IN FOCUS

Art and science unite
Is conservation too conservative?

Professor Possingham was awarded his doctorate as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University in 1987. He undertook research at Stanford University and Australian National University before joining the University of Adelaide, where he was Foundation Chair of the Department of Environmental Science. Since 2000, Professor Possingham has been director of UQ’s Ecology Centre. In this lecture, he will argue for some revolutionary ideas in conservation — including selling national parks and moving species away from their “normal” locations.

Engineering a quantum future

Professor Milburn is an Australian Research Council Federation Fellow. He was awarded his PhD in Theoretical Physics in 1982 at the University of Waikato, before working on research projects at Imperial College London. He lectured at Australian National University and in 1988 was appointed UQ’s Reader in Theoretical Physics. Since 2000 Professor Milburn has been a Deputy Director of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Quantum Computer Technology. In this lecture, Professor Milburn will reveal some amazing quantum engineering applications that will dominate our future world.

Monday 20 September
6.30pm – 8pm, followed by refreshments
Customs House, 399 Queen Street, Brisbane

Limited places available
RSVP by Wednesday 15 September 2010 via www.uq.edu.au/research-week
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Doctorates of Philosophy (PhDs) represent a pinnacle of educational attainment. Society expects research intensive and globally engaged universities such as UQ to graduate PhDs to augment humanity’s intellectual firepower, and we have a tradition of delivering on this expectation. The almost-9000 people who have received UQ PhDs since they were first awarded in the 1950s have made incalculable impacts in virtually every area of endeavour.

To build on this proud record in innovative ways is one of the great challenges of the next decade. It will require significant financial and creative resources, targeted at improvements in PhD candidates’ experiences.

This challenge is not unique to UQ. Enrolments of Australians in PhD programs have declined in most universities in recent years. By contrast, UQ has enjoyed tremendous growth in international PhD researchers, who now number more than 1000 people from approximately 80 countries. They comprise almost one-third of all PhD students and add immeasurable strength and diversity to the University community as a whole.

In 2009 the Group of Eight (of which UQ is a member) commissioned a report highlighting the attributes that satisfy international higher degree research candidates. These include: a multicultural, safe and friendly environment; productive relations with supervisors; relatively time-efficient degrees; a wide choice of research subjects; and strong institutional reputation.

UQ offers these and other significant advantages to Australian and overseas PhD candidates. Our people are an undeniable drawcard, with many candidates selecting UQ on the strength of a particular supervisor or academic unit. World-class infrastructure is a magnet for top people in many disciplines, and UQ’s new research institutes (where almost half the students are from overseas) are stimulating an increasingly polyglot research community.

In some other areas, we must lift our game. Scholarships are crying out for more attention, and will require more deliberate fundraising strategies. Affordable, safe and convenient accommodation is another important consideration for prospective students, and we are considering ways to expand the student housing portfolio. This may include building specialised accommodation for postgraduate students on campus at St Lucia.

At the core of our strategies and investments is the rise of UQ’s worldwide reputation for discovery. We have edged towards the coveted top 100 division of the closely watched league table published annually by Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China. Our global ranking of 108th in 2010 is a six-level lift on the 2009 position, and pushes us to 11th in the Asia-Pacific (which includes the Middle East). Our best performance has been in two fields – Clinical Medicine and Pharmacy, and Life and Agricultural Sciences – where we rank 63rd and equal 63rd respectively. Because the index favours strengths in discovery the results are a resounding endorsement of UQ researchers. However, we must take nothing for granted. The University must remain alert to new strategies to enhance the UQ advantage for students at all levels. We owe it not only to our current and prospective students and alumni, but also to people everywhere who rely on top universities to promulgate knowledge and innovation and develop future leaders.

Professor Paul Greenfield AO
Economics expert Professor John Quiggin has called for an election to restart the debate over the sale of the State Government’s coal assets.

Speaking at an event organised by the School of Economics in July, Professor Quiggin also highlighted the poorly constructed business case for the sale of QR National and questioned the strength of the facts presented in the government’s argument.

The case for the sale was presented by Dr Doug McTaggart, CEO of the Queensland government’s argument.

The calculation the government put forward in its facts versus myths booklet was completely bogus and that was pointed out by the economists who criticised it,” Professor Quiggin said.

He said without an adequate cost-benefit analysis the sale of QR National could not be considered good public policy.

“We have no basis for telling whether the privatisation will in fact yield benefits that exceed the costs, or whether the particular model the government has chosen is going to maximise the net benefits, either in fiscal terms for the people of Queensland or in social terms for the state as a whole.”

The Bligh government has argued throughout the debate that the sale of public assets is necessary to restore the state’s triple A credit rating while also maintaining the sale will lead to an increased investment in schools and hospitals.

Professor Quiggin drew attention to what he saw as contradictions put forward in the government’s argument and the shortcomings of the budget strategy.

He said the sale of public assets would only be a short-term solution in a bid to reduce the budget deficit and that the government needed to review the current tax base if the existing level of services are to be sustained.

“Selling assets is a distraction. To the extent to which the government recognises it’s a distraction that’s fine. To the extent they don’t and think by selling assets they’ve fixed their budgetary problems, they’re storing up bigger problems for down the track,” he said.

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The comments follow the release of a paper by Dr Noel Scott discussing the sale of public assets.

Dr Scott said this also reinforced the need for tourism to be understood as an important sector in Queensland and the need for the tourism industry to be supported.

Tourists were exposing people in Muslim countries to different values and beliefs because tourism was “a microcosm of everyday life”.

But western tourists needed to do their homework because acceptable behaviour differed from one country to the next.

“Saudi Arabia does not want western tourists to come along and offend local people. They want economic development from tourism, but they are not prepared to compromise their principles to have it,” he said.

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 Local mums are being given the opportunity to have their voices heard on maternity care in Queensland.

UQ’s Queensland Centre for Mothers & Babies has launched a statewide survey for new mums to share their experiences – both good and bad – on having a baby in Queensland.

Associate Professor Sue Kruiske said the Having a Baby in Queensland Survey was the first step to understanding women’s needs and preferences for improved maternity care.

“In particular, we are interested in women’s satisfaction with the maternity care they receive before and after birth and what improvements would enhance their experience,” Dr Kruiske said.

“A new mum’s, this is your chance to tell your story and make a difference.

“Your feedback will go not only to the people who make policy decisions, but also to your local hospitals and birth centres to celebrate the things that are working well and improve things that may not be working so well.”

The centre is an independent unit based at UQ and is funded by Queensland Health. Its role is to work towards consumer-focused maternity care that is integrated, evidence-based and provides optimal choices for women in Queensland.

Dr Kruiske said the survey, distributed in partnership with the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, was one of the largest of its kind in Australia with almost 22,000 mums invited to take part.

The survey can be completed in hard copy, by heading online or calling 1800 704 539 during business hours.

INFO → www.havingababy.org.au

Robots of the friendly kind took over the UQ Centre last month for a popular annual competition.

Each robot at the RoboCup Junior Queensland Championships had been built by school students and programmed to dance, play soccer or perform a simulated rescue exercise.

Around 300 students from primary and secondary schools throughout the state took part, including teams from Gin Gin and Mackay.

Associate Professor Stephen Wilson from the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering said RoboCup Junior aimed to encourage school students to take an active interest in science and technology.

“The competition is an excellent opportunity to foster student interest in these areas by designing, making and programming robotic creations in an exciting, fun and competitive environment,” he said.

