



Joint Winner

# USQ NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND • AUSTRALIA

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## USQ scoops export award

USQ recently re-affirmed its leadership as an exporter of education when it again scooped the Services and Education category at the Southern Queensland Exporting to the World Awards dinner held at the Empire Church Theatre.

The annual awards showcase the best-of-the-best in the region in five categories including: agribusiness, small to medium manufacturing, large advanced manufacturing, services and education and emerging exporters.

Toowoomba State Development Director Royce Brown said as well as traditional agricultural exports, the region produced a number of first class goods and services.

"Winning an export award provides a boon for both business and the region, and it is a strong marketing tool," Mr Brown said.

USQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) Professor Malcolm McKay said he was delighted that USQ had won the award for the third year in a row.

"We are constantly seeking to improve our export performance and the awards offer feedback on our successes. We look forward to the State finals for the same reason as well as taking advantage of hearing the success stories of other winners.

"We always learn a great deal from other exporters regardless of their particular service or product."

Other awards went to Pacific Seeds (Agribusiness and Exporter of the Year), Western Exports (Small to Medium Manufacturer), Toowoomba Metal Technologies (Large Advanced Manufacturer), and Mother Meg's Fine Foods (Emerging Exporter).

*Gus Snow-McLean*



**EXPORTING EXCELLENCE:** USQ Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) Professor Malcolm McKay accepts the Southern Queensland Exporting to the World Award for Services and Education from State Member for Toowoomba North, Kerry Shine at the recent awards dinner in Toowoomba.



**BURNING RAYS:** Physicist Dr Alfio Parisi checks the temperature of USQ's UV monitor on the top of the Sciences building recently.

## UV monitor measures rays

A specialised UV monitor mounted on the top of USQ's Sciences building is providing data on solar UV radiation to produce better UV forecasting and understanding of the solar UV environment.

The \$107,000 grant from the Australian Research Council in 2002 enabled USQ to purchase the equipment and expand its atmospheric research into measuring the effects of the sun's ultraviolet radiation on the human body.

The research is being conducted by Centre for Astronomy, Solar Radiation and Climate (CASRAC) Physicists, Dr Alfio Parisi and Dr Jeff Sabburg.

Dr Parisi said the research would also help determine how terrestrial spectral solar UV may be enhanced above that of clear sky due to certain cloud conditions.

"There is a major gap in the scientific knowledge of the influence of cloud on spectral solar UV and the resultant biologically damaging UV radiation," Dr Parisi said.

"This new equipment is providing an enormous amount of data for every five-minute period, and after analysing the information we hope to predict when cloud cover enhances solar UV.

"Ultimately research of this sort could lead to the development of strategies to reduce solar UV exposures to the public during occupational and recreational activities and assist in reducing sun-related eye disease."

For further information visit the Centre for Astronomy, Solar Radiation and Climate (CASRAC) website at: <http://www.usq.edu.au/uv>

*John Austin*

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**EDUCATION LANDMARK:** USQ Wide Bay Campus at Pialba is fast becoming a significant landmark at Queensland's whale-watching capital of Hervey Bay. In the foreground is the joint precinct of the Hervey Bay City/USQ Library and Art Gallery with the original teaching and administration building to the left. The building at back centre is the newly completed \$4.4 million Stage Two teaching building. The building houses laboratories and clinical wards for nursing training, a 200-seat lecture theatre and eight new teaching rooms. The new building will feature strongly in the USQ Wide Bay Open Day celebrations held on 7 September from 10 am to 3pm. **PHOTO:** Kevin Smith



**SPACE STUDIES:** Toowoomba State High School Mt Lofty campus Year 10 Science students spoke with NASA Flight Controller Dr Robert Dempsey during a live hook-up at USQ recently. The students are studying a space science module as part of the Toowoomba Maths Science Centre of Excellence developed by Toowoomba State High School Wilsonton Campus. Chloe Thomas (left), Renee Walters and Jake Murray took the opportunity to ask as many questions as possible about the future of space exploration. It is the second year Dr Dempsey has participated in a live hook-up with Mt Lofty Science students to help them with their space studies.



