By the time of Council’s first meeting in 2007, Semester One classes will have commenced on 26 February with over 7,500 new students across the five campuses. Eleven new programs accepted their first intake and 75 Sir Samuel Griffith Scholarships offered (of whom 66 are OP1-3) for the first time. On the research front, Griffith University did extremely well in the most recent round of NHMRC Training Fellowships and Scholarships. Detailed information is contained later in my report.

I am pleased to report that the Bridge across Smith Street on the Gold Coast has been erected providing a critical link from the existing campus to the new Smith Street land. It is expected that the Bridge will be open to pedestrian traffic at the beginning of Semester One.

The Queensland Premier, The Honourable Peter Beattie together with the Health Minister, The Honourable Stephen Robertson attended the official welcome and orientation for the University medical students at the Centre for Medicine and Oral Health in January. The University welcomed its third and largest cohort of medical students onto campus. (Attachment 1)

Queensland's first National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies will be located at Griffith University following the announcement of Commonwealth funding worth $8 million. Griffith University is working in partnership with the University of Melbourne and the University of Western Sydney on developing a range of new Islamic studies programs for Australia at the new Centre. Dr Mohamad Abdalla, Director of the Griffith University’s Islamic Research Unit (GIRU) will act as Director of the new Centre’s Queensland branch. (Attachment 2)

On 12th February 2007, Griffith University hosted a highly successful one-day symposium on international university rankings and classifications. The Symposium was attended by almost 120 participants from more than 30 Australian universities plus delegates from the Australian Department of Education, Science and Training, the New Zealand Ministry of Education, the AVCC, university groupings, and other agencies with an interest in this issue such as the Australian Universities Quality Agency.

Vice Chancellor’s Report to Council – March 2007
The Symposium featured several of the most authoritative speakers in the world on this topic:

- Professor Nian Cai Liu, Shanghai Jiao Tong University Academic Ranking of World Universities
- Professor Marijk van der Wende, Professor of Comparative Higher Education Policy Studies, University of Twente, The Netherlands; President, Governing Board, OECD Programme on Institutional Management in Higher Education
- Ben Sowter, Head of Rankings Research and Analysis, Times HES-QS World University Rankings
- Dr Marguerite Clarke, Member of the International Ranking Expert Group
- Professor Ross Williams and Dr Nina van Dyke, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research
- Professor Simon Marginson, Australian Professorial Fellow, Centre for the Study of Higher Education, The University of Melbourne

The primary objective of the event was to inform the university sector, higher education policymakers, media and other interested parties about emerging trends in world and national university rankings and classification schemes, how these should be interpreted, how to make the best use of the rich information provided, and whether they are in the public interest.

The Symposium also established Griffith University as a leader in this important debate and has already ensured the University's inclusion in the academic survey for the Times HES-QS world university rankings and an invitation from Shanghai Jiao Tong University to attend a world conference on university rankings in October. (Attachment 3)

On 24th February I welcomed the Minister of Environment, Republic of Indonesia, Mr Rachmat Witoelar to Griffith University's South Bank campus for the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement to establish a Centre for Excellence in Sustainable Development for Indonesia and Griffith University. The significance and timeliness of this initiative is particularly important given the heightened awareness of environmental and climate change issues around the world.

It is very pleasing to note that Ms Tania Major, 2007 Young Australian of the Year graduated from Griffith in 2002 with a BA in Criminology and Criminal Justice. Tania works at the Cape York Institute of Policy and Leadership where she advocates for Indigenous youth. Her continuing goal is to improve educational opportunities for youth in remote communities in Cape York.

Research

RQF Update

Preparations for the RQF are now gathering momentum, following the adoption by the Minister of the RQF Recommended Model in December 2006. Dr Vicki Pattemore commenced working full time as the RQF Director in December. We are currently recruiting to complete the RQF Project.
Team, which will include four RQF project officers to assist academics and RQF Research Group Co-ordinators to complete their respective individual and Research Group evidence portfolios.

Information collected through the Griffith Evidence Portfolio (GEP) last year has been analysed by the RQF Project Team as the first step towards the formation of Griffith's RQF Research Groups. Discussions have commenced with Pro Vice Chancellors and research leaders within the Academic Groups to develop this further. A new revised GEP will open in April /May to allow staff to update their information to include 2006 data and respond to new requirements contained in the final RQF Model.

RQF Information Workshops will commence for all staff in April, to be followed by more specific RQF Impact Workshops designed to help researchers think about how to document and present the wider community impact of their research. External experts are being engaged to assist with these exercises, aided by impact case study examples being contributed by a number of senior Griffith academics.

DEST will run implementation trials during the first half of 2007. Griffith has expressed strong interest in participating in these, particularly as a means of increasing the practicality of processes for dealing with multidisciplinary research and research areas with non-traditional outputs such as creative and performing arts. We are also discussing with our IRUA colleagues the possibility of setting up later in the year some RQF-style Panels to provide independent external feedback on the draft portfolios we develop for our RQF Research Groups, as this would further enhance our prospects for successful outcomes with the RQF.

In parallel with these preparations, the University is commencing a project to establish a restricted-access RQF Digital Repository, as an extension of the work already done in launching our open-access research repository, Griffith Research Online. This responds to DEST's requirement that all universities create a digital repository in-house to hold copies of all 'Top-4' outputs submitted as part of their RQF Research Group evidence portfolios.

**Significant new project grants**

Dr John Tisdell of the Australian Rivers Institute was awarded $660,000 over three years from the National Markets Based Instruments (MBI) Pilot Program for two projects ‘Improving Water Quality Discharge from the Lockyer Creek’ and ‘Issues of Enforcement and Regulation in the Application of Market Based Instruments’. The National MBI Pilots Program, an initiative of the Resource Management Ministerial Council, seeks to increase Australia's capacity to use MBIs in managing natural resource issues, in particular to address the problems of salinity and water quality.

Dr Fran O'Callaghan, Professor Peter Creed and Associate Professor Melanie Zimmer-Gembeck, of the School of Psychology, were awarded $56,750 by the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund for the project ‘Motivating Young People Towards Success: Evaluation of a Motivational - Interviewing - Integrated Treatments Program for Clients in a Residential Therapeutic Community.

The Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Government has recently received funding from the Department of Communities to fund The **Griffith Youth Forensic Service Project**. Funding is $1,463,421 over a three year period. Additionally, Key Centre researchers Professor Ross Homel and Dr Kate Freiberg have secured $50,000 from the Department of Communities towards the next major stage of the **Pathways to Prevention and Linking to Learn** initiatives.

**ARC Discovery Projects Strategy for 2008 – update on progress**

The lists of unsuccessful applicants for ARC Discovery Grants were provided, with recommendations for action, to the Group Pro Vice Chancellors on 9 November 2006.

On 13 November 2006 the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) emailed the thirty seven staff that held the most highly ranked unsuccessful ARC Discovery Applications encouraging them to resubmit their ARC Discovery applications in 2007. Researchers were invited to make an appointment with Professor Bob Breakspere to discuss how they could enhance their applications. Twenty five staff members discussed their applications with Professor Breakspere in November and a further fifty two appointments were made with him in February.
On 22 November, the Office for Research submitted 22 applications to the ARC's Linkage Projects Round 2 for 2007.

The salient features of the applications submitted in this round include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Group</th>
<th>2007 Round 2 Applications</th>
<th>2006 Round 2 (comparison)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science, Environment, Engineering &amp; Technology</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Education &amp; Law</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Griffith Business School</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security
In mid 2006 the ARC called for proposals for an ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security. Griffith University led one of five bids made for funding under this call. The Griffith bid also involves ANU, Charles Sturt University and twenty other collaborating organisations, including international university partners and industry collaborators from the police and security sector. The Griffith led bid is one of two finalists.

