

griffithgazette

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New music scholarship





Professor
Ian O'Connor

In this issue of the *Griffith Gazette* we celebrate creativity. There are articles on traditional 'creative' areas of study such as fashion, music and photography, and you will also find examples of creative thinking in micro technology (such as the device that can judge a snowboarding competition), and creative solutions to the human condition including the only tertiary scholarship in Australia dedicated to a student with a psychiatric illness.

Creativity is not just about creating ideas now but for the future, and for universities to do this we need to continue our honourable role as think tanks of creative opportunities. It is a hard task when the milieu around you seems determined to make it all about the bottom line but we have to make this premise the heart of the argument for our existence. Griffith University is now considered a leader in the critical area of water research, but it was the creative vision of academics 30 years ago who began Australia's first School of Environmental Studies who can take the credit for planting the seeds for this now crucial area of study. Creativity is not always born in easy conditions. Back in those founding days, Griffith was forced to forge its way forward with areas of unique research because our existence was based on the premise that we did not tread on the toes of the already established tertiary institutions; of course two of these areas, Environmental Studies and Asian Studies have gone on to be core areas of study in universities across the land.

Creativity also needs to be contagious, not just bottled up by the genius academics of the world. One way we've tried to engage creative solutions for the future and at the same time spread the net outside the university hothouse is our public forum series Our Future Your Say. At the end of last month, Malcolm Turnbull and Peter Garrett battled it out on the topic of climate change in front of a sell-out vocal audience. The capacity crowd the series has attracted tells us that the community wants to be involved in creative solutions about their future.

To some of us creativity comes naturally, but it is a much harder trait to inculcate across a whole institution. It is the lifeblood of universities yet, ironically, it is hard for large institutions to maintain. It seems it rarely moves far from its twin word 'innovation' if it is to be successful. This issue with its myriad examples, inspires us to keep searching for the creative solution, to 'see what others do not see' and to 'think what others are not thinking,' not just for now but for the future. ■

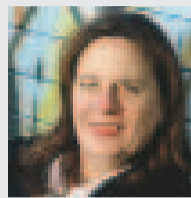


FRONT COVER: The public opera *Iorpheous* wowed crowds at South Bank in August.

News briefs

Scriptwriting program yields success

Following the success of the 2006 Cairns scriptwriting project for Indigenous people, Dr Tiziana Ferrero-Regis and Marcus Waters from the Centre for Public Culture and Ideas, produced an edited collection of the scripts titled *West Cairns Stories*. Participant and writer Manawa Ilingworth was the first project contributor to have his script made into the film *The Sound of Cry* which premiered in Cairns last month. Participants Doreen Queary and Kim Cameron also had their screenplays selected by the Pacific Film and Television Commission for inclusion in the Short Black program of scriptwriting.



Institute for Educational Research launch

The Minister for Education, Training and the Arts, Rod Welford, launched the Griffith Institute for Educational Research in August. An amalgamation of the Centre for Applied Linguistics, Literacy and Communication Studies and the Centre for Learning Research, the institute emphasises the importance of learning to bring about social change. "Its key focus is to investigate how the changing world impacts on learning and learners and, in turn, how learners impact on social change," said director Professor Robyn Zevenbergen. The institute's membership is drawn from key researchers within Griffith education and other areas across the university.

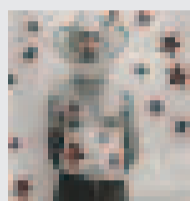
Business plan win for pharmacy

A team from the School of Pharmacy have won an inaugural National Pharmacy Student Business Plan Competition. The competition,

sponsored by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, helps to develop the business acumen of future pharmacy owners. Team member Brendan Landan said business planning was integral to the success of retail pharmacies especially within a changing professional environment. Members of the winning team Rowan Lowe, Brendan Landon, Sean Young and Amin Javanmard graduated with their Masters of Pharmacy on July 30 and are now working in community pharmacies in Currumbin, Broadbeach, Tweed Heads and Brisbane respectively.

Griffith Review success

Frank Moorhouse was awarded The Alfred Deakin Prize for an Essay Advancing Public Debate for his essay *The Writer in a Time of Terror*, published in *Griffith REVIEW*. Moorhouse won from a shortlist that also included Meera Atkinson and Noel Pearson, both nominated for their essays in *Griffith REVIEW*.



QCA student wins prestigious Bowness Prize

Artist and Queensland College of Art doctoral student Ray Cook has won the \$10,000 William and Winifred Bowness Photography Prize for 2007. His submission to the competition, a print titled *For God sake, somebody throw a pie* (2006), shows a tragic male figure posing in his boxer shorts. Cook lives in Brisbane and is currently completing his doctorate at QCA. Recent exhibitions have included Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane, and the Australian Centre of Photography, Sydney. One of Australia's most prestigious photographic

awards, the annual Willman and Winifred Bowness Photography Prize was established to promote excellence in photography.

Griffith tops state in Carricks

Griffith was the most successful university in Queensland in the 2007 Carrick Citations for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning. All ten nominations that were submitted were successful. Congratulations to Griffith's Deaf Student Support Program, Dr Kym McFarlane, Jenny Cartmel, Associate Professor Keithia Wilson, Associate Professor Dennis Crane, Dr Ann McDonnell, Associate Professor Dianne Watters, Associate Professor Dianne Dredge, Matthew Hitchcock, Professor Bruce Burton and Dr Gary Allen.

Film school success

Congratulations to the Griffith Film School winners at this year's Queensland New Filmmakers Awards:

- Linda He (1st Year – Film and Screen Media Production) Best Secondary Drama: *God's Judgement*
- Benjamin Holmes (1st Year – Film and Screen Media Production) Best Secondary Other: *My Hand*
- Adam McGrogan, Daniel McShane and Ben Outerbridge (2nd Year – Film and Screen Media Production) Best Tertiary Drama up to 10 minutes: *Imaginary Ordinary*
- Martha Goddard (Graduate – Bachelor of Film and Television 2004) Best Independent Drama up to 10 minutes: *Car Pool*
- James Lee (Honours student – Bachelor of Animation) Best Animation: *Purged*
- Bryn Chainey (Graduate – Bachelor of Film and Television 2006) Best Director: *Film for the Boxed*.

Grants boost research forte

New funding from the Commonwealth Government and industry partners recognises research strengths.

Griffith won more than \$14.3 million for significant research projects from the Australian Research Council (ARC) and National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) in September.

Vice Chancellor Professor Ian O'Connor said the funding highlighted the University's expertise in a range of research areas.

"Our researchers have been successful in a very competitive arena. Financial support is a strong validation of their important work helping to open doors to other exciting opportunities," Professor O'Connor said.

He said the ARC Linkage Projects scheme supported collaborative research and development projects between higher education institutions and other organisations and industry partners.

"Griffith attracted more than \$5 million in funding from the ARC Linkage projects scheme and industry partners for projects covering a range of important health, water, arts, educational and business issues," Professor

O'Connor said.

"Seven highly regarded Griffith researchers have been awarded more than \$1.6 million in grants from the ARC and more than \$3.6 million from industry partners.

"The University's strong links to industry and community are evident from the impressive contribution they have made towards our research initiatives."

The ARC Discovery Projects scheme supports fundamental research and Griffith received \$6.6 million for 23 significant research projects.

Winning research areas include quantum

computing, social sciences, environmental and Asian studies.

Professor O'Connor said Griffith also attracted more than \$2.4 million dollars from NHMRC.

"This is a substantial increase from previous years. It reflects the growing recognition of Griffith's excellence in health and medical research," Professor O'Connor said.

"The project grants will help our medical researchers to undertake work in a range of important areas including heart disease, perinatal mental health and chronic inflammatory disease."