**FAREWELL FOR NOW:** Joy mixed with sadness as three AUSAID students who had made Toowoomba their home for the past 18 months graduated recently and returned to their homelands. Rosemary Akaina and Penias Suano (right) from Papua New Guinea completed Bachelors of Nursing, post registration and have taken positions in the PNG health services, and Kenyan Richard Koech completed a Master of Engineering Technology. Richard said he liked studying at USQ so much that he was already saving for his three-year-old son's education at the university. "He's a future USQ student and he'll study engineering like me," he quipped. USQ has 40 AUSAID students from nine countries.



**ACCOUNTING AWARENESS:** Ninety-six Year 11 and 12 students enjoyed discovering the diversity of available careers in accounting at an Accounting Careers Forum day at USQ recently. The students from Scots PGC College, Toowoomba Grammar School, St Ursula's College, St Mary's College, Concordia College, Dalby Christian College, Fairholme College and St Joseph's College listened to presentations from a number of Toowoomba professional accountants, participated in accounting activities and talked to staff and accounting students about the study options available at USQ. Pictured with USQ Accounting Department Head Noel Brown (back) are St Ursula's College Year 11 student Annie O'Callaghan, Dalby Christian College Year 12 student James Hamlin and Certified Practising Accountants Toowoomba Branch Representative Paul Hilton.



**ESSENTIAL SERVICE:** Enjoying the ambience at a recent Vice-Chancellor's cocktail function are from left, Acting District Inspector Rural Fire, Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority, Mike Smith, Dr Eric Donaldson and Judith Donaldson (Griffith University) and Eastern Area Manager Queensland Ambulance Service, Glen Maule. This group joined about 70 other guests from the region's business, legal, medical and educational communities who took the opportunity to network as well as meet and greet senior USQ staff.



**VICE  
CHANCELLOR**  
**Peter Swannell**



**WE** hear much about the increased competition for international students in very competitive markets around the world, but we should not forget the overriding importance of maintaining our domestic, Australian student numbers.

We rely upon our schools programs and local and national advertising to make sure that we place the university before school leavers and mature-age students. The ability to get full value from the limited recruitment budgets that exists centrally and in the faculties is a constant challenge. Our most important public event is the university Open Day which takes place this year on Sunday, 17 August 2004.

We look forward to welcoming many thousands of visitors to the campus and I know that faculties and support areas in the university are working hard to make a contribution to the Open Day. This is a great opportunity to provide students and families with useful information about the university, as well as providing a fun day for all our visitors.

In the future, assuming that the Federal Government's higher education policy is eventually implemented, the university, and all universities, face an even bigger challenge in recruiting the right number of high-quality undergraduate Australian students. From 2005 onwards,

the contribution made through HECS by Australian students can be specified at any value between 0 and 130% of the standard HECS fees specified by DEST. This means that, for the first time potential students will need to be aware of the HECS charge imposed by any university on a program from any particular discipline. We are already hearing that certain universities will be charging near to the maximum permitted HECS fees for some or all of their programs. USQ, like many other universities, has not yet determined the levels of HECS that it will be necessary to charge from 2005 onwards. Clearly this is a very important educational and financial decision that cannot be taken in isolation from our competitors.

I was talking about these issues at a parents' evening at Churchie Grammar School in Brisbane about a week ago. I can assure you that the question of the cost of programs from 2005 onwards was right at the forefront of the thinking of those who have to pay the bills. I believe that it is likely, for example, that QTAC will have to publish HECS fee levels for each of its programs at the various universities throughout the State. For the first time students must make their choice not only on the basis of discipline, location and quality, but also on the basis of cost to the individual. We will see some very interesting shifts in the market place as, presumably, our universities jockey for position among school leavers and mature-age students.

As I have said before, from 2005 onwards there will be a new emphasis upon 'value for money', and that will add a whole new dimension to the recruitment market.

For these, and many other reasons, we should make the most of our opportunities at Open Days and other times to make sure that we recruit high quality students in 2004 as we prepare ourselves for the even bigger challenge that will begin in 2005.

## Research offers new wheels for accident victims

USQ researchers are working on a prototype "intelligent" wheelchair that climbs stairs and navigates other difficult environments.

