



Table of Contents

TOP STORIES.....	2
MOVERS AND SHAKERS.....	5
OTHER NEWS.....	8
IN BRIEF.....	13
COMING EVENTS.....	14
OUT AND ABOUT.....	14
STAFF PROFILE.....	15
STUDENT PROFILE.....	15
NEWSMAKERS.....	16
UNITRADER.....	16
PHOTOS.....	17



TOP STORIES



Academic portfolio review released to staff

A draft implementation plan for the academic review and renewal project was released to staff recently as part of an ongoing consultation process to create a more flexible range of programs that meet student, employer and industry needs.

Designed to position the University for future student and industry demands, the draft plan includes recommendations for repackaging and rationalising existing programs across its five faculties.

USQ Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bill Lovegrove, said an audit of programs found that 86 percent of students were enrolled in just 14 percent of courses, suggesting many of the University's degrees were past their use by date.

"Students were telling us that many of our programs required change and they wanted more flexibility to study across facilities so they could develop broader skills and knowledge," Professor Lovegrove said.

"The draft plan released today includes recommendations to ensure the programs we offer next year are in tune with generational wishes and the needs of the 21st Century."

In achieving this objective the plan recommends a reduction in the number of degrees from 353 to 93 and a decrease in the number of courses from 1592 to 751.

"By decreasing the amount of money we spend on unpopular programs, the University will also be in a position to invest money in the development of new, high-demand degrees."

Draft recommendations include the introduction of a common first year program in the Faculty of Education and alternative entry options and articulation pathways in the Faculty of Engineering and Surveying.

"The draft plan also recommends the replacement of three separate creative arts degrees (music, visual arts and theatre) with a single degree called the Bachelor of Creative Arts and a new Bachelor of Information Technology (IT), to be offered jointly by the Faculties of Sciences and Business," Professor Lovegrove said.

In line with industry demand a new set of awards will replace the Bachelor of Science degree with specialisations within a Bachelor of Technology. The award will cater for students wanting to pursue careers in the high demand areas of climatology and sustainability, science studies and molecular and cellular biology all of which have been shown as growth areas by state and federal government.

When the RoP project began in August last year, it recommended a reduction in Full Time Equivalent (FTE) academic and technical staff of approximately 40 by the end 2009. To date the university has been able to achieve a workforce reduction for more than 19 of these positions through the careful management of vacancies as staff left the University.

The draft plan proposes that it may be necessary still for a small and limited reduction in staffing requirements. Once the final implementation plan is approved, the University will discuss options with affected staff and every effort will be made to relocate and retrain these employees.

In some areas the draft plan has recommended that some new positions be created and all existing staff will have the opportunity to be considered for these appointments.

Staff can provide feedback on the draft plan until the close of the consultation period on Wednesday 9 April 2008.

Feedback will then be collated and where appropriate documents amended. The



final plan will be approved by the Vice Chancellor on Friday 18 April, with implementation expected to commence from Monday 21 April 2008.

Story: Amy Cass, Photo: USQ Photography



Music lovers descend on USQ Springfield

USQ's Springfield campus will play host to musicians from around the world during three days of concerts and discussion at the First International Conference of Messiaen Studies from 29 March to 1 April 2008.

Conference Coordinator Dr Judith Crispin said many delegates would travel from Asia, Europe and around Australia to take part in the conference.

"The conference will feature four concerts as well as lecture-recitals and academic sessions that are all open to the public," Dr Crispin said.

She said the conference was a celebration of the acclaimed French composer, organist and ornithologist Olivier Messiaen who would have turned 100 years of age this year, if he were still alive.

"Messiaen found birdsong fascinating and believed birds to be the greatest musicians.

"He considered himself as much an ornithologist (study of birds) as a composer.

"He spent a great deal of time travelling the world to research birdsongs and even spent time here in Queensland.

"Religion also featured heavily in his works and he intended to express his religious ideas through his compositions."

Dr Crispin said the conference had five main themes: Messiaen Musical Language, Messiaen in Australia, Messiaen and Ornithology, Messiaen and Spirituality and The Legacy of Olivier Messiaen.

