Rebecca Jancauskas’ star is rising in the legal world.
While being singled out to join the academic elite at one of the world's most prestigious universities would have many young researchers sprucing up their cap and gown, not so QUT’s Amanda Rojek.

The Ipswich born and raised Queensland Rhodes Scholar for 2012 (pictured) has her feet planted firmly on the ground. Her passion for medicine is matched by her love of family and appreciation of the hard work previous generations have done to help her get to where she is today – on top of academia’s world.

It was while attending Brigidine College on an academic scholarship that Dr Rojek learnt to appreciate that the world was full of possibilities if she worked hard. So work hard she did.

After completing undergraduate and honours degrees in human movement studies at QUT, Dr Rojek worked as a research assistant at the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI) while completing a medical degree at the University of Queensland.

Dr Rojek, who is QUT’s fifth Rhodes Scholar after engineering graduate James Tilbury was awarded the distinguished prize in 2011, is now an intern at Cairns Base Hospital.

“I’ve always wanted to study medicine,” she said.

“I love the challenging, fast-paced environment and the unparalleled privilege of being part of patients’ lives.

“Medicine is a fascinating field where the brilliance of cutting-edge technology is balanced with the frailty of looking after patients during their most difficult and defining moments.”

When Dr Rojek takes up her Rhodes Scholarship next year, it will be as a registered medical practitioner and this will enable her to use the scholarship to make better use of both her clinical training and research experience.

Her Master of Science in Global Health at the University of Oxford will involve an academic program as well as field work.

“I feel that real world application of knowledge is extremely important and I’m interested in finding solutions that are practical and workable,” she said.

Dr Rojek also believes the medical profession can play a leading role in natural disaster response and management.

“Our profession is perfectly suited to provide medical care and comfort to those directly affected,” she said.

Inspired by her mentors Dr Ian Stewart and Dr Charles Worringham, from QUT’s School of Human Movement Studies, Dr Rojek feels positive about the role Queensland can play in the development of medical science in the future.

“There is cutting-edge research being undertaken by some of the brightest minds of our generation right here in Queensland and I hope to be a contributor to this,” she said.

- Rose Trapnell
Cyber fraud

QUT School of Justice graduate Dr Cassandra Cross has completed important research in the area of online fraud targeting seniors.

Dr Cross, a senior policy officer with the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch of the Queensland Police Service, was last year awarded a Churchill Fellowship to examine how foreign law enforcement agencies deal with this issue.

QUT held an intimate ceremony to present the honorary doctorate. It was given a touch of Hollywood with renowned Australian director Baz Luhrmann appearing via video link to personally congratulate Mr Bachchan, who had just finished filming a scene for *The Great Gatsby*.

The Indian film star also launched a Creative Industries bursary in the name of his late father Dr Harivansh Rai Bachchan. Mr Bachchan said he hoped that his trip to QUT would help to strengthen bonds between Australia and India.

Indian superstar honoured

Bollywood came to QUT when India’s biggest cinematic star Amitabh Bachchan received an honorary doctorate. Mr Bachchan, who has starred in more than 180 Bollywood films, said he was humbled to receive the award.

QUT researchers have identified a silver lining in the cloud of red dust that enveloped much of eastern Australia in September, 2009.

Research fellow Dr Rohan Jayaratne from QUT’s International Laboratory for Air Quality and Health (ILAQH) said that data, from what is believed to be the first air quality test undertaken during an Australian dust storm, showed that large dust particles swept up the smaller, potentially fatal, ultrafine particles caused by everyday vehicle emissions. Air quality tests taken during the September 2009 dust storm showed that Brisbane’s most harmful ultrafine particle pollution from vehicle emissions, almost disappeared as the eerie orange haze settled over the city.

Dusty findings

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Law student’s perfect score

Danielle McCarthy is QUT’s first law student to graduate with perfect grades. The outstanding graduate completed a double degree, Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Business (Accountancy), with a grade point average of 7.

Danielle admitted the feat took hard work and sacrifice. The high-flyer, who hopes to work in corporate law, started a graduate position at top tier law firm Freehills this year.

Going for gold

When the London 2012 Olympic Games opening ceremony gets underway on July 27, QUT is likely to be well represented by student athletes marching behind the Australian flag. QUT runs the largest university elite athletes’ program in Australia with more than 300 athletes enrolled in study and registered with the program. The university will have up to 30 students in line for Olympic selection in sports from swimming and diving to hockey and water polo. Support services for athletes includes academic support, OP upgrading, scholarships and financial support. QUT industrial design student and Australian breaststroke world silver medallist Christian Sprenger said the program allowed him to attain a higher education while focusing on his passion of swimming.
The clean-up of Brisbane after last year’s floods earns top marks from this QUT study.

The quick clean-up efforts of thousands of volunteers after last year's floods have helped Brisbane homeowners avoid public health threats experienced in other cities affected by natural disasters.

The QUT study monitored levels of mould, bacteria and fine dust particles in homes left by thousands of tonnes of mud, broken furniture and garbage from the January 2011 floods.

The director of QUT's International Laboratory for Air Quality and Health, Professor Lidia Morawska (pictured), said the research, which involved 40 homes in flood-affected suburbs, showed Brisbane's quick clean-up had minimised people's exposure to public health risks.

"Because of the speed of cleaning and drying after the floods, the level of mould and dust was relatively low, much lower than in places such as New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina," she said.

"Intense cleaning and drying of people’s belongings and homes were the key. Brisbane residents and volunteers should be proud of their efforts.”

The air quality study, believed to be the first of its kind in Australia, measured fine dust particles, mould and bacteria in participants' homes over two rounds of testing last year.

Professor Morawska said numerous health issues, including respiratory problems, were associated with receded flood waters in other countries affected by natural disasters.

She said researchers' test results showed only slightly higher concentrations of dust particles and mould in the 26 homes that were flooded compared to the 15 homes tested that were not.

But Professor Morawska said there were no elevated levels of bacteria from raw sewage in the floodwaters.

"This is a very positive message. We expect there were no health effects on Brisbane residents after the floods from dust, mould and bacteria," she said.

A further QUT study examining in detail any potential health effects from the floods will be released this year.
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Rebecca Jancauskas fights for those often overlooked in the justice system through her role at Shine. See page 10.

In focus
Ordinary people can leave a lasting legacy by making a unique bequest to QUT. See page 20.

