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TOP STORIES



\$100K project to improve climate forecast for northern Australia

USQ will lead a team of top climate science and agricultural agencies in a scoping project to increase the profitability and long-term sustainability of agricultural industry in northern Australia.

The \$100K project 'Scoping northern Australia seasonal climate knowledge' is funded by Land and Water Australia and will improve understanding of climate variability in the region to reduce the risks and financial losses associated with extreme climate variability.

It will also address natural resource management issues in northern Australia.

USQ will collaborate with the joint CSIRO/ Bureau of Meteorology Centre for Australian Climate and Weather Research (CAWCR), Monash University, the Agricultural Production Systems Research Unit (APSRU) and key industry representatives from northern Australia.

Project leader and Director of the USQ Australian Centre for Sustainable Catchments Professor Roger Stone said a comprehensive body of climate information will be gathered to identify the knowledge gaps and needs for weather and seasonal climate forecasts in the region, and find new ways to address them.

"The project will try to uncover how and where the climate science is currently useful and what new work needs to be done to help the industry in northern Australia better cope with climate variability and climate change," Professor Stone said.

From initial workshops in the region the project team found that the agricultural industry in northern Australia urgently needs forecasts to cover the 20 to 50 day period to improve management decisions that include harvesting, planting and spraying and other tactical management issues.

The team also found that industry needs forecasts for the length of the wet season to plan in advance for the year ahead.

"Knowing the most likely onset date of the wet season is important," he said.

"Users [of climate forecasts] also need to know in advance the likely final characteristics of the wet season—especially whether it will finish abruptly and earlier than normal or continue on into late autumn."

The El Niño Southern Oscillation Index (ENSO) and the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) are the main drivers of climate in northern Australia, yet the project has found that little is known about how climate change will affect them, and how the two closely interact.

"There has been an important shift to more 'El Niño-like' conditions over the past 30 years, although it is not quite certain how much of this observed pattern will continue into the future under climate change.

"We also need to understand more fully the behaviour and likely rainfall with each MJO as it passes over northern Australia and the likely changes to the MJO under climate change."

Story: Jane Urquhart, *Photo:* Cindy Laine



Forum shares initiatives with local schools

Principals from around the region converged at USQ on Friday, 30 May 2008 to hear about the latest plans in the Faculty of Education.

Representatives from Government, Catholic and Independent schools learnt how the faculty plans to introduce new initiatives into its teaching degree following the release of the Academic plan as part of the University's Realising our Potential project.

USQ Dean of Education Professor Nita Temmerman said the forum was a good opportunity to liaise directly with principals.

"I was encouraged by the positive comments by the schools," Professor Temmerman said.

"They especially liked the idea of a common first year program and were encouraged by our aims to meet the needs of the students by allowing them to move in and out of different study modes, both on campus or through more flexible online delivery.

"We had a number of apologies because of the weather but the people who were there were incredibly positive with the new directions of the University."

Principal of The Glennie School Brenda Suhr said she was impressed with the initiatives of the University and the education faculty.

"It was excellent, I learned a lot," Mrs Suhr said.

"I liked the idea of the liaison representatives partnering with each of the schools to form a conduit between the schools and the University.

"This will mean the University and schools can work together to solve issues for matching those student teachers with the schools, which may encourage teachers who are overworked to take on pre-service teachers and enjoy the experience."

Principal of Toowoomba Christian College Richard Brown said the forum allowed him to see USQ is committed to education in the region.

"I think this is an opportunity to see USQ is willing to engage with leaders in the local education community.

"We have seen they are responsive to changes and pressures and are adopting new programs.

"From here we will re-evaluate our needs in light of what USQ is offering and see how we can work together."

Story: Jane Urquhart, Photo: Elizabeth Bull



Controversial film wins international award and private screening with Oprah

Nigger Lovers, produced by USQ academics Stephen and Rhonda Hagan, was again recognised by the international community when it was awarded International Best Short Documentary at this year's Wairoa Maori Film Festival in New Zealand on Saturday night (31 May 2008).

Now in its third year, the annual Wairoa Maori Film Festival is New Zealand's premier Maori and Indigenous film festival and was held from 30 May until 2 June.

