The Federal Government has announced it will contribute up to $5 million towards the facility.

It is one of nine proposed GP Super Clinics in Queensland announced by the Commonwealth to be located in Brisbane, Bundaberg, Cairns, Gladstone, Ipswich, Mount Isa, Redcliffe, Strathpine and Townsville.

The clinics will provide high-quality services, with a focus on convenient, multi-disciplinary care from teams of medical, nursing and allied health professionals.

They will also provide an ideal teaching opportunity for GP registrars, along with other medical, nursing and allied health professional students and new graduates.

The Head of the Northside Clinical School in The University of Queensland’s School of Medicine, Associate Professor Ian Yang, welcomed the announcement.

"From a training and education point of view, this is a very exciting opportunity for The University of Queensland to partner with the Moreton Bay Region community, to build a sustainable health care workforce for the future," Dr Yang said.

"This GP Super Clinic will help to train medical, nursing and allied health students, in a dynamic learning environment.

"This will also enable significant research into preventing chronic diseases and their complications, to help our patients in the region."

UQ aids African hospitals

UQ postgraduate Sean Mitchell tested both sides of his brain recently in Africa as part of his medical studies.

Using his science and French language skills, Mr Mitchell spent six weeks in Rwanda as part of an elective undertaken through the School of Medicine.

In conjunction with St John’s Ambulance, Mr Mitchell (pictured) spent the first two weeks with a colleague teaching 200 Rwandan high school students basic first aid in French.

He then went on to spend four weeks at the Nyanza District Hospital working in the maternity and surgery departments where he saw donated equipment from Brisbane hospitals put to good use.

UQ students are involved with Towards International Medical Equality (TIME), which sent almost $15 000 of equipment to hospitals all over the world last year.

Prior to commencing his studies in medicine, Mr Mitchell completed a Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Arts dual degree, with his knowledge of French proving invaluable during his visit.

"Most of the doctors and nurses were trained either in Rwanda or the Democratic Republic of Congo, and as such French was used clinically for communication between the staff, and also between the Congolese doctors and their patients," he said.

"This also meant that doctors were accessing Francophone clinical aids from the World Health Organisation and UNICEF."

Mr Mitchell said he was fortunate to have studied several different disciplines at university before deciding to become a doctor.

"An Arts degree offers a great opportunity to explore both the theoretical underpinnings of various intellectual movements and critique your own way of thinking," he said.

"Having a strong understanding of who you are, the way you think and what you stand for before you begin to study medicine will make you a better doctor at the end of the day."

In the future, Mr Mitchell hopes to work in Rwanda with Médecins Sans Frontières.

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Bringing the bard BEHIND BARS

**Shakespeare’s work speaks to people from all walks of life, as Dr Rob Pensalfini knows first hand.**

The UQ linguistics lecturer and his wife Anne are leading an Arts Community Enhancement (ACE) program at the Borallon Correctional Centre, which will culminate in a performance at the prison in May.

Approximately 20 inmates are working with Dr Pensalfini and colleagues from the Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble (QSE) after a world-first pilot program at Borallon in 2006. The project ties in with the work of theatre practitioner and activist Augusto Boal and is among the first to fuse his theories and Shakespeare in a prison context.

Dr Pensalfini said ACE philosophy held that violent and other disruptive behaviour often arose out of an inability to express negative thoughts and emotions through appropriate means.

"In Shakespeare's works, players find the means to express the very thoughts, feelings and situations that are the most difficult to put into words," he said.

"Shakespeare places his characters in extreme and disruptive situations, then demands they be extremely eloquent about the experience. "It is through the embodiment of these dramatic texts that detainees will most acutely be able to acknowledge and address rupture in their own lives."

Inmates and their families will participate in weekly workshops until May, choosing a Shakespearean piece for performance that reflects their realities and experiences.

Twenty participants completed a five-day intensive on Boal’s techniques at UQ Ipswich in February, including three QSE members who are working at Borallon and several Indigenous performers who hope to use the techniques in their local communities.

The ACE initiative is made possible by support from Borallon staff, the QSE and Arts Queensland.

— CAMERON PEGG

**“In Shakespeare’s works, players find the means to express the very thoughts, feelings and situations that are the most difficult to put into words”**

Above: Dr Pensalfini during a performance at Borallon prison in 2006, and top, the theatre intensive held at UQ Ipswich last month

**TRACKING TRAFFICKING**

In response to recent cases of human trafficking in Far North Queensland, UQ researchers visited Townsville and Cairns to investigate and present preliminary findings at public forums.

The TC Beirne School of Law’s Human Trafficking Working Group, headed by Dr Andreas Schloenhardt, has been working with government agencies, non government organisations and advocacy groups to identify and analyse reported and suspected cases of human trafficking in Australia.

Of particular interest were reports about a married couple from Weipa, who recently appealed against their conviction for slavery and sexual servitude offences. The couple was convicted of arranging the marriage of a woman from the Philippines, bringing her to Australia to work in their shop and as a domestic helper in their private home. When the woman arrived in Australia, she was held in a Cairns motel for several days and repeatedly raped.

