

USQ news

UNIVERSITY of SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

8th DECEMBER 2006



LEFT: Dr Lorelle Burton and Associate Professor Andrew Hoey have won prestigious Carrick Awards for Australian University Teaching.

TWO OF AUSTRALIA'S FINEST

BY JOSH ADA
PHOTOGRAPH BY ELIZABETH BULL

Two USQ Academics have been recognised as the best university teachers in the country after receiving Carrick Awards for Australian University Teaching.

Associate Professor Andrew Hoey and Dr Lorelle Burton were two of only 22 tertiary teachers in Australia to receive the highly competitive and prestigious Awards.

"The Carrick Awards for Australian University Teaching celebrate a group of the nation's most outstanding university teachers in their fields," said USQ's Pro-Vice Chancellor (Learning and Teaching), Professor Maurice French.

"These are the top Awards for recognising teaching excellence in

Australia. They recognise an individual's teaching and hence that reflects positively on an institution that receives one or more of them.

"In broad terms the categories include Biological Sciences, Law and Business, Humanities and the Arts, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, Indigenous Education, Early Career Teaching and Team Teaching."

Associate Professor Hoey received a nomination in 2005 and won the Award for his teaching contributions to biological sciences.

"I was very excited to win the Award for excellence in teaching and it is a real honour and privilege to be the first USQ winners," he said.

"It is also great that the University receives this recognition because there are so many excellent teachers at USQ."

Dr Burton received her Award for teaching excellence in Social Sciences and, in particular, for her work with first-year Psychology students.

"I was delighted, especially because I have been a finalist for the past two years," she said.

"I am committed to providing quality learning experiences for all of my students and a lot of my work has focussed on developing the best possible learning environment for all students.

"This honour is a reflection of the students that we have here at USQ. This is their Award just as much as it is mine."

Traditionally dominated by the metropolitan universities, USQ was one of only a handful of regional institutions to win more than one Carrick Award.

"Usually the teaching awards are won by the bigger universities so it was good this year to see some of the honours go to the regional universities," Associate Professor Hoey said.

"There were only 22 winners overall so to get two of those is a great result for the University."

CONTENTS:

USQ lecturers recognised as Australia's best	<i>cover page</i>
USQ shade expert receives grant	<i>page 3</i>
AFL dream comes true for USQ student	<i>page 4</i>
World's leading mechatronics experts gather at USQ	<i>page 5</i>
Gold Coast student chooses to study at Wide Bay	<i>page 6</i>
Graduate launches children's book	<i>page 7</i>
Gifted education course reintroduced to USQ	<i>page 8</i>
Uni student has all the comforts of home	<i>page 9</i>
International support invites new homestay hosts	<i>page 10</i>
QMDC and USQ initiative reaps rewards	<i>page 11</i>
Springfield staff gear up for duathlon	<i>page 12</i>
On the first day of Christmas Shakespeare gave to you	<i>page 13</i>
In Brief	<i>page 14</i>
Unitrader	<i>page 15</i>
Newsmakers	<i>page 16</i>
In Retrospect	<i>page 17</i>



DIRECT SUNLIGHT NOT REQUIRED FOR VITAMIN D

BY FIONA TAYLOR
PHOTOGRAPH BY ELIZABETH BULL

A USQ Academic has received a Queensland Cancer Fund (QCF) research grant to continue his studies into the effect of UV rays and shade on the creation of Vitamin D in humans.

The QCF has awarded USQ Researcher, Dr David Turnbull, with \$78,000 to continue his research.

Dr Turnbull said his research so far had discovered that humans in high exposure climates, such as Queensland, do not need direct sunlight to receive their Vitamin D intake.

"There is a significant proportion of solar UV present in shade due to the scattering

in the earth's atmosphere and Vitamin D is actually absorbed from the UVB rays, which are found in shade," he said.

"It is estimated that 90-95 percent of our Vitamin D requirement comes from exposure to UV radiation. Previously the scientific community has believed humans needed a certain amount of direct sunlight every week to avoid developing a Vitamin D deficiency."

A Vitamin D deficiency can lead to health problems such as osteoporosis, rickets, and various cancers. Vitamin D has also been linked to diabetes, bacterial infections, schizophrenia, multiple sclerosis and inflammatory bowel disease.

Dr Turnbull's research is quite significant, especially in Queensland where one in three people develop skin cancer.

"Although over exposure to these UVB wavelengths are known to cause skin damage, Vitamin D synthesis generally occurs at sub-damaging irradiances," he said.

ABOVE: USQ Researcher, Dr David Turnbull, recently received a grant from the Queensland Cancer Fund to continue his research into Vitamin D absorption.

LEFT: The Spectrometer that David will be using in his research.

"Both UVA and UVB rays are present in direct sunlight, however the relative proportions of UVA and UVB in the shade are significantly different to those in full sun.