CRC for Cancer Therapeutics
Griffith University is to become the Queensland home of Australia's newest cancer research centre.

The seven-year project will be partly funded by a $37.6m Commonwealth Cooperative Research Centre grant, and will utilise the expertise of Griffith's drug discovery team to identify new treatments to halt the development and spread of Australia's biggest killers; breast, prostate, ovarian, lung and bowel cancers.

The $148 million Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Cancer Therapeutics will be headquartered at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute Biotechnology Centre in Victoria, with Griffith University the only Queensland partner, providing State leadership in drug discovery against cancer.

The Queensland arm of the Centre will be based at Griffith University's Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies in Brisbane, and will work cooperatively with other participants including Victorian research institutes, CSIRO and commercialisation partners Cancer Research Technologies (UK), Bionomics Limited and Millipore/Chemicon Corporation.

NHMRC Fellowships – report on results for 2007
Griffith University preformed exceptionally in the most recent round of NHMRC Training Fellowships and Scholarships. Griffith was awarded six from ten applications with an additional two persons being listed as reserves. The successful applicants and their supervisors are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Researcher</th>
<th>Type of award</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
<th>Supervisor's school/centre</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Total Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anneliese Spinks</td>
<td>Public Health (Australia) Fellowship</td>
<td>Rod McClure</td>
<td>School of Medicine</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>274,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Cameron</td>
<td>Public Health (Australia) Fellowship</td>
<td>Paul Scuffham</td>
<td>School of Medicine</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>274,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Lichtwark</td>
<td>Peter Doherty Fellowship</td>
<td>Chris Barclay</td>
<td>School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>274,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
No figures are available regarding national success rates however the following table provides some information on Griffith's performance in relation to other QLD institutions and members of the IRU. Nationally there were 130 Postdoc Fellowships awarded and 161 Scholarships awarded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Number of Postdoc Fellowships</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>No of Scholarships</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Total funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QIMR</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2,592,854</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,592,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UQ</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,419,782</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>759,540</td>
<td>2,179,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,303,500</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>84,924</td>
<td>1,388,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Griffith</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,326,534</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>53,078</td>
<td>1,379,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUT</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>538,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>538,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flinders</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>269,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>155,493</td>
<td>424,493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Trobe</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>291,278</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>63,693</td>
<td>354,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mater medical Research Institute</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>127,386</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>127,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Cook</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>53,078</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>53,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macquarie</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murdoch</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Funds Awarded Postdoc Fellowships &amp; Scholarships</strong></td>
<td><strong>44,620,685</strong></td>
<td><strong>44,620,685</strong></td>
<td><strong>44,620,685</strong></td>
<td><strong>44,620,685</strong></td>
<td><strong>44,620,685</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Commercialisation**
Motorola (Phoenix, USA) completed fabrication of a set of integrated environmental sensors for Richard Adamec, Griffith School of Engineering and the Centre for Wireless Monitoring and Applications. These sensors measure wind speed and direction, temperature, humidity, and light intensity and can be integrated with CMOS silicon circuits. These are now being tested at Griffith University with a view to mass production at their facility.

**Learning**

*National Learning & Teaching Performance Fund*
On Thursday 7 December, 2006 the Minister for Education, Science and Training, The Honourable Julie Bishop MP, announced that Griffith would receive $500,000 as part of the 2007 National Learning and Teaching Performance Fund. These funds in conjunction with those available through the 2007 Griffith Grants for Learning and Teaching has resulted in the allocation of more than $1 million to support the following activities for the enhancement of learning and teaching at Griffith:
University-wide initiatives include:

- a set of staff development modules and activities focused on Work Integrated Learning (WiL) led by Calvin Smith from Griffith Institute for Higher Education;
- support for the Work Integrated Learning Community of Practice, to identify suitable ICT (information and communication technology) programs to support WiL and practicum placements;
- an evidence-based retention project focused on understanding and addressing retention at the program level, to be conducted by the Office of Quality, Planning and Statistics;
- a project on assessment, to develop strategies to reduce the weight of assessment on students while improving its quality and effectiveness in promoting learning outcomes;
- further support for retention initiatives; and
- provision of funds to Groups to support student mentoring programs.

Funds are to be provided to the Griffith Business School and the Law School for strategic projects, in view of their high achievement on the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund indicators.

Group initiatives are outlined in Attachment 4.

**Collaboration with Education Queensland**

A collaboration between Griffith and Education Queensland lead by Associate Professor Richard John, Griffith School of Environment, has resulted in a successful bid for $180 000 per year for three years from 2007 to professionally develop teachers in Science education through the Science Centre for Innovative Professional Practice (SCIPP). The SCIPP concept, which is now being used across the state, was modelled on Griffith’s collaboration with Education Queensland in which teachers were seconded to Griffith to assist in professional development activities as well as extension activities for school students.

**Work Integrated Learning (WIL)**

The School of Information and Communication Technology at Logan has introduced an innovative new program for 2007 - the Bachelor of Information Technology @ Work. This program enables students to complete the first three semesters of their degree on campus and then seek employment in the IT industry whilst completing the remainder through external and summer semester courses. There are currently 27 students enrolled.

The new Dual Diploma/Degree in Nursing enables TAFE students to complete three of the Bachelor of Nursing - Pre-registration courses at Logan Campus as part of their Diploma of Nursing Care Pre-enrolment. Completion of the Diploma will provide students with guaranteed entry to the B Nursing - Pre-registration at Logan. Upon completion of three semesters of the degree, students will be able to complete an exam and undertake a practical placement through TAFE over summer semester to meet the registration requirements for enrolment for an Enrolled Nurse. This will enable our continuing students to access better employment opportunities with an Enrolled Nurse qualification. There are currently 37 TAFE students enrolled with Griffith.

**Carrick Awards For Australian University Teaching**

On Tuesday 28 November, 2006 the Minister for Education, Science and Training, The Honourable Julie Bishop announced at Parliament House that Griffith’s Phillip Rodgers-Falk was a recipient of the Indigenous Education (Neville Bonner) Award and Salvatore (Sam) Di Mauro was a recipient of the Humanities and the Arts Award in the 2006 Carrick Awards for Australian University Teaching.

Associate Professor George Mellick, newly appointed to Griffith’s Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies, Eskitis, was also awarded a 2006 Carrick Award. Associate Professor Mellick was part of the winning team from the University of Queensland for their Research Student Virtual Portfolio in the category of Postgraduate Education Programs that Enhance Learning.

These awards are highly prestigious within the university community and help us celebrate and reward those teachers who demonstrate the highest level of professionalism and enthusiasm. Both Phillip and Sam were recipients of 2005 Griffith Awards for Excellence in Teaching and
Faculty Learning and Teaching Citations. Griffith’s Carrick Awards for Australian University Teaching applicants were once again supported in the development of their applications by the Secretariat team of Karen van Haeringen, Christine Grimmer, Rae-Anne Locke and Jennifer Martin.

In 2006 Carrick received a total of 197 applications for Awards for Teaching and for Programs that Enhance Learning, 24% of which were submitted by Queensland universities. In total 33 awards were granted, 27% of which were awarded to Queensland universities. Griffith, Queensland University of Technology, University of Queensland and University of Southern Queensland all receiving two awards each.

Carrick Fellowship Scheme
The University submitted three applications for the Carrick Fellowship scheme: two associate fellowships and one senior fellowship.

The Associate Fellowship Applicants are:
Associate Professor Stephen Billett
-Creating pedagogical models for practice based learning that develop agentic professionals.

Associate Professor Amanda Henderson and Dr Heather Alexander
- Developing a model for inter-professional learning during clinical placements for medical and nursing undergraduate students

The Senior Fellowship Applicant is:
Professor Michelle Barker
- To lead, not lag: The development of a whole of Faculty model to mainstream globally responsive leadership in Business Education in Australia.

