

# USQ news

UNIVERSITY of SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

19th OCTOBER 2005



## STAFF FINALISTS IN AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY AWARDS

ABOVE: Associate Professor Andrew Hoey

LEFT to RIGHT: Mark Norman, Peter Gibbings, Lyn Brodie, Mark Porter and John Worden.

BY FIONA TAYLOR

PHOTOGRAPH BY SARAH COULTON

*The excellence of USQ staff and teaching has been recognised through the prestigious 2005 Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT), with two individuals and one team selected as finalists, giving USQ the third highest number of finalists.*

Associate Professor in Human Physiology Andrew Hoey, Lecturer in Psychology Dr Lorelle Burton and a team from Engineering and Surveying consisting of Lyn Brodie, Associate Professor Mark Porter, Associate Professor John Worden, Peter Gibbings, Mark Norman and David Wood (who has since left USQ), have all been selected as finalists and invited to attend the awards ceremony on 29 November at Parliament House, Canberra.

USQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Bill Lovegrove said selection as a finalist in these Awards was a notable achievement and for an institution to have two individuals and a team selected as finalists in a single year was even more significant.

Associate Professor Hoey was selected in the Biological Sciences, Health and Related Studies category for teaching. He has taught students in human physiology and pharmacology and his teaching seeks to stimulate a desire for learning how the human body functions in health and disease and how it can be treated. He has also been integral in the development of successful new programs such as the Bachelor of Biomedical Science and the adoption of new teaching methodologies.

Dr Lorelle Burton, who was selected as a finalist last year in the Early Career category, was selected in the Social Sciences Teaching Award category. She is a registered Psychologist, has published her own psychology textbook, and adapted another to incorporate an Australian

context. Dr Burton is leading a pioneering research project to improve the way students are taught.

The team, selected for an Institutional Award in the Enhancement of the Quality of Teaching and Learning category based their application on an innovative new course. The course goes beyond lectures and tutorials with students encouraged to identify gaps in their knowledge and plan strategies to fill these gaps while solving engineering problems. Students are engaged in problem based learning within a team environment. Teams of students are dispersed around the world, study different majors and degrees and meet and communicate through the internet to solve a set of open-ended engineering and spatial science problems.

The AAUT awards, established in 1997 by the Federal Government, celebrate and reward excellence in university teaching. All of Australia's 38 publicly-funded universities as well as private universities are eligible to nominate.

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# CONTENTS:

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Staff finalists in Australian University awards | <i>cover page</i> |
| USQ appoints new Chancellor                     | <i>page 3</i>     |
| Donation keeps research beating                 | <i>page 4</i>     |
| Guarding the legend of the Spitfire             | <i>page 5</i>     |
| Shire scholarships help pre-service teachers    | <i>page 6</i>     |
| A-mace-ing community ties                       | <i>page 7</i>     |
| Blackbox sounds Australian first                | <i>page 8</i>     |
| soapbox   | <i>page 9</i>     |
| Unitrader                                       | <i>page 10</i>    |
| Newsmakers                                      | <i>page 10</i>    |
| Coming Events                                   | <i>page 11</i>    |
| In Retrospect                                   | <i>page 12</i>    |

## USQ APPOINTS NEW CHANCELLOR

*University of Southern Queensland Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bill Lovegrove announced recently the appointment of the University's new Chancellor, Mrs Bobbie Brazil to succeed Mr Don Stevens AM, who steps down in March 2006.*

BY NICOLE O'MARA

PHOTO SUPPLIED

Announcing the appointment, Professor Lovegrove said Mrs Brazil brings extensive experience in areas central to leading the governing body of the University and will be a great asset to the University.

Living on a property in Brookstead, Mrs Brazil is a partner in successful broad-scale dryland and irrigation farming businesses on the Darling Downs and in the Northern Territory, and has practiced as a lawyer in Toowoomba.

Mrs Brazil holds the prestigious positions of Chairman of the Australian Landcare Council and Land and Water Australia, and is a Director of Heritage Building Society and the Condamine Alliance. She has also held numerous positions on councils and committees from ministerial to local level, with particular focus on education, industry and resource management issues.

In 2001, Mrs Brazil was awarded the Centenary of Federation Medal for distinguished service to education, particularly for her work as Deputy-Chancellor of the University of Southern Queensland.

