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Studying in Saddam's palace

IF there was an award for the student with the most interesting study location then Warrant Officer Alan (Al) Green would definitely be a contender.

For the past five months the Australian Army public affairs cameraman has been completing his USQ Masters of Professional Communication in the Middle East and recently in Saddam Hussein's private palace.

"It's very glamorous and the marble work looks superb but partial bombing has revealed some shoddy workmanship and poor brick work," he said.

"Before I arrived the men had to burn their own waste but now we have working toilets and fans and we sleep on bunks and eat from a ration pack.

"The streets are still hairy so we wear helmets and body armour and carry weapons wherever we go."

Al compiles photo-spreads and writes stories for newspapers and creates photo-features for magazines.

During the early stage of the war when civilian camera operators were not allowed on base, Al was responsible for filming the RAAF FA/18 jets and sending the material to mainstream media outlets.

He also assumed management roles, provided technical support to field teams and supervised stores and imagery management.

When not on duty he spent his time researching and writing his masters dissertation through the university's distance education centre.

Each morning was dedicated to study before he donned his army uniform and body armour for duty.

"If we're on a task in the Baghdad area we have to focus on staying alive which means the co-drivers always scan and cover their side of the vehicle," he said.

For the past two years Al has worked and studied in East Iraq, Cambodia, Timor, Bougainville and Bosnia.

"It was very difficult to focus on study in such a volatile environment but persistence played a key role," he said.

"I wouldn't have been able to do it without the technology of laptops and the internet and the flexibility and understanding of the university.

"During the combat phase of operation my tutors were especially empathetic of my situation and gave me the necessary assistance to meet deadlines."

His peers were equally supportive of his study commitments and encouraged him when the well-worn laptop would appear.

One of the advantages of his study and work combination has been the opportunity to witness how theory applies to public affairs in the real world of combat operations.

It also offered a unique chance to conduct original research and fine tune the results during active service.

"The advice I give to other students is not to give up when it looks hopeless but take it one step at a time and you'll do it."

"A lot gets sacrificed for study but now I'm finished and when the war ends I'll spend more time with my family because they have also sacrificed a lot."

Heather Smith

CAMERA ACTION: *(Top) USQ Master of Professional Communication student Al Green completed the final stages of his course while working as a Public Affairs Cameraman for the Australian Army in Iraq. (Below) Al sleeps and studies in one of Saddam Hussein's deserted private palaces in Baghdad.*

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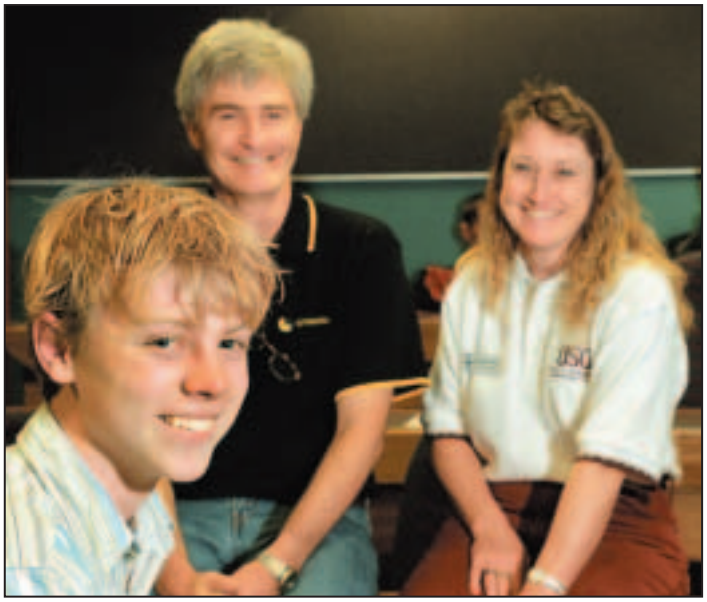
SHADES SAFE: *USQ physics PhD student, David Turnbull has been awarded a grant to attend the* ***10th Congress of the European Society for Photobiology*** *(ESP). David will present his research entitled* ***UV Protection and Shade Structures*** *at the conference in Vienna, Austria, from 6 to 11 September, 2003. David's paper shows that carefully designed measurements of the UV protection provided by shade structures are essential in enabling the public to make informed decisions on the efficacy of particular structures in reducing personal UV exposure. This research is part of a number of research projects in the USQ Centre for Astronomy, Solar Radiation and Climate (CASRAC) that aim to understand the factors that influence solar UV exposures to humans. David's supervisor CASRAC physicist Dr Alfio Parisi said the grant meant that his research was being recognised by his peers in the wider international research community. "This research is essential as a first stage in developing prevention strategies to minimise the risk of skin cancer and sun-related eye disorders," Dr Parisi said.*