The working group examines the pattern and criminology of trafficking in persons, relevant criminal offences relating to trafficking in persons and sexual servitude, the immigration status and legal protection provided to both lawful and unlawful foreign sex workers, and the effectiveness of government regulation of the sex industry in Australia in this context.

Based on these findings, the response by national, state, and territory governments will be critically evaluated. Global initiatives and best practices to confront trafficking in persons, especially those developed by the United Nations are drawn upon to propose recommendations for policy change and law reform.

The project is a joint initiative of the TC Beirne School of Law at The University of Queensland, and the Centre of International Relations at The University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.

The public forums are supported by the Queensland Law Society.
Creative minds combine

As part of a major relaunch of its academic publishing list, UQP is proud to announce the arrival of the Creative Economy + Innovation Culture series this month.

The groundbreaking series brings to a wider readership fresh approaches to global creative thinking, enterprise and innovation, and examines new knowledge for the new economy.

The series will feature leading Australian and international scholars in the creative industries, selected by UQP in conjunction with series editors Professors John Hartley and Stuart Cunningham.

Titles will explore enterprise and innovation along the dynamic boundary between market and non-market, cultural and economic, commercial and community, and will link creative practitioners with business leaders, policy makers and scholars.

UQP is proud to welcome leading Australian and international scholars to this ambitious project and contribute new thinking to intellectual debates.

Following on from the success of his previous book The Creative Economy, Professor Howkins draws on new ecological principles to show why some ideas prosper and others fall by the wayside.

Fifty years after Richard Hoggart’s pioneering The Uses of Literacy reshaped the educational response to popular culture, Professor Hartley’s The Uses of Digital Literacy extends Hoggart’s argument from print to digital media.

To celebrate the launch of the UQP Creative Economy + Innovation Culture series, Professor Hartley and Professor Hawkins (who will be visiting from the UK) will be speaking at the Ideas Festival on March 29 at the State Library of Queensland.

INFO → www.uqp.uq.edu.au
TOP TEACHERS
Nominations are being invited for The University of Queensland’s 2009 Awards for Teaching Excellence, Awards for Programs that Enhance Learning and Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning.
Information including posters, guidelines and nomination forms is available at administration offices across the University, and online at www.uq.edu.au/teaching-learning. Entries close on Friday, April 24.
INFO ➔ (07) 3365 3206

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS
A UQ public policy expert was the sole Australian academic invited to take part in a recent think tank held in the Middle East.
Professor Brian Head, from the Institute for Social Science Research, attended the Agenda for the New Millennium event to discuss sustainability issues in Abu Dhabi.
The event drew participants from 18 countries, with its aim to provide solutions for a broad range of issues faced by policy makers around the globe.

PHOTOS LYLE RADFORD
Eco art: (clockwise from top) Hideki Okubo listens to the water harp via a length of bamboo, Dr Kato at the opening, and Kubo Yoshinobu and Indigenous elder Uncle Joe Kirk take part in the ceremony.

Musical Tranquility

Visitors to the Roma Street Parkland witnessed a unique ceremony taking place recently, but only if they were prepared to listen.

January saw the Hatsune-shiki (first sound ceremony) of a purpose-built Japanese water harp, also known as a suikinkutsu.
The harp is the centrepiece for a “sound garden” designed by UQ’s Dr Kumi Kato, local architect Will Marcus and Mr Kubo Yoshinobu, a specialist suikinkutsu builder from Japan who travelled to Brisbane specially for the occasion.

Once complete the garden will be a permanent feature of the parkland, and has been funded by the Queensland Government’s art+place program.
The harp consists of a buried earthenware pot, which is tipped upside down and has a hole drilled at the top. When drops of water fall through onto a permanent layer of water at the base it creates a subtle musical effect which differs depending on the weather.
Mr Kubo also assisted Dr Kato with a similar installation in a Tasmanian forest in 2005 – believed to be the first of its kind in Australia.

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INFO ➔ www.ecco.org.au/150sound/
The University is appealing to its Blues of the past to support the stars of the future.

UQ SPORT Executive Director Kim Guerin said the 2009 Blues Awards Dinner, to be held on April 24 at Hillstone St Lucia Golf Links, would focus on the traits that unite athletes throughout the ages.

“The characteristics of perseverance, determination, dedication, passion, courage and camaraderie continue to define UQ athletes,” Ms Guerin said.

ABC sportscaster Gerry Collins is the MC for the night, which will also see the 2009 UQ SPORT scholarships announced along with awards for sportsman, woman and coach of the year.

The awarding of university Blues and Half-Blues is a tradition that can be traced back more than 170 years to the historic rivalry between Oxford and Cambridge universities.

Ms Guerin said UQ had an excellent reputation in nurturing elite athletes, and wanted to hear from all former Blue recipients and their families and friends.

