A CUT ABOVE
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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Even before the start of the Chinese Year of the Rabbit, 2011 had brought UQ its share of yin and yang, as floods in early January were quickly followed by success in Australia’s first comprehensive assessment of university research.

The floods were tragic for many students, staff and alumni, and the outcome from Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) will not compensate for their loss. However the ERA result does reinforce a key signal from the flood recovery process: that UQ’s strength comes from its people, especially when they collaborate.

That was an inescapable conclusion in the aftermath of inundation at the St Lucia campus. Barely 48 hours after a raging Brisbane River coated one-third of the campus with mud, battalions of volunteers – many of them students – worked alongside staff and contractors, and returned most of the campus to safe working order within a few days.

During the same period, staff took the initiative of inviting the public to use UQ facilities such as the Internet kiosk (both at the Gatton campus), while UQ’s residential colleges sheltered displaced UQ staff, students, alumni, and people from the neighbourhood (both at St Lucia and Gatton).

When UQ re-opened on January 20, we were poised for a flying start to the new academic year.

By early February the Sport and Fitness Centre was up and running, and more than 100 kids had their own “kindy city” in lieu of two damaged child care centres. Many UQ Sport facilities and International House college need more work, but plans are in place to return them to full strength.

As well as staff, students and friends (such as the colleges) making priceless contributions, the University is blessed with steadfast alumni and other allies who are shoring up the recovery.

A global appeal to assist flood-affected students attracted donations and pledges totaling more than $150,000 in its first 10 days, as gifts rolled in from alumni in more than a dozen countries. Staff and students made significant donations, while HELP University College in Malaysia committed $100,000.

Furthermore, hundreds of alumni and staff registered to make accommodation available to students and staff. This groundswell speaks for the tremendous character of our community.

An integral group within this broad church, researchers, gained richly-deserved credit from the ERA assessment. Thanks to them, UQ is above or at world standard in more broad fields of discovery than any other Australian university. “Well above world standard” is the accolade granted to an expanse of disciplines, from biomedical engineering, nanotechnology, and neurosciences; to sociology, cultural studies, and business and management.

Numerous professional staff worked with researchers to ensure the integrity of data that UQ submitted for assessment. The impact of their diligence will be extensive; it will reflect on alumni and students, and enhance the University’s attraction of top students, staff and collaborators.

It makes 2011, the Year of the Rabbit, an excellent season for greeting thousands of new students from around Australia and more than 100 other nations. Welcome, all, to UQ’s far-flung but interwoven global community.

Professor Paul Greenfield AO
**SHORT CUTS**

**SHARK VISION STUDY**

New research on how sharks see may help to prevent attacks on humans and assist in the design of fishing gear that may reduce shark bycatch in long-line fisheries.

The joint study between UQ and the University of Western Australia looked at the potential for colour vision in a number of Australian shark species.

The team measured the light-sensitive cells in the sharks’ eyes using a specialised instrument and concluded that they have only one type of cone photoreceptor in the retina.

“Humans have three cone types that are sensitive to blue, green and red light, respectively, and by comparing signals from the different cone types we get the sensation of colour vision,” said UWA’s Associate Professor Nathan Hart.

“However, we found that sharks have only a single cone type and by conventional reckoning this means that they don’t have colour vision,” UQ’s Dr Susan Theiss said the sensitivity of the sharks’ cone photoreceptors varied slightly between species, which most likely reflected differences in preferred habitat type or behaviours.

It has long been assumed that sharks have some sort of colour vision and indeed have a preference for certain colours.

The term “yum, yum yellow” was coined when it was discovered, in tests by the US Navy, that some species of shark were attracted more to yellow than other colours.

“Our study shows that contrast against the background, rather than colour per se, may be more important for object detection by sharks, and this may help us to design long-line fishing lures that are less attractive to sharks,” Dr Theiss said.

**ATLAS CELEBRATES QLD**

Queensland’s history is firmly on the map with The University of Queensland and the Queensland Museum launching an innovative online atlas that takes a fresh look at the state’s past.

The Queensland Historical Atlas is an Australian first, with Queensland becoming the only state to explore its diverse history on such a grand scale online, featuring more than 1,000 maps, photographs, rarely-seen collections, “Dr Galloway said.

“People can see the first QANTAS mail bag used to transport mail between Australia and England in 1931, an amazing 70-year-old headdress made from 1200 rabbit tails from south west Queensland, and the 1972 election card when Neville Bonner stood for a place in the Senate.”

The Queensland Historical Atlas is an Australian Research Council-funded Linkage project between the Queensland Museum and the University.

INFO ➔ www.qhatlas.com.au

**SING, SOOTHE AND SLEEP**

A University of Queensland research project is seeking first-time mothers to trial a new approach which uses music to settle their babies.

Developed by Associate Professors Felicity Baker and Elizabeth MacKinlay, the Sing, Soothe, and Sleep DVD program teaches a range of techniques to match the changing emotional states of new babies.

In the pilot stage of the project researchers found when mothers sang a lullaby, the volume of her voice, pitch, tempo and tone, as well as her patting and rocking styles, all affected how quickly her baby settled.

Dr MacKinlay, an anthropologist and ethnomusicologist, said mothers who used the Sing, Soothe and Sleep program said they were able to spend more quality time with their babies.

INFO ➔ singingmums@uq.edu.au

**COLOURFUL CALLING**

Researchers at UQ’s Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) are one step closer to unlocking the role of colour in animal courtship rituals after identifying a unique feather structure in birds of paradise.

The New Guinea-based creatures have long been famed for their elaborate forest floor dances.

With their feathers producing dazzling effects as they catch the light, these courtship dances are designed to showcase the birds’ brilliant plumage to prospective mates.

Now scientists within QBI’s sensory neurobiology group have uncovered exactly why the dance moves of one kind of bird of paradise – the male Lawes’ parotia – create even larger and more abrupt colour changes than is possible with ordinary iridescent plumage such as that possessed by peacocks.

Researcher Professor Justin Marshall said the novel effect was due to the unique structure of the parotia’s feathers, which function like multi-layered mirrors.

“The feather ‘barbules’ have a special boomerang-shaped profile that allows them to produce not the usual one but three coloured mirrors,” he said.

“These reflect yellow and blue light in different directions to make dramatic colour changes as the bird displays on the forest floor.”

Dr Baker is the Director of Research at UQ’s School of Music. She said a key to the technique was to match the baby’s temperament musically, and then lower their arousal by slowing down the singing style.

“Mothers learn how to manipulate the singing they produce to connect with their babies,” Dr Baker said.

“Examples of the lullabies used are Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star followed by Kum Ba Yah and Brahms’s Lullaby.”

The trial will have two phases of three weeks and participants will complete a diary and take part in telephone interviews with the researchers.

INFO ➔ singingmums@uq.edu.au
DISHING UP FOR IPSWICH

UQ students participated in a cyber cooking demonstration staged by celebrity chef Jamie Oliver in Ipswich recently.

Held on December 2, the event celebrated the launch of the first Australian Jamie’s Ministry of Food centre, which aims to promote healthy eating and cooking habits.

Bachelor of Health Sciences students assisted guests including Queensland Premier Anna Bligh and Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale to cook alongside Jamie Oliver, who was streaming live from his kitchen in London.