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In focus
Ordinary people can leave a lasting legacy by making a unique bequest to QUT. See page 20.
It was almost by mistake that Yuri Dillon found himself running his own architectural design business, Liquid Blu.

Now, on the verge of celebrating the firm’s 10th birthday, it has become obvious that it was one of the best decisions of his life.

The sleek Newstead office is testament to a decade of hard work, attention to detail and a seemingly effortless style that radiates from everything from his screen-printed foot stools to his pink business shirt.

But perhaps the most impressive feat is that the business Mr Dillon (pictured) started from his apartment, fresh out of QUT in 2002, has now set him up as one of the country’s leading young architects, earning him a spot on last year’s 2011 Dulux Study Tour around Europe.

“The idea of being a business owner didn’t really sink in until two years after I actually started,” Mr Dillon said.

“The first project I worked on independently took 18 months to complete, and I did it from a spare bedroom in my apartment.

“I think it was after a few local projects were secured and I leased an office on Elizabeth Street that I realised I could really make something of this business.”

And the slew of awards that followed will not run dry anytime soon.

Last year, Liquid Blu was named in House and Garden Australia magazine’s Top 50 Rooms for their work on the Rossignol Warehouse in Fortitude Valley.

Mr Dillon’s company scored a Royal Australian Institute of Architects commendation for a residential home they designed in Brisbane.

Liquid Blu also won a Master Builders Australia award for its work on the Evans Head Aquatic Centre Northern NSW.

While 2011 was a massive year for Mr Dillon, he believes it is just a warm up for 2012, with renovation projects and another four aquatic centres, including Rockhampton’s Southside Memorial Swimming Pool, one of the state’s largest swimming centres outside the southeast corner, all on the go.

But when the pressure is on, the young architect believes it is the simple things that keep him in the game.

“At the completion of a private project when the client tells you it is more than they ever imagined was possible or at opening day of a community facility where you can sit back and watch a few hundred kids have fun with what you have designed and delivered to a community - these moments are truly special. This is what makes it real,” he said.

“This is what architecture is all about - engagement.”

– Alita Pashley
A QUT researcher whose work to develop “intelligent machines” is crucial to future breakthroughs in science and technology has been awarded one of Australia’s most prestigious fellowships.

Professor Peter Bartlett (pictured), from QUT’s Faculty of Science and Technology, was awarded an Australian Research Council 2011 Australian Laureate Fellowship last August to further his work in large-scale statistical machine learning.

He is QUT’s first Australian Laureate Fellow under the Federal Government initiative to attract and retain world-class researchers. QUT Distinguished Professor John Hartley was awarded an ARC Federation Fellowship in 2005 under the predecessor scheme.

Professor Bartlett, whose research focuses on the point where artificial intelligence and mathematical statistics intersect, said the fellowship would provide nearly $2.8 million of funding over five years to advance statistical machine learning research at QUT.

“This is very exciting. This research area addresses one of the defining scientific and technological issues of our time: how to make effective use of the deluge of data that arises in a huge variety of areas of science and technology,” he said.

“It is a research area at the intersection of statistics and computer science, which has been under-represented in Australia. It is fantastic that the ARC is supporting this area.”

Professor Bartlett said intelligent machines with the ability to sift through massive data streams would be a key to future scientific discoveries.

He said the fellowship would help develop the science behind statistical problems such as data analysis on the human genome, optimising financial investment returns and web retrieval.

“The funding will mainly support people - PhD students and early-career researchers. This means that, in addition to its research advances, the program will contribute to the next generation of researchers in this area,” Professor Bartlett said.

“QUT is the right institution for this research program.”

QUT’s first Australian Laureate Fellow has attracted $2.8m in funding for research that brings together statistics and computer science.

QUT’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Commercialisation, Professor Arun Sharma, said Professor Bartlett had a stellar track record in an important area of research.

“For more than a decade, Professor Bartlett has been a true global leader in this critical field of research, which is at the heart of helping us make sense of the vast amount of data being accumulated in diverse areas of science and technology,” Professor Sharma said.
TRAINING future leaders to manage Queensland’s resources boom while developing sustainable energy sources will be among the top priorities for QUT’s new Science and Engineering Faculty.

The Faculty of Science and Technology and Faculty of Built Environment and Engineering officially merged at the start of 2012, opening up exciting new research, teaching and learning opportunities for QUT students and staff.

Science and Engineering Faculty Executive Dean Professor Martin Betts said the new faculty would have the expertise to tackle some of the world’s most pressing issues.

“The new faculty gives us the advantages of scale and having interdisciplinary connections across science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM),” he said.

“It will also help QUT identify opportunities across science and engineering for new courses and new research offerings to meet the challenges the world faces in 2012 and beyond.

“We’ve got a great team of people across the faculty to make QUT’s aspirations of becoming the leading university in the STEM area a reality,”

The Science and Engineering Faculty is now home to 8000 students, 400 academic staff and 900 higher degree research students.

Professor Betts said Queensland’s booming resources sector would fuel greater demand for scientists, engineers and planners to manage the state’s natural resources responsibly.

“We need to find new ways of stimulating oil and gas reserves while managing the effects of these industries on water and land,” he said.

Professor Betts said the introduction of a carbon tax in Australia also would increase the importance of developing clean technology, as well as products and services to manage water, land, air and infrastructure.

He said the Science and Engineering Faculty would focus on “green chemical engineering” to meet demands in this new industry.

Professor Betts said he was excited to take the helm as executive dean of the Science and Engineering Faculty.

“I take on this role with a great sense of privilege and honour,” he said.

The new faculty will be based at the Gardens Point campus, along with the new $230 million Science and Engineering Centre which opens later this year.

Construction of the centre began in mid-2011 after months of detailed planning, demolitions and massive earthworks.
The steel roof on the main structure was topped off early in the new year.

When construction finishes, the centre will feature two major new buildings linked by public green space, and facilities including cooperative research laboratories, technology-rich social learning spaces, a 50-metre swimming pool and gym, and food and retail areas.

The Science and Engineering Centre will be home to QUT’s newest research institute, the Institute for Future Environments, which will incorporate outstanding laboratories and facilities, including visualisation technology for showcasing research and educational content in public areas of the main building.

Executive director of the new institute, Professor Ian Mackinnon, said the visualisation technology would enable teams of people to work together on vast amounts of data.

“It will give the university’s researchers and educators a significant advantage over other institutions across the country – and around the world,” Professor Mackinnon said.