The climbing wheelchair, part of a program funded from a \$300,000 grant from the Motor Accident Insurance Commission, is the research project of Professor John Billingsley and Dr DMG Preethichandra from the Faculty of Engineering and Surveying.

Professor Billingsley and Dr Preethichandra presented their project outline at a Centre of National Research on Disability and Rehabilitation Medicine seminar in Brisbane this month and they hope to have a working prototype of the wheelchair operational by early October.

Professor Billingsley said that novel 'hi-tech' wheelchairs such as the iBOT offered great promise, but could be expensive. Possible power failure could also be an issue.

"Therefore the focus of the project is to provide a wheelchair with the intelligence to ensure safe operation, while allowing the user to mount or descend a flight of stairs unaided with an affordable, lightweight system."

He said the concept was similar to compound-wheel sack trucks that could be pulled up steps. The wheelchair's conventional wheels will be replaced by groups of three wheels of about half the normal diameter, almost touching.

"The chair will climb the stairs backwards - after all, that is how a handler pulls a patient up stairs. The patient's centre of gravity is then much closer to the stairs and the manoeuvre is much easier and safer. The rotation of the wheels is held fixed, to prevent rolling, while the triplet pivots about the axle of the wheel in contact with the stair to bring the next wheel onto the next stair. The wheels will then roll slightly to correct for any variation in stair dimensions."

By locking the rotation of the wheels together in unison within each triple, it is hoped that it will be possible for the user to pull the chair upstairs by muscle power, with automatic control providing stability and assurance of safety.

"This would make a huge difference to the size of battery that must be mounted on the chair and its resulting weight problems.

"Another 'mechatronic' task is that of providing a clear backwards view for the user. A simple 90-degree double mirror might be sufficient, but it is more probable that an intelligent vision system, perhaps with a virtual reality headset will be needed," Professor Billingsley said.



**WHEEL TECHNOLOGY:** Professor Billingsley and Dr Preethichandra are conducting research into the creation of an "intelligent" wheelchair.

# Book preserves local Aboriginal culture

A new book chronicling the history of the Gidjhal people of the Warwick Shire aims to increase awareness of how Aborigines lived before and after European settlement.



Written by David Parsons, Associate Head of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering, *Waringh Waringh - A History of Aboriginal People in the Warwick Area and Their Land*, is the realisation of a lifelong dream.

A staunch advocate of Aboriginal rights, having worked in the Gurindji Northern Territory land rights campaign in the 1960s, running a before-school breakfast campaign and after-school homework centre in Sydney, and more recently working with a variety of groups in Warwick, Mr Parsons spent six years researching and writing the book.

"I hope it goes some way to redressing the imbalance in the dearth of knowledge regarding Aboriginal culture in the Warwick region," he said.

"Very little was known about the Gidjhal people and my primary aim was to increase the knowledge that Aborigines were here and these were the kinds of things that affected them.

"At school my children were learning about Aborigines in Sydney and Tasmania, but nothing of the area in which they lived so that gave me the impetus to research the Indigenous history of the Warwick Shire," Mr Parsons said.

The result is a non-Indigenous person's compilation of Aboriginal history sourced from

interviews with the few remaining relatives of the original Indigenous owners and mainly white historical records.

The book details the lifestyle of Aborigines before European settlement including food and shelter, cultural rituals, social and work activities, and linguistic development. The final few chapters chronicle the harsh treatment of Aborigines by white Australians and the ramifications post European settlement.

"Many people in the area are unaware of the facts surrounding the dispossession of the Aboriginal people.

"While this ignorance persists, Indigenous people will continue to be discriminated against and suffer the economic and social penalties which follow."

Mr Parsons said the book would be distributed among all schools in the Warwick area.

"I hope this book will facilitate a greater understanding of Aboriginal history by non-Indigenous people so that they may value the people of today."

*Waringh Waringh - A History of Aboriginal People in the Warwick Area and Their Land* is available for purchase from the author. Email

[parsons@usq.edu.au](mailto:parsons@usq.edu.au)

Deborah Marshall

## Mentors help students get best from study

USQ Master of IT student Joseph Edayady joined the international mentor program to help other students adjust to life in a new country.

