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USQ NEWS

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SimStat aids Army with new pilot software

USQ'S Systems Simulation and Statistical Research and Consulting Centre (SimStat) has moved from modelling bus-ways to modelling air-ways with the recent delivery of its Army Aviation Pilot Modeling and Simulation System (AAPMSS) to the Acting Commander, Headquarters 16th Brigade (Aviation), Gallipoli Barracks, Colonel Philip Smith.

SimStat coordinator Mike McFarlane from the Department of Mathematics and Computing said the project revolutionised the support available for planning managers concerned with pilot training and recruitment in army aviation.

He said the Pilot Modelling system would be used to assist army aviation in the decision making and planning processes.

"The impacts of decisions taken today may not be discovered for a few years and by then it could be too late to correct undesirable trends efficiently or economically," Mr McFarlane said.

"Estimating and managing the current and future pilot manning requirements of the Australian Army is a complex task. It is a task that deals with a dynamic system with changing priorities, new equipment requirements, variations in recruitment rates, policies, separation rates, promotion policies, training needs and a host of other variables.

Mr McFarlane said the system had been designed using state-of-the-art simulation technology to assist planners and managers examine the implications of manning strategies which would provide sufficient numbers of well trained pilots in army aviation and to predict future requirements. The AAPMSS also permitted strategic planners to conduct numerous 'what if' scenarios that would assist in appropriate policy development at local, regional, and national levels.

Lt Colonel Jon Martlew said AAPMSS would initially be used by Army's Aviation Capability Development Group at Oakey to test scenarios related to the introduction of the new Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter (pictured), which comes into service with the Australian Army in December 2004.

"Introduction of the new Tiger aircraft is a complex task in terms of pilot management as it affects the training and employment of many current and future pilots. It will be five to six years before the Tiger squadrons are fully operational so many of the pilots that will be flying the helicopter then are still teenagers at school now," Lt Colonel Martlew said.

"Modelling for the entire process of pilot development, from basic flight training after recruitment right through to experienced aircraft battle captains, will help to better manage the development of aircrews for the Tiger helicopter."

Gus Snow-McLean

SimStat Statistics

- Three times finalist in the Asia Pacific IT & T Awards.
- Expert witness in the Anaconda vs Flour, Murrin Murrin Nickle Processing litigation. This work explored approximately 650 scenarios.
- Brisbane Bus-way Operations: A large systems model that integrated the physical, demographic, likely usage, and operational issues of the bus-way.
- Healthcare: Numerous projects relating to emergency care, day rehabilitation operations, bed management, and food catering operations within hospital and regional contexts.
- Rural Industries: Modelling for sugar drying, cotton ginning, grain harvesting.

SUPER SIMULATION: *USQ Program Modeller Phil Shelton demonstates SimStat's Army Aviation Pilot Modeling and Simulation System to Colonel Phillip Smith while Lt Colonel Jon Martlew, Simstat co-ordinator Mike McFarlane and Dean of Sciences, Professor Bill MacGillivray, look on at the recent handover to Army Aviation of the software developed at USQ.*

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SOLO WINNER: *While childhood dreams of playing the saxophone were shattered when her school didn't have enough instruments, Anne-Maree Anderson soon found a love of playing the bassoon and just five years later won the prestigious Joyce Campbell Lloyd Scholarship at USQ. With her winnings, the final-year Bachelor of Music student plans to travel to Indiana, America to study with renowned bassoonist Kim Walker after she completes her Masters degree. "I really enjoyed studying at USQ and it was the best thing I could have done," she said. "My teachers were all very supportive and I've had a wonderful experience." The annual scholarship was established as a result of a generous donation by Toowoomba resident and music lover Mrs Joyce Lloyd in honour of her late father Norman Campbell.*