"Therefore, those spending time in the shade may be able to synthesise their Vitamin D without experiencing the high levels of damaging UVA observed in full sun," Dr Turnbull said.

He said it was also important that people are aware that Vitamin D can only be made by the body when sunlight falls on skin unprotected by sunscreen.

"The importance of this research is that it would provide a basis for public health campaigns, in high exposure climates, aimed at reducing the incidence of Vitamin D deficiency and its attendant disorders, as well as reducing over exposure to harmful solar UV radiation," he said.

Final outcomes from the research are expected at the end of 2009.


Express Service Centre 1300 360 841

Cashable Term Deposit

6.40%^{p.a.}

for 15 months

Available for new deposits of \$20,000 and more

Now that's interesting!

* Effective 1st September 2006 for new deposits. Full terms & conditions available on request.





HEADING FOR THE BIG TIME

BY JOSH ADA
PHOTOGRAPH BY ELIZABETH BULL

USQ second year Commerce student, Brad Howard, has realised every young man's dream, after being drafted into the Australian Football League (AFL).

The 18-year-old was taken at number 27 by St Kilda in the annual draft, which selects the nation's finest up-and-coming footballers.

Although he has enjoyed a life long association with the game, Brad said being drafted was something he doubted would ever happen.

"My father was an AFL player so I grew up around the sport, I was three when I kicked my first football," he said.

"Since that time I played all the way through juniors in both News South Wales and Queensland, but last year I was unsure if it was what I wanted to do full-time.

"After playing in Brisbane I decided to come back and play in Toowoomba this year but eventually I went back to the Brisbane competition and have now been drafted, which I didn't think would happen."

In a region dominated by Rugby League and Union, Brad's achievement is even more remarkable, with the mid-fielder the first player on the Darling Downs to be selected in the draft.

"The game here in Toowoomba is good, especially in the juniors, but in the older age groups it does drop off a bit," he said.

"Hopefully I can have some influence on kids out there to encourage them to stay with the sport so that it can be developed further here on the Darling Downs."

Although only a rookie, Brad has set himself some lofty goals for first season, which can often be a baptism of fire for young players.

"My main goal for the year is to play a few games in the AFL.

"I also hope to spend a lot of time with the senior players at the club and learn as much as I can from them."

ABOVE: USQ second year Commerce student, Brad Howard, has been taken by St Kilda at number 27 overall in this year's AFL draft.

Securing a position in the top flight will be a challenge, but Brad's placing in the draft has him primed for a promising career.

"Been taken in the second round in the draft is great because I get the chance to play in the AFL straight away," he said.

"Others trying to get a spot on a team can be taken in the rookie draft, which means that they are assigned to the reserves, but because I was in the main draft I have the opportunity to play in the AFL next season."

Despite pursuing a football career, Brad has no plans to abandon his studies and is already preparing for life after Australian Rules.

"The Club recommended that I defer my studies for the first year and concentrate on football, which is what I will do.

"However I do want to finish my degree and eventually get into business and Sports Management."

To help him complete his degree, Brad is also now part of USQ's Elite Athlete Program that offers support to students who are juggling study and sporting commitments.



'GADGETS' TAKE CENTRE STAGE

BY JOSH ADA
PHOTOGRAPH BY ELIZABETH BULL

Surgical robots, an unmanned aircraft, underwater vehicles and artificial retinas were just some of the 'gadgets' put under the microscope during the 13th annual M2VIP conference at USQ.

Twenty-five of the industry's top minds, including professors, researchers and students from around the globe gathered for the three-day conference that was held at the Toowoomba Campus this week (5-7 December 2006).

"There were people from Spain, the UK, Japan, Mexico, Korea and Hong Kong, so it was a major event," said Mechatronic Engineering Lecturer and Conference Organiser, Professor John Billingsley.

"They came from universities from across the world, while some also had industrial links to the field.

"It was a chance for everyone to network and share their enthusiasm for mechatronics and machine vision."

Originating at USQ, the M2VIP conference made a return to the Toowoomba campus of the University after a nine-year absence.

"We last held the conference in Toowoomba in 1997 and before that in 1994, which was the first one," Professor Billingsley said.

"In 2000 we also held it at the USQ Hervey Bay campus and in between it has been held in Portugal, Thailand, the Philippines and several times at various venues in China."

Nearly 30 papers were presented during the gathering, which highlighted the many advances in the industry.

"Mechatronics and machine vision is concerned with the engineering behind things that blend electrical and computing parts together such as video cameras and VCR's," Professor Billingsley said.

LEFT: The Mechatronics industry's top minds gathered at USQ for the M2VIP conference.

ABOVE: Professor John Billingsley.

"The papers described some very good things that have been produced for economic development.

