



Joint Winner

USQ NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND • AUSTRALIA

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Nursing lifts safety standards

AN average nurse's day requires lifting weight equivalent of up to 1.8 tonnes. The USQ Nursing Department insists to keep nurses safe it is not just a matter of lifting correctly to prevent back injuries but to encourage their students to be workplace health and safety savvy to change the nursing safety culture.

The Nursing Department incorporated the National Safety Council of Australia's (NSCA) No Lift Risk Management System for patient handling into its curriculum five years ago and since then has seen a remarkable change in its students.

Faculty of Sciences Safety Co-ordinator, Nicchia Schutt, said the department has embraced the techniques and continued to develop the program to reach new levels of risk management including establishing a safety

culture from the ground level.

She said the course gives nursing students the tools to apply safety skills to their workplace but beyond the standard safe lifting techniques.

"We teach them about doing back exercises before a shift, raising bed heights before making beds or transferring a patient, recognising patient areas that are too cluttered to carry out safe manual handling techniques, how to use slip sheets and lifting contaminated linen," she said.

First year students are given a two-hour tutorial on legislation and risk management and a lecture on fire safety and evacuation procedures for health care facilities.

"USQ is the first university in Australia to be making this type of training compulsory. Many universities teach lifting techniques but

they do not give students the tools to assess and manage risks."

A formal evaluation of the program was conducted by Ms Schutt and USQ Lecturer in Nursing, Dr Cheryl Perrin, to determine if the program was achieving its objective.

"It indicated that USQ nursing students were very aware of hazard identification and reduction and risk management in clinical settings and were applying it in practice.

"It is rewarding to find out our students are starting to implement good workplace health and safety practice and are thinking independently while on their clinical placements."

For further information visit the website www.nasca.org.au.

Susan McDonald



IN TRAINING: Faculty of Sciences Safety Co-ordinator, Nicchia Schutt (centre), and USQ Lecturer in Nursing, Dr Cheryl Perrin (far right), demonstrate safety techniques from the NSCA's No Lift Risk Management System to first-year nursing students.

Benefits of NSCA's No Lift Program

- significant reductions in lost time, staff absenteeism, compensation costs and injury incidence from people handling
- empowering organisations to manage their own people handling risks
- educating and accrediting health care facilities to develop a risk management system which is practicable, cost effective, durable and successful
- the program exceeds OHS statutory requirements and other industry groups' guidelines

INSIDE...

Mainstone receives OAM P3

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DEFENSIVE MANAGEMENT: USQ lecturer in Special Education Dr Barry Fields presented a talk on the Defensive Management strategy, at a recent Faculty of Education research seminar. Dr Fields discussed applying the strategy as a way to curb the recent dramatic increase in the numbers of suspensions, through a change in how problem behaviour, particularly disobedience and defiance, is managed. The strategy looks at improving the response of individual teachers to challenging the behaviour, rather than referring the student to the disciplinary system. The seminar, "Defensive Management for Aggressive and Oppositional Defiant Students", was videolinked with Wide Bay.



BOUNDLESS PHILOSOPHY: Prominent American academic, Dr Terry L. Givens visited Australia and New Zealand recently with a stop-over at USQ to present and discuss his paper "Chimeras of Boundless Grandeur": Religion, Romanticism, and Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. Dr Givens is Professor of Literature and Religion and the James A. Bostwick Professor of English at the University of Richmond, Richmond Virginia, where he has been named a "Distinguished Educator of the Year". Dr Givens spoke about the emergence of the Mormon faith in the United States during the romantic culture of the 1830s.

YEAR 10 DAY: Around 30 students attended the recent Year 10 Day, hosted by the Department of Marketing and Tourism. The students from Centenary Heights State High School and Lockyer State High School learnt about the tourism and marketing industries and the opportunities that USQ offers in those fields. Guest speakers, Sarah Jackson, a current Marketing student and Monique Kronk, a past USQ student and Destination Manager of Toowoomba and Golden West Regional Tourist Association, shared their experiences. Students took part in interactive tutorials, with prizes awarded to the best students. The day ended with a tour of USQ's facilities. Associate Lecturer in Marketing and Tourism, Michael Volkov is pictured with a group of students.



