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TOP STORIES



USQ releases new generation of degrees

A new generation of degree programs designed to renew, revitalise and re-profile USQ was announced on Tuesday, 20 May 2008.

Packaged as part of the Realising Our Potential (RoP) project, the plans will guarantee USQ's future as a thriving regional university by revitalising the education experience for students.

USQ Vice Chancellor, Professor Bill Lovegrove, said the final academic plans will respond to the demands of the Australian workforce by repositioning the University's five faculties for the next 10 years.

"The final plans considered feedback from staff and looked at ways in which the University could build on its strengths to offer relevant degrees while maintaining investment strategies that will allow high standards of research to continue," Professor Lovegrove said.

"Our aim is to offer a diversity of degrees that will re-vitalise the education experience for students so that our degrees will remain attractive to all current and future students."

"Our research showed that we were offering more degrees than most capital city universities but that 86 percent of our students were enrolled in just 20 percent of our courses. It was just not possible to maintain the viability of some degrees with zero or low student enrolments.

"By reviewing the degrees we offered we will now be able to equip graduates with a range of skills that will make them more employable.

"All of our flagship degrees in Arts, Business, Education, Sciences and Engineering & Surveying will remain and will be improved to ensure that we deliver degrees that students and employers want."

Professor Lovegrove said the University will be able to achieve these objectives through careful management of resources, at a time when funding opportunities are tight.

"While it still may be necessary to consider a small number of staff reductions in the University most of our savings have been made through natural attrition by staff retiring or leaving and their replacements considered against the strategic direction of the University.

The final plan includes the introduction of a common first year program in the Faculty of Education and alternative entry options and articulation pathways in the Faculty of Engineering and Surveying.

"The academic plan is also responding to changing industry demands by combining three separate creative arts degrees (music, visual arts and theatre) into a single degree called the Bachelor of Creative Arts that will increase students' skills making them more employable within the creative arts industries. A new Bachelor of Information Technology (IT) will also be offered jointly by the Faculties of Sciences and Business," Professor Lovegrove said.

A new set of awards to replace the Bachelor of Sciences degree was also recommended, in line with industry demand.

"The award will cater for students wanting to pursue careers in the high demand areas of climatology and sustainability, science studies and molecular and cellular biology, all of which have been shown as growth areas by state and federal government.

"By decreasing the amount of money we spend on unpopular programs, the



University will now be in a position to invest money in the development of new, high-demand degrees.”

Professor Lovegrove said the University looked forward to continuing to work with key stakeholders to present a more flexible range of programs to meet the needs of students and the future workforce and shape the University for growth in the Higher Education sector.

“USQ is a significant contributor to our region and provides more than \$300 million annually into the local economy and our academic plan will allow the University to increase its investment and knowledge sharing throughout the community.

“Our initiatives will now allow us to concentrate efforts in an accelerated biomedical science program which contributes to science education in schools and will continue to deliver on our outstanding cultural experiences such as the Shakespeare Festival and the McGregor Residential Schools.”

Story: Aidan Burke, Photo:USQ Photography



Supporting outstanding students

Creating opportunities for students is a key priority for USQ Chancellor Bobbie Brazil and her husband, Lyn, who generously support outstanding students each year through the Chancellor's Scholarship.

Valued at \$4K per year, the scholarship is awarded to high achieving undergraduate students who have been actively involved in extra-curricular and community activities.

As part of their generous commitment to the University, the Brazil family have donated \$10K per year for the past three years towards this scholarship. Last year the Brazil family also gave \$100K to the USQ Faculty of Engineering for work on alternate energy, which is currently supporting a PhD student and other research initiatives within the Faculty.

In recognition of this generosity, the USQ Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bill Lovegrove, recently hosted an afternoon tea to thank the Brazil family.

"The Chancellor and her husband, Lyn, are very interested in student success and celebrating student achievements and I would like to thank the Brazil Family for their contributions to the Chancellor's Scholarship fund and their support for energy research in the Faculty of Engineering."

During the event, Mrs Brazil spoke with scholarship recipients and endorsed her support for the scholarship.

"It's a great privilege to be a Chancellor of such a fine institution and it's too good an opportunity not to endorse USQ initiatives and support student achievement," said Mrs Brazil.

A qualified lawyer, Mrs Brazil is a partner in a successful broad-scale dryland and irrigation farming businesses on the Darling Downs and in the Northern Territory and is a passionate advocate of education, industry and resource management.