Course Outlines
Semester 1, 2007 marks the beginning of the second year in which Course Convenors are required to submit and publish their Course Outlines by the end of the first week of February. There has been an excellent response to the requirement to publish Course Outlines for semester 1, 2007. Over 75% of all courses requiring an outline were submitted for publication via the Course Outline System by the deadline of 2 February 2007. This is marginally higher than at the same time in semester 1, 2006.

Student surveys relating to the utilisation of outlines by students, and the value they attach to them, are undertaken annually. In last year's survey, over 80% of students surveyed reported having accessed the outlines before the start of semester, of whom 95% reported the outlines as being useful to them. Nearly a third of students accessing outlines reported that it informed their decisions about enrolments. The 2007 student survey relating to the use of Course Outlines will be conducted in Week 3.

People: Staff
Achievements
Professor Roger Kitching, School of Environment has been invited to participate in a “High-level Expert Advisory Group on Climate Change and Biodiversity” recently established by the federal Department of Environment and Heritage, through the Australian Greenhouse Office. This group of six distinguished researchers are charged to make a strategic assessment of Australian national policy in this area. The assessment, which will need to be concluded by June 2008, will contribute to setting national priorities for research, monitoring, modelling and adaption strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

Professor Sharon Dawe, School of Psychology has recently been appointed as Deputy Chair of the NHMRC Project Grant Review Panel (GRP) 5i – Psychiatry/Psychology.

Professor Peter Lisner (ENG & Centre for Wireless Monitoring and Applications (CWMA)) has negotiated with the Australian Microelectronics Centre to gain access to the industry standard Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI) Design tools via the Design Centre at Eight Mile Plains. He
has also secured VLSI circuit fabrication access for his PhD and masters degree students using the same organisation. The arrangement began in January 2007.

Griffith's Information and Technology School hosted the 8th International Robot Olympiad in December. This is the first time the event has been held in Australia, and attracted 600 students from 15 countries. Chairman Jun Jo and his team did a huge amount of work to bring this event to Australia, and provided an excellent forum to showcase Australia's, and Griffith University's, robotics expertise to the world.

The Griffith Business School recently congratulated Professor John Kane and Associate Professor Haig Patapan on receiving the William E. Mosher and Frederick C. Mosher Award for their article titled 'In Search of Prudence: The Hidden Problem of Managerial Reform'. This award is presented for the best Public Administration Review article written by an academic.

I was pleased to be appointed by the Premier as a Smart State Ambassador on Tuesday 20 February, alongside fellow Griffith colleague, Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe. (Attachment 5)

Professorial Appointments
A number of professorial appointments have been made since my last report to Council in December 2006. (Attachment 6)

People: Students
Development & Alumni
The new Development & Alumni office at Nathan and Gold Coast campuses were launched in February 2007. Director Anne Gribbin introduced her team and launched the booklet Development and Alumni at a glance over morning tea.

The first Professional Women’s Network event for 2007 will be held on Friday, 2 March in the Function Room @ the Ship Inn, South Bank. The Griffith Business School is delighted to have Ms Grace Grace as the keynote speaker, presenting “The Changing Landscape of Employment for Women”. Grace was the first woman in the Queensland Council of Union’s history to be elected to the position of General Secretary, and has held this position since October 2000.

Achievements
Griffith School of Engineering 2002/03 PhD graduate Dr Glenn Wilson was awarded Young Scientist of the Year by CSIRO in November, for developing 3D imaging software that is now being used in mineral exploration on every continent except Antarctica. He has just secured a senior role with BP's marine offshore exploration unit working between Texas and the UK.

PhD Engineering students, Amin Ahmadi, Justin Channells and Neil Davey, in collaboration with the Queensland Academy of Sport Centre of Excellence, won a Minister's Award for Innovation and Creativity for their work on wireless monitoring of sport performance at the inaugural Minister’s Excellence Awards in October 2006. This award recognises innovative contribution by researchers to Queensland based technology, maintaining the state’s international reputation in research and scientific development.

Peter Johnson, PhD student, Engineering, has just returned from the Antarctic where he was on base supporting the electronics facilities. He is about to submit his PhD on soil moisture sensing - a device currently being commercialised by Senviro Pty Ltd, a local company created from the CRC for Microtechnology.

Griffith Business School PhD student, Dr Muhammad Shoaib Butt achieved academic excellence in 2006 for his PhD thesis entitled “Impact of tariff cuts on Pakistan: a computable general equilibrium analysis with particular focus on main exports and regional disparities”. Academic excellence lists research students who have received perfect examination results (i.e. no revisions) from all examiners of their thesis. Muhammad is the only graduate from the Griffith Business School to have achieved this accolade.
Physical facilities and information resources

A detailed report on Capital and Minor Works across the University is attached. *(Attachment 7)*

**Information Services**

Learning@Griffith is being upgraded and enhanced in time for the 2007 academic year. Enhancements include an upgrade to Blackboard incorporating many improvements based on feedback from Blackboard clients, installation of new tools which allow teaching staff to have greater control over materials available to students and which allow for the discovery of re-usable learning objects and assets using a search or browse interface. The improvements are a response to requests from staff and students.

**eAgenda**

Griffith University has been a major sponsor of the eAgenda series of international events for the previous three years. These events, aimed at maturing the application and ongoing development of e-learning, e-training and knowledge management initiatives, have brought together individuals from the education, industry and government sectors worldwide. Since 2002, eAgenda has run a series of highly participatory Roundtables, Summits and Forums, culminating in an offer to produce a special edition of the International Journal of Learning Technology based on the outcomes of these activities.

A special edition on *E-Learning, E-Training and E-Knowledge: Visions and Observations* from eAgenda was published in December 2006, guest edited by Darien Rossiter and Michael Crock of Griffith University. The Special Edition brings together 7 key articles plus editorial resulting in a publication with a truly international perspective on e-learning.

**Engagement and Community Partnerships**

**VeryGC Global Business Insights Forum 25-26 February 2007**

Griffith is a major sponsor of this forum which focuses on the theme of “Pioneering perspectives that change the world” and brings together US economist Dr Alan Greenspan, Ricardo Semler, champion of corporate re-engineering, and Michael ‘Kell’ Ryan, co-founder of Ryanair, the largest low cost airline in Europe. I have the pleasure of giving the opening address at the lunch which will be attended by approximately 1,000 delegates.

The University will be well profiled at the Forum with Griffith staff on hand to provide advice on our range of program offerings and to showcase our research activities. Additionally, our corporate television advertisements will be shown during the Forum.

**Office For Community Partnerships**

**Community Partnership Grants**

In late 2006 applications were sought for projects that relate to the University’s core functions and which enhance the University’s engagement with the community. A total of 60 applications requesting approximately $925,000 were received.

