



Hello from Margo



By the time you read this second edition of our GO USQ newsletter you will probably be counting down the days until the Christmas holidays. At USQ we are also looking forward to the festive season.

October will be remembered for the launch of our new 101 Scholarship

program. This is a great opportunity for year 12 students to be awarded one of our scholarships valued at \$2000, with the special extra of a \$500 bursary for each short-listed candidate. The short-listed candidates will be notified on 6 December with the interviews taking place between 8 and 21 December. Scholarship recipients will be announced before 24 December. Please remind your students of these dates and ensure they have included USQ in their list of QTAC preferences.

Nelson Reforms

The effects of the Nelson reforms are still uncertain with regard to intake numbers and OP cut-offs for 2005. It is increasingly important that each student makes sure they explore all their options - academically and financially - to be able to make the right choice. We all have a role to play to prepare the students

and their parents for the transition period between school and university which will be challenging and difficult at times. USQ staff including careers counselors, lecturers, the Student Guild and the wonderful support staff in all our faculties are on hand to discuss any issues that might arise. USQ is well known in the industry as an accessible and supportive University where students who are ready make the most of study and campus life will thrive.

Advisory Days

Our next two events are the Parent Information Nights and the Check, Change, Choices advisory days. More details of these events are outlined in this newsletter. I would like to encourage guidance officers to attend these events. We all have roughly the same objectives, which is to inform, educate and support students and their parents to enable them to make the best selection from the options available. It would be really great to catch up with you at the Advisory Days in the week before Christmas when most schools are closed for holidays.

GO Days 2005

Please mark in your calendars for our 2005 Guidance Officer Days - Wide Bay on Thursday, 14 April and Toowoomba on Thursday, 12 May. In addition to the opportunity to meet and greet our staff, we will provide information about our new programs and courses, the Tertiary Preparation Program, Indigenous Support, admission procedures and our new scholarships program. If there is anything in particular that you would like us to include, please drop me a line.

Cate, Tracy and I wish you all a very merry Christmas, a great holiday and a prosperous 2005.

**Margo Baas Channel Manager
USQ Marketing and PR**

Ph: (07) 4631 2267 E-mail: baas@usq.edu.au

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Parent Information Sessions - Solving the university puzzle

USQ understands that parents can play a pivotal role in the career choices that their children make and how well they adjust to, and succeed in their tertiary studies.

This year USQ will host a number of Parent Information Sessions to help parents familiarise themselves with the University maze and what their children can expect in the years ahead.

USQ wants parents to be part of their child's University experience and will provide information about:

- what happens when their child goes to University;
- support services are available to them; and,
- the ways in which they can support and help their child throughout their studies.

Guidance Officers and Career Advisers can expect to receive more detailed information on these sessions in the near future, (if they have not yet received anything).

We would encourage you to pass this information on to the parents of your Year 10, 11 and 12 students and encourage them to get involved in their child's further education.

For more information, contact Margo Baas on **(07) 4631 2267** or e-mail baas@usq.edu.au

Parent Information Sessions will be held at the following locations and venues in the upcoming months:

- **Toowoomba** - 16 November
USQ Campus Room T110
7 - 8:30pm
- **Maryborough** - 22 November
Reception Room
Maryborough Town Hall
431-433 Kent Street
7- 8:30pm
- **Hervey Bay** - 23 November
Wide Bay Campus
Room A139
7 - 8:30pm
- **Ipswich** - 30 November
WG Hayden Humanities Centre
Cnr of South and Nicholas St
7 - 8:30pm
- **Warwick** - 2 December
Library Meeting Room
Warwick Shire Council
49 Albion Street
7 - 8:30pm

Change and check your QTAC choices with USQ

This year USQ will be hosting two Change and Check your Choices advisory days to help students ensure they secure a University place in 2005.

These sessions will be hosted immediately after Queensland Year 12 students receive their OP scores and will be of special benefit to those students who may be reviewing their QTAC applications.

They will provide a great opportunity for students to talk to people firsthand about their options. Representatives from all faculties, student services and student administration will be present to talk to students.

USQ will also be encouraging Guidance Officers and Career Advisers to accompany and help students who may be reviewing their applications.

Students will also have the opportunity to complete career tests, get online and access their QTAC applications on-the-

spot, get accurate, timely advice on courses, upgrading, alternative options, QTAC changes, financial options and much more.

Sessions will be held in Toowoomba on 21 December at the University of Southern Queensland in T Block from 3-5pm and in Brisbane on 22 December at the University of Southern Queensland Brisbane Centre at 333 Adelaide Street on Level 5 from 3-5pm.

Guidance Officers and Career Advisers that have not already received information on these sessions will do so shortly. We ask that you pass this information on to your Year 12 students and their parents and encourage them to come along.