"I was the first member of my family to go to university and it's transformational. For rural students particularly, a regional university provides access and opens up the world to you."

These sentiments were echoed by students at a recent afternoon tea, held by the University to thank the Brazil family for their generosity.

"The scholarship changes your whole life," said current Chancellor's Scholarship recipient, Callie Gibbings.

"Even being short-listed gives you confidence - and that filters out to people around you and encourages them to be their best - it's made it a possible, achievable goal for people from my old school, St Saviour's College Toowoomba."

2008 Chancellor's Scholarship recipient, Angus Blackman graduated from Mt Tamborine State High School with an OP1 in 2007 and is currently studying a Bachelor of Theatre Arts at USQ.

The ambitious actor said his scholarship money has helped significantly this semester.

"Hugely. It takes a lot of pressure off. I am in a play at home called Crash and I have to go back every weekend to rehearse for that. I would not be able to take that opportunity if it weren't for a scholarship."

Fellow scholarship recipient, Kimberley Rann, is currently in her final year of a combined Bachelor of Education (Secondary)/Bachelor of Drama degree.

A Toowoomba local, Kimberley graduated from Harristown State High School in 2004 and used the money to pay off her HECS debt during her first year of study.



“In my second year I bought a motorcycle so I could travel to my practical placements and during my third year I went on a tour of the North and South islands of New Zealand during mid-semester break.

“This year I am using the money to support my living expenses while I am on prac placements in Stanthorpe and Miles.”

With graduation in her sights, the energetic student is now looking to the future.

“I would love to teach out west for a couple of years and then go overseas. I’ve had some experience working in St George and Dirranbandi and really enjoyed that.”

Please contact the University on 1800 269 500 or via email at study@usq.edu.au for more information about scholarships at USQ.

Story: Amy Cass, Photo: Liza Mattiazzi



USQ Fraser Coast graduation

Traffic came to a standstill in Maryborough on Saturday 17 May 2008 as 150 graduands and academics processed through the city to the Brolga Theatre for the 2008 USQ Fraser Coast graduation ceremony.

During the ceremony 118 students from five faculties received their degrees and diplomas from USQ Chancellor Bobbie Brazil. Many had travelled from as far away as Canberra and North Queensland to attend the ceremony.

Forty-nine of the graduates received Bachelor of Education degrees and 45 received Bachelor of Nursing degrees. Others received degrees from the faculties of Arts, Sciences, Business and Engineering.

The University Medal was awarded to Maryborough woman Jacque Bates. The award recognises exceptional academic achievement.

Jacque, who is now a teacher at Aldridge High, started her degree after raising her three children. Having only reached year 11 at school, she did a Tertiary Preparation Program at USQ Fraser Coast with the assistance of a scholarship.

"I couldn't have done it without the USQ scholarship," she said.

The valedictory speech was presented by Jane Seng, of Yeppoon. Jane received a Bachelor of Nursing degree with distinction.

She also received the Faculty of Sciences Medal and the Faculty of Sciences Prize.

The guest speaker was leading Australian scientist Prof Michael Gore.

Prof Gore is renowned for his role as founder of Australia's first interactive science centre, Questacon, and also as a scientific advisor to the television series *Towards 2000*.

He spoke about benefits of 'a prepared mind' and serendipitous discoveries and outcomes.

"A university degree doesn't give you all the knowledge you need for the rest of your life," he said.

"What you have acquired during the last three or four years is a prepared mind. A mind which is ready to recognise opportunities when they present themselves, opportunities that will make a difference."

Prof Gore physically saluted the graduates at the close of his speech.

Story & photo: Katrina Corcoran



MOVERS AND SHAKERS



USQ student to represent Australia

First year education student Eugene Seddon will soon juggle text books and assignments with his budding sports career.

The local football player was recently selected to play for Australia in the University Student Rugby League World Cup to be held in Brisbane during June.

The aspiring primary school teacher has played local representative football for Toowoomba and the south-west Queensland region, and says that he is looking forward to representing Australia and USQ.

“Being selected to play in this student world cup representing Australia is a huge honour. To be involved in a world cup with seven other nations from around the world will be a great experience.”

After years of working for a butcher, Eugene decided to fulfil his ambition to be teacher and enrolled in USQ’s Tertiary Preparation Program (TPP). Having successfully completed TPP Eugene commenced his degree earlier this year.