Funding facts

Total funding
\$14,349,288

Number of funded
projects – 35

ARC Discovery Projects scheme
\$6,623,272

ARC Linkage Projects scheme
\$1,623,185

Industry funding
\$3,670,256

NHMRC project grants
\$2,432,575



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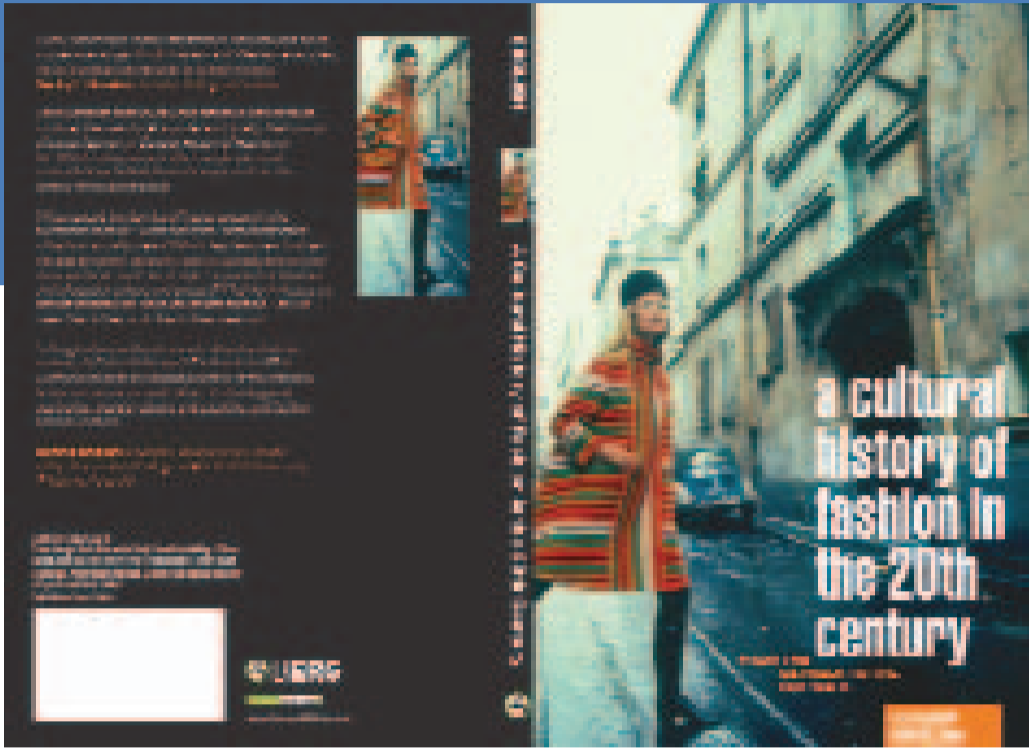
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Mirror, mirror

on the wall

Story Deborah Marshall



A Cultural History of Fashion in the Twentieth Century: From the Catwalk to the Sidewalk, by Queensland College of Art Senior Art Theory lecturer Bonnie English, explores key factors in the evolution of 20th century fashion. From the demise of haute couture to the popularity of Chanel's little black dress, the book examines how fashion has evolved over the past 100 years. It explores key factors that deal with the evolution of 20th century fashion including the relationship between fashion and society, the relationship between fashion and art and the impact of popular culture and globalisation. Ms English has been teaching the history of art and fashion since 1975. The book, published by Berg Publishers, Oxford has been published in 24 countries including Australia.

Courses at the Queensland College of Art include *The History of Design in the 20th Century* and *Fashion and Art*.

There's no excuse for being a fashion victim. Whether it's dressing down with street wear or frocking up for a glam night out, anything goes these days.

Virginia Woolf said 'It's the clothes that wear us and not us who wear them.' Or rather, the garments we put on every morning tell the world as much about who we want to be more so than who we are.

In her new book *A Cultural History of Fashion in the Twentieth Century: From the Catwalk to the Sidewalk*, Bonnie English argues world events and global politics are powerful influences on fashion.

She says while designers still use fashion as a legitimate communication tool for socio-political advocacy and to reflect the cultural milieu of today's society, they apply more creative methods to promote it.

"Many of today's top designers have chosen to take their collections away from the catwalks and instead, parade them in art performances on the street.

"Creativity sparks changes in fashion which in turn is reflected in the world around us," she said.

But English believes the greatest transformation in the evolution of fashion is the decline of haute couture and the rise of prêt-à-porter (ready-to-wear).

When monetary status outweighed class status, social distinctions began to blur. With the help of technological improvements, key fashion designers of the 1910s and 1920s were able to respond to modern life in ways that defied convention. Standardised sizes, colours and styles became the most cost-effective means of production.

"This explains why Chanel's 'little black dress' was initially compared to Henry Ford's Model T Ford of 1925 in *American Vogue*," she said.

"As fashion parodied art and art attempted to parody life, fashion became more closely tied to street-style dress.

"Popular Hollywood films, music and media advertising bridged the gap between high and low art and fashion."

Youth culture too has played a large part in changing fashion styles, says English. The rise of street-style fashion, quickly adopted by couturiers, first became apparent in post-war

youth subcultures.

"This niche marketing impacted greatly on the fashion industry in terms of styling, marketing and manufacturing.

"Contemporary 'anti-fashion' was upheld in the lifestyle promoted by the American hippie movement and the British punk fashion of the seventies."

Today though, take a drive downtown on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon in any large Australian city and it's hard to miss the ubiquitous black-clad teens known as 'emos' (short for emotional).

This relatively new urban tribe, a softer version of the eighties Goths, has spawned a resurgence in wearing black (not that it ever really went away). Emos are characterised by

wearing tight black jeans and matching t-shirts or jumpers, are typically angst-ridden, often wear black square-rimmed glasses and sport ebony greasy hair that covers at least half their face.

Western society's unhealthy obsession with the cult of celebrity has also contributed to the multi-million dollar fashion industry.

No matter which 'fave' celeb of the moment women's magazines exhort—JLo, Paris or Britney—there's a dress, perfume, shoes, bags, sunglasses or lip gloss to give you that 'celebrity feeling'.

Teenage girls, especially, fall prey to such marketing tactics and with disposable incomes to boot, help fuel celebrity fascination.

But just as actors, musicians and models

have become global celebrities, so have the fashion designers themselves.

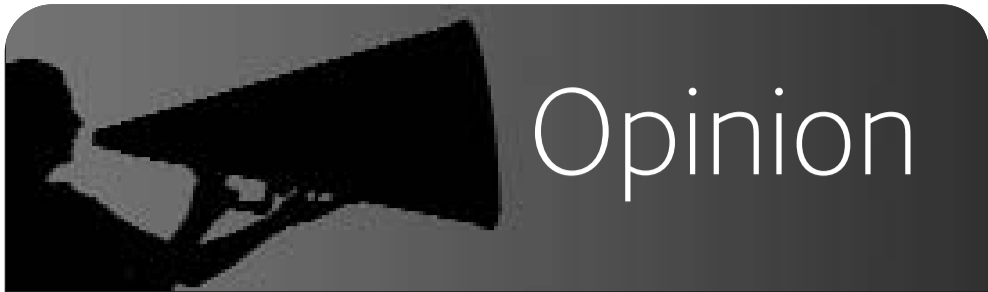
"In the past, some designers shunned fashion shows because they were too shy, private or aloof to attend their own openings," English said.

"Today, the presence of a designer will not only boost sales at collection showings, but at store openings as well. Their image becomes synonymous with their product."

However, more than anything else, today's fashions encourage individualistic expression where 'anything goes' and what you wear is determined by a DIY philosophy. ■

Bonnie English is a Senior Lecturer in Art Theory at the Queensland College of Art.





Opinion

Building musical futures

Following the recent discussions about the future of Australia in the political arena, one could easily think that a country can thrive on economic and technological advance alone. Yet how many great civilisations do we know where the humanities and the arts did not flourish? The Roman Empire, India under Emperor Akbar, Italy in the Renaissance, the Turkish courts, the kingdom of Mali under the great Mankinke kings, The Netherlands in the 17th century; all times and places where great prosperity went hand in hand with impressive artistic activity, both in preserving heritage and in breaking new ground.

There are some voices that reiterate this in contemporary settings. Richard Florida, who was a guest speaker at Griffith a few years ago, argued in his *The rise of the creative class* that great economic benefit arises from nurturing an environment where creativity flourishes, citing places like Silicon Valley in the US as a prime example. But one wonders if creativity should only be supported for its utilitarian functions.

In fact, similar discussion is raging around music education. While there is research (not all of it very solid) that indicates learning music is good for developing spatial-temporal reasoning and social skills in young people, should we teach music because it is instrumental in making children better at core subjects in school, or because music is a beautiful and even essential part of human existence, celebrated by all cultures in all periods of history?

One of the greatest assets of a university like Griffith is its strong commitment to a broad offering of performing and creative arts. Presences at Mt Gravatt, Nathan, the Gold Coast and especially South Bank (the largest creative and performing arts campus in Australia) create an atmosphere where our diverse cultural heritage is preserved, and where new artistic ideas and projects can be developed, at the heart of the cultural precinct of Brisbane.

During its 50th year, Queensland Conservatorium highlights its commitment to both honouring the past and preparing for the future. With the theme *Building Musical Futures*, we celebrate our contributions of the past 50 years to a vibrant musical life in Queensland and beyond, from the international star alumni to community musicians across the region. But we also look forward to the next 50 years.