GREEN NETWORK GROWS

The University of Queensland’s successful Green Office Program celebrated the recruitment of its 100th staff representative and the sign-up of its 100th office at a celebratory lunch held in November.

Established in 2006, the program aims to increase recycling, reduce energy and water consumption and increase the purchase of environmentally preferred products in all UQ offices.

The program is run by the Sustainability Office within the Property and Facilities Division and involves a network of staff promoting environmentally friendly practices in their offices.

The program’s 100th recruit, Nalini Seethapathy from the Faculty of Science, said she decided to join because she thought there were some areas where her workplace could improve.

“My office is very good with following sustainable practices, but I think we all need reminding now and again,” Ms Seethapathy said.

The Centre for Nutrition and Food Sciences is the 100th office area to join the program, which operates at all UQ campuses.

Environmental coordinator Kay Ollett said recruiting 100 representatives and 100 office areas was a reflection of the program’s success.

“UQ staff are clearly enthusiastic about helping make their workplace environmentally friendly and looking at ways to save energy and increase recycling,” she said.

“We have had excellent results with participating offices recording a reduction in energy usage and an increase in recycling which in turn helps to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill from UQ.”

Three inaugural Green Office representatives who joined the pilot program in 2005 – Nicole Connolly, Tony Lam and Alice Liang – were also recognised for their contribution.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/sustainability

ART FOR THE AGES

Scientists have moved a step closer to dating the mysterious Bradshaw rock art paintings in the Kimberley region following the efforts of an international research team led by The University of Queensland.

Retired UQ neuroscientist, Professor Jack Pettigrew, headed a team that tested 80 paintings in 16 caves scattered through the remote region and found the pigments were not paint, but living bacteria and fungi.

Professor Pettigrew, who has been working on the project for the past couple of years, said the vivid colours in some of the paintings were the result of paint pigments being replaced by living organisms.

The most common organisms that occur on the paintings are a black fungus and a red bacterium, which appear to have a mutually beneficial relationship.

“We have labelled the phenomenon ‘living pigments’ to refer to the fact that the pigments of the original paint have been replaced by pigmented micro-organisms,” Professor Pettigrew said.

The Bradshaw paintings, known by Indigenous people as Gwion Gwion, depict elongated figures with elegant dress and extinct animals.

Professor Pettigrew said the Bradshaw paintings are believed to have been created between 46,000 to 70,000 years ago, based on the time of extinction of depicted live megafauna and the arrival of the boab tree in Australia, but no one has proved how old they are.

Professor Pettigrew’s next job is to sequence the DNA of the bacteria, which will help to identify the age of the paintings.

The research team’s findings were published in a recent edition of Antiquity Journal.

INFO ➔ http://antiquity.ac.uk

Facts + Figures

21
– the number of broad fields of research (out of a possible 24) in which UQ was ranked above world standard in the recent Excellence in Research for Australia survey

9000
– UQ’s 9000th PhD was awarded during the December graduation ceremonies

400
– number of sausages served at Campus Pharmacy’s barbeque for flood volunteers during the St Lucia clean-up last month

6400
– number of students who graduated during the December ceremonies

35
– number of dogs cared for at the Gatton campus during the floods

54
– selection of works currently on show in the Australian Portraits exhibition at the UQ Art Museum
**DENGUE BREAKTHROUGH**

**FUNDING FROM THE BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION IS HELPING A UQ-LED PROJECT TO ELIMINATE DENGUE FEVER.**

In an effort to eliminate the global burden of dengue fever, an Australian-led international research team recently commenced a 12-week field trial in several Cairns suburbs.

"Over the next three months we will release approximately 40 mosquitoes from every fourth house within the field trial areas of Yorkeys Knob and Gordonvale," said Eliminate Dengue project leader, Professor Scott O’Neill of The University of Queensland’s School of Biological Sciences.

"By April we should know if we are on the right track or not, in our bid to stop the Aedes-aegypti mosquito from being able to transmit the dengue virus between people."

The project is funded by the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health as part of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative.

It also receives funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia as well as the Queensland Government.

The field trial involves introducing strains of a naturally occurring bacterium called Wolbachia into the mosquito population, which through laboratory research has been shown to act like a vaccine for the mosquito.

Wolbachia mosquitoes have been bred in a purpose-built mosquito facility at James Cook University in Cairns.

In the lead up to last month’s world-first release, the Eliminate Dengue team dedicated significant resources to ensure the local community was fully informed on the project. This resulted in large numbers of residents registering to allow the field team to release the mosquitoes from their backyards.

"Without the permission from residents to enter their yards, the field team would have to release the mosquitoes from the street which would not give us the best results," Professor O’Neill said.

Prior to last month’s release, the project field team spent December visiting homes in the field trial areas manually reducing existing natural mosquito numbers.

"If these initial trials are successful they will be followed by similar trials in Vietnam towards the end of 2011," Professor O’Neill said.

"If those experiments are successful then we might expect to see full implementation and control of dengue in the Cairns region in a two–four year timeframe."

INFO ➔ www.eliminatedengue.com

**HEAD LICE ADVICE**

About one in five Australian primary school-aged children will contract head lice this year, according to UQ expert.

"Head lice are a real challenge for parents," said Associate Professor Steve Barker, of the School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences.

"It is often the most common infectious agent in primary school children in Australia, after the common cold."

"Many parents tell me they spend $100-$200 before they find a solution that works."

Dr Barker is an international authority on the evolution, control and genetics of head lice, and has been studying the organisms for 25 years.

His most recent findings will be submitted to the International Journal of Dermatology.

"About 15 to 30 percent of primary school-aged children get infected at least once each year," he said.

"Parents can take heart that getting rid of head lice is difficult, but possible."

INFO ➔ www.scmb.uq.edu.au/staff/stephen-barker

**CLARIFICATION**

Facts from two separate articles were incorrectly combined on page 10 of the last edition of UQ News ("ARC success"). The $24 million of Australian Research Council funding for the centre in question is unrelated to the $33.32 million in ARC grants that UQ was awarded in October. We apologise for this error.
In a spectacular result for University of Queensland researchers, UQ is above world standard in more broad fields of research than any other Australian university.

The Excellence in Research for Australia survey (ERA) ranked 21 fields of UQ research in the highest two ratings bands, which signify well above world standard and above world standard.

UQ’s research in biomedical and clinical health sciences, biotechnology, engineering, biological sciences, environmental sciences, chemical sciences and physical sciences was ranked well above world standard (level 5).

The fields of research in which UQ was rated at level 4 (above world standard) were economics, education, law and legal studies, history and archaeology, technology (engineering and environment), mathematical sciences, philosophy and religious studies, language, communication and culture, studies in creative arts and writing, built environment and design, psychology and cognitive sciences, studies in human society, medical and health sciences (public and allied health), commerce, management, and tourism and services.

“Credit for UQ’s result goes to our researchers, who have demonstrated they can match the excellence of the world’s best,” Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said.

“ERA shows that outstanding quality is a hallmark of researchers in all of UQ’s major fields.

“The outcome also reflects the impact of strategic investments in UQ discovery by the Queensland and Australian governments, philanthropists, business and the University itself.”

