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# USQ NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND • AUSTRALIA

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## USQ is “elite athlete friendly”



Nathan Hauritz



Tina Morgan



Joe Roff



Hockeyroos Karen Smith  
and Angie Skirving

AFTER several months of negotiations between USQ and the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), USQ has been designated an “Elite Athlete Friendly University”.

USQ’s Distance and e-Learning Centre Director, Associate Professor Alan Smith finalised the agreement with the AIS in Canberra recently at the “Elite Athlete Friendly University” launch held at the AIS.

“While we are not the only university to be accredited as an “Elite Athlete Friendly University”, we are in the first cohort of universities to be recognised by the AIS,” Associate Professor Smith said.

“At USQ we are already quite used to having elite athletes in our student cohort. For example, Australian Wallaby Joe Roff graduated with a Bachelor of Business degree this year, cricketer Nathan Hauritz, Hockeyroos Karen Smith and Angie Skirving and Taekwondo Olympian Tina Morgan are currently studying by distance education.

“As a university we acknowledge the value of the integration of both sporting and academic aspirations and as such we have adopted the AIS guidelines for supporting student athletes so that they can also achieve academic excellence.”

Associate Professor Smith said under the agreement with the AIS, the University had undertaken to advise and guide student athletes on academic planning, and would establish flexible arrangements to assist athletes to meet their academic requirements. The University would also negotiate and/or implement student cross-institutional study or credit transfer arrangements.

He said for athletes to access the support identified within the guiding principles of the agreement, they must be recognised as an elite athlete by the AIS, the State institutes of sport, the AFL Players’ Association, the Australian Cricketers’ Association, the Rugby Union Players’ Association, the Rugby League Professionals’

Association or the Australian Professional Footballers’ Association.

“The agreement in no way promises an academic “free ride” to elite athletes but it does recognise their situation and allows them some flexibility so that they can do the best for their country without jeopardising their opportunities when their sporting careers come to

an end.

“We have agreed with the AIS to allow elite athletes the ability to negotiate assessment deadlines based on sporting related travel commitments and will provide some flexibility so that they can complete tasks in their own unique environments,” Associate Professor Smith said.

**Gus Snow-McLean**



**FRIENDLY FOCUS:** Director of the Distance and e-Learning Centre (DeC), Dr Alan Smith (centre) attended the “Elite Athlete Friendly University” launch in Canberra and is pictured with the Director of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), Mr Michael Scott (left) and Senator for the Australian Capital Territory, Mr Gary Humphries (right).

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SAVINGS  
INVESTMENTS  
LOANS

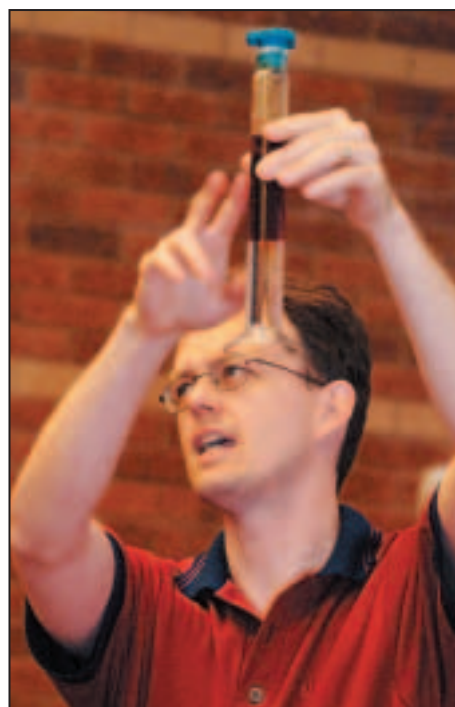
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**TEAM EFFORT:** A group of final year journalism students has had to endure real newsroom pressure over the course of the semester, working to publish a 56 page colour magazine fittingly named *Thinking Allowed*. All of the students were required to submit and lay out copy as part of the Journalism Publication course, while a few of the articles were submitted by students in the Feature Writing course. The stories reflect the diversity of the students and subject matter ranges from DIY motor electronics to profiles on interesting people in the region. Pictured at the official launch of the magazine are (standing, from left) Jason Cubit, Yee Ting Ong, Victoria Bobby, Katrina Campbell-Davies, Jonathan Trinder and (seated) Megan Sippel and Sara Ooi.