HOLE IN ONE: *Fourth-year Bachelor of Surveying student Daniel Baker with the map he created of Toowoomba City Golf course as part of his final-year project. The map, to be placed on the golf club's website, will enable golfers to more accurately judge the distance from the ball to the hole. Using aerial photos of the course and differential GPS to obtain extra golf course features, the information was combined into one plan. "For a golf course map to be of any real help it needs to be able to be used during play so the golfer can use it to assess shot selection," Daniel said. "With this simple map showing hole distance and reference marks to help accurately define distance, this is easily achieved.*

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR: *Vice-Chancellor Professor Bill Lovegrove and Bachelor of Sciences (Information Technology) student Edgar Mzumara had the pleasure of taking His Excellency Mr Anthony Le Clerk Kgwadu Mongalo, High Commissioner of South Africa in Australia (right) and Mrs Lillian Mongalo on a tour of the campus. While on campus, His Excellency discussed USQ's agency arrangements in Johannesburg with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) Professor Malcolm McKay and Dr Brian Cook and was briefed on the university's distance education capability by Deputy-Vice Chancellor (Global Learning Services) Professor Jim Taylor. Mr Mongalo also saw a demonstration of USQ's Fibre Composites research presented by Professor Gerard Van Erp.*

GARDEN PARTY: *A recent welcome celebration for Vice-Chancellor Professor Bill Lovegrove in USQ's lush Palm Court was attended by more than 250 guests from the regional business and professional communities. Professor Lovegrove was introduced to the guests in a welcome speech by Chancellor Don Stevens (pictured). It was the Vice-Chancellor's first official meeting with members of the community.*

TALENTED TRIO: *Three talented young Toowoomba students have won Performing Arts Bursaries to attend the 2004 McGregor Summer School from the Empire Theatres Foundation. Concordia College Year 11 student Philip Prendergast, who will undertake the Music Theatre class run by Guiseppe Sorbello from Brisbane, already has an impressive list of school acting credits including the lead role in* ***The Boyfriend*** *(2003) and as Cupid in 2002's* ***Rome Sweet Rome****. "This class will enable me to develop my skills in the study of musical theatre," he said. For Sean Cleary of Downlands College, the opportunity to indulge his love of acting and singing was too good to pass up. "It's hard to decide which I love best so the music theatre class will give me the best of both worlds." Year 12 Pittsworth State High School student Kellie Holmes will participate in an instrumental class under the tuition of John Zappia from Melbourne. This will be her second time at the school playing the saxophone. At the recent awards ceremony are from left McGregor Schools operations manager Rob Fry with Philip, Sean and Kelly.*

VICE CHANCELLOR

Bill Lovegrove

USQ AUSTRALIA

WHILE I have only been at USQ a short time, I have been able to get around to most faculties and departments and I have been amazed at what has been achieved at USQ this year. As this is the last USQ News for 2003, I thought it a good opportunity to reflect on some of the great work undertaken by individuals and teams from across both the Toowoomba and Wide Bay campuses. While it is difficult to single out individuals, these were some of the achievements that caught my attention.

Early in the year Professor TK Mukkur and a team from the Faculty of Sciences announced a breakthrough in his research into a new, non-invasive intranasal vaccine against whooping cough. Dr Armando Apan from the Faculty of Engineering and Surveying and his Masters student, Owen Chandler, used remote sensing and GIS to assess hail damage in crops, a technique that will save the nation's farmers millions of dollars.

The Minister for Innovation and Information Economy Paul Lucas presented a cheque to the university to begin the construction of the $7.5 million Centre for Excellence in Engineered Fibre Composites on campus. The Fibre Composites Design and Development group also secured a contract to assist in the design and construction of an integral part of the Brisbane Riverwalk at New Farm which will allow 20,000 Brisbane residents per day to use one of the most spectacular reaches of the river to commute or for recreation.

Possibly one of the most exciting events was the discovery of a new Jupiter-like planet which orbits the star HD70642 in the southern constellation of Puppis. Dr Brad Carter who is the lead author with the Australian/UK/US team that discovered the planet said that this was the closest cousin to our solar system yet discovered.