"An array of knowledgeable speakers will address these themes and provide an interesting insight into the world of Messiaen studies.

The First International Conference of Messiaen Studies will take place at the University of Southern Queensland Springfield campus from 29 March to 1 April 2008 in the USQ Auditorium on Sinnathamby Boulevard, Education City. All concerts will be held at the Ipswich Civic Hall at the corner of Limestone and Nicholas Streets, Ipswich.

For further information please contact Dr Judith Crispin on (07) 4631 1113 or email crispin@usq.edu.au.

Story: Jo-Ann Sparrow, Photo: Supplied



Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou umbrella

Heavy rain delayed the start of the Saturday night's final performance of Romeo and Juliet in Hervey Bay, but did nothing to faze the enthusiasm of the crowd.

Patrons at the final show of the Bay festival ignored looming black clouds and refused to budge as the rain bucketed down on them at the Seafront Oval, just minutes before the scheduled 7pm start.

The supply of 200 rain ponchos was quickly sold out. Others raised umbrellas and some moved to under cover areas to wait out the storm which was short but sharp.

Organisers were kept informed of the storm's movement by the Bureau of Metrology and let patrons know what was happening.

Once the stage was mopped up the show went on.

Director Scott Alderdice said it was important that the stage was not slippery for the safety of the actors – who used real swords in the fight scenes.

Despite the threat of rain on most nights of the festival, and the grand finale downpour, more than 1800 people attended the shows, 400 more than last year.

USQ Shakespeare on the Bay Manager, Stephanie Bayley, said it was a huge success, not just the nightly shows, but also the school drama workshops and the Saturday's community forum led by renowned psychotherapist Dr Paul Gibney. The forum discussed youth-related issues raised in the text of Romeo and Juliet.

One hundred primary school students from the Fraser Coast and Bundaberg regions attended the morning workshops. About 250 teenagers attended the secondary workshops in the afternoon.

Their attendance on the Friday night swelled the crowd number to almost 1000.

The festival attracted considerable media attention, particularly a 'stunt' at Hervey Bay's Le Mer Apartments. The actors playing the parts of Romeo and Juliet, Christopher Hunter and Kate Murphy, acted out the balcony scene at the esplanade apartments. Footage was shown on Seven Local News.

And birthday girl Rachael Bayley, who turned 15 on the day she attended the performance, had a special treat. She received a hug from actor Daniel Mulvihill, who plays Romeo's hot-headed friend Mercutio.

Story & photo: Katrina Corcoran



MOVERS AND SHAKERS



Scholarship recipient to investigate engaging students with science

Early Childhood Education Student Karla Cook has won a \$4,000 Apple University Consortium (AUC) scholarship for her research into approaches to teaching and learning science.

Awarded to students in their honours year, the scholarships are given to students who are undertaking a full-year research project that in some way depends on or uniquely uses Apple technologies.

Mrs Cook's case study aims to examine upper-primary student engagement with science and will involve filming students' reactions to multi-modal teaching in classrooms and collating the data using the Apple program *Studiocode*.

"The aim of my research is to increase understanding of how multi-modal representations are used and how they contribute to learning in science," Mrs Cook said.

Multi-modal representations involve using a range of techniques to portray a particular concept to appeal to different styles of learning.

"In a classroom with 16 to 25 children they are going to be learning in different ways and going to need different ways of representing the same concept.

"The use of a range of teaching modes means you cover everybody and can validate what is already seen or heard by giving a different visual."

Recordings will be played back to students to prompt them to discuss what they were thinking about a particular concept and why they chose to respond in a certain way.

"This is where *Studiocode* is helpful as it allows you to categorise specific sections of recordings as they occur or afterwards. It makes collection and categorising the footage so much easier," she said.

"I will then use the data to find out what the perceptions of teachers and students are as a case study of multi-modal representations in science."

Mrs Cook said the project is expected to promote more effective learning and more positive student attitudes to science.

The first AUC consortium scholarship recipient from USQ, Mrs Cook said she was surprised and honoured by the award.

"I was confident that I was doing a good research subject but I was not really expecting to be selected. The number of recipients was reduced to eight this year; being the first at USQ is mind-blowing.