"They covered both practical applications and novel experiments; we even had a paper on machine vision for the management of beer kegs.

"There are a vast number of new products out there that have intelligent motor control and are making a difference in the real world."

While the conference did promote mechatronics and machine vision, Professor Billingsley said that it also enhanced USQ's reputation as an industry leader.

"Mechatronics is becoming the king pin of modern product development and USQ certainly plays a role in that," he said.

"By hosting the conference here it keeps the University on the international map as a centre for research in this area."



GOLD COAST STUDENT CHOOSES TO STUDY AT WIDE BAY

BY KATRINA CORCORAN
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

Gold Coast school-leaver Simone Dawson had never been to Hervey Bay when she selected USQ Wide Bay as her first preference university to study Education next year.

Simone, who just finished high school at Robina, said her Guidance Counsellor told her about USQ and pointed out the benefits of studying in a small community.

“The Guidance Counsellor said you get more help and support at a small campus,” Simone said.

“I had never been to Hervey Bay before. But having grown up on the Gold Coast I really love the beach and can see the connection there between the coast and Hervey Bay.”

Simone and her mother, Leanne, travelled by train to Hervey Bay last week (December 1) to attend the Campus’s *Like Your Style* Party. The party was for school-leavers who had selected the campus as their first preference.

Mrs Dawson said she was impressed with the University and Hervey Bay, and had been made feel very welcome.

She said Simone was the eldest of three children, and it was a big step to have a child leave home and head off to university.

ABOVE: 2007 Education student Simone Dawson and her mother, Leanne, visited Hervey Bay last week to check out the Campus (left). Students also visited USQ Toowoomba (middle) and USQ Springfield (right) to join in the fun - and yes that is USQ Springfield Campus Director, Doug Fraser, in the pic!

But she was pleased her daughter was going to a smaller and safe community.

Like Your Style parties were also held for school leavers in Toowoomba and Springfield last Friday night.

Initiated by USQ School Liaison Manager, Margo Baas, the events were designed to enable students to meet each other before O Week.

“We invited students who had selected USQ as a first preference or applied for a Scholarship from USQ. We also invited students who had been recommended through the Principals Recommendation Scheme and asked them to bring a friend.

“With the help of our Events team and staff at Springfield, Wide Bay and Toowoomba, we provided some mocktails and initiated some fun events, like a mechanical surfboard competition.

“We’ve had some great feedback from all three campuses on the success of the event and we believe it was a good initiative in terms of helping school leavers make that important transition to university life.”



LYNELLE STARTS SECOND CAREER IN RETIREMENT

BY FIONA TAYLOR
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

A lot of people travel when they retire, but USQ Graduate, Lynelle Zita Westlake, has been using her retirement to pursue a career as a children's storybook author and illustrator.

Launching her debut children's book, *Molog the Frog*, at Toowoomba's Bush Christmas this fortnight, Lynelle has been busy signing copies for customers.

"The response has been wonderful!" she said.

Lynelle graduated from USQ in 1992 with a Bachelor of Creative Arts and went on to complete a Graduate Diploma of Teaching the following year, before becoming a pre-school teacher.

She said writing the storybook simply evolved from her collective experiences.

"I think it's an extension of the fact I'm an artist. I was always writing little stories in my art book and when I was teaching I was always telling the students stories," Lynelle said.

"It just kind of evolved. I did this book while still teaching, but it was only since I retired I actually got around to getting it produced."

Lynelle already has another six stories on the way.

She said having been a pre-school teacher she noticed there were only a few books that provided the type of text which enhances children's development and acquisition of early language skills.

"When children first start reading they need to be able to hear and identify the sounds and connect the visual with the verbal. The story has an emphasis on sound and what sounds the frog hears, which the children can repeat after you."

Lynelle said all of her stories are interactive and focus on Australian wildlife.

"I have one story about an echidna and another about a wombat. I also have one

about a whole stack of Australian birds," she said.

"I am constantly walking around my garden thinking up more stories on animals and how they react to us and other animals."

The story of Molog follows the interactions of a magnificent green tree frog with the animals and humans who have become part of its world.

The inspiration for this story was a real frog that lived at Lynelle's family home in Hervey Bay in 1986.

"He was named Molog by my son whose favourite books were Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. Molog is Golom backwards," she said.

With the fantastic reaction Lynelle has received already from children and parents alike on her new book, she has decided to have her next book published next year.

Molog the Frog is available in Toowoomba at Mary Ryan Book Store and Dymocks, and in most good book stores in rural centres for \$14.95.



LECTURER DRIVES REVAMPED GIFTED EDUCATION COURSE

BY JOSH ADA

PHOTOGRAPH BY LIZA MATTIAZZI & ELIZABETH BULL

Education students should be able to specialise in Gifted Education from 2008, following the efforts of part-time USQ Education Lecturer and PhD student, Jennifer Parker.

