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USQ NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND • AUSTRALIA

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Graduates celebrate 25 years of memories

TEN USQ students celebrated 25 years of good times and fond memories when they reunited for lunch at McGregor College in November.

Dan Baldwin and nine friends, who graduated from the class of '77 Business Studies at the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education (as USQ was then known), were Royal Australian Air force cadets which had a training component at the 7 Stores Depot at Drayton.

Mr Baldwin, who now works for Corrective Services, attributes their successes in life to the thorough training they received at USQ.

"Although we're scattered far and wide, the knowledge we received at USQ basically set us up for life," he said.

"One of the Toowoomba graduates in the year ahead of us is now the officer in charge of RAAF Amberley Base located just outside Ipswich and two others still serving in the RAAF are a Group Captain and Wing Commander.

"We still feel a strong link to the university. Of those of us at the reunion, one was the student union vice-president, one a treasurer, another the social activities officer and two were on the academic board of studies for the School of Business Studies.

Ten years of cadets went through 7 Stores Depot before the Department of Defence opened the tri-Service Defence Academy in Canberra.

"Everyone who's gone through Toowoomba sees themselves as being pretty unique and we all look fondly back on our time there.

"We are hoping to plan a larger reunion for all officer cadets who went through USQ in 2003," Mr Baldwin said.

Deborah Marshall



HAPPY REUNION: 1977 USQ graduates (from top) Dan Baldwin, Gary Pianegonda, Darryl Purdom, Jim Hunt, Warren Freeman, Steve Kaminiski, Andrew Fooks, Andrew Crawford, Geoff Squires and Fred Bament. (PHOTO: Kevin Farmer The Chronicle)

MULTICULTURAL EXPERIENCE:

USQ'S UNIPREP program has begun for Semester 3 with its most diverse international intake ever. The UNIPREP class, run by the Office of Preparatory and Academic Support (OPACS), is in full swing at a time when most students have wound down their studies for 2002. OPACS director Dr Francis Mangubhai said the class was like a mini United Nations with students from Bangladesh, New Caledonia, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Germany, the United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe. The UNIPREP program helps prepare international students to enter full-time university study, enhance English language skills and become familiar with Australian education strategies. Pictured from left are Jamie McCormick (Zimbabwe), Shah Newas Kabir (Bangladesh) Set Matsushita (Japan) and Venus Jamali (United Arab Emirates).



INSIDE...

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CULTURAL QUESTIONS: Seven lecturers from the Faculty of Education have combined individual essays to produce a book titled **Culture and Identity** that aims to provoke thought about the essential human questions of 'Who am I?' and 'Who are we?' The book is a collection of introductory essays on aspects of the many facets of culture and various forms of identity that connect with, or are resistant to, a number of contemporary Australian cultural contexts. The essays include topics on gender, sexuality, social change and globalisation, pedagogy and multiculturalism. Pictured are the authors (from left) Tony Rossi (now working at the National Institute of Education, Singapore) Marian Lewis, Jon Austin (editor), Craig Daly, Amanda Keddie and John McMaster. Absent: Helen McCann.



AFTER SHOW PARTY: Coinciding with the final episode of the six-part docutainment series made for the ABC about the making of last year's hit production of Shakespeare's **A Midsummer Night's Dream** was a dinner held to thank the production team, USQ staffers and community members who helped make "The Dream" come true. Personnel at the epicentre of the production of both the series and the play at the Empire Theatre are from left "The Show" Director Anthony Mullins, USQ Theatre lecturers Robert Ketton and Scott Alderdice, Head of Theatre Kate Foy, "The Show" producer Gabrielle Jones and Performance Centre director Professor Greg McCart.



PRODUCTION TEAM: Celebrating the culmination of a successful television series at the Vice-Chancellor's "The Show" dinner are crucial members of the production team. From left, USQ senior audio production officer Andrew Troedson, head of Media Services Lesley Richardson, and senior video production officer Eddie Flemming.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Dr Greg Bookless, USQ PhD candidate Connie Bookless, Dr Alan Door, pharmacist Tom Khoo and ABC Southern Queensland news editor Belinda Sanders enjoy the hospitality at a recent cocktail function held by Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Swannell. The functions, held several times a year, allow the Vice-Chancellor to meet with key community leaders to discuss issues affecting the university and the community on an informal basis.