"As a former USQ Council member for six years, including a term as Deputy



ABOVE: Mrs Bobbie Brazil

Chancellor, I have a strong retained faith and belief in the value and contribution of the University and its excellent work both in the regional and global communities," Mrs Brazil said.

Deputy Chancellor and Chair of the Selection Committee Anne Story said Mrs Brazil was an outstanding candidate who has made an important contribution to education, the community and resource management.

"The University Council is delighted to offer Mrs Brazil the opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the University's overall governance and future direction, and we look forward to working with her over the coming years," Mrs Story said.

This new appointment signifies the end of an era for current Chancellor Don Stevens AM who will leave the position, following 10 years of distinguished service to the University.



## DONATION KEEPS RESEARCH BEATING

*A campaign focusing on the heart, because the 'Heart is a Muscle Too' has led to funds being raised by a Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) support group and donated to researchers at USQ.*

BY FIONA TAYLOR

PHOTOGRAPHED BY LIZA MATTIAZZI

DMD support Group, Parent Project Australia Inc (PPA) have raised \$2,000 through their 'Heart is a Muscle Too' campaign and fundraising activities, which they recently donated to Associate Professor in Human Physiology Andrew Hoey, to assist with his research into DMD.

Toowoomba representative for Parent Project Australia Inc Mrs Cheryl Morrish said the research conducted by Dr Hoey and his team was world class, and unlike many DMD researchers who focus on skeletal muscles, Dr Hoey's team tested therapies on the heart and diaphragm because these are the body's priority muscles to sustain life and well-being.

Mrs Morrish said she believes strongly in supporting local researchers.

"Supporting Dr Hoey's research is uplifting for Queensland families because we are acknowledging the contribution that our own scientists are making to alleviate the effects of this global genetic disorder. We can't cure our own children but we can assist those who have the skills and knowledge to help our sons," she said.

Dr Hoey said research into DMD had come a long way.

LEFT: Toowoomba representative for Parent Project Australia Inc Mrs Cheryl Morrish and her son Geoffrey presented Associate Professor in Human Physiology Andrew Hoey with a cheque for \$2,000 to further develop his team's research.

"Several years ago, the thought was to wait until heart failure develops and then treat it. But recent evidence suggests that almost all boys with DMD develop heart failure, so preventative medicine is becoming more important," Dr Hoey said.

"The evidence from a review of the last 40 years in the UK shows that in the last ten years, boys are living much longer because of better respiratory management. The average life span is now 25 years unless they develop heart failure, then the average life span is 16 years.

"We need to direct more effort to treat the heart so that with better cardiac and respiratory control, the lifespan could be pushed out even further."

DMD is caused by a mutation of a gene on the X chromosome, which provides the production of the protein Dystrophin. This protein is located inside the muscle cell membrane. When it is absent, the muscle cells collapse and die and DMD develops.

For more information on PPA or how to get involved in their annual 'Heart is a Muscle Too' campaign visit:

[www.parentproject.org.au](http://www.parentproject.org.au)



## GUARDING THE LEGEND OF THE SPITFIRE

ABOVE: Simon stands with the Temora Aviation Museum's MKVIII Spitfire.

*A fascination with fighter aircraft has become more than a childhood hobby for a local film maker.*

BY CONNIE-LOUISE ALEXANDER

PHOTO SUPPLIED

When USQ graduate Simon Van Der Spoel began planning a small film project on the Spitfire, he had no idea of the journey he was about to embark on.

Simon graduated with a Bachelor of Mass Communication in 2003 and has been working part time for WIN Television Toowoomba as a camera operator. Simon developed an interest in Spitfires as a child and with his university qualifications and technical experience, he researched and produced a small documentary on the aircraft as a first time project.

His deep admiration for the Spitfire and the men who operated them has led to three years of research which has culminated in the *Spitfire Guardians*, a documentary that brings the heat of air

combat to life and will help preserve some of Australia's war history.

Unable to secure local funding for his project, Simon decided to fund the project himself, hoping that it would one day be broadcast on local television during ANZAC day.

"Making a film in Australia for a first timer is hard due to the restrictions on film financing and funding. I did not think a producer would find merit in my idea, nor did I think the funding bodies of Australia would want to give money to a no namer like myself. So I decided to fund it myself," Simon said.

As Simon researched, the project developed and grew and he was introduced to a myriad of interesting characters who have contributed their stories and helped the documentary take shape.