A wonderful example of this approach is how the mythical musician Orpheus appears

in our events throughout the year. In addition to the interpretations of the myth by Gluck and Offenbach staged by our Opera school, the versions of Monteverdi and William Duckworth serve as bookends to our celebrations: looking back to the beginning of opera as we know it, and looking forward to new ways of delivering music in the future.

As part of the Queensland Music Festival, Queensland Conservatorium staged a full production of Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* (premiered 400 years ago) in the Masonic Temple of Brisbane. The imaginative production was further enhanced by the unique setting, in an intimate and historical space that would probably have pleased the composer.

One month later, the South Bank Parklands came to life to the sounds of the future-oriented *iOrpheus*, conceived and developed by New York-based composer William Duckworth and media artist Nora Farrell on a Senior Fulbright Specialist Award. The project followed the five acts of Monteverdi, but placed these in outdoor settings: the Nepalese Pagoda, the Jungle Walk, Aquativity, Picnic island, the Piazza. The music was a mix of scenes that were downloaded, live music and electronic soundscapes. Choreographed movements and theatre highlighted the various scenes.

Both productions combined strategic partnerships (Queensland Music Festival, South Bank Corporation, Apple) with creative thinking. Both delighted audiences. Both gave students something to take with them in their future careers.

We realise not all of these careers will involve musical star status. But many of our alumni do find part time or full time work in music. And even if they do not end up making music as a profession, their creative training with us continues to nurture and inspire them. Julie Owens, Con Graduate and now MP for Parramatta, sang praise on how well her musical training had prepared her for the work she is currently doing in politics: being able to get down and concentrate for hours, get down to a base line when you are exhausted, having the skill to improvise when needed, and perform. In most professions, creativity is a requirement, not a luxury. And we are proud we can help young people develop this elusive but valuable quality.

Peter Roennfeldt and Huib Schippers
Queensland Conservatorium
Griffith University

Something for everyone

As Brisbane booms, the city is fast becoming known for its creative industries.

South Bank is Brisbane's cultural precinct, a hub for theatre, music, artists and now fashion designers.

September saw the inaugural South Bank Young Designers market, showcasing Brisbane's up-and-coming designers.

Following the success of Sydney's Bondi, Opera House and Manly markets, the markets offered 40 designers the opportunity to sell their pieces directly to the public.

Students from the Queensland College of Art exhibited at the markets, giving them wide exposure to potential buyers.

Aspiring jeweller and final-year fine art student Hannah Kelly said the markets were a great outlet for engaging with the public.

"They allow a really high degree of communication between the artist and the public on a level you don't get with gallery exhibitions," she said.

"It's great to see Brisbane waking up and appreciating one-off pieces, rather than the mass-produced imports."

Hannah is also part of the larger J&SO (Jewellery and Small Objects) collective which is made up of 17 current and former QCA students who hold a stall at the South Bank markets each weekend. The students use the stall to test the market for their original works.

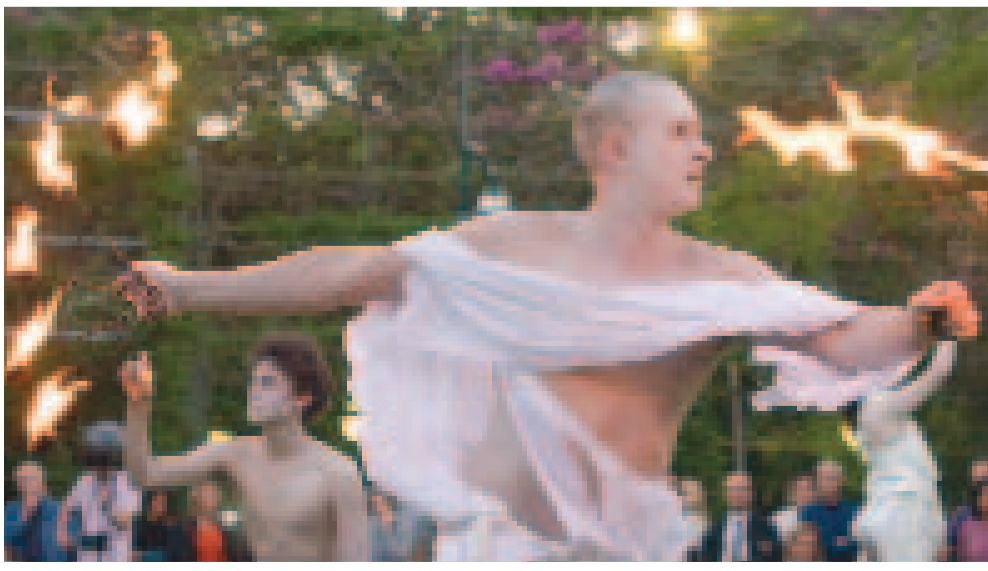
Griffith's physical presence at South Bank continues to be invaluable for engaging with the local community. Through facilities such as the DELL Gallery @ QCA the public has access to many free exhibitions throughout the year.

The gallery showcases both nationally and internationally renowned exhibitions which are accompanied by a range of public programs, including floor talks, forums and symposia, workshops and informal discussions.

Music enthusiasts swarm to Jazz Cafe events, held regularly on Friday afternoons. A free event, audiences are able to relax with food and drink while enjoying the talented staff and students of the Conservatorium's Jazz department as they perform a blend of old and new music.

DELL Gallery @ QCA is open to the public from Wednesday to Sunday. ■

www.griffith.edu.au/centre/artworks/home.html



iOrpheus – art among us

A crowd of more than 500 watched and participated in the public opera *iOrpheus*—art among us at South Bank last month.

Created by New York-based composer and Griffith University Senior Fulbright specialist Professor William Duckworth and media artist Nora Farrell, *iOrpheus* combined live performance with iPods, mobile phones and laptops played by opera participants and the audience.

Based on the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, the opera is the third and final instalment of *The Orpheus Trilogy* which began in April 2006 as a year-long series of video podcasts designed to be listened to via the iPod. It continued in February this year with a live concert at Arizona State University.

iOrpheus enabled park visitors using their everyday digital devices to interact artistically as they moved through South Bank, listening to and viewing the opera as it unfolded.

The structure of *iOrpheus* revolves around five central moments in the Orpheus legend including: the wedding, the death, the river, the look and home. Participants moved through actual and virtual space in an audible and visual sound-dance. ■

Life through a lens

Deputy Director of the Queensland College of Art Earle Bridger discusses the power of photography.

If you have ever emptied the contents of a box of breakfast cereal into a transparent plastic container you will instantly understand the power of photography. The cereal just doesn't look as appetising as the image on the cardboard box.

If you have ever spent time looking at the myriad magazine covers at the newsagent, been shocked by a newspaper front page picture or amazed by the artistry and imagination of photographs on a gallery wall, then you have also experienced the emotive, persuasive,

and compelling power of the photographic image.

Photography is many things to many people. To most it presents an easy method of preserving cherished moments. Last year more than 106 million digital cameras and 460 million camera phones were sold worldwide with expected annual sales of these devices to top the one billion dollar mark by 2010.

There is no doubt that we live in an era when almost everyone in the Western world can create photographs with cameras carried with them day

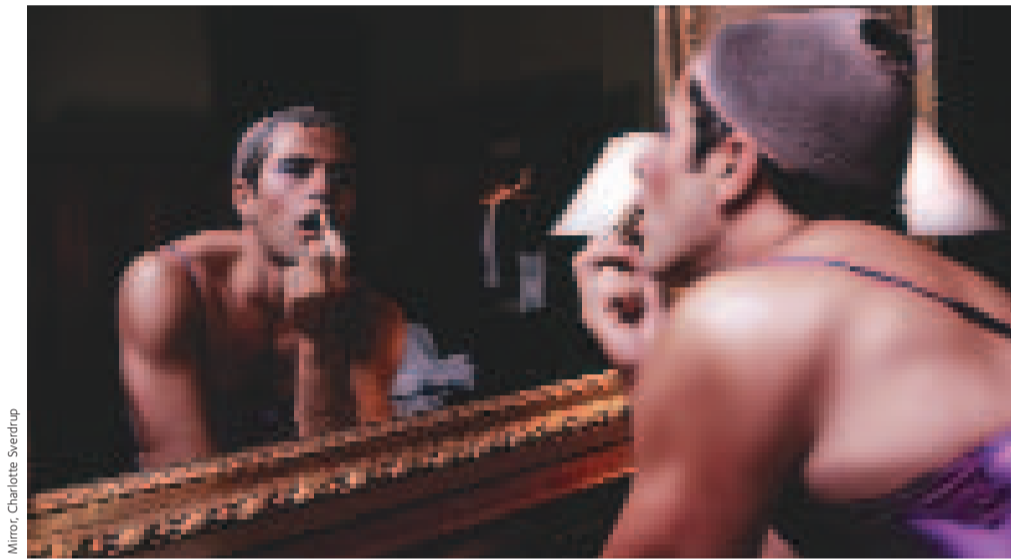
and night. Cameras so sophisticated that they can automatically adjust exposure, flash, focus and even composition. They can remove 'red eye', adjust oblique distortion, intensify colours and stitch together several images to create a panorama.