**WHITE DEATH:** The world's greatest serial killer – tuberculosis – was the topic of discussion at a guest lecture by Dr Todd Houston from Griffith University which was attended by more than 200 senior chemistry school students from across the Darling Downs. Dr Houston is this year's guest speaker for the annual Royal Australian Chemistry Institute (RACI) O'Donnell Schools' Lecture tour which included a stopover at the Alison Dickson Lecture Theatre at USQ. The lecture examined the modern methods of attacking the ancient, formidable foe that is tuberculosis through medicinal chemistry.



**INFORMATION ACCESS:** Pictured at the recent launch of USQ's AccessGrid are Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and Global Learning) Professor Jim Taylor and Vice Chancellor Professor Bill Lovegrove. Also pictured are the campus architects of the grid David Woodroffe (Associate Director ITS), Keith Hoffman (Technical Service Manager), Dr Lesley Richardson and Rod Ibell (Senior Network Engineer ITS). The AccessGrid (AG) is an integrated environment that supports group-to-group communication using high-speed networks over the Internet. It provides high-quality audio and real-time video that allows groups at multiple AG sites to interact simultaneously and share documents and data without delays. The first AccessGrid node at USQ has been established as a small group facility principally to support co-operative research projects. However, academics, researchers, industry and postgraduate students can use the AccessGrid by arranging a time with ITS.



**GRACIOUS RECIPIENT:** Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy Liddy Clark (right) visited the Toowoomba campus to launch a new Queensland Government program which recognises the work of senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. The first Elder to be honoured through the Honouring Elders Initiative is Grace Weribone (left) who celebrated her 94th birthday this year and is the oldest of the Toowoomba Elders. Kumbari/Ngurpai Lag Centre Lecturer Stephen Hagan (centre) attended the presentation along with several other members of the Toowoomba Aboriginal community including Jim Hagan.



**CHALLENGING TIMES:** Plans are already underway for next year's Science and Engineering Challenge held at the Clive Berghofer Recreation Centre with meetings being held between (from left to right) Cathy Jacobs from the USQ Student Guild, Barry Dittman from the Toowoomba School of Excellence in Maths and Science, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Pro-Vice Chancellor (Planning and Quality) Professor Bill MacGillivray and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Surveying and Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) Professor Graham Baker. There has been an increased demand for participation in the Challenge which will be extended to take place over three days in April next year.



**Mr Doug Fraser**  
SPRINGFIELD PROJECT  
MANAGER



AS YOU are all no doubt aware, the University will be opening a Campus at Springfield in Brisbane's South West in February 2006. The campus will utilise infrastructure developed by the Springfield Land Corporation (SLC). Stage One of the Campus will comprise of a six-storey building of approximately 7750m<sup>2</sup> and a 350 seat auditorium.

Initial student numbers are planned to be around 400. This figure will grow rapidly with the potential to reach around 5000 over 15-20 years. In 2006 undergraduate programs will be offered in Primary and Early Childhood Education, Commerce and Business. Planning is also underway to include Psychology in this mix and a range of post graduate programs will also be offered from both the Business and Arts faculties.

Additional programs will be offered in the coming years as new HECS places are allocated and courses developed.

With the establishment of the Campus, a wide range of areas will be examined including the institution of a Campus theme, three on-campus teaching semesters and best practice operational procedures. However, the Campus is not designed to be run independently from Toowoomba and will rely heavily on the faculty and corporate service structures that already exist.

At this stage, the signature for the lease documents is imminent and architectural design is well underway. Clearing of the land at Springfield is days away and the foundation pylons will be driven into the ground by mid December. The amount of effort being applied across the University in support of the project is increasing rapidly and it is now time for everyone involved to start doing the detailed work required to make the Campus operational.

The Springfield Campus is a great opportunity for USQ and will strengthen its academic credibility as well as support its financial base. It will provide the University access to a far greater number of on-campus domestic and overseas students at both the undergraduate and postgraduate level. In conjunction with the developments at Wide Bay, Springfield has the potential to significantly raise the standing of USQ both nationally and internationally.

## Sustainable collaboration earns PhD

INTER-ORGANISATIONAL collaboration has increased in prominence over the last decade or two and is continuing to grow.

Newly qualified expert on the topic, Director of USQ's Distance and e-Learning Centre, Associate Professor Alan Smith has spent the past eight years researching interorganisational collaboration in educational institution settings, and achieved a doctorate in the process.