MEET AND GREET: Former Toowoomba Mayor and real estate developer Mr Clive Berghofer shares a joke with current Toowoomba Mayor Cr Dianne Thorley, third-year acting student Leon Cain and Rosalie Shire Council mayor Cr Noel Strohfled at a recent cocktail reception hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bill Lovegrove. The reception was themed around the Faculty of Arts and Professor Lovegrove spoke about the importance and impact a university's creative talents have to its surrounding community. Mr Berghofer, a regular supporter of the university, has donated \$50, 000 to the fledgling Junior Academy of Music.



SHINING EXAMPLE: PhD student with the Centre for Astronomy, Solar Radiation and Climate in the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences, David Turnbull, attended the 14th International Congress on Photobiology in Jeju, South Korea early last month. He was successful in his application for a travel grant from the Australian Institute of Physics to attend and present his research paper "Improving the Protective Efficiency of Shade Structures".



**VICE
CHANCELLOR**

Bill Lovegrove



AUSTRALIA

THE USQ Directions paper was endorsed by USQ Council at its June meeting. The paper was developed through a thorough consultation process and many staff will see their ideas expressed in the document. For those who have not already had an opportunity to read the paper it can be found at www.usq.edu.au/resources/usq+directions.pdf.

The paper lists aims and actions across the full range of USQ activities but the challenge now is for all staff to make the vision expressed in USQ Directions a reality.

This is an exciting time for the University in that USQ Directions builds on the unprecedented growth of the 1990s and provides a blueprint for the future development of USQ in a way that is sanctioned by staff and the Council. It literally points us in the

direction of what type of university we want and need to be in order to provide best practice learning, teaching and research for students and staff in a rapidly changing and more competitive educational environment. It also puts us in a position where we can decide on the best use of our finite resources to achieve these goals.

Many actions are already underway, these include: a review of the financial strategy and budget processes in time for the upcoming budget process to provide incentives for innovation and operational efficiency; the Activity-Based Costing exercise is now almost complete and will provide USQ with a better understanding of its cost structures to inform improved forward planning; a review of the University's IT governance is underway, and there is soon to be a call for submissions from staff with an interest in this area; an academic forum has been established to continue the work commenced at the May planning conference on models supporting learning and teaching.

An implementation plan is now being developed to fully address the actions outlined in USQ Directions and the University will soon embark on a strategic planning process based on the strategic objectives described in USQ Directions.

We will also be establishing a Planning Working Group to initiate and oversee this planning process during the second half of 2004. Details of this process and the make-up of that working group will be available shortly.

Medal honours Mainstone

PROFESSOR John Mainstone was awarded the Medal in the General Division of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to education in the fields of physics and atmospheric research, and to the community in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Professor Mainstone said that he felt honoured, but was unaware of the team that had nominated him.

"I've got my suspicions, but it is a very secretive process. I feel honoured for both physics and my physicist colleagues, in an age when people are desperately trying to say that physics has had its day," Professor Mainstone said.

Professor Mainstone, whose official postnominals have grown too long to list, has a number of qualifications, including a Bachelor of Science degree, awarded when he was 18, to a PhD in Radioastronomy.

He was involved in designing Australia's first Climatology programs, which were offered at USQ from 2001, and is also Director of USQ's Centre for Astronomy, Solar Radiation and Climate.

He was elected Fellow of the Australian Institute of Physics, the Institute of Physics (UK), and of the Royal Meteorological Society.

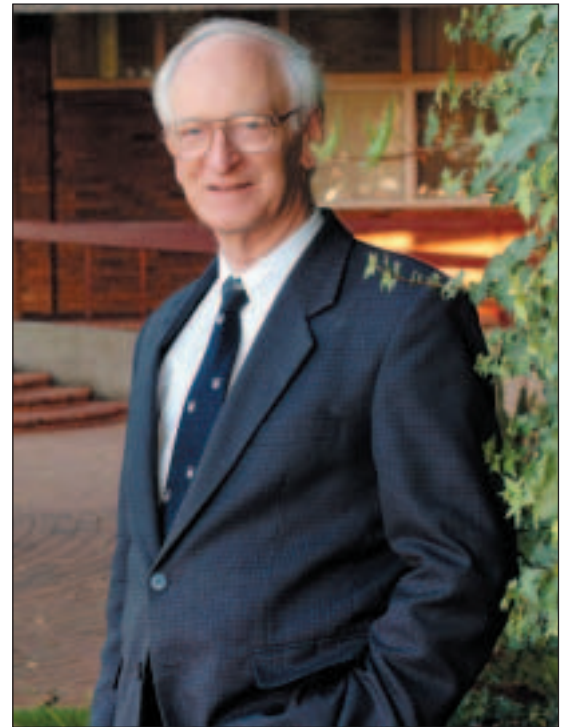
In 1990, he helped to initiate the joint Astronomical Observatory project between USQ and the University of Queensland (UQ), which led to the opening of Mt Kent Observatory in 1996.

