



Cherbourg kids loud and proud on the Kidney Lawn at QUT

## Cherbourg kids loud and proud in the big smoke

By Greg Davis

“STRONG and smart” is the motto for the Cherbourg State School and judging by the students who visited QUT earlier this month, words such as “proud”, “passionate” and “talented” could be equally appropriate.

Children from the school – located 300 km northwest of Brisbane – were in Brisbane for two events that showcased the inspirational work of the students and staff led by school principal and QUT alumnus Chris Sarra.

Since taking control in 1998, Mr Sarra has overseen a remarkable turnaround at Cherbourg State School with absenteeism reduced by 94 per cent and the students proudly embracing their Indigenous heritage.

That pride was on show at a traditional dance performance by a Cherbourg State School dance group outside Old Government House at the Gardens Point campus.

The children – ranging from Years 1 to 3 – danced with boundless energy and enthusiasm and the beaming smiles on their faces after the performance showed how much they enjoyed the experience.

A couple of days prior to the dance performance, the vibrant *Strong and Smart* art exhibition created by

Ratartat Public Art’s Geoff Bonney and Peter Widmer, and the students of Cherbourg State School was officially opened at Old Government House.

Based on the school motto and driven by the passion of Mr Sarra, the entire school community has been involved in painting self-portraits on giant letters that form the words “strong and smart”.

“This project allows the children to take the notion of being ‘strong and smart’ beyond words alone,” Mr Sarra said.

Funded by the Thyne Reid Charitable Trusts and supported by Bellas Gallery, it is the start of a three-year collaboration between the QUT Cultural Precinct and Cherbourg State School, which also collaborates with QUT’s Faculty of Education.

The rise of the Cherbourg State School was recently the subject of a documentary produced by QUT film and TV lecturers Mark Newman and Gary MacLennan.

The exhibition is open until September 26 (Monday to Friday – 10am to 4pm) and can be found by following the students’ hand-painted freshwater turtles from QUT’s Goodwill Bridge Plaza to Old Government House.

# City choking on road fumes

By Mechelle Webb

THE quality of air being inhaled by people who live and work next to major traffic corridors will be investigated by QUT scientists in a new \$300,000 study.

Chief investigator Associate Professor Lidia Morawska, who is director of the university-based International Laboratory for Air Quality and Health, said scientists knew inhaling vehicle emissions was bad – but wanted to create an impact model to help find solutions.

The model will take into account the number of vehicles on a road, the proximity of residents or workers to traffic, and how weather influences

the spread of pollution.

Professor Morawska is a specialist researcher in ultra-fine particles – particularly tiny toxic particles which can penetrate deep into the lungs and damage the respiratory system and heart.

She said the new study would focus on busways and bus stations, but have implications for all traffic corridors.

The project has been jointly funded by Queensland Transport and the Australian Research Council and will be carried out over the next three years.

Dr Morawska said people who worked in close proximity to high traffic environments – ranging from drive-through takeaways to CBD

buildings – were particularly vulnerable to possible health problems from the air they breathed.

She cited an example of previous QUT research which tested pollution levels at the site of a proposed William Street building in Brisbane’s heart, next to the riverside expressway.

“The levels were six times higher than the CBD average,” she said.

“Because of those measurements, electrostatic filters were placed over the air intake vents.”

Professor Morawska said tougher building regulations were needed which required similar filtration devices on buildings near major roads, such as schools and offices.

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Geography on the map

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QUT’s Riverdance

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Kicking career goals

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# Surf ignorance puts lives at risk

A LACK of beach safety knowledge and cultural differences could be causing international visitors to engage in "unsafe" behaviour on Queensland beaches, a study has found.

The joint study by Associate Professor Roy Ballantyne and Karen Hughes from QUT's Centre for Innovation in Education, Surf Life Saving Queensland and Neil Carr from the University of Queensland surveyed both Australian and international students who showed they still have a bit to learn about beach safety.

The survey showed that only half the international students realised the red and yellow life saving flags denoted the safest area to swim while 75 per cent did not know a single yellow flag signified "dangerous conditions - be careful".

Almost all Australian students were familiar with the use of red and yellow "safe zone" flags but approximately half of the group incorrectly thought that the yellow flag signified calm conditions.

The project also examined cultural issues that might contribute to unsafe beach behaviour such as:

- visitors from South East Asian and Pacific Islander nations dislike being in close proximity to scantily dressed swimmers, and consequently avoid swimming in crowded areas such as between the flags;
- international visitors do not believe that beaches can be dangerous because they have little experience or knowledge of ocean swimming.

One of the other major findings of the study was that although "rips" are a common cause of beach accidents, the majority of international students (77 per cent) and 21 per cent of the Australian students were unfamiliar with the term.

Even those who claimed to know what a "rip" was had difficulty explaining how to recognise one, with only 39 of the 176 students giving correct descriptions.

This discovery that few students could recognise a 'rip' was further supported by the fact that when students were shown photographs, 61 per cent selected a "rip" as the area where they would be most likely to swim.

The cultural issues and "gaps" in the public knowledge about surf safety issues have been incorporated into recommendations that will enable Surf Life Saving Queensland to design instructional materials to effectively target different at risk beach user groups.

It is hoped this will help to reduce the number of swimmers who require rescuing, as lifesavers in Queensland perform up to 3,000 rescues per summer.



Many international students - and some Australians - oblivious to dangers, says study

## Research making la différence to joint implants



French university student Maxime Noël: working at QUT as part of an international exchange research program

By Greg Davis

QUT scientists have established a French connection to improve the quality of materials used for hip, knee and shoulder implants.