USQ also reaffirmed its place in the region as the leading exporter after again winning the Services and Education category at the Southern Queensland Exporting to the World Awards, and solidified a community partnership with the Queensland Theatre Company and the Empire Theatre. The university has also reaffirmed its commitment to and partnership with the wider community of Toowoomba in ways too numerous to mention.

As well as our great research and all of the wonderful performances and exhibitions, we have continued to grow both our international and on campus student numbers and above all continued to provide excellence in teaching. USQ graduated more than 2250 students in 2003 and this must be regarded as one of the university's core achievements.

I thank both the academic and general staff for their dedication and hard work in 2003 and wish you all a safe and Happy Christmas and a healthy and successful 2004.

Studying German language in Goettingen

THREE USQ students will undertake German language courses at the Goethe-Institut (GI) in Germany in December and January.

Liz Wiedmann and Nell Jones have been awarded full scholarships to study with the GI in Goettingen and Freiburg, while Ritamay Roberts has been awarded a special half scholarship funded by the Foerderverein or "Association of Friends of the Goethe-Institut, Goettingen".

The GI has 125 branches in 76 countries around the world including Sydney and Melbourne, and offers in-country German language and culture courses to foreign students and teachers of German. The USQ students will study five hours per day over eight weeks and awarded internationally-recognised certificates from the GI at the completion of their courses.

Senior Lecturer in German Rod Wilson said USQ students had participated in the scholarship program for many years.

"The majority have studied at the institute in Goettingen and a special relationship has developed between the Goettingen institute and USQ, leading to the award of the half-scholarship.

"The full scholarships are available only for students preparing to become teachers, and are applied for via the GI Sydney and Melbourne. This is the first time a special half scholarship has been offered direct from the GI, Goettingen," Mr Wilson said.

"We hope this will be a continuing award."

As a speech pathologist, Ritamay comes into contact with many children who have speech, language and or learning difficulties. Through learning a new language she says she has acquired an increased appreciation of her clients' struggles to learn skills that most of us take for granted.

"I want to use the language as the gateway to the culture," she said.

For Liz, who completed a Bachelor of Arts in Contemporary Music before enrolling in Education at USQ, the trip to Germany will also provide an opportunity to meet some of her father's relatives.

"My Dad is from Germany so I've always had a natural affinity with the country and I'm looking forward to immersing myself in the culture as well as improving my speaking skills," she said.

The three students will return to Australia at the end of January.

For more information on German language programs at USQ contact Rod Wilson on 4631 1075.

Deborah Marshall

GERMAN TALK: *German language scholarship recipients Liz Wiedmann (front left) and Ritamay Roberts (seated right) get together with their teachers Rod Wilson and Gabriela Pohl Absent: Nell Jones.*

Young talent wins peace scholarship

AN inherent talent for composing has led to Toowoomba schoolgirl Esther Armstrong winning the 2004 Junior Academy of Music Bahai Peace Scholarship.

Prior to starting Dalcroze classes with the JAM (based at USQ) at the start of this year, the Year 11 Glennie School student had no formal training in playing or composing (for the piano).

"I'm thrilled and honoured to win this prize and it will help me continue with my classes next year," Esther said.

JAM Director Paula Melville-Clarke said Esther had a natural flair for putting words to music.

"Dalcroze classes encourage students to use improvisation and their creativity in a non-linear environment," Ms Melville Clarke said.

"As well as teaching her the structure and theory of music, it's wonderful to be able to direct the talent inside her."

She said Esther was awarded the $900 scholarship for her composition *A Song for Peace* which encourages people to embrace peace and resolve conflicts in a non-violent way.

Bored by a lengthy hospital stay with a childhood illness, Esther's interest in the piano was ignited when a teacher gave her a keyboard to while away the hours. She never looked back and continued to teach herself until beginning classes with the JAM.

An accomplished performer, Esther was a semi-finalist in the 2001 national MusicOz awards for composition with her 3-track CD *Tears* inspired by the events of September 11, and she has received a Regional Arts Development Fund award of $1000 to attend the 10-day Dalcroze Queensland Summer School in Brisbane in January.

Esther hopes to enrol in a USQ Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance when she finishes high school.

