NEW LOOK

Ricky Swallow watercolours unveiled
RESEARCH WEEK
PUBLIC LECTURE

UQ’s annual Research Week Public Lecture gives you the opportunity to hear from two of the University’s leading scientists and thinkers.

PROFESSOR ANTON MIDDELBERG
Australian Institute for Bioengineering & Nanotechnology, The University of Queensland
“Engineering an end to influenza”

In 2008, Professor Middelberg was named as one of Australia’s most influential engineers by Engineers Australia. His research into chemical self-assembly processing focuses on products that comprise ordered biomolecules, including rapid-response vaccines. Professor Middelberg was a Fulbright Fellow at Berkeley, a Fellow of Selwyn College Cambridge, and a Fellow of the Cambridge-MIT Institute.

PROFESSOR MATTHEW COOPER
Institute for Molecular Bioscience, The University of Queensland
“Bad bugs, no drugs: a health crisis in Australia and developing countries”

Professor Cooper is one of two inaugural NHMRC Australia Fellows. He recently worked as Chief Scientist and Director of Research at Akubio Ltd., a biotechnology company based in England. He has completed a PhD in organic chemistry and worked as a researcher at Cambridge University. Professor Cooper is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine and was nominated for UK Entrepreneur of the Year in 2005.

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2009
6.00pm – 7.30pm, followed by refreshments
Auditorium, Level 3
Queensland Bioscience Precinct, Bldg 80
The University of Queensland
St Lucia campus

Limited places available
RSVP by Wednesday 16 September 2009
via www.uq.edu.au/researchweek

www.uq.edu.au/researchweek
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Australian university research will soon be turning on a new axis, as the Government beds down its quality assessment system, Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA).

Once the full process begins in 2010, ERA will become not only a powerful instrument to inform Australian Government funding decisions, but a de facto ranking system and a determinant of all-important reputational capital.

By consulting ERA data, interested parties will be able to make detailed comparisons of the performance of Australian universities. This will colour the decisions of potential and actual students, employees, philanthropists, government agencies and industry and community partners.

It will test the will of all universities. Fortunately, UQ has solid foundations across the board, thanks to outstanding performances by hundreds of individuals and teams.

Ecology is one such field. UQ consistently leads Australian universities for papers on ecology and conservation published in top international journals. A recent update shows that, over 11 years to the end of 2008, UQ rated 51st among the world’s research institutions for environment and ecology.

UQ has the best results of any Australian university for papers on ecology and conservation published in top international journals, a ScienceWatch analysis shows. UQ featured in three of the 20 most cited papers during this period.

Its foundations include a grid of multidisciplinary collaborations, in which researchers from disparate fields work together to strengthen outcomes.

The Ecology Centre, for example, applies areas such as mathematics, economics, and information technology to environmental planning, ecosystem management and species protection. The centre’s research is influencing public opinion as well as high-level policy makers globally.

Last month, software developed in the centre attracted the prestigious Sherman Eureka Prize for Environmental Research. The cadre of experts in the closely connected School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management includes spatial ecologists, who use tools such as remote sensing and geographic information systems to study landscape distributions of animals and plants.

Due to the efforts of many, UQ is now leading the new Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (TERN), a national collaboration that has received $59 million in government funding ($55 million federally and $4 million at state level). Its foundations include a grid of multidisciplinary collaborations, in which researchers from disparate fields work together to strengthen outcomes.

Dr Peter Mumby, one of only 15 new Australian Laureate Fellows, will be based in the Centre for Marine Studies and work closely with others at UQ.

This is not a comprehensive overview, however; by demonstrating how sustained excellence can perpetuate rewards, our ecology researchers offer key pointers to success under ERA.

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Professor Paul Greenfield AO


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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

CRC funding boosts collaboration
Star researcher claims awards
Historic day for midwifery cohort
Open Days attract thousands
Spinifex study looks to nature
Drama grads set to surprise

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SPORT – Charity bike ride leaves an important legacy
AROUND CAMPUS – Upcoming public lectures, concerts and events

COVER: Ned/Mick (2007) – one of the signature pieces from the Ricky Swallow exhibition on show at UQ
PHOTO: COURTESY PROCLAIM COLLECTION, MELBOURNE
THE ART OF ROMANCE

Romance fiction ignited discussion at UQ as part of Australia’s first annual conference on popular romance studies.

Held at UQ and QUT last month, the conference was the inaugural event of the International Association for the Study of Popular Romance and the Journal of Popular Romance Studies, with future conferences planned for Belgium in 2010 and New York in 2011.

UQ academics Dr Toni Johnson-Woods, Dr Kim Wilkins and Dr Anthea Taylor presented talks alongside scholars from around the world.

AustLit, the national Australian literary resources database which is led from UQ, was highlighted as part of the discussions, with focus given to its role in documenting Australian popular fiction. The UQ Library’s recently purchased collection of Australian romance fiction was also on display.

Topics highlighted across the two days included representations of romance in books, comics, film, television and on the internet, constructions of the romance reader and writer, and explorations of classical and innovative romantic fiction.

Dr Johnson-Woods, who helped organise the event, said romance fiction was the most read and most maligned fiction genre of all.

“Romance fiction is based on family life and courtship rituals and that’s why it’s fascinating,” she said.

“Since Plato’s Symposium, thinkers have grappled with the philosophical nature of romantic love. Romance focuses on the search for a ‘partner’ – one of the most quintessential human elements, yet many people malign romance fiction.

“I’m excited by the recent surge in romance scholarship and by the enthusiastic response we received from scholars around the world.”

NEW DIRECTIONS

UQ’s new concurrent diplomas in music and languages are set to strike a chord with students looking to further their qualifications while studying a bachelor degree.

The two diplomas will be offered by the Faculty of Arts from 2010 and will allow students to study Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Spanish.

UQ is recognised as one of Australia’s leading language institutions and has designed the diploma to suit beginner as well as advanced speakers in other languages.

The Diploma in Music, offered through the School of Music, includes two plans: music studies and ensemble, which requires an audition; or popular music and music technology.

Studies will address musicology, music techniques, aural and ensemble performance skills as well as different genres of music and recording and distribution processes.

Students wishing to enrol in the diplomas can apply directly to UQ once they have received their offer of a place in a bachelor degree. Continuing students may also apply.

UQ Faculty of Arts Executive Dean Professor Richard Fotheringham said the diplomas provided students with an opportunity to enhance their study opportunities while broadening their career horizons.

CAFÉ CULTURE EXPLORED

Greek cafés were once the social hubs of western Queensland towns and UQ PhD student Toni Risson has taken the Q150 train to embark on a journey of multicultural discovery.

The University of Queensland-sponsored Q150 Steam Train departed Ipswich in April, undertaking a five-month journey to more than 30 Queensland communities.

