

## Griffith showcases excellence



WINNING MINDS: Inquiring young minds get a boost from Griffith's Excellence Expo.

THE university once again uncovered some innovative projects when 20 schools from across Queensland showcased their ideas at the 16th annual Griffith University Excellence Expo at South Bank's Queensland College of Art on August 6.

Chair of the Griffith University Excellence Expo Committee Sam Di Mauro said the event provided a unique opportunity for Years 6 to 12 students to develop projects on topical themes including health, science, politics, history, inventions and music.

"The Excellence Expo aims to foster an important interaction between students and the university environment and the projects often reflect state-of-the-art developments," Mr Di Mauro said.

The schools showcased about 40 projects, including:

- **Are the Ratings Right?** Looked at current TV, movie and video game ratings systems and suggested alternative systems that

could help reduce the amount of inappropriate content (like violence) children are exposed to.

- **The Sweet Cell of Success**

Promoted the genetic engineering of adult stem cells as a positive means to create new organs, muscle tissue and cures for diseases. It also analysed the research for and against the use of adult and embryonic stem cells.

- **Conspiracy Theory – How They're Winning. Can We Fight Back?**

Explored the media's attempts to make a generation of clones through emotional brainwashing. It presented some unique strategies that could be used to preserve individual choice.

- **Water Desalination Project (WDP)**

Presented a new, portable design for a water desalinator which highlighted the need for water conservation. It removed salt particles from salt water and made salty water safe to drink.

By Melissa Humphris

## Minority Report becomes a reality

THE university's pioneering Complex Active Visualisation (CAV) lab, which uses *Minority Report*-style interaction with data and images, is now open to the world.

Using 3D projection screens and a video-based tracking system, the CAV lab gives users a unique perspective of being inside the data.

Griffith's Institute for Integrated and Intelligent Systems' Dr Mike Jones said this was achieved by using 3D virtual reality combined with special gloves that allowed the user to manipulate and interact with the projected image, and a gaze-tracking function that automatically enhanced areas the user was looking at.

"It allows the user to explore and understand overwhelming volumes of data," Dr Jones said.

When running at full specification, terabyte-sized datasets can be explored.

"The CAV lab has potential applications for medical, geoscience and engineering organisations," he said.

"Griffith's students can use the lab to interact with images of the human body to better understand anatomy, biomechanics and medical imaging."



INSIDE THE DATA: Dr Mike Jones believes visualisation is the best way to understand large volumes of data.

By Rhys Stacker



### Research

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### People

Students benefit from mentoring p 6



### Technology

Animation program receives boost p 7



From the Vice Chancellor **Ian O'Connor**

## Teaching and research connected to community

**THE idea of community engagement has been in focus in policy and intellectual circles over the last few years. At Griffith we're very proud to say it's a philosophy that's been at the core of our ethos since our inception.**

In the past the tag of ivory tower was sometimes attached to universities – they were places of “higher” learning isolated from the outside world. In many universities the walls of the tower have been well and truly breached. At Griffith, they were never built. From the beginning we saw ourselves as connected to the communities around us. For us, the two pillars of teaching and research do not exist separately from community engagement; rather community

engagement is contained within both of them.

The way society perceives the nature of knowledge has also changed deeply. We have moved from a belief – whether it was ever a reality is questionable – that knowledge is a fixed body of theories, concepts and propositions that need to be learnt once and for all, to the idea that knowledge is continually recreated in response to change and the need to apply shifting knowledge to shifting contexts.

In today's society, more people are more knowledgeable. Knowledge itself is in a state of constant flux, and the idea of a selective elite being the holders of knowledge is under question. It's in this context that we place the university's community engagement activities. From communities in need, to intellectual communities, to the schools that are incubating the scholars of the future, Griffith is engaged in two-way creation that will ultimately enhance the knowledge base and skills of both the university and the

communities it is working with.

The scale and reach of our community engagement projects are remarkable. In the last month, we have co-hosted a symposium on the Healthy Cities network for the Deputy Mayor of Shanghai, hosted a panel and had many staff address the recent International UNESCO Conference on Engaging Communities, organised Science on the Go! to promote science and scientists to Gold Coast school students, and many more. The results are just as diverse – assisting one of the world's mega cities to provide a healthy lifestyle for its citizens, promoting robust debate on critical issues, and providing inspiration and information to the next generation of university science students and researchers. By continuing to make such community engagement integral to our research and teaching, we can look forward to making an even greater difference to the world.

# Islamic Research Unit launched

**IN a world increasingly concerned with promoting harmony between cultures, the launch of the Griffith Islamic Research Unit at Nathan was timely.**

Addressing community members and the media, Vice Chancellor Professor Ian O'Connor said the research unit was a wonderful example of Griffith's philosophy of embracing diversity and nurturing innovation.

“The Griffith Islamic Research Unit exemplifies the way we like to do research at Griffith – cutting edge, relevant and committed to the idea of community,” he said.

The unit aims to provide a forum to discuss issues facing the Muslim community and will be a focal point for research on issues surrounding Islam and the Muslim faith within the Australian context.

The unit is based in the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance and forms part of the Institute for Ethics, Governance and Law – a joint initiative of Griffith and the United Nations University.

It will offer three PhD scholarships and one postdoctoral scholarship a year.

Unit Director Mohamad Abdalla said the initiative provided a meeting point for the Islamic and western worlds of learning.

“At the Griffith Islamic Research Unit we want to be involved in educational activities that seek to bridge the gap between Islam and the West,” Dr Abdalla said.

“The objective is to promote interaction between Muslims and religious groups and scholars.

“This will be achieved by inviting visiting scholars, both Muslims and non-Muslims, to take part in research and discussions on issues high on the agenda.”

Dr Abdalla said the unit would seek to forge links with like-minded organisations and well-established Islamic institutions in Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt.

“There is an interest both within Griffith and the local Islamic community to ensure that a wide



*MEETING POINT: UAE Ambassador Dr Saeed Mohammad Al-Shamsi, Griffith Islamic Research Unit Director Dr Mohamad Abdalla and Vice Chancellor Professor Ian O'Connor conversing at the launch of the new Griffith Islamic Research Unit at Nathan.*

range of Islamic thought is reflected within the educational programs offered by the university,” he said.

“The unit will be instrumental in allowing the Muslim community to forge links with

Griffith in terms of research on various pertinent issues that relate to Australian Muslims.

“As well, the unit will allow recognised members and organisations within the Islamic community to fund such research.

Most importantly, the unit will work with the wider Australian Islamic community to undertake research on issues that affect their lives as a minority community.”

**By Melissa Humphris**

## Science on the go

**SCIENCE on the GO!, a new, \$190,000 outreach program launched during National Science Week in August, takes science direct to Gold Coast classrooms.**

Program coordinator Associate Professor Richard John said despite the Gold Coast being the sixth largest city and fastest growing region in Australia, local students did not have ready access to museums, interactive science centres or other centres of

informal learning that capital cities enjoyed.