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: *More than 50 Year 10 students from ten Toowoomba High Schools visited the campus over two days recently to discover what the Department of Information Systems could offer them upon leaving school. Event Co-ordinator Deborah Crabb said the annual workshops were an opportunity for young students to find out about the multitude of careers to be had in computing. "We like to talk to Year 10s because they are just starting to think about what they would like to do in the future and these days widen their views about information systems." Activities included web publishing, network communications, problem solving and animation. "Even if they don't want to major in information systems they grasp an understanding of how varied and integrated information systems are." Pictured are Centenary Heights student Bede Wilson, Information Systems Head Dave Roberts and Event Co-ordinator Deborah Crabb.*

EXTRA YEAR: *Education Queensland Senior Project Officer Patricia Connell presented results from Education Queensland's Early Years Preparatory Trial to Faculty staff recently. More than 30 schools, including those in Wyreema, Dalby and Stanthorpe are participating in the project that sees children starting school at 4.5 years instead of 5.5 years. Ms Connell said studies had shown that an extra year of schooling was beneficial to students' learning and also aligned with other States and Territories.*

YOUTH SPEAK: *Second-year journalism student Sam Burgess attended the annual YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament in Parliament House in Brisbane recently. Sam, who represented the Toowoomba North Electorate, was one of 88 young people aged between 16 and 25 who participated in the event. Sam's team debated the* ***Efficient Water Management Youth Bill*** *which was successfully passed into parliament. While he has no aspirations to become a politician (print journalism his goal), Sam said it was interesting to see first-hand how government processes worked. "It was a wonderful experience and it was beneficial to meet current politicians as well as some future leaders of Australia," he said.*

HOT PROPERTY: *USQ Student Affairs Manager Kurt Timmins (front left) and Building and Facilities Project Manager Simon Pearl (front right) officially opened the university's latest piece of prime real estate recently. Student Administration staff members held a special ribbon cutting ceremony and morning tea to celebrate their refurbished offices and thank B&F staff for their efforts. Prince Charles (aka Student Administration Systems Officer Peter Munster) presented a seal of approval and officially opened the offices on behalf of the royal family. Mr Timmins thanked the B&F team for an exceptional job and quipped the only thing missing was a lap pool. Attending the special ceremony were B&F staff (middle from left) Mick Lynch and Kerry O'Brien and back row from left Gary Bourne, Ron Jensen, Roger Bonell, Des Dolley and Kerry Mogg.*

FROM THE

CORPORATE RELATIONS MANAGER

John Austin

USQ AUSTRALIA

SECOND semester has commenced and we welcome all students especially our new students from countries around the world. Everyone at the university and in Toowoomba wishes you the best of success and a happy and productive stay. As Mayor, Di Thorley and Vice-Chancellor Professor Swannell said at the official welcoming ceremony your presence enriches the social and cultural fabric of the university and the Toowoomba community. At the welcoming ceremony, the message of welcome and friendship was most entertainingly and movingly delivered by the student choir from Darling Heights Primary School. It was pleasing to see that a student who enrolled through our study centre in Bretten was the winner of the door prize, a didgeridoo. But as one of his fellow students was overheard to say, "does it come with lessons?"