Ms Risson boarded the train on its sector six travels through Queensland’s west – including the towns of Mitchell, Warwick, Stanthorpe, Chinchilla, Roma, Dalby, Charleville and Toowoomba – where with the help of locals she learnt about the legacy of the iconic Greek café.

In 2007, Ms Risson published a book about the Greek café but is now working on a second publication that includes more Queensland establishments.

“My hope is that long-time residents and local councils and libraries, if they have old photographs of cafés, will get involved with the project as this second publication will celebrate and promote towns in western Queensland,” she said.

SMART TALKING

A group of UQ speech pathology students recently ran an intensive treatment program for people who stutter.

Coordinated by lecturer Dr Elizabeth Cardell in July, the five-day program required participants to visit the on-campus clinic for nine-hour sessions, and participate in both individual and group treatment exercises.

“Results of research indicate that for most adults who stutter, intensive practice of a different and smoother speech pattern is the most effective way to change stuttered speech,” Dr Cardell said.

Dr Cardell said that one to two percent of the adult population stuttered, more graduates with competencies in stuttering management were needed to address the debilitating effects on people educationally, vocationally and socially.

“Queenslanders deserve access to the best available treatments and the Division of Speech Pathology at UQ is delighted to offer this opportunity,” she said.

INFO ➔ t.risson@uq.edu.au

“I expect to find that country Greek cafés have long gone, but in rural areas buildings may remain as a testament to this rich and important aspect of our past.”

Ms Risson said the Greek café was a shared chapter in the histories of Greece and Australia, and was not only the social hub of its community, but enabled generations of Greek immigrants to establish themselves in their adopted homeland.

INFO ➔ www.shrs.uq.edu.au

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“I’m excited by the recent surge in romance scholarship and by the enthusiastic response we received from scholars around the world.”
WASTE NOT WANT NOT

Luxury hotels must play a key role in changing consumer habits to ensure visitor indulgence does not equate to environmental piracy, a leading tourism expert has warned.

Speaking at a seminar last month, The University of Queensland’s Dr Charles Arcodia said Australian hotels were among the top five energy users in the commercial and service sector.

Air-conditioning alone accounts for more than half of that energy consumption.

Dr Arcodia, a senior lecturer with UQ’s School of Tourism, is completing a three-year research project into water and energy consumption and waste disposal in the hotel industry.

“Waste not want not,” he said. “Luxury hotels must play a key role in changing consumer habits to ensure visitor indulgence does not equate to environmental piracy, a leading tourism expert has warned.

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“Waste not want not,” he said.

FACTS + FIGURES

227 – number of citations for a recent paper on anti-gravity authored by Dr Tamara Davis, an award-winning lecturer from UQ’s School of Mathematics and Physics

$15 billion – cost of a Chinese development project that UQ postgraduates contributed to recently as part of their business studies

7000 years – age of Moreton Bay coral communities being explored by UQ researchers to gauge growth and decline patterns

100 – registrations recorded in the first three days of operation for the Pro Bono Centre recently set up by the TC Beirne School of Law

1200 km – distance covered on foot by UQ student Monty Summers and a team of friends and family for a fundraising drive for leukaemia research

180 seconds – time allowed for entrants in UQ’s Three Minute Thesis competition, which challenges postgraduate students to articulate their work to a wide audience in simple terms
COLLABORATIVE FUNDING continued

The University will share in almost $90 million worth of research funding announced by the Federal Government last month.

The Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator the Honourable Kim Carr awarded $243 million to 10 of Australia’s Cooperative Research Centres, four of which involve UQ.

• $31.6 million will be used to establish the Oral Health CRC. Based at the University of Melbourne, the new centre aims to reduce the prevalence and cost of oral disease in Australia by developing methods for preventing, diagnosing and treating oral disease and for identifying links between dental and general health. UQ is the major node outside of Melbourne.

• $25.5 million was awarded to the CRC for Aboriginal Health. UQ is a core member of this centre, which focuses on achieving health gains through innovation across the following areas: early intervention and chronic illness, healthy communities and settings and enabling policy and systems.

• Developing technologies to assist the Australian mining industry reduce its CO2-e footprint is the aim of CRCMining, which received $12 million. UQ is a core member of this centre.

• UQ is a supporting member of the CRC for Greenhouse Gas Technologies, which received $20 million. Through the CRC, more than 100 researchers work on the capture of carbon dioxide from stationary industrial sources, its compression, transport and storage in deep geological reservoirs.

Established by the Hawke Labor Government in 1990, the CRC program remains the Government’s premier program for establishing long-term collaborative partnerships.

There are currently 48 CRCs operating in six sectors: environment, agriculture and rural-based manufacturing, information and communication technology, mining and energy, medical science and technology and manufacturing technology.

UQ has received two prestigious national fellowships, targeting research into improved coral reef management and an alternative to antibiotics.

UQ’s Australian Laureate Fellowships are among only 15 selected from a nationwide field of 148, and are the only fellowships awarded to a Queensland university.

One of the University’s fellows, Professor Peter Mumby of the United Kingdom, is the sole expert to be attracted to Australia under the “foreign nationals” category of the scheme.

Professor Mumby and Professor Jenny Martin, of UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience, will each receive a major package of grant support, with average funding exceeding $2.7 million over five years for each successful fellow.

Professor Martin will develop drugs that target the bacterial machinery that triggers disease-causing bacteria. She said bacteria caused disease by producing molecules called virulence factors, which require a type of chemical bond known as disulfide bonds to function.

Professor Mumby will move to UQ from the University of Exeter to research coral reef remote sensing, an area in which he is the world’s most highly cited researcher.

He aims to quantify the impacts of climate change on coral reefs and harness remote sensing technology and ecological modelling to provide new tools for reef management.

The outcomes of this research will help government bodies adapt management of marine production systems to take account of climate change, and thereby help ensure the sustainable delivery of ecosystem services including tourism, recreation, fisheries, and the sustainability of Australia’s marine biodiversity.

Professor Mumby’s research, which sits at the interface of remote sensing and ecology, has wide-ranging applications to the conservation of natural resources.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield congratulated Professors Martin and Mumby.

“These new Australian Research Council awards, which evolved from the former Federation Fellowships, will build the next generation of research capability in our nation, and allow early career researchers at UQ to work alongside internationally renowned laureates,” Professor Greenfield said.

“This will enhance UQ’s strong research training environment, and add to Australia’s current and future stature in the international research race.”

“Fibonacci bacteria with mutations in their disulfide bond machinery are incapable of causing disease, highlighting the importance of this machinery in bacterial virulence, and the potential to develop an entirely new class of antibacterials that may avoid bacterial resistance mechanisms,” she said.

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“This will enhance UQ’s strong research training environment, and add to Australia’s current and future stature in the international research race.”
UQ Ipswich has celebrated its 10th anniversary with a special event which also launched the teaching of medicine at the campus.

