



Friendships aid cultural understanding

IF you have wanted to join USQ's International Friendship Program (IFP) then founding member Les Hurford says just "do it".

For the past 16 years the USQ home-stay exchange program member and IFP veteran has fostered friendships with more than 15 students from Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

"You really get a lot out of being involved in the program both mentally and socially," Mr Hurford said.

"It is a win-win situation for everyone especially the international students who enjoy meeting Australian people and learning about our culture firsthand."

The program, run by the International Student Support Office, promotes cross-cultural friendships by linking international students with local people for three or more

social activities throughout the year.

The social outings might include going to the movies, to dinner or inviting the student to a barbecue or family get-together.

Mr Hurford said he became involved in the program to "do something constructive" and pursue his interest for Asian countries and their peoples.

He has since travelled to Japan, Malaysia and Singapore where he has been invited to stay with the family of those he met through the program.

"It is wonderful to be able to share your culture with another person who then opens your eyes to another totally different way of life," he said.

"The biggest challenge for international students is the Australian English and culture shock of being in a new country.

"But like the rest of us they all enjoy playing a game of cricket, experiencing a traditional Australian barbecue and generally absorbing as much as they can."

Almost 1200 international students from 60 countries study on campus at USQ with more students arriving for the beginning of Semester 1 in March.

"I strongly recommend that people become involved this year and make the most of this unique opportunity to meet people from different cultures."

Link-ups with friendship partners will begin mid-March. Those interested in joining the program can contact IFP co-ordinator Rachel Cleary on 4631 2389 or IFP@usq.edu.au

Heather Smith



NEW FRIENDS: International Friendship Program (IFP) member Les Hurford (left) and Co-ordinator Rachel Cleary share a laugh with international students Bounmee Maokhamphiou (Laos) and Muhammad Ahsan Zafar (Pakistan) before the program kicks-off for 2004.

International Facts

International student numbers	Total	5499
	On-Campus	1199
	Off-Campus	4300

Top 10 Countries

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Malaysia | 6. Taiwan |
| 2. Singapore | 7. Bangladesh |
| 3. India | 8. South Africa |
| 4. Hong Kong | 9. United Arab Emirates |
| 5. China | 10. Germany |

Top 5 Study Programs

1. Master of Business Administration
2. Bachelor of Information Technology
3. Bachelor of Science
4. Master of Information Technology
5. Bachelor of Engineering

INSIDE...

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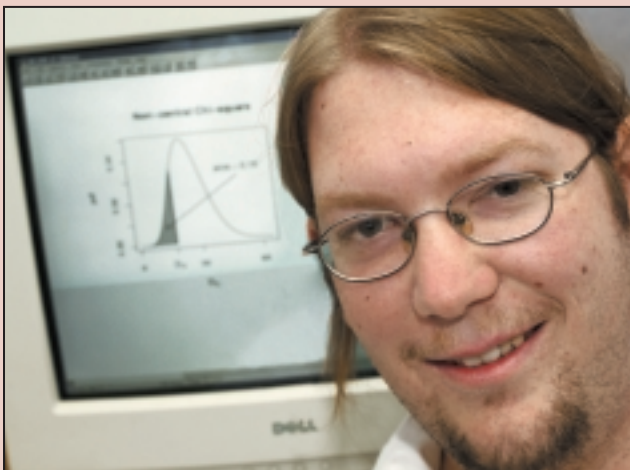
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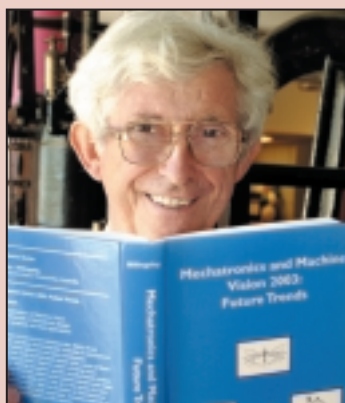
MAKING CONNECTIONS: Discussing a future exchange program are Soai University Vice-President Professor Noboru Yamashita, USQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Bill Lovegrove, Soai University Head of Department Professor Toshikazu Arai and Head of USQ's Centre for Language Learning and Teaching Associate Professor Francis Mangubhai. The student/staff exchange arrangement between USQ and Soai University will begin in August with Japanese students travelling to Australia to engage in a three-week English language and culture program. Soai University was established in Osaka 115 years ago and is affiliated with Nishi-Honganji Temple in Kyoto.