"It is a big thing to be part of it and is even more of an incentive to do a good job and be successful."

Mrs Cook plans to use her research project as a case study for teachers.

She is supervised by Professor Bruce Waldrip, an international expert in learning through representations.

Story: Jane Urquhart, *Photo:* Elizabeth Bull



USQ Education Students Awarded Prestigious Scholarship

Four USQ students have been awarded teaching scholarships created in honour of a pioneering Indigenous educator.

Worth up to \$20,000 each for the course of study, the Pearl Duncan Teaching Scholarships were established in 2000 to encourage outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to pursue careers in the classroom.

A Queensland Government initiative, they are named after Pearl Duncan, who in 1951 became the country's first tertiary-trained Indigenous teacher.

USQ Education students Allen Blake, Danielle Johnson, Mitch Smith and Aja Moran were named among the recipients during a recent ceremony hosted by Minister for Education, Training and the Arts, Rod Welford. Pearl Duncan also attended.

Allen, Danielle and Mitch will be undertaking undergraduate education degrees while Aja will begin her postgraduate studies in early childhood education.

Aja, who is currently working as a tutor for the Aboriginal Islander Community School at Acacia Ridge said enjoying her own young children had steered her into early childhood education.

"I just love seeing the lights switch on for young children, it really is amazing," Aja said.

"I have instructed children in martial arts classes and did my practical experience in a primary school and just really loved the experience of both."

Director for USQ's Centre for Australian Indigenous Knowledges, John Williams-Mozley said the Scholarships are a great encouragement for those Indigenous people wishing to pursue careers as classroom educators.

"To have four students from the one university awarded Pearl Duncan Teaching Scholarships is quite unusual," Mr Williams Mozely said.

"On the other hand, it must say something about the appeal of USQ teacher training in attracting the four students in the first place.

"I wish them well in their studies and would encourage each of them to use the Centre's support services in their exciting journey towards becoming teacher practitioners."

Faculty of Education Dean Professor Nita Temmerman said the faculty was committed to both an international and intercultural agenda for its graduates.

"We are very pleased to welcome the four scholarship recipients," Professor Temmerman said.

Story: Jo-Ann Sparrow Photo: Supplied



Education professor wins Best Paper Award

Associate Dean (Research and Development) in the Faculty of Education Professor Bruce Waldrip received a Best Paper Award at the 2008 *American Educational Research Association Conference* for his presentation at the 2007 conference. Entitled *Interpersonal behaviour styles of science teachers in primary education*, his presentation focused on research he conducted with Professor Darryl Fisher (Curtin University), Dr Perry denBrok (Eindhoven University, The Netherlands) and A/Professor J Dorman (ACU).



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

OTHER NEWS



USQ Springfield celebrates Harmony Day

USQ Springfield celebrated Harmony Day on Wednesday 19 March 2008 with an exciting program of entertainment.

Members of the community were invited to come along and enjoy music and dancing from New Zealand, the Middle East and Hawaii as well as some gospel and contemporary offerings.

The event also featured three Education students who had their heads shaved as part of the World's Greatest Shave fundraiser for the Leukaemia Foundation.

Matthew Hunt, known as 'Mario' to his friends was closely affected by cancer when his mother died from the disease in 2005.

"When Mum underwent cancer treatment her hair started to fall out and she thought 'bugger it' and took control by having her head shaved to raise money for cancer research," Matthew said.

"I wanted to do this for Mum and to show my support for this cause."

Fellow students Anthony Johnson 'Red' and Matt Williams 'Luigi' also put up their hands to raise money and have their heads shaved with their friend on the day. They expect when finished collecting donations to have raised \$1,000 for the foundation.

USQ Springfield campus Director Doug Fraser said the University was privileged to have so many cultures represented on campus.

"This is the second year we have hosted Harmony Day celebrations at USQ Springfield and each year we hope to make the event bigger," Mr Fraser said.

"We commemorated Harmony Day by once again inviting staff and students to display souvenirs from their travels overseas.

"Every year we have some fantastic items on display including wood carvings from exotic islands, Chinese tea sets, origami, kimonos and even once a toy Moose from Canada."