The Hagan's said while they have won other awards for the film this recognition is particularly important.

"Although we won the EnhanceTV ATOM award at the Melbourne International Film Festival and the Inside Film (IF) award at the Gold Coast in 2007 for our documentary, this award is very special to us as it's our international Indigenous peers from the film industry who have recognised our contribution to documentary making," Stephen said.

The controversial documentary *Nigger Lovers*, which was sponsored by the Australian Film Commission, Film Finance Corporation and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, follows the Hagan's fight to remove the word 'nigger' from the ES Nigger Brown stand, at the Toowoomba rugby league oval, and has already gained significant national and international attention.

Stephen said University of Wisconsin academic, Associate Professor Patty Loew, attended the festival and was so impressed with *Nigger Lovers* that she intends to give Oprah Winfrey a private viewing of the film when they meet next month in Chicago.

"Ms Loew is the director of the *Way of the Warrior* documentary, a film that looks at Native American men and women who volunteered to serve in the United States military.

"She has invited me to attend the convention for African American, Native American and Hispanic journalists whose membership number 16,000 when they meet in Chicago next month. The convention is held every four years and Oprah is an active member of the organisation," Stephen said.

"Ms Loew is fighting a similar campaign in America to remove offending words for sporting mascots such as 'Redskins' and encouraged us to lobby the Food and Beverage Industry Union to have their members boycott providing their service to the Athletic Oval."

Stephen lost his initial Federal Court application to remove the sign and was unsuccessful on appeal to the Full Bench of the Federal Court and on seeking leave to appeal to the High Court.

In 2003 Stephen won his appeal to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) but Federal Attorney General, Darryl Williams, refused to abide by the UN's decision saying the Howard Government was satisfied with the domestic courts handling of this matter.

Stephen has since met with Senator Robert McClelland, the new Attorney General, and Queensland Premier Anna Bligh at the recent 2020 Forum which he attended in Canberra during April.

Stephen said the Attorney General Senator McClelland and Premier Bligh indicated they would take steps to remove the offending word but to date the sign has not been removed.

"Stephen and I will continue to promote our documentary on the international stage to draw attention to our government's poor handling of this important public issue until the sign is removed," Rhonda said.

Story:Connie-Louise Alexander, Photo:Supplied

USQ *news*

STAFF NEWSLETTER of the UNIVERSITY of SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND





MOVERS AND SHAKERS



Theatre student wins Arts Council scholarship

USQ theatre student Belinda Raisin has been awarded a special \$1000 Queensland Arts Council (QAC) Performing Arts Scholarship.

The third year Bachelor of Theatre Arts (Acting) student was one of four students from across the state awarded a scholarship in the 2008 round.

Aside from being an honour, the scholarship will ease financial pressure and allow Bel to concentrate on her studies, she said.

"It was fabulous. It's really helpful," Bel said.

"I'd rather spend my time on my uni work so the most I can commit to a job is seven hours so this is topping me up every week.

"Because we have so many contact hours a job would be taking my time away from uni. This alleviates some of the stress."

A former dancer with the Christine Walsh Dance Centre in Melbourne Bel made the decision to concentrate on acting and came to USQ.

"I tried to ignore the need to perform but couldn't and decided to focus on it completely so came to USQ," she said.

"I chose USQ because it is very focused and has a highly recommended acting course. It has a very good name.

"The course has been rewarding and challenging, and that's all you can ask for. It is nice to be surrounded by likeminded people equally as focussed."

Senior Lecturer in Acting, Robert Ketton said Bel was a worthy scholarship recipient.

"We look for someone who is going to succeed over the three years and beyond," Mr Ketton said.

"They need to be committed to the industry and someone who is in need and deserving of help.

"Bel had demonstrated a commitment to the course. She worked hard and consistently which is really important."

The QAC is Australia's largest regional arts network which promotes the value of the Arts in regional communities across the state.

"The theatre department has had a long and close relationship with the Queensland Arts Council and we are grateful for their continued interest and support," Mr Ketton said.

Story: Jane Urquhart, Photo: Elizabeth Bull



Engineering professorial lecture

The ethics of engineering was presented to students and the public at the USQ's annual McGregor College Professorial Lecture on Tuesday, 27 May 2008.