The landmark ERA report, released last month after five years of development, highlights UQ’s position as a heavyweight research body on the world scene.

It also confirms UQ as one of Australia’s most comprehensive universities: it is active in 24 out of a possible 25 broad fields of research.

As well as UQ’s 21 fields of research that are well above world standard or above world standard, the University’s remaining three broad fields of research (information and computing sciences, earth sciences and in agriculture and veterinary sciences) were rated at Level 3 (at world standard). None were rated lower.

UQ’s research strengths enable research higher degree students to access some of the world’s leading academics. UQ is committed to offering a distinctive and well-rounded student experience and later this year will unveil its new PhD model.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/research
A first for UQ

UQ’S DECEMBER GRADUATIONS INCLUDED SEVERAL MILESTONES, REFLECTING THE DIVERSITY OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY.

Dr Noritta Morseu-Diop made history on December 13 when she became The University of Queensland’s first Torres Strait Islander PhD graduate.

One of more than 6400 students to be acknowledged across 18 ceremonies, Dr Morseu-Diop’s research investigated culturally appropriate ways to address the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian criminal justice system.

“The findings of my research highlighted some of the key issues within the indigenous community in terms of bringing a more healing-in-justice approach to the criminal justice and prison system when dealing with Indigenous peoples in custody,” Dr Morseu-Diop said.

Up to 60 per cent of young people in Brisbane’s Youth Detention Centres are Indigenous and many of these children will have a parent, grandparent, sibling, cousin, aunt or uncle in an adult prison.

Statistics like these, in addition to the numerous custodial deaths of incarcerated Indigenous persons, has caused alarm bells to ring for Indigenous communities.

Professor Matthew Hornsey, Associate Dean (Research) at UQ’s Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, said the findings aimed to help the creation of a more humane and culturally appropriate approach to the Queensland legal, criminal justice and correctional systems.

“This research is significant, advocating for the human rights, humane treatment and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in prison and in the community,” Professor Hornsey said.

Dr Morseu-Diop is originally from Tamwoy Town on Thursday Island. Extensive experience in the social work field, particularly with Indigenous clients in prison, fostered Dr Morseu-Diop’s desire to improve Indigenous experiences within the criminal justice system.

“It concerned me deeply that an incarcerated Indigenous mother I visited in a women’s correctional centre asked me to check on the welfare of her six children who were also in prison,” she said.

“It is envisaged that the outcome of this research will assist in giving a voice to the silent and forgotten people, the thousands of incarcerated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, men and children.”

December’s graduands joined a network of more than 180,000 UQ alumni, living and working in more than 150 countries. The University has now awarded almost 13,000 research higher degrees to graduates who have now become leaders in all areas of research, society and industry.

UQ’s research higher degree programs include the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil).

Later this year, UQ will launch a unique PhD program which will allow for a more multi-faceted research experience for research students. Underpinnned by the principles of opportunity and choice, the new RHD Advantage model will harness UQ’s reputation and strengths to provide innovative training modules exclusively for PhD students.

INFO → uqadventure@gradschool.uq.edu.au, (07) 3346 0508

UQ GRADUATES IN DEMAND

Despite a soft national labour market, University of Queensland graduates have again achieved outstanding employment rates.

Graduate Careers Australia’s Australian Graduate Survey 2010 revealed UQ alumni under the age of 25 and available for full-time work continued to do well in the post-global financial crisis climate.

In the national performance figures, UQ had achieved a full-time employment rate for bachelor degree graduates of 78.9 per cent against the national full-time employment figure of 76.2 per cent.

The data – which covers Australian citizens and permanent residents – was collected in April 2010 within four months of students completing their studies.

The University of Queensland had only 4.5 percent of its graduates recorded as unemployed and seeking full-time employment in the survey.

This compares with a national rate of 8.6 per cent of bachelor degree graduates reported as not working and still looking for full-time employment.

The figures for UQ bachelor degree graduates in further full-time study represented 21.3 per cent against a national figure of 19 percent.

Graduate Careers Australia said the soft labour market conditions, reflecting the state of the broader economic environment, also served to limit the growth in graduate starting salaries.

University of Queensland bachelor degree graduates in their first full-time employment (and under 25 years of age) reported median starting salaries of $49,250 for males and $44,000 for females.

The national median annual starting salary for bachelor degree graduates aged less than 25 and in their first full-time employment in Australia was $49,000.

The higher-end UQ graduate salaries included:
- Dental practitioners $80,519
- Mining engineers $75,000
- Industrial, mechanical and production engineers $60,000
- Other engineering professionals $59,000
- Generalist medical practitioners $57,000
- Physiotherapists $56,970

The top 10 professions for bachelor graduates by levels of full-time employment were:
- Dentistry 100%
- Medicine 100%
- Pharmacy 100%
- Veterinary science 95.5%
- Occupational therapy and physiotherapy 93.9%
- Mining engineering 92.9%
- Civil engineering 92.3%
- Mechanical engineering 92.0%
- Urban and regional planning 90.0%
- Nursing 89.2%

INFO → www.graduatecareers.com.au
ROCKSTAR FAREWELLS GATTON

A SOUTH AMERICAN SINGER GAVE A PERFORMANCE OF A DIFFERENT KIND AT A RECENT GRADUATION CEREMONY AT GATTON.

For Paraguayan rockstar Norman Rieder, arriving at the Gatton campus as an international student was a bit of a culture shock.

Mr Rieder, who graduated in December, is lead singer and guitarist with his band Area 69.

"Living in Gatton wasn’t what I expected, but Gatton is an excellent campus - it has excellent courses and good teachers who were very helpful," Mr Rieder said.

"I also met some other people from South America – there were students from Paraguay, Chile and Uruguay living at Gatton as well."

Mr Rieder (pictured centre) said Area 69 was the first Paraguayan band to sign a recording contract with Universal Music.

The band’s third album was recorded in Argentina and sold across South America, the US and Europe. Formed in 2000, Area 69 was also the first band from Paraguay to have a music video broadcast on MTV.

"Compared to the US and Europe, Paraguay is a different reality – you have to work harder to get less," he said.

"It wasn’t like we were flying first-class around the world.

"In Paraguay though we travelled a lot, and in that region the band was fairly important."

Mr Rieder’s mother flew in from Paraguay to watch him graduate. He then spent a few weeks travelling around Australia before heading home on December 20.

Visa permitting, he will be back in Australia in 2011, looking for work in the agriculture industry.

Mr Rieder said all five members of Area 69 were happy to take a break, but hoped to reform in 2012.

9000TH PHD AWARDED

The University celebrated a significant research achievement when it awarded its 9000th Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in December.

Kaeleen Dingle (pictured), from the School of Population Health, was awarded her doctorate at a graduation ceremony at the St Lucia campus.

"Undertaking my PhD studies at UQ has been an overwhelmingly positive experience," Dr Dingle said.

"The support I had from my advisors at UQ was second to none. They were inspirational and gave me the skills, encouragement and space to develop my research skills."

"UQ is renowned for its research excellence and is committed to investing in and supporting research students," Dean of the UQ Graduate School Professor Zlatko Skrbis said.