Outside of physics, Professor Mainstone is a member of the adult choir of the Anglican Parish of St Lucia, the Lucian Singers, and he has also directed a number of major events at UQ, where he spent the majority of his working life.

Throughout his career Professor Mainstone has lectured in a range of areas, including physics in biology, physiotherapy, architecture, human movement, engineering and medicine.

"I've always enjoyed communicating the love of my life, the fundamentals of physics, and I've tried to relate physics to familiar things, to give students something to latch on to," Professor Mainstone said.

Fiona Taylor



INTERNATIONAL AWARD: Faculty of Education Lecturer in Educational Technology, Petrea Redmond, and USQ Honours graduate, Katie Brown, co-wrote a paper which received the Outstanding Paper Award at the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE) conference held in Atlanta, Georgia earlier this year.

The paper, "Are we there yet, are we there yet, how much longer?" explored the ICT integration journey of teachers from 10 provincial primary schools in Australia. It examined the teachers' past and present attitudes toward the integration of ICTs in their classrooms and attempted to predict their future attitudes.

"The ICT integration pioneers beam at the

thought of what's next, however, the middle and late adopters shudder at the thought of what is next and wonder if and when they are going to get there, wherever there is? This differentiating attitude in ICT integration can be attributed to the teachers' personal confidence in using ICTs," Mrs Redmond said.

"I presented two papers at the conference. The second was a joint effort with Faculty of Education colleagues Peter Albion and Louise Alexander: "Designing Twenty-first Century Teaching and Learning Spaces for a Teacher Education Program" which discusses learning spaces required for 21st century teaching and the importance of connectivity."

Katie Brown is currently teaching at Tara State School.

Future looks easier through machine vision

HI-TECH machine vision can be used for a range of activities, including counting macadamia nuts as they are being harvested, monitoring randy rodents, and even telling the difference between sheep and pigs, according to Research Engineer, Mark Dunn at the USQ's National Centre of Engineering in Agriculture (NCEA).

"Machine vision is almost cheating. It gives a quick answer in real time. It works by programming a computer to recognise a set of cues and uses those cues to implement a few rules to assess the object in question," Mr Dunn said.

"Machine vision uses a whole host of algorithms, such as the edge of an object, or changes in colour, as a prompt to identifying the object.

"Take the macadamia nuts for example, quite often twigs and leaves get picked up by the harvesting machine, but by using machine vision, it is possible to tell whether or not the image (in view) is a nut, based on shape and colour tone. The machine then moves on to the next object in the view finder, processing the entire image within 1/30th of a second.

"We're also working on a project at separating sheep from wild pigs. The design directs animals through a stall and if the computer registers them as a sheep they are admitted into one enclosure and if a pig is identified a gate switches and they remain trapped in a pen until the farmer comes. The cues used in this case are things like weight and shape," Mr Dunn said.



VISION APPLIED: USQ National Centre of Engineering in Agriculture Research (NCEA) Engineer, Mark Dunn, is working on applying machine vision to a range of applications including counting macadamia nuts as they are harvested.

NCEA is also applying machine vision to a Faculty of Sciences project which looks at when dunnarts, small marsupial rodents, are ready to reproduce.

Certain characteristics have been identified to indicate that the dunnarts are coming on heat. When the computer recognises these indicators it will send a signal, either by sending an email or making a phone call for

example, to let the scientist, or whoever the intended recipient is, know.

"The idea of machine vision is to make things easier and to ensure that too much time is not spent on any one element," Mr Dunn said.

NCEA is continually applying machine vision to a range of new tasks, and is constantly approached by farmers who want to improve their practices and make their lives easier.



SPIRIT CAPTURED: More than a decade of photographic excellence at the University of Southern Queensland's McGregor Schools is now on display at the USQ Library with the McGregor Prize for Photography Winners 1987-2003 Exhibition open to the public during Library operating hours. The 2005 McGregor Prize for Photography Judge is Rod Neucom (pictured in the foreground) who currently works for the Crows Nest Shire Council as Manager of the Highfields Cultural Centre and has a lifetime of experience as a professional photographer for clients in Japan, the US, Canada and Europe. Last year's judge Graham S. Burstow (centre), who has recently been recognised for his dedication and service to Photography with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2004 Queen's Birthday Honours List, is returning to host the competition. Graham has been involved with the McGregor Prize for Photography since its inception in 1983. Also pictured is McGregor Schools Operations Manager Rob Fry who will be calling for entries for the 22nd McGregor Prize for Photography before the closing date of 3 December 2004.