The University's Dean of Engineering and Surveying Professor Frank Bullen addressed the audience on *Sustainable development: Engineers and ethics*.

"Engineers act as an interface between science and society but are expected to act in an ethical manner that may differ from and transcend that of society," Professor Bullen said.

As part of the presentation Professor Bullen presented hypothetical case studies on the Great Barrier Reef and the Snowy Mountains Scheme.

"I also looked at how historically engineers were really designed to serve military or business purposes and didn't have to answer to society."

The implications of ethics and true sustainable development for future engineers was also examined, Professor Bullen said.

"At USQ in the Engineering faculty we have 40 to 50 nationalities. Sustainable development means something different for each nation and culture.

"What's considered to be ethical in Toowoomba can be quite different in India, Sri Lanka or China.

"We have to make sure the students realise there is no absolute and the ethical standard is personal."

Professor Bullen wanted his audience to take away a new understanding of the position of engineers in society.

"Society has to realise engineers only work within the boundaries of their society. Don't expect them to transcend morals. They are doing their job within a code of ethics that must encompass their communities."

Professor Bullen came to USQ in 2007 from the University of Tasmania (UTAS), where he was the Head of School of Engineering.

As well as working at UTAS, Professor Bullen has also held several other positions at various universities including the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), the Papua New Guinea University of Technology and the University of Newcastle.

Story: Jane Urquhart, Photo: USQ Photography



Research excellence awards

USQ's academic board and council recently conferred the 2007 Excellence in Research Awards to Dr Nam Mai-Duy, Dr David Turnbull and Associate Professor Joachim Ribbe.

Vietnamese in origin, Dr Nam Mai Duy is an USQ PhD Graduate (2002) and a recipient of three prestigious post-doctoral fellowship awards and an active researcher in the domain of Computational Mechanics.

Dr Mai Duy has won two Australian Research Council Discovery Project grants in the period 2006-2008, which is an immense effort for an early career researcher.

He has authored 67 publications including 2 book chapter and 40 journal articles and is a referee for several Australian and international journals. His research efforts have been duly recognised by USQ.

Dr David Turnbull, researches in a niche area called "Solar Radiation". His research findings are of interest to the community both nationally and internationally.

As many as 1600 Australians die from skin cancer each year and approximately 380,000 Australians are treated for skin cancer. Health costs alone have been estimated at \$264 million each year and Dr Turnbull's research in the domain of solar radiation and Vitamin D has been receiving wide publicity through radio interviews and media articles and particularly on "UV radiation in shade environments".

As an early career researcher, Dr Turnbull has won about \$178,000 through competitive grants. He has numerous publications and assists as an Associate supervisor for post graduate students at USQ.

Associate Professor Joachim Ribbe, a PhD graduate from Flinders University, joined USQ in 2001. Since joining USQ, he has established a national and international reputation in the area of ocean general circulation modelling and general circulation modelling.

His main focus is upon processes that drive rainfall variability and the ocean's influence on Australia's Climate. He has over 80 publications some of which are published in highly ranked international journals including *Nature*.

He has managed more than \$740,000 in research funding obtained through various collaborative partnerships with government bodies including ARC. Dr Ribbe is also an Associate Editor of *Elsevier journal of Ocean Modelling* and has membership to various committees.

Congratulations to Dr Nam Mai-Duy, Dr David Turnbull and Associate Professor Joachim Ribbe.

Contact: Dr Ren Yi, Director Office of Research and Higher Degrees, +61 7 4631 2866

Story: Supplied, Photo: Liza Mattiazzi



USQ student to compete in Beijing

USQ student and Taekwondo champion Tina Morgan is all set to compete in the Beijing Olympics in August this year.

Currently ranked number one in her division in Australia, Tina has a hectic few months of training and preparations ahead of her in the lead up to the games.

“For the next 80 days we will be based in Canberra at the AIS training six days a week,” Tina said.

“About 8 to 12 athletes from different countries will be coming in to be our training partners.”

Tina said she is thrilled to represent her country for the second time at an Olympic Games.

“I truly feel honoured to be representing Australia again,” she said.