“RoboCup Junior involves not only engineering and IT skills, but also develops broad skills including sportsmanship, teamwork and organisation.”

UQ staff have developed workshops to help students and teachers build their knowledge and understanding of the simple concepts that form the basis of robotics.

Each school spent months preparing for the competition and competed for honours in soccer, rescue and dance categories. The winning schools were North Lakes State School, Brisbane Boys College, Mcllwraith State School, Somerville House, Sunshine Coast Grammar School and Saint Francis Xavier School.

The RoboCup Junior Australian Open Championships take place in Sydney this month.

INFO → www.robocupjunior.org.au

Former Australian fast bowler Michael Kasprowicz has been re-appointed UQ’s Goodwill Ambassador to India.

Mr Kasprowicz, currently studying executive leadership at the UQ Business School, was selected partly because of his inspiring public speaking in which he draws on his successes in both playing and coaching professional cricket.

“At a time when the University is looking to deepen research relationships and expand staff and student exchange with India’s top tier institutions, we are proud to have Michael continue to work with us in our student engagement endeavours,” UQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) Dr Anna Ciccarelli said.

Mr Kasprowicz began his first-class cricket career in the then Sheffield Shield competition for Queensland in 1990 while he was still in high school. He went on to play professional cricket for 19 years, retiring in 2008. He is the lead wicket-taker for Queensland and the second-highest wicket-taker in Australian domestic cricketing history.

He also spent 11 years with the Australian cricket team.

Now a level three accredited coach, Mr Kasprowicz is active in the media as a cricket writer and commentator, both in Australia and India, and recently worked as a commentator for the Indian Premier League.

Planning for a successful post-cricket future, he said he was considering a UQ MBA or Master of Business when he completes his current studies.

“I have picked up a lot of important knowledge from my studies and this provides a strong base for undertaking new initiatives, both with UQ International and other ventures,” he said.
Honorary doctorates were presented to the Queensland Premier, Anna Bligh, and former High Court judge, Justice Ian Callinan AC, QC. Both received Doctors of Laws honoris causa.

Dr Bligh’s was in recognition of her distinguished career and service to the state, and Dr Callinan’s acknowledged his significant contributions in the fields of law and the arts.

Dr Bligh was born in Warwick, and attended schools including Miami State High School at the Gold Coast. She was awarded her UQ Bachelor of Arts in 1981, and was elected as the member for South Brisbane in 1995. She became a Minister in 1998, and deputy Premier in 2005, before being sworn in as Queensland Premier in September 2007.

As Premier, she advocates for Queensland research and works alongside universities to cultivate partnerships with international research centres, businesses and philanthropists. Her government continues to support universities and other institutions to attract and foster talented researchers.

Dr Callinan has made substantial contributions to the Australian justice system during his legal career, and as a playwright, author, art enthusiast and arts patron he has added to Australia’s cultural development.

Unveiled by the Governor-General, Dr Quentin Bryce AC, at the Alumni Reunion Weekend in July, the works depict the badges of the Queensland University Regiment (QUR) and Queensland University Squadron (QRS). During a speech delivered at the University, Dr Bryce said the artworks were a fitting acknowledgement of the ongoing contributions of UQ servicemen and women.

“So many of this University’s finest graduates hold distinguished records of service to our nation, in wartime and peacekeeping operations,” Dr Bryce said.

“To secure the badges of the University Regiment and Squadron in the timeless and stoic face of the Great Court is to secure the wisdom of what they signify,”

The QUR was established in 1932 and acts as an officer training unit of the Australian Army reserve. The QUS operated from 1951 to 1972 and commissioned more than 1000 graduates in that time.

The sandstone badges are the latest creations of alumnus and University sculptor Dr Rhyl Hinwood AM, whose grotesques, coats of arms and flora and fauna carvings decorate the St Lucia campus.

Also launched during the weekend was a new book documenting the architectural and social history of the iconic Forgan Smith Building.

The Forgan Smith: History of a Building and its People was written by Head of the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics Professor Clive Moore and is available at the Co-op Bookshop.
Two esteemed graduates who studied medicine together almost half a century ago were honoured at a University of Queensland gala dinner on July 3.

In front of several hundred guests, former long-serving Chancellor Sir Llew Edwards AC was named the University’s 2010 Alumnus of the Year, and Dr Nat Yuen became the International Alumnus of the Year.

The Courting the Greats Centenary event was held at the UQ Centre and featured acclaimed actor and alumnus Bille Brown as Master of Ceremonies and award winning pianists Dr Liam Viney and Dr Anna Grinberg.

Sir Llew said he was “absolutely thrilled” that his long-term friend and former classmate had been recognised with the International Alumnus of the Year award.

“It couldn’t have gone to a nicer person,” Sir Llew said.

“When I became UQ Chancellor and started going to Hong Kong each year for graduation ceremonies about 17 years ago, Nat and I would always catch up, and we would do the same on his regular visits to Australia.”

Sir Llew, born and raised in Ipswich, said his father would allow him to pursue higher study only after he had completed a four-year electrical apprenticeship.

Sir Llew finished his medical degree in 1965 and worked as a GP for 10 years, in which time he delivered 2500 babies. He then went on to be the State Member for Ipswich, the Queensland Minister for Health, Treasurer and Deputy Premier.

He was Executive Chairman of World Expo 88, and served as UQ’s Chancellor for 16 years until his retirement last year. He was Queenslander of the Year in 1988, and in June was named a “Queensland Great”.

Sir Llew said his connections with the University had always given him “very great pride.”

Dr Yuen said being named the 2010 International Alumnus of the Year was a great honour.

After receiving his UQ medical degree in 1965, Dr Yuen worked at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and at the Bundaberg General Hospital.

He moved back to his hometown of Hong Kong in 1969 and opened a medical practice in 1975, which still operates.

Dr Yuen has served on numerous medical boards, professional committees and councils in Hong Kong, including as vice-president and president of the Hong Kong Medical Association.

In 1995, UQ awarded Dr Yuen an Honorary Doctor of Medicine and, in the same year, Dr Yuen donated The Nat Yuen Collection of Chinese Antiquities to UQ to coincide with the re-opening of Customs House in Brisbane.

The collection spans more than 5000 years and is valued at more than $1.5 million.

Also recognised at the event was Robert Dann, a Middle East peace negotiator with the United Nations who was named UQ Young Alumnus of the Year.

Mr Dann is regularly engaged in negotiations and consultations involving Israel, the West Bank, Gaza, the broader Arab world and the UN Security Council.

Coincidentally, Mr Dann’s father Des worked at Princess Alexandra Hospital alongside Sir Llew and Dr Yuen, graduating a year ahead of them in 1984.
After years of detailed planning and fundraising, The University of Queensland’s $100 million-plus School of Veterinary Science complex was officially opened in August at the Gatton campus.

The Federal Member for Blair, Shayne Neumann, opened the state-of-the-art facilities at a function attended by hundreds of industry, academic and community representatives.

The Dean of Veterinary Science Professor Jonathan Hill said the relocation to the University’s 1068-hectare Gatton campus was an “exciting development” for veterinary education for Queensland and Australia.

“This complex is the most modern in the southern hemisphere and the most comprehensive animal research and teaching centre in Australia,” he said.

“The development unites the School in a setting suited to learning and discovery in veterinary science.