“University is going well. The study is going well and my marks have been good so far so personally I’m fairly happy.

“The thing I like the most about USQ is the elite athletes program that’s in place here, headed by Sharon Brabon. It’s a program that identifies and understands students with sporting commitments in and away from uni and staff do all they can so that our sporting commitments doesn’t hinder our learning here at USQ.

“Without this program I reckon I’d find playing league with my studies fairly difficult.”

In 2005 Eugene played in the Queensland Cup with the Broncos feeder Club the Toowoomba Clydesdales.

He has also played for the Queensland Rangers, and in 2006 Eugene played against the New Zealand Residents National Team in New Zealand.

The first University Student Rugby League World Cup was held in New Zealand in 1986.

Eight nations are expected to participate in this years games including, Wales, Scotland, France, England, Ireland and New Zealand.

Story: Connie-Louise Rego, Photo: USQ Photography



USQ graduate lands role on All Saints

All Saints fans can look forward to a fresh new face when University of Southern Queensland (USQ) graduate Alix Bidstrup takes to the screens in August.

Playing the part of graduate nurse Amy Fielding, 24 year-old Alix said she was thrilled to land the role.

“I’m extremely grateful and humbled to have been given this role, and invigorated by the challenges I know are ahead of me,” Alix said.

“My character is Amy Fielding; she’s a young nurse fresh out of uni who landed a job in the Emergency Department because of family contacts and is actually a bit out of her depth!”

Graduating earlier this month from a Bachelor of Theatre Arts (Acting) Alix said she is enjoying exploring the character of Amy.



“She's really caring and fun; she's got a good heart but is really feisty and feels a huge need to prove herself.

“It's really interesting and I really like her, I'm looking forward to getting inside her skin.”

Hailing from a cotton and grain farm between Jandowae and Warra in the Darling Downs, Alix began her degree with USQ in 2002 before travelling through Queensland, England, Western Europe and North West Africa.

She said the USQ program prepared her well for working as an actress.

“The purpose of the course was to prepare us for work as actors, and it did a good job.

“I developed skills for taking on other characters which involves more than just learning lines - you need to explore and learn the thoughts and emotions of the character too.

“I also developed writing skills so I know I can generate my own work if I want.”

Alix plans to make the most of her time in Sydney and is looking to stay in Australia for the foreseeable future.

“I'm working on All Saints until August, and I'll be focussing on meeting lots of people while I'm in Sydney.

“I'm hoping something will come out of my role, but if not I'll keep auditioning in for roles in Brisbane and Sydney until something else comes up! Ah, the unpredictable life of an actor.”

Alix will make her television debut on All Saints on Tuesday 5 August 2008.

Story: Jane Urquhart, *Photo:* USQ Photography



Researcher returns to Toowoomba

USQ Alumnus, Dr Judith Symonds has returned to Toowoomba from Auckland University of Technology to work on an assisted living project with USQ's School of Information Systems.

Dr Symonds arrived in Toowoomba in April with her husband and two children and said assisted living is about providing technology to help people live in their home, like the elderly.

"Assisted living is very personal," Dr Symonds said.

"The devices that people use must be pervasive in nature in that they must perform well and at the same time, blend into the background."

"For example, it's no good implementing a system in the home of a frail elder that requires them to interact with a small personal computer."

Dr Symonds said research shows that the best interaction that can be expected is to unplug a stick (usb) from one device into another.

"Ideally, everything that happens in such a system must be automated and pervasive, but also must respect the privacy and confidentiality of the user.

"It's a very delicate balancing act between having the system perform well with no need for manipulation by the user and still providing the user with some level of control over the type and level of information collected and the people who have access to such information.

"I was developing an assisted system with colleagues at AUT in 2007 and presenting our work to a group of geriatric specialist doctors in Brisbane when they begged me to try to develop a simple system to detect when someone is too ill to raise the alarm for help, such as in the case of a serious fall at home".

The prototype system, called Angel, uses a small number of digital switches and motion sensors to detect activity and non-activity in the home and raise an alarm.

The system has some intelligence and is able to detect between 'normal' inactivity, such as when the user is sleeping or out shopping and 'abnormal' inactivity when an alarm should be raised.

"I based the system on delicate 'ways of knowing' that are used by people to check on their ageing relatives who live alone," Dr Symonds said.