The centre will also feature a world-class analytical facility and central laboratory capacity to support research.

– Stephanie Harrington

QUT’s new merged faculty aims to help solve global problems.

STATE-of-the-art laboratories, open teaching and learning areas and new research spaces are part of a major $50 million refurbishment at QUT.

Nearly half of the buildings at QUT’s Gardens Point campus, comprising 20,000 sqm, have been redeveloped ahead of the opening of the $230 million Science and Engineering Centre later this year.

Other upgrades include establishing a new pilot plant precinct at Banyo (near the Brisbane Airport), a 2700 sqm facility dedicated to research and industry engagement including biofuels production, aquaculture and power generation projects.

QUT associate director of major projects Lynn Green said the works program was the biggest redevelopment at QUT in the past decade.

The two-year project impacted on nine buildings at Gardens Point campus to create new laboratories, teaching and learning spaces, higher degree research facilities and workshops for science and engineering students.

“These are first-rate facilities. The outcomes will be brilliant for students, staff and researchers at the university,” Mr Green said.

“This will allow QUT to be more successful in a very competitive environment and it will enhance our research reputation.

“Everyone involved is very proud of these facilities.”

Buildings that were refurbished at QUT’s Gardens Point campus include: wet laboratories at E, H, M, R and Q blocks; O Block workshops and laboratories; and teaching and learning spaces in A and S blocks.

Mr Green said new social learning spaces would encourage collaboration among students and research staff and lead to new approaches to teaching and learning across science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) disciplines.

Technical operations manager Bill Kwiecien said the new facilities were a “quantum leap forward” for QUT.

Spectacular $50m facelift
QUT is home to a powerful, new microscope being used to develop efficient and cheap plastic solar cells to charge laptops and mobile phones.

The $1.5 million German-engineered scanning probe microscope is the only one of its kind in Queensland.

Lead researcher Associate Professor Nunzio Motta (pictured) said the microscope was equipped with a tiny metallic tip to see individual atoms, allowing precision better than a hundredth of a nanometer.

“We are the only university in Queensland with a microscope like this in operation,” he said. “It will open up many exciting new research opportunities.”

Professor Motta said the microscope would accelerate QUT’s efforts to study new materials with atomic resolution.

QUT researchers have started using the microscope to improve plastic solar cells by mixing it with tiny tubes of highly-conductive carbon, called nanotubes, which are 100 times smaller than a strand of human hair.

“At the moment the plastic solar cells are quite inefficient, but they are already used in niche markets for very low power portable applications,” Professor Motta said.

“We are aiming to improve the efficiency of these plastic solar cells by studying the microscopic structure of the material.

“Plastic solar cells could generate enough energy not only to recharge the batteries of laptops and mobiles, but even to obtain power from canopies on parking areas and on stadiums.”

Professor Motta said the microscope was equipped with sensitive surface probes, including two kinds of atomic force microscopes, an X-ray electron spectrometer and an electron microscope.

Samples used in the microscope can be heated up to 1300° and gases introduced through a special valve system to test how surface atoms react in different environments.

QUT researchers also will be using the microscope to create a new class of solar-powered nano-sensors to detect pollution and monitor the environment in remote areas.

The microscope, which received $800,000 in funding from the Australian Research Council, will be managed within the QUT-based Australian Microscopy and Microanalysis Research Facility Linked Laboratory.

Scientists from a consortium of universities that helped fund the microscope, including Flinders University, the University of Queensland, Griffith University and Roma Tor Vergata in Italy, will use it for research.

– Stephanie Harrington
MORE than 40 per cent of older Australians say the internet is too expensive, putting them at risk of being excluded from important online health and financial services.

Dr Sandra Haukka, who conducted the research at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation (CCI) at QUT, said seniors, particularly pensioners, risked being left behind as businesses and governments shifted more services to the web.

"With the government and private sector spending billions on the National Broadband Network, we have to make sure that the internet can be used by all those who need it the most," she said.

Dr Haukka’s nationwide study, called Older Australians and the Internet, surveyed 149 participants aged 50 and older who were members of National Seniors Australia.

It also included in-depth interviews with seniors who did not use or rarely used the internet, including those who lived in urban, regional, rural and remote areas across Australia.

Dr Haukka, who has since moved to United Arab Emirates, said society’s increasing reliance on the internet for commerce and services was leaving older Australians with low web skills behind.

She said many seniors were unable to conduct business transactions, access services, find out about community events or use the internet to communicate with friends and family.

"In the near future, seniors will be under great pressure to stay in their homes longer to reduce the strain on the government’s health budget caused by the ageing population," Dr Haukka said.

"The internet should help people to live independently for longer, enabling them to learn, bank, shop, communicate and network from home. There are serious negative impacts for those without access to it."

53% of participants said their interest in the internet was ‘moderate’ or ‘above’, while 46% said their interest was ‘nil’ or ‘low’

Almost two-thirds of participants said they had ‘very low’ internet skills

More than 40% of participants said cost was a barrier to using the internet

One-third of participants said the internet would improve their daily life

“There is this huge assumption that everyone has to be on the internet and has to go on the computer to belong, and if you don’t there is something wrong with you.”

Elizabeth Sparks, Coochiemudlo Island

“I am sure it would enhance my life but because of the cost factor I am not going to throw my pension away.”

Penelope Pender, Ballina

“No now that I am retired I use the internet for about an hour a day.”

Dr Graeme Heap, Nambour
A QUT graduate is using her legal knowledge and commitment to justice to right wrongs.

REBECCA Jancauskas has a passion for her job that leaves a lasting impression on anyone who meets her. While her quietly spoken manner and composure convey a sense of calm, no-one should underestimate her drive to make a difference, help people wronged by others and to use the justice system to try to make things right.

The 30-year-old partner in the national personal injury law firm Shine, was Lawyers Weekly Young Gun of the Year in 2011.

Ms Jancauskas manages Shine’s national special projects department, which involves travelling throughout Australia to investigate complaints, offer advice and achieve an outcome for those who believe they’ve been wronged by the corporate ‘big guys’.

“That outcome doesn’t necessarily mean compensation, but could involve getting a company to scale back development or encouraging the relevant environmental protection agency to investigate a claim,” she said.

“My department focuses on class and group actions and had the potential to help large groups of people who’ve been impacted in the same way.”

That strong sense of justice, so firmly ingrained, is partly thanks to parents who put people and environment over profits.