Guests at the July 24 event included Her Excellency Dr Penelope Wensley, AO, Governor of Queensland.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Rix said the opening of the UQ Ipswich campus in 1999 signalled a new era in higher education in Queensland.

“The campus was born out of the University’s support for long-term growth in South-east Queensland’s western corridor,” he said.

“It blends the best elements of the old and the new, with 19th century heritage buildings sensitively rehabilitated to accommodate 21st century technology, new courses and student-centred learning.”

Professor Rix said today’s UQ Ipswich students were able to study in arts, business, human services and increasingly health, all with choices of specialisation.

“2009 also marks the launch of UQ’s teaching of medicine at the Ipswich campus,” he said.

“A cohort of first-year Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery students are now based at the campus, along with students in nursing, midwifery, health sciences and dietetics who are using the campus’s growing range of specialised teaching facilities and clinics in health.”

Professor Rix said that while UQ celebrated its past, it was always looking towards the future.

“A future master plan for the campus is currently being developed to allow for growth not only in student numbers but in facilities available to students, staff and the whole community,” he said.

“Plans for two new lecture theatres are being finalised. Specialised health teaching facilities will also be further developed on campus, including the new GP Super Clinic recently announced by the Federal Government.

“A University college is proposed in 2011 to offer associate degree courses. The college will use the facilities of UQ Ipswich while teaching independent courses.”

Professor Rix said UQ Ipswich would work closely with Bremer State High School and Education Queensland following the recent announcement that the State Government had decided to relocate the school next to UQ Ipswich.

“Our first 10 years have been exceptional: we now look forward to our next 100 years,” Professor Rix said.

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LEARNING FROM THE PAST IS A PASSION FOR PROFESSOR IAN LILLEY, WHO HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM LEADING AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

“Living in primitive surrounds with no shower or bed for a month would have many people on the first flight back home, but for UQ’s Professor Ian Lilley, the search for a breakthrough discovery is too overpowering to ignore.

For days on end, the archaeologist can be found confined to small spaces in some of the world’s most remote and undeveloped destinations. “You’re living in very close and usually very public quarters with people and it can be extremely basic, no shower for a month, no toilet for a month, no proper bed for a month,” Professor Lilley said.

Most of the time, a single dirt airstrip is his only escape back to civilisation – a reassurance as his travels can sometimes take him through regional conflicts.

A graduate of UQ’s School of Social Sciences, Professor Lilley currently works in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit, and has worked in archaeology and cultural heritage management in Australia and the surrounding region for nearly 30 years.

His most recent project saw him pack up his tool kit and head for Tiga Island, a rugged speck of raised coral in the South Pacific commonly referred to as a “lopsided wedding cake”.

This is the fifth year he has visited Tiga, first on a pilot study jointly funded by the French and Australian Governments and since 2007 on an ARC Discovery project he directs.

One aspect of the work has been the discovery of a unique ancient water harvesting system, found deep within the island’s many caves. “When whites first went there, there were probably 200 to 300 people living on this tiny island with no water,” Professor Lilley said.

Professor Lilley was captivated by the intelligence of the harvesting system, which included structures that resembled modern-day bathroom basins.

Along with the water systems, the team also discovered Lapita and other pottery, human remains and ash mounds from fire torches used by the caves’ previous occupants. “The earliest Lapita dates from 3300 years ago in New Britain (an island in Papua New Guinea) to around 2900 years ago in Tonga, tracking the west-east movement of the colonisers,” Professor Lilley said.

“The human remains are being studied by specialists with the permission of the Tiga community. This work will reveal a great deal about diet, disease, social relationships and migration patterns.”

The thrill of helping piece together the history of ancient civilisations is the “elixir” that keeps the World Heritage Assessor searching. “There’s always some little quirk…there’s always the unexpected, it usually always comes on the last day of the trip,” he said.

“The work I did in New Britain in the early 80s with the Australian Museum… it was the whole Indiana Jones trip, it was 20 people carrying big boxes on their heads walking through the jungle for days.

“We were taken off to a cave deep in the mountains…just as we were finishing up we found this very thin little layer and it turned out to be from the end of the last Ice Age.”

Professor Lilley has recently reached several career milestones, including being elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and named Secretary General of the ICOMOS International Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management.

He is currently working with his New Caledonian and French colleagues on two bilingual publications about Tiga, and is also co-authoring a new book on Australian archaeology for Cambridge University Press.

– ELIZA PLANT

“This work will reveal a great deal about diet, disease, social relationships and migration patterns”
High achiever
UQ science graduate Nicholas Beaton knows a thing or two about perfect scores, and returned to his alma mater in July to receive the Graduate of the Year Award for his achievements.

The Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) alumnus, who graduated in December 2008, achieved straight sevens (high distinctions) in his undergraduate and honours studies at UQ.

He attended the 2pm ceremony on July 24 at the UQ Centre to receive the award as well as a University Medal.

The high achiever attributes his outstanding academic record to “a great deal of hard work”. “I tried to put a lot of variety into the courses I studied to keep me interested,” Mr Beaton said.

Mr Beaton (pictured), said he always enjoyed maths and science at high school, so pursuing his passion at tertiary level seemed the perfect fit. He said UQ’s maths department provided a friendly and supportive environment.

“I enjoyed being able to study with friends, especially within science; there was a lot of freedom to choose different courses,” he said.

Mr Beaton is currently studying towards his doctorate in mathematics at the University of Melbourne.

More than three thousand graduates from all seven UQ faculties were recognised during ceremonies held between July 20-24 at St Lucia, Ipswich and Gatton.

Guest speakers included Chancellor John Story, Kate Jones MP and former long-serving Labor minister the Honorable Dr Barry Jones AO, who is the only person to have been elected to all four Australian Learned Academies.

INFO → Podcasts of the guest speakers are available at www.uq.edu.au/news

New honour for Masters
He has reached the pinnacle of Australian investigative journalism thanks to his work on crooked cops and public figures, and now Chris Masters has received acknowledgement of a different kind at a UQ graduation ceremony.

Mr Masters received a Doctor of Letters honoris causa at a ceremony on July 24 which celebrated the achievements of students from areas as diverse as journalism, history and music.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said generations of Australians were familiar with Mr Masters’ work on the ABC program Four Corners.

His many stories filed for the program included “The Moonlight State” in 1987, which helped prompt the Fitzgerald Inquiry into Queensland police misconduct and associated corruption.

“Chris Masters is one of the country’s most respected journalists, having produced stories for Four Corners for three decades and earning five Walkley Awards – the highest accolade in Australian journalism,” Professor Greenfield said.

“His career has been marked by a dogged pursuit of the truth, despite the many obstacles thrown in his path.