On 27 November the Community Partnerships Committee approved funding for the following Community Partnership projects:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Leader(s)</th>
<th>Budget Allocated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understanding our Rivers using digital technologies – a learning partnership</td>
<td>Griffith School of Environment Faculty of</td>
<td>Dr Fran Sheldon, Dr Julie Dunn</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>between Griffith scientists and Queensland primary school children</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Healthy Partnership – The University as a Partner in the Development of Health</td>
<td>Human Services</td>
<td>A/Prof Elizabeth Kendall, Professor Marianne Wallis, A/Prof Scott Baum, A/Prof Peter Howard</td>
<td>$17,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiatives in Logan</td>
<td>School of Nursing and Midwifery Urban Planning Public Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Griffith Science Club</td>
<td>Griffith School of Environment</td>
<td>A/Prof Richard John</td>
<td>$16,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An after-school science club targeted at senior primary and middle school</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>students in which hands-on, science based, education workshops are carried</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out on-site at schools as a weekly after-school activity.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underground at the Basement</td>
<td>Queensland Conservatorium</td>
<td>A/Prof Garry Tamlyn</td>
<td>$15,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A performance venue and a regular event held at The Basement, Gold Coast Arts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre. Its primary aims are to showcase emerging Gold Coast musicians with</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>strong commercial potential and to develop strong community support for the</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>local music industry.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhancing social connection and community capacity of refugee groups in the</td>
<td>School of Public Health</td>
<td>Dr Shawn Somerset</td>
<td>$17,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logan region through a campus-based community garden</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money Circles – Facilitating financial capacity with financially excluded</td>
<td>Griffith Business School</td>
<td>Ms Victoria Vyvyan, Dr Mark Brimble</td>
<td>$17,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>people in the Logan area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Multi-Faith Centre (MFC)
On 11 January, Venerable Master Chin Kung AM, President, Pure Land Learning College, visited the MFC and kindly presented Professor Max Standage, Pro Vice Chancellor (Community Partnerships) with a donation of $350,000 to fund the MFC’s 2007 programs. This donation was the second of the two year extension of the College’s funding of the MFC after the initial 2003-2005 $1 million grant.

On 21 January, the MFC conducted its first two activities for 2007. With the co-sponsorship of Issues Deliberation Australia and the Griffith Islamic Research Unit, a 3-hour Round-table Deliberation on Muslims in Australia was held. Over 50 Muslims in the Brisbane area participated, from which 10 were then nominated to join the forthcoming National consultation in Canberra.

Griffith Sports College (GSC)
The GSC is running a unique pilot program entitled “After the Full-time Siren” which comprises a series of workshops for young professional athletes from the major professional sporting teams in Brisbane. The non-award certificate course will run for 16 weeks, from March through to July and is aimed at providing ‘rookie athletes’ with general life skills to assist with the transition to professional sport. Initial media and corporate interest in the pilot project has been very promising.
and has the potential to attract nationwide interest from other sporting codes. The course is being run on the South Bank campus on Wednesday evenings, beginning 28 March 2007.

**Appointment – Professor of Indigenous Policy**

Professor Boni Robertson, has been appointed as Professor of Indigenous Policy, within the Office for Community Partnerships at Logan. Professor Robertson is currently leading the Indigenous Community Engagement Awards, which will be held on Wednesday 21 March at Logan campus. The event will be attended by a number of community leaders including the Governor of Queensland and aims to showcase a range of community engagement projects.

**Health 4 Life Challenge**

Since 1989, Griffith University has supported the Excellence Expo competition. This competition was designed to provide secondary school students with an opportunity to extend and express themselves through the development of an original project. This year, given the urgency of promoting good health and healthy lifestyles, particularly amongst young people, the Excellence Expo Committee has agreed to change the nature of the competition to a *Health 4 Life Challenge*.

The *Health 4 Life Challenge* aims to promote and encourage better health practices within the community. Similar to Excellence Expo, the competition is open to secondary school students and provides an opportunity to extend and express themselves through the development of an innovative, creative and original project relating to health issues. Applications for entry close on 16 March 2007. The *Health 4 Life Challenge* will be held at Nathan campus on Sunday, 15 July to coincide with the University’s Open Day.

**Eco Centre**

In December 2006, the EcoCentre hosted its most successful community forum to date. The topic, ‘Climate Change: How do we adapt?’ was attended by 150 people from the South East Queensland community. The success of this forum has led to another climate change presentation to be held in March. In its third year the forums are proving to be an important avenue in creating environmental awareness on issues that are important to our community members. In 2007 there are seven planned forums on topics such as water, energy, waste and sustainable living.

**International**

*International Administration And Marketing*

Semester 1, 2007 saw Griffith University welcome its first group of AusAID students in four years. This is a significant achievement and, given our research strengths, we expect this market will continue to grow. Twelve students commenced study this semester with country representation from the Solomon Islands, Vietnam and Papua New Guinea. The International Office will work closely with AusAID Posts and academic staff over the coming year to ensure Griffith University is well known in the region, particularly in areas targeted by the Australian Development Scheme including Education, Environment and Public Health.

At the time of writing this report, it appears that Griffith University’s international student numbers will continue to grow, despite a nationwide plateau in some traditional markets. Griffith continues to record strong numbers from China with many students using Griffith English Language Institute’s (GELI’s) Direct Entry Program to satisfy English language requirements. Numbers from India have also increased with the MBA (International) proving a popular program in this market. Griffith continues to attract students from the Middle East, in particular Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Many of these students are sponsored by employers or by country ministries. It is anticipated that Griffith University will also see significant growth in government-sponsored students from Saudi Arabia in the coming years with an announcement that over 1,400 scholarships will be allocated to students choosing to study in Australia. Our prestigious partner strategies have proved very effective in capturing students in the study abroad market, with numbers from Germany increasing by 20% from last year.

Postgraduate international numbers have outperformed undergraduate to date. Postgraduate program acceptances have increased by 20% compared with same time last year. Strong degree performers in the postgraduate area have been the Master of Nutrition and Dietetics, Master of Engineering and Project Management, the Master of Environmental Engineering, Master of Education and the Master of Aviation Management. The Graduate Certificates in Business have
also performed relatively well. The outstanding undergraduate performer has been the Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science and there has been a very strong demand for nursing programs but insufficient places to meet this demand.

Overall we expect to meet, if not marginally exceed our target of 3.6% increase in 2007.

**Delegations**

Griffith University hosted 21 international delegation visits between 9 November 2006 and 6 February 2007. The highlights were as follows:

**China:**
Chinese Academy of Sciences
Professor Yongxiang LU, President of Chinese Academy of Sciences and Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, led a delegation to Griffith on Friday, 10 November 2006. I hosted the delegates and was joined by Professor Ned Pankhurst, Pro Vice Chancellor (Science, Environment, Engineering & Technology). The delegates toured some of our world-class research laboratories and were impressed by Griffith’s strong commitment to research and teaching excellence.

Hebei University of Technology (HUT)
On Friday 1 December, Professor John Dewar, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) hosted a visiting delegation led by Professor Runhua Tan, Vice President of HUT. The visit followed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with HUT in September 2006 and focussed on cooperation, especially with the Griffith School of Engineering.

Shanghai Normal University (Institute of Tourism)
On 16 December 2006, Professor Xingshu Ruan, Vice President of Shanghai Normal University, and a delegation visited Griffith University to sign a MOU and discussed cooperation between the Shanghai Institute of Tourism and Griffith Business School.

Peking University
On 31 January 2007, a group of 19 delegates from Peking University and “211” Project Universities visited Griffith University to examine our flexible learning and access services. The delegation showed strong interest in our online system “Learning@Griffith” and “Blackboard learning system”.

**Indonesia:**

Ministry of Environment (MOE), Indonesia
On Friday 2 February 2007, I hosted five senior Indonesian officials, including Mr Arief, Director General of the Ministry of Environment, who visited Griffith University to prepare the way for a future visit by the Indonesian Minister of Environment (MOE). The visit follows an MOU signed between Griffith and the MOE in 2006 initiated by Professor Cordia Chu, Director and Peter Davey, Deputy Director of the Centre for Environment and Population Health. Presentations on Environmental Management and Sustainability from the Griffith Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology Group were well received. The delegation also met with Professor Ned Pankhurst, Pro Vice Chancellor Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology and academic staff.