So why do we need to teach photography? The same reason we continue to teach English even though most people own computers. Photography is a language and QCA photography students, who represent the next generation of professional 'camera users', learn to use the

language in a positive and meaningful way.

To those interested in photojournalism it enables the most accurate form of visual storytelling, to the creative advertisers, the best method of selling product and to our photographic artists, a unique way of seeing and representing the world we live in.

At the QCA we don't just teach photography, we introduce our students to the magic of photography. For more information visit: www.griffith.edu.au/qca



Mirror, Charlotte Sverdrup

While you were sleeping

A group of award-winning Queensland College of Art graduates are making their mark in the national photography scene with the launch this year of their exhibition *While Others Sleep*.

Shot over several months at the Conrad Hotel in Brisbane by eight artists, the resulting 18 images of people captured in various activities are compelling viewing.

Curator and QCA photography graduate Naomi Mendoza said the exhibition reflected people's desire for understanding other people's lives.

"Have you ever wanted to be that fly on the wall, privy to everything, the muffled sounds that filter through the walls, the activity reminding you of your loneliness?"

While Others Sleep is a mischievous play on our own sense of immorality, our innate

voyeurism."

The eight photographers—Kate Bernauer, Priscilla Bracks, Ray Cook, Mari Hirata, Monica Kvaale, Tim Luck, Alain Francois and Charlotte Sverdrup—have all won awards or were Griffith University scholarship recipients.

Kvaale, who won Norway's 2006 Utsnitt prize for creative advertising Newcomer of the Year and a host of other prizes while at university, says having full artistic freedom on the project was wonderful.

"Imagine being set free to run through an old, historic hotel at the oddest hours of night, allowed to cook up the strangest stories. It was a fantastic opportunity to shoot at one of Brisbane's most beautiful locations," she said.

While Others Sleep premiered at the Queensland Centre of Photography in March and there are plans to tour Australia over the next year.

A book of the images designed by QCA graduate Paul Stekhoven is available from GOMA/QAG bookstores.

www.whileotherssleep.net

Have camera, will travel

Story Deborah Marshall

Travelling the world searching for stories to document and change people's lives is how aspiring photojournalist Aaron Burton sees his future.

The Queensland College of Art photography honours student said he was initially attracted to romantic ideals of the roaming photojournalist, forever travelling, listening to stories and witnessing history.

"As I gained more experience I realised the reality was far more political and competitive," he said.

Aaron relished the opportunity to hone his skills and learn from the world's leading photojournalists when he volunteered to assist in the third Indochina Media Memorial Fund (IMMF) workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam earlier this year.

The IMMF was founded in 1991 in memory of journalists who died covering all sides of the Indochina conflicts from 1945 to 1975. The workshops enable Vietnamese photojournalists—who don't have access to formal industry training—to learn from some of the world's best photojournalists and picture editors.

The latest workshop, 'News Photojournalism: Digital Photography and Editing', provided participants with additional photographic skills and the ethical knowledge to better document their history and society.

Aaron took part in the workshop with Queensland College of Art senior lecturer Earle Bridger, world-famous war photographer and QCA Adjunct Professor Tim Page, Gemma-Rose Turnbull and fellow student Kelly Hussey-Smith. He documented the workshop and assisted in its technical administration as well as making a short film/video of the experience.

Mr Bridger, who led a presentation on the

ethics of photojournalism and the social responsibilities of photojournalists, said the IMMF believed the memory of the dead journalists was best served by encouraging a new generation to chart the development of the region in years to come. The 30 participants undertook training in six areas of photojournalism including news, business, sports, fashion, celebrity, portraiture and landscape/architecture.

"The energy and enthusiasm of the Vietnamese participants was incredible, and you could see it in their images. I even think the tutors were swept away. It was simply invaluable to be around such creativity and dynamism."

But the Vietnam trip wasn't Aaron's first overseas work experience. In 2005 he documented a Christian Brothers' social justice and immersion camp in South Africa. Travelling with a dozen Brisbane high school students, he photographed them as they worked with South African students and explored social justice issues together.

The resulting images were exhibited with excerpts from the students' diaries in Brisbane and then toured to Christian Brothers' school throughout Queensland.

"These international experiences prevented me from becoming complacent and motivated me to think globally. They also nurtured helpful industry contacts and relationships," Aaron said.

Once he completes his Honours at the end of 2007, Aaron is looking forward to working as a photojournalist with a global agency.

"My work is leading towards documentary filmmaking, so perhaps I will find myself with a producer and crew. Either way I am freelancing right now so I am just keen to get out there!"

Aaron's photographs from Vietnam will be on display at RAW Space Galleries, 99 Melbourne Street, South Brisbane from October 12-26.

www.rawspace.org.au ■



Hanoi official watch 2007, Aaron Burton

Flight to the death

Migratory birds on their annual trek from the Arctic to Australia will land at their usual Korean refuelling stop to find old feeding grounds vanished. Weakened, they will fall from the sky in their tens of thousands.

By Joseph Catanzaro



The Saemangeum wetlands are a series of sea shallows and tidal flats covering some 40,000ha of the Korean peninsula 250km south-west of Seoul. They are a crucial staging point for more than 300,000 rare and endangered migratory birds, many of which spend the non-breeding season in Australia. Twice a year, on their way to and from Arctic breeding grounds, the birds descend on Saemangeum after a week's non-stop flight. They gorge on the bounty of the teeming waters before taking off for another week of continuous flying.

This August, however, something is different at Saemangeum. A huge land reclamation project has left just 10cm of water in some areas that used to be 7m deep. In other places, vast tracts are now plains littered with the bleached skeletons of fishing boats and dead marine life. Some former tidal flats are now permanently underwater. Most of the crustaceans and invertebrates the birds once fed on have disappeared. Without food, tens of thousands of birds from species protected in Australia—including the Great Knot Sandpiper, the Far Eastern Curlew, the Bar-tailed Godwit, the Dunlin, the Greater Sand Plover, the Red-necked Stint and the Terek Sandpiper—are expected to die. At least two species, the Spoon-billed Sandpiper and the Nordmann's Greenshank—considered the holy grail for shorebird watchers in Australia—face extinction.

Nial Moores, director of the conservation group Birds Korea, sees a disaster for this

year's Australian migratory flock. "These birds will get hit by the effects of the reclamation. They'll be in poor condition. Without adequate food, the vast majority of them will be dying in flight during the migration, dropping into the sea."

The problem is a 33km sea wall, built by the industrial giant Hyundai at the behest of the Korean government and completed last year. The original aim was to create agricultural land, but a drop in the demand for rice rendered this obsolete. Proposed uses now include a formula one circuit and golf courses.

Since completion of the wall, conservationists have recorded a marked decrease in the number of birds arriving at Saemangeum. A slight increase in the numbers visiting surrounding wetlands has been noted, but not enough to account for the 70,000-odd missing birds, which are presumed dead. Since the last migration things have become much worse, with the closure of 580 metres of sea gates being blamed for the drying up of the food. Only one sluice gate remains ajar, for engineering reasons.

Moores is particularly concerned about the impact the reclamation will have on the Great Knot, a rare bird that makes its home on Australia's northern shoreline during the non-breeding season.

"The Great Knot feeds almost entirely on very small shellfish. Now those shellfish beds are dead. Therefore the Great Knot does not have the food they need for their flight back to Australia. We're talking about over 100,000



Great Knots, potentially between 30% and 60% of the world's population."

On July 13, in a late move to protect the birds, the Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement was signed. Andrew McNee, delegate of the Australian minister for the environment, says the Koreans and Australians will now talk about wetland issues every two years.

The Greens leader, Senator Bob Brown, criticised the delay in signing the agreement. Brown, who visited Saemangeum in 2002, claims there's a link between the fact the Howard government has been pursuing a free-trade agreement with South Korea and the absence of pressure on the Koreans over the sea wall. "I tried very hard to get the Australian government to oppose the development at Saemangeum, but they made a clear decision to support the sea dyke," says Brown.