Associate Professor Smith said the eight-year journey was one of personal, as well as professional growth and the initial decision to undertake doctoral study was a natural step for him to take.

"I already had degrees in Education and had been a teacher for many years prior to entering the higher education sector, so it was a natural progression for me to attempt a PhD," Associate Professor Smith said.

"I also wanted to be able to supervise higher degree research students and undertake more research activities and projects. Having a PhD is essential for such tasks."

Associate Professor Smith's research was entitled, *'Sustainable Interorganisational Collaboration in Educational Program Planning and Development'*, and looked specifically at long-term agreements between educational and public sector institutions.

"The notion of multiple organisations collaborating in order to meet their individual corporate objectives has become commonplace," Associate Professor Smith said.

"Some collaboration involves long-term agreements and the creation of new organisational entities, major changes in existing operational arrangements,

independent financial status, and high expectations of major gains. It is these types of collaborative effort that most interest me.

"They involve mutually beneficial and well-defined relationships, jointly developed structures, a commitment to mutually-agreed goals and the notion of shared responsibility.

"In these collaborations, organisations risk not only resources but also their individual reputations. The stakes are, therefore, higher than in instances where there is only an agreement to cooperate or to coordinate while retaining the same organisational structure and independent status," he said.

The specific research questions Associate Professor Smith explored in his thesis were: What initial factors underlay the creation of collaborative effort? What factors determine the particular structures used to coordinate joint activities and the decisions of the partners to collaborate? To what extent and on what basis is collaboration perceived to be successful? How has successful collaboration been sustained over many years?

"The study helped me understand a wider range of research methodologies and gave me a much clearer perspective on the notion of collaboration between educational institutions, and what is required to be successful in such ventures," Associate Professor Smith said.

"I also learnt a lot about myself, particularly about being prepared to keep going when study was the last thing I needed to deal with after working full-time. I now realise that determination and persistence are just as important as critical thinking and fluent, logical writing when it comes to



**GRADUATED DOCTOR:** Director of USQ's Distance and e-Learning Centre, Associate Professor Alan Smith has completed his doctorate on *Sustainable interorganisational collaboration in educational program planning and development*.

doctoral studies.

"It gave me a constant reminder of the demands placed on external students studying part-time for a higher degree," he said.

Associate Professor Smith completed his Doctorate of Education part-time, externally from the University of New England and graduated last month.

*Fiona Taylor*

# Keynote rings true for the e-Academy

UNIVERSITIES need to develop comprehensive, end-to-end communications systems and knowledge management systems, so that they might be better able to respond to the growing demand for lifelong learning, and to satisfy the increasingly diverse needs of students.

This was the message USQ Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and Global Learning) Professor Jim Taylor took as keynote speaker to the Tenth Sloan-C International Conference on Asynchronous Learning Networks (ALN) held in Orlando, Florida earlier this month.

The purpose of the Sloan Consortium (Sloan-C), is to make education a part of everyday life, accessible and affordable for anyone, anywhere at any time, in a wide variety of disciplines. Sponsored by the Alfred P Sloan Foundation, Sloan-C is primarily a consortium of higher education providers and organisations that provide equipment, tools and infrastructure support for these providers. The consortium encourages collaboration, sharing of knowledge and effective practice to improve online education in areas of learning effectiveness, access, affordability for learners and providers and student and faculty satisfaction.

"It was a great honour to be invited as keynote speaker as this year's conference was attended by almost 700 delegates from more than 400 universities in the USA as well as higher education

representatives from 15 different countries. It has been one of the highlights of my career," Professor Taylor said.

In his keynote speech *The Horizontal University: e-Learning as a catalyst for Organisational Transformation*, Professor Taylor argued that organisations that could provide customised, high-quality, value-added services that satisfied customer needs with speed and accuracy at the appropriate price point would be the only organisations to survive in the 21st Century.

"Is this 'fantasyland' for universities typified by the hierarchical, bureaucratic academic structure in which the provision of services to students is significantly inhibited by the internal focus of 'departmentalised' thinking, fragmented objectives, personal agendas, overly complex procedures and dependence on management via multiple layers of committees that move with glacier-like momentum?"