“This initiative, with support from Education Queensland, will bring hands-on laboratory lessons, science magic shows and quizzes to primary and secondary schools,” he said.

He said Science on the GO! aimed to stem students' declining interest in science, with the national trend showing record low levels of people studying science today.

## Dashing around campus

**GRIFFITH staff and students keen for exercise can sign up for two annual events held on Nathan and Logan campuses in September.**

The Nathan Dash will be held on Thursday, September 8 and the Campus Canter Fun Run/Walk at Logan on Wednesday, September 14.

The Nathan Dash is a 500-metre sprint which starts outside the Willett Centre at 12.30 pm.

There are seven categories: the Telstra Men's Open, the

Queensland Health Women's Open, the Uni Credit Union Men's and Women's Open, the Co-op Bookshop Team Challenge, the Wheelchair category and the annual team Costume Challenge.

Prizes include \$80 for first and \$40 for runner-up in the Open categories and \$120 for first in the Team Challenge. There will also be random draws.

The Campus Canter Fun Run/Walk starts and finishes at Entrance Court, Logan, and consists of two 2.5 km laps of

the university.

There are six categories sponsored by Telstra, Cadbury, Golden Circle, Computer Faculties, Yellow Cabs, Queensland Health, Fitzey's Hotel, Co-op Bookshop and Hair Workz.

Prizes include \$80 cash for the winner, \$40 for the runner-up, random draws and a costume challenge.

Participants must register two days before the events at Campus Life on both campuses.



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# Fascinated with Asia Festival is write up Griffith's alley

ASIAN and International Studies honours student Daniel Halvorson probably rates August 2005 as among the most memorable periods of his life. Not only did he receive news he had graduated with first class honours, he learnt soon after that he had also clinched the inaugural David McGrath Memorial Fellowship.

The three-year scholarship is administered by Griffith Asia Institute and supports doctoral students working on Asia.

Daniel's fascination with Asia spurred him to do his honours thesis on Vietnam's transformation into a market economy. The quiet, unassuming 36-year-old explained that while he had always been a politics and history buff, his travels in Vietnam and neighbouring Cambodia in 2004 piqued his interest in the region.

"I spent a month exploring the coastal region of Vietnam from south to north and also the Central Highlands," he said.

"Some of my lasting impressions are of a land bustling with



(LEFT TO RIGHT) Mr David McGrath's widow Mrs Annmaree O'Keefe, Mr Daniel Halvorson and Griffith Asia Institute Director Professor Michael Wesley.

commerce intermixed with aromatic smoke from cooking and incense, and the noise and urgency of unrelenting motorcycle traffic.

"And at perhaps a deeper level, a general desire for effective socio-economic development combined

with a fierce independence and resilience."

Daniel will study failed states and intervention in the Asia Pacific for his PhD program.

By Shamira Barr

The David McGrath Memorial Fellowship is in memory of Australian diplomat and Griffith alumnus David McGrath. Mr McGrath graduated with Honours in Asian Studies in 1990 and had a distinguished career with the Department of Foreign

Affairs and Trade before his untimely death from leukaemia in 2004. Australian company Woodside Petroleum has contributed \$20,000 to the scholarship fund in recognition of Mr McGrath's contributions to Australia-China relations.

GRIFFITH academics and students will join 200 national and international writers for this year's Brisbane Writers' Festival from September 29 to October 2.

Griffith is a key supporter of the festival, which provides the university with a platform to showcase research in the area of public culture and to profile students' creative work.

As part of the festival Griffith presents a series of panels on the topics "Micro Film Scriptwriting", "Joh and Me", "The Future of the Queensland House", "The Future of Religion", "New Writing", and "Fictions and Convictions (True Crime)".

Griffith also presents a *Griffith REVIEW* Literary Lunch with Robyn Davidson, who travelled on foot from Alice Springs to the Indian Ocean in 1977.

Members of Chiasmus, a student writing group based on the Gold Coast, will read their own works and also a collaborative piece prepared with students from three other universities. Contemporary

writing students from Nathan will read from arts reviews they have written.

Three contemporary writing students will be part of a panel of 12 judges for the annual Writesmall 100-word micro-fiction competition, and students are working as festival volunteers in administrative and event management roles.

Griffith academics involved include: Dr Debra Beattie, Associate Professor Stephen Stockwell and Dr Patrick West from the School of Arts; Associate Professor Michael Meadows, Associate Professor Patrick Buckridge, Dr David Ellison, Dr Ian Woodward and Professor Wayne Hudson from the School of Arts, Media and Culture; Associate Professor Anna Haebich, Dr Fiona Paisley and Dr Julianne Schultz from the Centre for Public Culture and Ideas; Dr Charles Strachan from Griffith Film School; and Dr Mohamad Abdalla from the Griffith Islamic Research Unit.

For more information and the program, visit: [www.brisbanewritersfestival.com.au](http://www.brisbanewritersfestival.com.au)

## In brief

### Social work accredited

THE School of Human Services has received full accreditation for its new Bachelor of Social Work program. The program will be offered at Logan campus from 2006.

Program convenor Dr Clare Tilbury said job prospects for graduates were good as there was strong market demand for all allied health professionals, particularly in rural and regional Queensland.

The Bachelor of Social Work program will complement and have a common first year with existing Bachelor of Human Services degree programs.

Forty student places are available in the four-year social work program and an additional 20 student places in the two-year accelerated entry program. The accelerated entry program provides a professional training option for anyone with a minimum of two years' full-time study in a related social or behavioural sciences degree.

### Environmental Awareness Week

ENVIRONMENTAL Awareness Week activities will be on all campuses between September 5-9. To promote the environmental message, there will be recycling relay races, displays and an invitation to sign a Sustainability Pledge during the week. So turn off lights, recycle, conserve water, and don't forget to telephone 3735 7777 to report a leaking tap.

### Engineering scholarships

BUDDING Gold Coast engineers will benefit from new engineering scholarships worth \$140,000 to be offered by Griffith University and funded by the Gold Coast City Council. The Griffith Engineering Professional Industry Scholarship will be available to first-year students who are Gold Coast residents. One scholarship will be offered each year over five years and will cover Commonwealth Support Student (CSS) charges for the duration of the degree.

### Film winners

TWO Griffith students have won awards at the Warner Roadshow Studio's "Shorts of All Sorts" Gold Coast City Short Film Competition. Salvador Cantellano (Bachelor of Arts with Honours) won the Fiction category for *Freddie's Story* and James Higgins (Bachelor of Popular Music) won the Music Video category for *Sleeping with Yourself*.

### Film history

A UNIVERSITY-LED research team is hoping to unlock people's memories of the early years of film and drive-in theatres in Brisbane. The project, funded through a \$13,000 Griffith University Community Access Program Grant, will culminate in an exhibition celebrating 100 years of cinema, entitled *Cinema in the City*, at the Museum of Brisbane in 2007.