VISITING ACADEMIC: Dr Peg Ertmer from Purdue University in Indiana visited USQ recently as part of the Visiting Scholar Scheme, in which the Faculty of Education invites academics from other universities to present ideas on how they teach and exchange knowledge. While at USQ, Dr Ertmer gave a presentation on building the research capacity of graduate students, at a Faculty of Education research seminar, video-linked with Wide Bay. She discussed the Apprenticeship-Mentoring Model, which she uses when she teaches a graduate research course at Purdue University. The way the model works is the class is made up of a small group of students, all engaged in one research project. The lecturer of the class fulfils the role of 'master' and the students take on the role of 'apprentices'. If the students conduct an interview, the lecturer also conducts an interview but acts as a mentor. As the students are all at different skill levels they mentor each other as well. Dr Ertmer also conducted a number of primary schools visits, observing the children and the teaching structure used, to compare similarities and differences between countries.

Honours graduate wins international award



GRAND AWARD: USQ Marketing Honours graduate Jason Sit and USQ Lecturer in Marketing Dawn Birch co-wrote an internationally-recognised journal paper with Professor Bill Merrilees from Griffith University.

THE reality of winning an international best paper award hasn't truly sunk in yet for USQ Marketing Honours graduate Jason Sit and his co-authors USQ Lecturer in Marketing Dawn Birch and Professor Bill Merrilees from Griffith University.

Their paper "*Entertainment-seeking shopping centre patrons: the missing segments*", was selected to be included in an edition of the *International Journal of Retail and Distribution Management* but a brief email, which Jason cynically thought must have been a hoax, informed him that it has also been recognised with an Emerald Literati Awards' Outstanding Paper accolade.

"As a postgraduate student, I was lucky enough to have contributed to a paper that was published let alone be given international recognition as an outstanding paper," Mr Sit said.

The prestigious Emerald Literati awards recognise author and editor excellence and are awarded annually by Emerald, a leading international publisher in the library and information sciences (LIS), engineering, property and healthcare and management sectors.

The USQ Bachelor of Business First Class Honours graduate studied Toowoomba's regional and sub-regional shopping centres as part of his research

which helped the authors beat out 60 other published papers for the accolade.

The paper identified the increasing desire for young and older patrons of shopping centres to be provided with an entertainment element - cinemas, video arcades, food courts - which they value as the major contributors to a good shopping experience.

Dawn Birch was Jason's supervisor for his honours thesis and the mentor-student relationship between the two passionate academics is obvious.

"I don't think I would have been able to do it without Dawn and Bill. They have been such a great guide along the way and very supportive of my achievements," he said.

Jason is currently living in Brisbane where he is able to balance his work as an Associate Lecturer for USQ's Marketing and Tourism Department in Toowoomba and his PhD work at Griffith University, Gold Coast Campus under the supervision of co-author Professor Bill Merrilees.

Jason hopes to eventually work for senior management with one of the shopping centre giants he has been studying.

Jason's award-winning paper is available at <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/literaticlub/winners>.

Susan McDonald

Joint badged program produces first graduate



FIRST GRADUATE: Todd Fraser was first to complete the joint-badged Bachelor of Engineering Technology offered between USQ and The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand, first offered in 2002.

AN agreement formed two years ago between USQ and The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand (TOPNZ) has produced its first graduate.

Graduate Todd Fraser was the first to benefit from the agreement which allowed TOPNZ to offer USQ's Bachelor of Engineering Technology as a jointly badged external studies program.

With majors offered in Civil, Electrical and Electronic, and Mechanical Engineering Mr Fraser said he enrolled in the program because of its flexibility and a desire to open up more career opportunities.

"I had to cut it out fast as our second baby was on the way," he said.

Mr Fraser committed himself to what he described as a punishing schedule, of more than

20 hours of study a week as well as working full time.

