

Red

ISSUE 05 NOVEMBER 2010

Finding a **cure for malaria**

Can the **Commonwealth Games**
leave a **lasting legacy?**

Demonstrating **sustainable power**

VC

Griffith University
Vice Chancellor and President

PROFESSOR IAN O'CONNOR



Griffith University continues to grow and to invest, and reinvest, in our physical and intellectual capital. This year we have commenced a major reinvigoration of our Nathan campus to give effect to a stunning

new master plan prepared by Michael Rayner of Cox Rayner.

Showcasing this renewal is the \$32 million Sir Samuel Griffith Centre. Our success in the sustainability round of the Education Investment Fund will lead to construction commencing next year on the Nathan Campus. This building will provide a front door to Griffith's environmental and sustainability leaders. It will be Australia's first zero-emission and self-powering teaching and research building driven by solar-powered hydrogen energy, and it will be a pilot for applying this safe, sustainable power in rural and urban settings.

On our Gold Coast campus, we have embarked on the largest redevelopment in our 40-year history, with a national design competition culminating in a \$136 million Griffith Health Centre about to be built. This iconic building will anchor our Gold Coast campus, and be an integral component of the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge precinct, sitting just across the road from the new Gold Coast University Hospital.

We are also delighted to welcome Professor Michael Good to the University—whose work at the Institute for Glycomics helps put the University and the Gold Coast at the forefront of drug discovery in the region—perhaps even finding a cure for malaria that will save millions of lives in our life-time.

While much remains uncertain in our economic and political environment, Griffith University retains its core commitment to provide enhanced educational opportunities for our communities and to continue to undertake teaching and research which delivers major social dividends to our local, national and international communities.



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The Griffith University Art Collection and Griffith Artworks

Griffith Artworks provides cultural asset management, curatorial, internship, research and publication services at Griffith University. It is the management authority for more than 4000 objects in the Griffith University Art Collection and administers the On-Campus Exhibition Program, an initiative supported by an internship program for Griffith students that displays the collection at more than 120 sites between the Gold Coast, Logan, Nathan, Mt Gravatt and South Bank. Almost 20 per cent of the collection is exhibited at any given time, one of the highest rates of exposure for any public collection of art in Australia. Griffith Artworks also regularly develops and presents significant curatorial projects and allied publications at the purpose built Griffith University Art Gallery, situated at Queensland College of Art.



BACK COVER

Madeleine Kelly
Gathering as Usual 2010
oil on canvas 110 x 100 cm
Griffith University Art Collection.
Copyright courtesy the artist
and Milani Gallery, Brisbane.

Madeleine Kelly graduated from QCA in 1999, and has become increasingly recognised for quasi-narrative paintings which draw on personal and mythological sources to comment on contemporary issues. In *Gathering as Usual* a figure with human legs and the head of an owl carefully inspects the colourful tapestry of produce on a supermarket shelf. Belonging to a group of works which contrast timeless rocky crevice landscapes with prosaic everyday locations, this "night owl" is engaged in what Kelly describes as a "contemporary mode of hunting and gathering". Her painting uses metaphor and allusion to explore the relationship between the individual self and consumer culture. A survey exhibition and publication project featuring the artist is being developed for Griffith University Art Gallery for late 2011–12.

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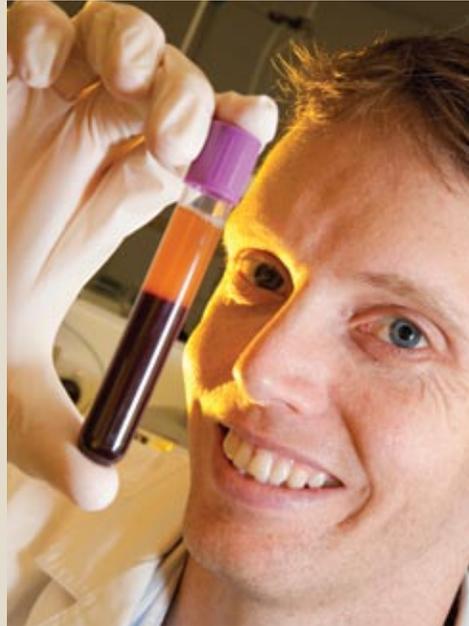
Snapshots

Snake venom charms science world

The King Cobra continues to weave its charm, with researchers identifying a protein in its venom that has the potential for new drug discovery and to advance understanding of disease mechanisms. In March this year the prestigious *Journal of Biological Chemistry* discussed the protein, haditoxin, in a presentation that was described as Paper of the Week. Haditoxin was discovered in Professor Manjunatha Kini's laboratory at the National University of Singapore. Co-author of the paper, Dr Niru Nirthanan, now at Griffith University on the Gold Coast, has characterised the pharmacological actions of haditoxin. He says haditoxin is structurally unique, like a conjoined twin consisting of two identical protein molecules linked together, and therefore expected to have unique pharmacological properties. Many common drugs such as the widely prescribed blood pressure medication Captopril and anti-clotting drug Eptifibatide have been developed from snake venoms. "Haditoxin will offer therapeutic opportunities and novel insights into human neurotransmitter receptors implicated in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases as well as in anxiety, depression and nicotine addiction."



PHOTO BY MICHAEL D. KERN



Can 'colours of life' prevent cancer?

A Griffith Health Institute medical researcher says the bile pigments in our bodies could protect us from cancer and cardiovascular disease. Known as bilirubin and biliverdin, these pigments are also called the "colours of life" because they are graphically displayed in the body after injury in the colours of bruises or during jaundice. Dr Andrew Bulmer is investigating the effects of the pigments, in particular bilirubin, in protecting cells and DNA against the damage that makes people susceptible to cancer and cardiovascular disease. Studies have shown that people with naturally elevated bilirubin concentrations in their blood, known as Gilbert's syndrome, suffer much lower rates of heart disease. Coincidentally, people with Gilbert's syndrome are also much less likely to suffer from cancer. Bilirubin is an antioxidant, and antioxidants are effective in protecting the body against disease. Bulmer's research is looking at how the bile pigments protect against heart disease and cancer. Once this is known, he'll investigate ways of elevating the amount of circulating bile pigments, which could prevent these diseases.

Yes Minister

How federal ministers operate on a day-to-day basis and cope with the demands of their portfolios is the subject of a book by two Griffith University researchers. *Learning to Be a Minister: Heroic Expectations, Practical Realities* was written by Anne Tiernan and Patrick Weller who compiled research and interviews from senior government figures and ministers to create a compelling and easy-to-read story. Dr Tiernan and Professor Weller, both from Griffith's Centre for Governance and Public Policy, drew on extensive interviews with current and former ministers, ministerial staffers and senior officials, to discover how a new ministry learns to juggle their simultaneous roles of member of parliament and cabinet, local constituency representative, and media spokesperson, not to mention their lives outside work.

X Factor Migraine

Medical science PhD student Bridget Maher's research could uncover whether the sex-determining X chromosome contributes to migraine. Migraine affects 12 per cent of the population. However, women are three times more likely to suffer from the debilitating condition. While this may be partly due to hormones, Maher said her research was showing positive signs the X chromosome was strongly linked to migraine susceptibility. "From a genetic viewpoint, one of the key differences between women and men is the X chromosome. Women have two copies, while men have only one. Therefore we hypothesised that there must be something with the X chromosome contributing to the disorder." Research has shown that migraine tends to run in families, suggesting a strong genetic component. She is studying eight families over several generations with a history of migraine to understand the inheritance of the disorder with the X chromosome and to identify which genes (out of potentially thousands) contribute to migraine susceptibility.



Bridging safer dental implants

Griffith University PhD graduate Dr Rudi van Staden applied engineering technology in dentistry to reduce the risk of damage to the jawbone or nerves when attaching imitation teeth. His research investigated the “stress” within the human jawbone when surgically implanting a titanium screw, used to attach imitation teeth. He said dental implants were becoming more and more popular as they provided an enhanced function when compared to dental bridges or crowns. “However, there is a 5 per cent failure rate that is believed to be associated with incorrect insertion techniques and a lack of understanding of the complex stress characteristics within the jawbone.” With the help of computer modelling software used for bridges, buildings and big structures, he examined the “stress” within the jawbone induced by a titanium screw during and after insertion. “Using medical imaging methods, I created a three-dimensional computer model of the human jawbone and implant and simulated the dynamic implantation process. There are 560 different jawbone material properties and screw dimensions, and this research can help dentists find the best fit for their patient.”

Higher education in conversation

Higher education researchers and educators will converge on the Gold Coast in July 2011 for a conference on the forefront of tertiary education innovation and development. Griffith University will host the 34th Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia conference. It will stimulate provocative discussions about higher education policy and practice, organisational change, tertiary education pathways and transformations in curriculum, pedagogy and assessment. Keynote speakers include Ann Austin, Professor of Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education at Michigan State University, Paul Trowler, Professor in Higher Education, Lancaster University and Dr Carol Nicoll, Executive Director of the Australian Learning and Teaching Council. Grab your early bird registration by April 29, 2011.

conference.hersa.org.au/2011/

Game, set and match

A tennis player’s first serve can make or break their title chances, but identifying the nuances in arm, shoulder and wrist motions that make the difference between an ace and a fault is difficult. Griffith University engineers believe wearable motion sensors could be the answer. While it is possible to analyse high-speed video of a player’s serve, this is expensive and labour intensive. PhD student Amin Ahmadi has developed a cheap, wearable system that gives instant feedback on a court-side laptop. Three matchbox-sized gyroscopic sensors are taped to the chest, upper arm and hand of the tennis player, which measure shoulder rotation, arm angular velocity and wrist bending respectively—the things that govern serve success.



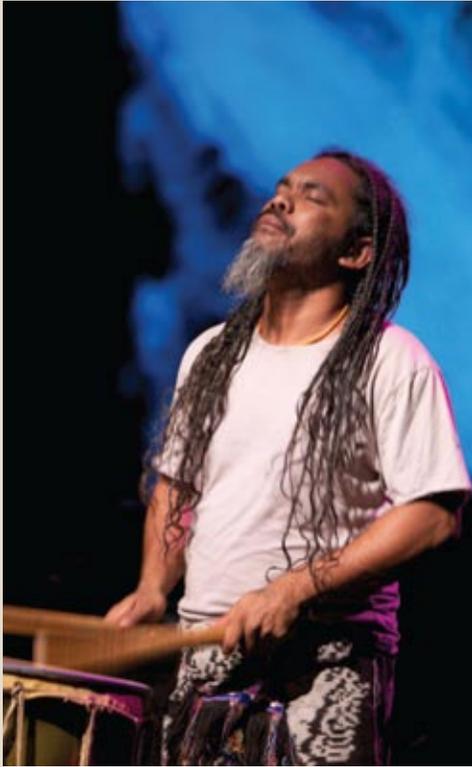
Penguins hold missing pieces of evolutionary puzzle

Antarctica’s humble Adélie penguin is helping scientists shed new light on the process of evolution and may even hold the secret of how animals adapt to climate change. Griffith University’s Professor of Evolutionary Biology David Lambert used genetically pristine Adélie penguin populations to reach back further in DNA history than thought possible, analysing DNA from living mothers and chicks alongside their ancestors from 37,000 years ago. Lambert suggests problems in accurately measuring change in DNA have led to miscalculations in the past. “If you don’t know the relationship of the ancient animals you’re studying to the modern ones, it’s easy to misinterpret how fast DNA sequences change. Breeding colonies of Adélie penguins have been free of interference from humans in the Antarctic. They typically return to the same breeding sites for hundreds of thousands of years. The extreme cold and dry conditions preserved the DNA enabling us to reach back 37,000 years.”



Native lemon grass traditional pain killer

Indigenous Australians use native lemon grass in traditional medicine as pain relief for headaches and migraines. Research by Professor Lyn Griffiths, Dr Darren Grice and Dr Kelly Rogers has scientifically proven the lemon grass plant *Cymbopogon ambiguus* may be as good as aspirin when it comes to treating headaches. Dr Darren Grice from the Institute for Glycomics said the research validated the plant’s therapeutic values. “Headaches and migraines cause abnormal activities in our bodies, such as altering our serotonin levels and interfering with the normal function of our blood platelets. Platelets clump together for wound repair, but they can also form life-threatening internal clots starving the brain of oxygen and causing strokes. We tested extracts of the plant on human blood platelets and one fraction showed strong biological activity. It was caused by the compound *eugenol* in the native lemon grass plant, which is a significant find as the compound showed similar activity to aspirin. The compound inhibits platelets clumping together and the release of serotonin.”



Scope of Hope concert aids East Timor

Griffith University celebrated the rise of East Timor in the *Scope of Hope* concert at the Queensland Conservatorium Theatre in October. Rob Davidson, and his band Topology, musically directed the world music concert featuring East Timorese musicians supported by Brisbane-based and nationally recognised performers including The View from Madeline's Couch, the Toby Wren ensemble and percussionist Ian Weir. The concert was the brainchild of Queensland College of Art's Adjunct Professor Tony Fry who has spent much time in East Timor working towards the country's reconstruction through its artists and musicians. "The world will discover in the next few years East Timor's rich and vibrant culture. It is emerging as one of the most exciting and positive developments as the nation leaves its troubles well behind and moves to a new and affirmative future." An exciting development is the beginning of a creative industry in East Timor where Griffith University Queensland College of Art is playing an important role with support from the Commonwealth Government's AusAID program.

Is it goodbye to Australia's ski slopes?

A Griffith researcher has found Australian skiers may need to head across the Tasman in search of higher ground thanks to global warming. Snow cover is already declining in Australia's alpine regions, and the trend is expected to continue. The average snow cover at Spencer's Creek in the Snowy Mountains, the highest altitude snow course in Australia, has declined by 30 to 40 per cent in the past 50 years. Griffith's Associate Professor Catherine Pickering said the alpine region was one of Australia's areas most threatened by climate change and reliance on snow-making by ski resorts was not financially or economically sustainable. "Unfortunately because our current emissions and our current rises in temperatures are at the high end of the predictions, it's definitely coming to us sooner and faster. By 2020, we've found the amount of water that the ski resorts are going to need to make snow, just to match current conditions, will exceed the amount of water that's used by Canberra."