"We have graduated 4000 PhD students in the past nine years, more than one a day, and are delighted that our 9000th student graduated in our Centenary year."

Dr Dingle’s research explored relationships between mental health, socio-demographic factors and family functioning during the transition to adulthood. Her study was based on data from the Mater-UQ Study of Pregnancy (MUSP) longitudinal research study.

INFO ➔ www.socialscience.uq.edu.au/musp

The Di Corleto family had multiple reasons to celebrate during UQ’s recent graduation ceremonies.

Siblings Ellen, Luke and Claire all received awards at three separate ceremonies.

The eldest, Ellen, graduated first with a combined Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery degree.

"I started studying at UQ seven years ago and it was nice when Luke and Claire joined me," Ellen said.

"It has been nice sharing transport to uni and although we have studied different subjects we have been able to discuss our studies and bounce ideas off each other.

"When we had exams at the same time the house became very quiet as everyone was in study mode, which was good as it meant there were no distractions."

Although the three have applied themselves in different areas, they admit to being very competitive.

"We like to do well and try to beat each other in everything," Luke said.

"Claire and I are possibly the most competitive because our ages are so close and we always try to outdo each other." Claire, the youngest Di Corleto, said graduating at the same time as her elder sister and brother was a treat.

"As the youngest I have always done everything last, following after Ellen and Luke, so it is exciting, and a bit scary, to all be graduating together," Claire said.

Both Luke and Claire graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree; Luke majoring in anatomy and Claire majoring in microbiology.

The family enjoyed a big celebration after all three graduated and before Claire returned to work at Rio Tinto Coal and Allied Bengalla Coal Mine and Ellen started her internship at Redcliffe Hospital.
GOOD HEALTH
Primary care research has received a boost with the announcement of $2.5 million in funding from the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI) to establish a Centre of Excellence.

This is the second major grant received recently by Professor Claire Jackson and her team from the UQ School of Medicine.

Professor Jackson said the funding would lever UQ’s health service research strengths and build international and national research opportunities.

The APHCRI grant will fund a centre focused on building quality, governance, performance and sustainability in primary health care.

SCHOLARS LOOK TO ASIA
Carbon projects in Borneo, support for parents of children with autism, and Australia’s relationship with China are UQ research projects to be explored this year thanks to scholarships awarded by the Prime Minister.

Two UQ postgraduates and one undergraduate received Prime Minister’s Australia Asia Awards, which fund up to one year of study at a university in Asia.

The postgraduate scholarships are worth up to $63,500 each, while the undergraduate awards are valued up to $41,500. Only 20 scholarships in each category are awarded annually.

TIME FOR CHANGE
Medical leaders at Australia’s major universities have called for a change that would revolutionise medical education, research and patient care in the nation’s top institutions.

In a recent editorial published in the Medical Journal of Australia, Executive Dean of UQ’s Faculty of Health Sciences Professor Nicholas Fisk joins deans from fellow Group of Eight institutions to call for the establishment of Academic Health Science Centres (AHSCs).

AHSCs are created by the collaboration of a leading university, a major tertiary hospital and other key partners such as research institutes.
Global perspective

Stunning images from around the globe have been entered in an annual UQ student prize. Now in its second year, the School of Political Science and International Studies’ International Photography Competition aims to showcase the interest and involvement of UQ students and alumni in politics and global issues.

Head of School Professor Gillian Whitehouse said the competition offered a unique insight into the lives of others. The winning photograph, titled Children in Ghanzi (below left), was taken by Stephen McLoughlin.

The photo was captured on the outskirts of a small town in western Botswana.

“I was in Ghanzi to interview Kuela Kiema, a member of the Kua, a San Bushman group,” Mr McLoughlin said.

“Kuela described the social problems that many San groups experience, due to eviction from ancestral lands, unemployment and poverty, many living itinerantly, in shanties on the edge of town, or at remote cattle outposts whenever they are able to pick up ‘piece work’.

“Such uncertainty of income and accommodation means many San children never go to school, and often wander around with very little to do, much like the boys in this picture.”

Other shortlisted entries included those depicting the dedication of young monks in Thailand, the reality of life on a cattle property in the Northern Territory, and the skill and sacrifice of textile weavers in India.

Clockwise from top: The Child Inside by Martina Rossi, Weaver by David Lamotte, Done and Dusted by Alexandra Rose, and Stephen McLoughlin’s winning image.

A TIMORESE EXPERIENCE

UQ international relations student Jo Sampford never guessed that attending a small Oxfam forum in Brisbane would lead to working in the office of Timorese President and Nobel Peace Laureate Dr Jose Ramos-Horta.

As part of the Australia Youth Ambassadors for Development program, an AusAID funded youth volunteering initiative, Ms Sampford, along with 10 other young Australian students, recently travelled to Dili to embark on a nine-month internship.

“Our projects varied from working in government departments to the sprawling UN mission to small NGOs in different sectors, which include human trafficking, environment, health, employment services, women, and the arts,” Ms Sampford said.

She was placed in the Presidential Office, working on the President’s international relations and peace-building agendas.

“I would never know what new tasks and challenges lay around the corner and my work was incredibly broad, from drafting letters and press releases to facilitating relationships between stakeholders,” she said.

For example, I was asked to write to the then PM Kevin Rudd regarding the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference and condolence letters to the head of countries that encountered natural disasters, such as the Haiti earthquake.

“I also focused on two headline tourism and sporting events: the Tour de Timor mountain bike race and the inaugural Dili City of Peace International Marathon.

“The marathon itself was an enormous and mind-bogglingly complex operation – a race that literally stopped the city of Dili for six hours, with over 1300 runners, 400 volunteers, and 122 road intersection closures, requiring extensive volunteer recruitment and training and detailed coordination with police, ambulance and security services.”

During these busy days, Ms Sampford gained insight into the different spheres of Timorese government, diplomatic corps, the development sector, and the community at grassroots level.

Ms Sampford said the internship had helped her decide what to do after graduating.

“There is a common saying in Timor that ‘those who taste the coconut juice are bound to return’. After my graduation, I plan to return to East Timor to give back what I have gained,” she said.
Indigenous health hero

A PASSION FOR HELPING HIS PEOPLE HAS LED A UQ ALUMNUS TO BECOME QUEENSLAND’S AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR.

The state’s first Indigenous doctor, Associate Professor Noel Hayman, has been named Queensland’s Australian of the Year for 2011.

A graduate of UQ, Dr Hayman was recognised for his mission to improve the lives of many more Indigenous doctors.

He is the founder and Clinical Director of the Inala Indigenous Health Service, and has demonstrated how mainstream primary health care services can be suited to the needs of urban Aboriginal populations.

“I love what I do. A career in medicine is very fulfilling and I am so pleased it gives me an opportunity to care for my people and to influence Indigenous health policy.”

Over the past decade, he has helped increase the number of patients from 12 to 2500, with Indigenous patients travelling from all over Brisbane to visit the centre. His work is assisting with better management of diabetes and increasing immunisation rates in the local community.

Dr Hayman is also actively working to recruit and train Indigenous doctors, as well as increasing the health community’s exposure to Indigenous health issues.

The Inala Indigenous Health Service has proven to be a great teaching environment, with the centre hosting medical students, advanced trainees in paediatrics and GP registrars.