Dean of Science Professor Graeme George, Professor Francois Schué from the University of Montpellier 2 in France and QUT's Dr Edeline Wentrup-Byrne have joined forces with French and Australian students to research the materials used in surgical procedures.

The researchers are investigating three main areas including the failure of shoulder implants, biodegradable polymers for tissue engineering and analysis of polymers and their degradation.

The polymers are used in the reconstruction of joints such as shoulders, hips and knees, and typically last 10 years depending on the amount of stress and usage.

As scientists understand why the molecular structure of failed implants change, it is hoped the designs of implants that surgeons place in patients around the world will be enhanced.

The research is taking place at the Gardens Point campus, Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Chimie (Clermont Ferrand, France), and University of Montpellier 2 and will be continued at QUT's new \$50million Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI).

Research into the failure of special polyethylene shoulder implants has been made possible by collaboration with Professor Ross Crawford, QUT Professor of Orthopaedics, who has alerted the researchers to problems with certain implants and enabled recovery of the materials from patients.

Earlier this year, Dr Wentrup-Byrne and Professor Schué were also granted funding from the Innovation Access Program - Fellowships and International Exchanges scheme; jointly funded by the Australian Academy of Science and the French Embassy.

Dr Wentrup-Byrne has just returned from France and is eager to work with Professor Schué again at QUT when he arrives in Australia, for the second time, soon.

"With Graeme George's expertise in polymer degradation, Professor Schué's excellent knowledge of polymer synthesis and degradation, and my work in biomaterials, we have a great team," Dr Wentrup-Byrne said.

French university students Maxime Noël and Andre

Castany are currently working at QUT on these programs and are in their fourth year of tertiary study at l'Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Chimie in central France, two hours west of Lyon.

Mr Noël, 22, said it was an easy decision to head to Australia to do his internship researching biomaterials.

"Other French students who had come here in the past said the people at QUT were very cool to work with. I also saw lots of photos of Brisbane before I left France and it is a beautiful city: very green and clean," he said.

Two QUT PhD students - former Dean's Scholars Karina George and John Colwell - will also complete research at both QUT and at the University of Montpellier 2 in early 2004.

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# QUT to Cape Town

By Mechelle Webb

WHILE many Aussies were enjoying the beach last summer, Wendy Harte was embedded in one of Cape Town's poorest communities.

The recipient of this year's inaugural QUT Geography Prize – awarded to the field's top student – moved to Australia from South Africa seven years ago but returned to her homeland for a three-month research project.

Now just a couple of months away from completing her double major in geography, the social science student said the project had been a highlight of her work at QUT.

Her vulnerability assessment of a large squatters' settlement looked at environmental hazards ranging from landslides to fires from a web of illegal powerlines that zigzag the settlement of shanties.

"It was designed for 455 families who had been squatting in the Hout Bay area, but now there's between 10,000 and 18,000 people," she said.

"The area that I was looking at was an old rubbish dump which was turned into a sports field and now has between 1200 and 1500 people living on it."

The name of the huge settlement, Imizamo Yethu, means "through our collective struggle" in Xhosa (the language of the residents – most of whom hail from 1000km away but originally travelled to Cape Town for work).

Wendy said she had met many interesting people within the community, and that the locals had assisted her research.

"They were initially hesitant, because they've had a lot of researchers and uni students going through," she said.

"But I think it was a help that I can understand Xhosa."

Wendy, who plans to do further study at QUT next year after finishing her degree, said she hoped to return to the settlement for more research work.

"It's a complicated area and it's a very emotive area," she said.

"I don't know what the long-term solution is for a lot of these settlements – it's a tough situation, it really is."

"But there's so much community involvement in South Africa now. People are working together to try to find solutions."

The QUT Geography Prize – which includes a medal and \$100 – is sponsored by the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland.

It is the RGSQ's first award link with QUT.



Living conditions in a South African squat, as photographed by Wendy during her research



QUT Geography Prize winner Wendy Harte – awarded for her research in South Africa

## Geography expands as world contracts

By Mechelle Webb

A WORLD now televised to our lounge rooms has helped spark increased interest in studying geography at QUT.

No longer the domain of a staid school classroom, university geography coordinator Iraphne Childs said learning about our physical and human environment had taken on a greater "real world" focus as times changed.

"I think there has been a general increase in public interest in international and regional affairs," she said.

"People are generally more interested now in what different areas of the world are like and what's happening there ... and how people interact with the natural

environment.

"And it's no longer what we used to call 'capes and bays' geography – just memorising place names on a map.

"It's a lot more analytical and practical now. We take it from an applied, problem-solving position and there's more emphasis on environmental studies."

Dr Childs said the number of students enrolled in basic geography subjects had doubled over the past five years.

"Our most popular subject, World Regions (which tackles topics like the Middle East), had 84 students in 1998 and 260 this year," she said.

And she said society and government's increasing focus on environmental issues meant geographers were valuable in the

workplace.

Dr Childs said related skills in hazard management, computerised mapping and population growth were desirable in the eyes of many government and private employers.

Although based in QUT's School of Humanities and Human Services, geography is studied by students working towards degrees including education, applied science, surveying, and urban and regional planning.

QUT's role in supporting geography includes links with the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and assisting the annual National Geography Competition for high school students.

That competition involved the university computer-marking 70,000 tests from across Australia this year.

## A word from the Vice-Chancellor



### Some help for less advantaged

WE are all aware that students are contributing more towards their tuition costs, as well as having to meet their living expenses.

The reforms recently proposed by the federal government confirm the pattern, which has developed over the last decade and, if implemented, are likely to result in additional financial burden for our students.