Deborah Marshall

PEACE AT PIANO: *Bezhad Faramand, from the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai's of Toowoomba presents JAM student Esther Armstrong with the 2004 Bahai Peace Scholarship. The annual scholarship is awarded to a student who shows exceptional talent and commitment to composition by submitting an original work.*

No stress success

USQ lecturer Dr Yong Wah Goh knows what it is like to grow up in a society spurred by an overwhelming pressure to succeed.

"I've been stressed ever since kindergarten," he said.

Dr Yong Wah Goh was born in Singapore, where in some kindergartens, children sit exams to proceed to the next school level.

His childhood experiences have led to an adulthood fascination of stress research after completing his Honours, Masters and PhD degrees in Australia.

"When I first came to Australia I was amazed by the difference in approach to scholastic achievement," Dr Goh said.

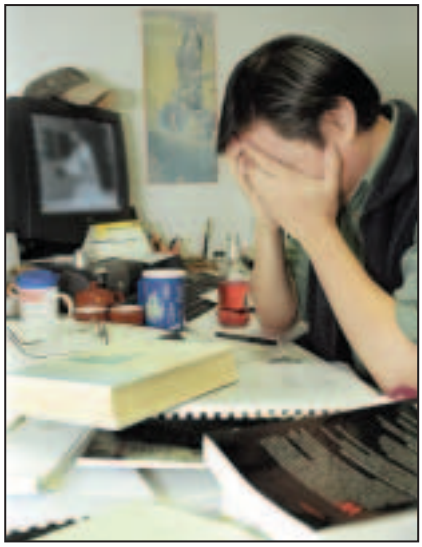
"In some Asian countries, scholastic success is the key element in students' lives as there is very severe competition for acceptance into schools and universities.

"My undergraduate degree at the National University of Singapore was a pressure cooker so I was pleasantly surprised when I began study in Australia."

Dr Goh's recent research has focused on expanding existing stress theories created by leading researchers Lazarus and Folkman.

The revised transactional theory of stress and coping looks at the bigger picture of the origin of stress and subsequent coping mechanisms.

"In the past stress research has always been limited which does not focus sufficiently on the whole system or process and how stress fits in to the bigger picture," he said.



"Past research is akin to walking into a butcher shop and buying different meat cuts, assembling them and then expecting to gain a complete knowledge of a cow.

"You need to look at the stress process as a whole and not bits and pieces which may have some related causes and affects."

After studying stress in Singapore, Sri Lanka and Australia, he discovered that although the overall stress appraisal, control and coping process was similar there were subtle variances unique to each culture.

Although he found Australians tended to became more anxious as their sense of control diminished, people in Sri Lankan culture did not seem to display similar reactions.

These variations will be the basis for Dr Goh's future research as he tries to understand what triggers and controls stress throughout different nationalities.

To take part in Dr Goh's research survey visit **http://scienceweb.sci.usq.edu.au/PESUD/**

Heather Smith

Web design with health in mind

USQ Masters of Computer Science student Aqeel Muhammad (left) has used his burgeoning skills in web design and development to design a website for a new local palliative care facility.

The Toowoomba Hospice, which opened in June this year, is a not-for-profit private healthcare facility which provides care for terminally ill patients and their families.

When a call went out in the local media for someone to design its website, Aqeel from Pakistan, jumped at the opportunity.

"I designed many websites in my own country while working for a large company as a developer, so undertaking this project has enabled me to use my skills in this area," Aqeel said.

"I've tried to keep the look clean and simple, with all the links on the left side of the screen to aid easy navigation."

With an undergraduate and Masters Degree from Pakistan, Aqeel decided to further his education in computer science in Australia, starting his Masters at USQ in February this year.

"I will try to find work in Australia once I complete my study, as I really enjoy the friendly relaxed culture and lifestyle here," Aqeel said.

"But if I have to return to Pakistan an overseas degree is regarded very highly and will improve my employment prospects greatly."