**Partner Institutions:**

Other partner institutions visited Griffith University during this period, in an effort to further strengthen our collaborations. They included delegations from:

- The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR) – 27 November 2006
- Nirma University (India) – 13 November 2006
- Kyung Hee University (Korea) – 11 January 2007
- Daegu University (Korea) – 25 January 2007

Government officials from the Ministry of Higher Education (Malaysia) and Vietnam Ministry of Labour also visited Griffith in December 2006.
Griffith English Language Institute (GELI)

Academic and Professional Program (APP): GELI's Academic and Professional Program (APP) continues to expand its role within the centre. In the first six weeks of 2007 the APP unit has seen over 350 students attend regular language classes and specialized joint programs with other elements within the university across all three centres. The APP unit has received its first group of Aviation English students from Alteon Training, a subsidiary of Boeing Corporation, and looks forward to the continued expansion of this program. Final steps are now in place for the academic English language unit (English Communication for the Public Health Professional) to be delivered in the Masters of Public Health.

English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS): GELI's ELICOS numbers also continue to grow with record enrolments in the first course of 2007. GELI currently has 576 students studying in Brisbane, with 258 at its Gold Coast centre.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Test Centre: Griffith English Language Institute was awarded the tender to open the second IELTS Test Centre in Brisbane in September 2006. IELTS is jointly owned by IDP, British Council and University of Cambridge and is designed to assess the language ability of candidates wishing to study or work where English is the official language of communication. To be awarded an IELTS Test Centre is a significant achievement, bringing international recognition to Griffith University and tangible benefits to students, who are now able to sit their tests at the same institution where they hope to study.

A member of staff with extensive experience in IELTS was seconded from GELI as the IELTS Test Administrator to set up the centre in the International Building at Mount Gravatt. Due to increasing demand for the test Australia-wide, Griffith University was asked to open its centre as soon as possible and our first test, with forty candidates, took place just two months after winning the tender on 9 December 2006. To date we have held three test sessions with 200 candidates and expect to test over 2,000 candidates in eighteen test sessions by the end of 2007. The popularity of the test worldwide is increasing, with over half a million candidates in 2006. The enormous demand for the program is evidenced by the fact that test dates at Griffith are already fully booked until May.

International Business Development Unit (IBDU)
In the fourth quarter of 2006, IBDU was contracted by IDP Dubai to deliver two short courses for the UAE Armed Force: a 12-week course for twenty-four students and one officer in Helicopter Engineering, and a 10-week course for four pilots in Bell 412 Helicopter Conversion. IBDU successfully delivered both programs, which provided gross revenues of A$520,000. IBDU subcontracted the Queensland Institute of Aviation Engineering to deliver the programs, while IBDU looked after other aspects of project management such as airport reception, accommodation and meals arrangement, health insurance, transportation, project monitoring and reporting. The IBDU assisted the Griffith School of Engineering to coordinate this innovative program and provide orientation, including visa support, securing on-campus accommodation and ongoing support for the scholarship students.

In early January, another eight students from Full Cast Technology Co. Ltd., Japan arrived to undertake a one-year full-time custom-designed program, “Embedded Systems Software Training”. This is the second year that Full Cast Technology has sent students to the program. Upon graduation, the students are employed as software engineers with Full Cast Technology or their clients.

Media Analysis
Griffith research made headlines across Australia in January.

Professor Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh's work into Indigenous Land Use Agreements between Indigenous Australians and mining and government associations was a breaking story on the front page of The Australia during the month. (Attachment 8)

Professor O'Faircheallaigh of Griffith's Department of Politics & Public Policy revealed the majority of land use agreements delivered no real benefit to Indigenous people. Follow up media interviews were arranged with a wide range of print and broadcast outlets from Sydney to Perth.
and included commercial, community and national networks such as ABC, SBS radio and television.

Griffith University coverage generally across all media increased significantly in January 2007 compared to 2006 – up by 95%. Total people reached climbed by over 80%.

Other important Griffith stories caught the imagination of editors and journalists during January. For example, there were announcements that Griffith is working with other national partners as the Queensland base for the new Australian cancer research CRC and as a member of the new National Centre for Islamic Studies. Professor Mohamad Abdalla was interviewed extensively on ABC and SBS Radio and was the subject of a feature profile in the Courier Mail.

The Courier Mail also reported that former Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim will complete his PhD research at Griffith on democracy and corruption in South-East Asia. (Attachment 9)

Queensland Premier Peter Beattie, Health Minister Stephen Robertson and Vice Chancellor Ian O’Connor welcomed Griffith’s largest intake of medical students at the Centre for Medicine and Oral Health. This event was covered by the Australian Associated Press, Gold Coast Bulletin, NBN, Channel 9, ABC Coast FM and Gold FM. Meantime, a visit on the same day to Griffith’s dental clinic by children from Cherbourg Aboriginal Community was reported by Channel 9, NBN and the Gold Coast Sun. (Attachment 10)

The announcement that Griffith University criminology graduate Tania Major was named Young Australian of the year was covered extensively in local and national media while Professor Peter Roennfeldt kicked off the Conservatorium’s 50th anniversary celebrations during a feature interview with Richard Fidler on ABC 612.
New medical recruits are eager to start

by Peter Gleeson and Caroline James

GRIFFITH University boss Professor Ian O'Connor was marvelling at the punctuality of the 150 budding doctors who yesterday attended their first day of study at the university’s Centre for Medicine and Oral Health.

Among them were 50 state government scholarship winners, part of the Beattie Government’s plan to fix the health system.

“I wonder if they’ll be 15 minutes early to all their lectures,” joked Prof O’Connor, the university’s vice-chancellor, as they filled the hospital lecture theatre well before the protocols began.

Prof O’Connor said Griffith University had been the overwhelming university of choice for medicine among Queensland tertiary students.

“We are very proud of what we are building in regards to the medical school,” he said.

“I want to congratulate these students for their choice of profession and trust that you will retain that altruistic outlook to help people.”

Premier Peter Beattie welcomed the 150 fresh faces, warning them that while they had made a good career choice, it came with extra responsibility.

“You will have power and influence among your community. Use that wisely,” he said.

Queensland’s four medical schools anticipate 669 domestic medical students will start this year.

Health Minister Stephen Robertson said from the 1500 people who migrated to Queensland each week, two had to be doctors and 16 of them nurses to cater for the growth.

He said the Government’s $10 billion program to fix the health system relied on recruitment.

The Gold Coast Hospital is taking on 81 nursing graduates in 2007.

Among them is Sarah Szalkowski, who has nursing in her blood.

While some of her peers might be daunted by the prospect of treating patients after three years of university theory, the 23-year-old from Carrara has the advantage of family tradition.

Her brother, Josiah Bushnell, 25, was also accepted into this year’s graduate program. He takes up a position next week in its emergency section. Her mother spent her working life in nursing homes and her father is a paramedic.

“If I am not helping people, I don’t really feel like I’m living,” she said.

Ms Szalkowski began her two-week hospital induction last week and will be caring for patients on a medical ward from Monday.

She decided on a nursing career after working in an orphanage in Thailand. “I thought nursing would be the best thing I could do to help me work overseas in Third World countries,” she said.

“After I complete this year at the hospital and get some experience I’d like to do midwifery studies and then one day open an orphanage in a Third World country or central Australia.”

More than 90 per cent of the hospital’s nursing recruits are Coasters and this year’s intake is a step up from the 51 places provided in 2006.
BECAUSE of the way he dresses, Dr Mohamad Abdalla is used to people’s initial misconceptions. When we meet in his Griffith University office, he is wearing the traditional garb of a Muslim scholar. It gives him more than a passing resemblance to an Islamic firebrand.

But it would be wrong to assume that Abdalla agrees with extreme statements.

"I know I might look like Osama bin Laden, but I’m not, I’m Mohamad Abdalla from Brisbane," he says, repeating the way he introduced himself to a hall full of mocking teenage boys on a post-September 11 visit to a Gympie high school. That got the boys’ attention.

"Then I spoke about what our religions had in common — you believe in God, we believe in God; you believe in Adam and Eve, as do we. If I cut you, you bleed, as I do. Why do we always have to concentrate on our differences?"