“It provides state-of-the-art teaching facilities for the school’s 550 veterinary science students — 80 percent of them female — and a vitality and economic boost to the Lockyer Valley.

“We see the arrival of the school at Gatton as an opportunity for greater industry collaboration, particularly with dairy and beef cattle, swine production and equine operations.”

Professor Hill said construction of the new facilities and recruitment of additional staff...
A VET SCHOOL for the future will have access to international talent and a range of specialist services with the opening of UQ’s new equine hospital.

The facility is part of the School of Veterinary Science’s new Veterinary Medical Centre, which will also include a small animal clinic. The new facility will expose students to both a general practice and referral caseload. Key features of the equine program will be:

• Surgery – featuring orthopaedics, laparoscopy, and laser upper airway surgery
• Medicine - full diagnostic service, including treadmill exercise testing
• State-of-the-art intensive care unit offering advanced care for critically ill foals as well as adults
• Diagnostic imaging (digital radiology, nuclear scintigraphy, Computed Tomography – CT, and plans for Magnetic Resonance Imaging – MRI); and
• 24/7 emergency service

“Our mission is to provide excellent service to our clients, their animals and referring veterinarians,” Professor Frazer said.

“The Equine Hospital will cater to all horse medical and surgical needs. This is an exciting time for the equine industry and we are looking forward to seeing the benefits the hospital offers for the region.”

Two of the new staff members working in equine surgery and diagnostics are Dr Steven Zedler and Dr Lewis Smith.

Dr Zedler has worked in the United States and South Africa and his focus is on soft tissue and orthopaedic surgery, lameness, scintigraphy, and treadmill examinations.

Dr Smith completed his internship in the United States and his residency in equine orthopaedics and surgery in the United Kingdom. He has a keen interest in fracture repair and gastrointestinal surgery, lameness and contrast Computed Tomography (CT).

The Veterinary Medical Centre was officially opened on August 10.

NEW VETERINARY services this year also include diagnostic pathology services to provide faster turnaround to veterinary practices from Ipswich to the Darling Downs.

www.uq.edu.au/vetschool

HORSE OWNERS IN SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND WILL HAVE ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL TALENT AND A RANGE OF SPECIALIST SERVICES WITH THE OPENING OF UQ’S NEW EQUINE HOSPITAL.

The Veterinary Medical centre was officially opened on August 10.

INFO  Opening hours are 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, (07) 5460 1799
The University of Queensland has again been ranked among the top institutions nationally in the 2010 Academic Rankings of World Universities released last month.

UQ was one of only five Australian universities in the top 150.

UQ has an Asia-Pacific universities ranking of 11 and calculates that it improved its performance six places to 108 in the international list of ARWU-ranked universities in the 101-150 band.

UQ was ranked in the top 100 internationally in Clinical Medicine and Pharmacy (83rd) and Life and Agricultural Sciences (joint 63rd).

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Max Lu said the ranking reflected the University’s continuing strong investment in high quality researchers, their projects and research infrastructure.

“The University’s high status in Life and Agricultural Sciences and Clinical Medicine and Pharmacy endorses government and philanthropic investments in these areas at UQ,” he said.

The Academic Ranking of World Universities was first published by Shanghai Jiao Tong University in 2003, then updated on an annual basis.

Since last year it has been compiled by an independent organisation, the Shanghai Ranking Consultancy and was released this year by the Center for World-Class Universities of Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

UQ’s place as a leading Australian university was reinforced by its rating in the 2011 edition of The Good Universities Guide.

The guide awarded UQ the maximum five-star rating for student demand, student-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 the following 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.

“In an impressive move for a university with such historical origins, UQ has embraced web 2.0 and new learning technology in recent years,” the guide entry said.

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UQ is seeking undergraduate students with a passion for helping others to become volunteer mentors for secondary school students.

Acting Manager of Prospective Student Programs Kim Lyons said the University was seeking volunteers for two initiatives launched in 2009 — the UQ Young Achievers program and the UQ Young Scholars program.

“Being a student mentor is a rewarding experience,” Ms Lyons said.

“We’re seeking enthusiastic and dedicated UQ students aged 18 or older who are interested in devoting their time to assist UQ in delivering life-changing programs to secondary school students aged 15-17.

“We’re looking for male and female mentors from a variety of backgrounds, geographic regions, study areas and year levels.”

Ms Lyons said mentors played an important role in both programs, and in sharing their UQ experiences with prospective students.

“It’s an opportunity to improve your leadership potential, develop your interpersonal, teamwork and communication skills and work in a dynamic group environment,” she said.

“All of these activities will enhance mentors’ personal resumes and demonstrate their commitment to helping others.”

Senior student mentor Alex Metcalf said the volunteers he had worked with were “an amazing bunch”.

“Making new friends and networks is always handy while at university,” he said.

“Above all, the school students who are selected for these programs are switched on and are going to go on and do amazing things in the future – which can be quite inspiring for us as mentors also.”

Up to 22 mentors are required for the UQ Young Scholars program. They must be available to attend a five-day residential camp at the end of November/early December and a two-day residential camp in June 2011.

Mentors will be responsible for inspiring high-achieving, well-rounded participants.

Mentors for the UQ Young Achievers program will undertake an ongoing commitment to motivate, inspire and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds as they achieve personal goals, complete Year 12 and transition to UQ. Up to 35 mentors are required.

Applications for the UQ Young Scholars program and UQ Young Achievers program close on Wednesday, September 15.

INFO→ www.uq.edu.au/youngscholars
www.uq.edu.au/youngachievers/

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UQ COLLEGE APPOINTS CEO

The UQ College is now up and running, following the appointment of its first CEO Mr Rod Arthur.

Mr Arthur’s brief includes enrolling students in associate degree programs, initially in business, in 2011. Based at UQ Ipswich, UQ College will expand options for school-leavers and mature-age students who want a UQ qualification but not a full degree.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said Mr Arthur’s strong background in education and training made him the ideal founding CEO for the college.

A graduate of UQ, Mr Arthur was formerly a Deputy Director-General of the Queensland Department of Education and Training with responsibility for training and TAFE service delivery.

“Rod is just the person to guide the University’s expansion of choices for people who are keen to enter a new career or develop their existing professional skills,” Professor Greenfield said.

“All associate degrees and other programs of the college will be quality-assured by The University of Queensland.”

Mr Arthur said he was excited about the opportunities that would arise from combining higher and vocational education in one setting.

“Our programs will be built from the needs of the community and local industry, and I will spend the next period talking with local groups – schools, TAFE and industry – to best tailor our offerings for 2011,” he said.

After starting with associate degrees in business, the college plans to broaden its focus to include areas such as health, and deliver programs at other South-east Queensland locations.
Lending a helping hand

A UQ homework initiative has been embraced by the Ipswich community.

The creator of a homework centre at UQ’s Ipswich campus designed to help Indigenous school students has been recognised with a Dadjeen Award for Services to Indigenous Education.

Judith Dale (pictured), the senior support officer with UQ’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit (ATSIS), said she established the centre three years ago to help Indigenous primary and secondary school students with their homework. Ms Dale spreads her time between three of UQ’s four campuses – St Lucia, Gatton and Ipswich.

“There was and still is a pressing need for the centre because many families do not have access to computers at home or parents and caregivers do not have the educational levels to be able to assist students,” she said.

The centre was also attended by some non-Indigenous students as Indigenous students could “bring a friend”, Ms Dale said.