Harmony Day project co-ordinator Savali Harvey said celebrations emphasised traditional values of justice, equality, fairness and friendship.

"Our underlying message is one of harmony and mutual respect, but the day was all about celebrating the many different communities here in Springfield and importantly, having lots of fun!," she said.

Proceedings were closed with traditional songs of praise led by local Maori elder Mr Reg Tohia.

Story & photo: Jo-Ann Sparrow



Carrick Institute visitor

Director of the Grants Scheme initiative for the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, Dr Elizabeth McDonald, visited the USQ's Toowoomba campus on Monday 17 March 2008.

Dr McDonald delivered messages about opportunities that exist within the Carrick Institute and also shared valuable insights into key issues in leadership in learning and teaching as well as tips for improving applications for grants.

These messages are now available for viewing via the Learning and Teaching website at:

<http://www.usq.edu.au/learn/develop/pdprogram/visitscholar/emcdonald.htm>

For further information regarding Dr McDonald's visit or initiatives involving the Carrick Institute, please contact Ms Christie White, Project Manager, Teaching Excellence Project, LTSU.

Story: Supplied *Photo:* Elizabeth Bull



Shakespeare heads to Springfield

Look out Springfield; the Montagues and Capulets are on their way!

With the Toowoomba and Fraser Coast legs of USQ's Shakespeare in the Park Festival complete, the tour now heads south for its inaugural Springfield season.

Springfield audiences will be treated to an open-air performance of Shakespeare's timeless tale of two young lovers caught up in a bitter family feud; Romeo, a Montague and Juliet, a Capulet.

Romeo and Juliet, directed by Scott Alderdice and with spectacular set and costume designs by Carolyn Taylor-Smith, features an exciting line-up of emerging actors.

Already, more than 7,000 people have seen the show; with 5,000 people attending the Toowoomba season in Queens Park and close to 2,000 visiting the balmy Seafront Oval at Hervey Bay to see the production.

Festival organisers have received fantastic reviews from Toowoomba and Fraser Coast audiences of all ages.

Boonah State High School teacher, Roxane Scott said the show was energetic, innovative and full of energy with great sets and some standout performances.

"Our kids really enjoyed the show. There is nothing like live theatre to inspire students and give them understanding as the text comes alive," Ms Scott said.

"Students were engaged and still talking about the costumes and set days later."

A Fraser Coast reviewer noted the production's 'starkly simple yet flexible set', great lighting effects, sumptuous costumes, musical soundtrack and terrific actors'.

They made particular mention of Christopher Hunter and Kate Murphy in their lead roles, saying 'the balcony scene was a treat, and Kate brought tears to our eyes in the finale'.

Coralie Graham of Toowoomba said her family and friends attended a Toowoomba performance and were all very impressed by the show.

"The actors have done an amazing job in recreating a contemporary version of the ageless Shakespearian drama. The costumes were brilliant and it all ran with polished precision!" Coralie said.

Romeo & Juliet will be performed on Thursday (March 27), Friday (March 28) and Saturday (March 29) at 7pm on the Education City Mini Oval at the USQ Springfield campus.

Tickets are \$25 adult, \$20 concession, \$10 child and \$65 family and can be purchased through the Ipswich Civic Hall Box Office on 07 3810 6100, online at www.ipswichcivichall.com.au or at the gate each night from 6pm.

Audiences are invited to enjoy a picnic dinner in the Festival arena before the show. The site is fully licensed, so they can pack a picnic, a bottle of wine, a chair or blanket to sit on and settle in for an unforgettable night of theatre under the stars.

For more information visit the Festival website www.usq.edu.au/shakespeare.

The USQ Shakespeare in the Park Festival gratefully acknowledges the support of its 2008 sponsors: Toowoomba Chronicle, WIN Television, Symphony Hill Wines, Toowoomba City Council, Hervey Bay City Council, the Fraser Coast Chronicle, Queensland Events, the Queensland Times, Dornbusch Partners, Channel 7-Queensland, Bell Dixon Butler Lawyers, Education City, Civil Mining & Construction Pty Ltd, Cardno, La Mer Luxury Apartments, USQ Faculty of Education and the Myer Foundation.