RESEARCH ACE: Bachelor of Science graduate Daniel Burrell has been awarded a three-year Australian Research Council Linkage Scholarship to investigate and develop innovative statistical methods for livestock genomics. Daniel, who will graduate with Honours this year, is undertaking his PhD at the University of Newcastle, while working with industry partner, Genetic Solutions, in Brisbane. The company specialises in the provision of leading-edge genetic information technology to the livestock and aquaculture industries in Australia and overseas. "The valuable training and well-rounded education I received from the Department of Mathematics and Computing at USQ has helped me to further my interest in genetic disease research," Daniel said.

FOCUS ON MECHATRONICS:

Engineering's mechatronics Professor John Billingsley with the book, *Mechatronics and Machine Vision 2003 (M2VIP2003) Future Trends*. As conference programme chairman, he edited it from the proceedings of the 10th annual Conference of Mechatronics and Machine Vision in Practice held in Perth last December. It highlights many of the practical applications of mechatronics, including some innovative medical robotics. The conference provided a forum for international experts and researchers to present and review advances in mechatronics and machine vision which have culminated in practical applications.



PUMP CHALLENGE: USQ Works staff members are continuing their commitment to the community of Toowoomba with their support of the 2004 Toowoomba Hospital Children's Appeal through the annual USQ Works Challenge. The Challenge is a 12-week campaign to get fit, lose weight or just tone up and this year's event has attracted more than 60 participants. As an incentive to stay on the fitness trail, each participant has to raise a minimum of \$50 to donate to this year's Toowoomba Hospital Children's Appeal. They can do this by way of sponsors or simply donate the funds themselves. The majority of USQ Works staff joined the Challenge along with members of the business community and media. USQ Works staff from left: Kaylee Ballinger, Kate Groves, Alison Farlow, Ross Christ, Tara Lude and Kaye Fletcher. For more information phone 4631 1476.

High School students study uni degrees

HIGH-ACHIEVING Year 11 and 12 high school students will be able to study a Certificate in Business or single business courses with the University of Southern Queensland under a new agreement between the university and Wide Bay high schools.

The agreement enables students, especially selected by school principals, to enrol as external students and receive study materials and access to course discussion groups.

USQ Wide Bay Provost Professor Susan Bambrick said ideally students would undertake one course per semester from Year 11 to ensure that the certificate program would be completed by the end of Semester 1, Year 12.

"Students who successfully complete the Certificate in Business may apply for articulation to a wide range of undergraduate programs offered by the Faculty of Business," she said.

Students who enrol in the Certificate in Business will be eligible for HECS while those who enrol in single courses for credit will be liable for full fee payment.

This agreement is a unique initiative designed to prepare students for their future careers in the working world," Professor Bambrick said.

She said wherever possible, students would be encouraged to attend the Wide Bay campus for lectures and tutorials. Others would be able to study in their own location.

"We hope that this is just the start of another mutually beneficial relationship between USQ and the Wide Bay high school community."

For further information phone 4120 6133 or email widebay@usq.edu.au



**VICE
CHANCELLOR**

Bill Lovegrove



AUSTRALIA

WITH the new academic year almost upon us, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back staff who may have been on leave and of course all our new and returning students. I hope you have all enjoyed a relaxing break and are looking forward to a busy and rewarding year.

Since December last year while the core cohort of staff and students were on leave or enjoying a summer vacation, the university remained a hive of activity. This activity included the staff who were involved in teaching and assessing courses offered in Semester 3 as well as the 500 students and 55 tutors who took part in the 36th McGregor Summer School.

This was the first time my wife Desolie and I experienced the "magic" of a McGregor school and I now see why it is rated as Australia's premier residential arts retreat. As well as attending a number of great concerts, we were stunned by the standard of work produced in two weeks, whether it was glass bead making, painting or furniture making. The school is a core part of what we are at USQ and I am sure that it will be a part of USQ's fine suite of offerings for many

years to come. Perhaps what is most significant about the school is that there are no entry requirements and the students are encouraged to experiment with their latent talent in a friendly, supportive and exciting atmosphere.