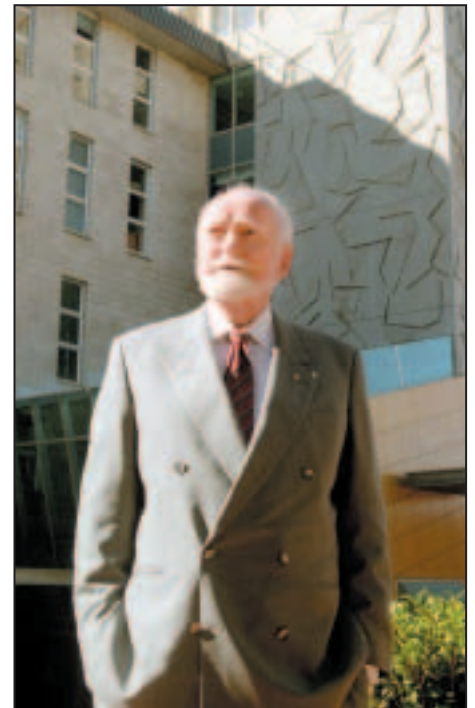
He majored in Civil Engineering and received maximum exemptions for his New Zealand Certificate in Engineering (NZCE) and nine years work experience, completing the degree in just two years.

As a Civil Engineering graduate he works for Wood and Partners who are consultants to the land development industry in New Zealand.

"Anyone who feels limited with the NZCE should go for it," Mr Fraser said.

The program has attracted more than 100 enrolments each semester since it was formed and is delivered by TOPNZ staff with appropriate moderation by USQ's Faculty of Engineering and Surveying staff.

Fiona Taylor



VISIONARY FELLOW: USQ Council Member Ken Munro has accepted nomination for the award of Fellow of the University. His contributions to USQ include continuous service to the Council of the University of Southern Queensland and its predecessor institutions since 1983. An engineer by profession, he has had a direct influence on the development of the university's building and capital works program and has served on 17 committees during a period of unprecedented growth at USQ. He is a well-regarded professional who has provided, and continues to provide, a high level of service to the people of the Toowoomba region.

What's On

16 July

GALA CHARITY EVENT: A Gala Charity Dinner will be hosted in conjunction with the Muscular Dystrophy Conference being held at the USQ 16 and 17 of July. Toowoomba Mayor, Cr Dianne Thorley, will give a welcoming address and there will be entertainment, including a performance of the Ergon Energy USQ Big Band, and numerous raffles throughout the night. The dinner includes a two course meal and a free glass of champagne on arrival. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Tickets are \$60 each and are available by contacting Helen Cluff on (07) 4631 2940. All proceeds go towards Muscular Dystrophy research.

16 & 17 July

DIRECTIONS FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY CONFERENCE: The USQ's Centre for Biomedical Research, in association with Parent Project Australia will host Australia's largest Muscular Dystrophy conference next month. The conference will bring together researchers, medical professionals, and those affected by Muscular Dystrophy with the aim of an increased awareness of current therapies and the exchange of ideas between some of the world's best researchers, clinicians and therapists. For more information contact Helen Cluff on (07) 4631 2940 or visit www.usq.edu.au/directions4md.

18 July

KNOCK OUT CANCER: The Annual appeal for the Queensland Cancer Fund Doorknock will be held on 18 July this year. Volunteering to be a collector will only take a few hours of your time. All volunteers welcome. To volunteer call 1300 65 65 85 or register online at www.qldcancer.com.au.

30 July

DOWNLANDS COLLEGE ART EXHIBITION: The Downlands College Art Exhibition Committee invites the public to attend the 2004 Art Exhibition on Friday 30 July at The Graham Centre from 7pm. The Champagne Supper is \$25 with tickets available from the College Front Office. The exhibition is open to the public on Saturday 31 July and Sunday 1 August from 10am - 4.30pm. General Admission is \$4 and free for students. Please phone the Office on 4690 9500 for more details.

Until 23 August

RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING RESEARCH GRANTS: Research grants are available to researchers and organisations, for research in the following responsible gambling areas:

- early intervention and prevention
- consumer protection
- problem gambling management

Applications close Monday 23 August 2004. For more information, go to www.responsiblegambling.qld.gov.au or call Research and Community Engagement Division on 07 3224 2631.

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LAND FOR SALE: Deception Bay, new estate, nearly one third acre, quiet cul-de-sac, creek outlook, \$199,900. Ph: 4125 6057.

MANY BARGAINS: EPSON Stylus Colour 200 printer \$25; Thule BICYCLE CARRIER for roof rack, used once, 2 @ \$150 each; Trekking BOOTS, Size 8 Trezeta Gore-tex, used once, good cond. cramp-on compatible, suit snow or mountain climbing \$180 (paid \$400 new); NT BEER BOTTLES, 2L collectors item, 2 @ \$5 ea. Ph: 4631 2930 or 4638 0472.