The contribution that USQ makes to Australia and beyond and the diversity of USQ's student community is not restricted to what happens on campus in Toowoomba. Stories of students who study externally with us are a reminder of the often extraordinary lengths people will go to improve themselves through study and the confidence they have in our flexible delivery expertise. For example, Al Green gets up early each morning to study before donning his body armour to go to work as an Army cameraman in Iraq. In a memorable understatement he confides that it is "difficult to focus on study in such a volatile environment"!

Our connections with elite sportspeople and sporting organisations continue to grow. Dianna Alagich from Adelaide is studying with us in the USA whilst playing women's professional soccer near San Francisco. Dianna is studying general studies and wants to move into international studies in the near future. She decided upon USQ because her Adelaide based athlete career education officer, who also studied with USQ, highly recommended us. The marketing power of word-of-mouth endorsement should not be underestimated.

A little closer to home, and the Business students of USQ Wide Bay have again excelled in the national Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) competition. Last year, the Wide Bay team won the top award and this year they followed up with a commendable second. Congratulations on your success against stiff competition from more than 20 universities.

US grant to help heart function

A US$200,000 grant from the Muscular Dystrophy Association of America will help Faculty of Sciences pharmacologist Dr Andrew Hoey and his team in their quest to extend and improve the lives of boys suffering from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD).

The grant is the result of internationally-renowned research conducted by Dr Hoey and his team over the past five years into finding a treatment for the fatal genetic disorder which affects one in 3500 boys worldwide.

DMD is caused by a mutation in the X chromosome, resulting in an absence of dystrophin, a protein that protects the muscle cell membrane. The lack of dystrophin causes an overload of calcium in cells and eventual cell death. These effects in the cardiac muscle result in DMD sufferers developing cardiac dysfunction, with heart failure a major cause of death. Boys with DMD typically have a progressive loss of muscle function which affects all body muscles. Those most affected include the diaphragm, those involved in walking and maintaining an upright position and the heart.

Dr Hoey said an important paper published earlier this year showed that the development of better respiratory care over the past 30 years had improved the average lifespan of DMD sufferers from 14 years to 24 years, provided that there was no heart failure. If heart failure developed the average life span remains at about 16 years.

"Over the next three years we'll be looking at new treatments to investigate whether it will be possible to prevent heart failure in boys with DMD," said.

He said earlier research from their lab had revealed that mice with DMD showed many of the symptoms of heart dysfunction similar to boys with DMD and, using appropriate treatments it was possible to improve the function of the heart.

"This grant allows us to further this research to test other therapies that will hopefully enable us to significantly improve heart function."

Dr Hoey's team is also collaborating with researchers at the Australian Neuromuscular Research Institute in Perth, who have produced small sequences of nucleic acids that bind to the mutated area of the gene.

"This causes the cell to skip the gene mutation allowing the cell to build the missing dystrophin."

"While still in the experimental stage it holds considerable promise with positive findings from our lab subsequently confirmed in other international labs.

"This grant acknowledges our research internationally, but most importantly it will allow us to do quality research aimed directly at improving the lives of boys with DMD," Dr Hoey said.

Deborah Marshall

HEART HELP: *Dr Andrew Hoey and PhD student Christel Van Erp measure the heart function in the DMD laboratory based at USQ.*

French agent spreads the USQ word

TRAVELLING the world is often just a dream for many, but for one USQ student it's an integral part of life.

For the past six years Christele Durocher has worked as an agent in France recruiting French students for Australian universities and moves between the two countries on a regular basis.

Currently studying an MBA through USQ's Australian Graduate School of Business, Christele says while finding time to study is challenging, the flexibility of the course makes it much easier to focus on her work and study commitments.

"It's a great relief to know that I can sit for my exams anywhere in the world," she said.

A restless spirit, Christele studied at the American Business School in Paris and New York after graduating from high school in Paris, and she completed the final year of her Bachelor of Business degree at USQ, Toowoomba in 1995.

Although she has travelled extensively throughout the world, she says every visit to Australia is like coming home.

"Australians are so outgoing and friendly and I've developed my deepest friendships in Toowoomba," she said.