Ms Parker recently completed an 18 month Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) sponsored Gifted Education course, which has given her the tools to teach the speciality at the University.

"In 2004 DEST were seeking to bring Gifted Education into the spotlight in schools, so they approached the Faculty of Education about putting in a tender to upgrade the Gifted Education course that we have here," Ms Parker said.

"I was already involved with gifted students so I expressed interest and successfully received \$10,000 worth

of funding from DEST to undertake a Certificate in Gifted Education at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), so that I could offer pre-service teachers at USQ skills in this area that are required."

According to the Queensland Association for Gifted and Talented Children (QAGTC) there are around 3,500 gifted students in state schools alone throughout the Darling Downs and Western Regions. The course is designed to help the teachers of these students reach their potential.

"Gifted children are students with high potential who often come to school already able to read and write and are ahead of their classmates," Ms Parker said.

"These students are often not accepted and understood by the school community and they may lose self-esteem, become bored and underachieve, which can lead to behavioural problems.

"What needs to be done is to differentiate the curriculum or offer accelerated programs for them, so that they are challenged and can fulfil their potential."

Although Gifted Education has been taught at the University in the past, it has had a two-year absence.

ABOVE: USQ part time Education Lecturer, Jennifer Parker, with the certificate that she received from the UNSW.

"The last time that it was offered was in 2004 and even then it was withheld, as there was no expertise to teach it.

"Over the next 12 months it is to be revised and updated so that the course can be re-instated in 2008 or hopefully even sooner.

"Future plans are to write and design courses in Gifted Education for our third year pre-service teachers and offer a Postgraduate course in Gifted Education in the Masters program."

Through the course, Education students will be able to identify and monitor ability, strategise curriculum and offer counselling for gifted students and their parents.

"Many of these children can be misdiagnosed with ADHD and often times their parents are having to resort to home-schooling, so hopefully, this will help to reduce these numbers," Ms Parker said.

"By giving our pre-service teachers the tools to help these students I hope to in some way address this and offer curriculum that is inclusive of all students and elevate school environments to support these children's needs."



UNI STUDENT HAS ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME

BY KATRINA CORCORAN
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED & LIZA MATTIAZZI

The financial hardship often associated with the life of a university student has never been a problem for Katie Jasch.

The USQ Wide Bay Education Honors student has managed to complete her tertiary studies from the comfort of her family home at Hervey Bay.

She's never had to say goodbye to her pet dog or load up the car with the contents of her bedroom.

Instead Katie, 21, had all the benefits of home, such as a swimming pool, family support and great meals.

She has also been able to continue playing in her sporting teams and keep the part-time job she has had at Hervey Bay Cinemas since she was in Year 10 at Hervey Bay High.

"I was able to pay my HECS (Higher Education Contribution Scheme) fees up front because I worked and didn't have the huge expense of living away from home," she said.

"If I'd moved away from Hervey Bay I would have had to defer payment."

Now Katie has a clean financial slate as she heads north to take up her first teaching position at Charters Towers in January. She has been offered a job as a special needs high school teacher.



LEFT: USQ Education (Honours) student, Katie Jasch enjoyed the many benefits of staying at home while completing her university studies.

Leaving high school with an OP3 meant Katie could have chosen just about any career she desired. Teaching appealed to her and she could do the degree at her local university campus.

But Katie said she never intended to stay in Hervey Bay for the full four years of her degree.

"I thought I'd do the first, and hardest, year at the USQ Wide Bay Campus so I could settle into uni and get used to it while still at home," she said.

"I had planned to move to the USQ Campus in Toowoomba to complete my degree.

"But I never went through with it because it was just too easy to do it here.

"It is a smaller campus with smaller classes which means you have more chance to chat to your lecturers and they get to know you by name. There is a lot of one-to-one time, which is good. And it seems to be more flexible."

As an Honors student, Katie has completed her thesis under the supervision of Lecturer, John McMaster.



ABOVE: Khalid Almutairi talks to international students

HIGH DEMAND FOR HOMESTAY HOSTS

BY CONNIE-LOUISE ALEXANDER
PHOTOGRAPH BY ELIZABETH BULL

If the idea of living overseas and experiencing another culture appeals to you, then the University's International Homestay program could be just what you're looking for!

The year might be winding down, but the University is gearing up for the arrival of nearly 250 new overseas students, and is inviting Toowoomba locals to join the Homestay program in 2007.

Running for more than 20 years, the program provides international students with the opportunity to live in a Toowoomba home and experience Australian culture.

Homestay Placement Officer, Dellie Burton, said as the number of international students studying at USQ increases so does the demand for Homestay providers.

"We have a growing international student population, especially students from the Middle East. Most of these students desire a cultural experience with an Australian family.

"The students value the opportunity to strengthen their English skills, and would like to spend at least one semester living with a family."