McNee says that it is not the only wetland in the region. Moores warns, however, that assuming the birds will simply relocate and find food in adjoining wetlands is a mistake. Reclamation of the next biggest wetland area in the region, the Geum Estuary, has already been approved.

Danny Rogers, chairman of the scientific committee of the Australasian Wader Studies Group, has spent two years studying the effects of the Saemangeum reclamation. He is also sceptical about alternative food sources. "The Geum Estuary is only a quarter the size of

Saemangeum. I just don't think it's going to be physically possible for it to support all the birds."

Rogers concedes it's not likely that the wall, estimated to have cost billions, will be pulled down, but is confident that some damage can be reversed.

"We're hoping we can persuade the authorities to leave the gates open to their full extent. As long as there's still a water body in Saemangeum that's genuinely tidal, there will be invertebrates there and the shore birds will have something to eat." He believes there is hope for compromise. "There's a very large area of Saemangeum that used to be tidal flats which, because of the wall, will never be flooded by tides again. It could be put to other uses."

McNee says the treaty could provide the means to persuade the Korean government to reopen the sea gates. But the group's first meeting is not due until early next year. So can anything be done to help the birds migrating throughout August and September? "There will be a meeting in October, the East Asian Australasian Flyway meeting," says McNee. "There will be lots of opportunities to talk to Korea at that meeting." ■

Reprinted with kind permission from The Bulletin with Newsweek. Photographs courtesy Charles Page senior lecturer at the Queensland College of Art.



GREAT DEBATE: Malcolm Turnbull and Peter Garrett face-off on climate change.



Garrett and Turnbull go head-to-head

Last month saw a capacity crowd flock to the Queensland Conservatorium to watch federal environment minister Malcolm Turnbull and his opposition counterpart Peter Garrett battle it out over climate change.

The rigorous debate over the effects of climate change in South-East Queensland included discussion on topics such as Kyoto, the Great Barrier Reef and nuclear power.

Griffith Urban Research Program director and debate organiser Professor Brendan Gleeson said climate change, energy consumption and urban sustainability are the big ticket items for this region—and nationally.

"These are the big research issues the

Griffith Climate Response Program is tackling and the public relished the opportunity to see our environmental leaders address topics which will have such an impact on them."

The debate was part of the Our Future Your Say six-part series run by Griffith University's Urban Research Program in conjunction with *The Courier-Mail*, Channel 9 and the Brisbane Institute. Public forums will be held until the end of October.

The Griffith Climate Response Program has recently launched a report that outlines challenges for climate response and adaptation to provide a common platform for further debate.

The report is available at www.griffith.edu.au/special-research-initiatives/climate-response/publications ■

Climate change impacts real estate values

Story Jeannette Langan

A project to map the impacts of climate change on property values, and another to protect Australia's remaining pristine river systems, have earned Griffith PhD students Donovan Burton and Catherine Leigh prestigious Wentworth Scholarships.

Urban Research Program PhD student Donovan Burton earned his Wentworth Scholarship for a project designed to help councils, lenders, insurers and homebuyers assess how climate change will affect coastal property values.

Donovan said there was a gap in the knowledge on how climate change will impact real estate values in the Sunshine Coast–Gold Coast corridor.

"It's predicted that some impacts of climate change will occur within current mortgage life spans," he said.

"What used to be a one-in-100 year storm event posing an acceptable risk to insurers could now become more like a one-in-20 year event."

Catherine is working with the Australian Rivers Institute in Queensland's remote Gulf of Carpentaria river floodplains to model the way these tropical ecosystems function.

This will provide a tool to help resource managers and governments manage these rivers for the long term.

"My research is particularly topical given the recent government and public interest in Australia's freshwater assets and water crises," she said.

The scholarship helped Catherine build on earlier work conducted with federal body Land and Water Australia.

"I worked with the Southern Gulf Catchments group in Mt Isa, a community-based organisation implementing sustainable resource management in the Gulf region," she said.

"It's difficult to conduct field trips in the wet season, so local residents helped by taking flood water samples over summer, which I then collected.

Sisters doing IT for themselves

Education Queensland figures show boys outnumber girls 6:1 in senior IT classes, resulting in a significant gender imbalance within the IT industry.

A passion for inspiring girls to explore lucrative IT careers has won Griffith University PhD student Kaylene Clayton a Queensland Government Smart Women award.

Kaylene is completing a landmark study into why girls turn their backs on IT studies, and how educators can address the problem to meet the industry shortage of IT professionals.

She has just returned from a project in Germany working with Griffith colleagues Liisa von Hellens, Sue Nielsen and Jenine Beekhuizen developing the world's first undergraduate Gender and IT course.

"We assumed Europe would be ahead of us in solving the problem, but it seems to be across the board," Kaylene said.

Currently only 15–25 per cent of ICT industry professionals are female.

"My PhD study is devoted to working out why girls are not taking up careers in IT," she said.

"One problem is a lack of awareness of the incredible breadth of IT careers. The perception of IT jobs as boring and limited to installs, programming and help desk couldn't be further from the truth!

"All of today's most creative jobs including software design, graphic design, gaming, multimedia, film and television animation, and even journalism are increasingly IT based."

She said Education Queensland (EQ) is working to improve the situation with professional development initiatives and resource kits for teachers, as well as experience days for students.

"At Griffith we're working with IT industry partners such as IBM and Westpac to host 'Technology Takes You Anywhere' days supported by EQ in which girls come on campus to explore interesting careers and meet top female IT professionals working on cutting edge projects." ■



WOMEN IN IT: Kaylene Clayton with supervisor Associate Professor Liisa von Hellens.

Kaylene's win topped off a highly successful night for Griffith's female staff, students and alumni. Other finalists recognised in the Smart Women awards were:

Undergraduate Students – ICT—Kerryn Scott

Kerryn lent her skills to aiding electronic waste collection, working with the Australian Green Development Forum to aid sustainable development.

Postgraduate Students – Science—Dr Kim Hamilton

Kim has devoted her PhD to protecting and conserving Australia's valuable and diverse citrus species.

Women in Industry/Business – Science—Professor Jane Hughes

Jane leads a research team investigating how aquatic organisms are connected spatially. Her research will have many benefits including assisting the scientific community to recolonise habitats after extinction, rehabilitating river and stream habitats and protecting diversity.

Women in the Community/Public Sector – Science—Professor Angela Arthington

An Australian Rivers Institute program leader, Angela has conducted extensive work in water science, including environmental flows and river ecology.

Women in the Community/Public Sector – Engineering—Zoe Elliot

A Griffith graduate, Zoe's work will improve community safety by providing emergency services personnel with timely access to vital information relating to storm tide inundation in the event of a tropical cyclone or east coast low.



TESTING THE WATERS: Catherine Leigh and supervisor Dr Fran Sheldon of Australian Rivers Institute.

"Wet and dry season data is essential to build a complete picture of how these rivers function," she said.

Catherine presented her work at the 10th International Riversymposium in September.

The Wentworth Scholarship is presented by the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists to students working to advance the long-term health of Australia's land, water and biodiversity. It comprises 11 eminent scientists, including 2007 Australian of the Year Professor Tim Flannery. ■

Engineering a winning edge

Story Jeannette Langan

Forget the image of sports success as a triumph of brawn over brains—smart athletes are now embracing micro-technology in the race to the dias.

At Perisher Blue recently, researchers from Griffith University's Centre for Wireless Monitoring and Applications conducted the first snowboard competition to be judged electronically with a new hi-tech monitoring system.

Australia's hottest athletes from the Ski and Snowboard Australia National Squad wore the device, which precisely measures acceleration, rotation, and air time to provide an instant record of each athlete's performance across a range of aerial tricks.

PhD student Jason Harding is working with the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia and the Australian Institute of Sport to develop the device.

"At this elite level the competitors skill is so evenly matched judging can come down to a matter of opinion. Technology provides another dimension to objectively assess a performance," he said.

Project supervisor Dr Daniel James said snowboarding was one of many sports being

revolutionised by micro-electronics.

"We have students working on a project at Queensland Academy of Sport to monitor a swimmer's stroke speed and efficiency. Another developed a cricket-bat mounted device that measures stroke acceleration and power at different phases of a batsman's swing," he said.

The team even adapted the technology to Japanese swordfighting, an art in which competitors take years to perfect their swing.