“Judy worked extremely hard to establish the homework centre and to ensure that it kept going over the long term,” Acting Head of ATSIS Professor Ian Lilley said.

“Approaching and keeping Indigenous kids is one of higher education’s biggest challenges. A centre which helps bridge the gap between high school and uni in a way that makes uni a positive and culturally safe place is a vital step in the right direction. We are all so proud of Judy’s achievement.”

Ms Dale said the centre, supported by UQ’s Equity Office and community organisation Milperra Without Borders, operated from 3.30pm until 5.30pm each Monday and was attended by an average of 10 students.

“We have a UQ student/tutor to help the kids as well as a team of community volunteers,” Ms Dale said.

Based in a resource room in the UQ Boilerhouse Community Engagement Centre at the Ipswich campus, the initiative had received positive feedback from local schools, parents and the students themselves.

“We’re very excited as one of our regulars is planning on studying nursing at UQ next year,” Ms Dale said.

Ms Dale received her award at a special luncheon held in July.

Dadjeen Awards recognise the accomplishments of Indigenous women of Ipswich and honour those within the community who have enhanced the lives of Indigenous people.

The awards are part of celebrations marking 150 years since Ipswich became a municipality.

INDIGENOUS SUPPORT ONLINE

Closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous participation in postgraduate study is the aim of a recently launched UQ website.

Developed by staff at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit, the Postgraduate Meeting Place offers networking opportunities and contains information about scholarships and student profiles.

Project team member Dr Katelyn Barney said the site responded to concerns raised during discussions with current and past postgraduate students.

“Many Indigenous postgraduates noted a lack of social networking opportunities,” Dr Barney said.

“Many said that they were not aware of other Indigenous postgraduates or that they were the only person in their course who was Indigenous.

“We’ve had very positive feedback about the website and the project in general.

“The website is also assisting students to network, or ‘take your mob with you’, as one student noted.”

Funded through the Higher Education Equity Support Program, the project was led by Professor Ian Lilley.

Dr Barney and researcher and Student Support Officer Monique Proud conducted individual interviews with Indigenous graduates, current Indigenous postgraduates and non-completed postgraduate students about their university experiences.

“These findings have the potential to assist in reshaping universities in order to provide culturally appropriate support mechanisms to Indigenous postgraduate students,” Dr Barney said.

“By knowing and acting upon the kinds of mechanisms that can assist Indigenous postgraduate students, we hope that the disparity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous student participation in postgraduate study can be addressed.”

Dr Barney said the next steps were to establish a mentoring program connecting completed and commencing postgraduates with staff in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit and other UQ faculties, schools and centres, the Graduate School and Student Services.

The team also wants to start an Indigenous postgraduate seminar series or Indigenous postgraduate conference at UQ, with invitations to both postgraduate and undergraduate students, particularly those in honours year.

Doctor of Psychology student Katherine Williams, who was interviewed as part of the Postgraduate Meeting Place project.
The UQ Art Museum is swimming with crocodiles, sharks and the odd dugong for its latest exhibition, and you’re encouraged to dive in for the experience.

On show until November 28, *Before Time Today* is the first comprehensive survey of art from the remote Aurukun region in far north Queensland, and includes almost 100 different works brought together from collections around the country.

UQ Art Museum Acting Director Michele Helmrich said the exhibition was inspired by links between Aurukun objects collected by the UQ Anthropology Museum from the 1950s, and contemporary works recently acquired by the University.

“The main experience we’ve tried to create is the relationship between past and present,” curator and Senior Lecturer in Art History Dr Sally Butler said.

“There’s something exciting about looking at the historical precedents for the contemporary art and the new works that have come after. It also helps to focus on the innovation of the contemporary artists as well as their sense of tradition, as they’re not just copying the past, they’re doing all sorts of new things.

“Even the artists haven’t seen a lot of these old works for a long time, if ever, so just putting them back into dialogue with the present is significant.”

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**Artistic ARRIVAL**

A NEW UQ EXHIBITION IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND TO CELEBRATE THE RICH ARTISTIC TRADITIONS OF THE AURUKUN PEOPLE FROM FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND.
The artworks include large sculptures of animals and spirit figures, eye-catching canvas paintings, and fields of iconic red-and-white striped “law poles”.

“Because they’re 3D objects, they have a real presence and one of the main aesthetic features is the art of characterisation,” Dr Butler said.

“You get a sense of them almost having a personality, even if they’re a fish or a dog or a ceremonial figure. It’s a really lively presence of culture.”

The entire first floor of the museum is dedicated to the exhibition, with visitors able to explore works from different clans and across mediums as they navigate the space.

Dr Butler said the regeneration and reinvention of Aurukun artistic traditions – particularly carving – made it one of the most dynamic Indigenous art movements today.

She used the example of senior artist Arthur Pambegan Jnr – now in his 70s – who had recently started configuring ceremonial paintings in new ways.

“Arthur Pambegan has taken his body paintings and turned them into these canvas paintings that are unlike anything else in Indigenous art. It’s pure Aurukun,” she said.

Traditional sculptures were now being created not only out of wood, but also aluminium and bronze.

Another recent innovation is the use of “ghost nets” – remains of fishing nets which have been washed on to the coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria, and are used to weave new, colourful creations using traditional techniques.

“The ghost nets are very typical of the way Aurukun artists are prepared to innovate to keep their culture alive,” Dr Butler said.

“The weaving tradition is on the brink of extinction all around Australia but they have used fishing nets as the start of an environmental initiative and as an imperative for re-invention.”

Traditional woven items are also on display in the exhibition, along with documentary film depicting ceremonial dances and the history of the Aurukun peoples, who experienced first contact with Europeans in the 1600s.

Accompanying the exhibition is a new UQP publication which includes chapters from leading scholars on Aurukun art and culture and the Director of the Aboriginal Art Museum in Utrecht.

Before Time Today is one of the major events of UQ’s Centenary year, and is open free to the public seven days a week.

It follows the successful Our Way exhibition of Lockhart River artists, also curated by Dr Butler, which attracted thousands of visitors to UQ in 2007 before touring internationally.

The Aurukun exhibition has been generously supported by The Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and Queensland Indigenous Arts Marketing and Export Agency (QIAMEA), the Gordon Darling Foundation, Skytrans, and the Aurukun Community Development Fund.

INFO ➔ www.artmuseum.uq.edu.au

– CAMERON PEGG
Milestones for UQ’s magnetic resonance imaging research

With almost two thirds of the world’s high-field MRI machines currently incorporating UQ intellectual property, royalties and recognition from these product licences are now funding further research and innovation.

A $1 million Queensland Government Research Industry Partnership Program (RIPP) grant has encouraged UQ MRI start-up, Magnetica Limited, to seek grant-matching investment.

The new capital raising venture marks another milestone in the successful translation of intellectual property originating from UQ’s Centre for Magnetic Resonance (CMR, now the Centre for Advanced Imaging) and the Biomedical Engineering Group within the School of IT and Electrical Engineering.

UniQuest has played a key role in helping the researchers transfer their original ideas from the lab to the latest in superconducting magnets, other subsystems and software for the worldwide human magnetic resonance imaging market, worth more than $4.5 billion annually.

“Most importantly, commercialising UQ MRI inventions has led to improved patient outcomes all round the world”

“Most importantly, commercialising UQ MRI inventions has led to improved patient outcomes all round the world,” said Mr Henderson.