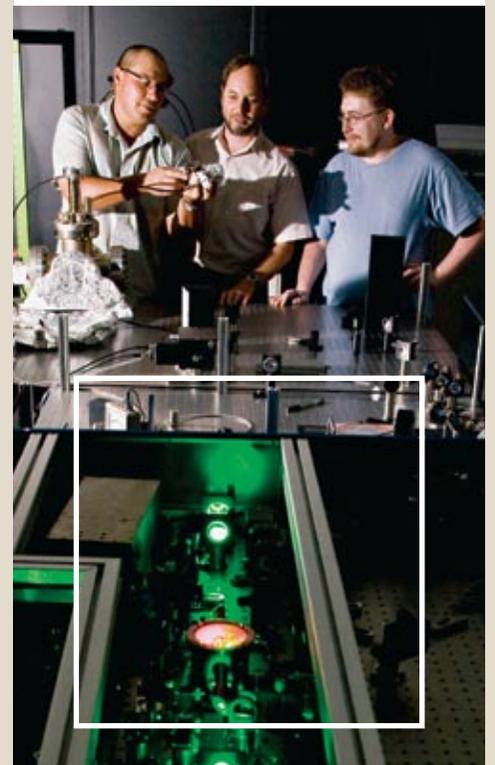


Archaeologists discover world's oldest rock art

A team of archaeologists from Griffith University and ANU have discovered ancient rock art in Arnhem Land, believed to be the oldest dated image showing Aboriginal people's early contact with the outside world. Archaeologist Professor Paul Tacon said the rock art painting of a sailing boat was possibly a depiction of a Perahu, a boat common in Indonesia and Malaysia about the 17th century. He said beeswax pellets stuck to the painting were dated to the 1620s and there was evidence Macassars from Indonesia were sailing to north Australia to fish for trepang in the 1700s. The team worked with a local traditional owner in the Wellington Range and found a rock shelter containing almost 1200 individual paintings and beeswax figures. "Djulirri has more diverse contact period rock art than any other site in Australia. Besides the oldest dated paintings of Southeast Asian ships, there are European tall ships and many other forms of watercraft, all of which can be placed in chronological sequence."

Einstein's spooky theory and internet security

Griffith physicists have shown that Einstein's theory of entangled particles could enhance security for tomorrow's quantum internet. The Centre for Quantum Dynamics performed a series of new experiments on pairs of entangled particles, inspired by Einstein's concept known as "spooky action at a distance". Entangled particles are a key resource for emerging quantum information technologies such as ultra-secure communication. Professor Howard Wiseman said a pair of particles could become *entangled* when they interacted. "Like in a passionate romance, the individual particles lose their identity, even if they are separated into different laboratories, which are traditionally known as Alice's lab and Bob's lab." What Einstein discovered about entangled particles is if Alice makes a measurement on her particle, the result causes an instantaneous change in the properties of Bob's particle, no matter how far away his lab is. "But what if Alice claims to be making entangled pairs, but Bob doesn't trust her? Bob can confirm that Alice is not cheating by testing that she can affect his particle via Einstein's effect." The new tests are effective at determining whether Alice is cheating and could be used to make quantum secure communication even more secure.



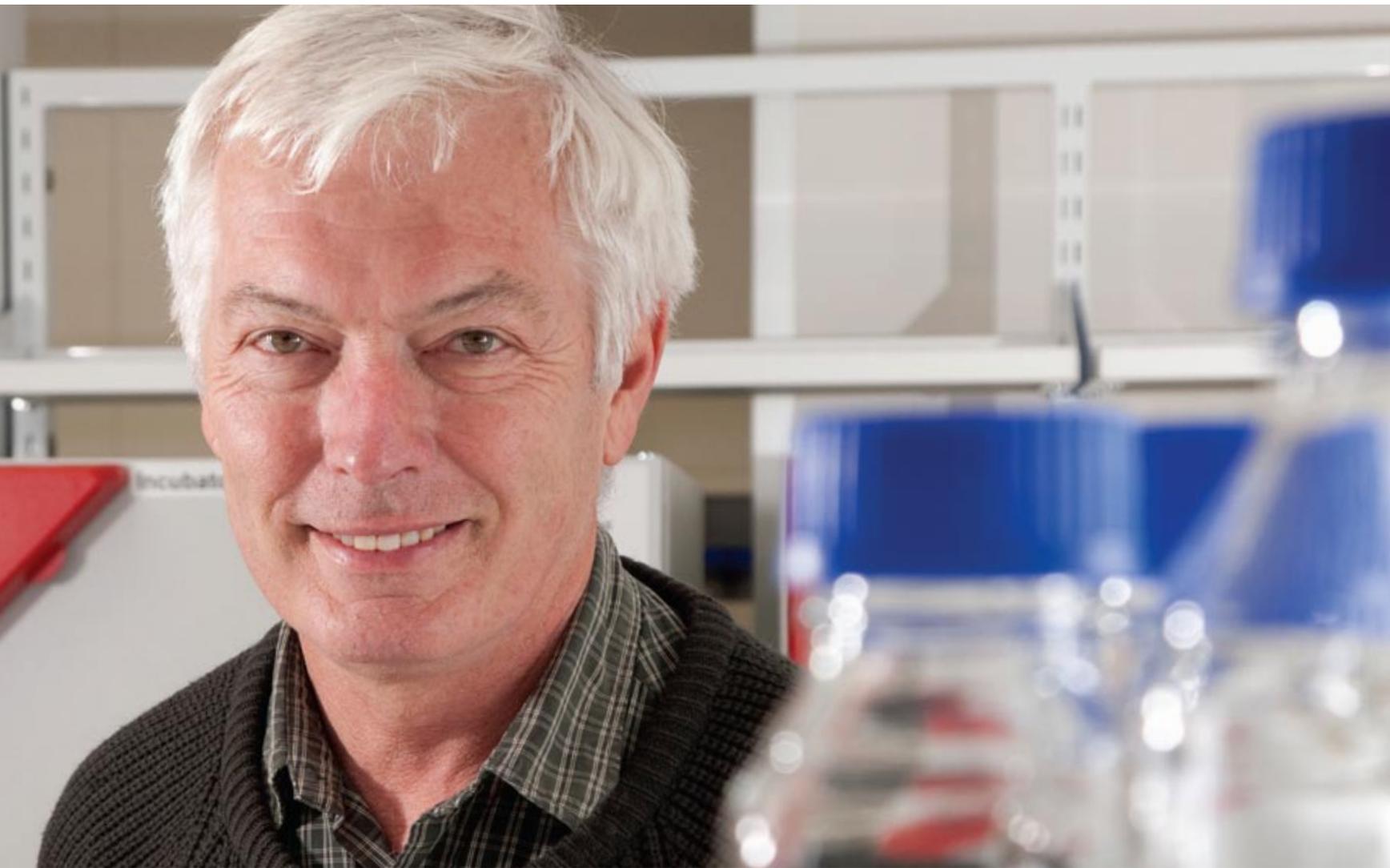
DISCOVERING Good

LYNNE BLUNDELL REPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS STACEY

When Michael Good was a university student he wanted to be a physicist—but it was not to be. Some advice from his physics lecturer that jobs for physicists were scarce led him to a career in medical research. It was a decision that has proved to be highly rewarding for him personally and a boon for the millions who will benefit from his discoveries about some of the world's most lethal infectious diseases.

Winner of the 2009 CSIRO Eureka Prize for Leadership in Science, Professor Good this year joined the Institute for Glycomics at Griffith University after many years as Director of the Queensland Institute for Medical Research (QIMR). He is currently Chair of the National Health and Medical Research Council.

In January this year he was awarded the prestigious Australia Fellowship, worth \$4 million, to continue his work in combating malaria and *Streptococcus A*.



Professor Michael Good

Both diseases are major killers, malaria causing one million deaths worldwide each year, 85 per cent of them children under five. There are 247 million cases of malaria in 109 countries each year. Infection with *Streptococcus A* can lead to rheumatic heart disease which causes more than 500,000 deaths each year, many of them among Australia's Indigenous population, which suffers the highest rate of the disease in the world.

Professor Good hopes his research at Griffith University will strengthen the long-standing partnership between QIMR and the university.

"When I was at QIMR I always enjoyed the interaction with Griffith University. There has been a lot of collaboration between the two and I liked the culture at the university—it is a very friendly and ambitious place."

He has been working on developing vaccines for malaria and *Streptococcus A* for many years and is now close to starting clinical trials for both. Phase one clinical trials for *Streptococcus A* are likely to take place in 2011, while trials for the malaria vaccine are a little bit further away, hopefully by 2012.

Once the *Streptococcus A* vaccine is available, the benefit to indigenous Australians will be enormous.

"I started work on this disease in 1990 and we are close now to having the vaccine. Our Indigenous population has the highest rate of rheumatic heart disease in the world. It is a disease very much related to poverty and crowded living conditions, particularly where you have a lot of children sleeping near each other. We will be targeting those at risk with the vaccine," Good says.

The approach being taken on the malaria vaccine by Professor Good and his team is

novel as it focuses on the immune response of T cells rather than antibodies.

"Every strain of malaria is different and the immune response from the past approach to vaccines only recognises one type. We are targeting the action of T cells rather than antibodies as they recognise the interior of the parasite rather than the exterior. We have developed a way to trigger T cells in our research and that is an exciting breakthrough," he says.

So did he envisage he would be involved in such groundbreaking work when as a young doctor he headed off to the US on two prestigious research scholarships? It was while there that he made two major breakthroughs in malarial research—the ability to clone the parasite's proteins and a new understanding of how the body's white blood cells responded to infection by malaria. This led to 50 journal publications in three years.

“Our position, close to Asia, means we are exposed to a melting pot for viruses, many of them beginning to make the transition from animals to humans.”

PROFESSOR MICHAEL GOOD



“When I started on this research in 1985 I really didn’t imagine I’d be doing anything like this. In those days I was just keen to learn as much about the parasite as possible. But when I think about it now it has been a natural progression for me.

“There are two aspects to medical research that excite me. One is discovery, learning something new about nature and finding out how something works for the first time. The other is that you can use that information to relieve human suffering,” Good says.

He is keen to see more research done on some of the new threats emerging in Australia and elsewhere, such as Dengue fever, the Hendra virus and the dangerous H1N1 influenza virus.

“There are a lot of new infectious agents that are coming along now on a pretty regular basis. I’m not sure that as a country we are really prepared for these. Our position, close

to Asia, means we are exposed to a melting pot for viruses, many of them beginning to make the transition from animals to humans.

“The last really big outbreak we had was HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] and I think we need to be doing more to make sure we are prepared for current viruses that are emerging,” Good says.

But it is unlikely he will be venturing into new areas of research for the foreseeable future. Successful medical research requires commitment for the long haul and he is determined to see his long-term research into malaria and rheumatic heart disease come to fruition.

“I’d like to see this go to completion. Whether or not it involves me I’m not particularly precious about—the entire research program could take another 10 years. I hope I’m there to see it but you can never really be sure of that.

“I find a lot of infectious diseases really interesting but one of the things you need to do if you are going to succeed with research is focus.”

And after all, with eight children ranging in age from 28 to 13 there are plenty of other things to distract Michael Good. Three of his children have followed in their father’s footsteps by pursuing careers in medicine and science.

“I keep my work a bit separate from family but we do talk about what I’m doing and I benefit enormously from their support as well as that of my research team. I tend to talk to those of my children who have gone into medical and science careers more about my work—I just hope I don’t bore them with it all,” Good says.

Somehow that seems pretty unlikely. □

Lynne Blundell is a freelance writer and journalist who writes about finance, health and current affairs. She is the editor of The Fifth Estate.



Institute for Glycomics celebrates a decade of research

Professor Mark von Itzstein

Now in its 10th year, Griffith University's Institute for Glycomics has quite a bit to celebrate. One of only six dedicated glycomics research facilities in the world, the Institute is a leader in the field of carbohydrate science and has made some significant breakthroughs in the role that carbohydrates play in disease and ageing.

According to the Director of the institute, Professor Mark von Itzstein, the work of the institute's team of researchers has led to some outstanding outcomes in both vaccine development and anti-microbial drug discovery. Their work promises a new avenue for the control of diseases such as cancer, arthritis and autoimmune disease, as well as infectious diseases such as bacterial meningitis, tuberculosis, Streptococcus A, melioidosis, influenza and malaria.

"The institute has attracted more than \$20 million in income from various sources including the Australian Research Council (ARC), National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Cancer Council, National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Association for International Cancer Research (AICR) over the decade," von Itzstein said.

A number of world-leading senior scientists have been appointed to its ranks during the past decade, such as Deputy-Director Professor Michael Jennings, NHMRC Australia Fellow Professor Michael Good and ARC Future Fellow Professor Suresh Mahalingam, as well as very talented early career researchers.

Over the 10 years staff numbers have grown from eight to around 90, including 25 students. It is anticipated that by 2011 the institute will be operating at full capacity with 150 staff.

Current projects include von Itzstein's research on the H5N1, or avian flu, virus. This research has led to the development of anti-viral drugs that aim to block the ability of influenza to spread through the body.

"We are about to move into pre-clinical trials and, depending on the success of these, we hope to move on to clinical trials in the near future," von Itzstein said.

Another exciting research project, led by Professor Michael Jennings, involves the development of a vaccine for Neisseria meningitidis, a bacteria best known for its role in meningitis and other forms of meningococcal disease.

The team is also doing research on the rotavirus, a leading cause of gastroenteritis, which kills around 600,000 children worldwide each year and annually hospitalises 20,000 children under five in Australia.

Research by the institute on the Burkholderia pseudomallei bacteria, which causes an infection called Melioidosis, endemic in Queensland, is uncovering vital information about how the organism works so vaccines and drug treatments can be developed.

The institute has also made significant headway in understanding the carbohydrate-binding processes involved in the spread of cancer, important for the development of drugs to target the disease.

"We are at a really exciting stage of our development with some very nice pieces of research underway," von Itzstein said.

"Our researchers are getting recognition for being leaders in their fields with their work published in world-leading international journals and a number of patents have also been filed." ■

griffith.edu.au/science/institute-glycomics





Sustainable power force

SIMON GROCE REPORTS, PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS STACEY



Mimosa Creek, Nathan campus.

“We are unashamedly pioneering, nobody has done this.”

Professor Evan Gray is not talking about a lab experiment at the Queensland Micro and Nanotechnology Centre where he is a project leader, but a \$32 million building soon to grace the gateway to Griffith University’s Nathan campus.

Gray is leading Griffith’s in-house technical team as they finetune the design of systems to make the Sir Samuel Griffith Centre the first teaching and research building in Australia to be fully powered by renewable energy generated on-site. Photovoltaic solar panels on the roof and one side of the building, plus photovoltaic film on the expansive glass cocoon forming the main façade, will generate more than enough electricity on sunny Brisbane days to power all the building’s functions.

The building’s peak energy demand will be no more than 85 per cent of its peak generation capacity. Surplus electricity will be directed to electrolysing water—splitting the H₂O into hydrogen and oxygen.

The hydrogen will be stored to drive an array of fuel cells which will automatically kick-in to power the building when sufficient solar energy is not available. The planned storage capacity of up to 300 kilograms of hydrogen will be enough to fully power the building for at least seven days.