"It is possible to subtly check that someone is up in the morning by looking for the curtains to be drawn, a puff of smoke in the chimney, the milk taken in from the door-step and mail is removed from the mail box."

Dr Symonds is working to undertake some field trials and evaluation of the system with Associate Professors' Jeffrey Soar and Trudy Yuginovich from Collaboration for Ageing and Aged-Care Informatics Research (CAAIR) at USQ.

"Toowoomba has a concentration of retired people, moving in from the Darling Downs and therefore lots of opportunity to learn more about suitable people interfaces for the system."

Dr Symonds holds a Bachelor of Information Technology (1993) and Master of Information Technology (1999) from USQ and grew up in the south west Queensland community of Mungallala.

Dr Symonds said she is looking forward to celebrating a number of family milestones including her grandmother's 90th, her father-in-laws 60th and her sisters 30th birthdays while studying in Toowoomba.

Story: Supplied, Photo: Cindy Laine



Girls win regional challenge

Girls reigned supreme at the Regional Science and Engineering Challenge, with The Glennie School taking out the overall Champion trophy on the final day of the event.

Held at USQ over four days (6-9 May 2008), the annual event attracted 929 grade nine and ten students from across the Darling Downs.

2008 Challenge Coordinator Mary McGilvray said the annual competition encourages students to apply the principles of science, engineering and technology in a series of fun and competitive activities.

"This is the fifth year the University has hosted the event and it was great to see all the schools getting involved and enjoying themselves.

"Particular credit must go to The Glennie School who dominated competition on the first day of the event and won the Challenge overall.

"As daily winners, Ipswich Boys Grammar, Concordia College and St Joseph's College have also booked themselves a ticket to the Science and Engineering Super Challenge, to be held at the University of Queensland in Brisbane in August."

A new activity, 'So, who gets the water?' was a popular Challenge this year.

"As part of this activity, students were charged with developing a new, cutting edge way of reticulating water around the nation and demonstrate how engineering and problem solving is applied in the real world," Mrs McGilvray said.

The addition of twelve new sponsors was also a highlight of this year's Challenge.

"This year Civil Mining and Construction, New Hope Cooperation, Solidtech Engineering Services Pty Ltd, Opus International Consultants, Ergon Energy, GHD Pty Ltd, Humes, Rowen Meyer and Associates, Wagstaff Piling, Moonrise Estate Winery, Rimfire Winery and the Queensland College of Wine Tourism signed up to support the Challenge.

"These sponsors joined our list of existing sponsors including the Department of Main Roads, Science Centre of Innovation and Professional Practice, the USQ Student Guild, Rotary Club of Toowoomba East, Armstrong Auto Group, Engineers Australia, Buchanan Advanced Composites and Dornbusch Partners.

"Without the support of these businesses and our wonderful volunteer base we wouldn't be able to run the Challenge.

"Sponsorship helps to pay for trophies for the winning schools, refreshments for volunteers and teachers, Challenge shirts for the volunteers, and stadium hire, two days of which are sponsored by the USQ Student Guild. The additional sponsorship this year will also allow us to assist the schools who will be competing in the Super Challenge and hopefully the Grand Challenge later this year."

Story: Amy Cass, Photo: Elizabeth Bull



LTSU to host visit by Frank Lyons

LTSU is looking forward to hosting a visit by Frank Lyons from Portsmouth University from 11-20 June 2008. Frank is a national Teaching and Learning Award winner in the UK and a pioneer of work-based learning degrees and corporate degrees. He is currently director of one of UK's Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) specialising in Foundation Degrees. His program will cover all three campuses and he will assist in the development of a number of videotaped interviews that can be used for the purposes of professional development in faculties. To find out more visit the website:

<http://www.usq.edu.au/learnteach/develop/pdprogram/default.htm>

Do you know someone who has been promoted, received an award or recognition internally or externally? Please [email us](#) with information about their achievement.



OTHER NEWS



Elite athlete program launch at USQ

A program to support elite athletes during their time at University will be launched at USQ on Friday, 23 May 2008.

USQ's Elite Athlete Program is designed to help students cope with their sporting commitments and study workloads.

Coordinator of the program Sharon Brabon said 86 students are currently registered as elite athletes at USQ, including Taekwondo Olympian Tina Morgan and V8 Supercar driver Damien Assailit.

"We have students represented in over 30 sports from AFL to wheelchair rugby, snowboarding to dance" Mrs Brabon said.