Six months ago he discovered how daunting the transition could be when he left his homeland of India to study in Australia.

"I was a bit anxious when I first arrived but the mentors at the university were invaluable so I decided to join the program and help future students as well," the 24-year-old said.

The mentor initiative, part of the Friendship Program conducted by USQ's International Student Services, recruits veteran students to help newcomers with everything from obtaining a student card to finding the nearest shopping centre.

More than 190 international students arrived in Toowoomba recently to begin their Semester two studies.

Joseph was linked with two students from Finland and two from India in his first experience as a mentor.

"I showed them around the campus at first and then we did some banking, accessed the computer labs, sorted their health insurance and then took a tour of the city," he said.

"The two Indian students also live with me in the student village so I'm able to be there for them whenever they need me."

Joseph was one of 57 mentors to take part in this year's program which continues to grow in popularity each year.

He said the benefit of being a mentor was



**MENTOR MERRIMENT:** Student mentor Joseph Edayady enjoys helping new international students adjust to Australian university life.

not only helping others but also developing friendships with people from different cultures.

After completing a Bachelor of Computer Application in India, Joseph was encouraged to pursue a Masters qualification at an international university because it was highly valued in the Indian computer industry.

"I'd heard USQ has won several awards for best university so it was a simple choice of where to study."

"The people are also very friendly which I know from experience is extremely comforting for a new student who comes from a different culture."

Heather Smith

# Creating networks for acting careers

**CREATING** a mentor network for theatre students with industry professionals is a high priority for new Theatre Department Head Scott Alderdice.

Mr Alderdice says he wants to continue the legacy of work established by his predecessor Professor Kate Foy and increase the level of pride and active support among theatre graduates working in the industry.

"If our acting students can harness the wisdom and experience from working graduates then the ramifications of this increased knowledge and positive energy will continue to revitalise the department," he said.

He said although USQ's postgraduate networking organisation Sqewers, with a membership of about 80 graduates, had been moderately successful in helping students find work and industry experience he wanted to increase the level of its active support.

A graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts, Mr Alderdice has more than 25 years experience as a director, dramaturge and artistic director.

He has been teaching acting and theatre studies at USQ since 1996. His directorial productions include Bertoldt Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (1996), *Isobel*, which he wrote and directed, *Richard III* (1999), *A Midsummer's Night's Dream* (2001) and this month's *The Good Woman of Szechwan*.

Mr Alderdice said it was important for young female acting students to find a voice and their own direction in the increasingly male-dominated acting world, where women were often portrayed as vehicles for male leads.

"Where is the female voice, the dissenting voice saying these are the stories we want to tell," he said.

Starting the networking process is the visit of actress Carol Burns and television producer Gabrielle Jones, who will meet acting students and Sqewer's members on the day of the final performance of *The Good Woman of Szechwan* on 31 August.

"They will discuss their experiences of survival in a male-dominated industry, what they learnt and what they would still like to learn."

Mr Alderdice also said it was essential for acting students to learn the fundamentals of the business of running theatre companies.

"History has shown that those who can generate their own business stand a better chance of making it in the industry," he said citing newly



formed graduate company Soulmark which opened with its inaugural production *This is Our Youth* in Brisbane this year to wide acclaim.

A commitment to the continuation of quality training for future drama teachers is also on Mr Alderdice's agenda.

"The people we train today are the groundswell for the next generation," he said.

"We will have over 40 student teachers graduating in the next three years, so it's very important that they are skilled and competent."

"The department has a strong pedagogical core and is expanding into the community as a whole.

"It's a very organic approach."

*Deborah Marshall*

# Cross Currents explores cultural diversity



**THE** visually inspiring and diverse exhibition *Cross Currents* is on display in the USQ Arts Gallery until 23 August.

Officially opened last month, the exhibition showcases the work of 25 Japanese artists including four Buddhist priests who collaborated with a group of north Queensland artists in May 2002 to produce stunning and thought-provoking works.

The project enabled the Japanese artists to collaborate at the artists' studios, the Australian Sugar Industry Museum, Mourilyan and at various sites throughout the Innifisfail and Cairns region.