MUSICAL PRIZES: Faculty of Arts Dean Professor Maurice French presents Music student Wye Yi Yong with the Honours award in recognition of the best overall achievement by an Honours student at the recent Music Awards in the Arts Theatre. Other winners included Adam Piechoeinski: **Outstanding Instrumental Performance**; Lydia Moller: **Peter Rorke Award for Best Undergraduate Musician**; Robyn Bradley: **Dean's award - Musicianship Award**; Heidi Lennox: **Outstanding Teaching Award**; Bonita Gould: **Delith Brook-Johnson Award for Outstanding Vocal Performance, Special Achievement in Music**; Sita Borhani: **Special Achievement in Music** and Renate Turrini: **The Performance Centre Award**.

Top gong for Madeleine



A focus on services is what USQ librarian Madeleine McPherson will aim for as newly elected president of the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL).

"In the past there was a focus on collections, both hardcopy and electronic. This was understandable as cost of resources are becoming prohibitive and library resources are always under pressure," she said.

"But my goal will also be on developing services, particularly in terms of a flexible learning environment.

"We need to design the user experience to make the delivery of information services as easy as possible."

CAUL is a national body covering 38 Australian libraries affiliated with the Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee which seeks to: ensure a common voice and representation for all university libraries; provide a forum for discussion; and promote common interests.

Ms McPherson said a recent survey found a large number of students were using Google as their preferred search engine instead of going to academic journals to source information.

"Google is a very broad commercial search engine but only 9% of journals are available on the public internet.

"We want to make the information-seeking experience and accessing academic journals as easy as going to Google."

Ms McPherson has been the university librarian for 10 years, served as director of USQ's European Study Centre, Bretten in Germany in 1999/2000 and worked as a librarian at the Universities of Queensland, Pennsylvania and Western Australia.

Deborah Marshall



MULTICULTURAL TOUR: USQ reinforced its position as a totally multicultural university recently when it hosted three leading experts in the field to discuss the topic **Multiculturalism and its Benefits for the Darling Downs and Wide Bay regions**. Pictured after one of the community consultation lectures held at the USQ Wide Bay Campus were from left USQ Equal Opportunity Coordinator Dr Krzysztof Batorowicz, World Masters Swimming Champion Margot Bates, Elder of the Butchella People (traditional owners of the Hervey Bay area) Malcolm Burns, Chair of Education and Director of the University of Adelaide's Centre for Intercultural Studies and Multicultural Education, Professor Jerzy Smolicz, founding Professor of Sociology at the Australian National University, Professor Jerzy Zubrzycki AO, CBE and former Director of Multicultural Affairs Queensland Uri Thernal.

FROM THE



VICE
CHANCELLOR

Peter Swannell



CHRISTMAS is almost upon us and, some would say, not before time! It has been a long year with many challenges and some rewards, with life dominated for some of us by the audit visit by AUQA and the Review of Higher Education. These are not things that necessarily should impact on everybody but they have certainly taken a lot of my energy and time, as well as that of many people throughout the University.

Superimposed upon all this, we have had the far-from-smooth introduction of WebCT, as well as the ongoing development of the Peoplesoft systems. These are very challenging pieces of system software and I am more grateful than most people realise for the patience and hard work of so many of our staff. Meanwhile, our international program has expanded dramatically and we have had considerable success in our various research programs. The very success of these activities creates added strains, bigger expectations and bigger demands.

We have introduced the concept of TRANSACE with its potential to enable us to capitalise upon the emerging markets in the postgraduate and life-long learning environment. TRANSACE will take a lot of getting used to, but I am convinced that it has the makings of a very interesting initiative with many opportunities to develop postgraduate programs that meet the needs of our community.