"We also have performance artists and coaches in the scope of the program."

Students who register with the program receive assistance in organising assessments, timetables, enrolment and examinations.

"For an athlete to be recognised by the program they are identified by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), state or territory institute or academy of sport or a relevant national association.

"USQ will consider all sports and sporting commitments though," she said.

The program has already had some significant successes since Mrs Brabon came on board in 2006.

"A report I prepared on the program last year indicated a 30 per cent increase in registration of elite athletes over the past 18 months," Mrs Brabon said.

"I've had a lot of good feedback from the students in terms of the benefits for them and it's something they have used effectively."

Mrs Brabon said she hopes to continue growing and developing the support mechanisms for Elite Athletes at USQ.

"I am also looking at establishing at least one external scholarship. We have one internal scholarship already.

"I also want to increase the number of athletes by increasing the visibility of the program and establishing new links between sporting bodies and ourselves."

The launch of USQ's Elite Athlete Program will take place at 3:00 pm on Friday, 23 May 2008 in R226.

Story: Jane Urquhart, Photo: Elizabeth Bull



Practical experience for USQ business students

USQ business students will soon be given the opportunity to gain valuable workplace experience while completing a degree thanks to a new work integrated learning (WIL) course.

The Faculty of Business will offer *BUS3000 Work Integrated Learning* from semester two this year, and will host an all-day workshop for students interested in enrolling in the new program on Monday 19 May, 2008.

Dean of the Faculty of Business, Professor Allan Layton said "Now that we have a WIL, you now have a way".

This summarises the philosophy behind the course that will bring academic education closer to real world problem-solving and is another example of the commitment of USQ Business to being community centred and career focussed"

Co-course Leader Dr Joseph Mula said it will allow students to improve their learning by the application of the concepts, theories and graduate qualities developed in their major area of study to their workplace activities.

"For those students who are already working, it will capture the experience of those students in the form of a specific project that relates their practice to theory.

"The workshops will provide the work transition skills needed by students so that they are ready to contribute to the host organisation.

"A number of organisations have put up their hand to host WIL students in the first round but we are always on the look out for more organisations with projects that would suit a final year student.

"Some not-for-profit organisations have projects that need doing for which they don't have the expertise nor the fund to pay for the resources required. There is no payment for the work undertaken."

The course will be available to selected final year USQ Faculty of Business Bachelor program student who has completed at least four courses in the major of their work experience.

Story: Connie-Louise Rego, Photo: Elizabeth Bull



Engineering experts share experiences

Engineering students from the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) Springfield heard from a number of industry professionals this semester as part of a guest lecture series aimed at bringing industry experience into the classroom.

Senior Lecturer Dr David Thorpe said the guest lecturers gave first year engineering students an opportunity to listen to real-life experiences and exposed them to contacts that would be invaluable in terms of job opportunities and career development in the future.

“Most of all it gives them a wider view into the industry they will one day enter,” Dr Thorpe said.

“The guest lecturers have spoken to the students about their own industries and experiences.

“Through the guest lecture series the students have been able to drill down into specific roles within engineering and how it may impact them in their own future careers.”

Director of Research and Development at Excel Technology Group (ETG) and guest speaker, Paul Higgins, recently spoke to the students about Intelligent Transport Systems.

“In 1977 Paul established the Brisbane City Council Traffic Signal Laboratory which ultimately produced Brisbane’s BLISS wide area traffic management system.

“Under Paul’s direction Excel Technology Group (ETG) has designed and developed approximately 30 intelligent transport products for systems and isolated operation.

“Paul’s lecture was very interesting and, among other things, presented the students a view of tools used to by engineers to develop and manage better roads, as well as vehicle sensing technologies used by traffic law enforcement agencies.

“This kind of expertise coming into our lecture rooms is truly a wonderful opportunity for our students.”

Other guest lecturers include Errol George, an Ipswich resident who completed the requirements to become a barrister to complement his engineering qualifications, as well as senior Ipswich City Council engineering officers.

Mr George spoke to the students on the legal aspects of engineering.

Story & photo: Jo-Ann Sparrow



Attorney General to speak at USQ

The Attorney-General and Member for Toowoomba North, the Hon Kerry Shine, will speak at a free public lecture being hosted by USQ on Tuesday 20 May 2008.

The lecture is part of a series being run by the School of Law, and will be sponsored by Shine Lawyers.