Simon approached internationally acclaimed Australian actor Charles "Bud" Tingwell, a WW2 Spitfire pilot, with his script. Bud was impressed and agreed to narrate the documentary, and surprised Simon by narrating free of charge.

"I have been working on this documentary for over three years. I have run it by myself, organised it by myself, but I would

not have got this all together without the support of WIN Television; the RSL; my family, fiancé and friends; the veterans who kindly let an eager young film maker delve into their memories and record it all; the Australian War Memorial for supplying the archived footage; the Temora Aviation Museum and to Range Media for letting me use their Avid edit suite for free," Simon said.

Thanks to the generosity of these people, Simon has been able to produce a film that has caught the attention of the Australian History Channel's programming director. Recently accepting a position as a camera operator with Channel 7 in Townsville, Simon is eagerly working to finish the project. *Spitfire Guardians* is in the final stages of editing and should be ready for broadcast by the end of the year.

Those interested in this documentary can view the trailer on [www.sandbaggereaw.com/spitking/spitguardiantrailer.zip](http://www.sandbaggereaw.com/spitking/spitguardiantrailer.zip).



## SHIRE SCHOLARSHIPS HELP PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS

*Student teachers are getting first hand experience in rural classrooms, and thanks to a pre-service teacher scholarship program, the teaching practicum will not be a financial burden.*

BY **CONNIE-LOUISE ALEXANDER**

PHOTOGRAPHED BY **SARAH COULTON**

Balonne, Murweh and Paroo Shires have helped lessen the personal cost of university studies for four USQ education students by presenting each student with a \$500 scholarship. The University presented the scholarships to the students during a luncheon held on Wednesday, 28 September.

It is the second year USQ has run the program, and Faculty of Education's Professional Experience Manager Sheila King said the scholarships are designed to cover the living and transport costs that students incur whilst experiencing teaching in rural or remote communities.

"This can be quite a costly exercise for students if they have to take leave from jobs, maintain accommodation at their home base and pay travel and accommodation expenses at the school site," Mrs King said.

"The Faculty seeks sponsorship each year from shire councils in rural and remote areas to assist some of our pre-service teachers who have indicated a willingness to travel into these areas to do their teaching practicum," Mrs King said.

LEFT: Pro-Vice Chancellor (Regional Engagement and Social Justice) Professor Frank Crowther (middle) with rural scholarship recipients Nathan Lowien (left) and Kathy Ferguson (second right) and International Aid Montana exchange scholarship recipients Toni Williamson-Kurtz (second left) and Cindy Weis (right)

The students, three from the Toowoomba Campus and one from the Wide Bay Campus are Kathy Ferguson, Nathan Lowien, Leanne Graham and Natalie Farrugia.

They will spend three weeks completing professional experience at Bollon State School, St George State High School, Charleville State School and Wyandra State School.

Also at the luncheon, International Aid Scholarships were presented to Toni Williamson-Kurtz and Cindy Weis to complete Montana exchange teaching placements to Springhill Community Elementary School and Ophir in the Big Sky Elementary School.



## A-MACE-ING COMMUNITY TIES

ABOVE: Neville Kleidon, Manuel Pelecanos and Bob Boddington from the Toowoomba Lapidary Club.

*Once used in war during the medieval times, the mace is now used at graduations to protect the Chancellor and academic procession.*

BY FIONA TAYLOR

PHOTOGRAPHED BY CINDY LAINE

All universities have their own mace, each of them different and the USQ Mace has closer ties to the community than most would think.

Twelve years ago, three members of the Toowoomba Lapidary Club, who celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this month, were commissioned to facet 40 garnets to be placed in the USQ Mace.

USQ Computer Publishing Operator and Member of the Toowoomba Lapidary Club, Beverley Radke said all the garnets provided were fossicked from the local area.

"The garnets were fossicked from Mt Wyangapinni near Pittsworth, and it is really rare to find a stone to cut to the size of 39 carats, with such clarity, like the one which is at the base of the Mace," Mrs Radke said.

The Mace (valued at \$12,000) was a donation to the University from the Toowoomba City Council and the brief for the design of the Mace was that it had to be made of local material.

"I believe that the wooden part of the mace is cedar and comes from an old part of the Toowoomba Hospital, as does the box that houses the mace," she said.

"A local jeweller, Hays Jeweller was commissioned to do all of the metal work and prepare the mace, and the Toowoomba Lapidary Club members were commissioned to facet the stones.