## Sustaining culture becomes a national priority

A NATIONAL study titled *Sustaining Culture: The role of performing arts centres* has been awarded \$346,000 under the Australian Research Council Linkage Projects scheme.

It has been developed by Griffith in partnership with the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, The Arts Centre, the Sydney Opera House and the Adelaide Festival Centre.

Researchers are Professor Kay Ferres, Associate Professor Patrick Buckridge, Dr Penny Bundy, Dr Bruce Burton, Dr David Ellison, Dr Malcolm Alexander, Wendy Keys, Associate Professor John O'Toole and Dr Ian Woodward.

The three-year project will evaluate the role of major performing arts centres in sustaining culture and encouraging community participation. It is expected to become a model for future research into Australian cultural institutions.

Other Griffith projects to receive ARC Linkage funding this round include:

- *An empirical evaluation of an innovative occupational stress intervention to improve the health and retention of high-risk employees*

**Researchers:** Dr P Brough; A/Prof E Kendall; Prof MP O'Driscoll; A/Prof BR Myers;

Mr CS Gehrke

**Partner Organisation:** Queensland Department of Corrective Services

- *Development of a predictive model for the retention of sports officials*

**Researchers:** A/Prof G Cuskelly; Dr R Hoye; Dr RC Van den Honert

**Partner Organisation:** Australian Rugby Union Ltd

- *Preventing Suicide: A psychological autopsy study of the last contact with a health professional before suicide*

**Researchers:** Prof D DeLeo; A/Prof BM Draper; Prof JA Snowdon

**Partner Organisations:** Lifeline, Community Care, Queensland Health, Centre for Mental Health (NSW), Primary Health Institute Ltd, Department of Veteran Affairs, Department of Justice, Office of the State Department of Forensic Medicine (Office of South East Health), Black Dog Institute

- *International franchising success factors: A guide for Australian franchise systems*

**Researchers:** Prof LK Frazer; Prof B Merrilees

**Partner Organisation:** Austrade

- *Understanding, modelling and preventing alcohol-related crime,*

*violence and injuries in a high-crime community*

**Researchers:** Prof RJ Homel; Dr L Mazerolle; Mr PG Downie

**Partner Organisation:** Surfers Paradise Management Association

- *The contribution of youth development programs in preventing youth crime, drug and alcohol misuse and suicide*

**Researchers:** Prof RJ Homel; Mr PB Wright

**Partner Organisations:** Impact: Youth Organisations Reducing Crime, Queensland Department of Communities

- *Investigations into and development of an intelligent decision support system for general practitioners in home-based sleep disorder diagnosis*

**Researchers:** Dr DV Kerr; A/Prof R Gururajan; Dr TA Vuori; Dr MS Khan; Mr C Moloney

**Partner Organisations:** Toowoomba Health Service District, Australian Healthcare Messaging Laboratory

- *What are the risks of viral infections in drinking water storages?*

**Researcher:** Dr PC Pollard  
**Partner Organisation:** South East Qld Water Corporation

# Director comes full circle

WHEN Queensland Conservatorium decided to perform Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring* for its annual opera production, director Joseph Ward's thoughts immediately drifted back to the small English town of Aldeburgh.

This Suffolk town was where Mr Ward, now a sessional Lecturer in Opera at the Conservatorium, met Britten in the late 1940s.

"I had been asked to perform at the Aldeburgh Festival after one of the performers in a Purcell cabaret had unexpectedly pulled out," Mr Ward said. "It was my first big break. I performed in front of the royal family and Britten was there."

Mr Ward's performance so impressed Britten that he invited him back to the Festival the next year, this time to sing the role of Starveling – which Britten created especially for him – in the world premiere of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Mr Ward, working as principal baritone for the Royal Opera House, again crossed paths with Britten at an audition for the revised two-act version of *Billy Budd*.

the small role of Donald, Britten was so impressed by his performance that he gave him the lead role.

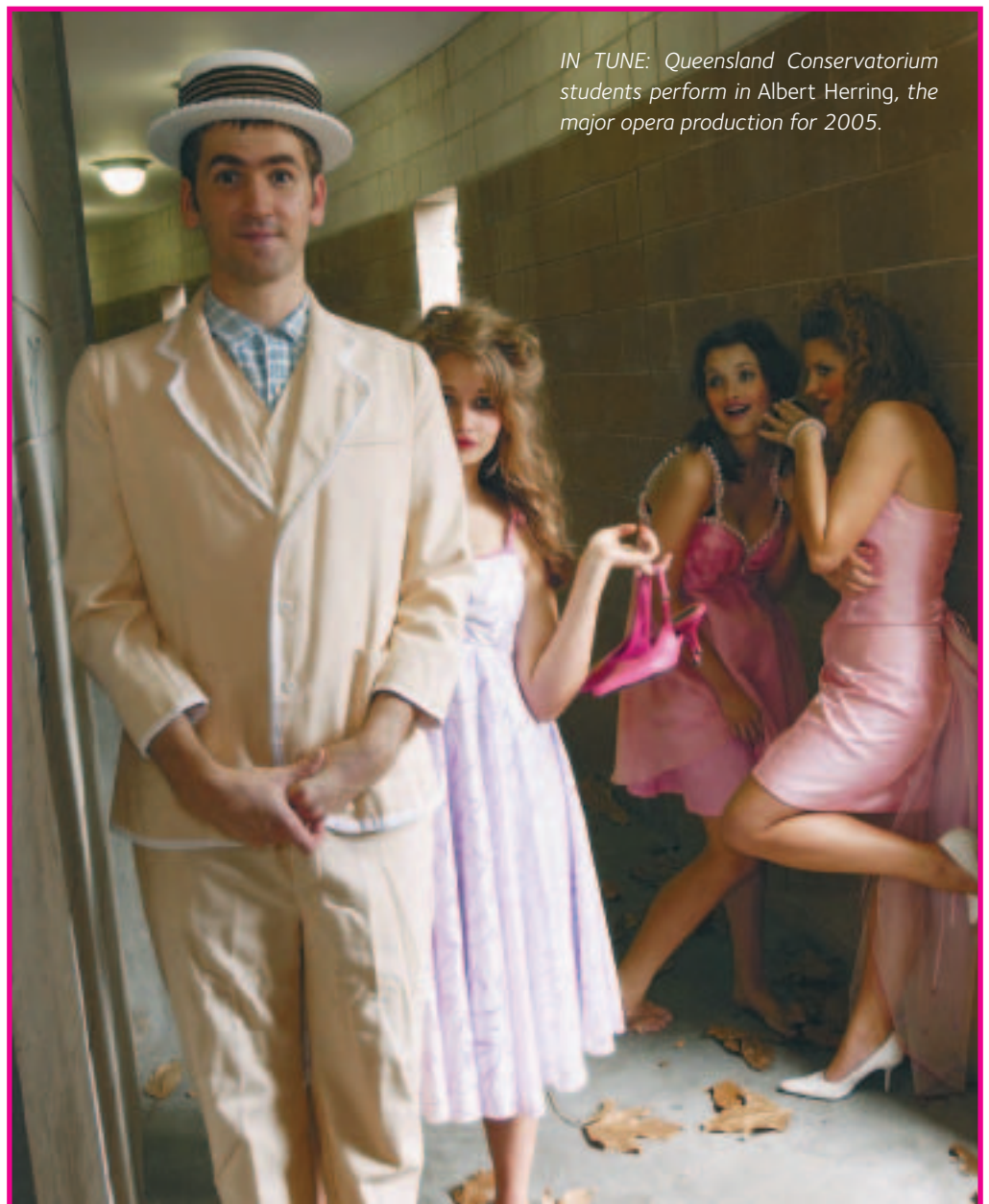
However, it was a project Britten and Mr Ward worked on a few years later that is proving beneficial to the Conservatorium's current opera students.