The Head of the Law School at USQ, Geraldine Mackenzie will also speak at the lecture which will be chaired by Shine Lawyer Partner, Daryl Cox.

The event follows Queensland Law Week and will look at the current issues in criminal justice. Professor Mackenzie said it was an honour to have the Attorney-General speak at the Law School's inaugural public lecture.

"The USQ School of Law feels very privileged to have the Attorney-General and Member for Toowoomba Mr Kerry Shine presenting at our upcoming public lecture," Professor Mackenzie said.

"Mr Shine will be speaking on the topic of 'Safeguarding Citizens Rights' and more specifically the role of the Courts and the Attorney-General.

"The issue of civil rights is something which is often controversial, particularly in relation to Government and its role in addressing the ever increasing risk of terrorism, and this is something which we feel is of great interest and relevance to the general public."

Professor Mackenzie's address will focus on the issue of public confidence in the sentencing system and the impact it has on society when confidence in the legal system is lacking.

The School of Law extends a very warm welcome to the public to attend this free lecture to take place at Level 5, Q Block, USQ on Tuesday 20 May 2008.

Refreshments will be served at 6:00pm, with the lecture due to commence at 6:30pm. RSVP by Monday 19 May 2008, 12 noon, to davieh@usq.edu.au or phone 4631 1575.

Story: Connie-Louise Rego, Photo: Cindy Laine



Yarners donate to Winter Blanket Appeal

The USQ Yarners Club have assisted homeless people sleeping rough and those unable to adequately heat their homes again this year, through their donation to the annual Salvation Army Winter Blanket Appeal.

After months of knitting during their lunch break and enlisting the help of friends and family, the group created 15 colourful, warm blankets to donate to the Salvation Army.

USQ Yarners Club coordinator, Majella Albion, said it's the fourth year the group has got behind the cause.

"We mainly knit at home, but we also meet on campus and it's an opportunity to get different women from the University together in a non-academic setting and sit here and yarn," said Majella.

"It's also a great cause and a good opportunity for the University to engage with the community."

Majella said Sue Moes from Materials Development Services deserved a special mention for her efforts.

"Janet Taylor's 85 year-old mother, Win Taylor, also donated a lot of time to the cause, knitting five blankets for the appeal."

Majella said the club welcomed new members.

Story: Amy Cass, Photo: Liza Mattiazzi



USQ icons listed as local heritage treasures

Two USQ icons – the Ceremonial Mace and Toowoomba’s Japanese Garden (Ju Raku En) – were selected for inclusion in a booklet titled “Toowoomba’s Heritage Treasures”.

Launched at Platform 9 on Sunday 11 May 2008, the booklet is designed to highlight local treasures that have helped shape the city’s identity and development, to assist in preserving and to permanently record Toowoomba’s heritage for future generations.

USQ Corporate Records Manager, Derek Turner, attended the launch, along with members of the Toowoomba Regional Council, the Treasures Selection Panel, successful nominators, the National Trust of Queensland and other heritage groups.

“As indicated by Toowoomba Regional Council Mayor, Peter Taylor, the USQ Ceremonial Mace and Toowoomba’s Japanese Garden are treasures that have helped shape the city’s identity and represent strong ‘Town and Gown’ links between USQ and the city of Toowoomba,” Mr Turner said.

“The Mace was presented to USQ by the then Toowoomba City Council in 1993. It was made by Hay’s Jewellers and features the USQ Coat of Arms surmounted by the three-dimensional figure of a phoenix surrounded by flames.

“All elements have local origins, with the woodwork and jewellery work performed by two apprentices.

“The ceremonial mace is a significant part of USQ’s academic heritage, highlighting the University’s traditional regalia and its close connections with the Toowoomba community.”

Located adjacent to USQ’s Toowoomba Campus, the Toowoomba Japanese Garden (Ju Raku En) is the largest, most complex and most authentically designed Japanese garden in Australia.

“The garden, opened on 29 April 1989, was designed by Professor Kinsaku Nakane of Kyoto, a past master of the art of Japanese garden design,” Mr Turner said.

“More than 100,000 people visit the garden annually and it is a popular place for weddings. In 2007, the garden was voted ‘the highest quality Japanese garden in Australia’ by a panel of Japanese garden experts.”

In identifying the treasures, the selection panel assessed more than 150 nominations using various criteria including the location, accessibility, uniqueness and intactness of the icon.