For more information, contact Margo Baas on **(07) 4631 2267** or e-mail baas@usq.edu.au

Career Events and Activities

USQ is involved in a wide range of School Liaison activities throughout the year. If you would like USQ to come to your school or would like to visit the campus, please contact the School Promotions team on 4631 2267 or e-mail baas@usq.edu.au

Date	Activity	Location
November		
16	Parent Information Session	USQ Toowoomba Campus
22	Parent Information Session	Maryborough
23	Parent Information Session	Hervey Bay
30	Parent Information Session	Ipswich
December		
2	Parent Information Session	Warwick
9	Offers released in selected courses, including some creative/performing arts, distance education and others.	
13 (4.30pm)	Last date to lodge late applications for inclusion in the mid-January offer round and to submit Special Consideration and Personal Competencies Assessment statements.	
17	Queensland Year 12 results mailed by QSA.	
18	Queensland Year 12 results available on QSA website from 9.00am.	
21	Change and Check your Choices advisory day	Toowoomba
22	Change and Check your Choices advisory day	Brisbane
24	Queensland Year 12 students without an OP can find out their QTAC selection rank.	
January		
5 (4.30pm)	Last date for 2004 school-leavers to change preferences for the major offer round in mid January.	
13 (not before 1.00am)	Offers released.	
14	Mid January round offers mailed by QTAC and published in selected press. Enrolment packages mailed by institutions	
24	Last date to respond to mid January round offers and to change preferences for the late January offer round.	
28 (not before 1am)	Late January round offers released.	
31	Late January round offers published in selected press and mailed by QTAC. Enrolment packages mailed by institutions.	

Other important dates for your 2005 calendar

- USQ Guidance Officer Day – Wide Bay Campus – Thursday 14 April
- Science and Engineering Challenge (local round) – 20-22 April (Clive Berghofer Centre)
- USQ Guidance Officer Day – Toowoomba Campus – Thursday 12 May
- Science and Engineering Challenge (State finals) – 17 & 18 August (Clive Berghofer Centre)
- Toowoomba Careers Expo – Tuesday 2 August
- Open Day USQ Wide Bay – Sunday 7 August
- Open Day USQ Springfield – Sunday 14 August
- Open Day USQ Toowoomba – Sunday 21 August

Tourism scholarship for Wide Bay students

The Hervey Bay City Council has generously set up a Tourism Scholarship for USQ students studying at our Wide Bay campus.

The Hervey City Council Scholarship is to be awarded to an outstanding student who has applied to continue their studies in tourism and/or hospitality full-time on campus at USQ Wide Bay.

Applicants must have completed, in the year prior to application, tourism/hospitality studies at TAFE or as part of their year 11 and 12 studies. The scholarship is only offered to permanent residents of the Wide Bay region. Applicants must be citizens of Australia or have permanent resident status.

The scholarship of \$2500 will be paid in two instalments in the student's first year of study at USQ Wide Bay.

Transdisciplinary studies ideal for Robina SHS Principal

USQ Master of Education and Training graduate and Robina State High School Principal, Lyn McKenzie, has spent more than a decade completing the courses that she felt would enhance her professional development.

Her 20-year career has spanned teaching and management in both high schools and the TAFE sector.

During her postgraduate study, Lyn completed a Graduate Certificate in Management with USQ by distance education because she felt the need to learn more about Accounting, Economics and Marketing.

However, a desire to understand more about Law led her to USQ's School of Transdisciplinary and Continuing Education (TransACE) where students have the flexibility to custom-design a Master's qualification that suits their own interests and professional needs.

As one of TransACE's first enrolled students, Lyn said the School met all the criteria she used to make her study decisions.

"I have three criteria for choosing courses of study. Firstly they must extend my current knowledge, secondly they must challenge my thinking and thirdly they must be able to be applied to my job immediately," she said.

"As a wife, mother of a six year old son with a demanding full-time job, my time is precious to me. I do not have the time to waste on programs that are not relevant to me.

"TransACE was the only program I could find in Australia - and I searched for hours on the internet - that allowed me to make decisions about the areas I needed to study in order for me to further my professional growth."

In September, Lyn graduated with her Master's degree and closed a chapter of her study life but, as an advocate of lifelong learning, her education experience is to be continued.

Accountant shortage provides excellent opportunities for school-leavers

A recent Courier Mail article by Liliana Molina (25 October, 2004) points to a global shortage of accountants and the rewards that will be available to qualified accountants in the next 10 years.

Students who are looking at their subject choices for their senior studies, considering their further education options, or are currently reviewing their QTAC preferences, might well consider a USQ degree in Accountancy or Commerce to kickstart their careers.

USQ accounting graduates are currently employed in key positions across all sectors of industry and commerce. They also work in the entertainment industry, the arts, defence and police forces, the health industry, charities, welfare

organisations and the education sector.

Ms Molina's article indicates that many Australian-trained accountants are working overseas in highly paid jobs. According to the Graduate Destination Survey 2003, 94 per cent of accounting graduates have full-time jobs within four months of earning their degree, a figure that is more than 20 per cent higher than for graduates with other degrees.

Accounting qualifications are the single most common qualification among Chief Executive Officers in Australia's top 100 companies so gaining a USQ Accounting or Commerce degree could be the key to a successful and rewarding career.

For more information on studying Accountancy or Commerce at USQ visit www.usq.edu.au/business

Science Summer School now for boys too!

For the first time, USQ will be offering a Boys in Maths, Technology and Science Summer School in January next year to be run in conjunction with the popular 16th annual Girls in Maths, Technology and Science Summer School.

The Faculty of Sciences Dean Professor Bill MacGillivray has identified a need to include boys in the enrichment program aimed at male Year 10 students to encourage them to choose studies in science and mathematics for years 11 and 12.

To be eligible for either the girls or boys Summer Schools students must: be entering year 10 in 2005 at either a state or private school in Queensland; they do not necessarily need to

be the highest achievers but must have demonstrated academic ability and an interest in science and mathematics; and, they should desire advice and direction regarding their subject selection and career pathways.

Special consideration is given to boys from rural, isolated and urban disadvantaged areas and students who may not have access to such extra-curricula activities.

Application forms to attend the Maths and Science Summer Schools are available by visiting www.usq.edu.au/gmts3