In 1958 Mr Ward returned to Aldeburgh to sing the role of Sid in Decca Records' recording of *Albert Herring*.

With Mr Ward's long affiliation with Britten, it came as no surprise when Queensland Conservatorium Head of Opera Studies Gregory Massingham chose him to direct the student production.

*Albert Herring* will be performed at the Conservatorium Theatre from September 4-10. For bookings visit [www.qtx.com](http://www.qtx.com) or contact 136 246.

By Brendan Layton



IN TUNE: Queensland Conservatorium students perform in *Albert Herring*, the major opera production for 2005.

## Teaching proves rewarding

**SCHOOL of Human Services' sessional tutor Mr Brenden Ward feels extremely lucky.**

Not only is he able to combine his interest in personnel development and psychology in his job, he has received formal recognition for work he loves doing.

The Sessional Teacher Award winner and second-year Applied Psychology doctoral student

attributes his organised and methodical teaching style to skills he acquired while serving in the Royal Australian Air Force.

"Dealing with technical content in the air force was par for the course," he said.

"In order to make sense of a chunk of information, I developed the habit of representing it in relationships or hierarchies. I find students appreciate

a systematic approach to learning."

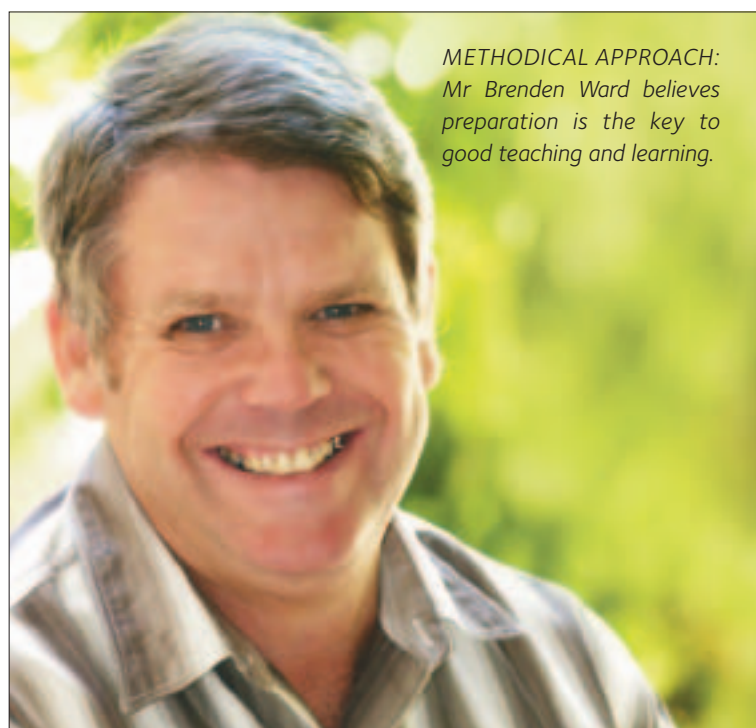
Mr Ward's effective delivery of the curriculum is built around creating lesson plans that detail critical objectives and key learning points to help students develop a good grasp of the course material. He also constructs text and graphics on the whiteboard to engage students' attention.

Clearly this advance preparation pays off in terms of engaging students both aurally and visually.

"After a tutorial session, students regularly approach me to ask questions about the content or simply to know more about something," Mr Ward said.

"Teaching is immensely rewarding, especially when your students look up to you as a role model. By drawing on my own work experience, I construct realistic what-if situations for my students to help them relate what is taught in the lecture room to real life."

Mr Ward's fresh and innovative approach to teaching has placed him in elite company, as one of six teachers conferred the 2004 Griffith Awards for Excellence in Teaching. The awards are granted annually to teachers who pursue quality teaching and learning outcomes for students and communities.



METHODICAL APPROACH: Mr Brenden Ward believes preparation is the key to good teaching and learning.

## E-waste a threat to environment

**EACH year between 20 to 50 million tonnes of electronic equipment – mostly computers and mobile phones – are made obsolete worldwide.**

In Australia alone there are more than 9.2 million computers in use, with three million expected to reach their use-by date by the end of the year. Most of this electronic waste, or e-waste, will be dumped in landfills or put into storage. Only 500,000 computers will be recycled.

Griffith recycling expert Dr Sunil Herat said e-waste now posed a serious risk to the health of humans and the environment. Yet Australia lags behind the US and Europe in policies to increase the recycling or safe disposal of e-waste.

Next month Dr Herat, with Griffith University's Information Services Associate Director Malcolm Wolski, will host a one-day seminar in Brisbane to discuss the e-waste problem and suggest solutions.

Dr Herat said e-waste could leak heavy metals from landfills into the water tables. Flame-retardants used in computers and printer inks



TOXIC TERMINALS: Dr Sunil Herat and Malcolm Wolski say almost four million computers will be made obsolete next year in Australia.

contain toxic materials, such as carbon black.

"The difficulty with e-waste and many other products is that they are made from a huge range of component materials that are useless for further manufacture until the product is dismantled and the component materials are separated – often a very difficult and expensive process," Dr Herat said.

"If we're serious about addressing our waste problems, we need to start work at the design stage of a product's life cycle. Products can be better designed so that they last longer and are more environmentally responsible. In this way they can be more easily dismantled and recycled at the end of their life."

By Rhys Stacker

# Up North: Myths, threats and enchantment **Griffith law students shine**

TO mark the release of the latest edition of national quarterly journal *Griffith REVIEW*, the university is hosting a special literary lunch during Brisbane Writers' Festival with author Robyn Davidson.

Robyn's memoir, titled *Return of the Camel Lady*, features in the ninth edition of *Griffith REVIEW* and takes readers on a journey to Central Australia where she pays her respects to those she met on an epic trek across the continent nearly 30 years ago.