“As far as I know, there hasn’t been a significant building put up anywhere in the world yet in which hydrogen storage has been designed-in from the concept stage,” Gray says.

“There is no mainstream approach in this area, systems like this don’t exist.”

As the headquarters of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, the Sir Samuel Griffith Centre was always going to be an exemplar of energy-efficient, carbon-neutral design and construction. The bulk of the funding for the project—\$21 million from the Federal Government’s Education Infrastructure Fund for sustainability projects—requires it to embody technological advances and have a sustainability agenda in its ongoing use.

But as a national centre of excellence for research into the 21st century’s most important area of science, it will also be a big, busy building. Over six levels with 4000 square metres of floor space it will house two 120-seat lecture theatres, eight seminar rooms, and office accommodation for 80 staff and 40 PhD students.

Designing and constructing an essentially experimental renewable energy system to reliably power all the functions of the building day and night, plus cooling in summer and heating in winter, raises interesting risk management challenges.

“The approach is to make it as simple as possible and use elements, where possible, that are proven,” Gray says.

Electrolysis technology to split water is well established, as is fuel cell technology, with much bigger systems than the 100 kilowatt capacity required for the Sir Samuel Griffith Centre commercially available.

Storing hydrogen in metal hydride powder is also tried and tested. The gas is absorbed into the atomic structure of the powder so that a cubic metre of material can hold up to 120 kilograms of hydrogen at moderate pressure provided by the electrolyzers, a safer method than high-pressure tank storage.





“The conversation we have been having focuses on how much innovation you can put into a building that then requires perceptual and behavioural changes of the occupants, and how far is a bridge too far.”

The West Path, Nathan campus.



PROFESSOR NED PANKHURST

When direct solar energy is insufficient to power the building, hydrogen can be released by heating the storage medium, achieved by using waste heat from the fuel cells and other system components to warm water which will pass through the storage in a closed loop.

The electrolyser, storage and fuel cell components are all modular, so capacity can be added as needed, and the hardware required to power the whole building will fit into an average-sized room.

If all these components can be seen as reliable “organs” of the system, the innovative challenge for Gray’s technical design team is to get the “brain” and “nervous system” right.

The other side of achieving energy self-sufficiency involves achieving lower overall demand for energy compared to conventionally designed buildings of similar size.

In a \$1million contribution to the project, Cisco Systems will provide a suite of technologies to monitor the power consumption of phones, computers and other devices and automatically reduce their power consumption when not in use.

The louvred north-facing glass façade will operate to provide passive ventilation

to cool the building in hot weather. This will contribute to reducing the demand for air-conditioning, the function which poses the biggest challenge when it comes to reducing energy demand.

The design team is aiming to achieve a 25 per cent reduction in energy required for air conditioning compared to a conventional building of the same size. A mix of technological and design solutions, developed in consultation with project architects Cox Rayner will deliver the bulk of these gains, but changing the expectations of the building’s users will be part of achieving the target.

Griffith’s Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research), Professor Ned Pankhurst, who has overall responsibility for the project, says that while “most people” acknowledge that climate control systems in modern commercial buildings deliver an unnecessarily generous level of comfort, the same “most people” have come to take that level of comfort for granted.

“The conversation we have been having focuses on how much innovation you can put into a building that then requires perceptual and behavioural changes of the occupants, and how far is a bridge too far,” Pankhurst says.

“We are managing part of that by putting groups of academics into this project who are already sensitised to the sustainability agenda.”

He says the challenge will be greatest during Brisbane summers when temperatures and humidity will be high but the sun will not always be beaming down to power the building directly. “Our problem is not winter, it’s summertime, with cyclonic events and long periods of cloudy days.”

Despite this seasonal variation, the south Queensland climate offers great potential for the success of the pioneering project, according to Michael Rayner, principal director of architects Cox Rayner.

“The Brisbane climate is ideally suitable for this project, as is the siting of the building,” Rayner says.

Construction will begin in 2011 with the building scheduled to be open by late 2013. ■

Simon Groce is Parliamentary Press Gallery Correspondent for Science Media, and a freelance science and technology writer and editor





Demonstrating sustainable power

In 2007 the operators of the Hamilton Island resort spent \$15 million to install a 24 kilometre undersea cable to provide the island with electricity from the Queensland grid which is largely dependent on fossil-fuelled power generation.

One of the goals of the Sir Samuel Griffith Centre is to show that there are other ways to provide power in remote locations—ways which don't contribute to carbon emissions and are cost-competitive with conventional solutions.

"You can be just 10 kilometres off the grid and the cost of bringing the grid to you would be about \$10 million, which would buy you a system like this," says Professor Evan Gray, leader of the technical design team for the project.

"We believe it's the simplest and most robust system most likely to succeed where you don't have good technical backup."

While the project's on-site, carbon-neutral power generation system would not be big enough to power an energy-hungry popular holiday resort, it would be suitable for many remote communities, mine sites and pastoral establishments. These may now generate some of their energy from ad hoc renewable wind and solar systems, but ultimately they rely on diesel-powered generators to guarantee essential electricity supply. And because the Sir Samuel Griffith Centre's power will be delivered by modular installations of proven technologies, it will be a demonstration model for larger installations.

"A key driver is the capacity for this technology to be scaled and be utilised in a variety of other contexts and off-grid settings, of which Queensland and the Northern Territory have a lot, along with a significant part of the tropical world," says project leader Professor Ned Pankhurst.

Showing it works is an essential step in convincing project designers and developers that to follow this lead will not incur unnecessary risk.

"One of the issues that emerges in relation to alternative energy technologies is the lack of willingness from finance houses to invest in things they haven't seen yet," Pankhurst says.

"Part of the point of this project is to actually demonstrate what's possible."

It will take time for this message to cut through. From 2013, when the building is scheduled to be open, the performance of its self-sufficient energy generation systems will be monitored and improved. This will provide a track record and a model for 21st century power generation systems that Evan Gray believes will signal the end of old carbon-intensive systems that are still essential for remote and other off-grid facilities.

"You will not need to have the diesel generator thumping in the bush in the middle of the night." □

griffith.edu.au/about-griffith/campuses/nathan-campus/facilities/sir-samuel-griffith-building



Griffith Health Centre growing with the Gold Coast

PHIL BROWN REPORTS, PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS STACEY

Griffith University's new \$136 million Health Centre at the Gold Coast campus will be the culmination of nearly a decade of expansion in Australia's fastest growing city. And according to Vice Chancellor and President of Griffith University, Professor Ian O'Connor, as well as being a boon to the local community it will be a bold architectural statement about the university's commitment to the burgeoning city.

"That's why we held a national design competition, to get the best outcome," O'Connor says. "This is a building that will anchor the campus and will be the largest the university has ever built."

"You don't get many opportunities like this and it allows us to make a strong statement about who we are. This building

Pro Vice Chancellor (Health), Professor Allan Cripps, says the new Gold Coast University Hospital will be a state-of-the-art teaching and research hospital and Griffith University will be a major contributor through



Queensland Institute of Medical Research, is working out of Griffith University's Institute for Glycomics on the Gold Coast campus. He was awarded a \$4 million Australian Research Fellowship over five years to continue his research into vaccines for malaria and streptococcus—the cause of rheumatic fever.

Cripps points out that the Gold Coast's burgeoning population—expected to hit 730,000 by 2025—will be well served by Griffith University's commitment to education, research and clinical practice.

He's also enthusiastic about lifestyle opportunities in the growing city and says students and staff will enjoy the benefits of living in an environment that is more relaxed than most urban centres.

"I live at Robina and I really enjoy it," Cripps says. "My kids jokingly call it 'Robina Resort' and there's no doubt it's a very attractive place to be."

It's also a place where progress moves a little faster, according to Professor Ian O'Connor.

"If you have a good idea on the Gold Coast they immediately say, 'what do we have to do to make it happen?'" O'Connor says. "It's a great place to do business and is an exciting international city which makes it easy to attract great staff. I spend a lot of my time on the Gold Coast now and it's really dynamic."



its teaching programs in medicine, oral health, physiotherapy, nursing, pharmacy, psychology, public health and medical science. He added there would be close collaboration with the hospital in research and joint staff appointments.

"One of the exciting things about the new Health Centre is that it will bring together multi-disciplinary health teams to address the sorts of chronic health issues that an ageing population will face in the future," Cripps explains. "There's a growing awareness that a multi-disciplinary approach is the way forward. As our profile builds there will be greater interest from interstate and overseas. The facilities will be world-class. But as well as that it has to be highly functional and this new Health Centre will impact positively on health care delivery on the Gold Coast. It will attract medical staff and deliver a significant range of health services and be a centre of serious research. There's already substantial research being done here."

Internationally-renowned researcher Professor Michael Good's relocation to Griffith University is indicative of that. Professor Good, former director of the

will be part of the most exciting educational precinct in the country. The Griffith Health Centre will be a signature building of the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct, highly visible from Parklands Drive and Olsen Avenue and close to the proposed western station for the Gold Coast Transit systems."

The centre, which will be adjacent to the new \$1.3 billion Gold Coast University Hospital, has been designed by award-winning Brisbane firm Cox Rayner Architects. It will bring together all Griffith's Gold Coast programs onto a single campus, consolidating the University's position as a leader in health education on the Gold Coast.





According to chair of the Gold Coast Business Advisory Council, John Witheriff, the local community recognises Griffith University as intrinsic to the community.

“The University is critically important to the Gold Coast,” Mr Witheriff says. “So we are thrilled that Griffith is continuing to develop its facilities here. Professor O’Connor pledged to do that and he continues to deliver on that pledge. The new Health Centre within the Health and Knowledge Precinct is an outstanding example of the university’s commitment to this city. It will deliver educational facilities and much needed jobs and it’s a very good news story for the Gold Coast.”

Cox Rayner Architects’ principal director, Michael Rayner, says it was satisfying to win a hard-fought competition to design the new Griffith Health Centre.

“It’s a superb project and a seminal one that will change the scale of Griffith University on the Gold Coast,” Rayner says. “It’s a very prominent site and the land around it will eventually be developed. The building we have designed will be the fulcrum for that future development.”

Construction is expected to begin in January 2011 and the new Health Centre will be completed by the end of 2012 to coincide with the opening of the new Gold Coast University Hospital. The Gold Coast Hospital at Southport campus has 600 beds and is the principal teaching hospital for

the Griffith medical program at present and a major provider of clinical placements of the university. But there’s growing demand and that will be met by the new Gold Coast University Hospital which will have 750 beds. Professor Cripps says it will have “an extended range of speciality services that will be considered a full-scale tertiary teaching hospital”.

The Gold Coast campus is now Griffith University’s largest with 16,500 students. Griffith Health is one of Australia’s largest health faculties with more than 6500 full-time students who will benefit from the new Health Centre and its proximity to the Gold Coast University Hospital.

Cripps points out that links between universities and hospitals help to provide benefits and incentives to senior clinicians considering employment opportunities in the public hospital sector.

“As well as increasing the visibility of Griffith’s health teaching and research profile, the significant public clinics in the new Health Centre position the University as a major provider of quality health services to the Gold Coast community,” Cripps says.

The good news just keeps on getting better. ■

Phil Brown is a senior writer with the lifestyle magazine Brisbane News and a regular contributor to Griffith Review.

Nathan heart beats



Griffith University’s Nathan campus is undergoing a \$10.8 million redevelopment which will create a natural heart at its centre for the community to enjoy. A new \$7.5 million retail building, including a café, bookshop and seminar rooms, will be constructed adjacent to the Central Theatres and Macrossan building and completed by mid-2011. The new campus heart features a central courtyard with canopy, new student centres, and extended library—this includes upgraded teaching spaces and external collaborative learning spaces. ■

THE RACE IS ON

JOHN HARMS REPORTS, PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS STACEY

On Remembrance Day next year the 71 delegates of the Commonwealth Games Federation will cast their votes to decide which city will host the 2018 Commonwealth Games. They will decide between two bids: Hambantota in Sri Lanka, and the Gold Coast.

Given the hullabaloo surrounding the Delhi games this year, and the perceived significance (or increasing absence thereof) of the Commonwealth Games in the sporting milieu, many people would ask: “Why bother?”

When you add the reality that, even a decade on, the jury is still out on the long-term costs and benefits of the Sydney Olympic Games, it’s a legitimate question.

Not, though, for Queensland Premier Anna Bligh, her Government, and the Queensland Events Corporation. In August 2008 Ms Bligh had one eye on the Beijing Olympic Games and one eye on the opinion polls. It dawned on her that a major sports festival would serve Queensland rather well. Or at least the promise of a major international sports festival.

At that time the Queensland Events Corporation was looking to attract a number of major international events to the Sunshine State. “There is now a lot of competition for major events,” says Mark Peters, CEO of the company formed to bid for the Gold Coast. “The Middle East and the developing Asian countries all have huge resources. It’s very hard to compete.”

The Gold Coast idea gathered momentum. When the bid group spoke with Perry Crosswhite, CEO of the Australian Commonwealth Games Association (ACGA), they needed to convince him to endorse the Gold Coast proposal.

Initially the ACGA was concerned that the event was too soon after the Melbourne Games of 2006. However, the key elements of the bid were extremely attractive. High on the list was the idea that these would be the first Commonwealth Games held in a regional centre rather than a major city. In the past Commonwealth Games had been conceptualised, to an extent, as mini-versions of the Olympic Games.

“This was different,” Perry says. “This was a new approach. This fitted in with the [movement’s] evolving model that smaller centres could host the Games. Many of the Commonwealth’s cities are comparatively small, and to date we have had most of our Games in the major population centres: Delhi, Melbourne, Glasgow coming up. Yet the way the Gold Coast presented their initial idea for the 2018 Games it had the potential to offer a blueprint for future Games in some less likely places.”