RENOVATORS MATERIALS: Brand new stainless steel Bosch elect UB/wall oven and natural gas cook top \$1900 (was \$2450 new); H'wood colonial fence pickets 2 sizes - approx 370 x 1.8m \$320, approx 200 x 1.2m \$165 (or \$450 the lot); Mixed pack of skirting timber \$50; Silky oak double-hung windows \$10ea. Ph: 4631 2930 or 4638 0472.

TELESCOPE: Tasco Galaxsee 375X. Adjustable, aluminium tripod with rubber-tipped feet; 3X Barlow; 5X24mm finderscope; Interchangeable 1.25" eyepieces: 20mm and 4mm; Rack and pinion focusing; Equatorial mount; 4 1/2" mirror; bonus Astronomy Program. Purchased for \$580 will sell for \$350. Excellent condition used only once. Ph: 4636 6126 or 0403 336 273.

TRAILBIKE: Honda XL250s Trail bike, 1981 model, VGC, Very Low Km's, Original Condition, Solo Registration, Reg & RWC, \$1200 ono. Ph: X1067 or email boreham@USQ.edu.au.

WHEEL COVER: 14" Toyota Genuine Part, GC, \$25. Ph: Patrick on X2131 or 4631 2131.

WANTED

HOUSEMATE: Furnished room available for rent in centrally located house at Newtown \$70 per week + expenses. Ph: X1036 or 4613 0909.

KIDS BIKE SEAT: For 3 year-old, to fit on the back of an adult bike. Ph: X2744 or 0409 363 875.

TEACH ENGLISH IN CHINA: Native English speaker wanted to teach at a key high school in China. Six months or one year contract available starting in September. Salary at 3500RMB per month plus free airfare and accommodation, paid holidays and more. Contact Tom on 0401 022 349 for details or send your resume to asicee@hotmail.com.

GIVEAWAY

DOG: female Blue Cattle Dog pup 4mths old, preferably to a place with room to roam. Ph: Derek on X2299 or 0416 321 769.

Newsmakers

JEFF BLACK, Senior Video Production Officer in the Distance and e-Learning Centre was interviewed on ABC Southern Queensland and 4GR in Toowoomba, 4BC and 4KQ in Brisbane, was quoted in *The Chronicle*, the *Courier Mail*, the *Herald Sun* in Melbourne and the *Weekend Australian* and appeared on Seven News and ABC Television News.

DR BRAD CARTER, Lecturer in Physics in the Faculty of Sciences was interviewed by WIN TV about the university astronomy program and featured in the media nationally about the transit of Venus.

PROFESSOR FRANK CROWTHER, Dean of the Faculty of Education was quoted in several NSW regional newspapers after speaking at a State Secondary Schools Conference. Professor Crowther was also quoted in the *Courier Mail* about the Federal Government proposal to give school principals the power to hire and fire and later about the Federal Government's new legislation in relation to school report cards.

DR PETER DUNN, Lecturer in Statistics in the Faculty of Sciences was interviewed on ABC Southern Queensland and quoted in *Toowoomba's Mail* about the Queensland Statistics Poster Competition.

DR ANDREW HOEY, Senior Lecturer in Human Physiology in the Faculty of Science was interviewed on 4GR and ABC Southern Queensland about the Directions for Muscular Dystrophy: planning today for tomorrow Conference being held at USQ.

DIANNE JONES, Lecturer in Journalism in the Faculty of Arts, was interviewed on ABC Southern Queensland and was also heard on ABC Brisbane, Perth, Cairns and Longreach about her research into gender bias in the reportage of the Olympics.

JULIE MURPHY, Technical Officer for the Faculty of Sciences was published as a book reviewer in the Australian Life Scientist. She reviewed *Hush Hush: The dark secrets of scientific research* by Michael Jordon.

DR BRIAN MUSGROVE, Lecturer in Literature in the Faculty of Arts was interviewed on ABC Brisbane about the writing's and poetry of Bob Dylan.

ANDREW LORENZ, Senior Lecturer in Music was quoted in *The Chronicle* about the 16th McGregor Chamber School.

SIMON PATON, Lecturer in the Faculty of Business appeared in his regular politics talkback slot with Graham Healy's Middy Show on Radio 4GR.

PENNY RICHARDS, Associate Lecturer in Accounting from the Faculty of Business at the Wide Bay Campus was quoted in the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* about USQ's Funny Business program to develop the business skills of Year 10 students.