“The booklet contains 43 treasures that reveal the passion that the Toowoomba community has for the built and natural environment.

“Examples include Mt Tabletop, the Range Volcanics, Carnival of Flowers Memorabilia, the Trades Hall and Associated Memorabilia, St Luke’s Church Hall and the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery.”

Copies of the booklet are available, at no cost, from the Toowoomba Regional Council Administration Office on Herries Street and the Toowoomba Visitor Information Centre, James Street.

Story: Amy Cass, Photo: USQ Photography



Classical musical inspires happiness

Fresh, new music and vibrant, young musicians will feature at USQ's next West-Star Motor's Twilight Recital on Wednesday 21 May 2008.

Established in 2003 to fill a niche in the classical music market, Collusion has become well-known and highly respected for championing new or rarely performed works.

Toowoomba born and bred, Benjamin Greaves (violin) together with Therese Milanovic (piano), Shannon Tobin (cello), Stephen Wylks (clarinet) and Emma Baker-Spink (soprano) make up the core members of the hybrid-arts ensemble.

"Personally, I have always been very interested in performing new and Australian works. In my teens I thought that it was the 'normal' or 'responsible' role of any musician to include new and Australian works in their repertoire," said Mr Greaves.

"I was heavily influenced by my teacher and role model at that time Mary Nemet. Her ABC recordings of Australian works were inspirational especially her recording of Don Banks violin and piano sonata, recorded with Wendy Lorenz."

"What many Australians do not realise is that we have composers who are considered leaders in their field world-wide. While they may not be household names, their achievements are as solid as an Olympic gold medal."

The Brisbane-based ensemble strives to include performances of landmark, innovative and compelling 20th century European and Australian classical music in their programs.

"We offer amazing music which we simply believe must be heard by all. We hope to challenge our audiences and encourage thought and discussion, and bring them closer to knowing and finding the music they absolutely love.

Handed his first violin at the age of eight, whilst at Harristown Primary School, Mr Greaves is now a highly respected freelance musician and educator.

"As a child music was an escape for me and gave me a strong reason to be happy," said Mr Greaves.

"One of the most fulfilling parts of my career is actually teaching. It is almost becoming my first love above performing. I learn so much from teaching about myself, my own performance skills and about what we are all capable of.

"I think the world would be a far happier place if people took the time to find out for themselves the joy and soul nurturing power that classical music and the fine arts posses."

Collusion's USQ program will include The Child Lived by Britain's most prominent and popular living composer, Sir John Tavener's; French composer, Frances Poulenc's La Courte Paille; Japanese composer, Toru Takemitsu's Quatrain II which reflects the nature and natural environment of Japan; and Australian composer Nigel Sabin's Inner-City Counterpoints which is an accessible soundscape incorporating the hustle and bustle of a large city.

The recital commences at 6pm in the USQ Arts Theatre on Wednesday 21 May. Tickets are \$16.50 for adults, \$13.50 concession and \$6 for children and can be purchased through the USQ Artsworx Box Office on 07 4631 111.

Story & photo: Supplied



Presentation explores database management

Information Systems staff and students enjoyed an interesting and thought-provoking presentation by Mario Bojilov of Meta Business Systems.

Mario is Education Director of the Brisbane Chapter of ISACA – the Information Systems Audit and Control Association.

He drew on his extensive experience with the Golden Casket Office to explain the business benefits of replicating a large production database to an independent database. The example he used processed 2-3 million transactions each week and as well as providing defence against fraudulent activities; it provided many serendipitous benefits to management and marketing staff.

Mario explained what he believes are the five keys to successful projects:

1. Technology on its own is not enough, you need people and processes to get you where you want to be;
2. Technology is just a tool. How and what you use it for makes all the difference;
3. Don't try to plan everything;
4. Technology rarely fails on its own, people usually make it do so;
5. Identify and/or create your allies.

Pictured are: Dr Aileen Cater-Steel (Senior Lecturer IS), Mario Bojilov (Meta Business Systems), Professor Mark Toleman (Head of IS School), Les Mitchell (Manager, Business Continuity & Risk Management), Dr Jianming Yong (Senior Lecturer IS)

Story: Supplied *Photo:* Elizabeth Bull

COMING EVENTS



23 May [Launch of the Elite Athlete Program](#)

26 May – 29 June [One Metre Eye-Height Exhibition](#)

30 May, 2 – 6 June [Breez Finance Children's Festival](#)

30 May [Voices on the Range](#)

If you would like to promote an event in *USQNews* and on the USQ Coming Events web site please email news@usq.edu.au with the details.