Aqeel completed the Toowoomba Hospice website this month and it can be found at **http://www.tmbahospice.auzy.net**

Deborah Marshall

Science initiative stimulates young minds

MORE than 500 Toowoomba high school students will experience hands-on science education activities as the result of a collaborative project between the USQ Faculty of Sciences and St Saviour's College.

Member for Toowoomba North Kerry Shine recently launched *A Scientific Mind - Creating Connections* which brings together university specialists and secondary institutions with the aim of enhancing student's understanding and appreciation of science.

The project, to begin in 2004, involves St Saviour's College students from Years 8 to 12 in science activities related to physics, chemistry, biology and information technology.

Dean of Sciences, Professor Bill McGillivray, said USQ lecturers would facilitate classes on topics including crime scene investigation, Einstein theories, water purification, space and computer technology.

"The main aim of the program is to introduce students to the exciting world of science and technology beyond the school curriculum," he said.

"There is a national concern with the falling enrolments in some areas of science and mathematics. If we want to compete as a knowledge economy then we need a scientifically skilled workforce and a high level of science literacy in the community.

"We hope the program will act as an appetiser and hopefully stimulate interest and enthusiasm for science-related topics."

The pilot program, if successful and sufficient resources are available, may be expanded to incorporate other Toowoomba secondary schools.

"The Faculty of Sciences takes seriously its role as a community resource for science, mathematics and technology and will continue to provide those services where it can within its resource base."

CHEMICAL SHOWDOWN: *USQ lecturer Dr Tanya van den Ancker treats Year 11 St Saviour's students Kate Landsey and Lisa Oldham to a chemical show at the recent launch of* ***A Scientific Mind - Creating Connections****.*

The first sessions will begin in Term One next year with more than 10 Faculty of Sciences staff involved.

Heather Smith

ARC helps put the fun back into science

"SCIENCE helps us to look at our world. Too often we (teachers) try to make it seem like a foreign language and then we wonder why students get the mental mindset that science is too hard."

These views held by USQ Associate Professor Bruce Waldrip and his colleagues, coupled with their interests in science and mathematics literacies in primary and secondary schools, have won them two Australian Research Council grants worth more than $300,000 in the past two years.

"The first ARC grant, won last year with Professor Darrell Fisher of Curtin University and Dr Jeff Dorman of the Australian Catholic University, allows us to examine the associations between teacher-student interactions and primary students' perceptions of cultural factors of learning environments with students' attitudes towards science and their understanding of science concepts," Dr Waldrip said.

"We are hoping that by 2005 we will have a systematic understanding of what is happening in primary school science and this will lead to a direction for teachers to implement desirable changes in their teaching.

"The second grant won this year for research to be undertaken between 2004 and 2006 will hopefully provide us with a means of improving the assessment of science at middle school level, approximately years five to nine. Essentially this is the changeover period between generalist science teaching in primary school to more specialist science teaching in high school."

Dr Waldrip said as students progressed to high school they seemed to lose the sense of connection between the sciences and other subjects. He said his team's research was particularly student focused.

"We want to know the students' perceptions of their assessment. Was what they were asked reflecting what they were taught. Up to this point we have a body of research which deals with assessment from a teacher perspective but there is almost nothing that deals with this from a student perspective."

He said assessment was often too limiting in terms of indicating what the student had actually learned. He said it was not possible to judge actual performance from the results of a multi-choice question exam.

"If we look science teaching in schools and apply literacy techniques where students learn how the science relates to them in their individual lives, where perhaps atoms and neutrons are described as players on a rugby field, then you get real performance from the student because they really understand the concepts," Dr Waldrip said.