“Twenty years after the tabling of the Fitzgerald report, an Honorary Doctorate for Chris Masters is a reinforcement for our students, graduates and staff of the importance of championing ethical behaviour and the truth.”

“The Moonlight State” is widely acknowledged as a catalyst in the fall of the then Queensland Government, with the Fitzgerald Inquiry netting more than 100 convictions, the jailing of a Police Commissioner and a change in Australian attitudes toward systematic corruption.

Mr Masters has published three books based on his investigative reporting: Inside Story (1992) Not For Publication (2002), and the controversial bestseller Jonestown in 2006.
THREE MINUTES of fame

When UQ PhD student Mike Imelfort explains his research into a complicated field of DNA to friends at a party, he can do it in very few words.

What helped him cut out all the jargon was his involvement and subsequent win last year in a UQ competition called The Three Minute Thesis.

The competition aims to help students explain their studies in a succinct and compelling way so an average audience without technical skills can understand.

Since his win in the inaugural competition, Mr Imelfort has travelled the world catching up with experts in his field of studies.

Now, UQ is about to do it all again with a new group of PhD students asked to explain their area of expertise in three minutes.

Heats from the various schools were completed on September 8 as the competition moves to the business end.

It will culminate with the Three Minute Thesis final on September 21. The winner and runner-up will also present their pitches at an industry dinner at Customs House on September 24, as part of Research Week.

Mr Imelfort said explaining his studies used to be hard, given the thesis is called “The Development and Application of Bioinformatics and Statistical Tools for the Assembly and Analysis of Plant Genome Sequence Data”.

But it became easier when it came time to put together his presentation for The Three Minute Thesis.

“I am the only one in my family to do a research higher degree at uni. I kept picturing I was talking to my mum and dad. They would lose interest very quickly if I got too technical,” Mr Imelfort said.

“Once I had written it up, I tried it out on my sisters. They are not scientists. I kept it simple and kept it focused on one central point.”

That central point was the single overhead slide allowed in the competition, showing a jigsaw puzzle to represent the assembly of short-read DNA sequence data which is at the centre of Mr Imelfort’s research.

Mr Imelfort said he did not expect to win last year’s competition, but said it was “awesome” to come out on top. He used the $5000 travel grant prize to travel to a conference in Sweden and catch up with experts in the field of molecular biology.

“I kept it simple and kept it focused on one central point”

Latest rankings released

The University of Queensland has again received multiple five-star ratings in an independent ranking of Australian universities released recently.

The 2010 edition of The Good Universities Guide awarded UQ the maximum five-star rating for student demand, student to staff ratios, research grants and research intensity – and a further five stars for toughness to get in (St Lucia campus).

UQ also earned four star rankings in multiple categories: getting a job, positive graduate outcomes, graduate starting salaries, access by equity groups, international enrolments, gender balance, non-government earnings and toughness to get in (Ipswich campus).

The Good Universities Guide is an independent consumer guide which provides ratings, rankings, comment and information about Australian higher education institutions.

Last year, UQ was again the only Queensland university included in the top 50 universities in the world in another independent ranking list – the annual world top 200 ranking, produced by the UK’s Times Higher Education-QS World University Rankings. UQ has been named among the top 50 universities in the world for all four years of this survey.

In 2008 the Academic Ranking of World Universities undertaken by the Institute of Higher Education at Shanghai Jiao Tong University ranked UQ as the top university in Queensland and one of the leaders nationally. UQ’s regional rank in the Australia-Pacific region is 9-16.

This year’s Academic Ranking of World Universities survey results are expected to be announced in November.

Shanghai Jiao Tong’s academic rankings by broad subject fields rank UQ as one of the top 100 universities in the world in life and agricultural sciences, and clinical medicine and pharmacy.

In addition, The University of Queensland gained 13 commendations from the nation’s peak higher education quality auditor in July, highlighting UQ’s “robust academic quality assurance system” and strong academic culture.

The report by the independent Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) praised a range of UQ teaching and learning initiatives, including strong links between research and teaching, and new learning spaces.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield thanked the panel for its stringent review, which he said was important to UQ’s continuous work to improve its performance in all areas.
Ricky Swallow: Watercolours
Striking images of Ned Kelly, Mick Jagger and Neil Young are a taste of what’s on display in a touring UQ Art Museum exhibition.

Ricky Swallow: Watercolours opened at St Lucia on July 24, and shows a fresh side to the internationally renowned Australian artist.

“We are thrilled to be presenting the first exhibition and accompanying catalogue to focus entirely on this aspect of Swallow’s work,” UQ Art Museum Director Nick Mitzevich said.

“Ricky Swallow has developed a reputation internationally for his remarkable hand-carved sculpture, but drawing has always played a vital role in his practice.

“This exhibition reveals just how startling and compelling his images in this medium are – whether they’re images of Mick Jagger as Ned Kelly, or of a deep-sea diver, a monkey piloting a spacecraft, or musicians like James Taylor or Neil Young, they stick in your mind.”

With Swallow’s assistance, curator Steven Alderton has assembled a selection of 80 watercolours and sketchbooks from Australian and international collections, providing a comprehensive insight into the artist’s key thematic areas.

Several of these are new works produced during a residency at the Linnaeus Estate in Byron Bay earlier this year.

“The Byron Bay residency was extremely productive for Ricky, and provided him with an opportunity to reflect on how he connected with Australia – producing, for instance, the Ned Kelly works and the Birds of Australia series,” Mr Alderton said.

Ricky Swallow won the Contempora 5 award in 1999, represented Australia at the 2005 Venice Biennale, and has exhibited in America, Europe, New Zealand and Japan.

Ricky Swallow: Watercolours is supported by Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney, and The Linnaeus Estate.

The artist, who lives and works in Los Angeles, visited UQ for the opening, and took part in a public floor talk with Mr Alderton on July 25.

Ricky Swallow: Watercolours is open free to the public until September 27 before touring to the Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, New Zealand.

A fully illustrated catalogue featuring an interview with the artist, and an essay by Justin Paton, Senior Curator at Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, is also available.

Main image, opposite: Birds of Australia III (2009)
Images courtesy UQ Art Museum
NEW BUS LINKS
EASE CONGESTION

Staff, students and visitors travelling by public transport to the St Lucia campus will be able to make the trip in record time, thanks to the opening of three new busway sections.

Premier Anna Bligh recently announced the opening of the Boggo Road Busway, stage one of the Eastern Busway and stage one of the Northern Busway, meaning more than half a billion dollars worth of congestion-busting infrastructure will be delivered simultaneously.

The Boggo Road Busway connects UQ to a new busway station near Park Road rail station and the Boggo Road Urban Village, while stage one of the Eastern Busway links the Princess Alexandra Hospital (where UQ’s Diamantina Institute is based) to Buranda.