Our most recent initiative is to bring to the campus the Junior Music Academy developed by Paula Melville-Clark. This academy offers music education to young people from birth to 18, using the acclaimed Dalcroze methods. It will be a very effective addition to the University's interaction with the community and complementary to our degree programs. I am delighted that we have been able to bring Paula's academy into the University environment. It is already a very successful academy and looks set to expand its enrolments and scope in 2003.

I hope, despite the pressures, that our staff have had a fulfilling year with many enjoyable moments to go with the more mundane activities. As I said in a recent email to staff, I am constantly thrilled by the dedication and skill of our staff and the willingness of people to go the extra yard for the University. Please accept my thanks for your efforts and for the pleasure of being able to continue to lead the University.

Janice joins me in wishing everyone a very happy holiday season and a very successful New Year. We hope that you have an enjoyable, safe and relaxing Christmas and the chance to be with your family and friends.

Best wishes to everyone.

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OFFICE FROM LATE JANUARY 2003**

Vale "Bunty" Griffiths OBE, KCSJ, Fellow of the University

THE flags flew at half mast at USQ on November 26 as Chairman of the Council of the University's predecessor institution, the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education for more than 20 years, Herbert "Bunty" Griffiths, was farewelled at a funeral at St Lukes Anglican Church in Toowoomba.

Mr Griffiths, who was 84, had suffered failing health for several months before his death on November 20.

Born in 1918 and educated at Toowoomba Prep, East State School, Toowoomba Grammar School and The Kings School in Parramatta, Mr Griffiths developed a love of sport and all things academic and was encouraged to study medicine, but his father wanted him to undertake an apprenticeship in the family business, the Toowoomba Foundry.

After several years at the Foundry, Mr Griffiths became the floor manager until WWII intervened and the Toowoomba Foundry geared up to support the war effort. He was later to become managing director of the Southern Cross Corporation (now Toowoomba Metal Technologies).

In the early 1960's Bunty Griffiths and a group of concerned Toowoomba citizens, (including former Mayor Dr Alex McGregor) set up the Toowoomba University Association (later the Darling Downs Association for Advanced Education) to lobby the State and Federal governments for funding to set up a tertiary education institution in Toowoomba.

The group believed that without such an

education facility for the young people of the Downs region, the brain drain to the cities would cripple the economic potential of the area. The strategy of this group eventually worked and in 1967 funding was provided to set up a satellite campus of QUT in Toowoomba.

By the end of the decade this campus became the DDIAE. In the early 1970s, Mr Griffiths was elected Chairman of the DDIAE Council and served until 1990 when the DDIAE became the University College of Southern Queensland, prior to the institution's full accreditation as the University of Southern Queensland in 1992.

Mr Griffiths' period as chairman, in tandem with the then Director Dr Lindsay Barker, saw the institution grow from a handful of students undertaking engineering, technical and vocationally oriented courses to a multi-disciplinary institute of advanced education with several thousand internal students and a fledgling distance education program. He was also chairman of the McGregor College Fundraising Committee which was established to provide accommodation and a collegiate atmosphere on campus for students from the region.

Mr Griffiths also started Toowoomba's first APEX Club in 1938 and joined Rotary International after WWII where he was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship. He was awarded an OBE in 1984 and was made a Fellow of the University in 1994. He was



chairman of the Toowoomba Hospitals Board in the mid 1980s and became a Chevalier of the Order of St John of Jerusalem (KCSJ), (the world's oldest order of chivalry) in 1997. He later became the commander of the Darling Downs Order, a position he held until his death.

Mr Griffiths also loved art and artists and attended 21 consecutive McGregor Summer Schools (an institution he also helped found) and was Patron of the USQ Rugby Club.

USQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Swannell said the University owed an enormous debt of gratitude to Mr Griffiths.

"If it had not been for Bunty's efforts our current 1500 staff members would not have their jobs and our students would not have had the opportunity to study in this region," Professor Swannell said.

Gus Snow-McLean

Little changes make big impact on menopause



STOP dieting, throw away the scales, get active and enjoy the red wine is advice all women should follow.