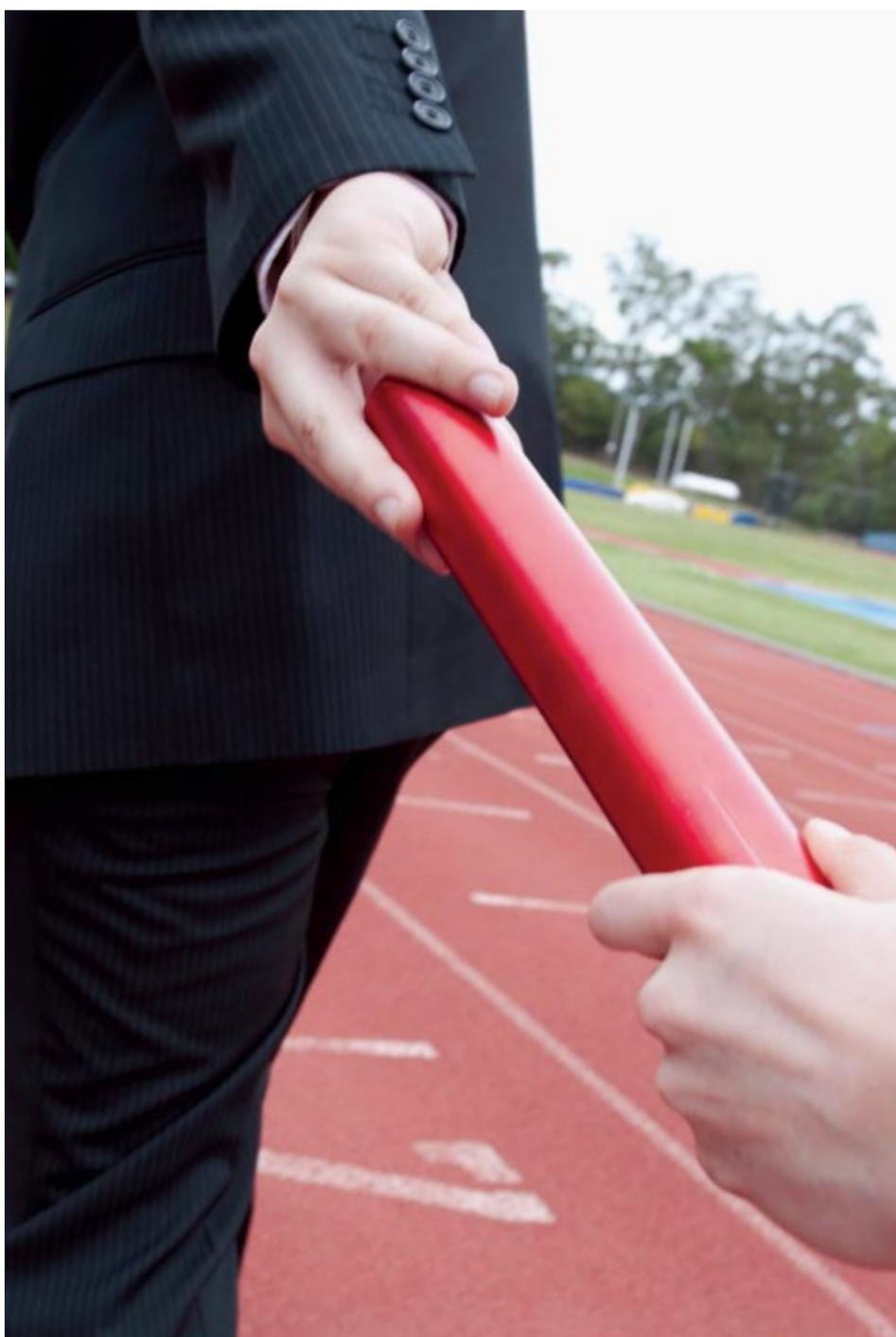
No doubt this would add much flavour to future events in the way that the South African FIFA World Cup (2010) and the cricket World Cup in the West Indies (2007) did for their sports.

Another factor was that the Gold Coast already had two brand new stadia—Skilled Stadium, home of the NRL’s Gold Coast Titans, and the redeveloped Carrara Stadium for the new Gold Coast Suns franchise in the AFL. The bid team could also demonstrate a suitable location (at Parklands) for the eco-village which would house the athletes.



“This is about environment, economy, and in particular this is about people. We want a socially inclusive Games; a Games where the whole community benefits.”

MARK PETERS



The ACGA also wanted to ensure that the Gold Coast Games would provide lasting legacies for the local community, Queensland and Australia. And that they would deliver a wonderful event. “We want this to be in the tradition of the Friendly Games. We want this to be about participation, fraternity, youth.”

That’s the feel-good that politicians love to be part of. But the bigger question for the community is whether a major international sporting event is really worth it. What will the Commonwealth Games do for the Gold Coast? What will be the measures of success?

In the past the rhetoric of benefit has been heavy-handed, and merely stated. Games organisers (and those who have most to gain) have placed the community on a drip-feed discourse of money-well-spent in what has been a text-book case study for public relations researchers.

One of the things that makes this bid more progressive and different is the involvement of Griffith University. Perry Crosswhite is quite clear: “What Griffith University has brought to this process is academic rigour.”

Various researchers from Griffith University—among them Professor Kristine Toohey, Dr Danny O’Brien, Dr Liz Fredline—have a lot to offer in this area, and they have had a significant impact on the conceptualisation of the proposed Gold Coast Games. Research surrounding major sporting events has contributed to far better understanding across numerous disciplines, so that there is at least a better chance the mistakes of the past won’t resurface.

VALUING VOLUNTEERS

The opportunities available for Griffith University if the Gold Coast bid is successful are considerable. Liz Ruinard is the project manager of Work Integrated Learning (WIL) at Griffith. It nurtures links between the community and the students to create opportunities for real-life learning. “Volunteers are a key component of any major sports event,” Liz says. “Look at the Sydney Olympics. The volunteers were central to its success, and you can see from

the recent 10-year reunion how much they enjoyed the experience, and how much it meant to them. Griffith University has students, capable, skilled and ready to offer their help across a broad range of disciplines: events management, media, human resources, business and marketing, and so on. WIL would work closely with the organising committee to ensure all parties benefit as best they can.”

Professor Kristine Toohey is the Head of the Department of Tourism, Leisure, Hotel and Sport Management in the School of Business. She is a leading authority on major sporting events and their impact. She was the senior editor of the Official Report of the Games of the XXVII Olympiad (2002). She is concerned with the question of whom these major events benefit, and has challenged the assumptions about their impact on participation in sport at the community level. In a recent article, *Post Sydney 2000. Australia: a Potential Clash of Aspirations Between Recreational and Elite Sport*, published in the *International Journal of Sports History*, she wrote:

“Potential event host cities, governments, and sport governing bodies continue to claim that increased recreational sport participation is an anticipated legacy of the Olympic Games. While this may be part of the campaign to muster public support and to justify expenditure of public funds on the event, this furphy should be exposed to rigorous testing. This can only be done by ensuring that measures of sport participation are available before and after the hosting of sport events.”

Toohey wants a benefit across the community, and she is convinced that the Gold Coast can do that. “We have learnt a lot since Sydney,” she says. “There was a sense, very naïve, that participation would just increase. But it didn’t. There wasn’t enough planning.”

Toohey believes that what has become known as “Legacy Planning” in the research is the key to a successful sporting event.

The event itself is merely part of the benefit to the community. In the example of participation there are so many opportunities.

“This is not the responsibility of the organising committee,” she explains. “Planning must occur at the macro level: government needs to put structures and systems in place before the event to facilitate participation. And at the micro level: support needs to be given to sporting organisations right down to individual club level. Only then can we capitalise on the enthusiasm created by the Games.”

Toohey is sure that the Games would bring benefits—economic, social, educational, sporting—across the community. “This is a great thing for the Gold Coast and Griffith,” she says. “As long as we plan from day one. There is opportunity across so many disciplines: even architecture and town planning, health and wellbeing, tourism of course.”

What Toohey is talking about is part of what is known as the triple bottom line. Her colleague, Dr Liz Fredline, has a strong research interest in this area. These ideas have permeated the bid team’s approach. Mark Peters says notions of the triple bottom line are elemental in developing strategy. “This is about environment, economy, and in particular this is about people. We want a socially inclusive Games; a Games where the whole community benefits.”

Dr Danny O’Brien, from the same department at Griffith, is interested in the leverage that can help communities which host major sporting events. He understands the criticism which followed Sydney from

tourism lobbyists like Chris Brown who was very critical of federal and state governments when he said: “They thought the job was done when the flame went out.”

Dr O’Brien argues that much can be done. “Research suggests that one of the successes of Sydney was the Business Club Australia idea. It was just that: a club. Where business people were invited and met and created significant relationships. Austrade says more than \$1 billion of business resulted.”

“Simple things like vignettes of the local area for media [to splice] into their coverage. But also social issues can be addressed: look at the impact of the Rugby World Cup in South Africa in the 1990s. Who will forget the image of Nelson Mandela in a South African rugby jumper? Who will forget Cathy Freeman? Yet we didn’t follow up on that opportunity. And that’s what it is about—socially, economically, educationally.”

This is a wonderful opportunity for the thinkers at Griffith. They have a genuine opportunity to bring their knowledge and understanding to influence the development of a concept which, done well, can have a terrific impact for the people of the Gold Coast and beyond.

It starts now. ■

*John Harms has written extensively on sport for magazines and newspapers and he can be seen on ABC TV’s *Offsiders*.*

Teaching Top Teachers

*Education student Mitch Campbell
with students at Ashmore State School.*



Teaching is one of the world's most challenging and important occupations. Now Griffith University educators have developed a unique program to better prepare new teachers to tackle the challenges.

GEOFFREY MASLEN REPORTS, PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS STACEY

“Our teachers need to be inspirational; they need to give students hope,” says Associate Professor Glenn Finger.

As deputy dean responsible for learning and teaching in the faculty of education at Griffith University, Finger has no doubt that many of those he teaches will be inspirations to their students when they graduate.

“I have worked with wonderful students who now teach and make a difference,” he says. “And to be able to teach teachers to be world class is something very special.”

A pupil who struggled in his early years of schooling, Finger has a deep understanding of the difference great teachers can make by awakening in their students a sense of possibilities and potential—a sense of what they can become, not only the gaining of knowledge: “We were terrified at school in the early years and even to blink you were in trouble. It was not a happy place, not a place for children to learn.”

He says he learnt little in the first three grades until a teacher called Keith Oliver in grades four and five transformed him from a non-reader to one who loved reading, dreaming, creative expression—and learning. From the age of nine, he knew he wanted to be a teacher.

Finger is a member of a team at Griffith developing a unique Master of Teaching course, the first of its kind in Queensland. The new degree will have a strong focus on the quality of its intake, similar to the demanding selection processes in Finland, South Korea and Singapore. A key aspect will be building a partnership between the education faculty and the schools where student teachers will be placed and co-taught.

“That partnership with schools will help build links between professional practice and professional knowledge,” he says.

“With the move to national accreditation of teacher education and the *Review of Teacher Education and Induction in Queensland* now taking place, we want to be on the front foot for what we expect will be recommended.”

Dean of education Professor Claire Wyatt-Smith says that traditionally universities and schools have not collaborated to induct new teachers into the profession: “That task has been left to the school and the newcomers’ colleagues. Now, with our new Master of Teaching in Professional Practice, we as teacher educators will continue to work with the school after the student graduates using a systematic approach to induction.”

Professor Wyatt-Smith says considerable discussion is taking place among education

academics around Australia on how best to prepare new teachers for the linguistic and cultural diversity of the 21st century classroom. She says integration of computers and communication technologies in the classroom, the ever-present challenge of behaviour management and the provision for children whose first language is not English are all issues that need to be covered during teacher training and highlight the importance of quality teacher education.

Being adequately prepared to address the complex demands today’s teachers face might ensure that newcomers stay in schools “beyond the five-year slump when many leave the profession,” Wyatt-Smith says. But this also calls for new ways of thinking about teacher preparation and hence the development of the Master of Teaching in Professional Practice.

She says Griffith’s education faculty has a distinguished history of offering a Master of Teaching for primary and secondary teachers to postgraduate students from Canada. Since the 1990s, more than 2000 Canadians have graduated from the course in Queensland and it is now accredited as a pre-service postgraduate qualification by Canadian registration authorities.



Associate Professor Glenn Finger and Professor Claire Wyatt-Smith.

The university has nearly 4000 primary and secondary teacher trainees undertaking four-year education degrees or one-year postgraduate education courses. Although development of the new Master of Teaching degree drew on the experience with Canadian teachers, Wyatt-Smith says it also arose because teacher training across Australia is under scrutiny, with Queensland holding a review and the Federal Government discussing national accreditation of courses.

“We are positioning ourselves for a possible move to a two-year teacher preparation rather than the one-year graduate diploma,” she explains. “We’ve been looking at the research into teacher education and quality education for the 21st century. The demands on teachers today are different from those of earlier eras, given what we now know about the nature of learning as well as issues around discipline depth, curriculum change, and the knowledge and capabilities teachers need to cope with behaviour management and increased student diversity.”

With the emerging national school curriculum and the priorities on raising literacy and numeracy levels in primary schools, she says the new masters course aims to produce quality teachers with specific skills in addressing these issues. This will be a

teacher education program for potential educational leaders, top graduates with first degrees who will undertake the pre-service year with an academic component, leading to a “partnership induction course” in the second year in schools.

There the novice teachers will undertake action research in numeracy, literacy and interpretation and use of assessment to improve student learning. They will finally present their findings at a showcase conference to the school, teachers, and “the education system at large”.

Wyatt-Smith says the induction partnership will involve Griffith academics working in the schools with the student teachers who will be members of the school community for the entire semester. Those who complete the first year will gain 100 credit points towards their degree as well as provisional registration to teach in schools.

“We want to turn out teachers who can bring a critical inquiry approach to their practice,” she says. “We want them to see that as part of their teaching, to research what they are doing, consistently monitoring their curriculum planning, how they’re teaching and how they are using assessment to monitor what’s going on and to drive improvements.”

The program at Griffith will include extensive “work integrated learning”, with two six-week placements in schools in the first year and a final induction semester of two terms at a fractional teaching load in the second. “This will be complemented with research-based learning through the action research project designed by the student in partnership with the mentor, the school and the university. This program will position Griffith as a leader in producing quality classroom teachers.”

The notion that teacher education should be a partnership between academics and the teaching profession also arises during an interview with Dr Cheryl Sim, a senior lecturer and program convenor of the Graduate Diploma of Education.

“We work very hard at community engagement with schools and teachers as our partners,” Sim says. “But we have a long way to go in terms of trying to break down the school’s view that the “real world” is actually there and that we in the university don’t know what’s going on. That attitude is gradually changing but it’s still a challenge for us because schools are totally different institutions in the way they operate and the priorities they have; so “partnerships in education” is a complex area and very challenging.”

“The demands on teachers today are different from those of earlier eras, given what we now know about the nature of learning as well as issues around discipline depth, curriculum change, and the knowledge and capabilities teachers need to cope with behaviour management and increased student diversity.”

Professor Claire Wyatt-Smith

Professor Wyatt-Smith believes the masters degree will help in meeting that challenge. She also says the new degree is substantively different from the Teach for Australia Master of Teaching because it has a different design and different relationships with schools. The \$22 million scheme was launched last year by then Education Minister Julia Gillard who said the aim was “to raise the level of teaching nationwide” by enticing top graduates to swap jobs and become teachers.

Modelled on similar schemes in Britain and America, the project has attracted widespread criticism. The Australian Education Union says the scheme costs 15 times more than that needed to train other teachers and the money would have been better spent expanding university teacher training and providing more mentoring and support for new teachers.