Stage one of the Northern Busway runs between Windsor and the Royal Children’s Hospital.

Manager of UQ Traffic and Parking Anthony Fletcher said the most frequent complaint from the UQ communities at Herston, the PA Hospital, and St Lucia was the time it took to arrive by public transport compared to private vehicle.

“Hopefully the new infrastructure will encourage students and staff to consider the advantages of bus usage not only in money terms, but also in terms of saving time and the environment,” Mr Fletcher said.

The Premier said the new sections of busway would cut almost 10 minutes off travel time and cut out seven sets of traffic lights for buses.

“But combined with the entire network they also mean that passengers who are now using roads to get to UQ could cut up to 40 minutes off their journey time if they switch to public transport,” she said.

The latest link means passengers will now be able to travel from UQ St Lucia to Buranda, then link up with the South East Busway into the city and then on to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and Windsor.

RESEARCH REMEMBERED
A founding member of the Diamantina Institute has been remembered in an annual oration at Customs House.

The Jian Zhou Memorial Oration is given annually by a distinguished research scientist working in a field related to the interests of the late Dr Jian Zhou, co-founder of cervical cancer vaccine Gardasil™.

This year’s oration was presented by Associate Professor Sjoerd van der Burg, from the Department of Clinical Oncology, Leiden University Medical Center, The Netherlands.

Alongside Professor Burg’s presentation on therapeutic HPV16 vaccines, the evening also featured a special recital by Opera Queensland’s young and developing artists.

ROYAL RECOGNITION
UQ Professor Alfredo Martínez Expósito has received recognition from the Spanish Crown for his work in promoting Spanish language and culture in Australia.

Professor Martínez Expósito, Head of the School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies, recently accepted the Cross of the Order of Civil Merit at the residence of the Spanish Ambassador in Canberra.

“It means an extraordinary recognition of the work that I and my colleagues have carried out over many years promoting the study of Spanish,” Professor Martínez Expósito said.

“The University of Queensland is leading the current trend to revive language education in the state.”

CLOSING THE GAP
It is likely to take several generations to close the gap between the health of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, according to leading chronic disease researcher, Professor Wendy Hoy.

Professor Hoy, who received a NHMRC Australian Fellowship in 2008, said while there was progress being made, the aspiration to close the gap by 2030 was not attainable.

Her current work includes a prevention trial on the Tiwi Islands, to see if the onset of renal disease can be prevented, genome typing to better understand susceptibility (with the USA’s National Institutes of Health) and promotion of chronic kidney disease as a national health priority.
UQ ON SHOW at Open Day

THOUSANDS OF VISITORS FLOCKED TO UQ’S CAMPUSES LAST MONTH TO EXPERIENCE UNIVERSITY LIFE AND EXPLORE THEIR STUDY OPTIONS.

Listening to some of Brisbane’s best bands, participating in hands-on displays and previewing the next generation of teaching spaces was all part of the fun at the recent UQ Open Days.

Visitors to the events at St Lucia, Ipswich and Gatton explored UQ’s campuses, learnt more about the unique courses and career options on offer and experienced the vibrant campus lifestyle.

“UQ Open Days are a fantastic opportunity for prospective students to test drive the University and work out which options are best for them, and this year was no exception,” UQ Student Recruitment Manager Steve Forster said.

St Lucia Open Day (August 2) featured live entertainment in the Great Court, including the UQ Big Band performing swing classics, the Bachelor of Health Sciences Hacky Sack Challenge and popular Brisbane bands Hungry Kids of Hungary and The People People.

Visitors walked on water as part of the Oobleck experiment, tested their skills as an on-the-spot reporter in the UQ Centre, and toured the new UQ School of Journalism and Communication facilities.

Also popular on the day was a B105 photographic competition, with the winner taking home a $5000 prize.

The fun continued at UQ’s Ipswich Campus Open Day (August 19) where potential students tested their lung function with the team from the Cardiorespiratory Physio Clinic, heard the sound of a baby’s heart beating at the midwifery display, as well as enjoyed live entertainment and a free sausage sizzle.

UQ Ipswich celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, with exciting new developments planned for the campus.

Animal lovers were encouraged to attend the wildlife talks at Gatton Open Day (August 23) to hear about the new campus wildlife facility, which is home to 25 adult dunnarts and 10 gliders.

The UQ School of Veterinary Science is currently relocating from St Lucia to Gatton as part of a $98.5 million project.

The new purpose-built facilities will give students, staff, and partners in industry, government, research organisations and the community access to the most comprehensive animal research, teaching and clinical facilities in Australia.

This, combined with the Centre for Advanced Animal Science (CAAS), which opened last year, will make the Gatton campus one of the best precincts for animal-related teaching, research and development in the southern hemisphere.

INFO ➔ To learn more about what’s on offer at UQ, visit www.youruq.com
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The international platform for young people to explore and develop their leadership potential.
UQ researchers have teamed up with the Indigenous people of the Myuma Group to identify and develop potential technological applications for Spinifex grass.

The project is exploring uses and properties of this uniquely Australian resource as a future material for a sustainable building industry to replace current resource-intensive materials.

Director of UQ’s Aboriginal Environments Research Centre (AERC) Professor Paul Memmott said the project was using biomimetic theory, which advocates drawing from nature to find new technical solutions.

"Spinifex has unique physical and chemical properties that evolved within harsh environments that were recognised and have been utilised by Aboriginal people for many centuries," Professor Memmott said.

"The project will examine exactly how Spinifex was used in the past and how its properties can be used in the future to develop commercial products for residential and architectural purposes which will benefit all Australians."

Researchers will also examine how Spinifex can be sustainably harvested, providing remote communities with a new local industry and training and employment opportunities.

Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology Executive Dean Professor Graham Schaffer said the research would contribute to an environmentally sustainable Australia by capturing the value of a natural resource which has been largely ignored until now.

"This project will deliver a cleaner, more efficient way to build infrastructure within remote communities, which currently require all materials and fuel to be transported from the coast, which is expensive and inefficient," Professor Schaffer said.

"The research will also provide significant economic outcomes for local communities, including the Indjilandji/Dhidhanu people of the Myuma Group, through harvesting Spinifex for Aboriginal commercial use."

In addition to providing a greater understanding of the ecology and the sharing of knowledge between Aboriginal people and scientists, the project will document traditional Aboriginal usage of Spinifex to maintain cultural heritage.

The project is one of many being progressed by the AERC, which conducts multidisciplinary research and teaching into the culture, environment and architecture of Australian Indigenous peoples.