He said while many companies had restructured or reengineered in response to competitive threats and rapidly changing market conditions, universities were generally regarded as being resistant to change as a result of typically conservative and reactionary pressures both internal and external to the organization.

"There is no doubt that the central task of executive management today has become the leadership of change whereby



Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and Global Learning) Jim Taylor.

the university can escape from the structural limitations, potential institutional paralysis and inherent inefficiencies of the vertical silo bureaucracy.

"The major challenge confronting university leaders is how to boost academic productivity – how to change the

fundamental structure of teaching and learning through the judicious use of emerging technologies."

For further information on Professor Taylor's work on e-Learning and distance education visit his website at:

<http://www.usq.edu.au/users/taylorj>

**Gus Snow-McLean**



**COMMUNITY-FOCUSED:** A children's book which explores issues relative to the Darling Downs, such as drought, flood and plagues, as well as the LifeLine values of the importance of family and tolerance of racial diversity has been voluntarily created by Senior Lecturer in English Literature, Dr Chris Lee (second right) and Interactive Multimedia Designer, Greg Coombes (middle). The story, *Bug Hunt* was written by Dr Lee and the illustrations were designed by Mr Coombes. Mr Coombes designed the owl characters based on the colour schemes of seven winning entries from a LifeLine colouring-in competition, which came from Charleville, Warwick, Dalby, Brisbane and Toowoomba. The *Totally Wild* film crew, presenter Craig McMahon (right), Ashley Eden (second left) and Martin Craik (left) interviewed Dr Lee and Mr Coombes about the book which was launched on 14 November by the Olympic Medalist Tim Cuddihy at the Quality Inn, Burke & Wills Hotel. Funds raised from the books sale will be used to support LifeLine's programs on the Darling Downs.



**AFL INTEREST:** Senior Lecturer in Health and Physical Education Dr Tony Rossi will explore the education process for AFL elite coaches.

## Research looks how elite coaches coach and learn

**HOW** does a coach become a good coach, particularly at an elite level?

This question is at the heart of new research to be undertaken by USQ Senior Lecturer in Health and Physical Education, Dr Tony Rossi.

Dr Rossi, along with two colleagues from the University of Queensland, Professor Richard Tinning, and Dr Cliff Mallet, have won a \$40,000 tender with the Australian Football League (AFL), to conduct a research project into AFL coaching at the elite level.

Dr Rossi said the project, entitled, *Coaching knowledge, learning and mentoring in the AFL*, will help to better inform the coach education process in general and more specifically, the mentoring process of assistant coaches.

"The main aim of the research is to

conduct an in-depth examination of the work of Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches within the AFL by developing an understanding of what coaches do and how they learn in their profession," Dr Rossi said.

"In short, the research team is interested in what head coaches know and do, how they come to know, and how assistant AFL coaches learn to be head coaches."

Dr Rossi said the project was quite different from previous research funded by the AFL in that it looks at the coaches and how they learn instead of looking at the players.

The project will continue until the end of 2005 and will involve a number of professional AFL clubs and high profile coaches across the country.

*Fiona Taylor*

## Vegetation study to solve bushfire problem

A **STUDY** of vegetation types and their responses to fire by a team of researchers at USQ will make a major contribution to understanding and management of bushfires.

The Faculty of Engineering and Surveying's Dr Sunil Bhaskaran and visiting research fellow Dr Michiru Miyamoto have teamed up with Japan's National Institute of Environmental Studies, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and CSIRO to develop fire mitigation systems at the Girraween National Park in Stanthorpe.

Dr Bhaskaran, who is supervisor and co-principal investigator for the research, said a detailed understanding of vegetation and its response to fire is necessary to develop fire management systems. He also said there were other datasets such as elevation, topography and wind conditions that will be integrated and modeled with this digital location on vegetation types.

"By modeling all this data with the location of vegetation and its fire responses, strategic planning will make it possible to reduce the incidence of fires. For example fire managers may install water hydrants close to areas that are prone to fire while the effectiveness of back-burning methods can also be increased."

The researchers have been investigating the response of different species to fire since September 2002. Hyperspectral remote sensing technology - where the sensor detects the reflected energy emitted by all vegetation types separately and in very narrow wavelength channels - was used to analyze the spectral reflectance of vegetation types.

Dr Miyamoto said using a spectrometer that measures reflected energy from vegetation allowed the researchers to separate each vegetation type and classify it according to its fire responses.