Another impressive activity in January is the Girls in Maths, Technology and Science Summer School which is designed to encourage young women (high school Year 10) to take up careers in the sciences. I am sure that many of the young women who attended the school will, in fact, take up careers in the sciences after having been exposed to the physical sciences, web design and IT, engineering and applied maths in an exciting and immediately relevant way.

My congratulations go to our Chancellor Don Stevens (AM) who was awarded membership in the General Division of the Order of Australia for his service to regional education. Don and his wife Barbara have worked tirelessly for the university since 1995 and I thank them both on behalf of the USQ community.

We begin Semester 1 with excellent enrolment figures for both on campus and off campus students and I will welcome another fine intake of international students today. I always find it exciting to see young people from across the country and around the world taking their first steps towards their future careers and in doing so forming friendships and links with this institution that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

In terms of leadership of the university, I hope to have a new Executive Structure to present to USQ Council on 2 March and look forward to another round of meetings with all USQ staff towards the middle of the year to discuss the future directions of the university.

Climate research finds the answers for rural industry

DESPITE record rainfall throughout Queensland last month USQ Climatologist Dr Joachim Ribbe says south-east Queensland is still at risk of experiencing continued drought conditions.

As a result, Dr Ribbe hopes his research into local and global climate conditions will benefit those involved in rural industry by improving the accuracy and reliability of climate forecasts.

"Rural industry needs and relies on accurate climate forecasts to maximise its productivity and planning capabilities," Dr Ribbe said.

"Previous research projects in Australia have focused on persistent drought conditions in south-western Australia but little research has been conducted into south-east Queensland.

"It is well known that south-east Queensland has received below average rainfall throughout the last 10 years and it is drying out."

Dr Ribbe said one of the causes of dry weather was the varying ocean temperatures in the Pacific Ocean particularly the Southern Oscillation (SO) which had a significant impact on Australian weather outcomes.

"The formation of water masses within defined geographical regions links the global ocean and the atmosphere and is a central mechanism of oceanic control of climate," he said.

"These water masses constitute a repository for heat, fresh water and gases such as carbon dioxide, all of which are exchanged at the ocean-atmosphere interface.

"Millions of cubic metres of water then move under the South Pacific Ocean surface from the Southern Ocean to the Equator which causes sea surface temperature to interact with the atmosphere therefore affecting rainfall."

Dr Ribbe said south-east Queensland was most vulnerable to changes in the strong association between the SO and rainfall which meant the more that people learnt about the phenomenon the greater



CLIMATE CONTROL: USQ Climatologist Dr Joachim Ribbe hopes his latest research into local and global climate conditions will benefit those in the rural industry who rely on accurate climate forecasts.

the benefits for those whose livelihoods were dependent on rainfall.

This research was recently published in *Nature*, a prestigious international science and nature journal.

Dr Ribbe has also received a \$12,000 grant from the Australian Institute of Nuclear Sciences and Engineering to further this research to better understand the global climate and the influence of the oceans' circulation on Australia's climate.

To read the *Nature* article visit www.usq.edu.au/users/ribbe/

Heather Smith

Aviation career takes off

FINAL year USQ Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Science student Aeolyn Gwynne is following in her father's footsteps, or rather, his flight path.

As a pilot, Ms Gwynne's father indulged her in joy flights throughout her childhood, igniting an enduring fascination for flying and all things associated with the sky.

Although the high cost of training has made it difficult for her to pursue a career as a pilot, it has not stopped her from keeping her head in the clouds.

"I've decided that if I can't fly them then I will design them," she said.

Currently participating in 10-weeks paid work experience with the Australian National Telescope Facility (ANTF) in Sydney, Ms Gwynne hopes her combined degree will lead to a career in aircraft design.

"I'm fascinated by aircraft, especially helicopters because they take such tremendous skill to fly," she said.

"There is so much involved in the design, manufacture and operation of aircraft which makes the aviation industry a very exciting and challenging one.

"My work experience gives me just another opportunity to witness firsthand some of the other facets of the industry."

Ms Gwynne was recently awarded the inaugural William Groom Scholarship for her scholastic and community efforts.

The \$5000 scholarship, in honour of Toowoomba's first mayor, was launched this year as part of the Centenary of Toowoomba City celebrations.

Ms Gwynne has achieved outstanding academic results and is also involved in a variety of community activities including gymnastics coaching and voluntary work for the RSPCA.