“Back when I was a medical student there were few Indigenous doctors and only a small number of black academic role models. In those days medical schools didn’t pay much attention to Indigenous health, but now I give lectures on Indigenous health to packed lecture theatres,” Dr Hayman said.

“I love what I do. A career in medicine is very fulfilling and I am so pleased it gives me an opportunity to care for my people and to influence Indigenous health policy.”

Prominent investment banker and philanthropist Simon Mckeon was named the 2011 Queensland Australian of the Year on January 25.

UQ STATISTICIAN ON TOP
UQ’s Professor Geoff McLachlan has been awarded the Statistical Society of Australia’s highest honour.

Professor McLachlan is only the 18th recipient of the Pitman Medal since it was first awarded in 1978.

As an ISI Highly Cited Author, Professor McLachlan is part of an elite club of less than half of one percent of all published researchers. He has six monographs, 20 book chapters and more than 140 articles in peer-reviewed literature to his name.

Professor McLachlan has a personal chair in the School of Mathematics and Physics and a joint appointment with the Institute for Molecular Bioscience.

GLOBAL SCIENCE
More than 5000 female chemists from 44 countries shared breakfast last month to mark the International Year of Chemistry and the 100th anniversary of Marie Curie being awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

“Women Sharing a Chemical Moment in Time” was the brainchild of Professor Mary Garson, from UQ’s School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences, and involved linking via video and Twitter the 100 different breakfasts held across the world.

The event had to be relocated from its South Bank venue to higher ground at Woolloongabba due to the floods.

IN BRIEF

Back pain boost

Investigating ways to combat chronic pain has earned a UQ scientist a top honour.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has awarded its highest honour to a UQ expert.

Professor Paul Hodges, Director of the Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Spinal Pain, Injury and Health, was presented with the Achievement Award for Top-Ranked NHMRC Research Fellow in December.

Professor Hodges has doctorates in physiotherapy and neuroscience and uses his mix of skills to bridge neurophysiological and clinical research.

Professor Hodges and his team undertake research to study the physiology of chronic pain and to develop and test new treatments.

Professor Hodges said it was important to develop conservative non-drug treatments to manage chronic pain, which has a significant impact on the lives of many people.

“Low back pain is the most common condition leading to disability in Australia,” he said.

“My work aims to identify not only who needs what treatment and when, but also to understand why people continue to have episodes of pain and why treatments work.”

The NHMRC research fellowship scheme is the pre-eminent scheme through which Australian health and medical researchers are funded. Professor Hodges was the first physiotherapist to enter the scheme and also the first physiotherapist to be promoted to the scheme’s highest level.
“A positive outcome of the flooding has been greater community acceptance of the University as being an integral part of it, and not so much a world set apart from everyday problems.”

So wrote UQ publication University News, discussing the inundation of the St Lucia campus in the 1974 Australia Day floods.

Fast forward 37 years to January 2011 and UQ has again been both the recipient of community help and an important resource for others.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield said although the University’s St Lucia and Gatton campuses sustained damage in the extensive flooding, most of the University’s teaching and research buildings were untouched.

The flood peak of 4.46 metres in Brisbane on January 13 was below the 1974 highwater mark of 5.45 metres.

In low-lying areas, sporting facilities, some research infrastructure, two childcare centres and International House were damaged. Customs House in the Brisbane CBD temporarily lost power and there was some flooding at the Pinjarra Hills and Indooroopilly facilities.

While the Gatton campus was isolated and became a temporary home to 55 people, the Herston and Ipswich campuses were not affected.

“The University is grateful to its dedicated staff, students, contractors and volunteers who helped recovery operations to proceed at a faster pace than expected so UQ was in an excellent position to resume operations within a week of the floods,” Professor Greenfield said.

He said Queensland was experiencing a renaissance of positive community spirit as people spontaneously supported each other and displayed deep compassion and generosity.

Griffith University, Southern Cross University and the University of the Sunshine Coast provided labour for routine tasks to free UQ’s Property and Facilities staff for flood recovery efforts.

The University’s students, staff and alumni also took to the streets assisting people in nearby suburbs and regions.

UQ researchers at all campuses contributed intellectual firepower, providing expert media commentary and investigating the floods’ effects on the community and environment — just as their predecessors had in 1974.

UQ formed an accommodation taskforce to ensure additional support for students and staff whose accommodation may have been affected, as well as assisting arriving students to find suitable accommodation.

The University worked with the UQ Union to provide emergency financial assistance to students in need, and also launched the Vice-Chancellor’s Emergency Student Welfare Fund (see page 15).

Staff, students, alumni and the community responded, and opened their homes and their hearts to those in need.

The University is now back to business-as-usual for this time of year.

Within a week of the floods, the University welcomed back 3000 Summer Semester students, 470 first-year medical students, and 575 students recommencing their English language classes.

Almost 200 new AusAID students also commenced their programs as the University geared up to welcome more than 10,000 new students and 30,000 continuing students for first semester at the end of February.

UQ utilised a variety of traditional and new media to keep staff, students and the general public updated during the recent Queensland floods.

The UQ homepage was transformed into a resource centre with regular updates and answers to frequently asked questions for staff and students. The University also established an SMS enquiry service and two 24-hour flood hotlines which received more than 1000 calls.

UQ communications staff regularly posted messages and news releases via the @uqnewsonline Twitter account, and also loaded daily photo updates to UQ’s flickr page, which peaked at almost 50,000 views per day.

With Summer Semester classes ready to resume, two UQ News TV stories were also produced to share the latest images and information with viewers around the world.

INFO ➔ www.uq.edu.au/news
A band of unsung heroes protected UQ campuses from the floods that devastated much of Queensland last month. Despite damage to their own facilities and the loss of essential equipment, staff from the Property and Facilities Division (P&F) worked around the clock to defend UQ’s infrastructure and ensure a quick clean-up.

Many P&F staff did not leave the campus for almost a week and slept at King’s and Grace Colleges, which provided food and accommodation. Information Technology Services staff also went beyond the call of duty, working late at night and over the weekend to maintain operation of computer servers and communications at all campuses.

Senior supervisor of the grounds at the St Lucia campus Shane Biddle (pictured), lauded the commitment of his colleagues.

He and his team worked from before sunrise until almost midnight before the floods hit, setting up sandbags and moving all of the grounds equipment away from the flood path.

“The core group of staff who were involved were outstanding and the recovery effort was phenomenal,” Mr Biddle said.

Among a long list of challenging tasks, staff cleared more than 1600 tonnes of silt from internal campus roadways and footpaths, rebuilt and reconnected electricity substations to maintain power, and worked to ensure the grounds were safe. They were ably assisted by a large band of volunteers.

P&F Director Alan Egan said recovery work began as soon as the water receded.

“The effort of all the P&F staff, with the help of volunteers, was truly amazing,” Mr Egan said.

“It was remarkable that the University was able to reopen as quickly as it did, which was mostly due to the cooperative effort of P&F, Information Technology Services, and outstanding support from P&F contractors.”

While all campuses are now fully operational, the recovery continues with work on restoring sporting facilities at St Lucia and repairing damage to fencing at Gatton.