"I have met people from all over the world here, there are so many different nationalities, so much to learn and share."

Starting her MBA at USQ was the next step of her journey that would see her overcome cancer and set a course for further international travel.

"I was ill for 18 months but now I am well and trying to make the most of every second of every day," Christele said.

"It's like I have ants in my pants and need to see and do as much as I can for the rest of my life."

This includes travelling to Africa's Ivory Coast next month with her partner to undertake humanitarian work building schools and setting up basic irrigation infrastructure.

"I'll be helping build the schools and my partner's expertise in IT engineering will help set up the computer network."

As if this is not enough Christele is also in the process of forming a small Australian-based business in events management with partners in France and the USA.

"I would also like to continue promoting Australian education in France and share my wonderful experience here with other French students and encourage them to study here,"

"My studies at USQ will probably take a back seat for a while but I'm giving myself a deadline of a year and a half," she said.

And with her gutsy determination and spirit there's no doubt she will achieve what she sets out to do.

Deborah Marshall

Making meaning in teaching

EXPLORING how teachers make meaning of the pedagogical framework they have created is the basis of a study conducted by Education lecturer Dr Marian Lewis.

Dr Lewis, who was recently awarded an Early Career Research grant, said the study built on research from her doctoral thesis and two Faculty of Education joint research grants undertaken with Dr Dorothy Andrews.

"The creation of contextualised professional knowledge by teachers engaged in a process of whole school renewal was the focus of my doctoral work.

"The process centred on teachers who developed a school vision and a related agreed set of shared pedagogical principals for their school," Dr Lewis said.

She said the aim of the study – *Teachers Re-imaging their Professional Practice: The implementation of school-based pedagogical frameworks, Two Case Studies* – was to explore how teachers were making meaning of the vision and shared pedagogical principles they had developed and how they implemented that knowledge in the classroom and in their professional interaction.

"Teachers face formidable challenges in a rapidly changing world and schools are being given a central role in creating Australia's future prosperity and stability.

"The significance of the project lies in the insights it provides into a redefinition of teacher professionalism, building on successes, and moving away from hierarchical, bureaucratic mindsets to more holistic, teacher driven approaches," Dr Lewis said.

Deborah Marshall

LANGUAGE LEAP: *Bachelor of Communications student and administration officer at the USQ European Study Centre in Bretten, Germany, Beatrix Kraus is currently on campus for one semester of internal study before returning to Europe. Beatrix joined the Study Centre as an employee in 2001 after completing high school and decided to enrol in a distance education course with USQ. At the end of this semester she will have completed 12 courses. "This experience at USQ will be very helpful in my job and the opportunity to improve my English language skills by attending classes on campus will also be very valuable," she said. There are now 25 German students on campus with a further 190 students from Austria and Germany who study by distance through the European Study Centre in Bretten.*

USQ welcomes international students

MORE than 197 international students began their tertiary studies at USQ last week after an official welcoming ceremony.

Students from Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, China, Korea, Bangladesh, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Finland, Nepal, India, Brunei, Tehran, Mauritius, Fiji and the Phillipines enjoyed a reception with Australian songs by the Darling Heights State School Choir.

Finnish marketing students Elina Kulmala (left) and Heli Rauman said studying at USQ gave them the opportunity to travel overseas together and experience another culture.

"We've been school friends for a long time and now we're university friends in a beautiful country," Elina said.

USQ was the first choice for Mauritius student Jayen Ryneeander because it is the only Australian university to offer a Masters in Agricultural Engineering.

For the past 16 years, Jayen has worked as a sugar-cane researcher in the Mauritius Research Institute.

"Toowoomba is very picturesque and I would love to share this city with my wife and daughter when they visit later in the year," he said.

Bachelor of Information Technology student Jasmine Lok from Malaysia swapped external study for an on-campus experience.

"I was studying externally with USQ but wanted to meet people from different cultures so here I am," she said.

USQ International Office Student Liaison Manager Gary Logan said the mid-year intake saw an increase in students from Germany and Bangladesh.