Ms Jancauskas’ father runs an environmental consultancy and her mother is a psychologist who has worked with a women’s shelter.

After stints in criminal and family law in Brisbane and corporate law in England, she gained broad experience but was never going to be seduced by the big corporate dollar.

“I was drawn to personal injury cases and class actions as they enable us to address a wide range of issues from sexual abuse to health to environmental or other concerns. I firmly believe that we need to look after those less fortunate than ourselves,” Ms Jancauskas said.

She graduated from QUT in 2002 with a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and returned in 2010 to enrol in her Masters, which has enabled her to pursue a range of environmental and human rights subjects.

She established the Environmental Justice Society a year ago as a means of marshalling a range of experts who could advise on environmental matters.

The society, which has environmental crusader Erin Brockovich as patron, helps individuals and communities by providing advice on how to gather evidence, rally support and take action.

Ms Jancauskas has some sage advice for students wanting to pursue a law career.

“It’s fundamentally important to find something you are passionate about, something more than financial gain and it won’t feel like work at all,” she said.

– Rose Trapnell

When she’s not championing the cause of her clients, Rebecca Jancauskas uses painting as a form of relaxation.
The name Terry White is well-known for good reason – he changed the face of Queensland politics and also helped change the business model of Australian pharmacies.

But Mr White is not alone in his success story. He founded and grew the highly successful Terry White Chemists network together with his partner in life and business, fellow pharmacist Rhonda White, who has been a significant driving force in the company’s growth.

Both graduated from the Central Technical College, a QUT predecessor institution, with Diplomas in Pharmacy – Mr White in 1957 and Mrs White in 1963.

Their business, which now has more than 165 franchises and employs more than 5000 people, began in 1959 when Mr White opened his first pharmacy at Woody Point.

“After I opened that pharmacy, I married Rhonda (in 1961) and she opened her first pharmacy at Clontarf in competition with myself,” he recalled with a laugh.

“Then we opened other pharmacies on the Redcliffe peninsula. We later expanded throughout Queensland.”

The pair (pictured) both took lengthy career detours, which gave them new skills to incorporate into their business.

Mrs White spent time studying business and organisational psychology. When a few of their chemist outlets were struggling, she returned to the pharmacy world – this time injecting her expertise in systems and business efficiency.

Meanwhile, Mr White spent 10 years as a member of Queensland Parliament, rising to become a minister and leader of the Liberal Party. He is remembered for challenging the authority of then-premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen in 1983 by terminating the Coalition agreement with the National Party over corruption.

In the early 1990s, Mr White returned to the business. Mrs White gave him a mission: to create a national brand.

She saw the need for well-designed stores with a substantial offering of cosmetic and natural health products.

From 1994, the business spread interstate.

The dynamic duo has received numerous accolades: Mr White became an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2006, while Mrs White was named a QUT Outstanding Alumni Award Winner in 2007.

The Whites were inducted into the Queensland Business Leaders Hall of Fame in 2011.

With five children and eight grandchildren, the Whites have a large support base.

“I think all of our family at some stage in their lives have worked in the business. So we’ve been blessed by having their support and understanding,” Mr White said.

– Michaela Ryan

Formula for Success

There are two faces behind the Terry White brand.
NATALIE Weir is a woman of many layers. She is a mother, an artist, a business leader and a mentor. She has walked the red carpet with Australia’s leading entertainers and captured the imagination of audiences as far afield as China and Switzerland and, with any luck, we are still yet to see the best work of the talented choreographer.

Now in her fourth year as artistic director of Brisbane’s Expressions Dance Company (EDC), Ms Weir (pictured left) said she is looking forward not only to another year at the helm of the organisation that gave her a break as an 18-year-old, but also as a driving force in the national dance scene.

“The year I graduated from QUT was the year Maggie (Sietsma) founded EDC, so I sort of became an inaugural member,” she said.

“It seems to be fate that I was offered to do my first work here. It feels like I’ve come full circle and to have a company in the city I chose to live in – it is really special.”

The past year has been fruitful for EDC and Ms Weir, a 2009 Creative Industries Outstanding Alumni Award winner. Where the Heart Is took the dance world by storm in 2011, earning her two Helpmann Awards for best ballet or dance work and best choreography in a dance or physical theatre work. The work also received an outstanding performance award at the Australian Dance Awards.

“To receive such high recognition for Where the Heart Is, which is one of my favourite works, not only within the dance industry, but also the wider entertainment industry is an amazing thing,” she said.

Ms Weir said getting Where the Heart Is back onto the stage is among many plans for this year.

Last year’s successful REJ, three love stories based on Romeo and Juliet, will tour South Australia.

And then there is the co-production Sirens Scription with a Swiss dance company to be performed at the Judith Wright Centre in March; a modern day version of Carmen to be performed with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra in November; and an invitation for EDC to perform at the State Theatre in Melbourne as part of the 50th year celebrations for the Australian Ballet Company.

Ms Weir said it was thanks to a renewed interest in dance coupled with a maturing arts and culture scene in Brisbane that companies such as EDC were able to blossom.

“It’s a great time to be involved in dance, particularly in Brisbane,” Ms Weir said.

“Brisbane is really pushing to be known as a cultural city and that is starting to happen with things like the success of GoMA (Gallery of Modern Art). We’ve also seen a lot of change within art organisations themselves.

“Ten years ago companies didn’t work together, but now there’s a real sense of sharing and wanting to cross art forms.

“Having the chance to perform alongside groups like the Queensland Symphony Orchestra is a fantastic thing and it means that audiences are being exposed to performers they may not otherwise have seen – it’s a win/win.”

Though the industry, like so many others, is faced with dwindling resources and the pressure to “grow audiences”, Ms Weir believes investing in new talent with projects such as EDC’s Launch Pad – a platform for emerging choreographers – has never been more valuable.

“It also helps that the profile of contemporary dance is becoming so much more accessible as an art form,” she said.

“At one time point it was viewed as much more self-indulgent. Now people are much more interested and engaged, but it is still hard to break into. I know how important it is to be given the opportunity to work on great dancers from the beginning.”

While dance companies continue to push boundaries and find new ways to express and entertain, Ms Weir said the secret to creating award-winning work was as simple as connecting with our most basic and powerful emotions.

“Where the Heart Is is about human relationships and family. REJ is a love story and that’s what the world’s about, isn’t it?” she said.