Saudi Nursing student, Khalid Almutairi, has been in Australia for eight months and decided to apply for the Homestay program earlier this year. Khalid said he loves Australia and since being involved

in the program he has not been homesick.

"The family that I am staying with are very generous. They have welcomed me into their family and the two small boys have become like little brothers.

"The family really looks after me, sometimes I cook traditional Saudi food, which they love.

"They feel like family so I will stay with them until I graduate in a few years."

While the program provides the students with a unique taste of Australia, Dellie said it also benefits the host family.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Toowoomba residents to experience other cultures without leaving home.

"It is also a great way for international students to adjust to the Australian lifestyle and it helps create cultural understanding."

The host family is required to provide the student with a room and meals, and the cost of the program is based upon the facilities offered by the host.

For more information please contact Homestay Placement Officer, Dellie Burton, on 4631 2882.



THEATRE FOCUSES ON NRM

ABOVE: USQ Theatre Studies Lecturer, Dr Janet McDonald.

LEFT: The play consisted entirely of USQ Actors, Directors and Theatre staff.

BY JOSH ADA
PHOTOGRAPH BY ELIZABETH BULL

School children and landholders from across the Balonne River catchment area have heard about Natural Resource Management (NRM) through an innovative theatre production and visual arts exhibition.

The entertaining and creative road show was a joint initiative between USQ and the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) and travelled to St George, Surat and Dirranbandi.

USQ Theatre Studies Lecturer Dr Janet McDonald said the \$80K project was sponsored by the QMDC and was the culmination of six months work.

"Since being approached by QMDC, we have toured to schools in the Balonne Catchment and asked students about their understanding of NRM, their community and their culture," she said.

"Based on that feedback well known USQ Director, Scott Alderdice, wrote an entertaining and informative play entitled *The Doctor and Nurse Wurseley's Most Amazing Hydrological Examination.*"

Focusing on issues such as the drought, farming and salinity, the play reflected the value that the river holds for the communities along its banks and highlighted the importance of managing water for a sustainable future.

"With the current lack of water that we have we wanted to teach the children how they can do more with less and how to better utilise their natural resources such as the Balonne River," said USQ Research Assistant and Project Co-ordinator, Carley Commens.

"The idea was to give these kids something to aim for and remind them that they must all work together with

what they have to look after their catchment area."

Covering some topical issues in the area, the play received a positive response from most in the region.

"The feedback that we received was mostly positive, especially from the children who seemed to get the message and enjoy the physical entertainment," Dr McDonald said.

"There were some instances however when parents who lived on the land did raise some concerns that we were in a way telling them how to be more water conscious.

"This was not the idea however and in fact we did acknowledge that they were water savvy.

"Either way it was good to get people talking about the water issue."

As well as performing for the schools, the play also visited town halls and a winery in the region to deliver its NRM message.



SPRINGFIELD STAFF GEAR UP FOR DUATHLON

BY FIONA TAYLOR
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

The Intercampus Duathlon could be the most fiercely contested 40th Anniversary event if the fit (and determined) staff members at Springfield have anything to do with it.

Although the celebrations don't start until next year, and the duathlon itself isn't until the first of April, the Springfield staff aren't wasting anytime preparing for the riding leg of the competition.

Campus Director, Doug Fraser, has taken a leading role in preparing his staff for the challenge, by running a road bike workshop recently.

"I decided to run the workshop as a number of staff have recently purchased road bikes and approached me for advice," he said.

During the workshop Mr Fraser covered how to change a tyre, fix a puncture and get in and out of the pedal clips. The workshop was then followed by a ride.

Mr Fraser said the other Campuses will have heavy competition on their hands.

"The staff at USQ Springfield have already been training and many of them have been competing in local triathlons and fun runs," he said.

"These types of events are a great way to stay fit, which is why I proposed the event for part of the 40th Celebrations."

The duathlon will be run in Toowoomba and the course will consist of a 3km run

ABOVE: USQ Springfield Campus Director, Doug Fraser, ran a road bike workshop for staff members like USQ Springfield Communication and English as a Second Language Lecturer, Nick Todd, who have recently purchased road bikes in the lead up to the 40th Anniversary Intercampus Duathlon.

followed by a 12km bike ride and another 3km run.

"The competition will be held on the first day (Saturday 1 April 2006) of the Semester 1 mid-semester break so all staff can have the opportunity to participate," Mr Fraser said.

"Although categories are still to be determined it is anticipated that the run will be open to individuals doing all three legs, teams of two sharing the run and bike ride legs and relay teams of three doing all three legs each.

"Teams may be of staff or students or both, and interfaculty teams will be encouraged.

"USQ Springfield already has teams organised with a couple more expected and we are looking forward to congratulating the other Campus teams, once they cross the finish line after us," he said.