QUT's strategy has always been to build the quality of our student profile, and one of the elements of this has been to give special support to those who are less advantaged, through initiatives such as scholarships and transition programs.

That sort of commitment will continue to characterise QUT's approach.

At a very practical level, we need to ensure that all students have access to computers, as the online environment increasingly pervades all aspects of the University experience.

We understand that many capable students may be deterred from higher education not through lack of talent, but lack of opportunity.

The national evidence is that about three out of every four students are engaged in some form of paid employment, with many students working around 16 hours per week.

This suggests the significant time pressures which are faced by many of our students, quite apart from

an increasing incidence of student poverty.

QUT takes all of these issues very seriously. We also accept our obligation, not only to provide very good on-campus computer laboratory facilities, but also to ensure that we do everything we can to help students with their overall computer access needs.

In 2003, 100 University computers, which were about to be replaced by new equipment, were provided to students with high need, free of charge.

And next year, we intend to provide a further 250 computers for the same purpose. These machines are reconditioned, and have updated software installed on them.

We consider this initiative as a good investment in our students and their education.

The scheme is proving extremely beneficial to those students selected, and represents part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring that all of our students at QUT have the access to technology that they need.

Further details regarding this scheme will be available from the Equity Office website [www.equity.qut.edu.au](http://www.equity.qut.edu.au) from October. In the meantime enquiries can be directed to [equityenq@qut.edu.au](mailto:equityenq@qut.edu.au).

Professor Peter Coaldrake  
Vice-Chancellor

## Women's challenge for top tertiary jobs

TIME out from teaching and research work to have children is hindering women who want to become senior academics at Australian universities, according to QUT's Equity Section coordinator.

Ms Mary Kelly said QUT outperformed most other universities when it came to employing senior female academics and general staff, despite these barriers.

But she said there was still a huge amount of room for improvement.

Commenting on a new report on female university staff, she said 24 per cent of QUT's professors and associate professors last year were women.

Although only a quarter, it was still enough to place QUT above the national average (18 per cent) and in the country's top 10 universities.

"With senior female general staff, QUT ranks in the top five universities in Australia," she said.

"We're slowly improving."

"Within the university we have an active program of encouraging and

supporting women to be competitive for top jobs.

"For senior academic positions, it is an advantage to have an uninterrupted career, to work at both teaching and research, and to have international links.

"Family responsibilities can become a barrier to being competitive for senior promotion."

Ms Kelly said QUT's Equity Section tried to help women overcome barriers and also ensured the institution adjusted its promotion scheme so that it was fair.

QUT Vice-Chancellor Peter Coaldrake said the university was actively working to increase the number of women in its senior academic ranks.

He said the Women in Leadership project – a program which provided support and training for women wanting to achieve senior positions – was an example of this work.

See cartoon page 6

## City air quality to be studied

From page one

SHE said councils and other regulatory bodies also needed to reassess how close they allowed housing estates to be built to freeways.

"After you get 100m to 150m away from a road, air pollution concentration significantly drops," she said.

Professor Morawska acknowledged

that it was expensive to preserve green corridors along major roads as buffers to future housing.

She said fitting filtration devices to buildings in high pollution zones also cost money.

"But the longer term health costs could be much higher than the costs now," she said.

# Aaron serves up slice of life for film judges

By Mechelle Webb

IF Aaron Catling delivers you a pizza this weekend, ask him to autograph the box before you hand him the money.

The QUT final-year film student's frantic life includes combining full-time study with prolific film-making and a part-time pizza delivery job.

But he's already tasting success with his short films and hopes to cut his teeth on his first feature film next year.

Aaron served up a 60-second slice of his life to judges in a recent Channel V competition which asked Australians to sum up an average day in a one-minute documentary.

He won the national contest – and the major prize of a Vespa scooter.

But you won't see him zooming around campus on it ... the scooter has already been sold to help finance his film projects.

Aaron shot his submission for Foxtel's music channel in a day after making a last-minute decision to enter the competition one night.

"The next day I woke up and went to about 37 locations to get the shots and then went home and edited all night," he said.

"There's 137 shots in the 60 seconds – it's very frantic and well-cut."

The film was "book-ended" by Aaron's wife, Annmargaret, and includes images of his pizza job, the local bus, the Peel Street studios and even the old Pancake Manor ("I love going there to write late at night").

"I have one of the worst jobs in the world as a pizza delivery driver ... the irony is the pseudo-glamour of being a director," he said. But he said customers were great film fodder.

"The amount of scripts that come out of it is amazing," he said.

The young film-maker represented QUT at last month's Melbourne International Film Festival and said the highlights were meeting Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami and Aussie actors Mick Molloy, Geoffrey Rush and Toni Collette.

But film was not the first field Aaron enrolled in at QUT.

He holds a medical science degree from the university and has also done postgraduate study in teaching.

"I was all on the track to go into medicine," he said.

"But my first passion had always been writing – I had always written a lot of screenplays."

With more than 15 short films now under his belt, Aaron's latest project is a 26-minute documentary titled *Common Name Smith* which he is trying to pitch to SBS.



Film-maker and final-year student, Aaron Catling – lots of action on and off the screen

## Festival focus for kids on screen



Year 5 students from Camira State School learning through fun at the inaugural *Kids On Screen* film and TV festival (l-r) Ashleigh Sharp, Gabby Andison and Nicola Srama

OVER 500 young media enthusiasts descended on QUT recently to attend "Kids On Screen", Australia's first children's television and film festival.