"The new international students are a wonderful group of people who are eager to begin their studies at USQ," Mr Logan said.

"Their transition to the university environment will be greatly helped by 57 international student mentors who have already been studying at USQ."

More than 1500 international students are enrolled at USQ in Semester 2 including 1192 offshore and a further 140 studying by distance elsewhere in Australia.

Heather Smith

Wide Bay students win national awards

USQ Wide Bay students have once again proven their astute business acumen by winning second prize in their league at the national Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) awards in Melbourne recently.

This is the second time a Wide Bay team has won a prize in the annual awards which saw last year's team take out the top award. More than 20 universities including participants from Bond, Macquarie, UQ, James Cook and Griffith universities took part amid fierce competition over two days.

SIFE Australia is part of the SIFE global organisation of countries participating in the development of students and their communities in a process which facilitates strategic links between them and the public and private sectors.

Multi-Media student Daniel Osburn, team leader and Business student Joanna Buchholz (who were also in last year's winning team), and Commerce/Education students Andrea Keys and Chelsea Donaldson said working towards common goals with positive community and student groups helped them achieve success.

WINNING SMILES: *SIFE Team Mentor and Business Lecturer Penny Richards, Roger Corbett AM, CEO and Group Managing Director Woolworths, Team Leader Johanna Buchholz, Daniel Osburn, Andrea Keys and Chelsea Donaldson enjoy the SIFE awards ceremony in Melbourne recently.*

"Though our campus is small, it came together with the community to work as a whole," Ms Buchholz said.

The team won an award for Best Assistance to an unspecified Enterprise Education Program which was run in conjunction with Urangan State High School and Wide Bay Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Susan Bambrick received the Woolworths award for the Most Supportive Administrator.

Other projects the team included in their two-day presentation to judges included the writing of a basic accountancy book – *The Book of Dogs and Cats* – which explains debits and credits by tagging them as dogs and cats, helping the administration section of Glendyne Farm, a Wide Bay school for disadvantaged students, and selling pizzas on campus.

Ms Buchholz said while the competition was tough, their belief and commitment in their projects gave the students a winning edge.

"The students gain a great deal of experience in team work, public speaking and project management, and interaction with community groups and business mentors is invaluable in lifting the profile of the university within the Fraser Coast community.

"We would like to thank the Faculty of Business and the Dean Professor David Harvey for financial support of the program," Ms Buchholz said.

Deborah Marshall

What's On

2 August

PETER RORKE RECITAL: Internationally renowned Australian classical guitarist, Karin Schaupp presents an exciting and innovative program. USQ Arts Theatre 7.30pm. $18 Adult/$14 Concession/$3 Child.

5 August

PROFESSORIAL LECTURE: Department of Psychology Professor Gerry Fogarty will present *Reducing Errors in High Risk Industries: A Psychological Perspective* in the Steele Rudd College Dining Hall, Baker Street, Toowoomba at 7.30pm. For further information contact Annette Moore 4631 2451 or moore@usq.edu.au

8 August

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT COLLOQUIA SERIES: *Ten Things I Hate About Psychological Assessment*, Dr Graeme Senior, W414, 1.30pm-2.30pm. For more information contact Dr Nola Passmore on X 1683.

12 August

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SEMINAR: IP Australia, the Commonwealth Government agency responsible for patents trademarks and designs is about to launch its fourth annual series of free seminars targeting researchers and the tertiary education sector. The seminar will include presentations by IP specialists such as patent attorneys and IP lawyers. 9am, Council Chambers. RSVP Sue Dunlop at dunlop@usq.edu.au

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 and Gold Coast band New School Hero.

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.

AUSTRALIAN NAVY CADETS

Meetings are held on Wednesday nights from 6.30pm-8.30pm at the Toowoomba RSL. Activities include sailing, camps, seamenship skills and much more. For more information contact Warren Gardner on 4635 5983.