HIGH ASPIRATIONS: Final year USQ Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Science student Aeolyn Gwynne (inset) hopes her studies will lead to a career in aircraft design with a financial boost from the \$5000 William Groom Scholarship she was awarded recently.

She said the scholarship would go towards the purchase of textbooks and also enable her to concentrate on her final-year studies without the pressure of working long hours at her part-time job.

Heather Smith

Scholarships boost rural care

THREE USQ Wide Bay Campus nursing students have cause to celebrate after each receiving a \$10,000 scholarship.

The Royal College of Nursing Australia, through its Australian Rural and Remote Nursing and Aged Care Nursing Scholarship Schemes, aims to financially assist nurses or nursing students who live in regional areas of Australia.

The scheme is part of the college's goal to increase the number of practising nurses in remote and rural areas of Australia.

First-year student Ashleigh Richardson, second-year student Cindy Mays and third-year student Keppel Schafer were awarded the scholarships on the basis of having lived in rural communities and are keen to undertake both study and clinical experience in non-metropolitan areas.

Ms Richardson said she had lived in rural areas most of her life where she worked in aged care as a diversional therapist and more recently as a senior lifestyle worker with people with disabilities.

"When I read the scholarship's criteria I realised that I fitted the bill perfectly," she said.

Ms Mays lived in Maryborough for 17 years followed by four years in the Northern Territory as part of her role in the Australian Army.

"At the completion of my degree I really want to work in rural Queensland and utilise my skills and expertise to help communities whose services and facilities are often affected by isolation."

Mr Schafer was also eager to work in rural communities having lived in south-west Queensland all of his life until moving to Hervey Bay to study in 2002.

"I am very proud to be following the career path of a nurse and along the way I hope to raise its profile in the community," he said.

"I'm also very proud of the fact that I was born and raised in a rural community and consider myself fortunate to have had that experience.

"I have a great interest in rural area nursing and aim through my career



RURAL CARE: USQ Wide Bay Campus nursing students Keppel Schafer, (left) Cindy Mays and Ashleigh Richardson demonstrate their care skills which they hope to use in rural and remote communities after being offered a Royal College of Nursing Australia scholarship valued at \$10,000 which aims to increase the numbers of nurses in isolated areas.

to experience the satisfaction of working in remote Queensland communities."

Heather Smith

Tolerance program fosters acceptance

CREATING understanding and awareness of people with disabilities has been the major focus of a series of workshops run by USQ, Disability Services Queensland and Lifeline at Centenary Heights State High School this year.

The weekly workshops, run throughout first semester are part of the school's Tolerance and Acceptance Program aimed at Year 9 students.

USQ Disability Liaison Officer Debbie McLaughlan said the series of workshops had been developed so that people with disabilities and those from indigenous and other cultures could speak to the students and share their perspectives of difference and challenges in their lives.

"The outcomes are a greater sense of self in relationship with others, and an ability to accept difference in other people," Ms McLaughlan said.

Having a younger brother with cerebral palsy Year 9 student, Jonathan Collins, has grown up understanding difference, but he said he was eager to undertake the program to share his experiences and learn from others.

"I want to understand more about people in similar situations and take the opportunity to increase my knowledge of people from other cultures," he said.

Ms McLaughlan said a range of people with different disabilities were participating as guest speakers, some of whom were past students of USQ.



CREATING AWARENESS: Year 9 Centenary Heights High School students Elena Raniera (left) and Jonathan Collins chat to disability awareness speaker Elizabeth Reid (sitting), USQ Peer Tutor Shaun Penfold and USQ Disability Co-ordinator Deborah McLaughlan at the launch of the Tolerance and Awareness Program at Centenary Heights High School.

"We want the students to understand that disabilities can take many forms and to encourage them to take a proactive role in interacting with all people."

"Other high schools are showing an interest

in this exciting program and I hope that people with disabilities can continue to work as a team across the other schools in future programs."

Deborah Marshall

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What's On

Until 19 February

INTERNATIONAL

STUDENT

ORIENTATION: On campus activities held throughout the week to welcome international students to the Toowoomba campus before Semester One.

23 February - 7 April

SHE: An exhibition of mixed media by Queensland artist, Corrie Wright. This exhibition gives an insight into the whole of an artist's practice and examines a relational approach through personal connection with people. USQ Arts Gallery. 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Entry free.