The Griffith educators developing their new Master of Teaching course would no doubt agree. ■

Geoffrey Maslen is a former secondary school science teacher and a teacher educator. He is founding editor of University World News, the online global higher education newspaper.

Classroom Practice

Two years ago Rebecca Hassell completed a four-year Bachelor of Education Primary at Griffith University and obtained first class honours. She had no problems getting a teaching post when she graduated although for three terms she worked as a casual in the school where she did her internship during training. She is currently on a 12-month contract at the same school and should know soon whether the position will be renewed.

So far Ms Hassell has taught children in first and second year and in years five and six. She says the course at Griffith was an excellent preparation for the different classrooms and the many demands of the younger and older children.

“Definitely, especially with the internship in school being a compulsory subject,” she says. “This six-week block really encouraged the teacher in me to come out when I took over teaching under the guidance of an education professional.”

Ms Hassell says one of the best aspects of the teacher training course was the way information and communication technologies were integrated throughout “regardless of the subject area”.

“The capabilities of information and communication technologies demonstrated through the lectures and tutorials were truly innovative and instilled the confidence in me to do the same for my students.”

Highlights from the 2010 Churchie National Emerging Art Exhibition

Queensland College of Art alumnus Kelly Hussey-Smith won the overall prize at the 2010 Churchie National Emerging Art Exhibition—one of Australia's richest emerging art awards.

"The Churchie" exhibition was hosted by Griffith University Art Gallery at Queensland College of Art (QCA) for the first time this year, and showcased 49 works by 45 finalists, shortlisted from 675 entries from around Australia. Several QCA alumni and current students were preselected as finalists in the exhibition and award.

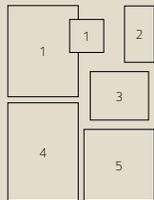
According to the judge, Andrew Frost, Kelly's video work, *Caged*, had "a simple but effective conceptual premise, as well as a very affecting emotional impact as it recorded time-lapse sequences of animals in zoo and museum captivity in Australia and China".

"Looking at her work, one can't help but project human feelings onto these animals, be they bears, orang-utans or even fish. I was drawn immediately to the work and was very pleased to award it 'the Churchie' 2010."

Frost, a national arts broadcaster, writer and critic, said the quality of the 49 finalists was high and represented a variety of approaches, media and concepts.

"I was familiar with some of the artists, but what I thought I was going to see when I read the list of finalists was often different from what direction they have actually taken, and what they had submitted for 'the Churchie'."

"The works that stood out for me were those that had both intriguing concepts and were well executed."



QUEENSLAND COLLEGE OF ART ALUMNI AND STUDENTS EXHIBITED IN THE SHOW:

- 1 **GABRIELLA SZABLEWSKA** *Untitled (Handy Man)*
(plus detail) mixed media installation 20 x 30 x 20 cm
- 2 **CARLY SCOUFOS** *Polyperspe spp* on plastic 120 x 240 cm
- 3 **CARLY KOTYNSKI** *The Thrill of the Chase*
dishwashers, sculpture 95 x 50 x 50 cm
- 4 **KAREN BLACK** *Glory* oil on composition board 47 x 63 cm
JUDGE'S COMMENDATION
- 5 **LUKE KIDD** *The Kelly Gang*
oil on composition board 150 x 150 cm



WINNER \$15,000 PRIZE

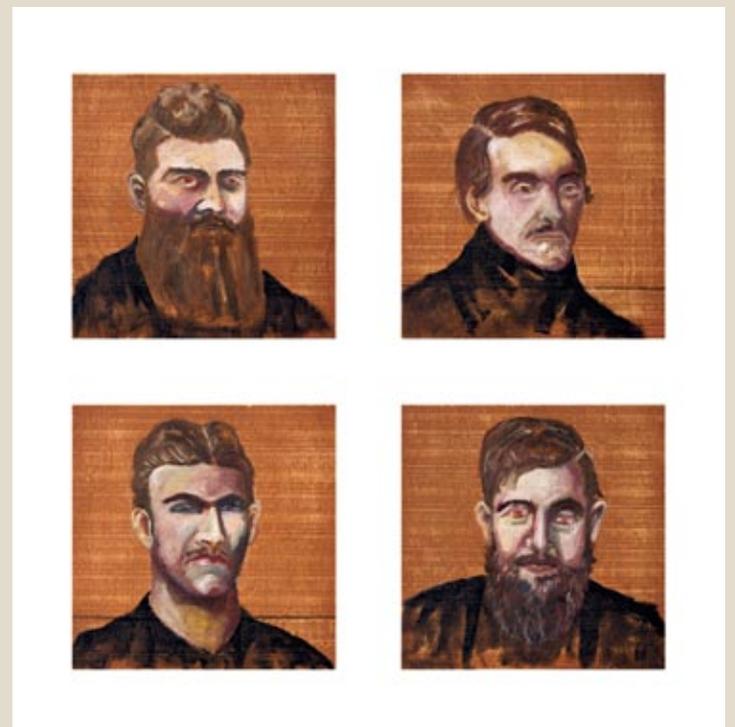
sponsored by BRAND+SLATER ARCHITECTS

Kelly Hussey-Smith *Caged*,
DVD 4:47 minutes looped

Kelly Hussey-Smith's winning work
can be viewed at:

[http://www.kellyhusseysmith.com/
caged-time-lapse/](http://www.kellyhusseysmith.com/caged-time-lapse/)

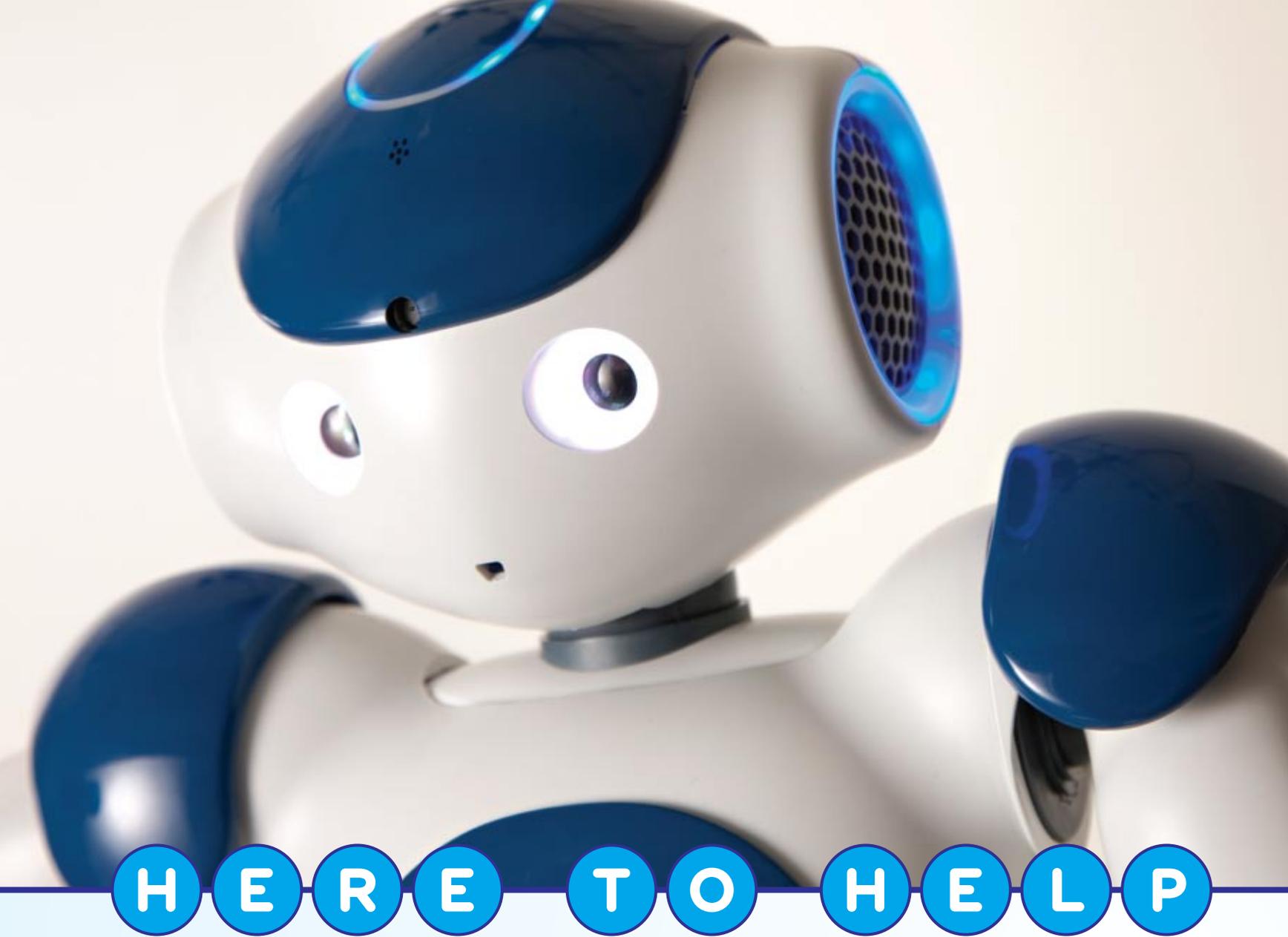
Kelly Hussey-Smith is a Brisbane-based documentary practitioner. She is a graduate of the Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, and has an honours degree (first class) in Documentary Practice and Sociology. Her most recent work, *Caged*, questions the way we use animals as entertainment and decoration in our everyday lives. Kelly views her documentary practice as a form of social activism. In 2007–2008 she was the editor of the *Australian PhotoJournalist* magazine, an annual publication that showcases the world's best photojournalism. She currently works with the Centre for Documentary Practice and tutors at the Queensland College of Art and Queensland University of Technology.





**QUEENSLAND COLLEGE OF ART ALUMNI
AND STUDENTS EXHIBITED IN THE SHOW:**

- 6 KIRRA JAMISON *Untitled* synthetic polymer paint on paper 114 x 160 cm
- 7 CHRIS BENNIE *Smooth Machine No. 3* acrylic on canvas 213 x 167 cm
- 8 ANDREW D K FORSYTH *lazy8 - everywhere fast* New Media/Technologies 60 x 60 x 120 cm
- 9 ALEX CUFFE AND ANNIE ROBERTSON *Sound / music by DOLL FACE Prince Lamb (Part 1)* New Media/Technologies 35 x 35 x 45 cm
- 10 MATTHEW DABROWSKI *Key Self-Portrait* photograph 120 x 170 cm
- 11 PHOEBE McDONALD *Deep geometry* sculptural elements, balsa wood 80 x 20 x 20 cm
- 12 KARLA MARCHESI *Teal Kitchen* oil on composition board 206 x 70 cm
- 13 NAT KOYAMA *Breed* drawing 240 x 152 cm
- 14 RYAN PRESLEY *Land Lust: Birth of No-ration* terracota ceramic sculpture 80 x 40 x 50 cm



TIM THWAITES REPORTS | PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS STACEY

As you get out of bed and begin preparing for the day, you know something's not quite right. You're not 100 per cent—a little tired, tightness at the back of the nose, a bit flushed. Perhaps a cold or a dose of the flu is coming on. But don't worry, your clothes are onto it.

They're already monitoring your temperature with built-in receptors and have analysed your biorhythms. What's more, because you have a fever, they've sent a message to the computer at your local GP's surgery and received a prescription. They've also communicated with your workplace to say you may not be in today, and have instructed the kitchen computer to provide suggestions of preventive nutrients to include in today's meals.

That's an example of the kind of future envisaged by senior lecturer Dr Jun Jo of Griffith University's Gold Coast campus—a world where intelligent devices all around us assist with daily life. Essentially, he is talking

about robots—but these are a far cry from the menacing, malevolent machines depicted in science fiction movies such as *The Matrix* or *The Terminator*.

The robots on which he and his colleagues work in the autonomous systems section of Griffith's Institute for Integrated and Intelligent Systems (IIIS) typically are not humanoid. They are intelligent machines that assist humans, and they are designed to be companions, not rivals.

There is no rigid definition of a robot. Most experts now agree that robots contain three elements: an ability to sense the environment around them; artificial intelligence or a capacity for decision-making; and an ability to manipulate the environment—to move and undertake tasks. So robots can include everything from C-3PO, the *Star Wars* android, through unmanned autonomous vehicles, to tiny machines that can swim through the

bloodstream to perform medical tasks—even clothes embedded with intelligent elements.

Jo is at the forefront of a drive towards the "ubiquitous robot" where the three elements—sensors, actuators, and artificial intelligence—do not even have to be in the same machine, or even the same place. They are brought together by intelligent software which is able to communicate with whatever sensors and actuators it wants, wirelessly or through the web.

Already, in his smart phone he carries software to communicate with and control sensors and actuators. Or it can be sent from place to place by email. "Sometimes it can sit in a robot, sometimes in a game console, sometimes in a sensor network which is interacting with the environment. If I have something to do overseas, I carry it with me. I can then rent a robot, download it, and do what I need to do."

*Professor Vladimir Estivill-Castro
with Ginger (left) and Gene (right).*



“At present, Australia is a little bit behind in robotics, but I don’t think that is a big issue, because we are very strong in software engineering and artificial intelligence. At Griffith, the IIS is dedicated to research in that area, and is one of the core elements of robotics in Australia.”

Jo’s colleague on the Nathan campus, Professor Vladimir Estivill-Castro, heads the research effort into autonomous systems, and is working on companion robots. “My interest is in robots to assist people, particularly those who have issues with

disabilities and the elderly. I’m not interested in robots for the assembly line or replacing human labour, but in being a companion and a support to improve human life. In that sense, I agree with the social and environmental objectives of Griffith,” Estivill-Castro says.

“There are a lot of areas in which we will require robotic assistance. As more people live longer, given the advances in medicine and health, for instance, there is simply not enough human labour to attend to the elderly.”

He speaks of being able to walk into a room with a device which would be able to seek out and communicate with all the sensors and actuators present. Upon being given a task it could then size up the capacity to undertake it with whatever is available. This makes Estivill-Castro particularly interested in the concept of commonsense robots—robots which, like humans, can make decisions without having all the facts available. Given partial information, you have to use commonsense.

One commonsense decision Estivill-Castro himself has made is to concentrate on two-legged robots. This makes sense in terms of accessibility for and usefulness of companions. “Almost every office, every home is designed on the assumption that you are a reasonable-sized, legged adult. Even children suffer from this. Making a two-legged robot walk is very hard, and most such robots can’t run.”

Estivill-Castro is also quite aware that people, and particularly the elderly, feel uncomfortable with robots which are too human. There is a fine line between machines which are human enough to communicate and operate efficiently in a human environment, and those which are unnervingly humanoid. Another of his research interests is producing poker-playing robots, partly for entertainment, partly to solve issues to do with companionship.