The University is establishing an arid zone field station in Camooweal to support this and other important research which aims to build more sustainable communities in remote and arid areas.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/aerc
70 YEARS ON
Alumni from UQ’s Duchesne College will have an opportunity to relive their student days this month to mark a special anniversary.
Celebrating its 70th birthday in 2009, the college will open its doors for all alumni on September 19th and 20th for a weekend of celebrations catering for all ages.
Drinks and dinner will be served at the college on Saturday, while alumni and their families are welcome to attend mass, morning tea and a picnic lunch on Sunday.
To RSVP or find out further information, contact the college.
INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/duchesne or (07) 3377 2333

DAVID WILLIAMS LECTURE
Her Excellency Dr Penelope Wensley AO, Governor of Queensland, became the first woman to deliver the annual Dr David Williams Lecture at King’s College on August 4.
Dr Wensley addressed more than 250 guests including the Chief Justice of Queensland and Patron of the King’s College Foundation the Hon Paul de Jersey AC. The address touched on her time at The Women’s College while studying at UQ.
The President of the King’s College Council, The Hon Justice Martin Daubney also presented Dr Wensley with an Honorary Fellowship of King’s College.

LAW LINK ESTABLISHED
A new UQ seminar series designed to bring together insights from judges, practitioners and legal academics on current legal issues has proved to be highly successful.
Launched in February under the patronage of the Chief Justice of Queensland, the Hon Justice De Jersey AC, the Current Legal Issues Seminar Series is a joint collaborative initiative of the TC Beirne School of Law and the Queensland Bar Association.
School of Law Director of Research Associate Professor Kit Barker said the initiative was modelled on the highly successful series run at All Soul’s College, Oxford University.

IN BRIEF

MED REV 09 ON CUE
If you want a job done properly give it to a busy person, preferably one dressed in a straightjacket or tutu.
That is the theory behind the UQ Med Revue, which is becoming increasingly popular each year.
This year’s revue was held at the Schonell Theatre from August 9-11, with students responsible for everything from the scripts and choreography to the performances and the behind-the-scenes work.
While the revue showcased talents in serious cultural pursuits such as dance and music, there was a tradition of keeping things light and entertaining.
Dancers donned straight jackets, musicians were in hospital garb and a medical theme was carried over into short films shown during intervals.
Convenors Alex Craven, Sam Ng and Josh Lock believe Med Rev 09 made for a fun night out, given medical students seemed to be born entertainers.
“There is an incredible talent base within the medical cohort. We have composers and musicians who have been involved in Carols by Candlelight at the Domain,” Mr Craven said.
“A lot of the singers could be professional singers. We think this talent needs to be exposed.”
Mr Craven said medical students tended to have the passion to get on stage and the drive to want to produce a perfect performance.
“To want to do medicine and do the extra years of study requires a level of drive, commitment and enthusiasm,” he said.
“They are generally over-achievers. They have the drive to produce something special.”

“There is an incredible talent base within the medical cohort”
Language revival

Associate Professor Ghil’ad Zuckermann
UQ Associate Professor and Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Fellow in Linguistics

“I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy. My sons ought to study mathematics and philosophy, geography, natural history, naval architecture, navigation, commerce, and agriculture, in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, music, architecture, statuary, tapestry, and porcelain.”

(John Adams, 1735–1826, second president of the United States)

The more languages we know, the more likely we are to embrace different perspectives. Attempts to revive no-longer-spoken tongues should be celebrated. But we should be aware of the inevitable reality that any revival of a “sleeping beauty” – or “walking dead” – is unlikely without cross-fertilisation from the revivalists’ mother tongue(s).

Unfortunately, the situation for Australia’s languages is grave. Of an original number of over 250 known Australian Indigenous languages, only six percent are in a healthy condition.

What lessons could be drawn from the Hebrew revival in the “Promised Land” for current attempts to resuscitate no-longer spoken Aboriginal languages in the “Lucky Country”? The fin-de-siècle Hebrew revivalists had several advantages compared with Australian revivalists: (1) extensive documentation, (2) Hebrew was considered a prestigious language, and (3) Jews from all over the globe had only Hebrew in common, whereas there are dozens of “sleeping” Aboriginal languages and it would be hard to choose only one unifying tongue, unless one resorts to Aboriginal English.

And yet, Hebrew revivalists, who wished to speak “pure” Hebrew, failed in their purism prism, the result being a fascinating and multifaceted Israeli language, both multi-layered and multi-sourced. I predict that any attempt to revive an Aboriginal language will result in a hybrid, combining components from Australian English, Aboriginal English and Aboriginal tongues.

That is of course not to say that we should not revive dormant languages. On the contrary, we should encourage revivalists to be more realistic and less puristic, and not to chastise English loanwords and pronunciation within the emergent language. Crucial insights can also be drawn from Israel about which language components are more revivable than others. Words and verb conjugations, for instance, are easier to revitalise than intonation, associations, connotations and semantic networkings.

Some Aboriginal people distinguish between usership and ownership. I even have a friend who claimed that he owned a language although he knew but a single word of it: its name. Consequently, some Australians don’t find it important to revive these comatose tongues. I, on the other hand, have always believed in Australia’s very own roadside dictum: “Stop, revive, survive!”

INFO → The first Australian Workshop on Afro-Asiatic Linguistics (AWAAL) will be held in Brisbane from September 11-13. Israelit Safa Yafa (Israeli – A Beautiful Language: Hebrew as Myth) is published by Am Oved.

International medic continues tradition

Former International President of Médecins Sans Frontières, Dr Rowan Gillies, continued a proud tradition when he presented the E S Meyers Memorial Lecture at UQ last month.

Dr Gillies (pictured left) followed in the footsteps of previous speakers including Sir Edmund Hilary, Imran Khan and Dr Charles Teo to deliver the lecture on August 21.

UQ Medical Society president Tanya Trinh said people from all walks of life benefited from Dr Gillies’ insights into the often dangerous world of international peacekeeping.

“In addition to having served as a field doctor in many countries including Sierra Leone, Liberia, Afghanistan and Sudan, Dr Gillies led many of the strategical developments of MSF within politically unstable and often dangerous territories,” Ms Trinh said.

Dr Gillies became president of MSF Australia at just 31, and was later elected International Council President of MSF. At the time, the Nobel Prize-winning organisation operated under a $620 million annual budget and worked in more than 70 countries.

Since 1957, the event has honoured the life and work of Dr Emil Solomon Meyers, a founder of the UQ School of Medicine and a pioneer teacher of both general and surgical anatomy in Queensland.

UQMS Patron and respected Brisbane paediatrician Professor John Pearn said the lecture was a highlight of the academic year.

“It’s one of the best nights out in respect to public lectures in Queensland and a wonderful showcase for UQ,” Professor Pearn said.

Ms Trinh said audience members travelled from across Australia to attend, with donations from the evening assisting a range of charities including the Ashlohtosh Trust, run by UQMS.
EMERGING AUTHOR
DRAWS ON PAST

Award-winning novelist and UQ alumnus Amy Barker returned to Emmanuel College this month to help launch her novel Omega Park.