UQ photographers recorded hundreds of images of the inundation at St Lucia and Gatton and the subsequent clean-up mounted by staff and volunteers. Visit www.uq.edu.au/news and www.flickr.com/uqnews to browse the complete galleries.

Images by Geoff Dennis, Jeremy Patten and Matthew Taylor
The University of Queensland has reached out to its 180,000-strong alumni network, asking them to come to the aid of current students who were affected in the South-east Queensland floods.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Greenfield has requested donations for an Emergency Student Welfare Fund, and has asked for urgent offers of available rental accommodation in Brisbane, Gatton and Ipswich. $150,000 had been raised within a fortnight of the appeal’s launch.

Professor Greenfield also called on alumni to be advocates for their alma mater, and to help spread the word among their networks that UQ was ready for the 2011 academic year.

Professor Greenfield said the idea for the appeal arose after a number of alumni contacted the University to offer best wishes and support.

Flooding directly affected hundreds of UQ’s Australian and international students, some of whom were left homeless.

“Donations will make a difference to students who have suffered serious property or financial loss, or who simply cannot afford rent increases,” he said.

“Offers of student accommodation will help mitigate an anticipated housing shortage.”

Professor Greenfield said Brisbane, Ipswich and Gatton campuses were recovering rapidly, and most community and public services and utilities were operational.

“This has been key to the speed of recovery seen across affected areas,” he said.

Professor Greenfield asked alumni to reassure their friends and contacts that UQ was making an inspired recovery, and was “moving ahead with confidence”.

He said the University was deeply grateful for the partnership of alumni in responding to an extraordinary episode for many UQ students and staff.

“At an operational level, the University is back to business-as-usual for this time of year,” Professor Greenfield said. “Thanks to their work, the University re-opened and resumed Summer Semester within a week of the Brisbane River’s peak. “We welcomed new students and processed applications and admissions, and are now finalising preparations for the imminent arrival of more than 10,000 new students.”

INFO → Donations are tax deductible and can be made by phoning +61 7 3365 1331 or online at www.uq.edu.au/secure/donations/flood-appeal.html

Support on hand

For UQ PhD candidate Lucas Goh, the recent floods in South-east Queensland meant being evacuated by boat and losing his second-floor apartment in St Lucia.

But the Singaporean student isn’t dwelling on the situation; he’s found a new place to live and is back at the University completing research in the School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences.

“When I got back to my apartment after the water receded, there were at least 30 UQ Union volunteers in the building cleaning and salvaging anything they could,” he said.

“We also had army personnel there helping to move our things and other heavy-duty work.”

Mr Goh (pictured) said he and his partner were overwhelmed by the offers of support they received.

“The Australian spirit is so amazing. It’s unbelievable,” he said.

“My partner and I appreciated the help and assistance – even if it was just moral support – of all volunteering Australians and UQ’s staff and students.”

Mr Goh works under the supervision of Associate Professor Roy Hall, investigating diagnostics and treatments for Chikungunya virus – a mosquito-borne pathogen that has caused debilitating illness in many parts of the world including Europe, India, Africa and South-East Asia.

Despite the floods, Mr Goh still returned to campus as often as he could, with almost all of the University’s buildings unaffected by water.

“I’m a researcher so I have cells and animals that I needed to look after,” he said.

“My supervisor, whose own house was affected in the floods, was really understanding and said I should take off as much time as I needed.”

With the campus now fully open and operational, it’s back to business for Mr Goh – finding ways to prevent the Chikungunya virus coming into Australia.
UQ OPENS AN ARK

A TEAM AT UQ GATTON HELPED KEEP STRANDED ANIMALS HIGH AND DRY DURING THE RECENT FLOODS.

The sick, injured and lost animals that survived the devastating Lockyer Valley flood found refuge at a temporary Noah’s Ark – UQ’s Veterinary Medical Centre at the Gatton campus.

A dedicated team fed, washed and provided medical treatment and comfort to a menagerie which included dogs, birds, cats, horses, guinea pigs, rats and even Siamese fighting fish. The centre continued to receive and treat affected animals weeks after the floods.

The UQ School of Veterinary Science relocated to Gatton last year, and its new Veterinary Medical Centre was well placed for providing assistance to the devastated Lockyer Valley.

Senior veterinarian Adjunct Professor Bob Doneley, the only small animal vet left on campus on the evening when the flood hit, offered the Lockyer Valley Council the hospital to provide shelter and medical care to animals due to the electricity and water supply at the council’s pound being unreliable.

“The council’s animal management officers did an amazing job searching houses and buildings for animals that had survived the flood,” Dr Doneley said.

They came one by one – dogs covered in mud, cats terrified from their ordeal and horses that had worn down their hooves swimming for up to 30 hours to stay afloat.

Specialist equine veterinarian Dr Andrew Van Eps said seven horses were brought in for medical treatment for injuries sustained in the floods.

“We had horses in various states of health. Quite a few horses had contracted pneumonia after breathing in flood water while swimming to stay alive,” Dr Van Eps said.

The team also cared for a miniature horse foal that was orphaned by the disaster.

With an influx of animals to the hospital, a call went out for people to donate food and medication.

Dr Doneley said the PETstock shop in Toowoomba donated almost five tonnes of food and flea products, and another five tonnes came from the Lockyer Valley public.

“People also had up to 20 people from Gatton and surrounding small towns volunteer to help care for the animals. We ran two shifts each day with volunteers helping feed animals, walk dogs and clean out their housing,” Dr Doneley said.

INFO ➔ Anyone interested in fostering a pet can contact UQ’s Small Animal Hospital on (07) 5460 1788

MORETON BAY WATCH

UQ experts are helping to accurately map and measure the health of Moreton Bay following the recent inundation.

School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management staff Professor Stuart Phinn, Dr Chris Roelfsema, Associate Professor Ron Johnstone and PhD student Mitch Lyons are working with the South East Queensland Healthy Waterways Scientific Taskforce to provide a detailed picture of the short and long term effects of the flood on the area.

“The plume maps and our interpretation helped people quickly understand where and when the plume was moving and the extent of Moreton Bay that would receive sediment from the plume,” Professor Phinn said.

The visualisations have been used by scientists sampling sediment and seagrass immediately after the flood to determine where to collect field samples to analyse water quality, sediment deposition and seagrass properties.

“Our initial role was to help map the extent of the flood plume but the next step will be in post-flood mapping of the extent, species composition and amount of seagrass across Moreton Bay,” Professor Phinn said.

Mr Lyons’ doctoral research examines changes in seagrass cover in the eastern section of the bay from 1972, and has produced a map showing the extent of coverage of the Moreton Bay flood plume in relation to seagrass beds (pictured), using the MODIS Terra satellite (NASA).

The range of seagrass cover variability observed over almost four decades would help determine whether any significant changes have taken place.

“Seagrass may suffer due to reduced salinity produced by freshwater outflows, increased levels of pollutants in the water, sediment settling on its leaves, and reduced sunlight due to turbid waters. As seagrass is a nursery ground and food source it could also impact on other marine life,” Dr Roelfsema said.

Professor Phinn said larger tidal ranges, increased swell, and winds in the bay during the week immediately following the flood peak may reduce some impacts. However, the full extent of these may not be known for months.