Seats at the lunch at 12pm on Friday, September 30, cost \$50 and are strictly limited. Pre-paid bookings are essential through [p.coyle@griffith.edu.au](mailto:p.coyle@griffith.edu.au)

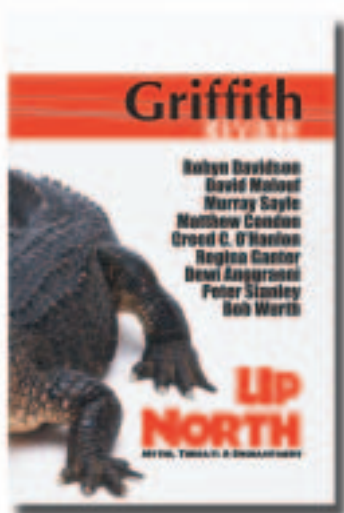
This edition of the journal is themed *Up North: Myths, Threats and Enchantment* and has been published to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in the Pacific.

Editor Professor Julianne Schultz said it aimed to give readers an opportunity to take a fresh look at how Australians view their history from the north looking south, and to reflect on their future in the region.

"Our imaginative sense of the north is a complicated one; full of contradictions and a fascination tinged by fear," she said.

Along with Robyn, writers in this edition include Australian War Memorial principal historian Peter Stanley. He shows how we came to mistakenly believe a Japanese invasion was imminent – a myth which still endures – and its wide-ranging political and social consequences.

In a moving essay, Matthew Condon retraces the steps of Wilfred Burchett as he arrived in Hiroshima shortly after the atomic bomb was dropped 60 years ago, and finds an



old man who remembers with affection the Australians who arrived shortly afterwards.

David Malouf recalls his youthful quest for the exotic on the train to far north Queensland, before finding it lay closer at home in Brisbane.

Other writers provide fresh perspectives on how we feel about the north of Australia – the desert, the tropics and those who live in remote areas or travel there – and what happens when we are drawn there.

They include Creed O'Hanlon, Meera Atkinson, Andrew Belk, Christine Zorzi, Mark McKenna, Regina Ganter, Phil Brown, Andrew Macmillan, Peter Spearitt and Michele Helmrich.

With its distinctive front cover of a saltwater crocodile, *Up North* also features images from the 1940s to the 21st century. Award-winning photographer Megan Lewis provides a pictorial essay about her time with the Martu people in the Western Desert.

For subscriptions and more information, go to [www.griffith.edu.au/griffithreview](http://www.griffith.edu.au/griffithreview)

By **Alexia Deegan**

FOURTH-YEAR law students Greg Taylor and Teresa Jones are on a high after their winning performance at the prestigious Australasian Law Students Association (ALSA) Client Interviewing Championship.



REVVED UP: Greg Taylor and Teresa Jones are looking forward to next April's international client counselling competition in Wales.

Greg and Teresa emerged the highest-achieving Australian team after five days of competition against some of the region's top law students. The duo will represent Australia at the Louis M Brown International Client Counselling Competition in April 2006 in Wales, United Kingdom.

The victory is all the sweeter for Greg as, before the competition, the mature-age student had been unsure of his career plans once he completed his double degree in Law/International Business in July 2006.

"The competition and my time at the Caxton Legal Centre, where I work once a week, have added a practical dimension to the theoretical side of my legal studies. I'm now considering practising either criminal law or family law or both," Greg said.

Teresa is no stranger to competitions, having participated in

on-campus law contests in 2004 as a way of overcoming her fear of public speaking.

Greg's and Teresa's achievements make this the fourth time in the past decade that a Griffith team has represented Australia in an interviewing competition overseas.

Gold Coast students Michelle Husar and Lisa Searing kept the Griffith banner flying at the ALSA championships by clinching runner-up position in the negotiation segment.

And first- and second-year law students Jodi Gardiner, Michael Shears, Erin Chalk and Kate Grossman finished top in the

grand final of the Australian Lawyers Alliance Torts Moot Competition in August.

Associate Dean (Curriculum, Teaching and Learning) Professor Jeff Giddings noted that the Griffith Law School has a strong tradition of legal skills teaching that students value and benefit from.

"In addition to classroom-based work and our workplace-based clinic courses, we have very dynamic student competitions which allow a large number of students to gain experience and confidence in the use of key legal skills," he said.

By **Shamira Barr**

## Research looks into missing girls ANZ package launched

**ABORIGINAL females from 12-15 years are over-represented in missing persons reports to New South Wales (NSW) police, according to research conducted by the GUMURRII Centre.**

The study, led by Associate Professor Boni Robertson and senior research officer Catherine Demosthenous, was funded by the NSW Attorney General's Department's Family and Friends of Missing Persons Unit and Victims' Services, in liaison with the Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council.

Associate Professor Robertson said the study was prompted by the NSW Government's desire to understand why there was such a high incidence of young Aboriginal females reported missing to police, to identify preventative strategies to reduce that over-representation and to identify gaps in service delivery.

Associate Professor Robertson said the GUMURRII Centre was delighted to partner the NSW Attorney General's Department to conduct the research, "particularly given the Centre's concern with developing and enhancing the real life experiences of Indigenous communities across Australia".

The researchers worked from police data, and closely with Elders and community members before, during and after the research process.

Matters regarding awareness of reporting procedures, cultural protocols, community dynamics and follow-up procedures were seen as important to the management of missing person reports and outcomes. The research team produced a state profile of young Aboriginal females reported missing to police, and developed region-specific profiles based on the highest percentage of young Aboriginal females reported missing. The research identified a number of reasons why 12-to-15-year-olds make up such a high proportion of missing Aboriginal females.

The researchers made a number of recommendations, including developing and implementing programs that target risk factors at home and in school, strengthening partnerships between Aboriginal community representatives and schools, and developing culturally specific services to help Aboriginal families and communities of missing persons.

Associate Professor Robertson said that although the research findings were specific to NSW, they would have relevance to Aboriginal communities throughout Australia.

By **Michelle Smith**

## ANZ package launched

**IT was the beginning of a beautiful relationship when ANZ Associate Director Ray Carter (left in picture) handed Vice Chancellor Ian O'Connor an oversized cheque for \$15,000.**

The gesture signalled the launch of the Griffith Advantage banking offer, available to members of the university community.

Mr Carter said the package had been structured to provide numerous benefits to the university and its students and staff.

"From the University's perspective, the key advantages that come to mind include ... the opportunity to enhance services to its members ... and ... the receipt of sponsorship funds on an annual basis," Mr Carter said.

"As community members, you will have access to an exclusive co-



branded banking package that incorporates transaction accounts, mortgages and credit cards, as well as a dedicated internet banking website and a customised phone banking service."

The Griffith Advantage Package is a five-year agreement with ANZ which will provide transactional banking services, discounts and customised services such as internet banking and increased ATM access.

Under the arrangement, ANZ will give the university a minimum of \$15,000 a year as a community sponsorship payment which will be used to support scholarships.