Ms Barker was awarded the Best Emerging Author – Manuscript Award for Omega Park at the Queensland Premier’s Literary Awards in 2008, which included a publishing contract with The University of Queensland Press (UQP) for the novel.

Faculty of Arts Executive Dean Professor Richard Fotheringham presided over the launch on September 4.

Omega Park is set in a fictional public housing estate on the Gold Coast and follows the lives of two young men as they struggle to overcome personal and societal obstacles including rioting, discrimination and isolation.

Ms Barker can identify with the novel’s characters, having once lived in public housing herself.

“I felt compelled to write it, drawing on experiences from my own past and also weighing in on the controversies surrounding the riots in suburbs like Macquarie Fields around the time I was writing,” she said.

Ms Barker originally enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts/Laws degree at UQ, quickly realising her passion wasn’t law moots but words.

As a member of the UQ Link program, which assists school leavers from financially disadvantaged backgrounds, Ms Barker was given a 12-month residence at Emmanuel College.

INFO ➔ www.uqp.uq.edu.au

THE CO-OP BOOKSHOP
CURRENT BESTSELLERS

1  Breath – Tim Winton, Penguin (PB) $24.95 FICTION
2  Death of Bunny Munro – Nick Cave, Text Publishing (PB) $32.95 FICTION
3  The Slap – Christos Tsiolkas, Allen & Unwin (PB) $32.95, FICTION
4  Girl with the Dragon Tattoo – Stieg Larsson, Quercus (PB) $22.95 FICTION
5  Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society – Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows, Allen & Unwin (PB) $23.99 FICTION
6  James Halliday Wine Companion 2010 – Hardie Grant (PB) $34.99, FOOD AND WINE
7  My Sister’s Keeper – Jodi Picoult, Allen & Unwin (PB) $24.99, FICTION
8  Battalines – Tony Abbott (MUP) $34.99, BIOGRAPHY
9  Tricky People – Andrew Fuller (Harper Collins) PB $24.95, PSYCHOLOGY
10 Defender – Daniel Silva (Michael Joseph) PB $32.95, CRIME

A recent UQ public lecture highlighted the drama of the early seventeenth century as it explored cultural geography in William Shakespeare’s and Ben Jonson’s theatres.

Professor Julie Sanders, from The University of Nottingham, presented the 2009 Lloyd Davis Memorial Lecture “Making Space in Shakespeare and Jonson” last month at the Duchesne College Dining Room.

Professor Sanders used Shakespeare’s Falstaff plays and Ben Jonson’s Epicoene, The Magnetic Lady and The New Inn to examine the way both dramatists represented space on stage, and how their plays invited audiences to produce space.

“I have become fascinated with the reasoning behind both playwrights’ inclusions of scenes involving everyday figures of labour – ostlers, post carriers, inn and tavern workers, water carriers etc – that have less to do with the plot than with creating a social context for the world of the play,” she said.

“I am trying to look at the ways that Shakespeare and Jonson created an idea of place and space both from the physical fabric of the theatres that they were writing for and through the engagement of audience imagination.”

Professor Sanders, a distinguished scholar with publications in the areas of Shakespeare studies, teaches in English literature and drama.

UQ established The Lloyd Davis Memorial Visiting Professorship in 2006 in memory of Associate Professor Lloyd Davis.
When Bille Brown was honoured at the 2009 Helpmann Awards at the Sydney Opera House recently, he was in fine company.

The theatre veteran and UQ Professor in Drama received the Best Actor in a Musical gong for his star turn in Monty Python’s Spamalot, joining the who’s who of the Australian performing arts industry.

Like the Tony Awards on Broadway and the Olivier Awards on London’s West End, the Helpmanns recognise excellence across the performing arts in Australia.

First held in 2001, the awards are named for Robert Helpmann, the legendary Australian dancer, choreographer and theatre performer whose birth centenary is this year and whose achievements are celebrated in a new biography released by The University of Queensland Press.

Professor Brown appeared at Melbourne’s Her Majesty’s Theatre in the Australian premiere season of Spamalot, in the role of King Arthur.

He has received a number of awards throughout his career including an Australian Centenary Medal in the 2001 Queen’s New Year Honours List for his services to the Australian arts.

“The time we spent at the Avalon Theatre, learning, not only about producing performances, but the theoretical and historical underpinnings of theatre as an art form are an important part of how we approach our work now.”

He said the group had fond memories of collaborating with other students and staff, many of whom have since made their own impact on the Australian arts scene.

Of all the productions on show at the 2009 Brisbane Festival, only one suggests that the less you know about it, the better.

The work in question is simply called There, and it’s courtesy of Elbow Room, a production company comprised of four UQ drama graduates.

Producer and UQ research assistant Neal Harvey said surprise was key to the show’s success, with word spreading quickly during previous seasons in Melbourne and Adelaide.

“The word of mouth that’s followed the show from Melbourne to Adelaide and now to Brisbane has been a far more effective marketing tool than any blurb or PR campaign that we might have been able to conceive of,” Mr Harvey said.

“It’s a really fun show that details the birth, life and death of theatre in an intimate and entertaining setting.”

There features performers Angus Grant and Emily Tomlins (pictured), who along with Mr Harvey and Brisbane playwright and director Marcel Dorney make up Elbow Room.

The group decided to band together in 2007 so they could approach theatre from a particular angle and collaborate on a variety of projects in the long-term.

“Our time at UQ was incredibly formative for all of us,” Mr Harvey said.

Born in Biloela in Central Queensland, Professor Brown (pictured) completed a Bachelor of Arts at UQ and a Postgraduate Diploma of Education in the early seventies, and in 2001 was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters by the University.

During his student days at St Lucia, Professor Brown acted with the student drama company Dramsoc and made his professional debut with the Queensland Theatre Company in 1971. It was during his time at UQ that Professor Brown also developed a long and significant professional relationship with fellow alumnus Geoffrey Rush.

Professor Brown’s career took him abroad to Britain where he joined the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), and was the first Australian commissioned by the RSC to write and perform in their play The Swan Down Gloves.

Professor Brown made his Broadway debut as a playwright with A Christmas Carol in 1984 and as an actor in Michael Frayn’s Wild Honey in 1986. He was also an Artist-in-Residence at the State University of New York in 1982.

In 2007 UQ awarded Professor Brown a joint UQ-Arts Queensland writer’s fellowship to develop the new play The School of Arts, which recently completed a premiere season in Brisbane. The play follows the story of the “College Players” troupe who toured Shakespeare through Queensland in the late 60s.

“Many of our peers from that time are now working in a variety of positions throughout the industry and it’s great to see so many UQ graduates having a measurable impact on arts practices in Australia,” he said.