But the advice is even more relevant for women experiencing menopause according to the national president of Sports Dietitian Australia and Toowoomba sports dietitian Ruth Logan.

"If women improve their lifestyle habits there is a significant chance they will greatly reduce the unpleasant symptoms of menopause," Ms Logan said.

In a recent seminar - *Menopause and Diet* - Ms Logan said Australian women now lived a

third of their lives after menopause, with 51 being the average age of onset.

While only 20 per cent of women experienced severe symptoms including depression, poor sleep patterns, low self-esteem, irritability and urinary frequency, Ms Logan said women should be aware of the associated health risks that could affect everyone.

"Osteoporosis is one of the leading health risks associated with menopause but it can be prevented by employing simple yet effective dietary changes," she said.

Women over 45 should aim to eat a wide variety of foods each day that include calcium, zinc, fibre and vitamins A,C and E.

Ms Logan said too many women consumed foods that were high in energy but low in vital nutrients. But she said dieting was not the solution to long-term weight management. Instead the word 'diet' was an acronym for deprivation, interrogation, effort and torture.

"So many people have a 'fat phobia' but what they don't realise is a small amount of fat in the diet is essential to overall health."

"Women should concentrate more on healthy eating and general well-being by setting realistic and achievable goals."

For wine lovers, Ms Logan suggested women should substitute white wine for red

wine because it contained beneficial antioxidants, however at least two days each week should be designated alcohol-free.

And although wine may not be as enticing as exercise, it is still no excuse for not including it in a daily routine. Ms Logan said every minute of exercise helped to achieve the 150 minutes of physical activity each woman should aim for every week.

"Exercise should be enjoyable and not an arduous task. Any form of physical activity whether it be aerobics, walking, gardening or swimming helps manage weight and promote bone, heart and mental health," she said.

"Forget about the scales and instead listen to your body and measure your improvements by noticing how your clothes fit.

"As women get older they accumulate excess fat around the waist area. Exercise helps to reduce this as well as the risk of type two diabetes and maintain lean muscle mass at the same time. It also reduces depression, anxiety and improves mood with an associated increased ability to perform daily tasks."

Armed with the information, women can begin to embrace menopause, focus on healthy eating, keep active, set realistic goals and enjoy the consequent rewards of a healthy life after menopause.

Heather Smith

Trudy elected to national nursing body

NURSING Program Coordinator at USQ's Wide Bay Campus, Dr Trudy Yuginovich, has been elected to the Board of Management of the Council of Remote Area Nurses of Australia (CRANA). As part of this role Dr Yuginovich will also act in the capacity of joint chair of the CRANA Education Committee.

Dr Yuginovich said CRANA was founded in 1983 when 130 Remote Area Nurses from across Australia came together in Alice Springs to put remote health issues on the national agenda.

"There were general concerns about the poor health status of people who live in remote areas and the inequities, accessibility and the quality of services available remain the catalyst for action today," Dr Yuginovich said.

"There is a great deal of discussion about the problems relating to not just ensuring doctors continue to practice in regional Australia, but overcoming the drastic shortage and high turnover of nurses in remote areas.

"It is important that a solution be found that ensures the supply of health professionals to remote areas. It is important that all levels of government, educators and prospective health practitioners do everything to ensure that there is provision for quality health for all Australians, no matter where they live."

Dr Yuginovich has coordinated the Wide Bay undergraduate nursing program since the start of 2002 as well as providing the Graduate Certificate/Masters of Advanced Nursing



BAY EXPANSION: Construction continues on Stage Two of the development at USQ's Wide Bay Campus. The new Sciences Building will be ready for occupation by the start of Semester One, 2003. In the campus precinct taking a particular interest in the construction are USQ Wide Bay Nursing Coordinator Dr Trudy Yuginovich and USQ Wide Bay Executive Officer Peter Carey. The new building will house laboratories, lecture rooms, and offices as well as nursing practice areas on the ground level of the complex.