- **Dr Malcolm Alexander** (School of Arts, Media and Culture) discussed perceptions people have about generations other than their own in *Brisbane News*.
- **Dr Jacqui Ewart** (School of Arts, Media and Culture) talked on Radio National's *Media Report* about Griffith research into community radio.
- **Mr Jason Nelson** (School of Arts) talked about violent computer games on ABC Radio in Mackay, Brisbane, Gold Coast and Mid North Coast NSW.
- **Mr Komninos Zervos** (School of Arts) talked about Big Brother and reality TV on Radio National's *Perspective* program.
- **Associate Professor Lorraine Mazerolle** (School of Criminology and Criminal Justice) featured in an article in *The Courier-Mail* about the use of closed circuit TV as a deterrent.
- **Dr Michael Davies** (School of Cognition, Language and Special Education) research on retirees who relocate was featured on ABC Radio on the Gold Coast, Kempsey, Lismore, Sunshine Coast, Darwin, Port Macquarie (and 14 syndicated stations), *The Advertiser* (Adelaide) and *South Western Times* (Bunbury).
- **Professor David Peetz** (Department of Industrial Relations) insights into industrial relations reform were carried in a number of media, including *The Age* and *Australian Financial Review*.
- **Dr Paul Williams** (Department of Politics and Public Policy) was interviewed on radio and television and contributed commentaries leading up to and following Queensland Labor's loss in by-elections.
- **Professor Michael Powell** Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean (Business) featured in an article in *The Australian's* higher education section on the future of executive education.
- **Dr Lyn Batchelor** (Griffith Business School) discussed personal mobile phone use in the workplace on ABC Radio in Brisbane and Mackay.
- **Lynne Weathered** (Griffith Law School's Innocence Project) spoke to *Gold Coast Bulletin* calling for a full, independent inquiry into the Schapelle Corby case.
- **Ms Cristina Poyatos-Matas** (School of Languages and Linguistics) was profiled in *The Australian's* higher education section for her use of yoga chi gong to revitalise students during class.
- **Dr Helen Boocock** (School of Dentistry and Oral Health) spoke about dental fear and dental phobia during Dental Health Week. Coverage included Channel 9 Gold Coast, Top FM (Darwin), ABC North Queensland, and regional newspapers.
- **Associate Professor Clyde Wild** (School of Environmental and Applied Science) spoke to *The Courier-Mail*, *The Daily Telegraph*, Channel Nine News Gold Coast and ABC Radio Gold Coast on the need for shark nets along Gold Coast beaches to be removed.
- **Dr Grant McTainsh** (School of Australian Environmental Studies) spoke on wind erosion and Australia entering a "dust age" in more than 30 media outlets including *The Age*, *The Sunday Mail*, *The Canberra Times*, 4BC, *The Gold Coast Bulletin*, *The Mercury*, ABC Online, Channel Seven.com and ABC Radio Perth.
- **Ms Jenine Beekhuizen**, (Institute for Integrated and Intelligent Systems) was interviewed by *The Australian Financial Review*, *Southern Star*, SeaFM, GoldFM and Hot Tomato on an all-girls IT day.
- **Dr Mohamad Abdalla** and the opening of the Griffith Islamic Research Unit was covered widely by ABC Radio on the Gold Coast, North Coast NSW, Brisbane, Canberra, Newcastle and Mackay, Channel 2 Midday News and 7pm News, Channel 10 News, Radio National's *Religion Report*, *The Australian*, *The Courier-Mail* and *Southern Star*.

# Seizing the challenge

**CLOSE to 40 teams of students have entered the Griffith Innovation Challenge – a new uni-wide competition with \$40,000 in cash and prizes to be won this semester.**

To be in the running each team is developing a business plan for a community-oriented initiative, a commercial service or product, or a new commercial entity.

And while entry details stay under wraps until judging later this year, the competition is understood to be off to a strong start.

Office for Commercialisation Director Neil Finlayson said the entries have been creative, with some showing potential to be taken to the next stage of development.

"This is a great opportunity for students to learn about entrepreneurship as well as develop skills in teamwork, leadership and networking," he said.

The Griffith Innovation Challenge is complemented by a seminar series which is nearing completion. Sessions on Intellectual



**TEAMWORK:** At the Nathan launch of the Griffith Innovation Challenge are (from left) Office for Commercialisation Director Neil Finlayson, DELL Australia Pty Ltd Queensland and Northern Territory Account Executive Stuart Kiernan, Australian Organisation for Quality (Qld) Inc Chairman Len Mahon and President Mario Pennisi, DELL Australia's Warren Verity and Griffith Vice Chancellor Professor Ian O'Connor.

Property will be held on September 13 (Gold Coast) and 14 (Nathan) and Hear it from the Judges is on September 20 (Nathan) and September 22 (Gold Coast).

The competition was launched at special events with guests, including representatives from business, industry and government.

Sponsored by DELL to the tune

of \$75,000 in funding and prizes over three years, the competition also has the support of the federal Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources.

For more information visit [www.griffith.edu.au/commercialisation/griffithinnovationchallenge](http://www.griffith.edu.au/commercialisation/griffithinnovationchallenge)

By Alexia Deegan

## Keeping an eye on dust storms

**A TEAM of volunteers spread across the outback is helping Australian School of Environmental Studies Professor Grant McTainsh increase his understanding of dust storms in Australia.**

Since launching the DustWatch program and website in February this year, over 60 volunteers have signed on to become dust watchers. Professor McTainsh said farmers, government employees and hotel publicans from as far north as Rabbit Flat in Northern Territory and south to Dimboola in Victoria are observing dust storms and logging the data online.

DustWatch is a joint initiative within the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre involving Griffith University, University of Queensland, CSIRO and the Lower Darling Catchment Management Authority.

By recording information on the colour of dust in the air, visibility and wind direction, dust watchers help Professor McTainsh determine the origin,

composition and even the quantities of dust in the dust storms.

DustWatch is helping to locate active wind erosion regions to allow farmers and policymakers to take steps to reduce topsoil loss.

Professor McTainsh said dust watchers weren't required to report regularly to DustWatch, only when dust storms were active in their area.

"They don't have to go anywhere to do this, the dust will come to them," he said.

"Currently the majority of dust watchers are on remote pastoral properties. They're participating because they have a genuine interest and concern for the environment.

"DustWatch is also a good fit for properties that are changing their focus to eco tourism. Participating in a program like this adds value to their business."

By Rhys Stacker

## Arts students receive mentoring

**THE School of Arts, Media and Culture has set up a mentor program for first-year students.**

Organiser Vivienne Wynter said the Student Mentor Program was a chance for first-year students to meet fellow students in their second or third year of Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Communication degrees.

She said the mentors could help students access tutoring, personal counselling or career advice services.