Gus Snow-McLean

Other USQ ARC grant recipients

- Associate Professor D Hoang, **Dr H Zhou (Faculty of Engineering and Surveying)**, Discovery Project, *Providing End-to-End Quality of Service to Internet Applications*;
- Dr P Lant, **Dr E Yoong (Faculty of Engineering and Surveying)**, Linkage Project, *Determination of the fate of dissolved organic nitrogen in biological nutrient removal (BNR) processes and development of appropriate treatment technologies*;
- Associate Professor E Goldys, Professor D Veal, Associate Professor H Nevalainen, Associate Profssor G Cox, Professor C Dos Remedios, Professor S Kjelleberg, Professor H Coster, Professor S Dou, Associate Professor D Martin, **Associate Professor R Learmonth (Faculty of Sciences)**, Professor L Ashman, Dr P Lewis, *Linkage Infrastructure Equipment & Facilities, Multifunctional confocal laser scanning microscope with time resolved and two photon imaging and fluorescence correlation capabilities*;
- Dr P Sah, Professor P Bartlett, Professor D Vaney, Professor D Adams, **Associate Professor R Learmonth (Faculty of Sciences)**, *Linkage Infrastructure Equipment & Facilities, The Centre for Advanced Light Microscopy: Equipment for in-vivo multiphoton microscopy and high throughput confocal microscopy and*;
- Dr J Robertson, Professor P Sackett, Professor J Storey, Associate Professor R Webster, Professor R Ekers, Professor M Bailes, **Dr B Carter (Faculty of Sciences)**, Dr J Lattanzio - *Linkage Infrastructure Equipment & Facilities, Australian Membership of the International Gemini Partnership.*

What's On

Until 31 January

GRADUART: After three years of studies, final year students of USQ's Visual Arts Department, present their best work in an annual exhibition featuring works from all studios. Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery. 10am-4pm Tuesday-Saturday, 1-4pm Sunday.

5,6,12 and 13 December

THEATRE RESTAURANT: Theatre's most outrageous season of the year, a hilarious show, tasty fare and cheeky character waiters. Ideal for Christmas and end-of-year parties. USQ Club, 7pm $40/$35 groups. Ph: 4631 1111 for bookings.

5-16 January

McGREGOR SUMMER SCHOOL: Australia's premier arts retreat offering classes for all orchestral instruments, music theatre and junior theatre, a complete range of classes for painters in all media, printmaking, book illustration, cartooning, sculpture, ceramics, glass bead making, hand embroidery, textiles, wood-carving, calligraphy, jewellery, furniture making, photography and creative writing. For more information ph: 4631 2755, email: **mcgregor@usq.edu.au** or visit the website at **www.usq.edu.au/mcgregor**

18-23 January

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

Uni Trader

ANTIQUE ENGLISH: Mahogany sprung beds (2 singles) with good mattresses. Reluctant sale due to house move, $1500 pair. Will sell separately. Ph: X 1110.

AMP: 200 Autobank 2 channels, (200W X 2), 15 inch Earthquake Subwoofer and sealed and carpeted box. $200. Ph: X 2036 or 4638 7147.

BANJO: Five string, excellent condition, $270. Ph: X 2095.

CHINA CABINETS: Antique cabinet with leadlight doors, 91cm H x 89cm L x 48cm W, $150 ono, Old veneer cabinet with half sliding glass doors and half wood doors and drawers, 80cm H x 179cm L x 40cm W, $50 ono. Ph: X 1570 or 4636 3015.

CURTAIN TRACKS: Hand-drawn, adjustable in length, six available various sizes. Price negotiable, Corner Lounge Suite (3 pieces), woven grey fabric, comfortable 5 seater, as new condition $500. Ph: X 1266.

DRUM: Very good condition, $345. Ph: 4635 3593 a/h or 0402 104 877.

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT: Tunturi Rowing Machine, excellent condition, $80. AP Sports 200 exercise bike, excellent condition, $50. Ph: X 1570 or 4636 3015.

HOLDEN COMMODORE: VP, 92, RWC, dual fuel, green, a/c, reg to March 2004, radio/tape player, auto, towbar, gc, $4400 ono. Ph: 0413 414 893.

HOLDEN: 1971 HQ Ute, excellent value and looks great, 1 tonne, V8, mags, polished wooden tray, manual, immaculate interior, CD player, RPM tacho, registered, good condition, 250,000kms, $6000. Ph: 0407 962 321.