“In Athens I felt the pressure of competing on such a big stage but now having had that experience and also having seen Beijing prior to going, I feel more prepared and ready to fight.”

The challenges Tina has faced over the past year have shaped her to be stronger and more ready for the Games, she said.

“It is different being told a second time around you are on the team. There was less excitement for me but a greater sense of self satisfaction that I had overcome major injuries and made it back to the top of my sport in a year.

“I feel more determined than ever to go out in August and give the best performance I can.”

Currently enrolled in a Bachelor of General Studies, Tina hopes to start honours in Psychology next year after the Games.

“It’s certainly an art to balance study and training!” she said.

“I think if you just dedicate yourself to what you need to do you can achieve results.”

Support Tina has received from USQ’s Elite Athlete Program and the AIS has assisted in achieving her goals, she said.

“The program gives a bit more flexibility in getting work done. They are very appreciative of the workload athletes like myself are under.

“The Athlete Career and Education Officer here at the AIS has also helped me significantly organise my time.”

Tina will complete a blog in the lead up to the Games. To support her in her preparations visit the website <http://www.tinamorgan.blogspot.com>.

Story: Jane Urquhart, Photo: Supplied



VC heads back to school

USQ Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bill Lovegrove, headed back to school on Monday 26 May 2008 as part of Education Queensland's Principal for a Day initiative.

Held as part of State Education Week, the annual event provides business and community leaders with an insight into daily operations of state schools and allows school communities to interact with important role models.

Professor Lovegrove said was looking forward to spending a day at Harristown State High School as part of the program.

"Being Principal for a Day allows me to meet many students and to see what they are learning and how schools have changed," Professor Lovegrove said.

"Such insights may influence arrangements we put in place to help students transition from High School to university.

"I am also participating in the program to register a vote of confidence in the quality of High Schools in the Toowoomba region."

Before his visit Professor Lovegrove said he would meet with school captains and deputy principals, as well as tour the school and undertake playground and bus duty.

"I hope that I am able to take on board suggestions that the students may have for entering their lives into the university system.

"I am also hoping to learn more about what is offered at high school and how we, as a University, may be able to engage more effectively with the schools."

As part of his application, Professor Lovegrove was asked to describe his role in the community.

"I would like to be described as a 'sports star', but that is in my mind only as I participate in triathlons for pleasure. By virtue of my employment I probably should be described as a community leader."

Former Queensland participants in the program include Governor of Queensland Her Excellency Quentin Bryce and former Defence Force General Peter Cosgrove.

Story: Amy Cass, Photo: USQ Photography



Engineering professor engages in international knowledge sharing

Head of Mechanical & Mechatronic Engineering at USQ Professor David Ross has spoken at two Korean universities in an effort to build relations and showcase the distance education strength of the University.

Professor Ross teaches an online course for Hanyang Cyber University (HYCU) and was invited to showcase USQ's achievements in distance education and discuss how the two universities could collaborate.

He was also asked to present to Ewha Women's University which is 122 years old and is considered the largest women's university in the world with over 28,000 on-campus students.

"At HYCU I spoke to three groups. The first group was 350 students and my talk was about *Automating Higher Education Using Edutainment for Open and Distance Learning: Frontiers and Challenges*," Professor Ross said.

"The second group was 160 university staff members and I spoke to them about trends in e-learning and how to initiate collaborative learning into their program.

"The third group was 125 academics from their university where the main talk was on Instructional Design Strategies and how to develop interactive elements for group interactions in online delivery."

Professor Ross spoke about strategies and trends in online delivery at USQ and in higher education across the world at Ewha Women's University.

"They had a division called the International Cyber University where they offer online educational programs to their students.

"They are also looking at new directions that would help them offer a more blended approach to their current educational programs. I had a group of over 250 students in my presentation which generated quite an interest in online global activities.

"This was our first meeting and we are looking at ways USQ and their university can develop ongoing collaborative projects."

Professor Ross said it was important to maximise such opportunities to promote the University internationally.

"It's exciting to look at ways USQ can enhance our globalisation with new university relationships that will lead to the sharing of knowledge and experience with universities with similar visions.

"This is enabling us to be a recognised leader in how we deliver our programs in a globalised world."