In 2006, US firm Supertron Technologies acquired SpinSystems and named the merged entity m2m Imaging Corporation. Its headquarters are in the US, with manufacturing and R&D facilities in both Brisbane and Ohio.

Magnetica has raised over $10 million from investors and $2 million in government grants to date. Its designs are now manufactured by Japan Superconductor Technology, Inc. (Jostec), a subsidiary of multinational Kobe Steel, and include a prototype large, very high-field, whole-body magnet and a smaller 1.5T extremity magnet, which is being sold by GE globally.

A Queensland Government National and International Research Alliances Program (NIRAP) grant supported a collaboration with Jastec to develop the extremity magnet. The magnet is now used in systems across the world, with the super efficiency, advanced imaging capability and patient comfort features expected to increase demand significantly.

The Queensland Cyber Infrastructure Foundation’s support (QCIF) and advanced computational analysis have also factored significantly in Magnetica’s product development capability.

“Magnetica’s continued development highlights the range of benefits commercialisation can bring to the University,” said Mr Henderson.

“As well as the product revenue returns and reputational recognition for innovation, UQ has contracted its human and technical resources to Magnetica, which brings in an additional source of research funding.

“With the Smart Futures Fund RIPP grant, the matched investor funds and the revenues of its current product, Magnetica can focus on developing its next generation extremity magnet, which is intended for commercialisation by a major systems integrator.”

GE Healthcare’s compact MRI scanners using magnet technology originating from UQ research are sold and installed at sites worldwide, including some of the top tertiary-level hospitals in the US and Europe.

Fast facts
- Licences to GE and Siemens generate significant research funds to support MRI research
- UQ MRI technology now used in 2/3 of all high field MRI magnets
- SpinSystems established in 1995, to manufacture and export MRI components
- Magnetica Limited established in 2004, raising $4 million
- Magnetica named 2006 “Rising Star” in the Queensland Premier’s Smart Awards
- Supertron Technologies purchased SpinSystems in 2006: merged entity renamed m2m Imaging Corporation
- Magnetica extremity MRI magnets in full production in Japan under supply contract to GE Healthcare
- Magnetica total funds raised and grants exceeds $12 million since December 2004

If you are interested in learning more about commercialising your research or engaging with UQ researchers to benefit from their expertise and resources, contact UniQuest on +61 7 3365 4037. www.uniquest.com.au
CAPTURING
A BIRD’S-EYE VIEW

A UQ HONOURS STUDENT COMBINED HER LOVE OF SCIENCE AND PHOTOGRAPHY ON A RECENT RESEARCH TRIP.

An image of a tiny bird from a remote island in British Columbia has seen a UQ researcher shortlisted for a top photography prize.

Environmental science honours student Karri Hartley recently returned from spending a month studying the song sparrows of Mandarte Island, which sits in the waters of the Strait of Georgia northeast of Vancouver.

Ms Hartley’s image of a five-day-old chick fitted with a combination of coloured ID tags (shown at right), is one of the top 25 submissions in the Australian Museum Eureka Science Photography Prize, and was recently on display in Melbourne’s Federation Square.

On three-to-five day expeditions, which lasted from dawn to dusk, Ms Hartley and her colleagues carefully worked out the location of each bird nest on the island. Once found, the team secured newborn chicks, outfitting them with tags and taking blood samples.

The 30-year study, led by Professor Peter Arcese of the University of British Columbia, is unique because each sparrow is essentially part of a giant family tree.

Each bird has been identified in a similar way since 1975, producing a complete social and genetic pedigree for the researchers to examine; a kind of Who Do You Think You Are? for the birds of the island.

“Due to the negative impact of humans on earth, many animal populations are being reduced, threatened or endangered with extinction; this research can help us understand the preservation needs of at risk animals,” Ms Hartley said.

“It’s important because the findings can point to management actions for other small populations that may be threatened with extinction.”

Ms Hartley said her photo captured her twin passions of conservation and communicating science to the wider community.

Through the photograph Ms Hartley would like people to see there is art in science and even beauty in sometimes seemingly ordinary methods.

“Through photography we can bridge the gap between science and art and in doing so, show that the two aren’t irreconcilably disparate disciplines. Photography invokes emotion instantly, and it provides the public with an insight to science they may never have seen before,” she said.

Other shortlisted entries included remarkable photographs of stars and nebulae and insects devouring their prey.

After graduating in 2011, Ms Hartley hopes to find a position that can harness both her research and photographic skills.

– ALLISON ROCK

Clockwise from main image: a male song sparrow in full voice, the shortlisted photo, measuring a sparrow egg, and Ms Hartley outside the Mandarte Island research station.

Cover story

IMAGES COURTESY KARRI HARTLEY

UQNEWS, SEPTEMBER 2010 + 15
Fancy seeing an 80,000 word thesis explained in under 180 seconds?

Across Australia and New Zealand, research higher degree students are currently preparing to participate in the inaugural International Three Minute Thesis competition (3mT), to be held at UQ on September 21.

Contestants must condense their research into a brief, engaging oration for a non-specialist audience, using only one presentation slide.

Established for UQ students in 2008, this year’s event sees participants from fellow Australian and New Zealand universities compete for the first time, with 32 institutions taking part.

UQ PhD candidates David MacDonald and Emma Gagen (pictured), who took out second place and the people’s choice award respectively in 2009, said they were looking forward to this year’s event.

“I expect some outstanding presentations this year. With the growth of the competition over the past two years, the 2010 competition should feature some world-class research and great entertainment,” Mr MacDonald said.

“I am not surprised by the rapid growth of the Three Minute Thesis competition. The benefits for competitors are simply too good to pass up. Incredible networking opportunities, improved self-confidence, prize money... how can you not get involved?”

The 3MT winner is awarded $5000, with the runner up and people’s choice recipients receiving $2000 and $1000 respectively.

Ms Gagen said her 3MT experience had been an extremely positive one.

“My dad, who is a labourer and farmer, attended the finals to watch me participate, and told me afterwards that he was very impressed with all the talks, and understood them all,” she said.

“The topics – physics, psychology, physiotherapy, molecular biology and genetics – were all presented in language that an ordinary person could understand.

“I was also surprised last year just how many people were actually interested in my research and approached me afterwards. I found that my family and friends – whom I usually spare from the details of my daily research – were genuinely interested in what I do after listening to me practise my talk or after hearing the presentation on ABC Radio.”

Graduate School Dean Professor Zlatko Skrbis said the 3MT provided a fantastic opportunity to profile and celebrate the innovative research conducted by research higher degree candidates at UQ.

The UQ finals take place on September 20, with the Australian and New Zealand finals to be held on September 21 at the UQ Centre. All are welcome and can register their attendance at the Graduate School website.

INFO  ➔  www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/3MT

IN BRIEF

Winning Research

IMB researchers took out two of the four awards on offer at the recent Queensland Health and Medical Research Awards.

Dr Richard Clark won Senior Researcher of the Year for his work on developing a medication for chronic pain using cone snail venom, while Dr Kate Schroder was named Postdoctoral Researcher of the Year for completing the first comparison of mice and human innate immune systems.

Dr Clark is investigating a way to stabilise the cone snail molecules by combining them with other molecules that don’t degrade and don’t have any effect on the body.

Dr Schroder won her award for work studying the innate immune system, which provides general protection against infection from invading organisms.