26 & 28 February

PLAY-UP: Directed by Bernadette Pryde, *Play-up* is an original work devised with USQ's second year actors. It has its genesis in myth and fairy tale and includes contemporary personal stories dealing with the epic issues of power, fear, relationships and destiny.

USQ Refectory. 7.30pm. Admission \$5.

9-14 March

HAMLET: The USQ Performance Centre presents Shakespeare in Queens Park. Directed by Scott Alderdice, this most known of Shakespeare's stories will be told beneath the soaring trees of Queen's Park in the first instalment of what is to become an annual Festival of Theatre. Queens Park, Avenue of Trees. 9 March 7pm School Show. 10 March 7pm Opening Night continuing 11-13 March 7pm. Matinee 14 March 5.30pm. \$25 Adult/ \$20 Concession/ \$10 Child (under 13).

10 March - 7 April

NOMADIC: Interwoven Vision and Flying Arts Inc present a distinctive and dynamic travelling exhibition showcasing the use of hemp as an emerging eco fibre. A challenging collaborative experience featuring new, innovative and distinctive artworks by 13 fibre artists living in Brisbane and regional south-east Queensland. Q Block foyer, USQ. 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Entry free.

20-24 April

ANDROCLAS AND THE LION: A delightful play, written by Aurand Harris in the style of the Italian commedia dell'arte, especially for young audiences. Knock about fun, buffoonery and slapstick humour accompany an endearing tale of loyalty and bravery based on the timeless fable of the runaway slave and his friend the lion. USQ Arts Theatre. 10am & 1pm daily plus 6pm 21, 23 & 24 April. \$12 Adult/ \$6 child.

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MITSUBISHI VERADA: 94, KS Ei Sedan, auto, dark red, a/c, alloys, new battery, log books, p/s, electric mirrors, reg March 2004, 202,000km, nice tidy car, engine warranty September 2004, \$6800 ono. Ph: 0400 706 175.

MOTORBIKE GEAR: Leather side carry bags, never used, brand new condition, new \$250, sell \$175. Rossi motorbike boots, women's size 8-10, vgc, \$100 ono. Ph: X 1628.

OPAL NECKLACE: Large Queensland boulder opal, six diamonds in gold setting. Valued at \$7000, sell for \$3000 ono; two round wooden tables and six chairs, \$100 the lot. Ph: X 2495 or 0409 613 992.

QUEEN SIZE ENSEMBLE: Wooden bed head near new, excellent condition, \$200, Clothes dryer, gc, \$50. Ph: 4631 2332.

SILKY OAK: Three-piece bedroom suite including double bed (with mattress), wardrobe and dresser (with mirror), vgc, \$950ono. Ph: X 1628 or 4614 0409 a/h.

SURFBOARD: 7.5foot Mini-Mal, perfect condition, used only three times, includes leg rope and cloth case, cost over \$600, sell for \$400 ono; Quicksilver spring suit 3mm, size small adult male, used once \$50. Ph: 4659 8562 or 0428 310 767.

TOYOTA CAMRY: 2000, 72,000km, white, V6, a/c, c/l, driver's airbag, tinted windows, cruise, full service history, reg May 2004, near perfect condition, \$18,000. Ph: X 1720.

TOYOTA COROLLA: Spirit, 1987 1.6L, auto, hatchback, a/c, blue, safety certificate, reg to July 2004, \$3500. Ph: 4635 8684.

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WANTED

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GIVE AWAY:

GEESE: Five including one male; 4 record players. Ph: X 2561 or 5462 7552.

Newsmakers

RON ATKINSON: Faculty of Sciences, featured in *The Chronicle* about the increase in spider numbers throughout Toowoomba.

PROFESSOR GERARD FOGARTY: Faculty of Sciences, featured in an article in *The Chronicle* about new research regarding people's perceptions of how much they know.

GERARD KELLY: USQ Admissions Officer was interviewed on ABC Southern Queensland Radio about 2004 student enrolment numbers, popular program choices and significant trends in enrolments across disciplines.

VICE-CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR BILL LOVEGROVE: Was interviewed on WIN TV and featured in *The Chronicle* about a visit to the university by visiting Japanese professors from Soai University in Osaka.