The researchers into autonomous systems at Griffith are concentrated around three laboratories: the Intelligent Control Systems Laboratory, mainly to do with the design and development of autonomous vehicles and directed by Professor Ljubo Vlacic; the Machine Intelligence and Pattern Analysis Laboratory under Estivill-Castro; and Robotics and Gaming.

And, because of the social nature of the research at Griffith, perhaps it is not surprising to find that the activity is not confined to the University itself. Dr Jo often speaks at schools and has been working with teachers and students at local high schools on the Gold Coast.

For instance, as part of a project on autonomous electric cars, students at Helensvale High School are building the car itself—the actuator—while Jo and his students build a vision-recognition system and intelligent control system, the sensor and decision-maker. The Helensvale students will also take part in the 12th International Robot Olympiad to be held on the Gold Coast in December (*see box*). Jo is the General Chair of the International Robot Olympiad Committee. ▣

Tim Thwaites is a freelance science writer and broadcaster based in Melbourne.



ROBOT OLYMPIAD

While the events are hardly traditional so far as humans are concerned—escaping, survival, dancing, cart-rolling, maze-solving—the meeting certainly attracts an international crowd, the competition is hot, and academics from Griffith University are playing a significant organisational role.

For the second time in five years, at the Tallebudgera Recreation Centre from December 14 to 17, the Gold Coast will host the International Robot Olympiad. The competition will attract about 700 students, as well as their teachers and parents, from all over the world, though mainly from Asia—250 from Korea, 200 from China and 100 from Indonesia for starters.

In addition to events in the junior league (under 17 years of age) and the challenge league (over 17), there will be the traditional creativity challenge. This year’s is to design, construct, present and document robots to help us secure our water future. All is accompanied by an industry forum and exhibition for robotics-related companies and an International Symposium in Robotics and Education.

“The International Robotics Olympiad will expose our students to advanced technology developed overseas,” says Mr Matt Moloney, science teacher at Pacific Pines State High School on the Gold Coast, who is helping to organise and judge the competition. “It will provide students with an opportunity to solve problems using advanced technology through teamwork in a competitive way.”

He introduced robotics to his school at year 9 level last year. It teaches science, numeracy, literacy and information technology in a way that really captures the imagination of students, he says. “They absolutely loved it. They were taking the robots home and working on them in their own time—even the kids you wouldn’t think were interested in maths, science or IT.” ▣



Rural health high flyers

Melissa Sweet reports

Photography

Chris Stacey, Chris Ison

When Jacqueline Strudwick-Day began a nursing degree almost three years ago, she saw it as a stepping stone to her long-term ambition of working as a doctor in a major metropolitan hospital.

But she has recently had a dramatic change of plan, after undertaking a month-long clinical placement in Rockhampton with the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The placement is one of a number of initiatives by Griffith University that aim to encourage nursing, medical and other health students to consider working in rural areas.

For Strudwick-Day, the experience was so inspiring that she now plans to work in rural health, although she is not yet sure whether this will be as a nurse or medico.

“It definitely has changed what I want to do with my career,” says Strudwick-Day, 23, who grew up in Sydney and describes herself as a “city girl”.

“The people who work in rural and remote health are really, really passionate people.”

“I like that in rural health, you’re in the community, you can see your work in action. You don’t have all the resources, so you do have to think more and you do have to know more. I like that challenge.”

Strudwick-Day’s experience highlights a growing awareness of the role that universities can play in addressing shortages of health professionals in rural areas, which lead to country people tending to have poorer access to health care than their city cousins.

The first global recommendations for addressing rural health workforce shortages, recently released by the World Health Organization (WHO), identify several areas where universities can make a difference.

Recommended strategies include exposing undergraduate students to rural experiences, targeted admission policies for students from rural backgrounds, locating campuses outside major cities, and also include rural health topics in undergraduate and postgraduate curricula.

The WHO guidelines also highlight that Australia is not alone in grappling with rural health inequities. About one half of the world’s population lives in rural areas, but less than 38 per cent of nurses and less than 25 per cent of doctors work there.

Dr Kim Webber is chief executive officer of Rural Health Workforce Australia (RHWA), the peak body representing agencies that recruit and support rural and remote health professionals, and was a member of the committee which produced the WHO recommendations.

Among its activities RHWA funds rural health clubs for university students, including Griffith’s HOPE4HEALTH club, which Dr Webber says have been good at encouraging people from rural areas to consider careers in health.

Webber says universities can have a major impact in producing graduates who want to work in rural and remote areas through their

student selection, placement and curricula strategies. “These are the key pieces that we need to have in place to attract Australian graduates to the bush,” she says.

At Griffith University, Pro Vice Chancellor (Health) Professor Allan Cripps is a strong advocate for rural health.

This partly reflects his broad concerns for equity, as well as his own experiences of growing up in rural NSW, where he did correspondence school before attending boarding school.

Although interested in medicine as a teenager, the “shy bush kid” was daunted by the idea of moving to Sydney, and decided instead to study science closer to home, at the University of New England at Armidale.

Cripps says there is strong evidence that students who have rural experience during undergraduate education and postgraduate training are more likely to work in the bush, particularly if they are from the country themselves.

He is confident that a new initiative to provide longer-term clinical placements for students throughout the Darling Downs and South Burnett region will yield long-term dividends for rural health.

The initiative has been made possible by an \$8.3 million federal grant to increase clinical training capacity, awarded to a consortium involving Griffith University, the University of Southern Queensland, Queensland Health and Queensland Rural Medical Education.

**“I like that in rural health, you’re in the community,
you can see your work in action.” Jacqueline Strudwick-Day**





Elizabeth Dove, third year dental student and Ben Wakefield, first year medical student at Cherboung Hospital.

Cripps hopes the first placements will begin early next year, pending the construction of facilities in Kingaroy, Warwick and Stanthorpe. He expects this initiative will help attract local students to pursue health degrees.

“It is anticipated that regional and rural students, including those from the local Indigenous communities, will find health education programs more accessible,” he says.

However, improving rural health care is not only about increasing the health workforce, but is also about redesigning health services and doing things differently.

So says Associate Professor Jenny Gamble, Deputy Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Logan, who describes maternity care as a prime example of the need for service redesign.



Gamble says one reason that many rural and regional maternity services have closed in recent years is because they have been structured around the availability of doctors.

“They set up the whole system around a local doctor, and if the doctor leaves, the whole system falls apart,” she says, “but they’ve paid very little attention to making a sustainable midwifery workforce.”

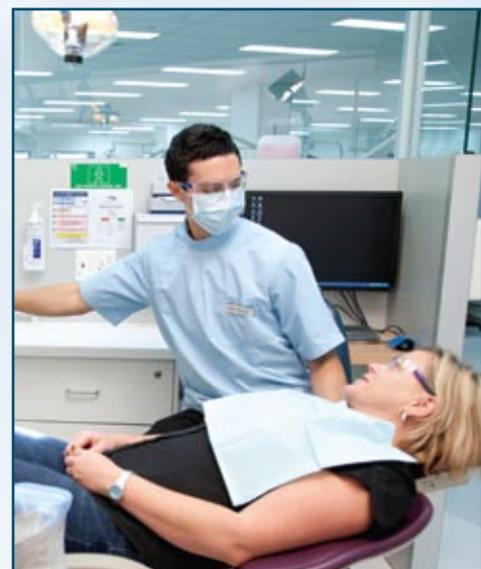
For example, she says the border town of Goondiwindi has been able to build a sustainable maternity service by redesigning the system to make better use of midwives.

“We really have to re-think the whole way we provide birthing services,” Gamble says.

Griffith University has introduced a number of initiatives aimed at strengthening rural maternity services, including a new blended learning program to enable women in rural and regional areas to undertake its new direct-entry bachelor of midwifery degree, without leaving home.

The program enables students to do clinical placement in their local area, and study online with support from a local clinical lecturer, while visiting the main campus for two weeks twice a year.

Next year, the program is expected to enrol 10 students in Townsville, including several Indigenous students, and 10 in Toowoomba, with plans for students in other regional and rural centres.



“This program offers great opportunity to develop a regional and rural midwifery workforce but perhaps even more importantly to help provide opportunity for Indigenous women to become midwives,” Gamble says.

It is easier, she says, to create a local workforce than to recruit from outside.

“If we’re enabling local rural and regional women to become midwives, they already live there. We don’t have to give them incentives to move to the country, it’s where they want to live.” □

griffith.edu.au/health/griffith-health

Melissa Sweet is a freelance health journalist and the author of several books.



Bringing oral health to the bush

Tessa Byrne

When young Aboriginal children from the Cherbourg community to the northwest of Brisbane were asked if they owned a toothbrush, not many said they did.

But when asked how many had teeth that hurt, nearly everyone put up their hands.

This exchange made a lasting impression on Tessa Byrne, a dental student who was visiting Cherbourg last year in connection with Griffith University's HOPE4HEALTH rural health club.

"When the kids opened their mouths, you could see extensive decay," says Tessa Byrne, 22, who is now completing the final year of her studies.

Conscious of the community's lack of access to dental services—a common problem in rural and remote Australia—Byrne and her fellow students resolved to come up with some solutions.

As a result, a group of dental students subsequently returned to the community to do a needs assessment and provide some emergency treatment.

"In the first week we had three dental chairs operating and saw 84 patients in four days," Byrne says. "We were just inundated with patients."

Byrne recently returned to the community with a donation from Colgate of more than 1000 children's toothbrushes, and to talk about oral health at the local school.

In the longer term, she hopes that a partnership between HOPE4HEALTH, Griffith University and the Barrambah medical clinic will enable a regular visiting dental service to be established.

A similar arrangement has been working well to deliver dental care to the people of the Brewarrina area in northern NSW, says Professor Ward Massey, Head of the School of Dentistry and Oral Health.

As a result of a partnership between Griffith University, Brewarrina Shire Council, the Greater Western Area Health Service, and the medical service Ochre Health, this outback area now has access to dental care for around 30 weeks of the year.

Visiting Griffith students and staff provide the services, with the receptionist and a dental assistant coming from the local community.

The project recently won a National Local Government Award for Excellence, which recognises "a Council that is delivering services and developing local solutions to complex and challenging problems".

While this is a positive development, Massey says the overall news on oral health in rural and regional Australia is grim. Many people do not have access to dental services, with potentially serious implications, given the importance of oral health for general physical health and wellbeing.

Massey says while more dental graduates are in the pipeline—Griffith's was the first new dental school for 60 years and has since been followed by three others—the demand for services is set to outstrip supply into the foreseeable future.

He adds that Griffith University is at the forefront of developing other strategies to help meet the dental gap, including producing more allied dental practitioners.

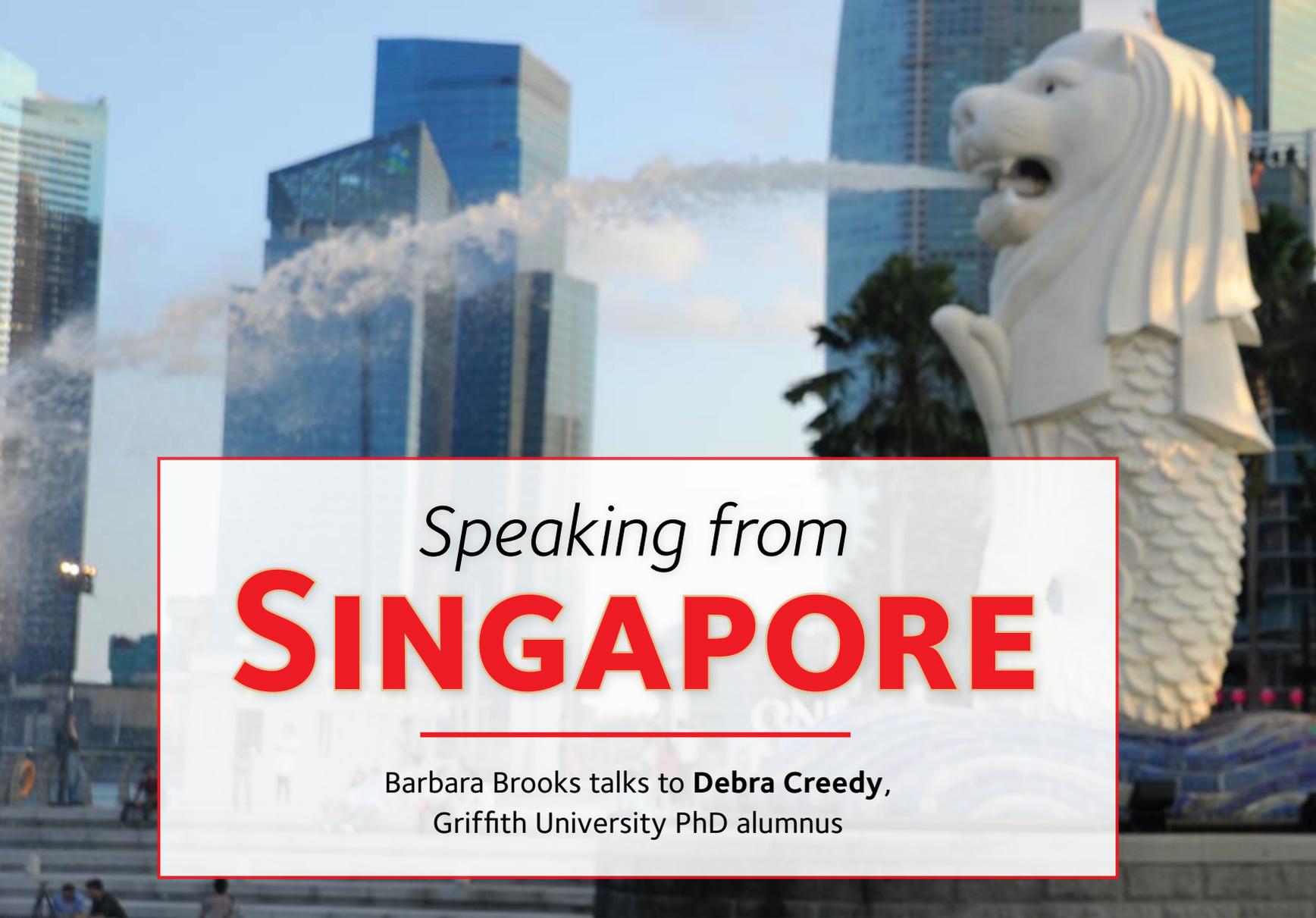
Griffith also contributes to the Australian Dental Council's assessment of dentists from overseas, who are playing an increasingly important role in meeting demand, Massey says.

"The Australian Dental Council examination process over recent years has produced up to 40 per cent of our new dentists registering," he explains.