Curated by Australian Sugar Industry Museum Director John Waldron, the exhibition is one of the largest USQ has displayed with more than 100 pieces on show.

University curator Lawrence Bendle said a wide range of media was represented in the exhibition reflecting the diverse interpretations of cultural similarities and differences.

"It's inspiring in its diversity with most of the objects intimate, small in scale and concerned with individual expression and craftsmanship.

"From paintings and drawings to sculpture, jewellery, printmaking, textiles, and fabric there truly is something for every lover of art.

"This is a great opportunity to view a significant body of work from a cross-cultural perspective covering gender, history and environmental and social issues" Mr Bendle said.

*Cross Currents* will run in the USQ Arts Gallery until August 23 from 9am to 5pm. For more information phone 4631 1111.

*Deborah Marshall*

# What's On

Today

**LUNCHTIME CONCERT:** USQ Brass Ensemble under the direction of John Redfean, and a trio from Mozart's Der Schauspieldirektor sung by sopranos Deborah Rogers and Hayley Sugars and tenor Rhoderick McNeill. 1pm, Concert Hall.

15 August

**PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT COLLOQUIA SERIES:** *An Evaluation of the Athlete Career and Education Program*, Dr Majella Albion W414, 1.30pm-2.30pm. For more information contact Dr Nola Passmore on X 1683.

17 August

**ALLIANCE FRANCAISE DE TOOWOOMBA:** A short Recital of French song by Aja Lynne (Soprano) and Leanne Warne (Piano) followed by afternoon tea at the Glennie Room at 3pm. Monthly events include soirees, concerts, wine and cheese afternoons, brunches, talks and mini French Open Tennis Championships. French Language classes are held for beginners, intermediate and advanced levels each term. For membership and enquiries contact Wendy Lorenz on 4631 1129.

17 August

**OPEN DAY:** USQ invites prospective students to tour the campus and learn about the courses on offer. Entertainment will be provided by Brisbane-based band Shutterspeed, Gold Coast band New School Hero and the Ergon Energy USQ Big Band.

18-23 & 27-30 August

**THE GOOD WOMAN OF SZECHWAN:** Shen Te leads a double life to assist her poverty stricken village in China. Brecht's moral fable about the cost and consequences of doing good. USQ Arts Theatre 7.30pm. Matinee 11am, Wednesday 27 August. \$18 Adult/ \$14 Concession/ \$10 Preview. For bookings phone 4631 1111.

20 August

**LUNCHTIME CONCERT:** Solo performances from USQ students Evan Shelton (saxophone), Angela Sullivan (flute) and Deborah Murphy (horn). 1pm, Concert Hall.

22 August

**PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT COLLOQUIA SERIES:** *Applications of Existentialism in the Workplace: A Developing Theory*, Dr Jeff Patrick, W414, 1.30-2.30. For more information contact Dr Nola Passmore on X 1683.

23 August

**BIG BAND:** The Ergon Energy USQ Big Band will perform at Ballandean Winery's Jazz in the Vineyard alongside legendary jazz musician James Morrison.

25 August to 26 September

**KEEP PASSING THE OPEN WINDOWS:** An exhibition formed around the stories of eight mothers who have lost children to suicide. The women have worked collaboratively with artist, Angela Blakely to make their children less invisible, to break the silence and allow them a voice. USQ Arts Gallery. 9am-5pm Monday-Friday.

27 August

**LUNCHTIME CONCERT:** A concert by USQ students Deborah Rogers (soprano), John Braithwaite (trumpet) and Lydia Moller (piano). 1pm Concert Hall.

31 August

**BRASS 'N' WIND:** USQ's Symphonic Wind Band and Brass Ensemble present masterpieces and newer, exciting arrangements from the contemporary repertoire of American and English composers including Aaron Copland,

Kenneth Alford, Gustav Holst and Francis Poulenc. Concert Hall 3pm.