"It's ideal for sports such as swimming that are difficult to monitor from a distance, but it can be adapted to most sports. We just work with sport scientists and coaches to find a way to get the specific information they need."

Dr James said micro-technology devices had clear advantages over lab-based monitoring systems.

"It gives the opportunity for assessment during training and potentially actual competition, while lab systems are difficult to move to the performance environment.

"Elite sports is a high-stakes environment.

Adoption of technology has historically encountered some resistance from athletes.

Many coaches are retired athletes who use the methods they were trained with," Dr James said.

"But once they saw the gains that could be made, they embraced it."

He said while technology was a powerful tool, it wasn't a magic bullet.

"Electronics will give them the edge by helping them train smarter, but it's still up to them to put in the work!" ■



WINTER WONDERBOYS: Bachelor of Engineering student Jimmy Small and PhD student Jason Harding who worked on the project through Griffith's Industrial Affiliates Program.

AFL focuses on keeping coaches



SAVING THE GAME: Professor Chris Auld has been working with the AFL to improve coach retention at the junior level and ensure the future of the sport.

Story Fiona Taylor

The Australian Football League (AFL) has been working with Griffith to alleviate the shortage of volunteer coaches affecting sporting organisations around the country.

AFL National Coaching and Volunteers Manager Lawrie Woodman said a shortage of quality coaches at the junior level had the potential to affect the game at the professional level.

"The AFL has experienced huge growth over the last 5 to 10 years, and as popularity for the game reaches ever-increasing new heights, we want to ensure the quality of the sport," Mr Woodman said.

"To ensure the long-term health of the sport we need to ensure that it continues to thrive at the junior level. To do this we need to improve coach retention.

"The AFL identified a high turn over of coaches at the junior level so we commissioned Griffith to discover why coaches decide to coach and why they decide to continue or discontinue, and suggest some strategies on how to improve retention."

Griffith Business School Professor Chris Auld coordinated the research.

Professor Auld said anecdotal evidence from community sporting organisations across Australia suggested coach retention was not just a problem for the AFL, but all sports.

"Evidence from community sporting organisations around the country suggests volunteer coach numbers in Australia are decreasing," Professor Auld said.

"The period of time and the number of hours given each week are also decreasing, and sporting organisations spend around 40 to 60 per cent of their resources each year replacing volunteers."

Professor Auld said these trends had consequences for sport on many levels.

"The availability of coaches is crucial for the continued viability of both elite and community level sport systems," he said.

"The link between coaching and elite athlete performance has been well established, however the role of community level coaches to provide quality junior sport experiences and impact positively on physical activity levels should not be underestimated."

The study involved focus groups with volunteer AFL coaches in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales, as well as surveying all volunteer coaches from across Australia.

Professor Auld said results showed the key to improved retention in many cases would be doing things many AFL community clubs already did, more systematically, as well as improved dissemination of best practice examples.

"The study showed improved communication from state AFL offices and local clubs, as well as regular recognition would help retention, particularly to assist with the transition beyond the initial two year danger period.

"Mentoring programs with informal networking events and formal development sessions would also help, and the greater use of team managers to buffer coaches, particularly inexperienced ones, from parents is required.

"It is important new coaches are integrated into a network of established coaches."

Professor Auld said the AFL should also develop a range of alternative coach success criteria, including indicators of player improvement, player retention, fun and enjoyment.

The strategies put forward were relatively inexpensive and resource friendly to provide maximum benefits, Professor Auld said.

The AFL is now working with its community clubs to implement the recommendations, providing a better environment for coaches and ensuring the continued strength of the sport at all levels.

For further information contact Professor Chris Auld on 07 3735 6641, or Lawrie Woodman on 03 9643 1859. ■

Sports brief

Five Griffith students travelled to Bangkok in August to compete in the World University Games. As a member of the men's 4 x 400 team, physiotherapy and exercise science student Dylan Grant scored himself a silver medal. Other Griffith competitors included Toni Dance and Jocelyn McCallum (softball), Cameron Smith, (swimming) and Charmaine Lucock (pole vault).

This year's Australian University Games were held on the Gold Coast during the last week of September. As a major partner of the games, Griffith was keen to replicate its success from the 2006 Commonwealth Games, where it walked away with the most medals out of any Australian university.

Three postgraduate Sports Management students recently competed in the finals of an Asia Pacific international sport management competition. PhD students Kevin Filo, Anthony Beaton and Millie Kennelly put their sports management and marketing knowledge to the test and were one of five teams to secure a place in the international final. While the trio missed out on the winning honours, team spokesperson Kevin said it was great having the opportunity to work as a team, "...as PhD students don't normally get the chance to work in groups". The Sport Management Case Study Competition, run by the Sport Management Association of Australia and New Zealand in conjunction with Sport Knowledge Australia, was open to all university students across Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

MEDAL WINNERS: Dylan Grant (far left) and teammates celebrate their success at the World University Games.



sideways

Griffith Business School

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MUSIC THERAPY: Despite living with mental illness, Ben Pagura has achieved success as a Conservatorium student, with the support of staff like Director Peter Roennfeldt.

Drumming out stigma

Story Sara Collins

With mental illness affecting one in every five Australians, one mother and her son are determined to break down the barriers.

Ben Pagura is not your average 23-year-old. But then again his mother Deborah is not your average parent.

One of the 98,000* Queenslanders who live with a severe mental illness, Ben was diagnosed with schizophrenia at just 12. Deborah has sacrificed career aspirations, to support her son and ensure he gets every opportunity.

Next year, their combined efforts will be realised with the introduction of the Benjamin Pagura Scholarship, the only tertiary scholarship in Australia dedicated to a student with a psychiatric illness.

Fighting, and winning a landmark case against Education Queensland when Ben was expelled from the school system because his illness meant he was frequently absent, the Paguras wanted to do something worthwhile with their compensation payout.

After seeing the change in Ben—a keen drummer—since he was accepted into the Queensland Conservatorium's preparatory program three years ago, they realised a scholarship would be the perfect way to give back.

"Since Ben's been studying, there's been a noticeable change in his confidence," Deborah says.

"He's gone from being unable to hold a conversation to engaging and initiating contact with people. He has done remarkably well in his studies, and finds having a goal and something to focus on a relief from his illness.

"Critical to Ben's success has been the intense support of senior staff from the Con, to whom we are so grateful."

Deborah said the experience had been mutually beneficial; those involved with Ben's academic journey learning so much about the effects a severe mental illness can have on a student's overall functioning, and their ability to meet academic workloads.

"Ben was the first student permitted to undertake the preparatory program over three years, instead of the usual one. This kind of flexibility and understanding is crucial for students experiencing any disability."

It has not been all smooth sailing for Ben, as he has required extra tutorial support to pursue his study. While students with a visual or hearing impairment are provided this support, it is not available to those with a psychiatric illness.

This is a gap the scholarship aims to fill, as it will provide tutorial support to a Conservatorium student with a diagnosed psychiatric impairment.

"It's so important we start to recognise the value of people with a mental illness, and the fact they are capable of achieving. They may take a different path to reach their goals, but if you provide them with the help and support they need they can get there in the end.

"This is why we were so keen to establish this scholarship, to start breaking down the stigma and perceptions surrounding people with a mental illness.

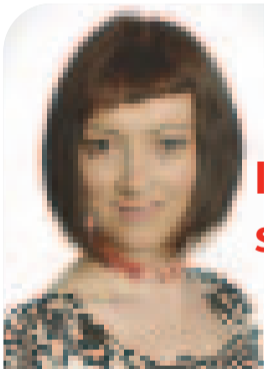
"We are hopeful that other members of the community will see the merit of the scholarship and dedicate funds to it."

Ben's achievements against all odds—including being awarded Mansfield's Young Citizen of the Year—have been so inspiring that a thesis is currently being written about him.

Ben hopes to continue his studies in music technology, eventually leading to a career in sound engineering.

To make a donation to the Benjamin Pagura Scholarship call 07 3735 6241. ■

*June 2004 Population Data



Idol success

Bachelor of Popular Music student Brianna Carpenter made it into the top 12 finalists of the Australian Idol television talent competition.

The talented third-year student, who sings, writes her own material and plays the guitar and keyboards, wowed the notoriously difficult-to-please judges with her own song in the audition rounds. She then went on to win over audiences around Australia with her unique, quirky style.

Her passion though, lies in jazz. "It's just so smooth and the melodies are beautiful," she says.

Brianna's music history lecturer Dr Donna Weston said she was always impressed with her dedication and originality.

"She is always pushing the 'creative envelope,' making the most not only of her talent but of everything the degree has to offer.