If you're up for the challenge and would like more information about this event please contact Doug Fraser at USQ Springfield, Dr Robert Eley at USQ Toowoomba or Jenny Gunn at USQ Wide Bay.



SHAKESPEARE GIFT IDEAS

ABOVE: Director of *Macbeth* and Head of Theatre, Scott Alderdice (needs to update his staff portrait as he no longer sports a beard!).

LEFT: Have a picnic and enjoy a night under the stars at the SiQP festival.

BY CONNIE-LOUISE ALEXANDER
PHOTOGRAPH BY LIZA MATTIAZZI

Christmas is only 17 days away, and if Christmas shopping has you pulling your hair out in sheer frustration it might be time to consider an alternative gift idea.

The *Shakespeare in Queens Park Festival* (SiQP) will be held from 1-11 March 2006, and if you are looking for a unique gift the Empire Theatre's Early Bird Special may solve your problem.

The Park will be transformed into a blood bath when the USQ actors take to the stage for next year's production of *Macbeth*. And if you purchase SiQP tickets before the beginning of next year you will receive up to 10 percent off the normal price.

Director and Head of Theatre at USQ, Scott Alderdice, said the performance will be unlike any other Shakespeare festival and will appeal to everyone from children to adults.

"I guess it's true to say that most people probably expect a Shakespeare production to be set in some recognisable historical era with a whole bunch of people waltzing round waving rapiers at each other and speaking poetry.

"That's fine – but I think our *Macbeth* is going to be a pretty large step away from that tradition. We're already working

on a massive soundtrack that will drive the story way out beyond the realm of human-ness."

Performances begin on Thursday 1 March and continue for five nights with a matinee performance on Sunday 4 March. Group discounts, family tickets and special packages are available also.

"*Macbeth* is a story drenched in power, and madness and apocalypse," Mr Alderdice said.

"We are capturing the wildness and sensuality of the Medieval pagan world, and fusing it with the music, images and technology of today.

"We're gonna rock the park."

Tickets to *Macbeth* are available from the Empire Theatre 1300 655 299 and tickets to the *Sonnets at Breakfast* are available from Michelle Fox at the USQ Box Office 4631 1111.

in BRIEF



USQ graduate a finalist in National Engineering Award

USQ Engineering graduate, Russell Bunn, was selected as one of two finalists for the Australian Young Engineering Officer Award at the Australian Engineering Excellence Awards. The Awards were held in Canberra last month and recognise outstanding achievement in the Engineering profession. Mr Bunn was eligible for the honour after winning the Queensland Young Engineering Officer of the Year Award in August this year. Graduating with an Associate Degree in Civil Engineering from USQ earlier this year, Mr Bunn won the honour, considered one of the most prestigious in the industry. Although he was victorious at state level, he said he was surprised to be named as one of the finalists for the national title.



USQ lecturer undertakes global research

Professor of Asian and International Studies, Don McMillen, has recently undertaken a new research project focusing on global expatriate populations. The project will look at expatriate populations in Australia, China, Hong Kong and Indonesia in the present era of accelerated globalisation. It will investigate how these populations function in multiple and jurisdictional and social spaces, and how their lives are shaped in terms of identity and "life linkaging" factors and the challenges of establishing citizen security. The project aims to explore expats' views and their attachments to home/host places, particularly in relation to issues of security and how host governments frame policies that address their needs. While the project is being undertaken at USQ, it will also seek project participation or facilitation from researchers and experts at other institutions in Australia, Hong Kong, China, and Indonesia. For more information on the project please visit www.usq.edu.au?users?mcmillen/aussie/expats.htm



USQ Springfield lights up for Christmas

The staff at USQ Springfield got into the spirit of Christmas last week donning their offices and workspaces in Christmas lights for the local Christmas lights competition. USQ Springfield Administration Officers ELissa Churchward and Phyllis Marsh along with Student Administration Manager, Sue Basu, did their bit to help. Executive Assistant to the USQ Springfield Campus Director, Debbie Maunder, also made a vital contribution to the display buying two stores out of their extension chord supplies to enable the lights to be powered. Mr Fraser got behind the initiative as he thought it would be a good idea to get behind the competition and encourage members of the local community, some of which haven't yet been to the Campus, to visit it and find out where it is. Education City also got into the spirit of things and lit up their offices as well.

UNITRADER:

AUSTRIAN BENTWOOD CHAIRS: Set of 6 original Austrian Bentwood chairs. Each has been restored including professionally hand woven cane seats. Set \$510 or will sell individually at \$95 each. Ph: x1127 or 4696 9806 after 7pm.

ASSORTED ITEMS: All purpose saddle, uhl & son top quality Australian made, very comfortable for horse & rider, \$150. Bicycle helmet, Adura size 52-57, worn once; new \$50 sell \$37. Ph: 0412113193 or x5428.

