**QCL Gazette**

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### What happened in 2008!

Queensland Compound Library (QCL) officially opened to public and private organizations in the middle of 2008. Offering fully integrated microtube and plate storage facilities with sample processing, it makes QCL the first dedicated compound management facility in the Southern Hemisphere.

QCL utilizes an Agilent (formerly Velocity 11) BioCel 1800 system that supports a Labcyte Echo 550 ADE® for nanolitre dispensing, microtube and microplate liquid handlers, barcoding applications, plate sealing, and full integration to tube and plate storage, via the ComPOUND® and asmPlateStoreII™ units.

In 2008, Cancer Therapeutics CRC (CTx) was QCL’s inaugural customer with the introduction of > 150,000 compounds into tube storage and an additional 100,000 compounds in plates. With a combined total of just under 250,000 compounds, all samples have been processed into "Mother" plates and are stored in the PlateStore to facilitate screening campaigns. QCL has already “stamped” out 3 sets of the CTx plate libraries and distributed them to their screening sites. Further information on the CTx library to follow.

### New ComPOUND® arrival

With new members joining QCL in 2009 and 2010, the purchase of a new ComPOUND® became a high priority. At the end of March 2009, QCL increased their tube storage capacity from 200,000 to 300,000.

The initial two stores are 2/3 full. Over the coming months, QCL will “even out” the tubes so that retrieval of compounds by the ComPANION®, that resides in the BioCel 1800, will be more efficient.
The CTx story so far...

In 2008, the CTx library was processed from 3 separate vendors into microtubes, and then processed into “mother” plates to facilitate their screening requirements. The vendors supplied the compounds in deepwell microplates or microtube formats, where the compounds were solubilised in DMSO to a concentration of 5mM. CTx are utilising the Labcyte Echo 550 ADE® for nanolitre dispensing. This requires samples to be processed into Labcyte approved microplates. All microplates are barcoded, individually sealed with a Sealite™ lid and stored under low O2, low temperature for further use.

From mid 2008, QCL has supplied and distributed 3 sets of the 250K CTx plate library to their screening sites and a partial library set in early 2009. Two of the screens utilized the Echo 550 ADE® for volumes <50nL. The other 2 screens utilized the VPrep liquid handler for >0.5uL.

Other types of screening plates supplied from QCL to the CTx screening sites in the past year include:

- triplicate point retest plates
- 3pt concentration response plates
- tube cherrypicking of compounds for sample testing

Moana’s story

I completed my Bachelor of Science (Hons) in 1998 at Griffith University, primarily in Biochemistry and Chemistry. I began my career as a screening biologist at Natural Product Discovery (NPD), now part of the Eskitis Institute. During my 7 years at NPD, I developed my screening techniques and found a love for robotics and informatics. I took a leave of absence from NPD, and undertook a years’ secondment with AstraZeneca Alderley Park, working in the High Throughput Screening section. I had an enjoyable year at AZ, where I also travelled throughout the UK, Europe and USA.

Upon returning to Australia, I resumed my position in the screening team at NPD and since mid 2007, I was employed by QCL. This was an exciting new role that I just knew would be the kind of challenge I would love to “sink my teeth into”. I just couldn’t help putting a vampire reference in! In mid 2008, I was made Manager of QCL, a role I got to develop and cement as my own.

Stephen Toms’ (Instrumentation Engineer) story in next issue....
**Calendar access**

All members have access to the QCL Calendar via Gmail. Using the following URL [http://www.google.com/gmail](http://www.google.com/gmail) will bring up the login window (Contact Moana for the username/password).

Upon entering the correct details, the GMail account associated with this login will be displayed. Click on Calendar in the top right hand corner. The QCL calendar will be displayed.

This displays the current and tentative workload scheduled for QCL. Every organisation, currently a member of QCL, is shown by a different colour.

Below is a snapshot of the next two months schedule. Moana updates the schedule daily and will contact customers should there be any changes. Existing customers need to contact Moana either by email or phone to schedule new or continuing work. New customers please contact David. Please refer to Contacts for all their details.

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If anyone wishes to contribute to the next newsletter, please contact Moana. Next issue scheduled August 2009.