Uni Trader

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HOLDEN BARINA: 1995 Swing model, 4 door, 5 speed manual. 73,000kms, p/s, a/c, excellent condition, RWC, $7000 ono. Ph: X 1436 or 0402 846 737 a/h.

MAZDA Astina 323, 1999, red, 5 speed manual, 5 door hatchback, a/c, p/s, 6 stack CD, reg 12/03, 27,000kms, locally sold and serviced (logbook), excellent condition $16,500 ono. Ph: 0421 971 582 or 46346960 a/h.

MAZDA 323: Ideal first car, 1985, RWC, safety certificate, 4 door, 5 speed, a/c, central locking, CD player, vgc, $2500 ono. Ph: 0409 637 127.

MAZDA: B1800 Utility, 1979, 2-month reg, $1100 ono. Ph: 4636 1097.

TOYOTA: 4 Runner, 1984, white 2-door sports SR5, 2 litre, 260,000kms (reconditioned at 196,000km), 5 speed, p/s, bull bar, towbar, aluminum side steps, dsb CB radio, altimeter, tiltmeters, internal rollbar, tinted windows, reg 11/03, safety certificate, gc, $6400. Ph: 3350 2183.

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HOUSE: Modern 4 bedroom, on a large block, Central Highfields $245,000. Ph: 0419 797 165.

WANTED

FEMALE to rent room with working mother and daughter, close to uni, large room, dog ok, rural setting, $85 per week includes gas and electricity. Ph: X 2867 or 4637 2498 a/h.

GARDEN TOOLS: For a young new home owner. Ph: X 1376 or 46364524 a/h.

HIKING PACK: 65-75 litre capacity, hybrid style, in good condition. Ph: X 1628.

Newsmakers

ODETTE BEST: Department of Nursing lecturer was quoted in *The Chronicle* about indigenous health research and her aim to incorporate indigenous health training into the tertiary nursing program. The article was published in conjunction with national NAIDOC Week.

DAVID BULL: Office of Preparatory and Academic Support (OPACS) coordinator was interviewed by WIN TV about providing education programs for prisoners.

MARTIN CROOK: Ergon Energy Big Band Director, was quoted in *Entertainment Weekly* about the band's upcoming performances on July 26 and 27.

ROB FRY: McGregor Schools Operation Manager was interviewed by WIN TV, *Queensland Country Life*, ABC Radio and *The Chronicle* about the 16th annual McGregor Winter School held from 7-12 July.

PROFESSOR DESLEY HEGNEY: Centre for Rural and Remote Area Health (CRRAH) Director, was quoted in *The Chronicle* and interviewed on ABC Radio Southern Queensland about identifying and meeting rural communities' diverse health needs.

DR CHRIS LEE: Faculty of Arts was interviewed in Bundaberg by Chris Whittle ABC Radio Wide Bay about aviation tourism and the possibility of literature staff using light aircraft to fly between the Hervey Bay and Toowoomba campuses.

GARY LOGAN: International Support Manager was interviewed in *The Chronicle* about the Semester 2 intake of international students.

PROFESSOR PETER TERRY: Department of Psychology featured on ABC Radio National's The Sports Factor to discuss psychological aspects of retirement from elite sport, in the wake of Cathy Freeman's announcement that her athletic career has finished.

Gradebook update

MORE than 19,000 individual student and 1000 class results were processed and released on the Web on 18 July without a glitch thanks to USQ's customised version of Peoplesoft's Gradebook electronic results management system.

USQ Student System Functional Support manager Graeme Wegner said early frustrations with Web Gradebook performance had largely been overcome and the time needed to save data had been significantly reduced since its initial release in June last year.

"USQ was the first university in Australia to implement Gradebook but it has been customised to to add additional features, and to comply with USQ business processes," Mr Wegner said.

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McKilligan flies the USQ coop

THIRTY-five years of quiet achievement was celebrated when USQ staff and friends officially farewelled avid birdwatcher and environmental advocate Dr Neil McKilligan at a special ceremony recently.

Originally from Scotland, the USQ Senior Lecturer in Biology moved to Toowoomba in 1968 from Sydney where he was the Biology Master at Kingsgrove High School.