“Love gone wrong and love that you can’t live without – that evokes strong emotion. It’s at the very core of being human.”

– Alita Pashley
ONE in five young Australian women taking part in a QUT study has been involved in alcohol-induced aggression, which is at a similar rate to men.

Dr Gavan Palk (pictured below left) found 19 per cent of 186 women aged 18 to 25 were involved in aggressive incidents when intoxicated. Dr Palk is a forensic psychologist at QUT’s School of Psychology and Counselling and the Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety – Qld (CARRS-Q).

In comparison, 26 per cent of 82 men taking part in the same online survey on drinking patterns said they were involved in verbal or physical altercations.

“There are similar levels of involvement in aggressive incidents, including fights,” Dr Palk said.

Similar research was conducted in the United Kingdom and other countries, but Dr Palk found higher rates of violence among young Australian women drinkers.

“Australia has a greater number of large-scale pubs and clubs which are providing a venue for ladette-style behaviour,” he said.

“There have been attempts to reduce the incidences of violence, but over the long term it seems the only thing that works to reduce alcohol-related violence is to reduce the number of drinking hours.”

Dr Palk said the growing practice of having pre-drinks at home to save money, exposed young women to greater harm.

“It doesn’t make them drink less when they go out. In fact, they end up consuming much more alcohol,” he said.

“Those young women who pre-drink are far more at risk of violence and sexual assaults because they’re much more intoxicated.”

Dr Palk, whose research also involved in-depth interviews and focus groups, was one of the first experts to study the social motivations behind the rise in drinking among young women.

He said overall young men drank far more than women. However, that gap was closing.

“In the last five years or so, women’s consumption of alcohol has increased more than men. Our survey found around 35 per cent of women had admitted to binge drinking,” he said.

Dr Palk said about 50 per cent of men binge drink, but that number had fallen slightly.

— Stephanie Harrington
New cell culture systems will change the way medical treatments are delivered.

"We want to mimic what happens to the cells inside the human body, so that the environment researchers are testing closely matches that of the actual human body," Professor Hutmacher said.

Professor Hutmacher is working on commercialising his 3D technology platform so that it can be used by pharmaceutical companies and research laboratories in Australia, Europe and the United States.

The 3D cell culture work has been useful in several research projects being undertaken by Professor Hutmacher, including bone cartilage engineering, stem cell research and breast tissue reconstruction.

His breast tissue engineering research could revolutionise breast reconstruction surgery. At the moment he is developing 3D scaffolds, based on the shape of a patient’s healthy breast, on which a patient’s own tissue can be grown.

“The scaffold is biodegradable. After two to three years it will dissolve, whereas silicone implants, the most common material used in breast reconstruction surgery, stays forever and can cause a lot of long-term problems such as fibrous encapsulation,” Professor Hutmacher said.

— Michaela Ryan
A FLYING robot as small as a dinner plate that can zoom to hard-to-reach places and a fleet of eco-friendly robotic farm-hands are just two of the exciting projects that QUT’s robotics team is working on.

The pint-sized propeller-powered robots can be packed away into a suitcase. They have multiple cameras which enable them to ‘see’ the world around them as they navigate their way through buildings, carrying out tasks like deliveries or inspections.

“You’ll be able to put your suitcase on the ground, open it up and send the flying robot off to do its job,” said Professor Peter Corke (pictured).

“These robots could fly around and deliver objects to people inside buildings and inspect things that are too high or difficult for a human to reach easily.

“Instead of having to lower someone down on a rope to a window on the seventh floor, or raise them up on a cherry picker, you could send up the flying robot instead.”

Within the next year, it may be possible to attach arms to the device so it can also conduct repairs, although there are many technical challenges to be overcome.

“We need to keep it safe when it’s up near solid things like power poles, or the edge of a building,” he said.

Professor Corke and his Science and Engineering Faculty team, including fellow researcher Dr Ben Upcroft, are also researching ways to create lightweight agricultural robots.

These will be equipped with cameras that have advanced navigation capability, cooperate in teams to cover large areas and resupply themselves – all while causing less soil damage and applying herbicide more intelligently.

“Farmers now use machines which indiscriminately spray herbicide across the crop, which is expensive and not very environmentally friendly,” Dr Upcroft said.

“The (robot’s) camera can look at the area surrounding it. The image recognition software will pick out features of the weed which make it different from the rest of the crop.”

The three-year project was recently awarded nearly $400,000 in funding from the Australian Research Council and is being conducted with the University of Sydney and Queensland farmer Andrew Bate, who runs Advanced Agricultural Systems.

He said other industries enjoyed the benefits of robots. “This is the revolution farming has to have.”

– Katrina Blowers
The ‘27 club’ myth

Research tests whether famous musicians are more likely to meet an untimely death.

THE list of well-known musicians who have died at age 27 may look like more than a coincidence – Amy Winehouse, Jim Morrison, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Kurt Cobain, and Brian Jones – to name a few.

But new QUT research published in the British Medical Journal shows that age is unlikely to have been the cause of their demise.

Lead researcher Associate Professor Adrian Barnett (pictured right), from the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI) at QUT, said while fame may increase the risk of death for musicians, probably due to their rock and roll lifestyle, this risk was not limited to age 27.

“In order to test the ‘27 club’ hypothesis, we compared the deaths of famous musicians to the general UK population,” he said.

“We included 1046 musicians (solo artists and band members) who had a No.1 album in the UK charts between 1956 and 2007.

“During this period 71 (7 per cent) of the musicians died.

“Our sample included crooners, death metal stars, rock ‘n’ rollers and even Muppets (the actors, not the puppets) and this all added up to 21,750 musician years.”

Professor Barnett said the research team used mathematical analysis to determine the significance of age 27.

“We found no peak in the risk of death at this age; however, musicians in their 20s and 30s were two to three times more likely to die prematurely than the general UK population,” he said.

“Our research also found some evidence of a cluster of deaths in those aged 20 to 40 in the 1970s and early 1980s.

“Interestingly, there were no deaths in this age group in the late 1980s and we speculate that this could be due to better treatments for heroin overdose, or the change in the music scene from the hard rock 1970s to the pop dominated 1980s.

“We conclude the ‘27 club’ is based on myth, but warn that musicians have a generally increased risk of dying throughout their 20s and 30s.

“Musicians contribute greatly to populations’ quality of life, so there is immense value in keeping them alive as long as possible.”