Practice (Rural and Remote). Prior to her appointment at Wide Bay she was Head of Nursing and Director of the Clinical School at the University's Toowoomba Campus.

Her recent research included the role, history and scope of practice of remote area nurses in Australia in the last 200 years, and she is

currently researching the issues relating to preceptorship in the clinical area.

Meanwhile, work continues on the \$3.2m Stage 2 development at the Wide Bay campus which includes teaching areas for nursing and other disciplines, laboratories, preparation areas, offices and lecture rooms.

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Until 27 January 2003

RE-VOLT: After three years of arduous effort, third-year Visual Arts students, present their best work. Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery 10am - 4pm Tues-Sun.

6-17 January

McGREGOR SUMMER SCHOOL: Australia's premier residential experience from 6 to 17 January. The school offers classes for all orchestral instruments, music theatre and junior theatre, a complete range of classes for painters in all media, printmaking, book illustration, sculpture, ceramics, glass bead making, hand embroidery, textiles, embedded paper, Japanese bookbinding, calligraphy, jewellery, furniture making, photography and creative writing. For further information contact 4631 2755 or visit the McGregor Summer School website at www.usq.edu.au/conted/mcgregor/

11 January

McGREGOR PRIZE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY: Exhibition opens in the Arts Theatre, 2pm followed by the announcement of winners. First prize \$2500, 2nd Prize \$1250, 3rd Prize \$750.

19-24 January

MUSIC PEDAGOGY RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL: This school is specifically designed to assist teachers in developing their teaching skills and is open to all teachers of piano, violin, viola, clarinet and singing. Whilst it caters primarily for teachers who are enrolled in the university's external pedagogy programs (including award and non-award programs), all teachers are most welcome to attend for professional development. For further information please contact Kathy Pingel on 4631 1103 or pingel@usq.edu.au

23 January

DUO RECITAL: Music Department lecturers Martin Crook (clarinet) and Phillip Gearing (piano) will present a duo recital featuring an all English program. Arts Theatre, 8pm. Admission free.

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BENDIX tumble dryer \$75, 7pce dining suite (black and grey) \$190, Glasstop coffee table \$45. Ph: X 5542 or 4635 5058.

COMPUTER: Intel Pentium II 350 with 4GB Hard Drive, 32m Ram, 15" Monitor, 56K Modem. 32X CD Rom, 480 watt speakers and Windows 98 Second Edition. Internet ready. \$450 ono Ph: X 2845 or 4635 7197 a/h.

DATSUN: 200B station wagon 1979, gc, reg to Jan 03, recently had new brake system, radiator and tyres. RWC, \$1800 ono. Ph: 0412 116 125.

DIGITAL PIANO: Casio AP-10 (1998 model) with stool. Ex cond \$1200. Ph: 4639 1142 (after 13 Dec).

FISH TANK: 2m x 1m x 1m with bay window and enclosed stand with hood, includes large ornaments, stones, shells, sunken boat, plants, bubble wall, pump, filters, heater. Also includes

2 silver sharks, 1 large angel, 4 large silver dollars, 3 large gourmi, 3 suckers and 2 smaller assorted fish. \$850. Inspections welcomed. Ph: X 1192 or 4630 7219 a/h.

MISC: Intel 400 Celeron A Processor, 32 MB SDRAM, 4.3 GB hard disk drive, 4MB video on board, 1.44 MB floppy disk drive, mini tower case, Acuseal keyboard, 15" Acer monitor, mouse and mat, 40 x CD-Rom Drive, 3D Sound 120 W speakers, 56K Internal modem, Windows 98, MS Antivirus, MS Works Suite 1999, includes computer desk/shelves and Canon BJC 210 bubble jet printer, vgc \$850 neg; Women's uniforms: navy and black skirts and slacks, sizes 8-12, vgc, various women's jeans, sizes 8-10 all between \$5 and \$20; Lounge \$50, Dining table, 5 chairs \$150, Tall bookshelf \$90, Single bed and mattress \$100. Ph: X 2609.