"Differences in the chlorophyll content, cell structure of the leaves and the presence of oil glands particularly in the Eucalyptus species have provided us with many spectral indicators. We will also be conducting secondary field work in fire affected regions in the park in December in order to develop a spectral library of vegetation types for both winter and summer seasons," she said.

Dr Bhaskaran said the greatest challenge was to now sustain the effort for a few more years.

"We have received tremendous support from our partners and hope to develop a digital map showing the locations of the various species and their response to fire. Hopefully this map will begin an effective fire management system in the park and elsewhere," he said.

*Tawanda Mundangepfupfu*



**FIRE FIGHTERS:** Dr Sunil Bhaskaran and Dr Michiru Miyamoto are developing a new method of mitigating bushfires in Stanthorpe which they hope will eventually be used around the world.

# What's On

10, 11, 17 and 18 December

**THEATRE RESTAURANT:** In an entirely new venue, the USQ Refectory, more space means more friends to celebrate the Christmas Season at this year's Theatre Restaurant. Crazy, chrisse cheer is the theme and more than 20 wacky characters will convey this with a merry mix of songs and sketches sprinkled with humorous warmth, good-natured folly and all the usual madness of USQ's Theatre Restaurants. Phone the USQ Performance Centre Box Office on (07) 4631 1111 for further information and bookings.

13-24 December

**KIDS ACTIVE PROGRAM:** The Christmas program is running from the 13-24 December, and in the New Year a program from 10-21 January. Phone the Clive Berghofer Recreational Centre on 4631 1588

9-15 January 2005

**EXPERIENCE THE ARTS:** A Summer Arts Residency at McGregor School, Toowoomba, for a full week of art-making in association with Flying Arts Inc. Ideal for upper secondary students and/or those making the transition to tertiary studies. Places are limited. Financial assistance is available, including two full bursaries from Australia Post. For more details contact Flying Arts on (07) 3853 3271, fax (07) 3853 3277, email info@flyingarts.org or visit [www.flyingarts.org.au](http://www.flyingarts.org.au)

10-21 January

**MCGREGOR SUMMER SCHOOL:** World-class workshops, studios and performance facilities as well as comfortable, conveniently located residential accommodation is on offer at the 37th McGregor Summer School at the USQ Toowoomba campus. About 60 internationally recognised tutors are offering classes to help stimulate your creative processes in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. Ph: (07) 46312755 or visit <http://www.usq.edu.au/mcgregor>

## Uni Trader

FOR SALE

**1998 MITSUBISHI LANCER COUPE:** Silver, tinted windows, 5 speed manual, rear spoiler, CD player, near new tyres, 120,000kms, \$10,000 ono. Ph: 0410 468 175.

**1991 EB XR8 FORD:** Red, 5 litre V8, 4 speed auto, air con, power steer, keyless entry, 10 stacker CD, adjustable suspension, very original, 251,000 km, VGC. \$7000 with safety certificate. Ph: Peter X 1771 or 0412 699 866.

**EMERSON FLUTE:** good condition \$300.  
**TABLE TENNIS TABLE:** As new, folding, with accessories \$100. Ph: X 2929 or 4687 6607 a/h.

**HILLS 3 UNIT KIDS GYM:** includes glide swing, single swing & roman rings/trapeze bar \$50; **APOLLO BMX BIKE:** 4-10 yrs, rear brake (both hand & pedal), interrupted seat stem for extra strength \$30; **MOUNTAIN BIKE:** 6-11 yrs, front & rear brakes, 5 gears, strong \$30. All in good condition. Ph: 4636 5325 a/h.

**HOUSE:** Brand New, fully landscaped. Close to USQ in quiet cul-de-sac, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, open plan living/dining, 2 outdoor entertainment areas, side access to backyard. \$310,000 Ph: 0417 631 147.

**HYUNDAI COUPE FX:** Auto, central locking, 6 speaker stereo, CD player, a/c, electric tinted windows, alloy wheels, sports performance tyres, power steering, fog lamps. Only 89,000kms. \$14,000. Ph: Tara on 0422 371 134.

**ORGAN:** Kawai, upright with stool, vgc, great xmas gift for children or learner. \$120 ono. Ph: X 1829 or 0417 705 979.

**SUZUKI BALENO GTX:** December 98 sedan, manual, 1.8L, maroon colour, 36,000km, 6 stacker CD player, power steering, central locking, power windows, air con, \$11,900. Ph: 0403 177 533.