ASSORTED ITEMS: Pram fully adjustable, vgc \$70. Coffee table, solid timber, locally made, 1200x600x400, as new condition \$85. Entertainment unit, timber, space for TV and DVD/video player, shelving with glass doors each side, as new condition \$375. Ph: x1766 or 4632 9662 a/h.

BOOKS: Mills & Boons books, large quantity in vgc \$1 ea. Ph: Tess x1629 or 46 36 4927 a/h.

CORVETTE STINGRAY: 1977, the classic muscle car. White with red interior, targa top, turbo700, 4 speed automatic trans, right hand drive, needs some minor tweaking otherwise vgc (registered to 10/07). \$18,000. Photos can be emailed on request. Ph: Frank 4659 3222 or 0438 158 071.

FORD LASER: 1987 with safety certificate in ec, ideal student or 1st car, reliable, comes with new tyres brakes and gear box has been recently serviced, very clean interior very tidy car \$3,700 ono. Ph: 4634 1617.

FORMAL DRESS: Mr K formal dress, strapless two-piece, size 10, peacock blue, (can email photo on request). Bought for \$220, sell for \$100. Ph: x2076 or 4635 0769 a/h.

FOR RENT: New home almost completed at Wyreema available 01/03/07, 3 bdrms, ensuite, a/c, dble garage, shed, town & tank. Ph: 4630 1195 a/h.

FOUND: Staffy pup, Ramsay Street area, Toowoomba Sunday 3 December. Female approx 6 months no collar or microchip. black/white markings housetrained, affectionate, healthy and friendly indoor pet - loving home needed if puppy not claimed within 7 days. Ph: Janice Jones 0404 900 914.

HOUSE FOR RENT: availability negotiable, 12 month lease, \$290/wk, located in quiet area in Centenary Heights, 3 mins walk to high school and Southtown shopping centre, 6 yrs old, 4 bdrms, ensuite, 2 large living areas, dishwasher, large patio, fenced in yard, dble lug, includes interior furnishings in gc. Ph: Rebecca 4635 5888.

HOUSE SITTER: reliable USQ staff person to housesit for dec & jan (except for the Christmas week). Ph: Trudy 0404 019 640.

HOUSE SITTER: available from January to June 2007. Reliable, clean and tidy. Would prefer no pets. Email: Leisa leisa1968@hotmail.com

HONDA INTEGRA: White, first registered '95, only 100,000 klms; in superb condition; log books; electric windows, mirrors, sunroof; new tyres, battery; registered till mar 2007. \$12000 ono. Ph: 0414 936 354.

HYUNDAI SANTA FE: 4wd 2001 gls, sports auto/manual, limited slip diff, a/c, security, mag wheels, metallic gold, c/c, engine immobiliser, cd, 6 speaker stereo, fog lamps, power options, air bags, tbar, roof racks, tinted, serviced by Hyndai, 122,000 klms, rego 01/07 - for only \$14,950. Must sell now! Ph: 0431 171 521.

INTERACTIVE GAME: Interactive TV 'snowboarder'. Used once, vgc. Ideal kids Christmas present. \$50. Ph: 4696 9743 a/h.

PATCHWORK: Baby bibs \$15. All colours. Orders taken. Ph: Sally x2080 or macfarla@usq.edu.au

QUEEN SIZE BED: Slat, two bed side drawers, dressing table with mirror and bar stool at \$990, as new (few months old) quality furniture at less than half price. Ph: 0431 171 521 or x1338.

SUBARU FORESTER LIMITED: 2001 Sep model, vgc. 80,000 klms. Manual 5sp, awd, dual range, tow bar, nudge bar, spot lights, tinting, cd, headlight and bonnet protectors, near-new tyres, 11 months rego, regularly serviced, silver, \$21,500. Ph: Mel x2930 or 0408 771 138 or 4638 0472.

TEAK CHAIR: solid teak wood long chair, dark brown in gc (like new) for \$750. Ph: 07 46 358 956 or x1072.

TYRES: 4 brand new tyres and alloy wheels to suit a Volkswagen Jetta or Golf. Sell for \$1000 ono. Ph: 0412 262 351.

WHEELIE BINS: 1 x regular size \$65, 1 x small size \$45, round gas BBQ on metal trolley/stand, little use \$30, double camp stretcher metal frame \$30. All gc. Ph: 4634 2208 a/h or 0431 906 657.

WARDROBE: Mirror, six draws and hanging space. Bought new at beginning of year. Paid \$750 will sell for \$500 neg. Ph: x2977.

WONDERFUL HOME: For sale, 4 bdrms, 10 mins from Uni. 2 bthrms, formal lounge & large family room. Large landscaped block, 3 car accom, country outlook. \$340 000. Ph: 4631 1807 or 4630 6207.