2 September 2003

**CONCANNON COLLEGE ORATION:** *On Getting Educated* presented by Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Swannell in his retirement year, Clive Berghofer Recreation Centre, 8pm, enquiries to Annette Moore 46 312451 or [moore@usq.edu.au](mailto:moore@usq.edu.au)

7 September

**USQ WIDE BAY Open Day**

# Uni Trader

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**LUXURY MANSION:** On the escarpment will become available for rent in September. It has six bedrooms and three bathrooms, fantastic views as far as Ipswich, a swimming pool and a games lawn that is ideal for impromptu football or tennis. Set in an acre of gardens backing onto the escarpment park, it is only a seven-minute drive from the uni. Ph: X 2513 or 4636 3800.

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**SEWING MACHINE:** Basic older style, prefer Elna or Bernina. Ph: 4630 8851 or 0428 716 666.

**STUDENT DESK:** With hutch or matching bookcase. Suitable for young child. Ph: X 2959 or 4638 4415.

**SUBARU OUTBACK:** 2000, white, manual, 62,000km, roof bars, 6-stack CD, Defense Pak (tinting, paint and upholstery protection, soundproofing, rust proofing, electronic rust inhibitor) \$29,990. Ph: 0408 987 193.

**FOR RENT:** Large room in centrally located house. Share with two other professionals. \$65 per week plus expenses. Ph: X 1036 or 4613 0909 a/h.

**FOR HIRE:** Toowoomba jukebox hire, video/karaoke, CD jukeboxes, parties, weddings, special occasions. Ph: 4659 0521 a/h, 0418 785 460 or check out the website: [www.toowoomba-jukebox-hire.com.au](http://www.toowoomba-jukebox-hire.com.au)

# Newsmakers

**DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC) PROFESSOR SUSAN BAMBRICK:** featured in the *Fraser Coast Daily* about USQ's reponse to the *The Good Universities Guide's* ratings.

**PROFESSOR RONEL ERWEE:** USQ Australian Graduate School of Business Director was quoted in *The Financial Review* about the number of MBA programs available in the international market and how USQ had carved a competitive edge by offering a niche product using distance and online delivery modes.

**PROFESSOR GERARD FOGARTY:** Faculty of Sciences featured in *The Chronicle* about his research into factors influencing errors in the aviation industry.

**TREVOR FUELLING:** NCEA researcher was quoted in *The Chronicle* about a joint project by the Department of Natural Resources and USQ, funded by the National Heritage Trust to develop a Land and Water Management Plan for the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin which aims to bring awareness of the benefits of efficient water use to farmers and regional communities.

**AL GREEN:** USQ student and Army communications officer was interviewed by Steve Austin on ABC Brisbane in a live interview from Saddam Hussein's palace in Iraq where he has been studying by distance education while he is part of the international forces deployed in the area. Warrant Officer Green also appeared on Page 1 of *Campus Review*.

**DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE) PROFESSOR MALCOLM MCKAY:** Was interviewed by *The Chronicle* on the *Good Universities Guide's* issue.

**ALFIO PARISI:** Faculty of Sciences was interviewed on WIN TV about his and Professor Saaburg's atmospheric research into measuring the effects of the sun's ultraviolet radiation on the human body with a new UV monitor.

**DR JOACHIM RIBBE:** Faculty of Sciences featured in an article on the Madden Julian Oscillation and its relationship to helping to predict rainfall events in Queensland in the *Australian Grain* magazine.

**VICE-CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR PETER SWANNELL:** Was interviewed on ABC Southern Queensland about USQ's category win in the Southern Queensland Exporting to the World event and about the Good Universities Guides ratings controversy. The issue was also addressed by Professor Swannell in *The Chronicle*, on Radio 4GR and on WIN TV.

## USQ NEWS

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## Gearing up for Open Day

**THIS** year's USQ Open Day is shaping up to be the biggest yet with organisers expecting more than 12,000 people through the gates on Sunday, August 17.

Marketing Manager Natalie O'Halloran says the day, which runs from 10am to 3pm, will be greatly enhanced by a diverse variety of entertainment including Brisbane and Gold Coast bands Shutter Speed and New School Hero and the Ergon Energy USQ Big Band.