INFO  ➔  www.imb.uq.edu.au
The life of a PhD student is often depicted as a long and lonely undertaking in labs and libraries, but the new UQ Graduate School, launched in June, has kick-started a fresh approach to better engage with research higher degree students.

With more than 4000 candidates currently pursuing a research higher degree (RHD) at UQ, there is significant academic diversity among the group, with projects spanning the breadth of discovery undertaken at the University’s seven faculties and eight research institutes.

The Graduate School Executive – comprised of Dean Professor Zlatko Skrbis, Deputy Dean Associate Professor Sarah Roberts-Thomson, and Director Michelle Paez-Kirkland (pictured) – aims to increase the number of students enrolled in research higher degrees at UQ.

One of their recruitment tactics is to promote the UQ Advantage.

Developed by Professor Skrbis, the concept encompasses a broad range of research opportunities and learning experiences that are unique to UQ.

“The UQ Advantage is committed to ensuring that the research higher degree experience is first-class,” Professor Skrbis said.

“In 2010 the Graduate School has already seen a 10 percent increase in domestic applications and a 30 percent increase in international applications, with international students now representing 29 percent of all research higher degree students, but we won’t be stopping there.

“Through skills training, professional development opportunities, and mentoring and networking programs, we want to ensure that students are well prepared for careers in research, academia and industry.”

UQ has seen world-leading discoveries made in its faculties and institutes, with students learning alongside some of Australia’s brightest minds. With research income in excess of $303 million (a two-fold increase since 2005), UQ is a leader in industry collaboration and securing research funding.

Research higher degree students have access to free commercialisation workshops where they can explore the commercial potential of their research and expertise.

The UQ Advantage also includes access to exceptional facilities, including a new Thesis Hub designed exclusively for students in their final writing phase.

For more than 10 years, UQ has also conducted awards for excellence in RHD supervision to acknowledge outstanding levels of performance in the mentoring and training of research higher degree candidates.

Ms Paez-Kirkland said UQ research higher degree students had access to some of the world’s leading academics as supervisors; a valuable asset during their studies.

“A research higher degree enhances your skills and employability,” she said.

“Some people do a PhD because they’re passionate about working in the lab and want to become a research-intensive academic, but we have a vast array of fields and career aspirations among our students.

“Allowing students to embrace a culture of research excellence, but also acquire a broad selection of skills likely to increase their prospects of employment in non-academic fields, is what the UQ Advantage strives to achieve.”

INFO → www.uq.edu.au/grad-school

GRADUATE SCHOOL FAST FACTS

- In 1993, UQ had approximately 1600 PhD students; today there are more than 4000
- In 2010 to date, UQ has awarded 251 PhDs and 37 MPhils, representing a 10% increase from the same time last year
- In the first 30 years of offering research higher degrees, UQ awarded almost 1000 PhDs. In the following three decades, this figure has grown to more than 8500
- Research income in 2009 was in excess of $303 million

UPCOMING RHD EVENTS

- Activities during Graduate Student Week (27 September–2 October) include:
  - Free breakfast with Deputy Dean of the Graduate School, Associate Professor Sarah Roberts-Thomson
  - “It’s not a Nobel Prize” by Dr Margaret Kiley from Australian National University
  - Research commercialisation, international development and intellectual property workshops by UniQuest
More than 20,000 people made it to UQ’s 2010 Open Day events, which were held at the St Lucia, Ipswich and Gatton campuses last month.

The events offered visitors an opportunity to speak to staff and students, explore campus facilities, as well as enjoy live music, science experiments, market stalls and animal displays.

Students were able to learn about the unique courses and career options, find out about scholarships and exchange opportunities, and get advice from current UQ students.

The St Lucia event saw more than 17,000 people attend, with the UQ Big Band, the Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble, moot court and the small animal clinic proving crowd favourites.

Event manager Justine Greig said Open Day was the perfect opportunity for potential students to get a feel for UQ and gain a great insight into campus life.

“The information booths in the UQ Centre had a constant stream of people and the academic sessions were well attended.

“Visitors also made the most of the great entertainment on offer and enjoyed tours of the various residential colleges, museums and institutes.”

The St Lucia Open Day was held on August 18, with visitors enjoying a free sausage sizzle, live entertainment and a bungee fun run.

Staff and students were on hand to provide information about the study options at UQ Ipswich, which include medicine, nursing and midwifery, health sciences and arts.

The UQ College – which will provide further study options and pathways for students to UQ – opens at the Ipswich campus in early 2011. It will offer associate degrees, initially in business, which can be articulated into UQ degree programs.

Visitors to the UQ Gatton Open Day were able to explore the new $100M School of Veterinary Science, which recently relocated from St Lucia (see page 8 for full story).

The Gatton campus is the University’s hub for animal and agricultural science, with degrees in applied science, agriculture, horticulture, production animals, veterinary, equine and wildlife sciences, agribusiness and rural management on offer.
This year’s Brisbane Exhibition proved the perfect training ground for aspiring UQ journalists.

Three UQ students experienced the other side of this year’s Ekka after a successful stint as reporters for Channel Nine.

Final-year Bachelor of Journalism students Sarah Greenhalgh, Philippa Coore and Alex Taylor filed dozens of stories as interns for the network during the 10-day event.

“We were very much accepted as part of the Nine team and our footage was often used for their main bulletin,” Ms Greenhalgh said.

Based in the purpose-built RNA newsroom, the group was supervised by UQ Industry Consultant Bruce Redman who shot the stories and assisted with editing and post-production.

Mr Redman, a 30-year television industry veteran, was impressed with the standard of work the students produced.

“They were right in there among the crowds, the cows and even the political celebrities. Some nights we worked until almost midnight just to get the story done,” he said.

The stories were uploaded to the Ekka’s official website, ninemsn.com, YouTube, and the School of Journalism and Communication’s own digital news site.

“It was truly an invaluable experience – we had the opportunity to engage in practical work and experience daily deadline pressures. As a result, I gained a real insight into the world of online and TV news broadcasting,” Ms Greenhalgh said.

In addition to the antics of sideshow alley and entertainment in the main ring, the students received a surprise lesson in political reporting courtesy of the Federal Election.

Former Labor leader Mark Latham confronted Prime Minister Julia Gillard on the campaign trail, sending the media into a frenzy.

“We were right in the middle of the media pack with the PM and Mark Latham, which became the story of the day,” Ms Coore said.

Mr Redman said the school hoped to extend the Ekka experience next year to include radio, print and online opportunities.


“Students capture Ekka action

Journalism student Philippa Coore practises her piece to camera with Mr Redman supervising

We were right in the middle of the media pack with the PM and Mark Latham, which became the story of the day,” Ms Coore said.

Mr Redman said the school hoped to extend the Ekka experience next year to include radio, print and online opportunities.
The Gold Coast was one of the first of the new wave of satellite production centres that have been integrated into the Hollywood production system since the 1980s.

It has evolved over the past twenty years from a place with an extremely limited history and tradition of film and television production to become an important international production centre.

As the innovation centre furthest away from the epicentre of film and television production in Los Angeles, the Gold Coast is a particularly instructive case, as it not only combined the building of a film studio and a new whole-of-government approach to attracting film and television production to a location, it was also a production location brought into being by a key figure in the contemporary internationalisation of film and television production in the 1970s and 1980s, Dino De Laurentiis. A combination of opportunism, ambition and serendipity created a new site of global film and television production in one of Australia’s tourism and leisure capitals.