There appears at the Brisbane Powerhouse from September 15-19.
Using ultrasound imaging, UQ physiotherapist Dr Julie Hides is helping a world-champion cyclist ride her bike pain-free.

New Zealand cyclist Alison Shanks (pictured), who was assessed by Dr Hides at the UQ/Mater Back Stability Clinic in June, is now following a new exercise regime.

"Ali actually experiences pain down one side of her leg and in her hip when she cycles," Dr Hides said.

"The demands of different sports often create muscle imbalances and ultrasound imaging allows us to see what the deeper muscles are doing."

A member of New Zealand’s 2008 Beijing Olympic team, Ms Shanks was recently crowned World Champion of the 3000-metre individual pursuit.

She took the title in Poland in March, completing the velodrome event in a personal best time of 3 min, 29.8 sec.

Dr Hides met Ms Shanks in her hometown of Dunedin while visiting colleague Helen Littleworth, a physiotherapist for the New Zealand Olympic team.

"We did an MRI of Ali’s back and hip muscles to identify some muscle imbalances," Dr Hides said.

"We also looked at size and between side symmetry of muscles and her motor control (ability to voluntarily contract) her back, abdominal and hip muscles."

"We assessed her at the Mater Back Stability Clinic where we set her up on her bike on the wind trainer and looked at the dynamic control of her muscles using ultrasound imaging while cycling."

Dr Hides became involved with the New Zealand Olympic physiotherapy team just prior to the Beijing games, after being contacted by Ms Littleworth about her research on ultrasound imaging.

The pair worked successfully together on one of the Olympic athletes and have continued to collaborate in achieving the best outcome for Ms Shanks.

"We can then design an individual exercise program that addresses those muscle imbalances."

Using ultrasound imaging for assessment and rehabilitation was a method developed at UQ and has since been successfully trialed with AFL players and cricketers attending the Cricket Australia Centre of Excellence.
EVENTS/NOTICES

- **Wednesday September 16**
  School of Pharmacy public seminar “Towards antibacterials without resistance”. Professor Jenny Martin, Institute for Molecular Bioscience (1pm, room 204, Mansergh Shaw Building (no.45), St Lucia Campus). Information: m.parat@pharmacy.uq.edu.au. The seminar series runs every week during semester – www.uq.edu.au/pharmacy

- **Thursday September 17**
  Probus Club of St Lucia East. “Napoléon’s Influence on Science (1799-1813)”. Dr Colin Kennard (2pm, BCC Indooroopilly Library, Indooroopilly Shoppingtown). Visitors welcome. Information p.gunn@uq.edu.au

- **Wednesday September 23**
  Students are invited to learn about postgraduate opportunities at the Diamantina Institute. UQ Professor Matt Brown will speak about his research and inspiration in becoming one of Australia’s most successful biomedical researchers (3.30pm, Kathleen Room, The University of Queensland Club, Building 41, St Lucia Campus).

GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS*

*Classifieds are free, but are available only to staff, students and visiting academics. Please send listings to e.plant@uq.edu.au

- **ACCOMMODATION WANTED**: Family of four members seeks to rent an apartment from October 10 – December 20. Contact: Marta. Solera-Delgado@nicta.com.au
- **ACCOMMODATION WANTED**: Danish PhD student, non-smoker, seeks to rent small flat or room from August 5 – January 15, 2010. Fully or partly furnished. No pets. Max $300 per week. Contact: MHM@ifs.ku.dk

SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Heart Foundation Summer Scholarships**
  Offered to undergraduate students who have completed at least two years of a relevant degree, to participate in biomedical, clinical or public health research projects which are broadly related to cardiovascular function and disease. Closing: September 18. Information: (03) 9321 1581.

- **Alumni Friends Postgraduate Bursaries 2009**
  Five bursaries awarded to graduates of UQ who are members of the Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland Inc. and who have commenced the first year of the PhD program at UQ in 2009. The bursaries are awarded on the basis of greatest proficiency in previous studies. Closing: October 2. Worth: $1000. Information: (07) 3365 1984.

- **Ford Memorial Prize 2009**
  Awarded to the undergraduate student who submits the best poem in English (published or unpublished), who has not been twice awarded the prize. Closing: November 13. Worth: approx $235 (designated as books). Information: (07) 3365 1984.

- **Thomas Morrow Prize 2009**
  Awarded to the undergraduate student who writes the best essay on a topic in the field of “Australian exploration and history”. Closing: November 20. Worth: approx $475 (at least $100 is to be used for the purchase of books). Information: (07) 3365 6320.

UQ NEWS DEADLINES

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Ekka spectacular

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND JOINED THE FUN AT THIS YEAR’S EKKA IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE.

Talking scientists, animals being born and helping UQ celebrate its 100th birthday were just some of the things showcased by the University at the 2009 Brisbane Exhibition.

UQ graduates and former staff members were given the opportunity to attend the centenary stand at this year’s Ekka to find out about what’s planned for UQ’s 100-year celebrations in 2010.

As part of the anniversary, a Centenary Celebration Day will be held on April 18, 2010, and an Alumni Reunion Weekend will run from July 2 to 4, 2010.

UQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said the events would be both a celebration of individuals and teams making outstanding contributions to society and a platform for a second century of high-impact learning, discovery and engagement.

“From a cancer vaccine and new generation jet engine technology, through to an Oscar-winning actor and umpteen fine works of literature, UQ’s first century is characterised by remarkable contributions to the Queensland, national and international communities,” Professor Greenfield said.

Several UQ scientists took part in the State Government’s Talking Scientists Program in the National Science Week Pavilion.

Dr Akshat Tanksale, from UQ’s Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, discussed the development of alternative fuels and energy carriers, while Mr Ben Sivyer, from UQ’s Queensland Brain Institute, addressed his research into how the brain processes information through the retina.

Dr Nick Lavidis, from UQ’s School of Biomedical Sciences, discussed how prolonged stress induces harmful effects like over-activation of the fight-flight response and memory loss.

Other scientists included Margaret Gentz, a PhD student from UQ’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience, who looked at using novel environmentally friendly insecticides from the venom of funnel-web spiders and native Australian tarantulas; Lydie Couturier, a PhD student from UQ’s Centre for Marine Studies, who investigated the biology and ecology manta ray occurring in eastern Australia; and Paul Gardiner, from UQ’s Cancer Prevention Research Centre, who discussed the link between prolonged sitting and obesity and other risk factors for heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

Dr Vittal Mogasale, from UQ’s School of Population Health, spoke about whether flu vaccines should be provided free to people over the age of 50.

UQ’s Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science also had a display, with UQ vet students bringing a unique experience to the Ekka with the Sunny Queen Little Miracles Newborn Corner where lambs were born. Meanwhile, equine students and members of the Cattleman’s Club tested their skills across various competition disciplines.

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