"She's very smart, completely together, a fantastic musician and a nice person to boot!"

Two other Bachelor of Popular Music graduates made it into this year's top 100 finals in Sydney. Cleo Howman, who is based on the Gold Coast, graduated in 2006 while musician Chad Trent, also Gold Coast-based graduated in 2003.

Brianna was eliminated from the competition earlier this month.



Love and redemption

The classic tale of eternal love and loss came to life in the Queensland Conservatorium's opera season of *Orfeo ed Euridice* this month.

Director Gregory Massingham said the opera emphasised the power of human love and the power of art to redeem life.

"We see how Orfeo's ethereal song entreats the Gods and persuades them to let him have one last chance at love."

Based on Christoph Gluck's adaptation of a Greek myth, Orpheus, grieving over the death of his wife is given the opportunity to win her from the depths of Hades. The only condition is that he not look at her until the couple returns to earth.

Orfeo's gift of song tames the spirits of Hades but, alas, the couple cannot keep the condition and Euridice dies again. The opera ends happily with Euridice's life restored a second time as a tribute to his faithfulness.

"Each aria in this opera is devoted to the portrayal of a specific emotion to illuminate the drama. It presents a unique mixture of simplicity, rationalism, and passion," Mr Massingham said.

Gluck and his librettist Calzabigi were leaders in the reform of opera, which 150 years after Monteverdi's genesis of the art form, had strayed from his ideologies. In *Orfeo ed Euridice* they put it back on the rails and paved the way for future great opera composers such as Mozart and Wagner."

The production involved more than 60 vocal and instrumental students including Simone Spring in the title role of Orfeo and Irene Utley and Alicia Lee (pictured) in the shared role of Euridice. ■



QUALITY CARE: Nursing research will drive improvements in care of the elderly.

Caring for the aged

An ageing population, increasing demand for high quality residential care, and a chronic shortage of nursing staff are important factors driving the teaching and research agenda in the School of Nursing and Midwifery. *Story* Mardi Chapman

When the threat of wrinkles can be enough to induce anxiety in our youth-focused culture, how well do we cope with the inevitability of ageing and associated problems such as deteriorating health, loss of independence, and care considerations for families?

Denial is a popular strategy for many individuals until an ailing parent provides the ultimate reality check, but as a community we have to be better informed and better prepared.

Professor Wendy Moyle, of the Research Centre in Clinical and Community Practice Innovation (RCCCP), leads a growing team who are helping provide some of the answers to important questions about ageing and the provision of aged care.

"Accreditation standards for nursing homes are increasingly focused on evidence-based practice. Our research outcomes are providing the evidence that care providers can use directly to refine their practices or develop their workforce."

Recently published research provides insight into the particularly complex area of caring for people with dementia—a condition that affects one-in-15 Australians over 65 years of age and one-in-four over the age of 85.

One study found although residents with dementia had significant problems with memory and language, they could still contribute valuable information about their quality of life.

Some of the factors that most influenced their wellbeing included meaningful activities, the ability to at least partially care for themselves, self-esteem and social networks.

"These are areas that nursing and personal care staff can influence in their daily practices," Professor Moyle said.

"We can't do much about the progression of their dementia but we can take an interest in people, treat them with respect, encourage purposeful activity including self-care, and foster positive interactions with family and friends."

Professor Moyle's expertise in dementia care has also attracted funding from the federal government to develop a new course on decision making in dementia care.

The course, one of a suite of courses being

developed within the Eastern Australia Dementia Training and Study Centre, will be introduced into the aged care strand of the Bachelor of Nursing and the Master of Advanced Practice—Gerontological Nursing from 2008.

Griffith's track record of clinical aged care research outcomes and positive interactions with industry partners has also led to the creation of a new research fellow position in aged care.

Dr Lorraine Venturato has just been appointed to the position which is jointly funded by RCCCP and RSL Care—an aged care provider of independent living, residential care and homecare services throughout Queensland and New South Wales.

Deborah Oxlade, executive manager of service development for RSL Care, said the joint venture was one way of building strategic research capability within the organisation.

"We have partnered with Griffith on a number of projects in the past. This post-doctoral position gives us more opportunity to initiate the research questions and give us a better understanding of the models of care, organisational structures and clinical governance that supports best practice."

Ms Oxlade said RSL Care was also interested in future-proofing the organisation in terms of attracting and retaining dedicated and professional nursing staff.

"Providing career development and continuing education opportunities is already important to us. Adding research support within the organisation will also help."

Dr Venturato's research interests include the development of clinical leadership within aged care settings—to create job satisfaction and address workforce shortages—as well as focusing on quality of care and clinical outcomes.

"Skilled staff are the key to the provision of quality care. Aged care is particularly so because we are labour dependent rather than dependent on high-tech solutions.

"Without research and the development of an evidence-base for aged care practice, we can't highlight aged care as a sophisticated speciality area and worthwhile career path for nurses." ■

Auslan upgrade benefits children

Changes to the Queensland school curriculum mean deaf students will learn Auslan as the preferred sign language.

In an Australian first, teachers of the deaf are taking part in an innovative graduate program at Griffith University to learn Auslan, the sign language of the Australian Deaf community.

The new program was introduced as part of a \$30 million Queensland state government initiative to teach signing to deaf children using Auslan instead of signed English.

Professor Merv Hyde, from the Faculty of Education and the Centre of Applied Studies of Deafness, leads a team including Emeritus Professor Des Power, Dr Maree Madden and Sally Strowbridge that developed the two-year Graduate Certificate and Certificate program.

A group of 30 teachers and teacher aides employed by the Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA) is the first cohort to take part in the program which began in semester two this year. Based in Brisbane, videoconferencing facilities are used for participants at the Gold Coast and Townsville.

The lectures develop new web design technologies for sign language learning and in each teaching location Deaf tutors are responsible for language teaching and enhancement.

Professor Hyde said in Australia, Auslan went back to convict days when it was based on British Sign Language and later influenced by the sign language of Irish immigrants.

"While the use of signed English will be retained in some situations, Auslan is a distinctive visual language that has evolved to serve the needs of Deaf people," he said.

"Even though most deaf children in Queensland are in regular schools and communicate in spoken English with their

teachers, this achievement can be a great challenge for some deaf students. Auslan will strengthen the cognitive and academic development of deaf children in Queensland and provide a strong base for them to acquire English proficiency.

"Deaf children and adults who have useable hearing and speech may also choose to learn Auslan as a community language as it uniquely expresses aspects of Deaf communication, culture and community."

In 1992, Auslan was documented in the first and only national population study of its use by Professors Hyde and Power and found to have more than 15,000 deaf regular users across all Australian states.

Professor Hyde is also developing a research project with the Griffith team and DETA to evaluate the learning of the program participants and record the applications they make of the language to classroom curricula and students' learning. ■



SIGN LANGUAGE: Sally Strowbridge demonstrates how to sign in Auslan to student Ingrid Bethel.

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Griffith University

Staying alive

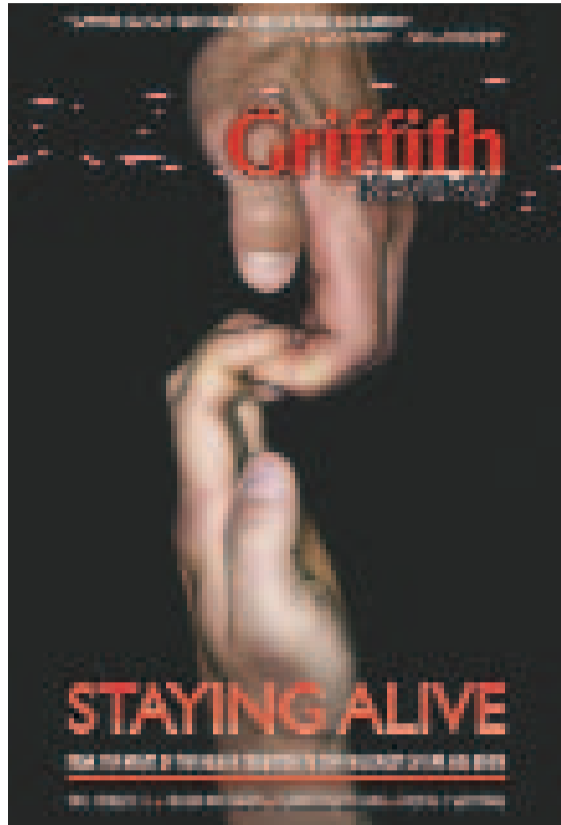
Griffith REVIEW 17: Staying Alive traces the interwoven threads of healthcare policy and medical research; foreign aid and well-being at home; violence, inequity and collateral damage; and stories of just deserts or just good luck.