Abdalla grimaces when I ask the inevitable question about his opinion of recent statements by radical Muslim clerics in Australia, which have drawn the ire of politicians and the community.

"The great majority of Muslims have serious problems with people who make stupid statements like these," he sighs.

"The Prophet condemned extremism. He solved huge conflicts using non-violent methods. The problem is, they take a verse out of context — like the verse of the sword — and use it as an excuse. It frustrates me, because I am working so hard to build bridges of understanding."

Abdalla, together with Muslim scholars from the universities of Melbourne and Western Sydney, initiated the concept of the new National Institute of Excellence for Islamic studies, announced last week by the Federal Government.

"But it is not being portrayed in the right light," he says.

"It is not a centre for homegrown imams, simply Islamic studies in a secular context. One must look at the social and economic context in which one is living — the way Islam is interpreted in Pakistan or India does not have to be the same here."

We would love to see Muslims in Australia creating their own institutions to produce their own imams, but we don’t yet have the infrastructure, we don’t have the people to deliver. Imams need to be credible in the eyes of the Muslim community.

Abdalla has considerable practice at working to overcome the religious discord festering beneath the surface of Australian society.

He was plunged into this role 11 days after September 11, 2001, when Kuraby mosque in Brisbane was destroyed in a firebomb attack. At the time he was the mosque’s acting imam.

"We were living 100m away from the mosque. My wife Peta woke up thinking our house was on fire," he says.

"By 3.30am the whole community had congregated. The mosque is the soul of Muslim society. Everybody was angry, but it needed to be a time of restraint."

"We forgave the man who had done it because it was a false impulse. People were angry because of what they saw on the news. How can I now retaliate against someone who doesn’t know who I am?"

"I thought that we could use this opportunity to build bridges. Yes, we live here, but before we had not made the effort to come to non-Muslims and tell them about ourselves."

Support flowed in from surprising quarters. Christians offered to lend their churches for the Muslims to worship, their people to protect the new mosque as it was built, and many people who were non-Muslims gave donations towards the rebuilding, as the mosque had been uninsured.
And invitations rolled in from all over Queensland to speak about Islam. In the years since, Abdalla and others have spoken to hundreds of groups. “I always say, don’t judge the other based on what you hear about them. Go and sit and talk with them,” he said.

Mohamad Abdalla wasn’t always a spiritual man. He was born in Libya to Palestinian parents, who relocated to Jordan. He has three brothers and two sisters. Their father was a karate instructor who ran sports clubs, and when they were forced to emigrate to Australia in 1985, they lost everything. “If we had stayed in Jordan our lives would have had a very different direction. Australia is a place I can call home and I have found significance and meaning here.”

Initially his lack of English made fitting in difficult, and it wasn’t until his later high school years that he began to feel comfortable. “In the society we live in now, human value is equated with what you look like,” he said. “I wanted to dress the way I do to change people’s perception of this type of dress. Don’t judge people by the way they look, but by the way they behave and speak.”

“I was involved in trying to stop the first Gulf war. I joined every left-wing action group you can think of, and spoke at rallies of up to 10,000 people as the spokesperson for the Arab community. It wasn’t effective.”

“Millions of people were rallying to try to stop the possible deaths of hundreds of thousands of people, yet this became a reality.” Abdalla gave up his studies in micro-electronic engineering and sought a more meaningful role through his original faith.

“Many Muslim practices are cultural and customary. They do not have a connection with the teachings of Islam — the spirit, ethics and values of Islam are absent. I want to try and revive these.”

“The Prophet Mohammed said religion is dealings. It’s how you deal with others — neighbours, friends, animals, Muslims, non-Muslims, those we like and don’t like.”

Three years ago, Abdalla went to the local Muslim community and asked for donations towards an Islamic Research Unit at Griffith University. "Now we study issues that relate to the Muslim community in Australia and offer a substantial scholarship. We are attracting high-calibre people like Anwar Ibrahim, former deputy prime minister of Malaysia.

“Our unit is run in a secular setting, with academic credentials and we can do highly critical research.” Abdalla hopes the Abrahamic Faiths Forum next Wednesday, organised by the State Government, will promote dialogue between leaders of Muslim, Christian and Jewish religions.

“We need to stand up for one another in times of difficulty. It happens to be the Muslim people under the spotlight at the moment, but the actions of a few does not reflect the attitudes of the larger community.”

“When people didn’t react against what was happening with the Jews in Germany, it led to a serious confrontation. If we don’t stand up now, I feel it will lead to serious problems in future.”

“Muslims have been in Australia since 1850 and we need to stand up against elements of society who use us as a scapegoat.”

WORKING towards understanding... Dr Mohamad Abdalla of Griffith University. Picture: Mark Calleja
FLAMES of racial hate... the burnt Koran at Kuraby mosque in the aftermath of 9/11.
Revamp for flawed ratings

Dorothy Illing
Catherine Armitage

A $6 MILLION project to overhaul the way Australian universities measure teaching quality could eventually help international rankings systems address one of their biggest problems — how to measure teaching rather than just research performance.

The inability of rankings systems to take account of excellence in the lecture theatre was a recurring theme at a symposium of international rankings experts in Brisbane on Monday.

As the federal Government ramps up performance-based funding, senior academics are warning of the dangers of relying too much on systems that are flawed.

The move comes as federal education minister Julie Bishop says rankings are shaping domestic and international perceptions of university quality.

University of Western Australia vice-chancellor Alan Robson said rankings were here to stay, so it was important to stay, so it was important to "make it clear what our ranking is about and then we develop some ranking systems which are about where the students get the best student experience, where the best learning environments are, and let's not use proxies," he told the HES after the Brisbane conference hosted by Griffith University.

Griffith University vice chancellor Ian O'Connor said rankings could not be used to make valid comparisons unless they were based on high quality data that was transparent and openly available. He welcomed the shift towards discipline-based rankings which allowed "a much greater capacity to compare like with like".

The conference heard that Griffith, Flinders and Murdoch universities had successfully petitioned to be included in the next The Times Higher Education Supplement ranking. Griffith's strong showing in competitive research funding and a range of other indices meant "our non-appearance in The Times ranking was not consistent with the perception of quality of the institution," Professor O'Connor said.

The $6m project — run by the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching — will overhaul the indicators and metrics used to assess the quality of university teaching and learning.

While it is being designed for use by individual universities to lift their teaching quality, it is already sparking interest from the federal Government.

And if successful it could have implications for the widespread use of the contentious Course Experience Questionnaire, the student feedback system which is now an entrenched part of the commonwealth's performance indicators for universities.

Carrick's executive director Richard Johnstone told the Australian Technology Network conference in Sydney last week that an over-reliance on student feedback as a measure of performance meant "we typically think of things in the range of other ways to assess the quality of teaching and learning."

"It is a real issue for the higher education sector ... that we don't yet have a system or set of indicators ... that go to the heart of the learning experience of the student and can demonstrate that one system may be better than another," he said.

Ann Bayly from the Department of Education, Science and Training told delegates at the ATN conference that the government was looking at overseas indicators and how they might be used.

These could provide the impetus for changes to the existing system, she said.

Asked whether the data collected for the government's Learning and Teaching Performance Fund could be used in an international ranking system she said: "We don't have the basis for developing a national league table let alone an international one."

There was still a long way to go and confidence would need to improve in both the data and methodology.

"I think if we were planning to do it on an international basis we just might not get there," she said.

Carrick's director for awards, fellowship and international links, Denise Chalmers, said the institute's board had only approved funding of $1.5m for the first stage of the four year, $6m project.

The progression of the next three stages would depend on the success of the first.