The idea of building a studio to anchor and facilitate production on the Gold Coast was the brain child of both this ambitious, independent producer-distributor and a government keen to diversify the economy of the Gold Coast and establish the region as a leisure, entertainment and tourism centre.

For De Laurentiis, the studio was originally intended to be a platform for him, as a Hollywood outsider, to take on the major studios and beat them at their own game.

The 1986 deal to build a film studio and theme park on the east coast of Australia, almost a thousand kilometres north of Sydney, was initially struck between De Laurentiis, the Queensland Government and Ariadne Australia Ltd, an Australian corporation that owned the land on which the facility would be built.

At the time of the deal, De Laurentiis believed he was close to achieving his goal of turning his US-based production and distribution company De Laurentiis Entertainment Group (DEG) into a major industry player in direct competition with the Hollywood studios.

Local Hollywood by Ben Goldsmith, Susan Ward and Tom O’Regan is published by UQP.

Campaigning loudly

Live music has damaged UQ Business School graduate Daniel Lalor’s ears, but he is not about to take that out on the bands or venues which may have contributed.

Instead, the 23-year-old has started a campaign to make music fans aware of the importance of protecting their hearing.

Mr Lalor (pictured) is using marketing, planning and sponsorship skills learned at university for the Music to my Ears campaign.

The initiative aims to get music fans to protect their ears, with a goal to get musicians and venue management to help spread the message.

It all started when Mr Lalor developed tinnitus after going to a club in Darwin and still had ringing in his ears days later.

Deciding there was little education for young music fans, Mr Lalor put together a submission to the Senate Inquiry into Hearing Health in Australia.

“I wanted to submit a paper for Generation Y. I thought a campaign needed to be launched. Then I decided to start the campaign myself,” he said.

Mr Lalor said the campaign aimed to make people aware of how hearing damage occurred, offer protection tips, and lobby music venues to keep to safe noise levels.

“I have nothing against loud music. The thing is to protect your hearing health so you can enjoy music for longer,” he said.

“I have been going to live music since I was 18. I would come out with ringing in my ears.

“The ringing would be gone the next morning so you don’t think about it, but the ringing is generally a warning that you have subjected yourself to harmful noise.

“A quick test is, if you have to shout to be heard over the music, it could be damaging.”

Mr Lalor has been using ear plugs since an audiologist diagnosed tinnitus, but has not given up going to gigs by favourite acts such as Sufjan Stevens, Jezebel and Jamie T.

“Hearing protection has the stigma of being uncool. People are worried what it looks like, but customised musicians’ ear plugs are discreet.

“They are accepted in the live music scene; musicians wear them. And no-one will see them in nightclubs because it is dark.”

Mr Lalor said one in six Australians would experience irreversible hearing loss and this was expected to reach one in four by 2050.

INFO ➔ www.musictomyearescampaign.org
The R.D. Milns Antiquities Museum has welcomed four new undergraduate student interns—Meg White (pictured), Katee Dean, Ryan Taddeucci and Shani Berriman.

Intern supervisor and final-year Master of Philosophy student Suzanne Kortlucke said the students were “the cream of the crop” and a pleasure to work with.

The group are undertaking training in museum conservation, administration, ethics, curation and collecting.

“It’s quite a stringent and competitive application process,” Ms Kortlucke said.

“These students perform well academically. They’re very invested in their studies and are passionate about what they do.”

The Antiquities Museum internship is the brainchild of Dr Sonia Puttock, the museum’s curator and director, who has developed the program over the past eight years.

Interns prepare several small displays and a major final exhibition for public view at the end of semester, based on a topic of their choice.

“The program has been very successful and ex-interns and volunteers have worked in a variety of institutions around the world, including Caerleon Roman Museum in Wales, the Tower of London and the Tate Gallery in London, the Roman Baths, the Getty Museum at Malibu in the USA, the Australian National Museum in Canberra and Queensland Museum here in Brisbane,” Dr Puttock said.

Third-year ancient history and archaeology student Ryan Taddeucci – the first male to be chosen for the internship in several years – said he thought the experience would increase his career prospects and was particularly looking forward to curating the final exhibition.

“We’re interested in how they’ve evolved over time and what they represent.”

Ms Kortlucke said museums were still popular among the general public, with ancient artefacts continuing to entice visitors.

“Every grade three child who comes through this museum knows more than I do about Egypt. They’re just sponges for information,” she said.

“I think that all of the artefacts in the museum still hold a lot of interest for people.”

The Antiquities Museum internship is the only opportunity of its kind in Queensland. The collection consists of several thousand ancient objects, mostly relating to the classical civilisations of Greece, Rome and Egypt, but also housing collections which are relevant to the study of other Near Eastern and European groups.

Many of its artefacts have been acquired through generous donations or monetary gifts. The museum is located in the Mchic Building and is open to the public 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday, free of charge.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/antiquities

EYES ON THE PRIZE

A leading researcher from the Queensland Brain Institute has been awarded the 2010 Boycott Prize for career achievement in the field of retinal neuroscience.

Professor David Vaney was honoured for his research investigating the structure and function of the retina at a Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology research conference on retinal neurobiology and visual processing, held recently in Vermont.

Professor Vaney’s laboratory is studying how the retina processes visual information by recording the visual response properties of different types of retinal output neurons.

RESEARCH PROJECTS LINKED

A method to image human joints in motion, and improving students’ reading achievements in rural and mining communities are among UQ projects supported in a recent Australian Research Council funding round.

The Linkage Projects scheme enables Australian institutions to undertake innovative and cutting-edge research projects in collaboration with industry and other partners.

University of Queensland-led projects attracted $5.7 million out of $86.7 million awarded to 32 institutions nationally, announced by Federal Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr.

TOP WORKPLACE

Readers of The Scientist magazine have ranked UQ as the top international academic institution outside the USA in the magazine’s annual Best Places to Work in Academia 2010 survey.

The online article singles out a number of examples of high calibre research in the life sciences being undertaken at UQ.

These include biodiversity studies by zoologist Professor Craig Franklin and mathematician and ecologist Professor Hugh Possingham; biofuels research by Professor Peter Gresshoff, Professor Lars Nielson and Dr Ben Hankamer; and work on mosquito-borne disease by Professor Scott O’Neill.
A UQ TEAM PUT ON A STRONG SHOW AT THE RECENT NATIONAL OPEN POWERLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN MELBOURNE.

The UQ Powerlifting and Weightlifting Club (UQPWC) entered a team of six lifters for the championships, of which five came home National Champions in their respective divisions.

UQPWC also won the men’s 2010 Best Club Trophy for being the best performing club overall at the championships.

Among the gold medal winners was UQ economics student Lev Susany (pictured), who took out the men’s 75kg division.

Mr Susany’s bench press of 168kg exceeded the Oceania and Commonwealth record for his division by 0.5kg, however in open championships a record must be broken by at least 2.5kg to be officially recognised.

“l’m confident that I can officially break the record at the Oceania Powerlifting Championships in December,” he said.

Mr Susany is already the current national bench press record holder for his division, having lifted 170kg at the state championships in March.

Fellow UQPWC lifters Theo Lagis and Ray Hope broke national records in their respective divisions, while Helen Allen and Andrew Logan were also victorious.

UQ engineering student Mark Barham performed admirably to finish third in the 82.5kg division, despite only being a junior lifter.

The UQ Powerlifting and Weightlifting Club encourages anyone interested in either sport to visit their website for more information.