Story: Jane Urquhart, Photo: Supplied

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



Local teens engage in cultural festival

Around 1500 teenagers from across the Toowoomba region gathered at USQ on Friday, 30 May 2008 for the Voices on the Range (VOTR) Youth Cultural Festival.

Friday was the final day of the Festival which started on Tuesday, 27 May with Authors in Schools, Authors in the Garden and the Festival Launch at the Empire Theatre.

VOTR coordinator Rohan Davis said despite the drizzly weather, the school students enjoyed the day at the University.

"There's plenty of noise, crowds of kids, the authors have enjoyed themselves, everyone seems to be having a good time," Mr Davis said.

"Today we've got about 1500 students, in the pre-festival events we had about 6000 students.

"Students have come from Milmerran, Pittsworth and Lockyer High and there is a wide cross-section from schools in town."

St Ursula's College students Ashleigh Cooley and Hilary Bourke said they enjoyed the day.

"It's been great to hear from the authors," Ashleigh said. "We learned how to generate ideas from James Moloney."

"We've learnt about effective ways to write stories and how to write biographies and short stories," Hilary said.

Author James Moloney said he was pleased with the enthusiasm of the students who attended.

"The students have been wonderful, very responsive," Mr Moloney said.

"I just finished a session with Fairholme girls, they were great. They laughed at my jokes and asked incisive questions. They had read some of my other books and asked questions about those too."

Despite endless other options for entertainment, sitting down with a book appears to still be a popular pastime for teens, Mr Moloney said.

"Its great to see teens enthusiastic about enjoying books and reading particularly when reading is in competition with all of the other pursuits teens can get up to."

Mr Moloney said to encourage teens to continue reading, production of electronic books will probably increase.

"It's a way to appeal to teenagers and the y-generation as they look for the electronic approach to everything.

"They can download a book off the net sitting on the train so instead of listening to music they can listen to a book.

"It may not be that long before narrated books can be downloaded the same way music is."

Story: Jane Urquhart, Photo: Elizabeth Bull



Good Morning.... Baghdad!

Before Royal Australian Air Force Warrant Officer Jodi Graham was welcomed home to Ipswich from an arduous six-month deployment in Baghdad, USQ *Phoenix Radio* was able to catch up with her in Iraq.

Speaking live from Baghdad W.O.F.F. Graham told USQ's Ashley Jones she was looking forward to meeting up with her husband, son and family at home in Yamanto.

"I am taking about four weeks leave when I get home, so it will be a nice long break and I can relax," W.O.F.F. Graham said.

"Then I begin working on a project in Brisbane, so I'll start the commute from Ipswich back into the city again."

W.O.F.F. Graham said it was with trepidation she had accepted to go to Iraq to work in logistics while leaving her husband and son at home.

"But at the same time it was a job that I was trained to do, I wanted to do and I felt I could have some kind of impact on our mission in Iraq, to help the Iraqi people gain their freedom and independence.

"So it was important for me from that perspective, but it was also important that my training would allow me to come over here and be effective and do a good job for our people."

She told *Phoenix Radio* that while still dangerous in Iraq it was not as bad as when forces first arrived in the country.

"The inroads we have made with security have been brilliant and the training we have provided to the Iraqi army has helped them provide their own security. We are quite proud of that."

W.O.F.F. Graham said her deployment in Iraq has made her a better person.

"It has given me a sense of how generous we are as Australians. The eyes of the world can see how generous we are as a people.

"The other coalition forces love us - they think we are great and the job we do.

"We are only a small force, but we certainly punch way above our weight and are generally very well regarded.

"That's nice, because you see it every day. We have the American's and all sorts of other nations over here and they are always willing to say hello.

"The Tongans are always coming out with 'Aussie Aussie Aussie' and we always have to reply 'Oi Oi Oi', that sort of thing. So it's quite good and is really uplifting."

W.O.F.F. Graham said she tried not to think about the workmates she was leaving behind in Iraq.

"You make extremely good friends and you have been living and working with these people closely for six months and you do get really close to each other.

"You make friends for life and don't lose sight of them. This is my second deployment and I am still in touch with people that I met and worked with on my first deployment and that was three years ago."