It would examine ways in which quality teaching was recognised and rewarded at the individual, institutional, national and international levels to help develop an Australian framework.

At the rankings symposium, compilers of the two international rankings, Professor Niancai Liu of Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Ben Sowter of QS Quacquarelli Symonds which prepares rankings for The Times Higher Education Supplement, openly acknowledged the problems and biases of their methodology.

They admitted that the nature of the data they collected led to bias towards research, established universities, and English-speaking institutions.

There were also problems in allowing for the differences in types of institutions and awards.

Professor Liu, director of the Institute of Higher Education at Shanghai Jiao Tong, said it would be impossible to rank education globally because of the huge differences in national systems.

He said no ranking was "absolutely objective" but they were here to stay, so it was important to improve them.

Simon Marginson of the University of Melbourne's Centre for the Study of Higher Education said rankings could become an end in themselves, protected from critical scrutiny, without regard to exactly what they measured. International ranking expert and adjunct lecturer at Flinders University Marguerite Clarke revealed the results of her research into the downstream effect of rankings in the US where universities were using them to justify higher tuition fees.

Dr Clarke said they reinforced the existing status groups which meant they were not improving access for disadvantaged students.
Ranking experts: Professor Ross Williams of the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, left, with Professor Niancai Liu and Ben Sowter.
National Teaching and Learning Performance Fund

Group initiatives will include:

**Arts, Education and Law Group**
Sarah Prestridge - Conceptual Development through Video Podcasts (Vodcasts) $10,000  
Mark Freakley - GAME - Group Activity Monitoring Engine $34,993

**Griffith Business**
Gayle Jennings - The re-purposing of ethics and responsible practice educational resource materials $49,415

**Griffith Health**
Christine Randall - Case Management Road Trip Interactive $20,000  
Philippa Seaton - The Meeting Place: Cultural Boundary Clarification Strategies for Clinical Teaching and Learning $9,988  
Margaret McAllister - Exemplars of Solution Focused Nursing $23,950  
Glenn Harrison - Design and Implementation of an O-Week ‘Refreshers’ Program for 2nd Year Health Group Students $8,760  
Trevor Hine - A BRAIN Instructional Activity Companion $9,162  
Heather Alexander and Ray Tedman - Cultural Sensitivity in Health Group Students in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Care $7,000  
Marion Mitchell - The Development of Efficient and Effective Objective Simulated Clinical Assessments in the Health Group to Support Clinical Competence of Graduates $49,434

**Science Environment, Engineering and Technology**
Christopher Matthews and Jo-Anne Ferreira - Indigenising Environmental Science Curriculum: Developing Strategies for Inclusive Practices in Science and Technology at Higher Education $15,000

Carol-joy Patrick and Rodney Stewart - Problem/Project-Based Learning in Griffith Engineering $5,000  
Evan Gray (SCE), Flying Fish $20,000  
Michael Arthur - Self-Paced Introductory Mathematics $5,000
FOUR MORE SMART QUEENSLANDERS BECOME SMART STATE AMBASSADORS

Four more outstanding Queenslanders have become Smart State Ambassadors to spread the word about the dynamic intellectual and creative energy of modern Queensland.

The new ambassadors are cancer researcher, Professor Ian Frazer, Academy Award winner John Cox, climate change pioneer Professor Ian Lowe and Griffith University Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian O'Connor.

Premier Peter Beattie said the four new ambassadors he announced today represented excellence in Education and Social Policy, Health and Scientific Research, Environment and Sustainability and Creative Industries and Technology.

"This means there are now a total to eight high profile individuals who will advocate for Queensland and the Smart State vision, with the four new ambassadors announced today complementing our existing four ambassadors," Mr Beattie said.

The existing ambassadors are Professor Glyn Davis, Professor John Hay, Professor Peter Andrews and Professor Peter Coaldrake.

"All eight ambassadors are leaders in their fields and have championed the cause of Smart State," Mr Beattie said.

"Our four new Smart State Ambassadors demonstrate the great breadth of the Smart State and show that Queensland has world class innovators across the whole spectrum of scientific and creative endeavour.

"Since 1998, our determined push towards making Queensland the Smart State has focused on creating a place where knowledge, creativity and innovation drive economic growth to improve prosperity and quality of life for all Queenslanders.

"We have invested in world-class research facilities to retain and attract top-quality scientists to Queensland and to stimulate cutting-edge research projects.

"Last year alone, we allocated almost $74 million from the $200 million Smart State Innovation Fund for important initiatives such as the Queensland Smart Water Research facility at Griffith University, the Tropical Science and Innovation Precinct at James Cook University and our Smart State Premiers Fellowships," Mr Beattie said.
"The Smart State Ambassador Program recognises a select number of individuals who personify the Smart State ethos.

Mr Beattie said Professor Ian Frazer was a true ambassador for Queensland and was an inspiration to every researcher who ever set out to find a cure for cancer.

"Lives will be saved because of Ian Frazer's work in developing the world's first cervical cancer vaccine. Women in Queensland, Australia and the world will benefit from his innovative thinking and research."

"John Cox is one of only a handful of Queenslanders who has heard his name said after that magic sentence. and the Oscar goes to..

"John won an Academy Award in 1995 for his visual effects work on the movie Babe.

"His Creature Workshop on the Gold Coast has become internationally acclaimed as a leader in the design and manufacture of fantasy creatures and has put Queensland on the map for international filmmakers.

"Professor Ian Lowe is an internationally recognised expert on environmental issues, energy, science and technology and futures.

"His passionate commitment to the environmental sciences sets a great example for our young would-be scientists and future business leaders," Mr Beattie said.

"After pursuing his academic career overseas and visiting fellowships at the United Nations and Asia Far East Institute in Tokyo, Corpus Christi College at Cambridge in England and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Professor Ian O'Connor, Vice-Chancellor of Griffith University returned to Queensland and is now vice-chancellor of Griffith University.

"Professor O'Connor's research interests are in the area of juvenile justice and child welfare and the future directions of social work and human services," Mr Beattie said.

"I thank them for agreeing to become Smart State Ambassadors and look forward to their contribution to advancing the Smart State vision in Australia and abroad," Mr Beattie said.

Media inquiries: 3224 4500

20 February 2007
PROFESSORIAL APPOINTMENTS

The following professorial appointments have been made since my last report to Council in December 2006:

Professor Craig Caldwell commenced his role as Professor and Head of the Griffith Film School in November 2006. Craig joins us from the University of Arizona, USA.

Associate Professor Roderick Gardner commenced in his role as Associate Professor, Applied Linguistics in the School of Education and Professional Studies (Brisbane/Logan). Rod joins us from UQ.

Associate Professor Geoffrey Woolcock commenced his appointment with the Urban Research Program at the end of December 2006. Associate Professor Woolcock joins us from the University of Queensland's Community Service & Research Centre (CSRC) where he was the Research Manager. Associate Professor Woolcock is widely published particularly in the fields of sustainable urban communities (social capital etc.), community well-being indicators, and planning for outer-suburban development.
CAPITAL AND MINOR WORKS REPORT

Physical resources

Gold Coast
Bus Stop
Due to the increased frequency of buses now serving the Gold Coast campus, the bus stop is being extended and a new passenger shelter has been installed doubling the size of the previous shelter.

Nathan/Mt Gravatt
Science 1
Work on the refurbishment of laboratories on Level 0 of this building has been completed.
South Bank  
College of Art  
Alterations to Level 7 of the Webb Centre have now been completed.

Capital Works  
Gold Coast  
Student Residential Village

The first stage of development of student apartments at the Gold Coast Campus has been completed. Approximately 130 students will move into their rooms in late February with further stages being completed progressively during the year. All 517 beds are expected to be completed by September.
The Student Centre has reached Practical completion with staff beginning to move in from 5 February. Student Administration and Griffith International will delay their move until after the enrolment period and move during March.