HYUNDAI EXCEL: Sprint, 1994, reg to Jan 2004, CD player, a/c, green, manual, 126,000kms, always serviced, $5400. Ph: 0409 900 490.

MAZDA 121: Nov 1991 white, 4 door Sedan, 5 speed Manual, 195,000kms, p/s, reg to 01/04, reliable, very economical. $4500. Ph: 4636 0174.

MISC: Play Station 1 (including 3 memory cards, 2 controls and 3 games) $150, Convair Air Cooler $100, Fans $10ea, Pedestal fan $15, Single bed (inc mattress) $100, Electric frying pans and deep fryer $10ea, Fish tank (including filter, stones etc) $30. Ph: 0419 776 575 a/h.

RIDE-ON MOWER: Craftsman (by Electrolux), 38" cut, 2 bar blades, automatic, 12hp IC Briggs and Stratton, wide tyres, 7yrs excellent condition. $1500. Ph: X 1666 or 4630 0711 a/h.

SOFA: Three-seater sofa bed, new condition, stylish floral cover. Three fold action, foam mattress, solid timber frame. New price $1400 new, sell $700; Solid teak TV cabinet two door, suit 62cm TV, shelf for video/DVD $999 new, sell $600. Ph: X 1843 or 0402 904 603.

TOYOTA COROLLA: SLX 1.6L hatch-back, auto, a/c, 1987 blue model, $3300. Ph: 4635 8684.

TOYOTA SECA HATCH: 1985, p/s, a/c, r/cassette; cloth seats; r/worthy, new tyres, reg til 06/04, 240,000km but motor reconditioned 18mnths ago, vgc, tidy car with new paintjob, asking $2800, mechanically sound. Ph: 4696 2525 or 0427 732 432.

WINE CASK COOLER: Made by Decor, ideal for parties, never used, $10. Ph: X 2095.

SHARE ACCOMMODATION

TOWNHOUSE: Someone to share 2 bedroom townhouse at Mt Gravatt. Ph: 4630 7575 after 6pm weekdays.

ROOM available in large centrally-located house in Newtown. Non-smoker preferred. $65 per week plus expenses. Ph: X 1036 or 4613 0909.

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Newsmakers

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC) PROFESSOR SUSAN BAMBRICK: Was quoted in the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* about the importance of Maryborough and Hervey Bay working together to benefit from the "tide of economic prosperity" moving up the coast.

DR LORELLE BURTON: Faculty of Sciences, was quoted in *The Chronicle* about misconceptions in the psychology industry.

PROFESSOR FRANK CROWTHER: Faculty of Education, was quoted in *The Courier Mail* advocating changes to senior schooling to dissuade high school leavers from going overboard at schoolies festivals.

CHRIS KOSSEN: Faculty of Arts, was quoted in *The Courier Mail*, *The Chronicle*, *The Daily Examiner*, *The News Mail*, *The Daily News*, *The Daily Mercury* and *The Morning Bulletin* and interviewed on Sydney's 2SM on the marginalisation of older workers.

DR BRIAN MUSGROVE: Faculty of Arts, was quoted in *The Chronicle* about bohemianism in Australia during the 1920s. He discussed the work of Australia's first modern poet, Kenneth Slassor.

DRS JEFF SABBURG AND ALFIO PARISI: Faculty of Sciences, featured in the scientific journal *The Physicist*. The article focussed on their work with sky imaging and UV monitoring equipment as part of an ongoing environmental monitoring program.

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Music awards

THE recent Faculty of Arts Music Department Awards Night had an Arias feel about it with some terrific performances by students prior to the presentation of the awards building the tension and atmosphere in the Arts Theatre.

Dean of Arts, Professor Maurice French (right), Associate Professor Laurie Lepherd and Director of Residential Colleges Brian Hansson presented the students with their awards. Recipients were: Front row from left, Deon Ong (Outstanding Teaching Award) and Anne-Maree Anderson (The Peter Rorke Award for Best Undergraduate Musician). Top row from left, Jennifer St George (The Laurence Lepherd Award for Best Post Graduate Musician), Angela Sullivan (Special Achievement in Music Award), Andrew Finden (The Performance Centre Award and the Delith Brook-Johnson Award for Outstanding Vocal Performance), Reuben Mclean (Outstanding Instrument Performance).