NEWSMAKERS:

Cheryl Abberton, Marketing Services Manager, spoke to *The Chronicle* about the success of the USQ Corporate Club.

Dr Lorelle Burton, Lecturer (Psychology), was mentioned in *The Australian* and on WIN News after she won a national university teaching award.

Professor John Billingsley, (Mechatronic Engineering) was quoted in *Toowoomba's Mail*, *Toowoomba Chronicle* and featured on WIN News discussing the M2VIP conference.

Steven Christensen, Lecturer (Psychology), was the guest speaker at the PLC Armidale Sports Dinner, and he also spoke to 2NZ Inverell about the significance of Ian Thorpe's retirement for adolescent athletes living in north-west NSW.

Dr Geoff Cockfield, Deputy Dean (Faculty of Business), was interviewed by ABC Southern Queensland (Toowoomba) about the issues surrounding Kim Beazley.

Carley Commens, Research Assistant (Theatre), was quoted in the *Western Star* and *Rural Weekly* discussing a USQ Theatre production that will tour Western Queensland schools.

Professor Ronel Erwee, Director, Australian Graduate School of Business, was mentioned in the *Toowoomba Chronicle* after she was scheduled to speak at a management workshop.

Doug Fraser, Director USQ Springfield Campus, was interviewed by the *Springfield News* regarding the first summer semester students at the campus.

Stephen Hagan, Associate Lecturer (Preparatory Studies) wrote his regular column in the *Koori Mail* and he also was interviewed by the *Toowoomba Chronicle* regarding his invitation to join a philanthropic group.

Ron Hampton, Assistant to the Director of Kumbari, was interviewed by 4WK (Toowoomba), ABC Southern Queensland (Toowoomba), ABC Central Australia (Alice Springs), ABC Online and WIN (Toowoomba) regarding the Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Mental Health at Kumbari.

Dr Karey Harrison, Lecturer (Communications), was interviewed by WIN (Toowoomba), ABC Southern Queensland (Toowoomba) and the weather channel about bringing the Al Gore climate change message to Toowoomba. She was also mentioned in the *Toowoomba Chronicle* after she attended a Toowoomba and region Environment Council meeting.

Eileen Hjertum, AusAID Student Support Officer, was quoted in the *Toowoomba Chronicle* talking about a USQ AusAID graduate.

Associate Professor Andrew Hoey, Head of Department (Biological and Physical Sciences), was mentioned in *The Australian* and on WIN News (Toowoomba) after he won a national university teaching award.

Leonie Jones, Lecturer (Media Production) conducted her regular television and movie reviews on 1071 AM (Kingaroy).

Professor Bill Lovegrove, Vice-Chancellor and President, was interviewed by 1071 AM (Kingaroy) regarding the happenings at USQ and also Radio National about voluntary student unionism. He was also in a photo in the *Stanthorpe Border Post* at Stanthorpe's Wine Fiesta.

Naomi Lutvey, Manager (Student Systems) was interviewed by the *Toowoomba Chronicle* regarding the first birthday of her triplets.

Dr Janet McDonald, Lecturer (Media Studies), spoke to ABC Southern Queensland (Toowoomba) and was quoted in the *Western Star* and *Rural Weekly* discussing a USQ production touring Western Queensland schools.

Associate Professor Robert Learmonth, (Biochemistry), was interviewed by ABC2 (National Australia) about Wine Science degrees on offer at USQ.

Associate Professor Roger Stone, Climatology was quoted in the *Barrier Miner* (Broken Hill), regarding the odds of major summer rainfall at the head waters of the Darling River.

Associate Professor Gerry Tehan, Associate Dean (Faculty of Sciences, Springfield), was mentioned in the *Springfield News* discussing a Disability Services Queensland project that first year psychology students undertook.

RETROSPECT



USQ TOOWOOMBA'S FAVOURITE EATERY: If you've been to USQ Toowoomba chances are you've sampled the wares of the USQ Refectory. Here are some photos of the building being constructed in 1974.

.....
Here's a blast from the past thanks to *The Chronicle's* archives.

Please head to the USQ 40 Years website for more 'In Retrospect' pics!



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 > COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER AND EDITOR Amy Cass tel +61 7 4631 2092 cassm@usq.edu.au > COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR Fiona Taylor tel +61 7 4631 2559 taylorf@usq.edu.au > COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER Connie-Louise Alexander tel
+61 7 4631 2977 alexandc@usq.edu.au > COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER Joshua Ada tel
+61 7 4631 1628 ada@usq.edu.au > PHOTOGRAPHY USQ Photography tel +61 7 4631 2472 > ART DIRECTION www.bigfish.tv

CRICOS: QLD 00244B / NSW 02225M



UNIVERSITY
OF SOUTHERN
QUEENSLAND