Twenty years after Australia's highly successful HIV-prevention campaign—symbolised by the Grim Reaper television commercials—Bill Bowtell, architect of the landmark campaign, illustrates how and why we must eradicate HIV within three generations.

Other writers include palliative care doctor Frank Brennan, journalist Donna Mulhearn, author Michael Wilding, Professor Diego De Leo from Griffith University's Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention, and more.

This edition considers the personal, political, legal and figurative challenges of staying alive, revealing life's poignant impermanence.

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Movers and shakers



Congratulations to alumnus **Andrew Fraser** on his appointment as Queensland Treasurer. Mr Fraser excelled as a student at Griffith, completing a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce with first class honours and winning the University Medal. Mr Fraser

was one of the youngest members of parliament when he was elected as the State Member for Mount Coot-tha in 2004 and was re-elected in 2006. Two years after entering parliament he became the youngest cabinet minister in almost a century and took on the local government portfolio.



Professor Diego De Leo, director of the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention (AISRAP), has been awarded a prestigious Doctor of Science by Griffith—a rare honour reserved for people who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to their field of scholarship. Professor De Leo has an international reputation for his research and leadership in suicide prevention, and on that strength AISRAP was designated a World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Research and Training on Suicide Prevention. He has also just been awarded a national Life Award by Suicide Prevention Australia for his lifetime contribution to suicide research.

Griffith Film School lecturer **Nicholas Oughton** has been appointed President of the Australian Screen Production, Education and Research Association (ASPORA). ASPORA is the peak body of Australian tertiary institutions teaching and researching film, video, television and new media production practices. ASPORA represents tertiary institutions offering degrees at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, including bachelor, master and doctorate programs in various screen production disciplines. It plays an active role in shaping quality education for those planning to, or working in production and research for the screen.

Practical solutions to Queensland's water crisis have moved a step closer, with the appointment of Chief Executive Officer **Larry Little** to lead the new Smart Water Facility at the Gold Coast. Anchored by a new

\$18m facility jointly funded by the Queensland Government, Gold Coast City Council and Griffith University, Smart Water will provide a practical testing ground for solutions to the full spectrum of water supply challenges. It will unite scientists, water authorities and cutting-edge water technology companies under the one roof. Mr Little was recruited to lead Smart Water after serving in executive research management roles within CSIRO. He has extensive expertise developing commercially-successful international research ventures within the technology, manufacturing and construction industries.



Protecting the famous Gold Coast lifestyle and developing a modern urban identity in a time of rapid growth is top of the agenda for a new research stream at Griffith. The strategic partnership between Gold Coast City Council and the University will build on the success of the Urban

Research Program and support new research focused specifically on the Coast's unique challenges and opportunities. It is headed by the newly-appointed Chair of Urban Management and Planning, **Professor Paul Burton**. Previously head of the School for Policy Studies at the University of Bristol, UK he has been researching urban policy issues for the last twenty five years. Gold Coast City Council has contributed \$1 million over five years towards the position and the research project.



Professor Graham Cuskelly has been appointed the Griffith Business School's new Dean of Research. His research portfolio includes a focus on professional sports business, sports management, community development and volunteering, and his strategic focus will take the Griffith Business School's

research to new depths. Taking the reins as Head of the Department of Politics and Public Policy is **Dr Robyn Hollander** who was recently appointed to the position, within the Griffith Business School. Formerly a member of the department, Dr Hollander is well positioned to continue increasing the profile of the department and ensuring the high quality of teaching and research in the area continues.



Crucifixion: the apple branch
1950 Christchurch, Aotearoa New Zealand
oil on canvas
89.0 x 117.0 cm
Purchased with funds from the Sir Otto and Lady Margaret Frankel Bequest 2004
Collection National Gallery of Australia

Colin McCahon
born Aotearoa New Zealand 1919
died Aotearoa New Zealand 1987

What's on

Lectures and conferences

**Monday, 29 October to
Wednesday, 31 October**

Managing Knowledge, Technology and Development in the Era of Information Revolution

The theme of the Fifth International World Association for Sustainable Development (WASD) Conference is 'Managing Knowledge, Technology and Development in the Era of Information'. The event will provide opportunities to discuss sustainable development issues, along with a framework for understanding and action. Presented by the Griffith Asia Institute and the Griffith Business School Department of International Business and Asian Studies Visit: www.worldsustainable.org/conferences/conferences.html

**Monday, October 29 to
Wednesday, October 31**

Fifth International World Association for Sustainable Development Conference

The theme for this year's conference is 'Managing Knowledge, Technology and Development in the Era of Information Revolution'. Building knowledge societies and the advancement of knowledge-based practices is an essential component of globalisation and sustainable economic growth, particularly in developing countries. The event will provide opportunities to discuss sustainable development issues, along with a framework for understanding and action. The conference is presented by the Griffith Asia Institute and the Griffith Business School Department of International Business and Asian Studies.

Exhibition

Until October 28

Colin McCahon: A National Gallery of Australia Focus Exhibition. As part of its 25th-anniversary year, the National Gallery of Australia is proud to be touring a focus exhibition that celebrates the work of one of the most widely acclaimed Aotearoa New Zealand artists, Colin McCahon. The exhibition brings together paintings and works on paper that reflect key concerns in McCahon's art from 1950 through to the early 1980s. **When:** Until October 28. **Where:** DELL Gallery @ QCA **Cost:** Free. www.griffith.edu.au/centre/artworks

Concerts

Friday, October 5

Celebration Concert – Percussion and New Music: A program of landmark works including performances by Ba Da Boom Percussion Ensemble directed by Vanessa Tomlinson and guest ensembles from South-East Queensland schools. Two world premieres by Erik Griswold and Gerard Brophy, are the highlights. **Time:** 7.30pm. **Venue:** Conservatorium Theatre, South Bank. **Cost:** \$20/\$10 qtx 136 246 or www.qtx.com.au

Wednesday, October 10

Noriko Ogawa: "Every bar of these new performances confirms Ogawa as a most elegant, scrupulously sensitive interpreter...you could hardly find a more skilful or sympathetic artist from a younger generation than Noriko Ogawa." - *Bryce Morrison, Gramophone Magazine (2003)* **Time:** 6pm. **Venue:** Concert Hall, QPAC. **Cost:** \$20/\$10 qtx 136 246 or www.qtx.com.au

Friday, October 12

Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra: Featuring alumnus Brett Dean's Ariel Music for Clarinet and Orchestra as well as the Australian premiere of American Remo Mazzetti Jnr's version of Mahler's unfinished Tenth Symphony. **Time:** 7.30pm. **Venue:** Conservatorium Theatre, South Bank. **Cost:** \$25/\$15 qtx 136 246 or www.qtx.com.au

Friday, October 19

Griffith Trio Concert 4: This program presents works from both ends of Shostakovich's life—from the precocious trio written in his late teens to a spectacular arrangement of his last symphony. The colourful addition of three percussionists playing over a dozen different instruments will make this a memorable climax to the concert season. **Time:** 6pm. **Venue:** Ian Hanger Recital Hall, South Bank. **Cost:** \$20/\$10/\$5 qtx 136 246 or www.qtx.com.au

Wednesday, October 24

Concluding this celebratory tenth Kawai Keyboard Series, Christopher Wrench takes charge of the Grand Klais Organ of the QPAC Concert Hall to extract every last ounce of sound from this magnificent instrument. From classic Bach and Widor to works by Messiaen, this is a feast for the organ music lovers of Queensland. **Time:** 6pm. **Venue:** Concert Hall, QPAC. **Cost:** \$20/\$10 qtx 136 246 or www.qtx.com.au

Friday, October 26

Fortepiano and Friends: The fortepiano was invented in Italy in the early 18th century and was soon adopted throughout Europe, including the various countries of the Mediterranean. This program will trace a musical journey of experimentation and discovery during the 18th century. **Time:** 6pm. **Venue:** Ian Hanger Recital Hall, South Bank. **Cost:** \$10 (at the door).

Saturday, October 27

Celebration Concert—A Choral Spectacular: Former director, Roy Wales will return to direct this memorable concert. The repertoire includes a performance of Orff's rarely heard sequel to 'Carmina Burana' - Catulli Carmina. **Time:** 7.30pm. **Venue:** Conservatorium Theatre, South Bank. **Cost:** \$20/\$10 qtx 136 246 or www.qtx.com.au