The junior festival-goers, aged from 3 to 15 years, had the opportunity to watch and give their feedback on a selection of award-winning international productions for children – and participate in media learning activities.

A temporary TV studio set up in the Gardens Theatre foyer gave some children a chance to be on the big screen while others explored online computer animation programs.

Event manager Ruth Hodgman said

"Kids on Screen" was the first time such an event had given young children an opportunity to explore media.

"Media can be very influential in shaping children's ideas and understanding of their world," Ms Hodgman said.

"You could tell by the excitement on their faces and their responses to the media activities that this was a great way for children to learn."

An animated group of Year 5's cheered a 15-minute film production from Denmark called *The First Kiss*.

"It was really interesting to see how children the same age live in a different country," 10-year-old Gabby Andison commented.

The media industry seminars held in conjunction with the screenings attracted over 70 key players from the children's film and television industry.

Director of QUT Cultural Precinct Dr Sue-Anne Wallace said the festival highlighted the influence of media in the lives of children and the importance of educating them to become discerning viewers and users of media.

"Kids On Screen" is set to become a signature event for Queensland and will provide filmmakers and industry managers with crucial first-hand observations of children's use of media," Dr Wallace said.

## Attitudes can affect teaching outcomes

By Carmen Myler

TEACHERS' beliefs and deeply-held convictions will hinder the Queensland Government's new \$14million vision for science education, unless these beliefs are acknowledged, a QUT academic has warned.

Education lecturer and PhD student Philip Keys found in his study of the influence of primary and secondary teachers' beliefs on curriculum implementation that many "say one thing and do another" when it comes to following curriculum guidelines.

He says that unless curriculum developers seriously address teachers' individual beliefs about teaching, science and children's learning in their professional development, many teachers will go on "teaching the way they always have".

"There is the perception of those in leadership that teachers will readily embrace change without question ... the teachers are told to change but they don't understand why," Mr Keys said.

Mr Keys said it was widely acknowledged that there was a gap between intended and actual curriculum but his research investigated how to bridge this gap.

"I found that teachers used three sets of beliefs when implementing the P-10 science syllabus: expressed beliefs, entrenched beliefs and manifested beliefs.

"Expressed beliefs are when teachers say they believe certain things in accordance with policy but don't demonstrate those beliefs in the way they teach.

"For example, one teacher told me that she believed in the theory of constructivism – children learning through their own investigation – but when observed in the classroom I found the children were just copying out large chunks of text from the blackboard, not investigating at all.

"Entrenched beliefs are the real core of their belief system.

"Manifested beliefs are basically how teachers demonstrate those core beliefs in the classroom."

Mr Keys said he had developed a model for teacher professional development which would assist curriculum developers to understand teachers' beliefs.

He said it would also help them shift those beliefs from being merely expressed to being enacted.

He said it was timely for the Government to consider his recommendations, given the \$2.2million allocation for teacher professional development announced last month as part of a six-point action plan for science education in Queensland.

"Teachers need to understand the value behind curriculum reform and we can do this through professional development, but only if it is ongoing, organised and consistent," Mr Keys said.

## Strong Indigenous presence

THE Faculty of Law continues to have the highest representation of Indigenous students within QUT.

According to equity officer Wendy Cusack, the faculty has double that of the university average and is the only faculty to match or exceed national averages for this equity group.

"The faculty is proud of its strong links with its Indigenous students and with the Oodgeroo Unit (QUT's Indigenous unit)," Ms Cusack said.

Oodgeroo manager Victor Hart said that his unit worked hard to embed Indigenous perspectives across justice studies and law curricula through QUT large grant funds.

"We fully support innovative initiatives and encourage all Indigenous students to participate in such programs as the new law liaison program," Mr Hart said.

As well as this program, the Law Faculty provides support through:

- an orientation program for new Indigenous law students
- academic staff who act as advisers for Indigenous students
- free course materials
- regular social events
- meetings with staff of the Oodgeroo Unit
- bursaries.

One of the most successful annual events for the students is an informal lunch where Indigenous lawyers are given the opportunity to share their work and study experiences with current students.

Meanwhile, QUT's law and health faculties will join forces next month to present a free seminar on how pharmaceutical companies shape legal consciousness.

David Healy, a Professor of Psychiatry from the University of Wales, will be the guest speaker.

The October 6 seminar will be held at 111 George Street (meeting room three) from 5.30pm.

The next day he will discuss emerging trends in clinical trial litigation at another free seminar - this time in the Owen J Wordsworth Room in QUT's S Block from noon.

To register for either event, contact Scott Kenney on [s.kenney@qut.edu.au](mailto:s.kenney@qut.edu.au)

# QUT launches Indigenous law link

By Mechelle Webb

INDIGENOUS law students are gaining some "real world" experience thanks to a new program established by QUT and the Queensland Law Society.

The Indigenous Students Liaison Program was launched this year to strengthen links between students and industry.

It provides aspiring lawyers with an insight into the various work done by solicitors through visits to local law firms and other functions.

And QUT senior law lecturer Terry Hutchinson said it was a "win-win" situation.

"Members of the profession are also gaining a greater understanding of issues facing Indigenous law students, as well as awareness of the difficulties Indigenous people can face when coming into contact with the legal system," she said.

Third-year QUT law student Lenny Quakawoot said visiting law firms and gaining an off-campus perspective had many benefits.

"You've got a lot of good contacts there, for starters," he said.

"And the environment is a lot different at a law firm - it's very competitive.

"Meeting these people will probably

give us an advantage in knowing how they work and what they do."