The maps will be used by the groups responsible for water quality in the bay including the Healthy Waterways partnership and the Department of Environment and Resource Management and the Department of Employment and Economic Development and Innovation.
Happy ending for UQ love story

When Chelsea Cross and Christopher Schrader tied the knot at Customs House last month it was an extra special occasion.

The couple – who first met as undergraduates at UQ in 2000 – were the first to wed at the iconic building since rising waters had shut down the Brisbane CBD on January 11.

The three-storey building sustained no water damage during the floods, with the river peaking two metres below the outdoor terrace.

The heritage venue regularly hosts weddings, corporate and private functions, and community concerts staged by UQ’s School of Music.

Construction on Customs House began in 1884 after the Queensland Government agreed to replace the existing building at Petrie Bight. It remained the hub of customs activity until 1988, and was acquired by the University in 1992.

Ms Schrader said Customs House was the natural choice considering the couple’s connections to the University.

“My husband also used to work here as a waiter, so the building has always had significance for us as we used to meet up here in the early hours of the morning when he finished up,” she said.

Almost 40,000 guests attended a Customs House function in 2010, with the award-winning restaurant accommodating a further 20,000 in addition to a steady stream of visitors.

INFO ➔ www.customshouse.com.au
This year’s annual research commercialisation workshops run by UQ’s main commercialisation company, UniQuest, will help more than 250 staff and student researchers understand how to protect and manage Intellectual Property, and take a commercialisation pathway to transfer their ideas from the campus to the community.

Registrations will open in February for UniQuest’s free, annual two-day, off-campus intensive workshops covering commercialisation and IP management. Both workshops will be open to staff researchers and postgraduate students.

The first workshop will be held on 7-8 April, with the second workshop scheduled for 21-22 July. This means that researchers with teaching commitments can also plan to attend a workshop.

Over the past eight years nearly 1,000 UQ researchers have attended the free workshops, where informative and insightful speakers’ presentations are complemented by creative group work sessions and pitching practice with experienced commercialisation professionals.

“The workshops cover much more than how to take a scientific discovery and turn it into a commercial prospect,” says UniQuest Managing Director, David Henderson.

“The program includes a range of topics that academics and research students from all disciplines need to consider, whether or not they have a project they’re working on right now that could become a marketable product.

“All workshop participants – whether they are from Life Sciences, the Arts, or a multi-disciplinary team — gain valuable insights about what investors are looking for, why government and industry look to universities for expertise, and how engaging in commercial activities can enhance an academic research career.”

• Learn how to protect intellectual property
• Find out how to leverage commercial research funding for publication opportunities
• Challenge your thinking about commercialisation opportunities
• Connect with commercial research funding experts
• Expand your knowledge and networks
• Consider new career opportunities
• Enrich your university experience

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• 7-8 April & 21-22 July
• Radisson Palm Meadows Resort, Carrara
• Free (conditions apply – see website for details)
• Apply online: www.uniquest.com.au/workshop
Coral Connection

An international team of coral geneticists including scientists from UQ have found corals have some curiously human-like attributes, thanks to shared genes.

Based at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, the team found both corals and people had circadian rhythms that governed their bodily functions according to changes in day and night or season.

Among the findings, it was discovered that during hours of darkness, corals’ symbiotic algae begin to rob the coral of precious oxygen in order to survive until daylight.

Data Capture

A bioinformatics facility set up with a $1.9m Queensland Government grant in 2007 has helped researchers attract $52.7m of funding to the state.

QFAB within the Institute for Molecular Bioscience provides advanced bioinformatics services to researchers who need assistance managing, analysing and visualising their data.

Bioinformatics combines biology with computer science to allow researchers to store, manage and analyse their data to make world-leading discoveries.

INFO ➔ (07) 3346 2611 or j.barker@qfab.org
The use of the national flag as a medium of political speech has led to a highly emotive debate in Australian political culture.

Yet we witness here a duality and an inconsistency that are rarely, if ever, acknowledged.

Broadly speaking, everyday citizens, regulatory authorities and politicians express the view that the flag has a special resonance and importance, and that it ought to be respected.

In this context some argue for stronger legislative protection of the flag from defacement. However, these calls have on the whole been unsuccessful.

This means that there is a relatively broad consensus that the destruction or defacement of the flag ought not to be a criminal offence.

This implies a recognition that flag-use is a protected form of expression. Or does it?

Perhaps the political culture around flag-use does not rest on freedom of speech concerns. Perhaps it rests on something else.

Where the flag is used to demonstrate national pride, a broad consensus exists that its use ought to be protected under virtually all circumstances.

This view applies even if flag-use is exclusive, racist, associated with violence, intimidating or harassing.

To question this use of the flag is regarded by some as tantamount to treason.

No matter how hateful, exclusive, violent or offensive, when the use of the flag is intended to portray national pride, the perception that its use ought to be a protected form of speech appears to have almost no limits.

There is an incredibly strong consensus in political culture that flag-affirming behaviour ought to be tolerated.

It is important to note that this consensus applies to a particular viewpoint being expressed – support for the nation.

In the majority of these kinds of cases, the flag also happens to be used in its entirety.

However, this is not always the case.

The national flag is routinely made into bikinis, t-shirts, caps, scarves, skirts, shirts, tattoos and bandanas.

In all of these cases the flag has been physically manipulated. Yet this kind of physical manipulation causes scarcely a murmur of disagreement.
Impressive portraits from the National Gallery of Australia – some of them on show for the first time – are on display at The University of Queensland until March 27.

Bushrangers, flappers and fashion icons all figure in Australian portraits: 1880–1960, a major national touring exhibition which opened at the UQ Art Museum on January 29.

The exhibition features 54 portraits by 34 leading Australian painters, including Tom Roberts, George W. Lambert, Grace Cossington Smith, Margaret Preston, Arthur Boyd, Sidney Nolan, Russell Drysdale, and John Brack.

Australian Portraits: 1880–1960 is the first major portrait exhibition mounted by the National Gallery of Australia and will tour to galleries in Victoria, the Northern Territory, New South Wales, Tasmania and regional Queensland.

“Major Australian portraits were among the first paintings purchased for the national art collection,” said Director of the National Gallery of Australia, Ron Radford AM.

“The portrait paintings included in this exhibition are among the finest of their time. This national touring exhibition is truly national; it includes portraits by artists and of sitters from every state.”

The exhibition includes much-loved paintings from the gallery’s collection in addition to little-known works and two recently acquired pieces that hadn’t been shown in public before.

“One exciting feature of the exhibition is the number of self-portraits it includes, by artists such as Hugh Ramsay, Roy de Maistre, Albert Tucker and Ian Fairweather,” said Acting Director of the UQ Art Museum Michele Helmrich.

The UQ Art Museum holds a unique collection of Australian artists’ self-portraits, and also hosts a biennial self-portrait prize.

Ms Helmrich said the exhibition showed the distinctive developments in Australian portraiture over time and also the international influences that had shaped the art form.

Australian portraits: 1880–1960 is complemented by a diverse program of talks and special events with a full colour 160-page catalogue also available for purchase.

The exhibition is curated by National Gallery of Australia Head of Australian Art Anna Gray and is supported by the National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program and Visions of Australia.