"Faceting is a way of cutting precious stones with angles on the top and bottom. These angles are specific to each gem type. Cutting and polishing critical angles allows light in through the top of the stone to bounce off the angles cut at the bottom, and to send the light back out through the top of the stone again, giving the brilliance and sparkle. If the angles are wrong, the light drops through the stone, giving a dull appearance," Mrs Radke said.

The Toowoomba Lapidary Club are holding their 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Gemfest at Centenary Heights High School Assembly Hall in Toowoomba on Saturday, 29 October from 9am to 5pm and Sunday, 30 October from 9am to 3pm.

If anyone wants to learn how to prepare gemstones like those in the mace and perhaps do a little fossicking of their own, they can find out more about the Toowoomba Lapidary Club by visiting [www.mineral.org.au](http://www.mineral.org.au)



## BLACK BOX SOUNDS AUSTRALIAN FIRST

*After a very successful inaugural season, Black Box Shakespeare returns in 2005 with another exciting compilation of scenes from the pen of the Bard himself.*

BY FIONA TAYLOR

PHOTOGRAPHED BY LIZA MATTIAZZI

Shakespeare's plays, despite their setting in far off times and places, speak to all ages. In this sense they are always modern, always taking the measure of the human heart.

This year's selection of scenes is themed around relationships. Black Box Shakespeare: All in the Family portrays family members at their best and worst: fathers and children, siblings, cousins and dynasties come together in a night of fantastic drama.

The show will also provide a unique opportunity to hear Shakespearean English spoken on stage. One of the scenes will feature OP or original pronunciation as developed by linguist Professor David Crystal and presented by the Globe Theatre Company in London. This will be a first for the University of Southern Queensland's presentation of Shakespeare, and indeed, a first for Australia.

USQ's Associate Professor in Voice Kate Foy said the first question people ask is if OP language is understandable.

"The language can be easily understood and it brings out a lot more of the rhyme as well as jokes and puns, which have been lost in the modern day version," Dr Foy said.

LEFT: USQ second year Theatre students take to the stage to perform a selection of some of Shakespeare's best scenes.

She said Professor Crystal developed the language, which is believed to be at least 80 percent correct by comparing letters and diaries of people who lived in that era. As there was no standardised language, people used to write words how they sounded.

"The language is like a fruit salad of dialects," Dr Foy said.

"As part of our students voice training they study dialects and accents and Professor Crystal claims that all modern dialects of English stem from OP. It's intriguing."

The scene spoken in OP is from Romeo and Juliet. Other scenes are drawn from As You Like It, Henry IV, Measure for Measure, MacBeth, King Lear and The Comedy of Errors to name a few.

Black Box Shakespeare: All in the Family runs from 17 to 22 October, with 11am matinees on Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 October and 7.30pm performances on Wednesday 19 to Saturday 22 October in the USQ Arts Theatre.

Tickets are just \$10 and may be booked through the USQ Box Office on 4631 1111 or [boxoffice@usq.edu.au](mailto:boxoffice@usq.edu.au)

# soap box

## MY OBSESSION...

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*It started in 1999. I was waiting patiently outside a lecturer's office, waiting for a consultation, when I saw a grainy and blurred picture pinned haphazardly on the door.*

BY EVENTS OFFICER IN THE MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT KATHRYN SILCOX

Coming from a relatively sheltered home in a small rural community, I didn't really understand the cult significance of this image until much later. Sure I had bluffed my way through many overstimulated conversations about 'a car named Kit' and 'that hair', but I never really understood what an impact he had on the cultural canvas of our society (and this university). That is until two months ago.

Casually checking my inbox one Friday morning, I received a forward with the subject "It's Friday and you know what that means". Against all the good advice of our esteemed IT staff I opened the email and hoped for the best. On my screen was a crude computer generated animation of the man who I saw on that door all those years ago. He was dancing and I almost fell off my chair with laughter.

I sent it around the office (as one does) and received several excited replies - "Do you love 'The Hoff' too??"

Since then, my computer has greeted me with its morning chant 'Your mailbox is over its size limit' as I receive forward after forward of David Hasselhoff (Remember him? He was the hairy one in Baywatch all those years ago) from an underground network of Hoff obsessed

staff within USQ. And this obsession is not just contained within USQ. There have been forwards from lawyers, bankers and other professionals who should know better. This obsession is not for the faint hearted.