Mr Quakawoot, who is a former police officer, said he opted for a career change and began studying law after deciding he wanted to do more to help Indigenous young people who came in contact with the legal system.

He is presently looking for a cadetship in criminal law.

QUT's Indigenous Students Liaison Program has already included an orientation lunch at Brisbane's Law Society House which gave students a chance to meet members of the Society's Equalising Opportunities

Committee.

Students also recently toured local law firm Spark Helmore with associate lecturer Heron Loban, to learn about life as an articulated clerk and junior solicitor.

The visit included a discussion on communication within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and disparities with legal language.

In July, they visited Mullins and Mullins to learn about recruitment processes in private firms, and this month they visited Phillips Fox to hear guest speaker Kevin Smith - the Queensland manager for the National Native Title Tribunal.



Indigenous law students Brian Bero (left) and ex-police officer Lenny Quakawoot - using QUT's Indigenous Students Liaison Program to help reach their career goals



Dance performance student Katherine Davis

## West Side success story

By Mechelle Webb

QUT dancers have starred in the finale to Brisbane's acclaimed Riverfestival - a contemporary concert of *West Side Story*.

This month's *Riversymphony* at New Farm Park featured the Queensland Orchestra, Opera Queensland, 16 dance performance students, costumes by QUT designer Rosa Hirakata, and choreography by Creative Industries' Csaba Buday.

The university's involvement in the concert was only cemented after the SARS-related postponement of an international dance festival in Taipei.

QUT's Head of Dance, Associate Professor Cheryl Stock, said third-year students had been looking forward to participating in the festival before the health scare.

"It was so upsetting for them and so disappointing - they'd worked so hard at fundraising and it would have been a wonderful opportunity for two-way cultural exchange with the Taipei National University of the Arts," she said.

"It was fortuitous that the Riverfestival dates could replace the planned tour and provide such an exciting and

challenging performance experience for the graduating dancers."

Professor Stock said *West Side Story* had been one of the biggest external events that Creative Industries' dancers had been part of since the faculty formed two years ago.

"It's a fantastic opportunity for the dancers to work with the full orchestra and the opera in a professional event in an inspirational setting," she said.

The *Riversymphony's* choreographer, Mr Buday, joined QUT as a contemporary dance lecturer in July after being artist-in-residence at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts for the past three years.

The former Australian Ballet member has also worked with the Australian Dance Theatre, National Hanoi Ballet Company, Expressions Dance Company and the Modern Dance Company of Beijing.

Meanwhile, third-year dance performance student Paul Zivkovich will appear in the Australian Dance Theatre's production of *The Age of Unbeauty* at next month's Melbourne International Arts Festival.

Paul is currently rehearsing in Melbourne as part of a short-term contract with the ADT.

## In Brief...

### Business Week

QUT Business Week will kick off on September 26 with a free lunchtime concert for business students featuring Afro Dizzy Act and Pulsator at the Guild Bar. The annual week is a "thank you" to Faculty of Business supporters – whether they be students, graduates, staff, corporate partners or the wider community. On September 30, economist Martin Edwards will debate whether the property boom is a trendy bandwagon or a gravy train from 5pm in Z Block. The Brisbane Graduate School of Business will host a two-day conference on innovative management from October 2, with postgraduate students also invited to a fiesta evening at Artisans that same day.

### QUT hosts top Australian

QUT played host to Professor Fiona Stanley earlier this month when the reigning Australian of the Year was in Brisbane as part of Queensland Child Protection Week. Professor Stanley addressed a breakfast function and took part in an

Australia Day Council forum at Parliament House before heading to Cherbourg for a series of events to mark Child Protection Week. Professor Stanley received an honorary doctorate from QUT in February when she spoke of the need to improve health standards in Indigenous communities. Her whirlwind visit to Queensland was organised by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, which aims to enhance the well-being and life opportunities for young people.

### Community website launched

A one-stop website has been launched with the help of QUT that links the community to information on the web about local education, learning, training and employment. By logging onto [www.learningpath.net.au](http://www.learningpath.net.au) users are able to easily access a range of existing information. QUT Carseldine assistant director and website project manager Wayne Delaforce said parents, teachers, students, new residents, community organisations and businesses would all benefit from the site and find it useful in gaining information and assistance.

# Leg clubs...a step in the right direction



Leg Club regulars Mrs Betty Lane-Collett (left) and Mrs Elizabeth de Groot – happy that QUT research is offering them welcome relief

### By Janne Rayner

THE quality of lives for people with leg ulcers is looking up, thanks to new QUT research.

In collaboration with St Luke's Nursing Service, QUT investigators are working to improve the pain, immobility and social isolation commonly associated with chronic leg ulcers.

Initial results on healing rates are promising, despite the fact that complete healing of these ulcers can often take years with recurrence of the condition common.

Working with volunteer patients, researchers from QUT's Centre Health Research – Nursing and St Luke's Nursing Service are evaluating the effectiveness of care in a community club environment

versus individual home care.

Each week, some 20 to 30 people with leg ulcers attend two 'Leg Clubs' at Ekibin on Brisbane's southside and Robina at the Gold Coast.

"The results for the people who come along and receive treatment at the Leg Clubs are encouraging," nursing researcher Professor Helen Edwards said.

"Patients at home receive identical treatment by trained wound specialists but throughout the first stage of this trial, Leg Club patients have recorded improved healing rates, better quality of life and lower levels of pain."

Professor Edwards said that there had been much anecdotal evidence to suggest that the Leg Club concept

(which was conceived in the UK) promoted better health outcomes, but there had been little scientific data to back up that thinking.

"Our research is ground-breaking in that regard."