**NATURAL GAS OVEN:** Westinghouse Hibiscus, incl grill and 4 top burners, excellent cond. \$500 neg. **HALF SIZE CELLO:** (Enrico) Comes with soft case and bow - \$850. **TWO SCOOTERS:** pneumatic tyres, vgc, orig \$150 each - sell for \$50 each. Ph: Martin Crook X 1109.

### FOR RENT

**LARGE FAMILY HOME:** Long term let, 20 minute walk to USQ, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms including en suite, built in cupboards and ceiling fans, separate dining, large family and lounge rooms, paved outdoor entertainment area with pergola, back yard with two sheds and vegetable plot, fully fenced and secure for children, fully fenced large front lawn with native garden and citrus fruit trees, rent only \$295 per week. Ph: 4636 5701.

**LARGE ROOM:** for rent in centrally located house, share with female professional. Non-smoker preferred, \$70per week + expenses. Ph: X 1036 or 4613 0909.

**WATERFRONT HOUSE FOR RENT:** Waterfront 4 bedroom high-set house near Bribe Island. 10 years old, air-conditioned, two toilets, three lock-up garages for car or boat, and a little jetty in front. Available for rent at \$290 per week from 11 Dec 2004. Ph: X 2586 or 4638 3767.

### WANTED

**CHESS:** Do you play chess? If you are interested Ph: Jim on 4634 3507.

**GOOD HOME WANTED:** for (de-sexed) lovable male cat, Elmo. Caramel and white, indoor, very clean - loves a cuddle, and loves water. Product of a broken home, so needs lots of TLC!! Ph: Helen on X 1064 if you can help.

**REMOVAL PACKING BOXES:** for household goods. Ph: Lesley on X 2463.

## Newsmakers

**PROFESSOR SUSAN BAMBRICK,** Wide Bay Provost was quoted in the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* about her Sun Super speech that she delivered about the changeability of a majority in government.

**GREG COOMBES,** Interactive Multimedia Designer and **DR CHRIS LEE** were interviewed by Vicki Thompson on ABC Southern Queensland about their children's book *'Bug Hunt'*. Mr Coombes and Dr Lee were also featured on *Totally Wild*, Channel 10.

**NIK EDSOR,** from the USQ Bookshop has been selected as one of only six Queenslanders to compete in the SBS National Karaoke Challenge aired Saturday nights on SBS at 7pm.

**ANDREW GREEN,** Researcher for USQ's National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture commented in *'Times'* (Victor Harbour, SA), about the evaporation control project he is working on which looks specifically at on-farm strategies.

**STEPHEN HAGAN,** Associate Lecturer from USQ's Kumbari/Ngurpai Lag Centre commented on the Ku Klux Klan scandal in the Daily Telegraph debate and was interviewed on 4AAA radio in Brisbane about the affects of the recent election results on indigenous Australians.

**DR CHRIS LEE,** Senior Lecturer in English Literature discussed Toowoomba's literary history on ABC Southern Queensland.

**PETER MCILVEEN,** Careers Counsellor with Student Services discussed on 4GR forms of psychology that can assist people.

**DAVID TURNBULL,** Researcher for USQ's Centre for Astronomy, Solar Radiation and Climate was quoted about his research into UV radiation and shade structures for a News Limited website, [www.homesite.com.au](http://www.homesite.com.au)

# USQ



AUSTRALIA

## 2004 Awards for Excellence in Research, Scholarship or Postgraduate Research Supervision

Any member of University staff may nominate or be nominated for an award.

Guidelines are available at:

<http://www.usq.edu.au/resources/7-8-2.pdf> and from the Office of Research and Higher Degrees X2690.

The USQ Research and Higher Degrees Committee has asked that applicants be reminded of the need to address both the general and the specific selection criteria in a systematic way.

Submissions must reach the Office of Research and Higher Degrees by 5pm, Friday, 3 December, 2004.

The following comments by previous selection panel members may assist nominees with their submissions:

- the inclusion of explanations and statements of relevance enhances a submission;
- the style of presentation impacts on the assessors;
- details of research in coursework programs and teaching of research methodology should be included;
- a full CV provides a perspective on a nominee's career and the submission should refer to the CV and explain the relevance of activities and outcomes;
- applicants should relate research outcomes to research activities;
- nominees should identify the different audiences for whom they write.