Story: Jo-Ann Sparrow Photo: Cindy Laine



USQ program proves popular overseas

Although he is a long way from the classroom, South African student Llewellyn Miller is enjoying the fruits of his efforts after completing his postgraduate studies in Project Management at USQ.

The number of USQ alumni in South Africa grows daily as the advantages of flexible learning are recognised by busy professionals whose life and work does not fit neatly into a lecture theatre.

The distance education program completed by Llewellyn is aimed at producing graduates who have appropriate skills and knowledge to manage small, medium and large-sized projects as a senior team leader, project manager or project director.

Llewellyn said he had put all the knowledge gained in his studies to good use in his current and past working situations.

"This has led me to better understand the difficulties encountered in managing projects, the ability to deal with these issues and to successfully manage them," Llewellyn said.

"The course structures make for easy learning, especially for students outside of Australia and the study materials provided, recommended texts and supplementary texts assist in achieving the goals of the program."

The skills gained by Llewellyn while completing the Postgraduate Certificate will be used in his role as a Project Manager in South Africa.

Project Management masters degrees and postgraduate certificate programs have also proved popular with domestic students as more people return to studies to further their knowledge and careers.

Faculty of Business Dean, Professor Allan Layton said USQ has developed modes of teaching geared towards assisting students challenged by competing interests in their lives.

"Increasingly, postgraduate courses taught on campus are offered in intensive workshop mode throughout the year, compressing fifteen weeks of study into two three-day workshops supported by first class on-line learning support materials, making the combination of work, study and family easier," Professor Layton said.

"During these workshops the content of the course is reviewed and students then have the rest of the semester to complete assessment items in a way that fits in with their other commitments, all the while supported online by their lecturers.

"Case studies are examined in small groups to encourage student interaction and guest practitioners are invited to the workshops to provide short presentations on how theory meets the real world.

"Courses taught in intensive mode still have the same number of contact hours as those in normal on-campus mode, sometimes more.

"Rather than attending lectures and tutorials each week during the semester however, they are combined into day-long sessions, a few days at a time."

Professor Layton said the programs were also offered as web-based courses and through distance education to domestic students.

"All of these options are designed to make it easier for people who are working full time to fit their study into their schedule.

"I congratulate Llewellyn on completing his postgraduate certificate and wish him well in his career as a Project Manager.

"We hope to have him back at USQ to complete his Masters Degree in the future," he said.

For further information about Project Management and other Business programs



IN BRIEF



Shave raises more than \$5000 for Lukemia foundation

Three university staff attracted a small but enthusiastic audience at the USQ Club recently, raising more than \$5000 for the Leukemia Foundation as part of the World's Greatest Shave.

Two anniversaries were marked as Chris de Byl has had his unruly locks lopped for the 10th year. while Friday 14 March 2008, the day of the shave, also marked 25 years that Robyn Haidley from USQ Hair and Beauty Salon has been plying her trade. Chris gallantly arrived nursing a sore back – but it didn't stop him from losing his shock of hair plus beard and moustache, that reputedly hasn't been touched since last year.

Those shaved were Chris de Byl (ICT), Dr Hong Eng Goh (Psychology), Alison Hunter (DAIS) and student Craig McMahon, while a dozen other students and onlookers had their hair coloured in combinations of green, yellow, pink or purple for the cause.



Brisbane study centre staff farewelled

Staff from USQ's Brisbane Study Centre were farewelled at a morning tea attended by around 40 people on Tuesday 18 March 2008 in the DeC common room.

Madonna Johansen, Sue Smith and Trevor Renton-Ridgeway have their final day at the Study Centre on Monday 31 March 2008, after a decision to close the centre due to reduced demand for service.

Brisbane Centre Manager Sue Smith said it was lovely to finally meet so many people she had spoken to on the phone for years.

"Its really great closure for us," Ms Smith said.

"I'm meeting people I've talked to for years but never met!"