ADRIAN ROBINSON, Group Manager of Finance and Facilities was quoted in *The Chronicle* and appeared on ABC Southern Queensland about the USQ Annual Report.

HAYLEY SUGARS, Singing tutor for the Faculty of Arts was quoted in *The Chronicle* and the *Courier Mail* about her performance in The Mozart Effect, with the Queensland Choir, St Stephen's Cathedral in Brisbane.

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Bali trip sows many rewards

MOST young workers planning a holiday would be the first to pack their bags for a Contiki tour but Environmental Engineering Consultant for Landloch within the National Centre for Engineering and Agriculture, Oscar Metcalfe, decided to do something more productive with his accrued leave time.

While a Contiki tour did cross Oscar's mind, a meeting with the chairman of the East Bali Poverty Project (EBPP) at a recent conference seeded a few alternative ideas.

"I met David Booth from the Ekoturin Foundation at the 3rd International Vetiver Conference in China where we had both submitted papers. We got chatting about his work in East Bali and it made me think about my long-term goals which include working overseas and immersing myself in non-western cultures," Oscar said.

The aims and visions of the EBPP are to eliminate poverty, illiteracy and malnutrition in the most impoverished regions in East Bali by working with the communities at a grass roots level, with their full participation, to initiate self-reliance and develop model sustainable development programs that can eventually be replicated in other similarly impoverished areas.

The present programs are benefiting more than 10,000 Balinese people by improving their quality of life through relevant integrated education, improved nutrition and a comprehensive range of other programs covering drinking water supply, health improvement, hygiene, sanitation, roads infrastructure and improved agricultural systems facilitated by vetiver grass for initial erosion control, soil and water conservation.

Vetiver grass species are a deep-rooted, tall, bladey grass that grow in dense clumps and when planted close together will form dense hedges. The deep, dense root system makes it effective in reinforcing and stabilising the structure of slopes, while the dense hedges of foliage above ground makes it effective in slowing flows and trapping sediment therefore stabilising land with trapped nutrients and moisture.

"I assisted in aspects of bio-engineering designs using vetiver grass technology, developing training programs for the use of vetiver grass, plans for a new office and sustainable development centre as well as helping to develop an appropriate library system.

"My experience from working in libraries as a learning facilitator involved in USQ's Peer Assisted Learning Strategies accompanied by my engineering background really helped me bring something worthwhile to



COLLABORATIVE PLAN: Gede Mudita (Mu), Ardika Adinata (EBPP's Vetiver man), Oscar Metcalfe and Komang Kurniawan (Team Leader) discuss the plans for the day outside the EBPP Denpasar office.

the project," he said.

But the USQ Bachelor of Engineering (Environmental) graduate said he gained personal experience in return for his professional input.

"I benefited immensely not just from new technical challenges but more so from insights into people's relationships and my own character. The Balinese culture astounded me and I felt inspired by the huge successes of the people involved in the East Bali project despite having so few resources."

"I'm looking forward to continuing my involvement with the project by drawing on the resources available to myself as a young person and engineer working in Australia."

For further information on the East Bali Poverty Project check out the website www.eastbalipovertyproject.org and www.vetiver.org.

Susan McDonald

Kathryn manages cabaret success

USQ Bachelor of Theatre Arts USQ graduate, Kathryn Silcox scored an amazing position at the Brisbane Cabaret Festival, held earlier this year.

Kathryn was the Production Manager for the Festival, which was held at the Brisbane Powerhouse, 20 to 22 May.

She scored the position through working for QUE, a local youth theatre that USQ's Theatre Department set up with industry partners, The Empire Theatre and the Queensland Theatre Company.

Kathryn has been the sole Administrator for QUE since 2003 and was also Production Manager for one of QUE's programs, QUE-Fest.

Artist-In-Residence for QUE-Fest, Sandro Colarelli, was also founder of the Brisbane Cabaret Festival.

Mr Colarelli asked Kathryn to work for the Brisbane Cabaret Festival in 2004.

Kathryn said she took advantage of the opportunity, thinking she would be the coffee girl or the assistant to the Assistant Production Manager.

"It was quite a surprise when I was informed that I was it, the one and only Production Manager for the 2004 Brisbane



Cabaret Festival," she said.

Mr Colarelli and his wife Katrina Torenbeek have been running the festival for the past five years assisted by a dedicated team of five Brisbane artists and art workers.