### USQ NEWS

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Journalists

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USM04279/ASF GROUP

# On the public record

A **GROUP** of academics from the Faculty of Arts have joined forces with key stakeholders in the community to establish a Research and Service Cluster centred on the concept of Public Memory.

The Public Memory cluster coordinates a multi and transdisciplinary group of researchers working across the humanities from areas such as visual art, music, theatre, anthropology, history, english, communications, cultural and gender studies, sociology and international relations. It aims to investigate the ways in which the past is utilised in contemporary culture. Coinciding with the Centenary of Toowoomba celebrations, a website has been created that is dedicated to the various completed and continuing research projects of the group.

The public memory web site - [www.publicmemory.org](http://www.publicmemory.org) - which was launched last month, is intended to serve as a resource for anyone interested in the processes of cultural memory and it features a particular but not exclusive interest in the local region.

"The research cluster is a group that has been developing over the last six months and is a grassroots initiative that is bringing together people with common research interests," English Literature senior lecturer Dr Lee said.

"We hope to use the cluster to facilitate cooperative multidisciplinary work and promote the quality and diversity of research being undertaken in this area," Dr Lee said.

The research cluster is not confined to the University and is actively establishing connections with individuals, community groups and institutions involved in stimulating our understanding of the past. The locally based novelist, Jillian Watkinson, who has just released her second book *The Hanging Tree* is a



**LITERARY LIAISON:** Pictured from left to right are poets Jean Kent and Professor Bruce Dawe, Multimedia Studies lecturer David Boreham and English Literature senior lecturer Dr Chris Lee.

member as well as the curator of the Lionel Lindsay Library at the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Jayson Althofer.

The Cluster recently cooperated with Diane Baker, the Director of the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery and the Toowoomba City Council to organise a centenary celebration of the City's Literary History. Distinguished expatriate poets Jean Kent and Professor Bruce Dawe read from their work and Jillian Watkinson joined them for a panel discussion on writing in the Garden City.

The Cluster's first community initiative is a web site dedicated to the Literary History of the

Region. Other research projects currently being undertaken and that can be progressively viewed on the website include: *Breastwork: Reading Breastfeeding as Cultural Practice* by Alison Bartlett; *Masculinity in the Acting Program: A Longevity Study* by Janet McDonald; *The Children of Doom: Computer Games and daily lives* by David Boreham; *Analysing Nostalgic Cultural Agency* by Laurie Johnson; and, *A Call to Arms: Re-colonisation of The Feminine, Bodyscape, Technology and the Spirit* by Victoria Royds.

*Susan McDonald*

## ADVERTISING FEATURE

### Heritage Professional Package: for high achievers

**HERITAGE** has introduced a new package of loan discounts and benefits to suit people looking to move up to a home loan with style. The Pro Pack is designed for high achievers and aims to build the relationship that Heritage has with valued and eligible members

For one low annual fee of \$250 you receive great features:

- **Home Loan:** a great interest rate, 100% offset; flexibility including multiple loans, no application fee charged on loans included in the package, redraw facility, additional repayments without penalty, no application fee on further advances, maximum 95% loan to value ratio.
- **VISA Credit Card\*:** no annual fee, 12 month introductory interest rate
- **Transaction Account:** Unlimited Heritage transactions, 15 EFTPOS transactions per month
- **Insurances:** 5% off base premium for most insurances.

And don't believe what we say about our own product. Here's what independent financial services group, CANNEX had to say: "The Heritage Professional Package product is the only banking package that offers discounts on insurance products with a discount on a standard mortgage as high as 0.38% pa on a \$150,000 loan for an annual package fee of only \$250pa."

To find out more drop into the Branch at USQ or call the Branch Manager, Ken Sloane, on 46949752

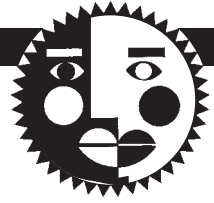
All loans subject to application and approval. Fees, charges and conditions apply. Please refer to the relevant product disclosure statement before deciding to acquire or hold deposit or insurance products.

\*Interest rate reverts to normal rate (14.95% as at 12/11/04) after introductory period.

Normal USQ staff discounts do not apply to the Professional Package.