PINE DINING SUITE: \$80, Queen-size mahogany waterbed, semi waveless with heater \$90, Single pine bed & mattress \$45, Exercise bike \$20, Women's mountain bike unwanted gift \$95, Sewing machine, baby overlocker and dressmaker dummy \$250 the lot, all ex cond. Ph: X 2425, 0438 360 953 or 4636 0953 a/h.

SADDLES: English Dressage (Frank Baines) 17" adjustable stirrup bars and knee rolls, brown with suede seat, fully mounted with English leather girth. 4 yrs old, \$1000, Kieffer jumping saddle 17" brown, traditional deep seat, stirrups only, vgc \$400. Ph: 4614 0970.

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UNIT: Two-bdrm, part-furn, lug, 5 minute walk to USQ, \$140 per week. Ph: 0427 616 541.

Newsmakers

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RON ATKINSON: Faculty of Sciences, was quoted in *The Chronicle* about how to avoid altercations with funnel web spiders during the mating season which will last until January 2003.

CARMEL BARRETT: Centre for Language, Learning and Teaching, was interviewed on ABC Radio, Southern Queensland about the Uniprep program during Semester Three.

PAULA MELVILLE-CLARK: Department of Music, was quoted in *The Chronicle* about USQ's new Junior Academy of Music which will offer music education to students up to the age of 18. The academy will provide a foundation for musical learning by offering Dalcroze musicianship classes, theory studies, instrumental tuition and a variety of ensembles.

PROFESSOR DESLEY HEGNEY: Faculty of Sciences, featured in *The Chronicle* about her appointment as the inaugural Sister Elizabeth Kenny professorial Chair of Rural and Remote Health.

CHRIS KOSSEN: Department of Mass Communications, was interviewed on ABC Radio, Brisbane, about a conference paper he delivered the same day titled *Reconceptualising Older Workers: A Social and Economic Imperative*.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ROBERT LEARMONTH: Faculty of Sciences, was interviewed on the ABC Regional Drive (Western Australia) program about his research into beer production.

DR CHRIS LEE: Department of Humanities and International Studies, was quoted in *The Bulletin Magazine* about the racial attitudes of Henry Lawson.

WENDY LORENZ: Music Department head was quoted in *The Chronicle* about USQ's new Junior Academy of Music.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR PETER TERRY: Faculty of Sciences, featured on ABC Radio Southern Queensland and in *The Chronicle* about the psychological aspects of the current Australia-England cricket series. He was also interviewed on QLD ABC Regional Drive about the recent 'dummy spits' of sportsmen towards umpires and referees and what impact they might have on non-professional and junior sports players.



2002 Awards for Excellence in Research, Scholarship or Postgraduate Research Supervision

Any member of University staff may nominate or be nominated for an award.

Guidelines are available at: <http://www.usq.edu.au/SECARIAT/calendar/Part7/7-8-2.pdf> and from the Office of Research and Higher Degrees X2690.

Submissions must reach the Office of Research and Higher Degrees by 5pm, Friday, 10 January, 2003.

The following comments by previous selection panel members may assist nominees with their submissions:

- the inclusion of explanations and statements of relevance enhances a submission;
- the style of presentation impacts on the assessors;
- details of research in coursework programs and teaching of research methodology should be included;
- a full CV provides a perspective on a nominee's career and the submission should refer to the CV and explain the relevance of activities and outcomes;
- applicants should relate research outcomes to research activities;
- nominees should identify the different audiences for whom they write.

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Study beats sales career

ONE USQ student not only had to convince his father that university was a good idea but he also had to convince himself.

Master of Asian Studies student Chris Roberts says he vowed never to go to university when he completed high school.

But after three years in sales, Chris realised he didn't want to spend the rest of his life selling products and services.

Now on the brink of completing his Masters degree and hoping to attract a PhD scholarship for next year, Chris said it was the right decision - and his dad agrees.

"My dad naturally thought I would take over the family business so he wasn't too impressed when I decided to go to university, but now he wouldn't have it any other way," Chris said.

He initially enrolled in a Bachelor of Law but he said his decision to change to a Bachelor of Social Science/Political Science was fate.