USQ Bachelor of Applied Media (BAM) Lecturer Ashley Jones said he was honoured to interview W.O.F.F. Graham while still in Baghdad.

"*Phoenix Radio* is not only about teaching our students radio production. It is also aimed at connecting the wider Ipswich community and becoming involved with their stories.

"Amberley Air Base is in our backyard and speaking to W.O.F.F. Graham live from Baghdad, really brought home the role our Ipswich service men and women are



playing in world affairs.

“We hope to catch up with W.O.F.F. Graham and her family again when she has had time to settle in at home.”

Signing off from *Phoenix Radio* W.O.F.F. Jodi Graham only had one message for the family she was about to reunite with.

“To Chris and Shawn, I’ll be home soon and to Mum and Dad, I’ll see you at the airport when I get there and I love you all.”

You can tune into *Phoenix Radio* at [www.usq.edu.au\phoenixradio](http://www.usq.edu.au/phoenixradio).

For more information or to become involved with the radio station contact Ashley Jones on 07 3470 4642 or phoenixradio@usq.edu.au

Story & photo: Jo-Ann Sparrow



Public confidence needed in court system

USQ Head of Law School and criminal law barrister Professor Geraldine Mackenzie believes more public confidence is needed in the court system.

In her address at the inaugural Shine Lawyers USQ Law School Public Lecture on Tuesday night, Professor Mackenzie said there was a serious problem with public confidence in the courts, largely driven by public perceptions not matching with reality.

She also noted that studies had shown that fear of crime was a major factor in the law and order debate, and yet reported crime was dropping in almost all categories, particularly offences against the person and property crimes.

“There’s no doubt in my mind the lack of confidence in the system is being exacerbated by some sections of the media, and the way that court proceedings are reported,” Professor Mackenzie said.

“The problems with the lack of confidence in the courts are many, not the least of which is the risk that people will take the law into their own hands.”

The Attorney-General and Member for Toowoomba North, the Hon Kerry Shine, also spoke at the lecture. In his address, he spoke on safeguarding citizens’ rights and more specifically the role of the courts and the Attorney-General.

Professor Mackenzie said it was an honour to have the Attorney-General present at the Law School’s inaugural public lecture.

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

“The issue of wrongful convictions is very important, and we believe that this issue is of great interest to the public and so hoped they benefited a great deal from what the Attorney-General had to say.”

The event received an overwhelming response, with over one hundred members of the public, USQ staff and legal industry guests in attendance.

Shine Lawyers partner Darryl Cox said that Shine Lawyers were very pleased to be sponsors of the Public Lecture series.

“We are all delighted with the success of the night and look forward to building our partnership with the USQ School of Law in the future,” Mr Cox said.

Professor Mackenzie said that the Law School was overwhelmed by the number of people who came along to the lecture and saw this as a strong indication of how important these issues really are to our society.

“We are very much looking forward to our next public lecture and encourage the public to monitor our website for any future events.”

Shine Lawyers was founded over 30 years ago in Toowoomba and now has more than 200 staff in Queensland and Western Australia, with offices in Toowoomba, Brisbane, Redcliffe, Sunshine Coast, Caboolture, Strathpine, Logan, Gympie, Gold Coast, Mackay, Perth, Townsville and Cairns.

Story: Supplied, Photo: Cindy Laine



USQ tourism students study Harrisville

Tourism students from the USQ Springfield campus recently took a field trip to Harrisville to prepare them for an upcoming assignment on tourism planning.

The students completed a walking tour of the town and spoke to three Harrisville business owners, Mackaways Café, the Royal Hotel and Normanby Wines, about their experiences in the area.

Using the town as a case study in their assignments, the students will aim to attract more tourists to the area by assessing Harrisville's tourism potential and developing a site plan for either a new attraction on a vacant site or in an existing building or redevelopment of the winery.

USQ Tourism lecturer Dr Narelle Beaumont said the business owners were very cooperative and generous with their time.

"They talked to the students about the development of their business, the current market, promotional activities and what they would like to see for tourism in the town," Dr Beaumont said.

"Any good ideas the students develop while completing their assignments will be passed on to the operators themselves or the local tourism operators' association."

Sara Reti, a Bachelor of Business student majoring in Tourism Management said she enjoyed the visit to Harrisville.

"I had never been to Harrisville before and really enjoyed the character and history of the little town," Sara said.

"It was nice to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city as well. We were able to have lunch at the local Mackaways Café and look around the historical Royal Hotel.

"While we were visiting Normanby Wines, we relaxed in their beautiful surroundings, took in the views and sampled some of their home grown wines. It was also a great opportunity to talk to one of the owners, Jenny Hall and learn more about the winery and its customers."

Sara said the field trip helped her to understand the impact tourism had on a small community and the need for effective tourism planning in the area.

"I am going to do my assignment on building extra accommodation in Harrisville, which I found to be lacking in the area. I haven't yet decided what sort of accommodation it will be though."

USQ Tourism students have also recently gone on an ecotour operated by Araucaria Ecotours of Rathdowney to Daisy Hill Conservation Park and Redlands Indigiscapes as part of another tourism field trip.

Story & photo: Jo-Ann Sparrow



First students to take up WIL

Business students have been given the opportunity to gain valuable organisational experience while completing a degree thanks to a new Work Integrated Learning (WIL) course.

“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,” Dean of the Faculty of Business, Professor Allan Layton said.

A WIL workshop was conducted as a collaborative effort between the Careers and Employment Student Services (C&E), USQ and the Faculty of Business to prepare students to identify potential sponsors for their projects.

The C&E team consisted of Katrina Vagg, Annissa O’Shea, and Nancey Hoare.

“It is great to see that we can support an important pathway to employment. We want to make sure the WIL students get the best possible start to their course and approaching potential host employers,” Manager of C&E, Peter McIlveen said.

A comprehensive workshop manual containing all the key actionable activities that students can use to help them be work ready was developed by C&E based on their vast experience in dealing with students employment services.

“The workshops provided the first step to the work transition skills students need so that they are ready to approach host organisations. “Based on the feedback we received from students, this first workshop hit the mark. We are pleased with the outcome,” Co-course Leader Ray Hingst said.

The workshop was held on two campuses, streamed live across the Internet and recorded for later review by all students even those that could not make the live presentation.

Four different technologies were used to facilitate this delivery method to test which is the most effective for students so that the next workshop in July will use this one method.

Story: Supplied, Photo: Elizabeth Bull



Hottest Indigenous artists exhibit for kids

Children from across the Darling Downs will have the rare opportunity to view art by some of Australia’s leading contemporary Indigenous artists during the One-Metre Eye Height exhibition at USQ.

The exhibition will be presented as part of the annual Breez Finance Children’s Festival and will be shown until 29 June 2008.

Exhibition Curator, Simon Mee, said the collection of work will showcase some of Australia’s hottest Indigenous artists including local artist, Donna Moodie and Evan Hollis, along with visiting artists Archie Moore, Vernon Ah Kee and Christian Thompson.

“I have been interested in putting together an exhibition like this for sometime. There is a lot of exciting contemporary art being made by Indigenous people in Queensland. It’s often passionate with something to say.

“I thought it was also important to show Indigenous art in a non stereotypical way to the community,” Simon said.

“USQ has brought a lot to Toowoomba – an engagement with contemporary



Indigenous culture has both community and artistic benefits.”

Local artist Evan Hollis is exhibiting a number of pieces that will capture the imagination of children through his mythical Gondwanaland creatures.

“The children who visit the exhibition will enjoy it because it is funny, relevant and passionate,” Simon said.

“Contemporary Indigenous art is one of the most dynamic areas within Australian culture; we should be part of this!”

The exhibition will run from 26 May until 29 June 2008 and is open to the public with free entry.

A series of interactive workshops will also be offered for school groups in conjunction with this exhibition.

For more information contact USQ Box Office on 4631 1111.

Story: Connie-Louise Alexander, *Photo:* Elizabeth Bull

IN BRIEF

Stevo's Shave for a pass

Engineering lecturer Steven Goh made his first year engineering students an offer they couldn't refuse- he would shave his head if their marks increased dramatically.

“It was a snap decision during one of the lectures I was delivering, I thought, there's all the pedagogical things I am doing to improve progression and retention, what else could I do to get the students motivated for this difficult assignment?” Steven said.

“Bingo... Shave for A Cure (for Leukaemia Research) was around that time, and I did that once before, so why not with this! Besides, it was fun to do, and teaching should involve a bit of fun, makes me enjoy my work a lot more.

“My wife didn't appreciate a monk showing up at home though!”

Steven's approach seemed to work, passing rates of the assignment went up 9 per cent for on-campus students and 10 per cent for external students, from 2007 results.

The number of students who got a mark of 90 per cent or higher increased from 25 per cent to 46 per cent for on-campus students and from 17 per cent to 38 per cent in external students.



COMING EVENTS



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

6 June – [Year ten Funny Business Judgement Day](#)

11 June – [Jesse Luque playing at the OC in Springfield](#)

12 June – [Open mic night at OC Springfield](#)

18 June - [Corporate Club at the Glennie School](#)

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



[Elite Athlete Program launch](#)

[Titration competition](#)

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



Shajahan Khan

What is your job title and what does it involve? My current job title is Academic Level D in Statistics within the Department of Mathematics & Computing. Teaching undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Statistics, design and deliver courses, supervise higher degrees students, conduct research and publish research outputs, association with professional organisations and promote USQ and its programs.

How long have you worked at USQ? I joined USQ in January 1993 after completing my PhD degree in Statistics from the University of Western Ontario, Canada.

Are you involved in any interesting projects at the moment? I am part of several research and professional projects. In addition to usual statistical research on improved estimation and test, I am involved in a UQ project on meta-analysis of randomised control trails. Since 2006, I have been serving as the Chief Editor of the Journal of Applied Probability and Statistics (JAPS) published by Dixie W Publishing, USA, and as the President of the Islamic Countries Society of Statistical Sciences (ISOSS), an international professional organisation of Statisticians.

What's the best part of your job? As a teacher, imparting new knowledge to students and training them with essential skills of statistical methods are the best part of my job. Training the higher degrees research students is more exciting.

What was your funniest moment at USQ? When the doors of the windows of my office were screwed to the steel frame to stop cold wind flowing in to the room in winter.

What would your ideal holiday be? Take the family to visit relatives and friends.

STUDENT PROFILE



Rosie Spiers

First year Bachelor of Theatre Arts student Rosie Spiers played the part of Peaseblossom in the recent production of *Midsummer Night's Dream* as part of the Breez Finance Children's Festival.

Where are you from: I'm a Toowoomba girl through and through. I did primary school at Toowoomba East State School and secondary at St Ursula's College.

Why did you choose USQ: I always wanted to come since I was little because of Scott Alderdice. He directed a play I was in - I was a dancer in *Midsummer Night's Dream*. I just love this play, it was the first one I did when I was little.

What has been your favourite part of the course: that would be all the different people that we get to work with. We have worked with the costume designers, lighting crews, stage management crews, backstage crews, the musicians, and the director and the amazing lecturers like Scott, Bernadette and Robert. It has been such an honour to have worked and learnt off all of these different people

What do you hope to do once you finish: I'm thinking I'll audition for the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) or the Western Australia Academy of Performing Art (WAAPA).



NEWSMAKERS



Making headlines this fortnight: The Director and cast members of *Midsummer Night's Dream* were in the news promoting the production. USQ alumna Kate Carroll appeared in *The Courier Mail* for winning Queensland Graduate Nurse of the Year and USQ student and member of the Elite Athlete Program Tina Morgan was on the airwaves speaking about competing in the Beijing Olympics in August.

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



2005 Mazda 3 hatchback - 2.0ltr 4 Cylinder, 5 Speed Manual, 67,000km, regularly serviced (1 female owner), Air Con, Power Pack (power windows, audio controls on steering wheel), Cruise Control, Metallic Paint, 2 brand new tyres, 6 months Rego, CD Player, Genuine Mazda floormats, Excellent on fuel. Very Good Condition. \$17,500 ono. Please phone Jess Grady on 0412929087 or email gradyj@usq.edu.au

Royal Albert Old Country Roses Cup & Saucer x2 Made in England, never used. Value \$180 sell \$100 phone 0403 336273

UniTrader: Do you have an item you are looking to swap, sell or buy? Please [email us](#) 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.