Leg Club regulars Mrs Betty Lane-Collett and Mrs Elizabeth de Groot, both 76, had nothing but high praise for the concept.

"Initially, I was a bit put off by the thought of joining a club, but I really enjoy coming along and my leg is now on the mend," Mrs de Groot said.

"We share a cuppa, exchange treatment tips and take a real interest in each other."

Those interested in joining the Leg Clubs and being part of the on-going research may contact Kathleen Finlayson on 07 3864 3897.



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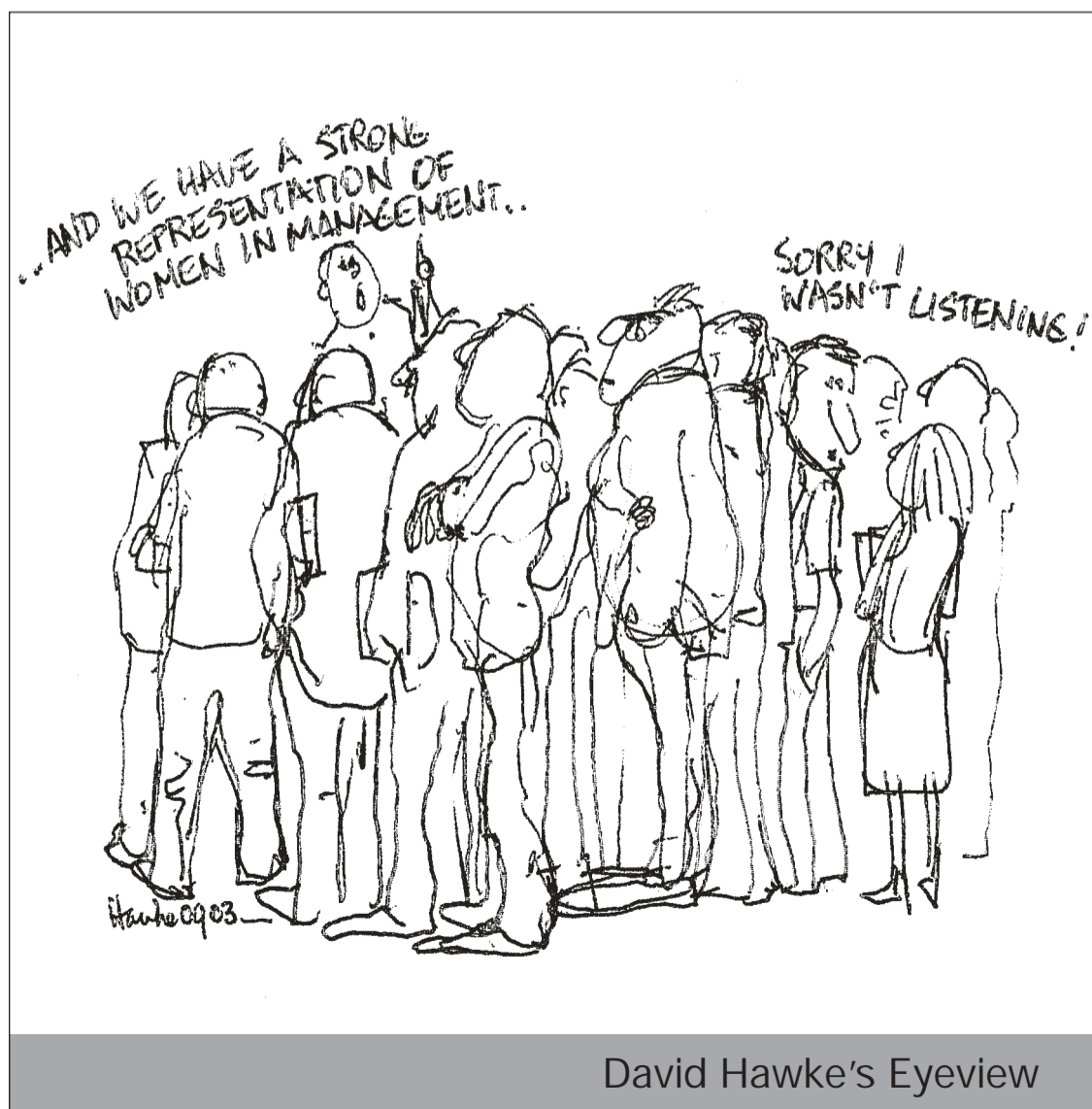
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David Hawke's Eyeview

# Let's learn from past lessons: Fairfax chief

By Greg Davis

UNDERSTANDING the past would ensure a prosperous financial future for Australia, John Fairfax Holdings Ltd chief executive Fred Hilmer told the QUT Business Leaders' Forum last month.

Mr Hilmer - who presides over the company that produces publications such as *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age* and the *Australian Financial Review* - also told the 500-strong audience that strong and trustworthy leadership was required to continue Australia's economic growth.

"If you look at where we are today, the world has had some pretty tough years since the 1990s but we have got GDP growth of 3.7 per cent, one of the highest, if not the highest in the OECD," he said.

"We basically have inflation under control and pretty good labour productivity. I'd like to think that these factors are not a result of dumb luck."

He said three main factors had contributed to Australia's growth with sound budgetary policies,

deregulated markets and an increasing population all combining to sustain the economy.

"We have made the bigger economies want to 'play' with us. Everybody has to play with the US because it is such a big economy but nobody had to play with us," Mr Hilmer said.

He said good leadership was critical to the nation's future but the former director of the Australian Graduate School of Management at the University of New South Wales said that in itself would provide a challenge.