**HISTORIC HOUSE:** Pictured at the recent launch of the Heritage 2005 calendar are owner of historic Ascot House, Ms Lois Jackman, calendar artist Cliff Sheldrake and Heritage Chairman Mr Brian Carter.



**Graduart  
2004 >>>**

## English underworld sets scene for Beggar's Opera

LONDON'S seedy yet colourful underbelly in the 18th century is the backdrop of John Gay's comic opera *The Beggar's Opera* to be performed at the USQ Arts Theatre next month.

This opera, which spawned the genre of 'Music Theatre', is a political and social satire originally written for the 'common man', something that at the time had never been done before.

USQ Lecturer in Voice Arthur Johnson, who is taking on a different role this year as conductor of the orchestra, says the opera was a huge success when it opened in 1728 enjoying an initial run of 62 performances compared to the usual one week season.

"John Gay purposely wrote this opera to appeal to everyday people and as a result it was immensely popular. The story cut through the elitist operas of the time which featured Greek gods and aristocrats," Mr Johnson said.

"The music is unique as it offsets the storyline of thuggery with its moments of beauty and splendour," he said.

"The score combines many accessible, common tunes lifted from folk songs, operatic arias and old English and Scottish songs and airs."

The narrative tells the tale of a traditional Casanova highwayman, Captain (Mac the Knife) Macheath, who uses his charms on his multiple wives and mistresses.

But Macheath, played by the jointly cast Andrew Finden, who was this year's winner of the Joyce Campbell Lloyd Scholarship, and talented young baritone Jon Maskell, possesses an unfortunate inability to control his liaisons with women and falls victim to hostile fathers and a group of envious 'ladies'.

The irony and wry humour underlying the onstage action is infectious and is sure to amuse the audience.

The opera highlights the flaws of human beings and explores the themes of corruption, lust and greed ñ all the ingredients for an entertaining night of light opera which concludes with an 'almost happily-ever-after-ending'.

*Susan McDonald*

THE culmination of three years of study for 27 USQ Visual Arts students will be hanging on the walls of the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery from 27 November 2004 – 30 January 2005.

This year's offering includes artworks spanning a broad range of media including ceramics, multimedia, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and textiles.

The students have had phenomenal exposure for their artwork this year thanks to the efforts made by the USQ Visual Arts Department to build ties and partake in exchange exhibitions with universities and colleges in Melbourne and Sydney. This activity follows previous exchanges with Sebelas Marat (Indonesia) and Nanyang Technological University (Singapore).

Last month, a successful exhibition – ra - featuring works by USQ, Victorian College of the Arts and Sydney College of the Arts students was running at the Metro Arts Main Gallery and Development Space in Brisbane's CBD.

The program, which aims to connect and encourage dialogue with other art centres in both Australia and overseas, is expected to expand to include Australian National University in Canberra and a New Zealand University next year.

The official opening of the annual Graduart exhibition is taking place this Saturday at 1pm and is supported by the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Toowoomba City Council and the USQ Student Guild.

### The Beggar's Opera

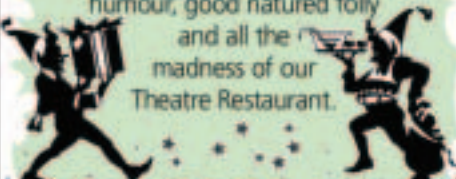
by John Gay

Take a step back in time ... into London's colourful underworld ... for a savagely funny satire on marriage, money and morals.

1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11 December  
7.30pm USQ Arts Theatre  
Matinees 2pm Sun 5 & Sun 12 Dec  
\$25 Adult / \$20 Conc / \$10 Child

### THEATRE RESTAURANT

Join us under the mistletoe for a night of crazy Chrissie cheer with a merry mix of songs and sketches sprinkled with humour, good natured folly and all the mad madness of our Theatre Restaurant.



10, 11, 17 & 18 December  
7pm USQ Refectory

### Graduart

A showcase of works by third year students of USQ's Department of Visual Arts including ceramics, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and textiles.

27 November - 30 January  
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery  
10am-4pm Tues-Sat 1-4pm Sun  
Official Opening by Jill Kinnear  
Sat 27 Nov 1pm All welcome

••• EXHIBITION • *Mountains Within* • 24 Nov - 12 Dec • USQ Arts Gallery 9am-5pm Mon-Fri •••



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