You too can start a relationship with the Hoff as he is appearing on the Arias on 23 October.

May the Hoff be with you.

(A shout-out accompanies this Soapbox to the 'Hoffheads' in International Office - you know who you are!)

# UNITRADER:

**Assorted Items:** 1 single ensemble bed, gc - \$60; 1 white wooden wardrobe with mirror on front, gc - \$60; 1 white laminate chest with 5 drawers - gc - \$20. Giveaway - 4 foam single bed mattresses - covers torn but foam in good condition. Phone x2278 or 0418 717 171

**Assorted Items:** Masport 4 stroke lawnmower, only one year old, \$295 ono. Desktop computer (Pentium III, 256M RAM, 40G hard drive, DVD burner, internal modem, with keyboard and mouse, excl. monitor \$380 ono. Childcare travel cot, sunshine blue colour, as new, \$85 ono. Steelcraft baby stroller, as new, \$85 ono. Kurtzmann upright piano, excellent condition, \$3,800. Ph: Yan on x2537 or 0434 215 333

**Handsome Palomino Gelding:** QH X, 4 yrs old, 16hh, impeccable nature, loves attention, easy to handle, has great potential, \$2,500. Must go to a loving home. Ph: 5462 6325 a/h.

**Holden Torana Sunbird:** 1978 metallic blue, 6 cyl in excellent mechanical condition. As is for \$550 Ph: Heidi x 2524

**Land Rover Discovery:** TD5 Series II, 2000. Automatic, diesel, metallic green, includes; tow bar, snorkel, driving lights, lambs wool seat covers, 6 months Rego. \$25,500. For more information about this luxurious family 4WD Ph: x 2377

**MP 3 Player:** New, Creative MuVo FM 5GB White MP3 Player. Pocket Sized Music Player with FM radio, voice recording, head phones, USB port, battery charger etc. This product is covered by Creative Australia warranty (12 months). RRP \$349 - SELL FOR \$220. Ph: Frank Young x2546

**Nissan Terrano:** 1996, 4WD, 4cyl turbo diesel with intercooler, automatic, air con, bull bar, tow bar, power steering, tinted power windows, rear spoiler, new stereo, \$20,000 ono. Ph: 0438 780 908

**Peugeot 205 GTI:** 1993, 1.9 Series 2, 158,000 kms, meticulously maintained, rego 02/06, RWC, stiffened & lowered Koni/Eibach suspension, full stainless sports exhaust, half leather interior, outstanding handling & performance, the ultimate hot hatch, \$9,800 ono. Ph:0427 750 184

**Queen Size Timber Bed Frame:** Less than three years old, barely used, as new condition. Slat base, timber bedhead and end, federation style. Asking \$275, Ph: x2216 or 4630 9360 a/h.

**Queen Bed:** clean, wooden slat bed and mattress. \$100. Ph: 0414873021 a/h.

**Silver Music Stand:** never been used \$20. To give away - two clarinet reeds - never been used. Ph: Andrea x1703

**Wanted Baby Bath:** Ph: x2216 or 4630 9360 a/h.

# NEWSMAKERS:

**Gary Alcorn,** Journalism Lecturer was interviewed by *Radio National* about him being named this years' Farm Inventor of the year.

**Dr Dorothy Andrews,** Associate Dean (Research and Development), was quoted in *The Toowoomba Chronicle* regarding the IDEAS forum.

**Dr Rick Churchill,** Senior Lecturer (Professional Studies in Education) was interviewed by *ABC Radio Southern Queensland* regarding the new Graduate Diploma in Learning.

**Professor Bill Lovegrove,** Vice Chancellor of USQ was quoted in *The Toowoomba Chronicle* regarding Voluntary Student Unionism.

**Associate Professor Roger Stone,** Associate Professor (Climatology) appeared on WIN TV about the publishing of a climate change manuscript. The manuscript will be published in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Great Britain*. He was also interviewed on *ABC Radio Gold Coast* regarding climate change.

**Associate Professor Bruce Waldrip,** Associate Dean (Research and Development) was interviewed by *ABC Radio Southern Queensland* regarding the Federal Government study into Australian primary schooling.

**Guy Williams,** Graduate Transition Consultant was quoted in *The Toowoomba Chronicle* about the Beyond Education Programs' mentoring program.