Amy Winehouse
Claim to fame: R&B, soul and jazz singer-songwriter.
Trivia: Back to Black is the UK’s best-selling album of the 21st century.

Kurt Cobain
Claim to fame: Lead singer and guitarist of seminal American grunge band Nirvana.
Died: April 5, 1994, Seattle, suicide.
Trivia: Cobain suffered from chronic bronchitis and an undiagnosed chronic stomach condition.

Jimi Hendrix
Claim to fame: Rock icon, one of the greatest guitarists in music history.
Trivia: Hendrix played ukulele before receiving his first acoustic guitar at age 15.
Spinal treatment hope
QUT researchers have developed a promising new treatment for spinal cord injury in animals, which could eventually prevent paralysis in thousands of people worldwide every year. Dr Ben Goss (pictured right) from IHBI is part of a research team investigating how to prevent the spinal cord from degenerating after an injury by adding proteins, also known as growth factors. QUT has also joined with Princess Alexandra Hospital to form the Queensland–Canada Spinal Cord Injury Alliance in partnership with the Rick Hansen Institute in Canada, one of the world’s leading spinal cord injury research centres.

Big prawn
QUT scientists have helped develop a prawn that grows 25 per cent faster than other cultured strains to feed people dependant on one of Asia’s great rivers. Researchers have been working with scientists from national aquaculture research agencies to support development in the Mekong River Basin, which crosses six countries in south-east Asia. The research team also recently introduced giant freshwater prawn strains to Fiji as part of an Australian government-funded project to assist aquaculture development in the Pacific region and are now working to establish a prawn aquaculture industry in Vanuatu.

Road toll research
Queensland’s premier road accident and safety research body, CARRS-Q, will lend its considerable expertise to China to try to determine why the nation has so many drink driving-related road crashes. While China owns just three per cent of the world’s vehicles, it accounts for approximately 15 per cent or 100,000 of the world’s annual fatal road accidents. Researcher George Jia will look at people’s attitudes and beliefs about drink driving to try to find out whether social and cultural factors are at work and whether police enforcement has an impact. Mr Jia won a Prime Minister’s Australia Asia Post Graduate Award to undertake the research.

Cancer survivor program
A pilot program, designed by QUT’s School of Nursing and Midwifery, is helping cancer survivors to self-manage their health and emotional concerns. Researchers delivered a training program for nurses from Toowoomba Hospital and Princess Alexandra Hospital who were cancer care coordinators, to give them techniques to teach self-management skills to patients. Nurses who received the training worked with 32 patients to develop end-of-treatment care plans in a one-off consultation. Participants have reported a lower need for ongoing information and emotional support, compared to those who did not take part in the program.

Safer solution
A new technology has been developed at QUT capable of removing radioactive material from contaminated water and aiding clean-up efforts following nuclear disasters. The innovation could also solve the problem of how to clean up millions of tonnes of water contaminated by dangerous radioactive material and safely store the concentrated waste. Associate Professor Zhu Huai Yong (pictured left) developed the technology in collaboration with the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation and Pennsylvania State University. It works by running the contaminated water through fine nanotubes and fibres, which trap the radioactive caesium ions through a structural change.
The controversial introduction of mandatory national testing in Australian schools is affecting teacher morale and student learning, according to a study being led by QUT Professor Barbara Comber.

The three-year Australian Research Council funded project is looking at the impact of the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) on schools, teachers and students.

Professor Comber (pictured), who is a research capacity building professor with QUT’s Faculty of Education, said the study had found NAPLAN was putting extra pressure on teachers, particularly in the first term of the school year.

“We are seeing evidence (that is true internationally) that where you have high-stakes assessment, teachers are narrowing the curriculum. They are adjusting what they do in order to help children prepare for the test,” she said.

“Teachers are spending more time on literacy and numeracy and less time on the arts, society and environment, science and physical education, and we are finding this particularly in first term, right up until the tests in May.”

Professor Comber said this “pressure” was having a big impact in schools in terms of teacher morale.

“Many teachers are feeling they have a loss of professional autonomy. Their own ability to make decisions, their status as professionals, they feel is being called into question,” she said.

But what is of particular concern, according to Professor Comber, is the impact NAPLAN is having on changing the workload of teachers in schools where there are high numbers of students where English is their second language.

“In schools that have high numbers of students whose first language is not English, the work that teachers need to do in preparing the children for the tests is significantly more than in schools where the children speak, read and write English,” she said.

Professor Comber said one of the things teachers and principals were most critical of was that testing was undertaken in May and the results were not available until September.

“So in terms of their usefulness in providing information about the students – teachers don’t find them helpful, because by the time the parents get the result, the school year is almost over and those results no longer represent what those students can do at the time,” she said.

Professor Comber said the study was important because it aimed to understand the impact NAPLAN was having on students’ education and the teaching profession.

– Sandra Hutchinson
BRISBANE man Keith Loft is no stranger to thinking about death. As a disaster victim identification specialist working in forensics he faces the realities of it every day.

But it was thinking about his own death, and what kind of legacy he could leave, that led him to make a unique bequest to QUT.

“I was thinking about how I could assist future generations in their studies, but I don’t have millions of dollars to place in a philanthropic research fund,” Mr Loft, 52, said.

“I know that the best way to learn human anatomy is by sight and touch. So I decided to join the Body Bequest Program at QUT where my body can potentially be of benefit to others after my death. After all, it’s not going to be any good to me.”

QUT’s Body Bequest Program offers an opportunity to give a gift that goes one step further than organ donation. The program provides surgeons with a valuable resource to practice and trial new surgical techniques and procedures in a specialised surgical skills centre.

It’s also one of the only body donor programs that is able to accept bequests from people also wishing to become organ donors, or who have died in circumstances that legally require them to undergo full or partial autopsies.

The opportunity to make an enduring gesture also attracted 48-year-old Sunshine Coast resident and Buddhist nun Venerable Lozang Drolkar (pictured).

“Through organ donation I can hopefully help people continue to live their lives,” Ven. Drolkar said.

“By bequeathing my entire body to QUT, I can help doctors practice new surgical techniques which will benefit even more people in a different capacity.”

Leading Brisbane surgeon and professor of QUT’s orthopaedic research, Ross Crawford, said the program had enabled many surgeons to advance their surgical techniques and train other doctors.

“I’m able to use the facility before performing complex procedures to refresh my knowledge and identify where the nerves and vessels are at risk. We’ve also practised laparoscopic techniques and the implantation of medical devices,” he said.