Despite being thrown in the deep end, Kathryn received support from the Executive Officer of the Festival, Ms Torenbeek, and said she thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

"To find something that you love and are good at is unbelievable! It was an incredibly steep learning curve and more often than not, I felt out of my depth, as it was my first major festival. But you have to start somewhere so you may as well be thrown in the deep end and see how far you can swim!" she said.

"I am still quite young to be working under the title of Production Manager. I like the diversity of festivals as opposed to singular productions, so I will probably head off in that direction," Kathryn said.

Kathryn has since found out she's been offered the position of Production Manager for next year's Festival.

Fiona Taylor



Staged combat to warm the Winter chill



THE USQ Toowoomba campus will play host to the first International Order of the Sword and the Pen (IOSP) historical fighting and performance workshop in the southern hemisphere as part of this year's McGregor Schools Winter Arts

Retreat from 12 - 17 July.

The Paddy in Oz - 14th Annual Paddy Crean Workshop and Symposium as organised by the IOSP, is based on the principle that "staged combat" is an art form.

The IOSP provides a forum for combining historical research, socio-cultural influences and kinesiology with the study of practical theory and specific techniques, in order to better inform and explore all aspects of the illusion of conflict in performance.

Internationally-recognised instructors including Stephen Hand (Australia), Tony Wolf (NZ)

and Ramon Martinez and Brad Waller (USA) together with Scott Witt (Australia) as support, will draw from their specialist experience, particularly in bladed European techniques.

Other workshops in painting, portraiture, mixed media, watercolour, pastels, sculpture, hot glass, mosaic design, millinery, jewellery, silversmithing, blacksmithing, photography and creative writing workshops will provide the medium for more than 200 creative and visual artists and craftspeople.

The McGregor Winter School has been running for 17 years and

this year Dr Irene Amos OAM, Patron of the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, is returning for her 15th School as a Painting Tutor to teach alongside many other unique and talented individuals.

Participants of the McGregor Winter School are also eligible to enter the 2004 McGregor Art Fellowship valued at \$8000 which enables a student to take an expenses paid study tour for six weeks in the United Kingdom at the Newcastle-under-Lyme College.

For further information please contact The McGregor Schools on 4631 2755

Recital to remember Rorke



ONE of Australia's foremost chamber ensembles, the Southern Cross Soloists, will make a special appearance in Toowoomba at the USQ Arts Theatre on Friday 23 July at 7:30pm for the *Peter Rorke Recital* in memory of the well-respected former USQ Head of Music.

This annual recital was initiated in 1994 when Peter Rorke, an OAM, was still on staff and celebrates the enormous contributions he made as a conductor, pianist, composer, administrator and teacher.

He passed away in 1997 and during his time at USQ he was pivotal in the development of the music program.

The six of the nation's leading musicians who make up the Southern Cross Soloists - Paul Dean (clarinet), Leesa Dean (bassoon), Tania Frazer (oboe), Margaret Schindler (soprano), Peter Luff (horn) and Kevin Power

(piano) - will perform a program of French music.

Critics of a recent tour of New Zealand described the ensemble's concert as "the most exciting, exploratory and frankly enjoyable of the chamber music season" - Otago Daily Times.

The *Songs of the Auvergne* by Canteloube hold the distinct honour of being the Soloists' most loved and most requested piece. In this concert they will present a winning combination of songs from Series One and Two and Canteloube's rarely performed Trio Rustique. Combine this with the extraordinary colour and beauty of Ravel, Schmitt, Rameau and Lully, and you have an irresistible feast of French music.

For further information please contact the USQ Performance Centre Box Office on 4631 1111.

Peter Rorke Recital

One of Australia's foremost chamber ensembles, the **Southern Cross Soloists**, featuring a unique combination of oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon, piano and soprano present an irresistible feast of French music from composers Canteloube, Ravel, Schmitt, Rameau and Lully.

Friday 23 July
7.30pm USQ Arts Theatre
\$20 Adult / \$16 Conc / \$5 Child

TWILIGHT VOCAL RECITAL

A Winter Journey

Franz Schubert's great song-cycle takes the listener on a journey of the mind - with heart-rending beauty in 24 songs.

Tenor Rhoderick McNeill and pianist Renate Turini will present *Die Winterreise (The Winter's Journey)*

Wednesday 28 July
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.

16-21 and 26-28 August
7.30pm USQ Arts Theatre

Matinees 11am Wed 25 Aug &
2pm Sun 29 Aug

\$19 Adult / \$15 Conc / \$10.50 Preview