From then on, an interest in Asia grew and manifested itself in his thesis titled *South-East Asia: Moving Beyond the Construction of a Nascent Security Community?*

Chris was recently awarded an Australian National Internship Program Bursary through the Australian National University in Canberra. It follows a Faculty of Arts Research Grant he won last year.

Heather Smith



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Jane's in stitches with dolls

FUN and laughter is the key to turning business into pleasure for New Zealand textile artist and doll maker Jane Coughlan.

"There are a lot of days when I wonder if I'm working because I enjoy it so much that I have to pinch myself."

And she said the highlight of her year was tutoring at the McGregor Summer School where enthusiastic performing, visual and creative artists converged on the Garden City for two-weeks of tuition, entertainment and creative exchanges.

Ms Coughlan (below), will make the annual pilgrimage from Auckland to teach cloth doll making at the 35th McGregor Summer School from 6 to 17 January 2003 at USQ.

"I'm always so thrilled at what the students in my class create. It's such a pleasure to be part of the atmosphere and creative energy of the school," she said.



"The school offers a wide range of disciplines for people from all walks of life so there is always lots of fun and plenty of ideas exchanged."

"And there is always heaps and heaps of laughter."

Whether it's furniture or quilts, Ms Coughlan is always making something and her latest artistic pursuit has earned her worldwide recognition.

She currently designs and creates cloth dolls for an international market, teaches nationally and internationally,

publishes doll-making designs for her mail order business and has won numerous awards with her quilts, dolls and wearable art.

"The cross-section of people who enjoy doll making is amazing. I've had lawyers, interior designers and mothers. There isn't any economic or age barrier to doll making," she said.

"You can start with minimal skills and go as far as you like. Whether students like realism and perfectionism or funky childlike, the art is very accessible and non-threatening to people who just want to enjoy making something with their hands."

The McGregor Summer School attracts hundreds of people from across the country who want to indulge their creative hunger at the premier residential event.

"Many of the students come from isolated areas, form long-term friendships and experience stimuli that they wouldn't normally encounter," Ms Coughlan said.

"I can't believe the network of people worldwide that I am a part of because of the dolls."

"If you can get pleasure from creating something and if you can laugh your head off at the same time then I think you're close to being in heaven."

Heather Smith



City art scene on the rise

TOOWOOMBA is renowned for remarkable gardens, quality schools, distinct seasons and sprawling parks but according to one local artist it should also be recognised for its burgeoning creative arts scene.

Catherine Parker will tutor in acrylic painting at the 35th annual McGregor Summer School at USQ in January and says Toowoomba features a thriving arts community.

"Toowoomba is a fantastic town with an equally fantastic arts community," she said.

This will be highlighted when hundreds of artists converge on Toowoomba for the popular residential performing, visual and creative arts event.

Toowoomba-based Ms Parker along with 60 national and international artists will provide expert tuition in a range of creative pursuits at the school.

"It will be the first time that I have taught at the McGregor Summer School and I am really looking forward to interacting with students and other artists," she said.

Painting is a relatively new pursuit for Ms Parker who developed a passion for the medium in 1994 after travelling extensively through Mexico,

Guatemala, Prague and Europe.

Acrylic painting soon replaced her former work in printmaking and she has been flirting with colour ever since.

"Acrylic painting is very spontaneous and lends itself to colours which is why my work has lots of colours and is very vibrant," Mr Parker said.

The McGregor Summer School offers classes for all orchestral instruments, music theatre and junior theatre, a complete range of classes for painters in all media, printmaking, book illustration, sculpture, ceramics, glass bead making, hand embroidery, textiles, embedded paper, Japanese bookbinding, calligraphy, jewellery, furniture making, photography and creative writing.

Ms Parker said the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery and the calibre of the art it showcased was a credit to the local community and further proof that the Garden City was developing a respected artistic reputation.

For further information contact 4631 2755 or visit the McGregor Summer School website at www.usq.edu.au/conted/mcgregor/

Heather Smith