The UQ Art Museum is open from 10am–4pm seven days a week, with parking free on weekends.

INFO ➔ www.artmuseum.uq.edu.au
UQ Sport back on track

UQ Sport has praised its customers and the local community for their support throughout the flood recovery process.

Sporting facilities at UQ have already begun to reopen after the floods saw much of the St Lucia sports precinct under water.

UQ Sport Executive Director Kim Querin said it was thanks to UQ Property and Facilities staff and the generosity of volunteers that the clean-up was completed so quickly and thoroughly.

“The Property and Facilities team really committed themselves to the recovery and rebuild plan and have been responsive and effective,” Ms Querin said.

“We were overwhelmed by the number of volunteers who came down straight after the floods so eager to help us out in some way.

“We simply wouldn’t have been able to do it without them.”

More than 100 volunteers joined in the clean-up at the UQ Tennis Centre, UQ Aquatic Centre, UQ Sport & Fitness Centre and UQ Athletics Centre.

There was even a volunteer catering service on hand to boost the recovery effort (see story below).

“Many of the volunteers turned up with a shovel in their hand and were covered head-to-toe in mud.

“Our 11-year-old son was in charge of providing hand sanitiser before they were served a sausage!”

Mr Sultan said he and his wife had a strong connection with the University.

“We loved this University so much we even got married on campus,” he said.

“Now we own the Campus Pharmacy.”

Campus Pharmacy reopened for normal trade shortly after the floods.

The UQ Sport and Fitness Centre is now open except for the bottom level of the weights gym, while the group fitness timetable is back on schedule.

The UQ Inter-Professional Clinics and UQ Staff Gym are also now open, while the UQ Tennis Centre is currently closed but progressing very quickly.

UQ Tennis Centre Manager, Alex Reeman-Clark, said the clean-up was completed extremely quickly given the state of the centre after the floods.

“There was roughly five tonnes of mud removed from one court alone,” Mr Reeman-Clark said.

“All of the clearing completed we are hopeful of having some of the courts and amenities available for week one of the semester,” he said.

The UQ Aquatic Centre and UQ Athletics Centre are also currently closed with structural engineers in the process of assessing damage.

Further information on these facilities will be posted on the UQ Sport website.

INFO ➔ www.uqsport.com.au

PHARMACY FUELS FLOOD RELIEF

Campus Pharmacy assisted the flood relief efforts at The University of Queensland by providing much-needed food and fruit to the dedicated staff and volunteers helping with the clean-up.

With a BBQ set up at UQ Sport, Campus Pharmacy cooked and distributed more than 400 sausages over two days.

Pharmacist Tuyet Pham was joined on the grill by niece Linh Esmail, a UQ pharmacy student (pictured), and her husband Mike Sultan.

“The community atmosphere has just been great,” Mr Sultan said.

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INFO ➔ www.uqsport.com.au

EXCHANGE STUDENTS HAVE BROUGHT A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE TO A TYPICALLY AUSSIE SPORT, THANKS TO AN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.

French exchange student Anne-Laure Michele is learning all about the national sport of Australia through a work-experience placement at AFL Queensland.

Ms Michele, a sports management student, has been assisting the game development department within AFL Queensland to improve the volunteer management plan and assist with the monthly AFL junior newsletter and general club governance.

The plan aims to increase the number of volunteers within the community.

“This internship has been a great experience for me to learn more about my chosen career by providing real-life experience with a short term commitment, enabling me to strengthen my background in the sports management field,” Ms Michele said.

“I have learned to work within a team and it has enabled me to improve my English language skills.

“I’m keen on sports in France, especially soccer and rugby union, so I was glad to discover AFL and now, of course, I follow the Brisbane Lions.”

Aaron Hall, AFL Queensland’s Club Development Officer, said both Anne-Laure and Marlies Riepl, another exchange student from Austria, brought an interesting perspective to the game through new ideas and a different cultural and sporting background.

“The girls picked up our Australian culture quickly and worked within our club development department, providing support to our 42 Brisbane juniors clubs,” he said.

While the students were actively learning the
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**UPCOMING ACADEMIC BOARD REVIEWS**

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Submissions are invited from all interested persons.

Terms of reference can be obtained from the Review Coordinator in Secretariat Services by telephoning extension 51321, or emailing m.kancachian@admin.uq.edu.au

Please note that submissions must be received by the due date.

**UQ NEWS DEADLINES**

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

**A FLYING VISIT**

Spirits were boosted at UQ Sport earlier this month thanks to an unexpected visit from the Brisbane Broncos.

Fourteen players including Corey Parker, Dane Carlaw, Ben Te’o and Matt Gillett showed their support of UQ Sport’s flood recovery effort by cooking a barbeque for the staff and volunteers who helped with the clean-up.

The visit ended with a social game of touch football in front of the iconic Forgan Smith Building.

The UQ Athletics Centre, currently closed due to flooding, has provided a pre-season training venue for the Broncos since 2006.

Broncos vice-captain Corey Parker said the team wanted to give something back to their second home and were committed to doing all they could to help out with the flood recovery efforts around Brisbane.

“Brisbane is a widespread place and there’s a lot to be done but we try to get out three times a week to different things,” he said.

“We’ve been supported for a number of years and now it’s time that we support those who have been affected.”

The Broncos played their first trial game of the year recently against the Gold Coast Titans at Kougari Oval, Wynnum.

UQ Sport’s own Anthony Wood is the strength and conditioning coach for the Wynnum Marly Seagulls.

UQ Sport’s high performance division provides strength and conditioning services for several other elite sporting teams and organisations including Netball Queensland and Ski Racing Queensland.

Mr Wood said UQ Sport’s high performance gym, where many of his athletes train, was among those facilities affected by the floods.

“The whole room was flooded but we’ve been able to continue our services as normal thanks to the public gym here and a few off-campus locations like the Queensland Academy of Sport,” he said.

“The other flood-affected facilities don’t have that luxury which is a big hurdle for the organisation, but things like the visit from the Broncos certainly keep our spirits high.”

**GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS**

* Classifieds are free, but are available only to staff, students and visiting academics. Please send listings to: penny.robinson@uq.edu.au
* Accommodation wanted:
  Short-term furnished accommodation required for minimum one month beginning mid-May. At least two bedrooms for a Future Fellow and family.
  Contact: mbromley@physics.sdsu.edu

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

- Alfred & Olivea Wynne Memorial Scholarships
  To assist Maryborough and district students, who can demonstrate financial need. Both new and continuing students may apply. Academic merit also considered. Closing: March 11.
  Information: (07) 3365 1984, ugscholarships@uq.edu.au
- RN Hammon Scholarships
  To assist Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students who have successfully completed at least one year of a program at a participating institution. Preference given to applicants studying in the fields of science, engineering, medicine, dentistry, architecture, agriculture and vet science. Based on academic merit and financial circumstances. Worth: $3500.
  Closing: March 18.
  Information: (07) 3365 1984, ugscholarships@uq.edu.au
- EOH Handy Memorial Scholarship
  Two scholarships are available for Indigenous students. Based on academic merit or technical excellence, and social and economic need.
  Worth: $500.
  Closing: March 18.
  Information: (07) 3365 1984

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