"The mentor program gives



**STUDENT MENTORS:** Andrew Demasson, Toby Herdrich, Damir Ahmetovic and Nicole Swift.

students a chance to share experiences and good study practices, receive guidance on finding their way around the university and social support," she said.

The mentor sessions are held at The Internet Café, Nathan, from

3 pm to 4 pm on Mondays and from 10 am to 11am on Thursdays until week 12.

The sessions are free and no appointment is necessary. All first-year students receive a free drink and snack while attending the sessions.

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# Strength training alone improves cycling economy

**SCHOOL of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science researchers have shown that a simple 15-minute strength workout three times a week can improve cycling economy in non-athletes.**

The study by PhD student Danielle Loveless (*pictured left*) and co-researchers Dr Clare Minahan, Dr Luke Haseler and Dr Don Schneider, is the first to show that weight training alone can reduce the energy cost required to do a given amount of work on the bicycle.

Previous studies have found it difficult to separate the effect of

strength training from that of endurance training.

The study showed that eight weeks of maximal leg-strength training using heavy weights, low repetitions and fast velocity were sufficient to improve cycling economy in a group of healthy, untrained men.

Despite large increases in leg strength over the training period, Ms Loveless said there were only relatively small increases in leg muscle mass.

"This suggests that neuromuscular mechanisms associated with this type of strength training may have

improved muscle fibre recruitment patterns – effectively activating and coordinating the leg muscles for optimal performance."

Ms Loveless said the results were not only relevant for exercise training but also had a clinical relevance for older individuals and heart or lung disease patients who could benefit from more effective forms of training.

The study was published recently in *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*, the official journal of the American College of Sports Medicine.

By **Mardi Chapman**

## New PVC and Dean (Business) appointed



**PROFESSOR Michael Powell (*pictured left*) has assumed the senior position of Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean of the Griffith Business School.**

The position will provide strategic and academic leadership to the school which he joined in March this year.

Professor Powell will bring his skills, experience and perspective to a new level within the university to develop the business school's

profile in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

"We are looking to develop a range of health management research and teaching programs to accompany the substantial initiatives in medical education by Griffith University at the Gold Coast," he said.

"We will also be developing our outreach to alumni in Australia and overseas and expanding the school's range of executive

development programs."

In the short time he has been at Griffith, Professor Powell has already made strides in strengthening the Griffith Business School's reputation in teaching and research. Its portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate programs has been restructured and the school recently won three ARC Linkage Grants. It is also well on track to achieve its goal of international accreditation.

## Recruiting from around the world

**NEW Griffith recruit Marcia Harrison, currently on secondment from the UK's Cranfield University, brings with her a wealth of experience from her work with the British Ministry of Defence (MOD).**

She has implemented a new mode of delivery for officer training at the MOD and delivered e-learning courses for officers located anywhere from Iraq to Northern Ireland.

Her work at Griffith involves building a digital repository for materials such as past exam papers, course readings, learning materials and images.

"This system will allow for more effective management of these collections and services, including copyright management, permissions, workflows and version control," she said.

"It will eventually replace and streamline some of the



**DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT:** Marcia's main task at Griffith is to build a digital repository.

existing and somewhat disparate storage of these items."

Ms Harrison said another project being developed was hosting research material through an Eprints service which could comprise items

such as pre-prints, research papers and conference papers.

"This collection, which is still in the early stages of discussion with key stakeholders, will hopefully host materials which can be accessed via the web," she said.

"This will broadcast to the outside world the university's intellectual capital, which in turn would raise the profile of the institution and engage the interest of future students and researchers."

## Animation under review



**NEW POSITION:** Associate Professor Andi Spark is reviewing Griffith's Animation programs.

**NEWLY-APPOINTED Associate Professor Andi Spark is full of animation when talking about her position.**

Her role within Griffith Film School's animation department involves reviewing the curriculum for the undergraduate degree and expanding the postgraduate research program.

Associate Professor Spark comes to Griffith from the Victorian College of the Arts, where she spent five years as co-ordinator and lecturer in the postgraduate animation program.

She is looking forward to the challenge of her new role at Queensland College of Art.

"Griffith has the only pure undergraduate animation program in the country that focuses specifically on animation, and it has been running very effectively," she said.

"However it is important to review what the program offers to ensure it continues to meet the changing technological needs of the industry.

"We're looking at extending the focus of postgraduate programs, taking the skills learnt at undergraduate level and developing something viable with them.

"The creation of good content is an issue which needs to be addressed in Australia."

By **Michelle Smith**



INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE: Nissoken Master of Nursing student Sumi Miyake and colleagues are happy with the flexible mode of study offered by the program.

## Japanese nurses visit

**THE School of Nursing and Midwifery on the Gold Coast demonstrated its ongoing commitment to the internationalisation of its academic programs when it welcomed its first intake of 24 Nissoken Master of Nursing students last month.**

The Japanese nurses were on campus for a week to meet with academic staff and undertake intensive seminars as part of their orientation for the two-year (part-time) program, which is otherwise delivered in a flexible format in Japan.

Most of the nurses have extensive experience and hold senior positions in Japan's hospital and health services.

Masters student Sumi Miyake, who supervises 200 nurses as director of nursing at Ashiya Public Hospital, is pleased that the distance education format means she does not have to interrupt her work.

"The level of study here is also much higher than in Japan and the knowledge transfers very well into the workplace," she said.

Courses include both qualitative and quantitative research, health leadership and management, and clinical teaching.

Masters program convenor Dr Patricia Johnson said 20 of the 24 students were graduates from Griffith's Bachelor of Nursing program.

"The strong response to this new program suggests previous students were obviously happy with a flexible mode of study that allowed them to study at home while continuing to work and maintain their family life."

All course materials are delivered in Japanese and students are supported by Japanese liaison officers and course facilitators.

"The success of our programs demonstrates our commitment to our Japanese colleagues and our excellence in teaching across cultural and language barriers," Dr Johnson said.

The Masters program is a natural progression for the school which has a history of delivering one of Australia's largest offshore undergraduate nursing education programs.

More than 700 Japanese nurses have received their Bachelor of Nursing (Post Registration) through a partnership established in 1997 between the university and the Nissoken group.

By **Mardi Chapman**

### In brief

#### Expert panel

RESEARCH Centre for Clinical Practice Innovation director Professor Wendy Chaboyer has been appointed an expert panel member advising the Queensland Health Systems Review. The panel will provide an external perspective on administrative, workforce management and performance management systems that impact on health service delivery.

#### Language link-up

SCHOOL of Languages and Linguistics' Dr Chiharu Tsurutani and Kaz Hagiwara have developed a "Language Partner Search" website. Dr Tsurutani said students studying foreign languages would benefit from being able to communicate with a native speaker, and non-native speakers of English would have

opportunities to develop their language skills. Visit [www3.griffith.edu.au/02/lang\\_partnr](http://www3.griffith.edu.au/02/lang_partnr)

#### Helpmann success

QUEENSLAND Conservatorium vocal graduates Kate Miller-Heidke and Lisa Gasteen won awards at the 5th Annual Helpmann Awards in Sydney.