Professor Crawford said the surgical teams were always mindful of the donor’s generosity.

“At the end of surgery we take a moment to acknowledge the donor who’s enabled us to benefit from their bequest,” he said.

Visit www.ihbi.qut.edu.au/engage or contact bodybequestofficer@qut.edu.au for information.

– Katrina Blowers
Farewell Julie Mannion

JULIE Mannion has dedicated more than 20 years to QUT, and since 1999 she has been the driving force behind the QUT Alumni program as alumni relations manager.

When she said goodbye to friends and colleagues in January, Julie left QUT an outstanding legacy built by her drive and passion.

Under Julie’s stewardship, QUT Alumni has reached new heights. It not only provides valuable funding for the university, but creates vital networks across the globe for graduates and students.

During her time, the number of alumni engaged with QUT had increased, as well as the opportunities for alumni to connect nationally and internationally.

A number of signature events and awards annually celebrated by QUT, such as the Outstanding Alumni Awards and Student Leadership Awards, were established by Julie.

Reflecting on her time at QUT, Julie said that it was the people she met who would leave a lasting impression on her.

“Alumni is really about the people. It has been a privilege to get to know so many wonderful people,” she said.

“I have been blessed with opportunities to meet people from so many walks of life, from our new graduates to our Golden Graduates, Alumni Award winners, and Honorary Doctors of the university, as well as senior staff and my closest colleagues.”

Alumni said goodbye to Julie, with messages of thanks coming from around the globe.

Julie remains a member of the QUT Alumni community, as a graduate and former staff member.

Chapter and Group news

Recent Alumni Events

Alumni Service Awards
Alumni Service Awards were presented to Brett Hooker and Ray Weekes at the Alumni Board AGM. Brett was a member of the Alumni Board from 2003-2010, served as its president from 2005-2008 and was on QUT Council.

Brett brought valuable industry knowledge and experience to the then Faculty of Information Technology Academic Board and Advisory Committees and in 2000 was named the Faculty’s Outstanding Alumnus.

Ray has had a long and dedicated relationship with QUT, particularly the QUT Alumni community and the QUT Business School. For the past 11 years, Ray has acted as Master of Ceremonies for QUT Alumni’s signature event, the Outstanding Alumni Awards (OAA), and has supported many alumni chapters as an adviser, speaker and mentor.

As CEO in Residence in the QUT Business School, Ray has contributed to the development and success of QUT Business Leaders’ Forum, the Queensland Business Leaders Hall of Fame Governing Committee and the Executive Dean’s Strategy Group.

Chapter Recognition Award
QUT Alumni Board presented a special Chapter Recognition Award to the Brisbane Kindergarten Teachers College (BKTC) Graduates and Friends.

The chapter celebrates the work of their graduates, engages with current students, and performs a public advocacy role for quality education and service delivery for the welfare of young children. Many years of dedicated work culminated in a series of events to celebrate the centenary of the commencement of the predecessor college in 2011, including a centenary
IN MEMORIAM:  
Professor Rod Walker

PROFESSOR Rod Walker was a passionate supporter of the civil unmanned aircraft sector in Australia and dedicated his career to shaping it.

Born in Cairns, Professor Walker (pictured left) arrived at the then Queensland Institute of Technology in 1987 as an IT student. He embarked on a double degree with a Bachelor of Engineering (electronics) and Bachelor of Applied Science (computing). He went on to complete a PhD.

Professor Walker joined QUT staff in 1996 as a research engineer. By 2005, he had become one of QUT’s highest performing researchers, attracting funding for groundbreaking automation and navigation research that now totals some $20 million.

One of his greatest educational achievements, the UAV Challenge, has continued to grow, attracting and inspiring hundreds of competitors from around the world.

Professor Walker lost a long battle with cancer on October 8, 2011. He is survived by his wife and three children.
Estrellita Phelps  
B Nurs 2010  
Estrellita would like to keep in touch with her course mates.  
0415 317 640

Nadia Haralampou  
GradCertCreative Ind 2011, BCI(Med & Comn) 2005  
Following her Bachelor in Media and Communication at QUT, Nadia completed a Master of Arts in Communication at Griffith University, before returning to QUT to finish her Graduate Certificate in Professional Communication. She has since been working in the field, in both the public and private sectors, while enjoying some overseas expeditions in between.  
nadiaharalampou@gmail.com

Leah Huxley  
BE(Civ) 2006  
Leah moved to Harrogate, UK, with Coffey Geotechnics in September 2008. She’s currently living in James Herriot country and working in a competitive market. Her career highlights include secondment to London’s cross-city rail tunnel project ‘Crossrail’ – which is the largest engineering project in Europe.  
Leah.huxley@gmail.com, +44 798 563 1382

Barry Farrin  
Barry was previously working for Bloomhill Cancer Help.  
forestway@bigpond.com 07 5471 1332

Philips David  
Executive EMBA 2010, GradCertBusAdmin 2009  
Phil is currently working as manager operations for Tarong Energy. Phil recently completed his EMBA with cohort 10 at QUT and would like to keep in touch with former students.  
Phil.david@alumni.qut.edu.au 0417 715 250

Frederik Potgieter  
LLM 2008, GradDip(Legal Prac) 2006  
Fred studied and practised law in South Africa and is now living in Australia. He currently works for Thomson Lawyers in Brisbane. His fields of practice include intellectual property law, franchising and commercial law.  
fpotgieter@thomsonslawyers.com.au 07 3338 7511

Haring W Qoreka  
BEC(TeachEd) 2009  
Haring would prefer to keep in touch by mail or email.  
haringqoreka@yahoo.com +675 7222 8619

Tiernan Fitzsimon  
BBus(Marketing) 2009  
Tiernan is currently pursuing a Masters of Business in International Business at QUT. Tiernan is a member of the QUT Young Alumni Committee and the QUT chapter of the Golden Key International Honour Society. Tiernan has also recently started working in the Sales and Marketing department at the iconic Royal on the Park Hotel Brisbane. Outside of work and study Tiernan is a passionate runner, competing in long distance races like the Gold Coast Marathon and the Endeavour Foundation 500km Relay.  
tiernan.fitzsimon@gmail.com 0403 808 430