The building provides a one-stop shop for student enquiries on campus and brings together Student Administration, Student Services, Graduate Student Centre and Griffith International as well as the cashiers and logistics areas of Finance and Business Services.
G34 Administration
Construction of the Administration building is continuing satisfactorily with internal fitout well advanced.
**Bridge**

Erection of the bridge across Smith Street is now complete and the approaches on each side are being completed.

The bridge should be open to pedestrian traffic by end of February.
NATHAN
ESKITIS Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies
The Project is proceeding to plan. Underground services are largely complete and columns are now beginning to be formed and poured.

SOUTH BANK
Griffith Film School
This project achieved Practical Completion just prior to Christmas. The staff of the Griffith Film School have begun to move in and the building will be ready for teaching for first semester.
Land use contracts fail to deliver

Victoria Laurie

FIFTEEN years after the High Court's historic Mabo decision, an explosion of land-use agreements between Aboriginals, mining companies and governments has failed to deliver significant outcomes for the majority of the indigenous people who signed them.

A five-year detailed examination of 45 contracts by Griffith University academic Ciaran O’Faircheallaigh has found that half the agreements were either “basket cases that should never have been entered into” or had delivered few cultural and monetary benefits to Aboriginals.

Many agreements were poorly constructed deals that deprived Aboriginals of a share in the unprecedented opportunity flowing from the resources boom.

Australia’s wealthiest mining regions had the worst record and in many cases indigenous people were trading off rights to protect culturally important areas for limited, short-term benefits.

National Native Title Tribunal president Graeme Neate said there were 264 indigenous land-use agreements registered with the tribunal, which suggested that “out in the marketplace they are useful”.

But the precise form and content of agreements was up to the parties, he said. The tribunal’s research had identified a lack of sound implementation plans written into agreements. “After the ink is dry, who is going to ensure they are implemented?” said Mr Neate.

The Griffith University study found almost all agreements promised Aboriginals some ability to control environmental damage to their traditional lands done in the process of mining, yet that rarely happened.

A large number of agreements offered little say in cultural heritage protection and often required landowners to suspend or surrender native title rights.

Many Aboriginal groups were no better off, or even worse off, than in the absence of any agreement between the two parties, the study found.

In many cases, Aboriginal groups did not have the resources or sophistication to deal seriously with the complexities of land-use agreements.

In NSW, some agreements between local indigenous parties and mining companies had offered a total of less than $100,000 to local indigenous groups over the life of a highly profitable mining operation.

In Western Australia, Anaconda Nickel, when controlled by Andrew Forrest, had undertaken to put $1 million a year into an indigenous trust in return for access to land, but the case is now in court over alleged non-payment by a new owner to Aboriginals of almost $12 million.

The report’s findings, saying few agreements actually worked and accused “opportunistic and mercenary lawyers” of advising Aboriginals not to comply with the terms of signed agreements.

AMEC chief executive Justin Wulawski also said mining companies were increasingly being asked for “gate money” for access to land over which agreements had already been signed.

He said there was “enormous room for improvement” in agreement making but no obvious ways to improve the system.

“If all parties acted legally, then there would be greater efficacy of agreements,” he said.

Melbourne University professor of indigenous affairs Marcia Langton said dodgy agreements were often confidential, making it difficult to check if promises of money and jobs had materialised.

“But we do know the good ones because they are not afraid to stand up in public and say what their agreements are,” she said.

She said major agreements with mining companies, such as Rio Tinto’s Argyle Diamond Mine in Western Australia and its Comalco alumina operation in far north Queensland, had successfully spawned jobs, well-run trusts to fund community development and Aboriginal-operated...
Land use deals fail to pay for Aborigines

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One of them, the Jidi Jidi Aboriginal Corporation, says it has sent complaint letters to 125 mining companies exploring on 50,000sq km of traditional land in the state’s mid-west, putting them on notice that exploration cannot go ahead if the heritage protection clauses in a 2001 indigenous land use agreement are not met. Only five companies have signed so far.

Goldfields Land Council executive director Brian Wyatt said fewer than 50 Aborigines out of a local population of around 3000 had jobs in the mining sector.

“Hundreds of small to medium agreements had been struck between miners, local government and other parties in the goldfields, but I’d struggle to find one that’s really effective,” Mr Wyatt said.

Professor O’Faircheallaigh said problems lay with both indigenous land use agreements and hundreds of deals made outside the native title system that were often confidential and unable to be publicly scrutinised.

Two Aboriginal groups in Western Australia have lodged complaints over indigenous land use agreements they say have been ignored.
THE former deputy prime minister of Malaysia, Anwar Ibrahim, is to become a scholar at a Brisbane university.

Mr Ibrahim, whose clash with then prime minister Mahathir Mohamad earned him a six-year prison sentence, will complete his PhD research through Griffith University.

Mr Ibrahim has yet to finish his doctorate on democracy and corruption in South-East Asia.

Griffith University Islamic Research Unit head Mohamad Abdalla said Mr Ibrahim’s decision was a major coup.

“His interest in us is very flattering,” Dr Abdalla said.

Mr Ibrahim will liaise with staff at the university, and is expected to visit Brisbane before his research is published.

He enjoyed a meteoric rise to power in Malaysia under Dr Mahathir, but later became the most prominent critic of the administration.

In 1999, he was sentenced in a highly controversial trial to six years in prison for corruption, and in 2000 to another nine years in prison for sodomy.

His second conviction was overturned on appeal in 2004.
Brush with dentist doesn’t stop them smiling

Bush children know the drill

THE children who travelled by bus for more than four hours to have their teeth checked didn’t know they were making history.

Hitting the Gold Coast last week from the Cherbourg Aboriginal community northwest of Brisbane, they were more interested in having a coast holiday.

Hence they turned up in one large group for the morning session at Griffith University School of Oral Health and Medicine instead of having morning and afternoon sessions.

It meant they could spend the afternoon swimming and canoeing at Tallebudgera.

The visit was one of the outcomes of an agreement entered into by the university last April to provide expertise for Barambah Regional Medical Services, which looks after the needs of Cherbourg and the wider South Burnett region.

The children, aged five to 12, were examined at the dental clinic and proclaimed to be comparable with children on the Gold Coast exposed to the ravages of sugary soft drink.

Griffith’s Dean of Dentistry and Oral Health, Professor Newell Johnson, said while their school tuck shop would abide by Queensland Education guidelines on healthy food, they too could simply go to a nearby store and buy chocolate bars and soft drink.

But after they had been assessed and treated by Griffith’s fourth-year students, under the supervision of senior staff, Professor Johnson said his impression was that the children’s teeth were not as bad as he had expected.

Barambah community nurse Sharon Lock, who was supervising the children, said toothache was a big problem.

She said it interfered with their education because they were either kept home and missed out on schooling, or turned up but were unable to concentrate because of the pain.

Ms Lock agreed soft drink was a major cause of tooth decay among children at the 2000-strong community, but added that lemons were probably even more destructive.

The acid in the fruit can cause decay in young teeth.

“Fresh fruit and vegetables are expensive and not easily available, but they (children) love fresh lemons when they can get them,” she said.

“They cut them in half and suck on them, often having one last thing at night when they go to bed.”

Ms Lock said they had learned at the dental clinic about the need for oral hygiene, including practising how to brush their teeth properly.

Just as importantly, they had learned how beneficial it was to drink water in place of soft drink.

As for the Gold Coast, she said the children were rapt – from the city lights on the night they arrived to the huge buildings they saw during the day.

“And the ocean,” she added.

“They usually swim in a creek; they just love the ocean.”

By PETER BARNES
DAY OUT … children from Cherbourg happy to be on the Gold Coast for dental check-up and trip to the beach.