Heidke won Best Performance in an Australian Contemporary Concert for her role in *Women in Voice 14*.

Gasteen's performance in the State Opera of South Australia's production of *The Ring Cycle* earned her Best Female in an Opera.

The Helpmann Awards were initiated by the Australian Entertainment Industry Association to recognise artistic excellence in live performance.

## What's on

### LECTURES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 AND WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

**Cool Bytes Lecture Series presents Martin King.** Martin talks about his experiences working at the Australian Print Workshop. **Venue:** Gold Coast City Art Gallery, 6pm Tuesday; QCA Lecture Theatre, South Bank, 1pm Wednesday. **See:** [www.griffith.edu.au/qca](http://www.griffith.edu.au/qca) **Contact:** 07 5581 6567

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 AND WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

**Cool Bytes Lecture Series presents Julie Ryder.** Julie, a textile designer/artist, specialises in exclusive fabrics for interiors, fashion and homewares. **Venue:** Gold Coast City Art Gallery, 6pm Tuesday; QCA Lecture Theatre, South Bank, 1pm Wednesday. **See:** [www.griffith.edu.au/qca](http://www.griffith.edu.au/qca) **Contact:** 07 5581 6567

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

**The Opposite of History.** A free public lecture by Professor Kay Ferres – Faculty of Arts **Venue:** S05, Room 2.04 (QCA, Lecture Theatre and Gallery) Queensland College of Art, South Bank campus **Time:** 5.30 pm. Includes Light refreshments

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 AND WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

**Cool Bytes Lecture Series presents Mike Taylor.** Mike is a Mt Tamborine-based sculptor whose work draws on history and cultural references. **Venue:** Gold Coast City Art Gallery, 6pm Tuesday; QCA Lecture Theatre, South Bank, 1pm Wednesday. **See:** [www.griffith.edu.au/qca](http://www.griffith.edu.au/qca) **Contact:** 07 5581 6567

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

**Cool Bytes Lecture Series presents Chaitanya Sambrani.** Chaitanya, from ANU, curated *Edge of Desire – Recent Art from India*, a major exhibition which explored the creation of visual art in contemporary India. **Venue:** QCA Lecture Theatre, South Bank, noon; Gold Coast City Art Gallery, 6pm Tuesday **See:** [www.griffith.edu.au/qca](http://www.griffith.edu.au/qca) **Contact:** 07 5581 6567

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

**2005 Griffith Lecture: Data for a Civil Society – How we can harmonise privacy and use population data for public good.** Free public lecture. Professor Fiona Stanley AC will explore the research-privacy nexus, the conundrum between moral obligations to use record-linked data about individuals for social good, and people's perception of this being an invasion of their privacy. **Book through:** [www.griffith.edu.au](http://www.griffith.edu.au).

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

**Population Ageing:** Why Nations Can Afford to Grow Older. Free public lecture. Graduate School of Management Professor Guest argues that the concern about the effects of population ageing on economic welfare in the future has been overdone. **Venue:** G17, Theatre 4 (Lecture Theatre 3 and 4 Complex), Gold Coast. **Time:** 5.30pm. Light refreshments will be served.

### EVENTS

UNTIL OCTOBER 30

**Place made: Australian Print Workshop.** A National Gallery of Australia travelling exhibition featuring 100 works by 57 artists, providing a snapshot of the involvement of Australian artists in the production of prints between 1981 and 2002. **Venue:** Dell Gallery @ QCA, South Bank. **Hours:** Wednesday – Friday 11am-4pm, Saturday – Sunday noon-4pm. **Contact:** 07 3735 3140

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

**Investigating further education? MBA and Postgrad Expo.** Make a date to visit the MBA and

Postgrad Expo. All the major educational institutions will be gathered for your convenience. Entry is free. **Time:** noon – 7pm. **Venue:** Hilton International Hotel, 190 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane. **Visit:** [www.postgradexpo.com.au](http://www.postgradexpo.com.au)

UNTIL SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

**Future Tense: Security and Human Rights.** Eight artists from Australia and the Asia Pacific Region explore contemporary global concerns about security. **Venues:** DELL Gallery @ QCA foyer, Galleria Space and Project Gallery – all at Queensland College of Art, South Bank. **Contact:** 07 3846 4516

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

**Thermophiles 2005– From Evolution to Revolution conference.** The theme *From Evolution to Revolution* covers all aspects of microbes living at high temperatures. **See:** [www.griffith.edu.au/conference/thermophile05](http://www.griffith.edu.au/conference/thermophile05) **Contact:** Dr Bharat Patel, 07 3735 7695 or email [b.patel@griffith.edu.au](mailto:b.patel@griffith.edu.au)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

**Third Annual SEPGSM Australia Conference 2005.** The Software Quality Institute, Griffith University and the Software Engineering Institute, Carnegie Mellon University are presenting the systems and software engineering process group conference (SEPGSM). **Contact:** Organising Chair Angela Tuffley 07 3735 5022, email [a.tuffley@griffith.edu.au](mailto:a.tuffley@griffith.edu.au)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 TO SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

**Brisbane Writers' Festival.** Griffith staff and students are participating in the 2005 festival by participating on panels, reading from their works and judging competitions. **See:** [www.brisbanewritersfestival.com.au](http://www.brisbanewritersfestival.com.au)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 TO SUNDAY, APRIL 2 2006

**Ideas Festival.** Griffith is supporting the 2006 Ideas Festival which will feature many activities at the University's South Bank facilities, along with international and leading Australian speakers. **See:** [www.ideasfestival.com.au](http://www.ideasfestival.com.au)

### CONCERTS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 TO SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

**Albert Herring.** This satirical comedic opera set in the spring of 1900 fires some delicious barbs at the hypocrisy and pomposity of fictitious Loxford's inhabitants. **Venue:** Conservatorium Theatre, South Bank. Early bird tickets \$20 through Qtix on 136 246 or [www.qtix.com.au](http://www.qtix.com.au). **Contact:** 07 3735 6241.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

**Natasha Vlassenko concert.** Performing as part of the Queensland Conservatorium's Kawai Keyboard Series. **Venue:** QPAC Concert Hall. **Tickets:** \$10-\$20. **Contact:** 07 3735 6241.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

**Max Olding and Pamela Page concert.** Performing as part of the Queensland Conservatorium's Kawai Keyboard Series. **Venue:** QPAC Concert Hall. **Tickets:** \$10-\$20. **Contact:** 07 3735 6241.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

**Classic Farewell Concert.** The Conservatorium Chamber Orchestra presents Haydn, Koussevitzky and Beethoven. **Venue:** Conservatorium Theatre, South Bank. **Tickets:** \$10-\$20. **Contact:** 07 3735 6241.