W Block Prize Giveaway

If you visited the Clive Berghoffer Centre during O'Week you no doubt would have seen the "W Block Commercial Precinct" stand. One person who is extremely happy that she stopped by the stand is, USQ undergraduate, Rubie Kerepa.

Rubie was the lucky prize winner of the "It's a W BLOCK party" competition. Rubie has collected a prize pack valued at \$275, which includes:

- \$100.00 Savings Account with Uni Credit Union;
- \$30.00 Phone Recharge Voucher from the Post Office;
- \$25.00 Campus Card with the Student Guild;
- \$50.00 Bookshop voucher
- \$50.00 worth of print and copy services from Print Express; and
- \$20.00 worth of hair and beauty services.

Rubie comes to USQ from a small island off the coast of Rabaul called "New Ireland Provence".



She has been studying a Commerce Degree at USQ since February 2005 and is due to graduate in July 2008. We wish Rubie all the best for the coming months and hope she enjoys her prize pack.

COMING EVENTS



27 – 29 March [Shakespeare in Springfield](#)

21 March – 1 April [First International Conference of Messiaen Studies, Springfield Campus](#)

16 April [USQ Corporate Club hosted by the Chronicle](#)

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

OUT AND ABOUT



[International Women's Day](#)

Our roving photographers are on the loose. Whether you are at a 40th Anniversary event or the launch of a new centre you could be snapped!



STAFF PROFILE



Ms Jane Mackin, Fraser Coast Campus

What is your job and what does it involve?

I'm a library officer. It involves helping students understand what fantastic and helpful places libraries can be. They are even better than Google.

How long have you worked at USQ?

I have already received my first mug and beyond.

Are you involved in any interesting projects at the moment?

Where can I start? I'm involved in warm glass/slumping and fusing; writing a column for the Hervey Bay Library 'Bookchat' in the local newspaper; card making and many more things.

What's the best part of your job?

People!

What was your funniest moment at USQ?

I have a laugh daily. But there are no particular stand-outs that I can mention without being sued.

What would your ideal holiday be?

Anything that involves eating. France sounds like a nice place to start.

STUDENT PROFILE



Rus Kolinko is an international student from Russia.

What are you studying?

I'm in my final year of a Bachelor of Business (Tourism and Marketing)

What made you choose USQ?

I attended USQ overseas and enjoyed it and I wanted to come to Australia.

What are you planning to do once you finish your program?

I work for Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) on campus so I might stay working for them, I'm not sure. I'm attending the Career Fair tomorrow so hopefully that will help! I will most likely stay in Australia.

What do you like most about being a uni student?

I like the independence and freedom of making choices.



NEWSMAKERS



Making headlines this fortnight: Vice Chancellor Professor Bill Lovegrove was in the media commenting on the release of the draft implementation plan for academic portfolio. Journalism lecturer Dianne Jones was on the airwaves discussing interviews her students conducted with local election candidates and Dr Kathy Young was featured in *Lake News* on children's literacy.

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

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

UNITRADER



Various items Sofa set, 4 seaters, 2 seaters, and 2 seat, genuine leather, cream colour, 4 months old, seldom used, as new, only \$1500. Sofa, 3 seaters plus two seaters, freedom, original price \$1900, now \$700, 4 years old, excellent condition. Coffee table, polished plate glass with stainless steel, as new, \$200. Ikea TV bench, 1.5m long, very good condition, original price \$200, 3 years old, now \$70. Computer study desk, from office work, original price \$250, 2 years old, as new, now \$90. Carpet, modern style, 3 months old, as new, \$80 each. Wooden dining table with 6 chairs, excellent condition, \$250. Phone - Ext 1322 or after hours 4636 6325. Photo available upon request.

Unit for Rent 3 bedroom unit near the University – all with build in robes. Main bedroom with walk-in robe and on-suite. Reverse cycle air-conditioning, single lockup garage with remote. \$270 a week, available on 5 May 2008. Please contact Michael on 46140973 or 0488600503

Heaters for Sale 1 x wall mounted fan heater with remote control \$30. 1 x Goldair Turbo Convector heater \$30. 1x Road Bike Malvern Star \$80. All in very good condition. Please contact Michael on 46140973 or 0488600503

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



PHOTOS



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