He joined the closely-knit group of lecturers in the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences at the former DDIAE and described his time in Toowoomba as anything but boring.

"Some may say that 35 years in one place is a long time but it was important for us to put down roots and Toowoomba has been a lovely place to raise a family and make many close friends," he said.

A keen love of bird life and the environment underpinned his active involvement in the development of the Toowoomba Waterbird Habitat, which is the city's most substantial and enduring Bicentennial Project.

Many local and visiting bushwalkers have also benefited from his book, *Bushwalks in the Toowoomba Region*, which has been published in three editions and heralded the regional bible on bushwalks.

Specialising in genetics, ecology, invertebrate zoology and vertebrate zoology, Dr McKilligan was renowned throughout the university as a supportive teacher who set high standards and challenged students to realise their potential.

"I've never found teaching the same subject over and over to be a chore because I just love to talk about biology," he said.

"Each year was a new challenge with fresh students who were eager to learn."

Dr McKilligan said retirement was just the beginning of a time when he could pursue his environmental interests at leisure and enjoy his growing band of grandchildren.

Heather Smith

BIOLOGY STALWART: *Senior Lecturer in Biology Dr Neil McKilligan celebrates 35 years of teaching and research at USQ with his wife Helen and university staff and friends at a special retirement function recently.*

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Good versus evil in Szechwan fable

THE USQ's Performance Centre's upcoming theatre production *The Good Woman of Szechwan* is a contemporary perspective of the ageless conundrum between goodness and ruthlessness.

Written in the 1930s by German playwright Bertolt Brecht, the fabled play depicts a destitute woman's struggle to balance an innate kindness with the power and hardness often necessary in a competitive world.

Performed by USQ's second-year acting students and directed by Scott Alderdice, *The Good Woman of Szechwan* combines an exciting mix of mask, narration, clown, vaudeville, song, dance and decadent costumes.

Shen Te (Lia Corder) is approached by three gods (Jessica Gurashi, Emma Pearson and Raynold Chong Nee) who are on a mission to find one good person in the world.

As the only person to offer the gods' accommodation, Shen Te is considered the 'good person' and is left with a gift of silver coins and an appeal to live her life as a decent person.

Her sudden wealth attracts a following of malingerers and her love-life goes horribly wrong.

Shen Te's goodness and kindness is exploited until her cousin, Shui Ta takes control of the situation and replaces her vulnerability with strength.

But Shen Te's newfound power threatens to replace her kind-heartedness and so the struggle begins between taking control and preserving her humanity.

Mr Alderdice said the play, noted to be one of Brecht's most famous fable pieces, was as applicable and relevant to young women today as it was to women in the early 20th Century.

"It's astounding how often Lia [Shen Te] has turned around and said 'this is my story' because many of the issues and questions which arise throughout the play are pertinent to people of today's generation," he said.

"The performance is a production of a classic for a contemporary time."

The Good Woman of Szechwan runs from 18-23 August 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

THE GODS: *Second-year USQ acting students* ***Emma Pearson*** *(Fire God),* ***Jessica Gurashi*** *(Water God) and* ***Raynold Chong Nee*** *(Air God) are the three gods who visit the fabled city of Szechwan in search of the only good person in the world in the USQ Performance Centre's upcoming theatre production* ***The Good Woman of Szechwan****.*

Peter Rorke Recital
Internationally renowned Australian classical guitarist, **Karin Schaupp** presents an exciting and innovative program combining traditional Spanish and Hungarian flare with some more contemporary elements
Saturday 2 August
7.30pm
USQ Arts Theatre

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

EXHIBITION
Cross Currents
A collaborative exhibition by 25 Japanese artists, 4 Buddhist priests of Soto Sect, and 25 artists from northern Queensland
23 July - 23 August
USQ Arts Theatre
9am-5pm Mon-Fri

USQ PERFORMANCE
BOX OFFICE 07 4631 1111 • Email: foxm@usq.edu.au • http://www.usq.edu.au/performancecentre