“Over 55 Wallabies, 60 Olympians and many other successful athletes have benefited from the outstanding sporting facilities and services UQ SPORT has to offer,” Ms Guerin said.

“Following Australia’s success at the Beijing Olympics, where 16 UQ alumni took part, the 2009 Annual Blues Awards Dinner is a great opportunity to reflect on the achievements of sportsmen and women, past and present, who have achieved excellence.”

INFO ➔ For more details or to book tickets, contact (07) 3365 8205 or danielles@uqsport.uq.edu.au

A particularly impressive piece of silverware is on show at UQ SPORT, and it’s all thanks to the efforts of the University’s rowers.

The UQ men’s coxed eights took out the Oxford and Cambridge Cup in October for the first time in 16 years, and were rewarded with a famous silver trophy that is over 100 years old.

The cup has scenes of both Cambridge and Oxford and depicts pictures of rowing and the floral emblems of England, Scotland and Wales. The angel at the top is pictured in the traditional pose of the toast to rowing.

Queensland first entered the race in 1920 and won in 1922 and 1923, with both crews stroked by Eric Freeman (after whom the UQ Boatshed is now named). Queensland won again in 1958 and 1959 and broke tradition by taking the trifecta in 1990, 1991 and 1992.

The 2008 winning crew was coached by Lincoln Handley and consisted of Ben Ward, Will Lindores, Angus Morton, Charles Ohtomo, Jonathan Trovas, Robert Lewis-Swan, Sam Conrad, Michel McBride and Mark Alexander.
Choir in tune for premiere

UQ’s scientists are not the only ones leading the nation, with the University’s oldest choir featuring a Southern Hemisphere premiere in its 2009 season.

The Queensland University Musical Society (QUMS) will present the Australian premiere of Karl Jenkins’ Te Deum for choir and orchestra, together with the Queensland premiere of the same composer’s Requiem, in a concert at St John’s Anglican Cathedral on May 23.

QUMS, formed in 1912 as a Glee Club for the then newly-established University, is now a vibrant student and community choir, welcoming members of all ages and levels of experience.

Karl Jenkins is the composer of the well-known Adiemus suites, who broke onto the mainstream stage in 2000 with The Armed Man – A Mass for Peace, a work which has since been performed around the globe.

The composer followed this success with Requiem in 2004, Stabat Mater in 2008, and now Te Deum, which premiered on November 30 last year in Liverpool.

“With the ever-increasing popularity of Jenkins’ works, a competition has emerged to see who will get to perform them and when, and once we found out about Te Deum, it was an opportunity too good to miss,” QUMS President and Musical Director David Webster said.

Mr Webster said there was an element of the unknown about the project which excited those involved.

“The negotiations for the performance rights began before the work had even been premiered, so information was scarce, and a recording simply non-existent,” he said.

“Jenkins incorporates a wide range of unorthodox element in his works – for instance, the Requiem consists of the text of the Latin Mass for the dead, interspersed with Japanese haiku poems.

“Even the traditional elements get a makeover, with the Dies Irae movement being written around a hip-hop rhythm! I am sure that Te Deum will not disappoint.”

QUMS rehearses on Wednesday nights from 7-9.30pm at UQ St Lucia. New members are always welcome.

INFO ➔ www.qums.aicsa.org.au
In a first for Australia and the Pacific, UQ has won the right to host UNESCO’s global World Press Freedom Day conference and Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize-giving ceremony in 2010.

Announcing UNESCO’s decision to stage the headline event in Brisbane next year, Director-General Koichiro Matsuura said his organisation was “proud to host this ceremony in your wonderful country, and for the first time in the Pacific region”.

The UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize honours a person, organisation or institution that have made an outstanding and courageous contribution to the defence and/or promotion of press freedom anywhere in the world.

The theme of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, 2010 is “Freedom of Information: The Right to Know”, and UQ’s conference will focus particularly on freedom of expression issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said UQ was proud to support UNESCO’s efforts to uphold and engender public accountability and media freedom.

“UNESCO is the only UN agency with a mandate to defend media freedom, and too often it has cause to condemn the deliberate killing of a journalist or journalists,” Professor Greenfield said.

“One of this conference’s purposes will be to honour reporters who were assassinated or harmed because they exposed or threatened to expose the truth.

“UQ educates journalism students who may one day work in places where their profession makes them targets, and we regard this conference as important for their safety as well as for the global flow of accurate information.”

The University of Queensland celebrates its centenary in 2010 and its journalism school is Australia’s oldest.

Professor Michael Bromley, Head of the School of Journalism and Communication, said he hoped the conference would also encourage a wider “fringe” program of activities in Brisbane to promote the importance of media freedom to the general public.

“Our school has been actively pursuing the World Press Freedom Day project for about 18 months. This is a high-level, global UN Day, and it will attract large numbers of delegates from all around the world,” Professor Bromley said.

Planning for the event has now started, with a World Press Freedom Day 2010 Organising Committee soon to be appointed.

INFO » www.uq.edu.au/sjc

– ELIZA PLANT