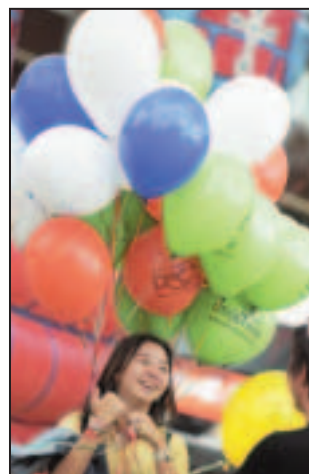
"Open Day is the one time of the year when the university opens its doors to welcome the community for a day of exciting activities and displays, excellent entertainment and delicious international food.

"There will be a multitude of information on degree programs for prospective students and guided campus tours including the Residential Colleges.

"Each of the University's five faculties will have displays with staff on hand to assist with inquiries about courses and university life," Ms O'Halloran said.

Other University Departments represented include Continuing Education, McGregor Schools, Kumbari/Ngurpai Lag Higher Education Centre, Student Services, Information Technology Services, Office of Preparatory and Academic Support, International Office, USQOnline, Distance Education Centre, Library, Student Guild, the Book Shop and Student Administration. Representatives from Austudy and the Higher Education Scheme will also be available.

Some of the events around the campus include a Visual Arts marathon, jumping castle, Robot Bilby competition, balloon artist and face painting. The USQ Open Day runs from 10am to 3pm. Entry is free.



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## Slovakian seamstress stitches for Szechwan

**DESIGNER** Silvia Balazova has stitched together a costume extravaganza for USQ's upcoming theatre production *The Good Woman of Szechwan*.

A first-year USQ Stage Management student, Silvia was introduced to the world of fabric at a young age by her mother, also a fashion designer in central Europe.

At the age of eight she was accepted into a private visual arts school and by 14 had been trained by a professional set designer.

In 2002 Silvia travelled from Slovakia to Australia to pursue tertiary study where it was possible to study set and costume design in one course.

Her creative vision, combined with fellow costumer Carolyn Taylor-Smith's experience, has produced an exciting and ingenious assortment of costumes for the play which opens on 18 August at the USQ Arts Theatre.

The fabled play integrates a lively mix of mask, narration, clown, vaudeville, song and dance to portray a contemporary perspective of the ageless conundrum between goodness and ruthlessness.

Silvia prepared individual sketches for all 68 characters in the play with each drawing taking up to one hour to complete after much time was spent devising, planning and reviewing the ideas beforehand.

The result is an eclectic mix of fibres, styles and concepts which draw influence from generations of people across all continents.

Satin, velvet, PVC, plastic, metal, seersucker and crushed poplin are just some of the fabrics and materials used to capture the essence of each character and captivate the audience.

"Texture has played a large role in the choice and combination of fabrics for each costume," Silvia said.

"These costumes are not flat but three-dimensional to complement the active and energetic nature of the play.

"It is very satisfying to work with creative people who are equally enthusiastic about inventing and crafting."

*The Good Woman of Szechwan* will be performed by USQ's second-year acting students and directed by Scott Alderdice.

The production, written in the 1930s by German playwright Bertolt Brecht, runs from 18-23 and 27-30 August at 7.30pm in the USQ Arts Theatre. Matinee performances will also be held on 26 and 27 August at 11am and 31 August at 2pm.

For further information or bookings contact the USQ Box Office on 4631 1111.

*Heather Smith*



### EXHIBITION

#### Cross Currents

A collaborative exhibition by 25 Japanese artists, 4 Buddhist priests of Sodo Sect, and 25 artists from northern Queensland

continues till 23 August  
USQ Arts Theatre  
9am-5pm Mon-Fri

### Brass 'n' Wind

USQ Symphonic Wind Band and Brass Ensemble present masterpieces and exciting arrangements including opera and symphonic material to showcase the diverse colours of each instrument in the bands

Sunday 31 August 3pm  
USQ Concert Hall

### The Good Woman of Szechwan

A moral fable about the cost and consequences of doing good. This free adaptation of Brecht's celebrated play will take you on a theatrical cavalcade beyond this world.

18 - 23 & 27 - 31 August  
7.30pm USQ Arts Theatre  
Matinees 11am Tue 26 & Wed 27 Aug  
2pm Sun 31 Aug



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