He said controversy had engulfed figureheads across all sectors of society with certain political, church, education, media and business leaders causing the public to distrust those in power.

"The erosion of trust in leaders over the last decade will make it harder. We have had in place good ingredients for our growth but the leadership challenge is to regain the trust, to behave in a more trustworthy and credible manner at every level," Mr Hilmer said.

The US ambassador to Australia, Mr Tom Schieffer, will be the next guest speaker in the QUT Business Leaders' Forum spotlight on Thursday, November 13.



Dr Neil Carrington - looking for industry investment in teaching and learning

## Exciting future for teaching and learning

By Carmen Myler

THE emphasis on teaching and learning in the Federal Government's recent higher education reforms package has made it an exciting time for new Teaching and Learning Support Services (TALSS) director Dr Neil Carrington to re-enter the tertiary sector.

Although most recently foundation director of learning and development for Mater Health Services, Dr Carrington has previously held academic posts at universities in Australia and London.

While keen to avoid a binary divide between research and teaching and learning, Dr Carrington said the Nelson Review had really shifted the spotlight onto teaching and learning.

"The 'scholarship of teaching' has the potential to be a real driver for innovation," Dr Carrington said.

"One challenge for us now is to look for industry to invest in teaching and learning, like it does in research.

"We have got to constantly improve our teaching to enhance learning outcomes for students thus ensuring our graduates remain highly employable.

"The role of TALSS is to give our academics the support and confidence to run experiments in the margin

because we have to be prepared to be innovative."

As an experienced educator and counsellor with qualifications in teaching, special education and educational psychology, it is no surprise that Dr Carrington sees his main priority as continuing to shift the focus from teaching to learning.

"As the recent review of QUT's online learning and teaching activities showed, QUT has made significant progress in enhancing QUT's learning environments through technology," he said.

"However, we need to focus even more on learning outcomes and not get seduced by technology. Technology is only one of many ways of enhancing learning outcomes.

"It's very important to always remember the social dimension of learning and not fall into the trap that some institutions have where poor integration of learning and technology has led to electronic page turning."

"At the same time we need to ensure groups that are under-represented in university enrolments are treated equitably so that if we do implement new things, they are accessible to these groups as well."



Fairfax head Fred Hilmer told the QUT Business Leaders Forum that today's leaders must regain public trust

## GPs fail to report suspected abuse

NEW research has found 26 per cent of Queensland GPs surveyed have not reported suspected child abuse cases.

The study was led by Associate Professor Robert Schweitzer from QUT's School of Psychology and Counselling and released by the Abused Child Trust last month.

The results of the survey, which received responses from 90 general practitioners around the Brisbane area, found most decisions not to report suspected abuse were based on lack of evidence and a belief that the suspected incident was a "one-off".

Although just over a quarter of doctors had not reported their suspicions, the researchers have pointed out that the figure is still a big improvement on a 1998 study which found 43 per cent of GPs and paediatricians had failed to report suspected abuse or neglect.

But they also said possible incidents of abuse required "thorough assessment by practitioners with specialised knowledge".

"It appears that doctors are overestimating their capacity to make a prediction of the likelihood of future harm to the child," the team wrote.

The Abused Child Trust study was a collaborative research effort by Professor Schweitzer, QUT colleague Lisa Buckley, UQ's Paul Harnett and Griffith's Natalie Loxton.

It aimed to gain a better understanding of barriers to reporting suspected abuse and neglect, and also sampled QUT psychology students and parents of young children.

The study found 14 per cent of parents and 15 per cent of students surveyed had also chosen not

to report a case of suspected abuse or neglect.

"Factors that influence the general public to not take action include their perception that services available to children and families who are the victims of abuse or neglect are not suitable," the researchers wrote.

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# Jasmin's making every post a winner

By Greg Davis

A HALF-BAKED suggestion has helped QUT alumnus Jasmin Geisel kick a major career goal.

Jasmin is the host of Channel Ten's *Totally Footy* children's program that screens around the nation every Saturday afternoon prior to the live broadcast of the AFL match of the day.

However, if not for a timely visit to her local bakery earlier this year, Jasmin would have never taken the punt on landing such a dream job.

"A month after I graduated I was down at the bakery and a person in the shop told me about a job that was going at *Totally Wild*. I didn't do anything about it but the next time I was in the bakery the same person was there with the newspaper and the actual ad," Jasmin said.

"I put together a show reel and a resume and the next thing I knew I had an interview but the job was with *Totally Footy* not *Totally Wild*."

Jasmin – a member of the Australian swimming team from 1996 to 2000 – started her journalism degree at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) and graduated after just two years following her transfer to QUT for the second half of her studies.

"I really loved my time there at QUT. I was able to really put my head down and fast-track my degree which has helped me get this amazing job," she said.

"I really enjoyed my university experience and I'm glad I did it because it was one of my goals in life. I was able to prove a point to myself."

It was during her 12-month stint down south that she became a true fan of the AFL.

"I became a part of the footy frenzy for a year or so there and it is truly amazing how passionate Melbourne people are about their football," Jasmin said.

"The combination of having lived in Melbourne, having a journalism

degree and having my own competitive sporting career was certainly a factor in getting the job.

"I'm a big believer in that you create your own success but I've been very lucky to be given this opportunity. It's a dream job in many respects. I grew up out at the Gap looking at the TV towers and now I am in the industry."

"*Totally Footy* is a very rewarding show to work on as it caters for the whole family. We aim to address a whole range of issues in AFL and include not just 12 to 14-year-old boys but the mums and dads and grandparents as well."

"As media we have access to areas that the public doesn't, so we try to place the public in that privileged position."