DR NOEL GEOGHEGAN: Faculty of Education, featured in *The Courier Mail* in a panel discussion about preparing children for a lifetime of learning.

MALCOLM McKAY: Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Enterprise, was quoted in a *Campus Review* article about the university and partnership with SouthBank TAFE Institute to deliver distance its Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Information Technology.

ROSALIND MASON: Department of Law Head, was quoted in *Lawyers Weekly* about the department & postgraduate programs offered by distance education.

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Gus Snow-McLean
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Heather Smith

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Gus Snow-McLean (07) 4631 2977

(07) 4635 5550

mclean@usq.edu.au

Forum turns on new ideas for AFC

SENIOR Video Producer Jeffrey Black represented USQ at a Stakeholders Forum in Brisbane this month to discuss the implications of the recent merger of ScreenSound with the Australian Film Commission (AFC).

Australia's national film and sound archive was integrated with the AFC in July 2003 following the Federal Government's Review of Cultural Agencies which saw the consolidation of audiovisual archiving functions of collection, preservation and direct access.

In his address, Mr Black (pictured) expressed concerns that sound could become a poor cousin to visual representation and proposed a model for ScreenSound to best integrate its management functions.

"I would envisage a co-operative environment, where all staff would give equal time and effort to the sourcing, transfer and restoration of visual and audio content through its Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne offices," Mr Black told the hearing.

"Some significant outcomes for USQ have emerged from this merger including a proposed Centre for Scholarship and Archival Research whose function will include developing an national curriculum for the study of Australian film culture," Mr Black said.

"Together, ScreenSound and the AFC can provide the resources to regional areas, previously unavailable when they were separate identities. For example, if you were in Rockhampton and you wanted access to some old documentaries about the city, chances are it wouldn't be possible to obtain them, but now it will.

"Now communities will be encouraged to use the research centre to source archival content, and to also create their own documentary material by using the centre as starting point."

Mr Black also raised the management of effective copyright procedures at the forum and recommended using a model similar to



the USQ's where ownership is clearly defined, and a transparent process of payment is in place.

"Previously if you donated material to ScreenSound you were expected to relinquish copyright. We are recommending a system which allows the person who donated the material to still receive royalties," he said.

Other issues discussed at the forum included the training of sound engineers and online access.

Deborah Marshall



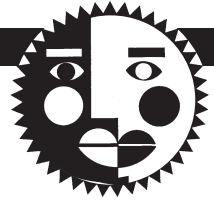
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Hamlet to dazzle with set and costumes

WHEN the actors appear underneath the stars on the set of USQ's mid-March production of *Hamlet*, audiences can expect breathtaking performances.

Set and costume designer and second-year stage management student, Sylvia Balazova, spent hundreds of hours creating the designs at the end of last year and said people would be irrevocably drawn into the fantasy world of Shakespeare.

Built from steel and wood, the multi-level set is nestled in a huge camphor laurel tree and has many features including an apron skirt and secret compartments.

"One of the main themes in *Hamlet* is the struggle of life against death and the tree symbolises eternal life while being juxtaposed with the death of the ruins of the castle underneath," Sylvia said.

"The tree was planted in 1890 and provides a massive backdrop for the set enabling audiences to be captured in this wonderful fantasy land created by the actors."

Sylvia's creative vision combined with USQ costumer Carolyn Taylor Smith's experience has produced a magnificent array of elaborate costumes to complement the fantastical Shakespearean world using an eclectic mix of fabrics including metallics, lycra, lace, silk and PVC.

"The status of the character will depend on the type of fabric used," Sylvia said.

"For example, Queen Gertrude's costumes are deep reds, purples, cerise and plum with fabrics such as embroidered lace, silk organza, lurex and satin.

"Her evil husband Claudius will wear leather PVC, metal and fur."

A group of community volunteers will assist in the making of the costumes expected to be completed by early March.

Hamlet will be performed under the majestic Avenue of Trees, Queens Park from March 9 to 14. For further information and bookings phone the USQ Performance Centre Box Office on 4631 1111.

Deborah Marshall



STITCH IN TIME: *Hamlet* costume and set designer Sylvia Balazova and costumer Carolyn Taylor Smith with some of the different fabrics to be used in the 30 costumes in the play.

play-up!
An original work devised with USQ's second year actors, this piece has its genesis in myth and fairy tale.

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