# COMING EVENTS:

## *BLACK BOX SHAKESPEARE*

DATE: 17 & 18 October 11am  
19-22 October 7.30pm  
VENUE: USQ Arts Theatre  
Mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, cousins and even dynasties take the stage in a selection of Shakespearean scenes ranging from tragedy to comedy to history.  
PHONE: USQ Box Office 07 4631 1111

## *25th Annual Gemfest*

DATE: Saturday 29 October 9am - 5pm  
Sunday 30 October 9am - 3pm  
VENUE: Centenary Heights High School Assembly Hall, Toowoomba  
The Toowoomba Lapidary Club are holding their 25th Annual Gemstone.  
WEB: [www.mineral.org.au](http://www.mineral.org.au)

## *FACULTY OF SCIENCE TRIVIA NIGHT*

DATE: Thursday 27 October 7pm  
VENUE: T119/T120 (TBC)  
Be challenged or showcase your knowledge at Science's Trivia Night. Will finish before midnight.  
PHONE: Stijn Dekeyser and Birgit Loch x 1548

## *WINGS, STRINGS N MAGIC THINGS*

DATE: Sunday 30 October 3pm  
VENUE: USQ Arts Theatre  
USQ's Junior Academy of Music (JAM) takes a fanciful adventure to far away places in search of all the elements needed to make and play a violin. Vocal and instrumental solos, duets and ensembles, movement and text combine to make this an experience for children of all ages as well as the inner child in adults.  
PHONE: USQ Box Office 07 4631 1111

## *THEATRE SHOWCASE*

DATE: 27 & 28 October 7.30pm  
VENUE: USQ Arts Theatre  
Appearing together for one last time at USQ, are the graduating actors who brought you *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Three Sisters* in a fast-paced selection of contemporary stage scenes interspersed with screen-scenes.  
PHONE: USQ Box Office 07 4631 1111

## *Beyond Education Project Launch*

DATE: Thursday 24 November 4pm - 7.15pm  
VENUE: Mecure, Brisbane  
The first stage of the Graduate Induction Initiative.  
PHONE: Guy Williams x 1186



For more information on how to help raise funds for breast cancer read about the Girls Night In below.

# GIRLS NIGHT IN

Cancers, such as breast cancer and cancer of the cervix affect 15,700 Australian women a year, so to raise awareness and funds, the Queensland Cancer Council is running a new fundraising initiative called the 'Girls Night In'.

So far Mary Wells with the girls from the Student Guild, Terese Bosworth from Student Administration, Julie Hillocks from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's Office and Fiona Taylor from Marketing and Public Relations have all registered to host a Girls Night In, one night in October (there are still 12 days left) and all the money saved by getting together and having a girlie night in, instead of going out on the town will be donated to the Queensland Cancer Council for their research into women's cancers.

Those hosting parties have agreed to pool their funds and make one larger donation from the University. So if you host a Girls Night In or would like to make a donation towards women's cancer research please forward all monies and receipts to Fiona Taylor, Marketing and Public Relations Department, (those wishing to make donations can receive a receipt from Fiona's office at s508B or through the internal mail), to be part of the donation.

To register as a host of a Girls Night In visit [www.girlsnightin.com.au](http://www.girlsnightin.com.au) and boys you can always grab a wig, a bit of lip gloss and your favourite girlfriend's/mother's/sister's frock and join in the fun too!

# in RETROSPECT



## The Darling Downs Trio

Here's a blast from the past thanks to USQ Photography's archives.

The Communications team will be running a new photo every edition to highlight how the University has changed over the years.

UNIVERSITY of SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND – <http://www.usq.edu.au/newsevents>

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT USQ Marketing and Public Relations, West Street, Toowoomba, Qld 4350 Australia tel +61 7 4631 2778  
 fax +61 7 4631 1404 > ACTING PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER AND EDITOR Nicci O'Mara – Savvy PR Solutions > COMMUNICATIONS  
 COORDINATOR Fiona Taylor tel +61 7 4631 2559 [taylorf@usq.edu.au](mailto:taylorf@usq.edu.au) > COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER Connie-Louise Alexander tel  
 +61 7 4631 2977 [alexandc@usq.edu.au](mailto:alexandc@usq.edu.au) > PHOTOGRAPHY USQ Photography tel +61 7 4631 2472 > ART DIRECTION [www.bigfish.tv](http://www.bigfish.tv)  
 > DESIGN USQ Graphics tel +61 7 4631 2026 (05-643)



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