Massey hopes that initiatives such as the Brewarrina clinic will encourage more Indigenous people to consider careers in oral health. "One of the barriers to entry in many cases is that many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants don't know about oral health and therefore can't select it as a career," he says.

Meanwhile, Tessa Byrne hopes to continue her work in remote and Indigenous communities after graduation, when she plans to move back to her home town of Melbourne. "I plan to do one to two months a year volunteer work in these kinds of communities," she says. ■

griffith.edu.au/health/school-dentistry-oral-health



Speaking from **SINGAPORE**

Barbara Brooks talks to **Debra Creedy**,
Griffith University PhD alumnus

PHOTOGRAPHY **BERNARD YAM**

Debra Creedy's smiling face looks out from the National University of Singapore (NUS) website. Professor and Head of the Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies, here she is surrounded by other professors and lecturers in nursing, a diverse and talented group who have worked and studied all over the world: Singapore, Australia, the US, Thailand, Hong Kong, Macau, the Philippines, Pakistan, London. But the first faces that appear on the centre's website are the students—male as well as female, ethnically diverse, smiling and wearing neat white uniforms, stethoscopes, hijabs, blue jeans.

Professor Creedy is a Queenslander. Like the former Governor General Bill Hayden, countless sportsmen, the first Aboriginal politician Neville Bonner, and writer John Birmingham, she grew up in Ipswich. She began her career as a mental health nurse in Australia in the 1980s. She added qualifications in psychology and

education at the time when nursing was becoming a profession. "Tertiary training meant more respect for nurses," Creedy says. There was resistance to change, from medical practitioners who wanted to maintain their authority, and from nurses who believed hands-on experience in a hospital was the key. The next debate would be about Nurse Practitioners—nurses with postgraduate qualifications, trained to diagnose and manage some medical conditions.

Early in her career Creedy became interested in community health and psychological aspects of health among women. After a Victorian government review of the roles of nurses and midwives in women's wellbeing, she ran workshops in mental health for women in rural Victoria. With a degree in clinical psychology, a Dip Ed and Masters in Education, she had the right background for a nursing academic when she joined Griffith's School of Nursing in 1994. She completed her PhD at Griffith in 1999, exploring post-traumatic stress in women after childbirth. In 2003 she was Dean of Nursing and Health at Griffith,

and in 2005 she became Dean of Health, overseeing 10 schools training students for 16 different roles as health workers. She likes working collaboratively, and moving forward. "I've always been someone who was prepared to take risks and put myself forward," she says. Griffith gave her opportunities as head of a large multidisciplinary group. She liked the egalitarian approach, the commitment to giving people a go. There was strong support for equity and diversity, and Griffith had good affirmative action programs. Creedy had mentors, both men and women. Beyond the university, she was on ministerial working parties, with an opportunity to influence health policy for a wider community.

Griffith looks to Asia, and she was involved with an international program. There was a program in Japan, delivered as distance education, for nurses to convert diplomas into degrees. "You can imagine what fun we had translating the curriculum into Japanese, then trying to find bilingual tutors in Brisbane," she says.

In 2008 she came to the National University of Singapore as head of the Centre



*“I’ve always
been someone
who was
prepared to
take risks and
put myself
forward.”*

Professor Debra Creedy

for Nursing Studies. What was it like to arrive there? “Singapore is a highly organised country,” she says, “with systems that are similar to Australia.” English is the language of the academy in Asia, which makes her life easier.

“To be involved professionally in the development of the profession of nursing in Singapore is a privilege.” Singapore has a tradition of medical education going back almost 100 years. The National University of Singapore describes itself as a research-intensive university. Money for research arrives without the significant amount of time and energy most Australian academics spend competing for funding. But there are challenges. Women in Asia are assumed to be in subservient roles, and the medical profession is dominant. The medical faculty at NUS supported and even lobbied for nursing training at the university. Nurses share classes with pharmacists. But the nursing profession has not developed yet and there are no nurses with postgraduate qualifications. Creedy is the only woman head of department at NUS, and there is only one woman in the university

hierarchy above head of department level. “There are no affirmative action programs in Asia,” she says.

Singapore is a hub, and the university describes itself as a global institution. Since she arrived, Creedy has been a visiting Professor in Korea, and has visited Japan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand. “Thailand was exciting,” she says. The proportion of nurses per head of population is higher in Thailand than in other Asian countries, and they have developed the role of Advanced Practitioner Nurses as part of a program of community development. What about China? She hasn’t been there—yet.

The population of Singapore is nearly five million, the majority ethnically Chinese, with Malay and Indian minorities, and a smaller number of Eurasian and Arab residents. “A useful population base for epidemiological studies,” Creedy comments. What are the major health issues? Western diseases are spreading. Asian countries have an increasing incidence of cardiac and diabetes cases. Cancer is now one of

the leading causes of death in Singapore. There are other local issues. Looking at the profiles of other staff from the center, I notice a lecturer who has received awards for tsunami relief work in Indonesia.

Even while she is immersed in Singapore, Creedy still maintains links with Griffith, where she is an adjunct professor, involved with research projects there and elsewhere in Australia. Does it still look attractive, I wonder? A woman academic might hit a glass ceiling more quickly in Singapore.

I ask her what advice she would give someone coming to Singapore. “Engage with what Singapore has to offer,” she says. “Political censorship exists in Singapore but doesn’t impinge on professional development—so far. It’s a rigid society, but the crime rate is less than 1 per cent—hard to believe—and it’s safe for women on the street. Be prepared for the heat. Keep an open mind. Don’t think, ‘that’s good or bad’,” she says, “just think—‘that’s different’.” □

Barbara Brooks is a Sydney writer and lecturer in writing. She has just finished a novel about life on the verandahs that connect Queensland and India, to be published in 2011.

Ly Qui Trung

Master of Hospitality Management,
Griffith University, 1995

Dr Ly Qui Trung founded 77 noodle restaurants around the world called Pho 24, including 60 in his home country of Vietnam. He is also Vietnam's head franchisor of Gloria Jean's Coffees and ice creamery Yogen Fruz.



PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS STACEY

“When I first arrived in Australia I was 22 years old and didn't know what a seatbelt was. I was a young man and it was my first trip overseas. My friend's wife picked me up from the airport and kept saying 'put your seatbelt on'. So I had to ask what she was talking about. I only had \$200 in my pocket, but I was very happy and excited to be here in Australia and have the opportunity to study. I'm from Vietnam and at the time, the country was 'closed'. No one travelled outside of Vietnam except to another socialist country like Russia. I didn't know what an ATM was either. I learnt a lot very quickly. I took a lot of notes and wrote down everything in notebooks about businesses and different things that I saw in Australia that weren't in Vietnam. When I read back now what I wrote 20 years ago, I smile. That's how I made it happen for my businesses because I had ideas but you need a method of recording them.

Noodles in Vietnam are what hamburgers are to Americans. Everyone eats them all the time. I like to say noodles are Vietnam in a bowl. In Western culture if one person is successful, it's their success, but in Vietnam if one person in the family is successful, then the whole family is successful. I have three brothers and one sister and the business is a family business of restaurants and cafes. In Vietnam we rely on family so the success of one is the success of the group. We're more like Italians in that sense. I chose Australia to study because it was only eight hours away from Vietnam compared to England or the USA and because there's a really good education standard. At the time, only Griffith University had the master's degree in hospitality management. I live in Vietnam, but I travel to conferences and deliver speeches about 10 or 12 times a year. It keeps my connections fresh and I enjoy meeting different people. I enjoy learning about different cultures when I travel, it's the best way of learning. Food is a culture. Wherever I go, I eat a lot.” □

Stay in Touch

We strongly believe that a university degree is not only an education but the foundation for a partnership that continues for life. We understand that time is a valuable resource to our alumni and have established the Griffith University Alumni LinkedIn group to connect with our alumni and keep you updated on university news, professional development and professional and social events.

Please join the Griffith University Alumni LinkedIn group and become a part of our global community.

LinkedIn
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For more information visit
[griffith.edu.au/
development-alumni/](http://griffith.edu.au/development-alumni/)

Tales from our alumni

Johannes Laumer

*Bachelor of Photography
Photographer*

"It began as a kid growing up in Lima. Just fiddling with a piece of broken mirror I found I could bend light and create amazing shapes and patterns. I would sit for hours projecting light images and watch them dance over walls and into the streets. The possibilities were endless. My boyhood hobby took another turn when I began surfing off the coast of Peru. The play of light through the waves and water surfaces had me hooked all over again. When you are inside a wave, the light is constantly changing. The depth of water changes colours so your perspective varies, which makes coming out the other end still on the board a feat in itself. It's quite mystical, and very compelling. Water to me is life. There is a real sense of having to ride with the water and light. It's not something you can fight. Two things led me to Australia—a Bachelor of Photography at Queensland College of Art and Australians' understanding of how important water is to sustaining life. My art practice is driven by water, light and sound. A mirror is used to focus the play of light through water which in turn responds to sound scapes played through the body of water creating myriad reflected images. It's the perfect combination of art, science, and a little magic."



Natasha Jobson

*Bachelor of Communication
Radio breakfast newsreader and journalist,
B105*

"The lure of working in radio was always there. I enjoyed the aural aspect of learning at university and found the pace and efficiency of radio invigorating. Radio also offers the opportunity to write creatively but with the added bonus of being the storyteller on air. In radio, there's an intimate connection between the listener and the journalist. I enjoy the pace of working through a busy morning, interviewing people from all walks of life, and being part of a vibrant creative team at the station. There's no telling how a day will unfold in the newsroom! A single morning can involve interviewing the Prime Minister, heading down to Brisbane Lions training, reporting on the latest troubled celebrity, and analysing unemployment figures. The scope of potential news means no two days are ever the same. Being a journalist, you're often allowed access to people, events and places before anyone else—one example being able to interview Bono and listen to a U2 soundcheck in an empty stadium! Each day, I aim to make my news as interesting and as relevant as possible for my audience. One project I'm working on at the moment is harnessing the news-making capabilities of Twitter, Facebook, and RSS feeds. Compiling these into a 'stream' of info for the newsroom will assist us in being across more information, from more people, more of the time. Digital Radio is also a new frontier and contains the opportunity to create new platforms for news."



(Dorothy) Phi Dung Tran

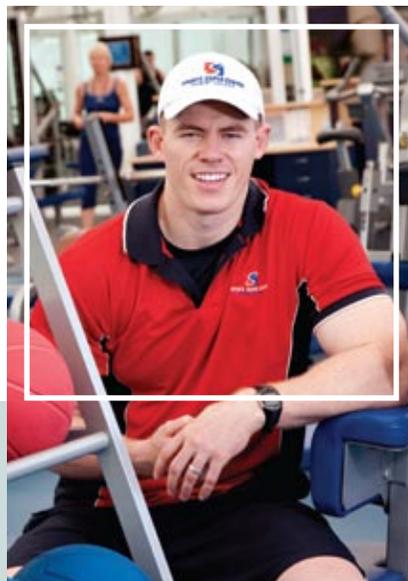
Master of Public Health

"I graduated with my Master of Public Health in September 2006 from Griffith University. In 2009 I was awarded the Queensland Education and Training Institute's International Alumnus of the year. For the past few years, I've worked with the non-governmental organisation Save the Children USA. When I returned to Vietnam after completing my Master's degree, I had many job opportunities. My job at Save the Children focused on HIV-prevention training and workshops for 18 to 24-year-old males. I chose this job because I thought I would be able to make the greatest impact on public health in Vietnam. There is a knowledge gap in Vietnam when it comes to sexual health—there are lots of programs aimed at children under 18 and adults in the workforce, but students aged 18 to 24 studying at university are very overlooked. I have developed many projects at various universities that have involved recruiting student leaders, forming clubs to educate students about HIV and organising campus events. I then measured the impact of these activities in terms of change in awareness level, which led to behaviour change. In March 2009 I met former Prime Minister Bob Hawke at the Advance 50 Asia Summit, in Shanghai, China. The summit is a meeting of influential alumni from Australian universities who make significant contributions in their respective industries and are based in Asia. I was the only Vietnamese person to attend and the only non-Australian among the group."

Matt Mulholland

*Bachelor of Exercise Science
Personal trainer, Exercise Scientist,
Sports Super Centre, Runaway Bay*

"I've always had an interest in sports and training. I had a background in health science and massage therapy from TAFE, and then took up exercise science at Griffith University. In-depth study of anatomy and exercise prescription, biomechanics and neuroscience, and the understanding of the psychology behind motivation have allowed me to apply a holistic approach to training my clients. I started as a casual personal trainer when I was doing my degree, and now work at it full-time. It's a fantastic job. I meet a variety of people from all walks of life, and they come to see me for motivation and instruction. Predominantly, a lot of people come to lose weight. They try diets and fads, and they don't work in the long term, so they source a trainer looking for sustainable weight loss. I gained invaluable insight into weight loss after training a contestant of *The Biggest Loser* show. A challenge I recently created involved 29 clients in a 12-week competition to 'beat the winter coat'. My top 10 lost a combined weight of 105.1 kilograms. I also train clients in strengthening and conditioning and rehabilitation. I've trained one lady who was involved in an accident seven years ago and was told she'd never walk again. I see her five days a week and recently had her jogging on a treadmill. Every day I assist and motivate people to improve their fitness, achieve their health goals or return to their normal function. Empowering people is my reward."



Glenda Guest

*PhD, Novelist and winner of
the 2010 Commonwealth Writers Prize
for Best First Book for Siddon Rock*

"The genesis for my novel began when I was doing my PhD in creative writing at Griffith University. When I completed my studies in 2005, I put it away in a cupboard until someone suggested I try and get it published. I live in the Blue Mountains now, but when I was writing the book I was living between Canberra, Pambula Beach and Sydney, although most of the first draft was put down at Varuna Writers House in Katoomba. I think the idea of inspiration is overrated, as once the work is underway it's an organic process that builds and changes as it's written. I suppose one could say that several things converged to make this book—my interest in forms of world writing away from the straight-jacket of realism; the dynamics of small towns and closed communities and the old stories and cultural myths about European settlers in Australia and their troubled relationship with the bush. The book is written in the style of magical realism, where magical elements are blended into a realistic atmosphere to allow a deeper understanding of reality. *Siddon Rock* reveals the secrets of a small town community, where deep and strange tensions hover underneath an apparent sense of calm. I'm definitely a morning person and write most days, unless it's a beautiful day and the garden calls, or a wet miserable day when the coffee-shop sounds like a good idea, or...or...or—I'm sure you get the picture."