INFO ➔ www.uqpwc.org

EXERCISE IN DISGUISE

ZUMBA – THE LATEST GLOBAL FITNESS CRAZE – DREW A RECORD-BREAKING CROWD TO ITS FIRST UQ SPORT SESSION.

Around 400 people – the most to attend a single ZUMBA class in Australia – crammed into UQ’s Indoor Sports Pavilion for a one-hour trial of the dance-fitness phenomenon.

ZUMBA combines Latin dancing and aerobics to form an exhilarating style of exercise that is rapidly growing in popularity around the world.

UQ Sport Group Fitness Coordinator Julia Sesnan said it was the biggest group fitness spectacle she had ever seen.

“It’s not every day you see 400 people dancing in time together,” Ms Sesnan said.

“But the most satisfying thing was that just about every one of those people were smiling and having a great time,” she said.

“ZUMBA will certainly be a regular feature of our group fitness timetable from now on.”

The trial class was part of UQ Sport’s Semester 2 Come ‘n’ Try Week – a week of free group fitness and lifestyle classes primarily for UQ students and staff but open to the public.

The week was extremely well attended by the UQ community with more than 1,500 registrations across a wide range of classes including pilates, salsa, kickboxing, RPM, yoga, karate and golf.

Following the initial success of ZUMBA, a regular class will now be held at UQ Sport every Thursday evening at 6:30pm.

For more information about ZUMBA or other UQ Sport classes, visit www.uqsport.com.au
EVENTS / NOTICES

• Thursday, September 23
UQ Centre for Clinical Research and Herston Research Career Development Symposium on Career Paths for PhDs (2–4.30pm at UQ CCR Auditorium, Herston). Contact: c.buttery@uq.edu.au

• Friday, September 24
UQ Centre for Clinical Research is holding an Open Day at Herston for potential PhD and Honours students. Hear from group leaders about cutting edge research opportunities, tour the building and enjoy a free lunch while you meet and mingle with UQCCR researchers (11am-2pm at UQCCR). Contact: c.irle@uq.edu.au

• Tuesday, September 28
Global Change Institute Food Security Public Forum. The forum aims to discuss and identify ways to achieve a major alleviation of global hunger both now and into the future (5.30pm–7pm at Customs House). Contact: k.henry1@uq.edu.au

• Wednesday, October 13
Postgraduate Advice Night. Have all of your questions answered about your study options, scholarships and the application process (4.30pm-7.30pm at Customs House). Information: www.youruq.com/postgrad

GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS*

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

• To rent:
  Furnished one-bedroom flat plus study and sleepout in Spring Hill. Available 30 September–30 November. $360/week including bills. Information: joehardwick@uq.edu.au

  Furnished four-bedroom, two-bathroom home in Fig Tree pocket available for six months from September 2010 to March 2011. House is also air-conditioned and has a pool. Information: gz@uq.edu.au

SCHOLARSHIPS

• Ford Memorial Prize 2010
Awarded to the undergraduate student who submits the best poem in English (published or unpublished), who has not been twice awarded the prize. Mail entries to: Undergraduate Scholarships and Prizes Office, JD Story Building, UQ, 4072 or submit to Student Centre. Email applications not accepted. Value: $235 (as books). Closing: 12 November. Information: www.uq.edu.au/study/scholarships

• UQ-Link Access Scholarship 2011
Provides assistance to Year 12 students who have experienced educational disadvantage due to financial hardship. Approved UQ-Link Access students will be considered for the scholarships. Value: $3000. Closing: November 1. Information: www.uq.edu.au/study/scholarships

UQ NEWS DEADLINES

NEXT ISSUE: 594
COPY DEADLINE: November 10
PUBLICATION DATE: November 30

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

ELECTION TO THE ACADEMIC BOARD

Professors and non-professors
Elections will be held to appoint members to the Academic Board as follows:

By and from the Professors of the University – 6 members to serve a term commencing 1 Jan 2011 and expiring 31 Dec 2013

NOMINATION DATE: 4pm Thursday, 15 July 2010
ELECTION DATE: 9am Wednesday, 15 Sept 2010

By and from the non-professorial teaching and research staff of the University – 6 members to serve a term commencing 1 Jan 2011 and expiring 31 Dec 2013

NOMINATION DATE: 4pm Thursday, 15 July 2010
ELECTION DATE: 9am Monday, 13 Sept 2010

Any person entitled to vote for any of the classes of elected members to be appointed to the Academic Board is entitled to nominate a professorial or a non-professorial candidate. Nomination forms are available from Mrs Tina Ferguson, Academic Administration (53360) or can be downloaded from the Academic Board website www.uq.edu.au/academic-board/

Nomination forms must be received in Academic Administration, Room 503, JD Story Building, by 4pm on the nomination date above. Votes must be cast electronically by 9am on the election dates shown above. Persons eligible to vote will receive an email directing them to the University eElections system prior to the opening of the ballot.

Student members
Elections will be held to appoint student members of the Academic Board for 2011 as follows:

3 Undergraduate Students
1 Postgraduate Research Student
1 Postgraduate Non-Research Student

NOMINATION WEEK:
Monday 16 Aug – 4pm, Friday 20 Aug 2010

VOTING WEEK:
Monday 4 Oct – 4pm Friday, 8 Oct 2010

Any person entitled to vote in an election for any of the categories of elected student members to be appointed to the Academic Board is entitled to nominate a student candidate. Nomination forms will be available from Monday, August 16 and can be downloaded from the Academic Board website at www.uq.edu.au/academic-board/

Nomination forms will also be available from the Student Centres at St Lucia, Gatton or Ipswich, or can be obtained from the University Elections Officer by telephoning (07) 3383 3386. Further information regarding arrangements for voting week will be emailed to eligible students prior to the opening of the ballot.

Ms Dorothy Collins, University Secretary and General Counsel

www.uq.edu.au/academic-board/
Academic Administration
Xu Ping likes pandas so much, she is dedicating her working life to conservation, as both a researcher and an educator. The 28-year-old works at a Chinese panda breeding base and tourist destination while completing Master of Philosophy studies at UQ.

Ms Xu is manager of the Conservation Education Department at Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in Sichuan Province.

Her UQ studies focus on understanding the needs and interests of Chinese zoo visitors in relation to conservation education.

“I decided to study tourism because most visitors come to the breeding base for a tourism reason. It will be more effective if I combine a conservation message with a good visitor experience,” Ms Xu said.

“As an educator, I hope to foster visitors’ conservation attitudes and encourage their conservation behaviours to save the environment.

“It is very important to understand visitors to develop effective and meaningful conservation education programs and zoo experiences for them. My research will explore their interests and needs.”

Ms Xu is conducting surveys in Chengdu and hopes to complete her research in May next year.

“I hope I can work for pandas and conservation as long as I can - and can influence more people in their conservation attitudes and behaviours,” she said.

Ms Xu said it was important to be passionate about work and ensure it lined up with your interests.

“Do what you are interested in and what you think is useful. That way, you will have a lot of fun,” she said.

“I hope the results of this research will give an idea to all zoo educators in China about how to develop effective and meaningful conservation programs and visitor experiences.”

Giant pandas live in mountain ranges in central China. Human activities such as farming, forest clearing and development have restricted their ability to live in nearby lowland areas, forcing them into the mountains.

There are about 1600 giant pandas left in the wild. About 300 pandas live in captivity, mostly in China.

– ERIK DE WIT