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Fledgling artists inspired by cartooning

STUDENTS of cartoonist Joanne Brooker can expect to discover their inherent cartooning ability at USQ's McGregor Summer School from 5 to 16 January.

"Everyone is born with the ability to draw cartoons," Joanne says.

"Children start drawing cartoons as soon as they pick up a pencil. Just like writing, cartooning uses symbols to communicate."

Recognised as one of Australia's top cartoonists, Joanne (pictured with a young friend) was an award-winning editorial cartoonist with the *Courier Mail* and *Sunday Mail* for ten years. She now has her own art business, Purple Spider Studio based in Newcastle and has recently returned for the second time this year from China where she was invited to spend a month drawing caricatures of people for a promotions company.

Joanne has taught cartooning all over Australia from Alice Springs to Darwin, Sydney to Brisbane. This will be her first time teaching at the McGregor Summer School.

"I help my students to reawaken their abilities as cartoonists," she said.

"I teach more than just a series of drawing exercises, I show them how to think as a cartoonist. By the end of the two weeks, each

student will realise how relevant this art form is to everyday life."

Students will also be able to experiment with a variety of mediums.

"A cartoonist needs to use different styles until they find one that works for them. Some people prefer simple line work while others want to create three dimensional images using computer programs," Joanne said.

"But all excellent cartoonists develop their own style through lots of practice and constantly work on improving it.

"The elements of a good cartoon should be instant communication with the viewer whether it's humour, social comment or a political statement."

As well as learning the basics, students will also learn how to sell their work.

"Traditionally it has been difficult to find work as a cartoonist so it takes determination and a realistic attitude.

"If you know you are approaching the right person with work they can use, then you are far more likely to be successful and if you have faith in your creation eventually others will appreciate your work.

"And the wonderful thing about cartooning is that you can be any age. Some of the world's greatest cartoonists were still drawing well into their 90s. It's never too early or late to learn."

Joanne's work can be found at **www.purplespiderstudio.com** or email her at **purplespider@optusnet.com.au**

Deborah Marshall

Writing with creative flair

FOR 2004 McGregor Summer School Creative-Writing tutor Mark Svendsen, writing is a bit like therapy.

"It deals with those emotions and motivations that are deepest in us. Even when you write stories that may not seem to have anything to do with yourself they are a reflection of some aspect of your personality," he said.

A Brisbane writer, Mark (right) has had two young adult novels published by Lothian books in Melbourne as well as several other children's books and others under contract.

He has also had several commissions in the performance area including the Queensland biennial Festival of Music, Rockhampton Gardens Symphony lyrics to music by Kats-Chernin and a play for the Migrant Education and Cultural Development Association.

Mark said his class would assist advanced writers to exercise their talents in poetry, script, picture book, short story, novel draft or song lyrics.

"They will then choose a specialist genre on which to focus," he said.

"While playing with all the traditional skills of writing, description, speech, action, plot and editing, we'll focus on the expectations of potential readers."

Mark said the qualities a good writer should possess included curiosity, acute observation, the ability to analyse observations and the discipline and skills to write about it.

"Be vitally interested in your own life and the lives of others. I hope my students will use the skills they gain from this course to adapt to their own purposes once they return home," he said.

The McGregor Summer School is Australia's premier creative arts retreat and will run from January 5 to 16, 2004. It offers classes for all orchestral instruments, music

theatre and junior theatre, a complete range of classes for painters in all media, printmaking, book illustration, cartooning, sculpture, ceramics, glass bead making, hand embroidery, textiles, wood-carving, calligraphy, jewellery, furniture making, photography and creative writing.

For further information phone 4631 2755, email **mcgregor@usq.edu.au** or visit the website at **www.usq.edu.au/mcgregor**

Deborah Marshall