OUT AND ABOUT



[Science and Engineering Challenge](#)

[The Big Bocce Game](#)

[USQ Fraser Coast hosts Business Hervey Bay](#)

Our roving photographers are on the loose. Whether you are at a conference, event or the launch of a new centre you could be snapped!

STAFF PROFILE



Simon Mee

What does your job involve? Lecturing in gallery studies and curator of exhibitions

How long have you worked at USQ? Three years (plus some casual work before hand)

Are you involved in any interesting projects at the moment? Yes- I am working on a wall paper project with a few other artists. Hopefully the work will be available for sale eventually.

What's the best part of your job? I like working with the students- helping them push through and develop their potential.

What was your funniest moment at USQ? Watching Kyle (Jenkins) come back as a lumber jack was pretty funny!!!

What would your ideal holiday be? A month at the Louvre would be great- or Stradbroke Island with my family (with a nanny).



STUDENT PROFILE



Kirsty Hjort

What are you studying? I am in my second year of the Bachelor of Applied Media at Springfield campus.

Why did you choose USQ? I was a chef for 10 years and decided a career change was in order. I had a friend who was in second year Psychology at Springfield campus and she mentioned the BAM course. I had always been fascinated in the film and television industry so it seemed like a logical choice. I had seen other applied media courses, but Springfield was my first preference as it was close to where I lived.

What is the best thing about studying the BAM? We recently launched a radio station here at the Springfield campus and I produce and present the morning show. It has been a great experience. Working at the radio station, you are really put on the spot. It is fully hands on, you are learning to produce radio shows, talk to talent and come up with the segments on your own.

What are you going to do when you finish studying? We keep getting asked that same question by industry guest lecturers that visit the campus. I originally wanted to get into directing and producing, but having done some recent work experience, directing sounded like a very stressful job. I am now leaning more towards becoming a camera operator but I may still want to go in the director/producer direction when I find out more about where my own strengths and weaknesses lie.

What is your favourite thing to do on the weekend? When I have time, which isn't really that often at the moment, I love to just chill out with my friends.



NEWSMAKERS



Making headlines this fortnight: Vice Chancellor Professor Bill Lovegrove was responding to the release of the final academic plan. Dr Jeff Cockfield was all over the airwaves commenting on the Rudd Government's first budget and Don Gorman was interviewed about the mental health training being provided to farm advisory workers by the Centre for Rural and Remote Area Health.

Note: You will need your USQConnect username and password to access this web page on USQIndex.

Please email news@usq.edu.au if you would like to receive a daily USQ media monitoring report.

UNITRADER



Assorted items: Bike - Ladies Repco Mountain - 18speed Shimano Gears; mauve frame; vgc \$100. Pet carriers - 1 Ferplast 56cmx38cmx30cm high. Suit larger cat or sml dog vgc \$45; 1 smaller carrier near new. Suit smaller cat or toy dog -- \$30
Lawn mower - Rover Easystart 3-stroke. Gc. New blades. With book & spare spark plug/spanner. \$100 Phone x1054

Housemates wanted to share 3 B/room house close to USQ & Westridge. Fully furnished. \$100/wk + expenses. Call Sarah after 6pm 0421 780 229

Kids mini kitchen, with 2 bags of plastic foods included. Toy utensils also. \$150.00 the lot. Contact Jenny Young 4631 2180 or Email youngjen@usq.edu.au.

Rangeville house for sale \$479,000 On escarpment, close to Picnic Point. Two story, four bedrooms with large rumpus, large paved courtyard and deck - peaceful and private location. Phone Chris Kossen 040 7963 504

Wanted: wooden high chair in excellent-very good condition. Ext. 1418.

UniTrader: Do you have an item you are looking to swap, sell or buy? Please [email us](mailto:news@usq.edu.au) with your listing for inclusion in UniTrader.

PHOTOS



The USQ photographers are on campus snapping functions and catching everything on camera! You can check out their work on the [USQ Photography webpage](#). If you like what you see in USQ News and would like them to photograph your function or event please call Liza, Cindy or Liz on 4631 2472.

USQ *news*

STAFF NEWSLETTER of the UNIVERSITY of SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND

