

2004 Award of  
Excellence for  
Institutional  
Achievement



# USQ NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND • AUSTRALIA

18 AUGUST • 2004

<http://www.usq.edu.au/newsevents/usqnews>

## Business contributions recognised by peers



**TOP TWO:** Director of Research for the Department of Marketing and Tourism Associate Professor Gabriel Ogunmoku and Dean of Business Professor David Harvey have made significant contributions to their profession and were recognised internationally for their efforts recently.

**TWO** USQ academics have received international recognition for their high standard of achievement and contribution to their professions at the inaugural Academy of World Business, Marketing and Management Development Conference, held at the Gold Coast.

Dean of Business, Professor David Harvey and Director of Research for the Department of Marketing and Tourism, Associate Professor Gabriel Ogunmoku, were the only two people to receive awards at a special presentation during the conference.

Professor Harvey was awarded the "2004 International Educator of the Year Award" in recognition of his outstanding leadership and tremendous contribution to Business Education, especially the internationalisation of education in the areas of Business and Commerce.

Dr Ogunmoku received the "2004 Award for Excellence in Leadership and Innovation" for his excellent skills, knowledge, dedication, vision and international experience in leadership and management; as well as for his outstanding research publication record and innovative contribution to the profession.

The Academy's awards were based on peer nomination. Once nominated, an extensive search of the academic and professional activities of the nominees was carried out and the information from this search was used for the final decision.

Professor Harvey said he was honoured and surprised by the award as, in his view, he was only doing his job.

"On reflection, it is clear that USQ has had a real success in developing its international programs," Professor Harvey said.

"In the past three years USQ's international student numbers have grown more than 100 per cent, mainly through the development of offshore partnerships. Examples of these partnerships include links with Zhejiang University City College, Shanghai University and a partner in Dubai.

"The Faculty of Business has developed a range of quality improvements relating to international activity, with the fundamental aim of ensuring equivalence of outcomes for students, wherever they are in the world," he said.

Dr Ogunmoku also organised the Academy's conference.

He said he decided to organise the conference after he identified, through his research, a lack of good quality international conferences that covered a broad range of issues in the areas of world business, marketing and management development.

"Although it was an inaugural conference, it attracted people from many parts of the world. The theme, *The Challenge of Inter-Disciplinary Perspectives and Globalization in the 21st Century* was chosen for the conference because the internationalisation of business has emerged as one of the dominant trends today," Dr Ogunmoku said.

"The ever-increasing economic, political, social and cultural changes occurring in the international and global environment is dramatically altering the landscape of business. The changes have affected the practice of business worldwide and mean that businesses must constantly remain innovative and take an integrated view of management that emphasises the interrelatedness and interdependency of the various business functions."

The conference, which was attended by about 130 participants from more than 25 countries, covered many topics including business, finance, marketing, management, information technology, tourism and corporate strategy related that are of national and international significance.

*Fiona Taylor*

INSIDE... Engineering a Race Car P3

Principal's Award P4

Marsupial Mapping P7

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**TEACHING TEACHERS:** Professor Ken Zeichner from the University of Wisconsin, Madison visited the Toowoomba campus recently to offer a few words of wisdom about the shift in teacher education in the USA against the political backdrop of the Presidential election. Professor Zeichner is internationally known and respected as an outstanding teacher educator and his work has already had an impact on Australia's pre-service teacher education programs in such areas as social justice, cultural diversity, partnerships and school-based approaches.



**ENRICHMENT CAMP:** The last week of the Winter recess saw 20 students from the Faculty of Education offer an exciting program to 60 year 8 and 9 students from schools across south-west Queensland. The annual Priority Country Area Program (PCAP) Enrichment Camp offered a variety of activities for the students to explore including theatre, song writing, mental gymnastics, IT, languages and understanding other cultures. The PCAP camp provides a valuable experience for pre-service teachers to work with rural students in a team teaching situation. Pictured is Faculty of Education student, Zeb Sugden and a group of school students working on developing IT skills. The camp is a community partnership activity between the Faculty of Education and South West Priority Country Area Program.



**YOU'VE GOT NEW MAIL:** USQ recently welcomed the new licensees of the Post Office in W Block, Mr Kerry and Mrs Dalmayne Thamm. The couple have relocated with their two primary school-age children from Brisbane's northside. Kerry comes with a wealth of experience, having owned a newsagency and post office prior to their regional change. Dalmayne has a health services background as a radiographer but believes the two jobs have similarities with both requiring strong interpersonal skills. The Thamm's are looking forward to meeting new people and providing a great service with a smile and have already immersed themselves in the university's culture by enrolling their children at the Junior Academy of Music.



**MAXIMISE SUCCESS:** Personal development speaker and best-selling author, Peter Sheahan, visited Toowoomba last month to address school students about getting motivated and achieving goals. Mr Sheahan also addressed business professionals and educators who wanted to learn how to work effectively with Generation Y. The Sydney-based 24-year-old has been compared to a young Anthony Robbins with the ability to communicate and teach others how to communicate with Generation Y. Mr Sheahan gave year 11 students from the region an insight into his own professional success and spoke about the potential they have to achieve at a young age.



**FIRST VISIT:** The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand (TOPNZ) Chief Executive, Paul Grimwood (left) visited USQ for the first time recently. He spoke with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Global Learning), Professor Jim Taylor (right) and Faculty of Engineering and Surveying Associate Dean (Academic), Associate Professor David Dowling, to discuss issues/strategies after changes in New Zealand's government policies. The visit strengthened the relationship between the two institutions, which has led to a modified version of USQ's Bachelor of Engineering Technology program being offered by TOPNZ as a jointly-badged degree. TOPNZ also received a Commonwealth of Open Learning Award, similar to the one recently presented to USQ.



FROM THE  
Deputy Vice  
**CHANCELLOR**

(Academic and Global Learning)

**Jim Taylor**



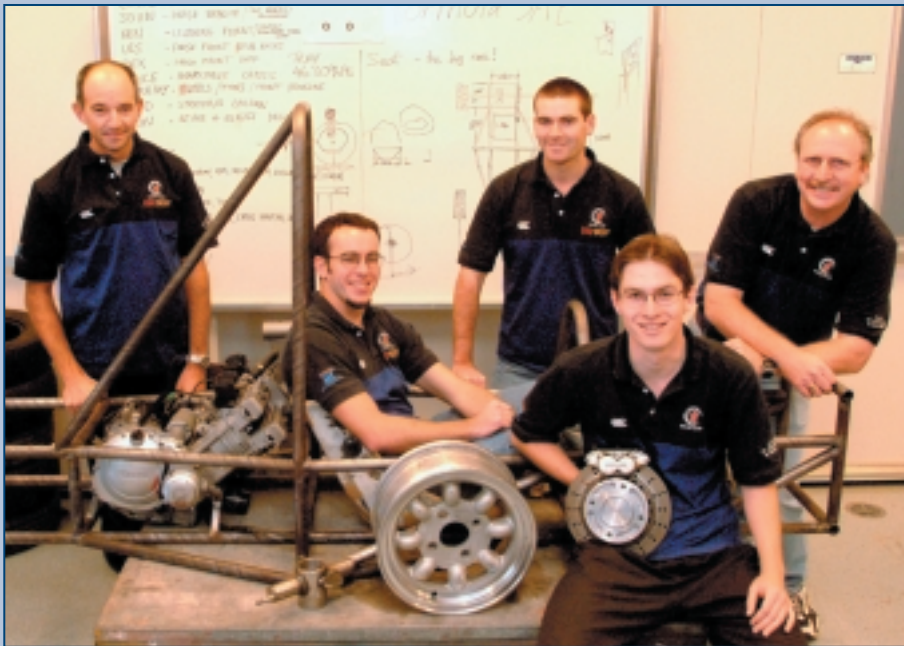
can be the best in the world at anything, it is in expanding educational opportunities by servicing the needs of working adults, whether in Australia or offshore. Based on the efficient management of appropriate models of distance education, and by lowering the cost of access through the flexible application of hybrid modes of delivery, by developing powerful courseware production systems, by implementing cost effective student support systems and by applying consistent standards of service that guarantee that students have every chance to optimize their potential, USQ can be the best in the world.

The USQ core parameters that underpin the USQ student experience and the USQ staff experience should embrace an institutional commitment to quality assurance for customer service, standardised contractual agreements with agents, and the systematic rationalisation of course offers based on activity based costing and an explicit review and evaluation cycle. The core parameters should also incorporate a symmetrical academic year, based on three 15-week trimesters and the deployment of single annual versions of courseware. Explicit delineation of, and development of a commitment to such parameters could lay the foundation for a stimulating and satisfying USQ student experience and a professionally fulfilling USQ staff experience. Following the distribution of the USQ Directions paper, these are some of the issues currently being investigated by the senior management team. In short, USQ should be a great place to study and a great place to work! Why not? Setting operational parameters is primarily in our own hands.

IN his book, "Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap ... and Others Don't", Collins (2001) referred to the "Hedgehog Concept" that defines the organisational discipline that underpins organisational success and sustainability. The research by Collins and his team demonstrated that all good-to-great organisations generated a very simple unifying concept (Hedgehog Concept) that acted as a frame of reference for all decisions, whereas less successful companies "tended to be foxes, never gaining the clarifying advantage of a Hedgehog Concept, being instead scattered, diffused and inconsistent" (p. 92).

While a case could be made for describing the core business of USQ as teaching and learning, this is not the same as a Hedgehog Concept. Nevertheless, it is clear that USQ's core business should be a key component of its Hedgehog Concept. It is not just about building on strength and core competence, it is about understanding what USQ has the true potential to be the very best at and sticking to it. If USQ

## Engineering students search for winning formula



**WORK-IN-PROGRESS:** Team USQ hopes *Jettison 1* will shape up as a worthy competitor in its inaugural participation at the Formula SAE-A competition. Pictured with the car are some of the team members (from left, standing) Les Raynor, Jeremy Little and Rex Parmeter and (seated) John Armstrong and Ken Nelder.

LATE night viewers of the fortnightly Formula One circus can only imagine the considerable effort associated with designing, building and operating a car, placing a driver in the cockpit and pinning months of effort on its success.

A team of USQ Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering students is currently doing just that; building a small,

high-performance race car that will be the university's first entry in the Formula SAE-A 2004 Competition.

Team design co-ordinator John Armstrong said the car, which has a tubular steel chassis and a 600cc motor, has been named *Jettison 1*.

"Part of our focus is to have a very simple and basic design, so we've thrown away all

the unnecessary additions," he said.

Project manager and Faculty of Engineering and Surveying lecturer Chris Snook said the competition, which is going to be held in Victoria in December, would test the students over a wide range of areas.

"This competition is not just a race; scores are awarded for quality of design, low cost, aesthetics, and rally and drag performance.

"The Faculty of Engineering and Surveying is supporting the students as part of their project work, and the Society of Automotive Engineers, Australasia (SAE-A) has released a \$6000 start-up grant," he said.

"But the team is appealing for more sponsors. A further \$4000 is needed to complete the car while another \$5000 will be required to get the team to Melbourne."

Mr Snook said sponsors would be acknowledged on the USQ Motorsport website, in all promotional materials and by display of the company's logo on the car and in the pit area at the competition. Major sponsors would be able to negotiate more comprehensive relationships including being named on the team uniform, receiving free tickets to the race and gaining use of the car at a company event.

The competition was launched in 1980 in the USA is now an international competition for the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) student members. The brief for the teams is to develop a car aimed at the amateur autocross driver market, which can be manufactured on a small-scale production line at a cost of less than \$50,000.

*Tawanda Mundangepfupfu*

# open days 2004



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WHEN Joe Roff was studying towards his Bachelor of Applied Finance at another university, he once asked for an extension on an assignment in order to fulfil playing duties with the Wallabies. The lecturer's response was to tell him that his 'hobby' was interfering with his academic progress.

Roff, now a USQ graduate, was invited to the Toowoomba campus Open Day as a VIP alumnus and took part in a great day of information and entertainment.

On a traditionally windy but festive day, other highlights included a performance by Australian Idol finalist Levi and his R'n'B act Lethbridge, a rescue demonstration by the CareFlight helicopter, the high energy dance routines by Dance Nation and the up-tempo jazz of the Ergon Energy USQ Big Band.

Radio station River 949 broadcast live throughout the day and interviewed key staff from the university, including Vice Chancellor Professor Bill Lovegrove.

The day was a natural follow-on from the equally successful Wide Bay Open Day, this year timed to coincide with the USQ Hervey Bay Whale Festival, and the USQ Islamic Open Day held on the Toowoomba campus on Saturday 14 August. All these events attracted record crowds.

Wide Bay's Open Day provided the region with a day of fun-filled entertainment and course information. The emphasis of the afternoon was on providing prospective Wide Bay students with an insight into the courses they could study locally as well as information on USQ's wider distance offerings.

The USQ Islamic Centre Open Day was held for people of all faiths. Guest speaker was Mr Bilal Cleland, human rights co-ordinator of Islamic Council of Victoria, and author of *Muslims in Australia - a Brief History*.

### Tawanda Mundangepfupfu

Pictures clockwise from left:

1- Fans lined up in their hundreds for the chance to receive a signed copy of Levi's CD single. 2- Professor David Harvey, Joe Roff and Professor Bill Lovegrove were among the early arrivals. 3- Open Day had enough to keep the whole family busy. Here, Nicholas Wilson and Keiran Lovett peruse the program for interesting activities. 4- The energetic Dance Nation performed a high-octane routine that also included choreography to current chart hits. 5- Nursing student Katharine McDonald explains the details of patient care to a group of high school students in the nursing ward. 6- The Ergon Energy USQ Big Band was a hit at both Open Days 7- After being delayed by the heavy winds, the CareFlight helicopter arrived safely for its rescue demonstrations. 8- Associate Professor Rod St. Hill, Blair Jones, CEO of the Australian Maritime College Dr Neil Ottway and Mrs Janet Ottway visit a science display at the Wide Bay Open Day.



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A group of year 10 Toowoomba State High School (TSHS) students recently visited the Toowoomba campus to talk via audiolink with NASA Johnson International Space Centre Flight Controller, Dr Robert Dempsey in the USA. Students quizzed Dr Dempsey about a range of issues including the logistics of living for extended periods of time in space, the costs and issues of getting people into space and also what is involved in becoming both a flight controller and a NASA astronaut. USQ Lecturer in Education, Dr Jerry Maroulis coordinated the TSHS visit and TSHS Science Space Module teacher, Ms Terese Feldman, accompanied the students.

**BACHELOR** of Theatre Studies (Honours) graduate Michael Byrne has been awarded an \$84,000 grant from the Department of Employment and Training to run a traineeship for eight young people to use Boal techniques (Forum Theatre) in schools to highlight issues about Schoolies Week. His team will create resources and a workshop format that they hope to tour next year. Michael is also currently running QUE Theatre Inc's theatre, QUEble program, which is especially designed for disabled youth in Toowoomba.

USQ Visual Arts Honours graduate Rebecca Hart has conducted arts installations around London and has been documenting the city's debris, while teaching in the UK. Her latest installation was a concertina book constructed from bread, laced with raspberry jam poetry. It was located on the bank of the Thames just outside the Tate Gallery of Modern Art.

USQ's Kumbari/Ngurpai Lag Higher Education Centre Assistant Director, Phillip Dreise was recently selected as a representative on the newly established Ministerial Regional Community Forum. Along with nine other community representatives, Mr Dreise will liaise between the communities of the Darling Downs and South West Queensland regions, and the Queensland Minister for Communities. The committee meets four times a year in various regional centres to present and discuss community concerns. Mr Dreise said this opportunity was a way of establishing and cementing links between both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous individuals and groups and he welcomed dialogue with community members wishing to present issues or learn more about this initiative. He can be contacted on (07) 46311515 or [dreise@usq.edu.au](mailto:dreise@usq.edu.au)

**TRANSDISCIPLINARY** And Continuing Education (TransACE) Dean, Professor Anthony Barnett was guest speaker at Engineers Australia's "The Quality Panel and Young Engineers" conference in Brisbane, recently. He provided an Educators perspective for the discussion "Are Engineers Prepared for Management?" The concept of USQ's TransACE programs was well received. Professor Barnett was also recently the invited guest at the Risk Engineering Society in Perth. He addressed the Society on his work on the convergence of Consumer Protection legislation (Trade Practices) and the Quality movement in the development of contemporary court decisions, specifically in relation to contract and project management law.

## USQ researchers lead in ageing technology

**EXPERTS** from the USQ will join health and aged care informatics professionals from around the world for the first Australian Aged & Community Care Informatics Conference to be held at the Brisbane Mercure Hotel on 24-25 August 2004.

The conference will focus on the collection, storage, retrieval, communication and optimal use of health-related data. It will also examine government strategies for defining the evolving role of electronic information management in aged care.

Presenters from USQ include Professor Desley Hegney, Dr Tony Fallon, Associate Professor Raj Gururajan, Dr. Sunil Bhaskaran, Fiona Darroch, Clint Moloney, Timo Vuori and Associate Professor Jeffrey Soar.

Dr Soar, who is also chair of the conference organising committee, says ageing has become of critical concern for most developed nations.

"The first cohort of Baby



**HI-TECH CARE:** Dr Jeffrey Soar believes information technology will have a major role to play in the future delivery of aged-care services.

Boomers will reach 65 in 2011. However the impact might be felt well before then as currently people are retiring before 65," he said.

The term Baby Boomers in Australia usually refers to people born between 1946 and 1964. As they retire from the

workforce and experience a decline in their health and independence, their demands for ageing and health services increase.

Dr Soar said technology and information management had largely bypassed aged and community care.

"The industry is yet to fully realise the benefits of information and communications technologies and the technology industry is yet to develop products to meet the needs of the sector.

"These developments are clearly underway with USQ playing a leading role in monitors that will provide alerts and reports to carers. As for the elderly themselves - in the future they will be aided by software-based intelligent care assistants," he said.

The conference details are available on [www.hisa.org.au](http://www.hisa.org.au), or from the Health Informatics Society of Australia (HISA) office on (03) 9388 0555. Dr Jeffrey Soar can be contacted on 0400 746 657.

## Bundaberg Principal receives National Award

USQ Master of Education graduate and Walkervale State School Principal, Mr Michael Fay was recently presented with the inaugural Australian Primary Principals Association Scholastic Leadership Award.

Mr Fay received the award, and \$5000 prize in front of more than 1200 principals from Australia and New Zealand during a special function at the joint Australian and New Zealand Primary Principals' trans-Tasman conference held in Melbourne.

He said he was thrilled to be the first recipient of the prestigious award.

"To say receiving the award is a great honour would be an understatement. Being recognised by one's peers is probably the greatest accolade of all," Mr Fay said.

One of the key factors in support of Mr Fay's nomination included Walkervale's work with USQ's Leadership Research Institute (LRI) and LRI Director, Professor Frank Crowther, through the Innovative Designs for Enhancing Achievements in Schools (IDEAS) project, for the past two years.

Professor Crowther said the IDEAS project was developed between Education Queensland and his LRI team and aimed to change the atmosphere and dynamics of a school and by helping staff understand the types of teaching most appropriate for their community.

Mr Fay's nomination for the award was supported by the selection of Walkervale



**SCHOLASTIC LEADERSHIP AWARD:** Walkervale School Principal Michael Fay (right) is congratulated by Australian Primary Principals' Association President Mr Tom Croker.

State School as a Lighthouse School for Boys' Education in 2004 and the school's success in winning two national awards for Leadership and Literacy, as part of the National Awards for Quality Schools program in 2003.

The Australian Primary Principals Association Scholastic Leadership Award was open to principals of all state, Catholic or independent primary schools in Australia. Nominees for the award were required to have demonstrated outstanding educational leadership in a school that had optimised student growth, learning and literacy.

Fiona Taylor

# What's On

Every Wednesday at 1pm

**LUNCHTIME CONCERTS: 18 August** - A concert featuring pianist Lydia Möller, USQ Masters student and trombonist Daniel McIlvride (accompanied by Michelle Coutts) in the Concert Hall. **25 August** - A recital of vocal works presented by USQ singing students Theresa Adermann, Andrew Finden, Cherie Robinson and Deborah Rogers in the Concert Hall. **1 September** - Flautist Miriam Truss, with associate artist Phillip Gearing will perform works by C.P.E. Bach and Gabriel Faure. Nykea Lebsanft and Kate Gregory will perform a duo for two clarinets by William O. Smith in the Concert Hall.

18, 25 August & 1, 8, 15 September

**STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS WORKSHOPS:** Topics addressed include motivation, anti-procrastination strategies, reading & note-making skills, academic writing, time management, memory enhancement, stress management, exam preparation, and individual reflection. Offered by Student Services and Office of Preparatory and Academic Support (OPACS) during common hour Wednesdays from 12:15 - 1:45pm at T125. Further information available from Student Services (G Block) 4631 2372 or OPACS (S211) 4631 2751.

20 & 27 August

**USQ GERMAN VERSE-SPEAKING COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLS:** The ninth annual German Verse-Speaking Competitions will be held at USQ on Friday 20 (secondary school learners) and Friday 27 (primary learners) August. Students from schools between Ipswich and Kingaroy will participate, reciting their poems for judges drawn from USQ German-teaching staff and advanced students. No public sessions. Enquiries to Rod Wilson Ext 1075.

Until 3 September

**ABC's HEYWIRE:** Do you have things to say to people in power about what life is like for young people in regional Australia? To take part in Heywire you need to be aged between 16 and 22 years and live or work in regional or rural Australia. Write an engaging story that will work well for radio about anything that is important to you. It must be non-fiction and relate to life in rural or regional Australia. Scripts are to be up to 3 minutes long and can be no more than 400 words. Applications close 3 September. Visit [www.abc.net.au/heywire](http://www.abc.net.au/heywire)

Until 6 September

**DIALOGICAL AWARDS 2004:** The awards are designed to encourage excellence in written communication with an emphasis on clear, concise communication on topics of community interest. They are open to researchers (including postgraduates), academics, teachers and all people professionally connected with the Higher Education and VET sectors. Deadline for entries is 6 September, 2004. 1st prize - \$10,000 2nd Prize - \$5000 and 3rd Prize - \$2000. For further information visit [www.campusreview.com.au](http://www.campusreview.com.au)

7 September

**PROFESSORIAL LECTURE:** To be delivered by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bill Lovegrove at 7.30pm in the Steele Rudd College Dining Hall. Professor Lovegrove will present "University Cities: Building Strategic Partnerships" which will be followed by cocktails and conversation.

20 - 24 September & 27 September - 1 October

**K.A.P - Kids Active Program:** A great program to keep the kids active during the holidays, includes sport, drama, art & craft, cooking, and other activities for your children to enjoy. 8 am - 6 pm. Please contact Anitta Brown at the Clive Berghofer Recreation Centre on 4631 1588 for more information.

## Uni Trader

### ACCOMMODATION

**USQ RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES:** (incorporating McGregor, Steele Rudd and Concannon Colleges) - A limited number of fully catered and serviced bedrooms are available for temporary accommodation until the commencement of semester one 2005. Please direct all enquiries to Wendy Pulford on 4631 2650 or email [accommodation.officer@usq.edu.au](mailto:accommodation.officer@usq.edu.au)

### FOR SALE

**DINING SUITE:** 7 piece, solid timber, chairs have arms and padded seats. Good condition. \$350 ono. Ph: x2159 or 4635 9209 a/h.

**DOC MARTENS:** men's size 8. 12 hole black boots with black laces, and red, white and blue stitching around sole. Hardly worn, VGC, \$120. Ph: x2472.

**FENCE PICKETS:** Colonial top, new, approx 370 x 1.8m, \$320 Ph: x2930 or 4638 0472.

**FORD FESTIVA:** 1999 Model, 5 speed manual, air conditioned, new tyres, new stereo with CD player. Only 70,000kms on the clock. Must sell going overseas. Excellent condition. \$7000 ono Ph: Mary on x2491 or 46362525 or 0431 673938.

**HOT WATER:** 2003 Coppermatic Electric, 140ltr, \$250 Ph: 0409 756 679.

**LOUNGE SUITE:** 3 piece, Janda, 1x3, 2x1. \$550 Ph: 4687 7281 or x1002.

**LOUNGE SUITE:** Leather, 3 Seater and 2 recliners in good condition, \$2500 ono.

Camphor Chest with carved Dragon Design, \$100 ono. Ph: 0409 597 440 or 0418 120 360.

**MAGNA WAGON:** 1990, auto, a/c, p/s, 2.6L efi engine, to be sold without rego or roadworthy, \$1000. Ph: x2978.

**NINTENDO:** Game Boy + 1 game card included, runs on battery or AC adapter (included), GC, \$20. Toyota Genuine wheel cover, 14 inch, silver colour, VGC, \$25 Ph: x2131.

**SIDE TABLES:** 2 white, \$40 pair. Round dining room birch table with six padded seat chairs and two extension leaves, excellent condition \$150 Ph: Michele McGill x2351 or 4535 9758 a/h.

**SUBARU:** Impreza WRX. 2002. Balance of new car warranty. Low Klms. Excellent

condition. Fun, practical car. Ph: x1124 (W) or 46134515 (H).

**TIMBER TV UNIT:** including Television \$50. Ph: x2582 or 0412 139 478.

**WANTED TO BUY:** 1 tonne tray back ute Hilux, Triton, or similar ute in resonable condition Ph: 46 301823 a/h.

### FOR RENT

**EXECUTIVE HOME:** Middle Ridge, 3 large bedrooms with walk in robes, 4th bedroom or office 3 bathrooms, stainless steel appliances in kitchen, 2 x rumpus rooms, family room and formal lounge and dining, double remote control garage, intercom system. \$450/wk Ph: 0412 636 897.

**NEAT UNIT:** 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 garage unit with aircon for rent, from 1 September 2004. Next to Waterbird Habitat. \$250/wk. Ph: x1997(O/H) or 4635 0181 (A/H).

## Newsmakers

**PROFESSOR BILL LOVEGROVE,** Vice-Chancellor was interviewed on ABC Southern Queensland and ABC Wide Bay about the *Good Universities Guide*.

**PROFESSOR MALCOLM MACKAY,** Deputy Vice-Chancellor was interviewed on ABC Southern Queensland and ABC Wide Bay regarding the expected surge in Chinese students and the strengthening of USQ's connections with the country.

**DR KAREY HARRISON,** Lecturer in Communications from the Faculty of Arts was quoted in *The Chronicle*, commenting on Michael Moore's film, *Fahrenheit 9/11*.

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR KATE FOY,** Associate Professor (Voice) from the Faculty of Arts, was quoted in *The Chronicle* promoting USQ's *'The Grapes of Wrath'* production.

**GUS SNOW-McLEAN,** was quoted in the *Hervey Bay Observer*, *The Chronicle* and on Seven Bundaberg regarding Wide Bay's Open Day.

**PETREA REMOND,** Lecturer in Education discussed the importance of Middle Schooling on ABC Southern Queensland.

**PROFESSOR JIM TAYLOR,** acting Vice-Chancellor was quoted on ABC Southern Queensland regarding USQ's changing directions report.

**DR DAVID BUTTSWORTH** was quoted in *Australia Aviation* on the \$250,000 grant USQ received from the Queensland Government to build a second wind tunnel.

### USQ NEWS

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# Look out lady, Dunnarts are real survivors

**SECURING** the survival of the Julia Creek Dunnart (*Sminthopsis douglasi*), a carnivorous marsupial, is in the hands of several scientists including Masters student, Alice Bjursell.

This nocturnal creature from the Dasyurid family has been classified endangered and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) has initiated a recovery plan including a captive breeding program at the David Fleay Wildlife Park, Burleigh Heads which will be enhanced by Alice's two year study on reproductive behaviour.

The major aim of Alice's project is to determine a key or formula to identify when the dunnart is in oestrous - and able to breed - from its behaviour alone.

Alice said at present scientists were forced to examine the dunnart by hand daily which was difficult as the animal had sharp, carnivorous teeth and felt threatened when handled.

"Oestrous occurs only three days a month making it easy to miss if you don't check them every day. We want to find a method of determining if the animal is in oestrous that is less time-consuming and less stressful for the animal," she said.

"Currently, oestrous is identified by examining urine for the presence of cornified cells. If we can identify this in a less invasive way, it would better facilitate breeding the dunnart in captivity."

Alice observes the dunnarts behaviour with the help of machine vision technology devised by the National Centre of Engineering in Agriculture Research (NCEA) based at USQ.

Video cameras with motion sensors and infrared light sources minimise disturbance of the animals allowing the observer to take detailed note of behaviours like feeding, sleeping, grooming and the intensity and duration of the activity.

Now in her second year of the study, Alice has formalised preliminary results that suggest the female is more active in the oestrous state than in the anoestrous state.

"I've identified appropriate behaviours to target during oestrous which include running in an exercise wheel, sitting on the roof of the hutch, the total frequency of these behaviours and the frequency at which the



dunnarts move between different zones of the enclosures."

Alice is supervised by Lecturers Dr Kerry Withers, Dr Graeme Senior, and Dr Geoff Lundie-Jenkins from the QPWS who provided the animals and commissioned the project. Alice is also supported by the Centre for Rural and Environmental Biotechnology based at USQ. The research is carried out with the cooperation of the David Fleay Wildlife Park, Burleigh Heads.

*Susan McDonald*



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## Actors croon to the sounds of the Great Depression

**MOST** people have the musical ambition to learn popular instruments like the guitar, bass or drums but in the USQ Performance Centre's latest play, *The Grapes of Wrath*, the actors have had the opportunity to learn historical instruments like the button accordion, jaw harp and harmonica.

John Steinbeck's classic American tale, *The Grapes of Wrath*, centres around the extended Joad family as they travel west from the drought and poverty-stricken dust-bowl of Oklahoma in search of a new life in California.

While the Great Depression of the 1930s sets the location for the play, the mood for this powerful story of social and economic desperation is set by the soundtrack of folk music.

USQ Singing Lecturer for the Theatre Department and Principal of the Toowoomba Bel Canto Singing Academy Elaine Coates said she had the challenging task of composing or arranging most of the soundtrack.

"Songs like *Amazing Grace*, *Yes Sir That's My Baby* and the music of Woody Guthrie (renowned 1940s American folk composer) all exist in the play and the rest of the music that I composed has a similar folk flavour," Elaine said.

The actors were taught the musical score using traditional methods such as sound and repeat and basic aural dictation.

*The Grapes of Wrath* runs from 16 - 21 and 26 - 28 August at 7:30pm in the USQ Arts Theatre with special matinee performances at 11am on Wednesday 25 August and 2pm Sunday 29 August.

For bookings and ticket information please contact the USQ Performance Centre Box Office on 4631 1111.

Susan McDonald



**ADVERSE FOLK:** Pa Joad (David Fadden - foreground) contemplates their journey west across the American midwest toward the promised land of California in the Performance Centre's upcoming production of *The Grapes of Wrath*. Also pictured (l-r back) are Ruth Bond, Hannah Levien, Alexandra Gunn, Daniel Poole, Andrew Barclay and Rebecca Roberts - all Department of Theatre 2nd year actors.

## Musical fairytales at twilight

USQ's own professional chamber group, the Phoenix Ensemble, offers an evening of intimate music making and the opportunity to be taken on a fantastical journey of *Fairytales from Phoenix* on Wednesday 1 September at 5:30pm in the USQ Arts Theatre.

Senior Lecturer in Music Andrew Lorenz (violin/viola), Head of Music Wendy Lorenz (piano) and Lecturer in Music Martin Crook (clarinet) make up the Ensemble which has been performing in its current form for the past five years.

Beethoven's *First Sonata for Violin and Piano* will begin the one-hour program with its beautiful, slow movement and virtuosic

opportunities for both instruments.

Schumann's *Fairytales* suite will provide the perfect centrepiece for the program by combining the clarinet, viola and piano to produce a mellow mood with a glowing, romantic quality.

The suite's four short pieces are not titled but do evoke certain moods such as a scherzo-like march and love scene which fit under the broad umbrella of the fantasy theme.

The evening will also see the Toowoomba premiere of a work by Australian composer, Peter Webb. *Trio for Clarinet, Violin and Piano* consists of three movements of lively, vivacious music and is characterised by its lyricism and 20th century harmonic feel.

For ticket information and bookings please phone the USQ Performance Centre Box Office on 4631 1111.

twilight ensemble recital  
**Fairytales from Phoenix**

The Phoenix Ensemble - Andrew Lorenz (violin)  
Wendy Lorenz (piano) Martin Crook (clarinet) -  
present an evening of intimate music making.  
Schumann *Fairytales*  
Webb *Trio for Clarinet, Violin and Piano*

Wednesday 1 September  
5.30-6.30pm USQ Arts Theatre  
\$12.50 Adult / \$10 Conc / \$5 Child

**The Grapes of Wrath**

Adapted by Frank Galati from John Steinbeck's novel, this play probes the very nature of equality and justice in America during the Great Depression of the 1930's. Follow the Joad family as they travel across America in search of a new life in California.

cont 18-21 & 26-28 August  
7.30pm USQ Arts Theatre  
Matinees 11am Wed 25 Aug & 2pm Sun 29 Aug  
\$19 Adult / \$15 Conc / \$10.50 Preview

**Jazz n Pizzazz**

The Ergon Energy USQ Big Band will 'swing' from the thirties to present day and back again in a program of Jazz, Latin, Rock, Ballad and, a whole lot of Pizzazz!

Director **Martin Crook**  
Soloist **Wendy Snow-McLean**

Sat 4 & Sun 5 September  
7.30pm/3pm USQ Arts Theatre  
\$19 Adult / \$15 Conc / \$5 Child

••• EXHIBITION • Places by Trevor Grienke cont till 22 August • USQ Arts Gallery 9am-5pm Mon-Fri •••