Kellie Wood

*Bachelor of Science (Marine Biology)
Turtle Rehabilitation Carer and Diver,
Sea World, Gold Coast*

"As a five-year-old I knew I wanted to be a marine biologist due to my love of the ocean and its inhabitants. After completing my degree at Griffith, I was employed by Sea World in my dream job as a Turtle Rehabilitation Carer and diver. I spend most of my days in the water—this is not your typical office job. My career highlight would have to be working in Sea World's Research and Rescue Foundation's turtle hospital. The majority of turtles to visit the hospital are the Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) which become stranded in the local Moreton Bay area. They come to us with 'floating syndrome' which relates to a blockage in their gut, trapping gas and inhibiting the turtles' ability to dive and feed. Additionally, turtles have been brought to the hospital after consuming considerable volumes of plastics. Some of these turtles may be in care for 6–12 months depending on the nature of their injury or disease. My job as an animal carer involves daily feeding, veterinary checks and treatments, data collection and pool cleaning. The rehabilitation program, which has been operating for more than 20 years, has been so successful a number of our released turtles have been spotted post-release laying eggs on nesting beaches. It's so rewarding to see that."



John O'Sullivan

*Bachelor of Leisure Management
Chief Executive Officer Queensland Events*

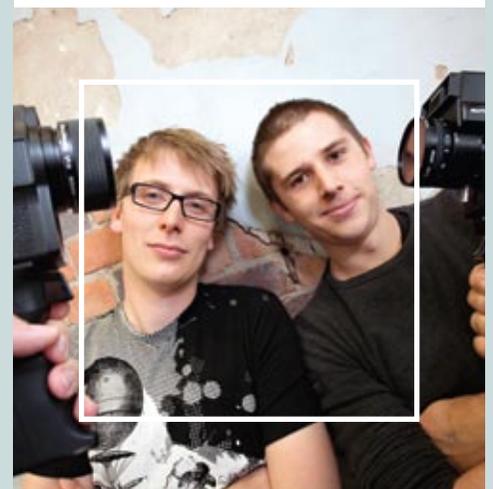
"I came out of university in 1991 and spent three months in Europe and the USA travelling with a mate. I came back to Australia and was accepted into a law degree but also started volunteering at Queensland Events. I was offered full-time work with Queensland Events on the 1994 World Masters Games, so that was the end of the law studies. So I guess you could say my career has come full circle because I'm now back working at Queensland Events. After the World Masters Games, I worked in London from 1995 for the Rugby World Cup and then headed back to Australia to work with Super League and the Sydney Olympic Games. Another opportunity came up in London so I headed back there for three years working to sell English Premier League television rights to the Middle East. I was head of business development at international television rights distribution firm Octagon CSI. Then in 2003 I moved back to Australia and commenced with Football Federation Australia where I stayed up until the end of last year. Having the opportunity to work overseas made me more aware of different traditions and cultures, particularly how sales and marketing operated in the Middle East. It gave me an understanding of cultures and the nature of dealing with people from different countries. I could be talking to the head of sport for a television station in Abu Dhabi or in the UK. It gave me a broad cultural and social understanding."

As Chief Executive Officer Queensland Events John O'Sullivan is responsible for securing and bidding on new major events for Queensland. He was previously Chief Commercial Officer of Football Federation Australia where he expanded the game's commercial revenues from \$25 million to \$90 million per annum.

Alex Podger and Jared Beazley

Bachelor of Film and Screen Media Production

"We submitted our film *Quiet, You'll Wake Up the War* in the 2010 Cannes Short Film Corner not expecting to be accepted. We received an acceptance email three weeks before the festival, which prompted a crazy fortnight of scrounging together enough cash to get there. Cannes radiates a glamorous hype which is very infectious. Who doesn't like walking down red carpets and going to premieres? Eventually we saw beyond the hype and started to see the machinations of the film industry—the deals, the meetings, the networking. The biggest lesson was to be friendly but not fake. We helped two Indian ladies carry their bags out of the train station. Turns out they were London-based producers and took us under their wing, which was fantastic. The lasting impression of the festival was that marketing your film is crucial to success. In the Short Film Corner alone there were about 1700 films, most with their own posters, flyers and postcards. We designed a unique folding DVD sleeve and poster which helped us stand out that little bit more. Our aim is to make more short films and really nail the art of storytelling. Obviously there's that elusive dream of making a feature down the track. As sentimental as it is, we just want to make a film that actually means something, but is still entertaining—a film that an audience just loves. On a less sentimental note, going to the Oscars would be fun."



Life-long learning

PhD powers grassroots activism



James Whelan was following his passion for social and environmental justice movements when he decided to embark upon a PhD. After 18 months of searching for the right university and interviewing many potential supervisors, he chose Griffith University.

"The people I met at Griffith were the most passionate and enthusiastic, so I decided to undertake my research studies at the Griffith School of Environment," Whelan said.

"My research training helped me to explore my mission in life."

His research investigated how community members participated in environmental activism and how they learnt to exercise political power.

"I used to live near Shoalwater Bay, where a sandmining project was proposed. The project would have destroyed the natural habitat of the area so I joined the activist movement in protest.

"The movement was successful and fortunately the sandmining was prevented, which made me realise that communities have the power to prevent disasters."

This experience helped to define his attraction towards social activism and it coincided with his childhood interest in the environment.

Whelan said his PhD found community members often lacked the opportunity to learn how to make a difference through social movements and informal community-based education had potential to dramatically increase their political influence.

"It is essential for grassroots community programs to teach people how to become effective activists and to champion the causes they believe in," he said.

"When I submitted my thesis, one of the examiners commented that my research suggested several concrete ways to address this need in the community."

After completion of his PhD in 2002, Whelan founded the Change Agency, a not-for-profit organisation which provides education, training and action research support for social change groups throughout Australia and the Pacific.

The Change Agency works with more than 1000 grassroots community organisers each year and facilitated the first national summit of climate movement groups in 2009. More than 20,000 people visit the agency's website each month.

As a researcher and lecturer, Dr Whelan has worked for several Australian universities. He publishes widely and speaks at national and international conferences.

For more information about undertaking a research higher degree:

Please visit griffith.edu.au/rhd, email rhd-enquiry@griffith.edu.au or call Brisbane (+61 7) 3735 3817, Gold Coast (+61 7) 5552 7351 or call 1800 303 603 (free from anywhere in Australia).

MBA values life experience

Deniese Cox was a high-flying resource industry executive with responsibility for the financial, legal, human resources and safety requirements for an international company. But she decided to shift gears to develop personally and professionally and study an MBA at Griffith University.

"I found a great reason to leave the job everyone wants," Cox said.

"I wanted to study an MBA to connect with people who saw that things could be done better and meet people who had the same values and sense of responsibility that I did."

The company she worked for was involved in exploration drilling, drilling services and development of unconventional energy assets, so she travelled extensively. She lived in India where she was running the company's operations support in the region, in addition to many other locations that the company was expanding into.

"In my role I was overseeing a geographically widespread group of international companies, so I was managing issues across conflicting

jurisdictions. Because of my seniority, I didn't have a mentor or anyone to learn from. I was a woman and had to prove my worth every day even though I had spent more time than most out in the field.

"I was exhausted and, if I'm honest, disillusioned with some of the things I had seen. I've found the MBA to be everything that it promised it would be."

Cox left school at 15 to support herself after her parents' circumstances unexpectedly changed.

"I didn't have the opportunity to go to university when I was younger. I had to work to support myself and I guess that's what drove me—the necessity.

"I worked my way up and became an executive manager without any formal qualifications. But that lack of qualification meant a lingering personal doubt at times that was distracting.

"When I was looking at all the MBAs, I found Griffith to be welcoming and



understanding. They valued my work history and appreciated my hard work.

"I chose an MBA because I wanted career specific learning and outcomes directly related to my work and experience to date. It wasn't until I was two-thirds of the way through the MBA that I discovered the joy of research.

"A research project is a big undertaking, and I'm glad I eased into it by starting with coursework. I just love the world that research opens up."

Cox now runs her own consultancy business.

For more information about postgraduate courses available at Griffith University, please visit: griffith.edu.au/admissions/postgraduate

Forget the corporate ladder, take the lift instead.

"Completing a postgraduate degree has given me a valuable, career-advancing tool that offers instant credibility."

MBA graduate Gary Parkin credits his postgraduate study at Griffith for landing his dream role as a partner at one of Australia's largest banks.

"My postgraduate studies complemented prior working experience, enabling my career advancement. Leveraging off these has produced a tangible return which more than compensates for the initial investment to acquire the degree."

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Gary Parkin, MBA



My View

HERMAN VAN EYKEN
on Asia Pacific film

PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS STACEY

Pedro Almodovar once said: “Anything that is not autobiography, is plagiarism!”

There could be no better call for authenticity in storytelling—for stories that reflect accurately the world of the storyteller for audiences worldwide.

At the same time, these provocative words could leave us all somewhat perplexed, knowing that film schools around the globe have experienced pressure due to the European initiative which resulted in the Bologna Treaty.

The EU recently reported on the Bologna Treaty, Brussels, European Commission: “The main aims of the Bologna Process are to facilitate mobility within European higher education, to enhance the quality of higher education degrees and ultimately to increase competitiveness in European higher education. The means for achieving these goals range from creating a shared structure for bachelor and master degrees and setting up a common framework for quality assurance and accreditation, to creating a European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).”

On a positive note, this indeed was the beginning of an ongoing process that would finally open the possibility of real staff and student mobility among film schools, something that had barely existed before within Europe. The prestigious film schools in Europe suddenly became accessible for non-Europeans. In Australia, our international student population now extends beyond Asia to our European counterparts, creating a borderless reservoir to draw upon for original creative content.

In response to this change, Roger Crittenden, previous director of the National Film and Television School, UK, warns us carefully in a recent paper that thus, for many, “film education is only generalisable if it is predicated on one model which is supposed to fit all cultural contexts—that is the conventional language perfected in Hollywood and exported everywhere around the globe. This formula, called the monofilm by its arch critic, Peter Watkins, is inseparable from the commercial imperative; that is creating a product whose purpose is to make a profit, rather than reflect on and celebrate the richness of human existence.”

Crittenden continues convincingly: “While, during the early history (or the prehistory) of the cinema, it was possible to speak of a German, an Italian, or a Swedish cinema clearly differentiated and corresponding to specific national characteristics, today such differences have disappeared. The borders were wiped out along with the expansion of US imperialism and the film model that is imposed: Hollywood movies.”

So, with Almodovar on autobiography and plagiarism in mind: how can our own Griffith Film School respond to this?

I personally have always truly believed that it is indeed content that thrives above technique, quality above quantity, authenticity above meticulous plagiarism. Filmmaking needs to come from the inside out, and one can only connect with an audience if one connects with the self.

Satyajit Ray said this in relation to his own Bengali cinema: “The present blind worship of technique emphasises the poverty of inspiration among (our) directors. For a popular medium, the best kind of inspiration should derive

from life and have its roots in it. No amount of technical polish can make up for artificiality of theme and dishonesty of treatment.”

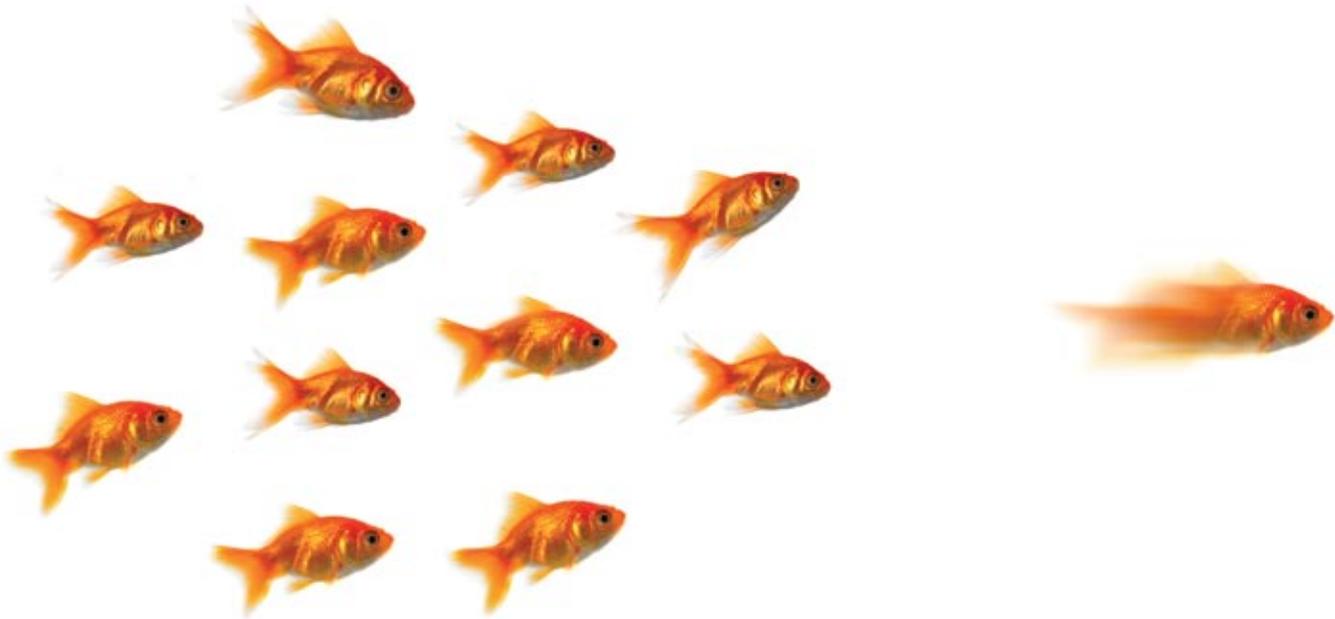
As our own culture here in Brisbane is embedded within the Asia Pacific Region, it makes sense that the work produced at our film school should connect with a global audience, while still presenting stories that reflect upon and emerge authentically from within the Asia Pacific context.

Home Song Stories, the autobiographical story of Tony Ayres’s Chinese Australian family, is a great example of filmmaking within a true cultural context. *Café Lumière*, the homage to the great Ozu Yasujiro, by Taiwanese director Hou Hsiao Hsien, is considered to be a film with integral and organic empathy for this very particular world in Japan, while maintaining a Taiwanese sensibility. *Ran* by Akira Kurosawa is probably the best adaptation of Shakespeare’s *King Lear* and yet a demonstration of Kurosawa’s very tangible understanding of this story.

Crittenden continues: “I do believe like the aesthetic theorists that style comes from content or to be even more insistent in work of quality the two are inseparable—the one is part of the other and collapses if form and content are divided. The greatest sin in cinema to me is to impose the story/style from outside of the culture that is being depicted—such films are an insult to the audience.”

New talent and originality that is dependent on the roots of that talent in our region, the Asia Pacific region, is what we need to encourage at the Griffith Film School.

Professor Herman Van Eyken is Head of Griffith Film School



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