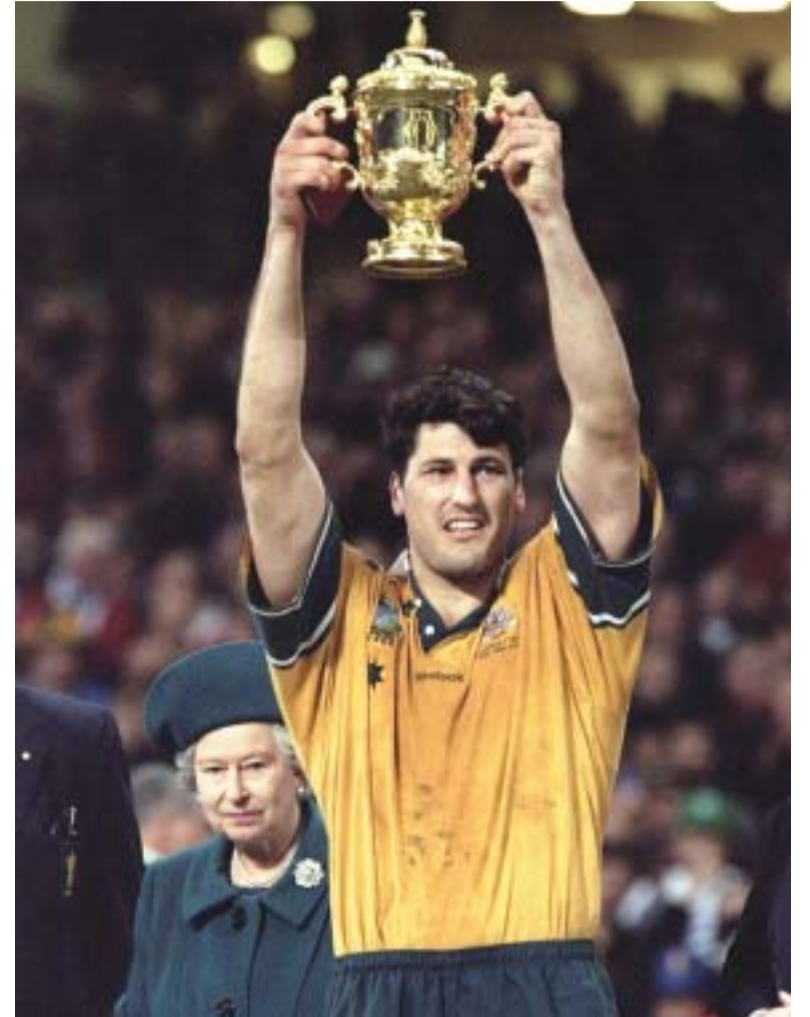
As for this year's AFL premiership race, Jasmin offered her prediction.

"I think it will be a Brisbane v Port Adelaide grand final. Port Adelaide might get there in the end but being a Brisbane girl I'll be flying the Lions flag for sure," she said.



Totally wild about her footy TV career: QUT journalism graduate Jasmin Geisel

# Wallaby greats throw weight behind conference



Wallaby legend John Eales – drawcard for QUT's upcoming rugby conference  
Image: Nick Wilson / Allsport

By Greg Davis

TWO of the greatest players to ever pull on a Wallaby jersey have been added to the star-studded line-up for the International Conference on the Science and Practice of Rugby organised by the QUT Centre for Rugby Studies and Queensland Rugby.

Wallaby legends John Eales and Tim Horan have joined the list of speakers for the conference that will be held at the Brisbane Sheraton from November 5 to 7 to coincide with the Rugby World Cup.

The three-day conference has been officially endorsed by Rugby World Cup 2003 organisers and is set-down between two of the tournament's pool matches and the two quarter-finals allocated for Suncorp Stadium.

Eales captained Australia in a record 55 Tests and led the Wallabies to victory in the 1999 World Cup. He was recently selected by a panel of experts as the best Australian player of all-time to coincide with the centenary of the Bledisloe Cup.

Eales will be the keynote speaker at the conference dinner on Thursday, November 6, which will be four years to the day that the towering forward held the coveted William Webb Ellis trophy aloft following Australia's triumph in the World Cup final at Cardiff.

Horan – who was voted the player of

the 1999 World Cup tournament – will speak about his remarkable comeback from a career-threatening knee injury in 1994 which is the subject of a special case study at the conference.

The 80-test veteran worked tirelessly with Wallabies physiotherapist Greg Craig for more than a year to amazingly force his way back into the Australian team for the 1995 World Cup.

Eales and Horan will be reunited with the man who guided the Wallabies to their World Cup success in 1999 with former Australian coach Rod Macqueen already secured as a keynote speaker for the conference.

Meanwhile, two of world rugby's powerbrokers will talk about the main issues confronting the code when Australian Rugby Union CEO John O'Neill and his South African counterpart Rian Oberholzer take part in one of the discussion sessions at the conference.

Overall, the conference will tackle the themes of sports medicine, sports science, coaching, and contemporary issues. Registrations have already been received from all over Australia, New Zealand, England, Scotland, South Africa, Argentina and Fiji.

For more details on the conference visit [www.rugbystudies.com/conference](http://www.rugbystudies.com/conference) or contact Kerry Williams at [conference@rugbystudies.com](mailto:conference@rugbystudies.com) or phone 07 3864 2220.

## About iNSiDE QUT

Inside QUT is published by QUT's Corporate Communication Department. Our readership includes staff, students and members of the QUT community. This paper is also circulated to business, industry, government and the media.

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