Radhika Ramsey  
BBus(HRM) 2003  
Radhika is a successful clinical hypnotherapist and accredited neuro linguistic practitioner in Brisbane, specialising in helping people quit smoking. She has developed health and wellbeing “wellness” programs for many large companies.  
QuitIn60Minutes@gmail.com 0402 426 038

Waiming (Ricky) Chung  
BBtEnv 2007  
Ricky is currently an arch/interior design lecturer with Vocational Training Council in Hong Kong. He is also a calligrapher and a Chinese painter.  
hngleungchun@yahoo.com.hk

Scott Charlton  
MBA 2006  
Scott has recently published a book, Your Professional Headspace: Achieving Career Success and Personal Fulfilment as a Professional in Practice. The book is a practical guide for people working in professions. The book is based upon the business coaching that Scott specialises in, along with his own experience as a professional in practice.  
scotch1@bigpond.net.au 0409870330

Noelle Towler  
BBus(Public Relations) 2007  
After five years working in government communications, Noelle has recently unleashed her entrepreneurial streak and begun her own business. She now owns and operates a network of websites including two online retail stores and two financial comparison websites. In her spare time she works on a philanthropic project, Invite Life.  
noelle.towler@gmail.com 0403645852
1990s

Alexander (Sandy) Horneman-Wren
LLB 1991
Sandy has been in private practice at The Queensland Bar in Brisbane for 18 years and was appointed senior counsel in 2009. He resides in Ipswich with his wife, Louise, and three children.
sandyhw@qldbar.asn.au
07 3236 2145

1970s

Graeme Holyer
CertMechEng 1970
Graeme retired in 2009 from Queensland Rail after working for over 49 years. He was the mechanical draftsman and technical officer in QR maintenance plant engineering. Since retiring, Graeme has more time to be involved in his favourite charity, MND (QLD), and travelling around Australia and internationally.
gwholyer@optusnet.com.au
07 3888 1783

1960s

Margaret Szalay (nee Schmidt)
CertT each 1965
Margaret taught for three years in Brisbane in the 1960s before completing an arts degree with an economics major at the University of Queensland. After moving to Sydney in 1971, she worked in tertiary administration from 1971 until 1997 at NSWIT (now UTS) and the University of Sydney, ultimately as an executive officer in the Vice-Chancellor's Office. After leaving the university, she held senior management roles before retiring in 2005. She has since written and published over nine family histories and memoirs, two of which have received Awards in Queensland. Helping others to self-publish their books is her retirement hobby. Divorced, she has two adult children.
margaret@cremorne1.com
02 9904 1829

1950s

Richard Huckett
CertT each 1955
Richard is now retired after nearly 40 years service in many fields of education; Queensland primary schools; Queensland and NSW secondary schools; adult education, Moreton; international education under the Colombo plan; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education; and development of select TAFE traineeships in Queensland. He completed his Master in Education at University of Queensland as an external student and University of Sydney many years later. He has written and published Forests of the Night and Rainbow Rhyming.
huckettr@yahoo.com.au
07 3378 2054

DO YOU KNOW AN OUTSTANDING QUT ALUMUS?

Each year the Outstanding Alumni Awards recognise alumni of QUT and its predecessor institutions for exceptional professional, academic or research achievement and contribution to the community. If you know an outstanding QUT graduate who has made a significant contribution, please submit a nomination form. For more information, visit www.qut.edu.au/alumni, contact 07 3138 2821 or email alumni@qut.edu.au

Nominations close March 26, 2012.

TAKE TIME TO RECOGNISE AN EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT.

The Student Leadership Awards recognise QUT students for the quality of their engagement with both the university, the wider community and their professional and personal development activities and academic achievement.

For more information, visit www.qut.edu.au/alumni, contact 07 3138 1833 or email alumni@qut.edu.au

Nominations close April 2, 2012.
AT the beginning of 2012 the world appears firmly in the grip of an economic malaise which shows no sign of abating. Universities have taken their share of the resulting pain, both from falling investment returns and from tightening of public funding. We have seen direct funding cuts in many countries, and almost everywhere there are at the very least curtailed prospects for growth. There are exceptions, particularly in Asia and countries like France and Germany where determined efforts are being made to rework formerly egalitarian systems into ones with selected “world class universities”. However, the environment for universities outside these few exceptions has undoubtedly become more sombre over the past few years and there are few signs of a dramatic reversal of fortunes any time soon.

In Australia the situation has been further compounded by signs of fragility in the international student arena. A variety of influences including a rising dollar and confusion over visa reforms came together to create considerable uncertainty and weaken demand across the board in Australia. While some of these issues have abated, and visa rules have been reworked to greatly improve the attractiveness of studying at our universities, the financial impact has been significant.

This might not seem an ideal environment for QUT to be progressing its plans for renewal, but, over the course of 2011, there have been some important and positive changes made in line with our overarching strategic direction set out in the third QUT Blueprint. In part, our ability to do this has relied on Federal Government support and, in particular, on a systematic program of funding for new buildings which has resulted in a $75 million Government contribution to our $230 million Science and Engineering Centre at Gardens Point, which has also been supported by the State Government and a major donation from The Atlantic Philanthropies. This Centre is not only the centrepiece of major reforms QUT is making in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), it is part of a wider transformation of the physical and virtual environments of the University which are aimed at making the University a more engaging and exciting place for students, staff and the wider community.

Many of our alumni may recall with some affection the facilities at Gardens Point around the old Y, X and L Blocks; others may remember them as functional products of 1960s educational architecture which are long overdue for attention. What is certain is that the new set of facilities will fundamentally reshape the QUT experience at Gardens Point, and for the better.

Our changes in STEM are not only physical; they involve a major restructure of Faculties, with engineering, science and IT now brought together under a single Science and Engineering Faculty. The new Faculty will work closely with a research Institute which will build on the successful IHBI model we have used in Health to foster major cross disciplinary research programs. Alongside these changes we are reinvigorating the academic population with high quality appointments from early career through to professorial level.

Beyond the science domain we have made great progress with our plans for the next of creative industries development at Kelvin Grove, significantly improved the number of students taking advantage of overseas study options, sustained our success in competitive grants for research and teaching (including a prestigious Laureate Fellowship from the Australian Research Council to Professor Peter Bartlett), and seen an increase in the enrolment of students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

QUT’s transformation is a bold and long-term initiative, and much remains to be done. However, the advances we have made in 2011 are a heartening sign that we are on the right track and that positive change is possible even in times of turmoil. I look forward with enthusiasm to even further progress this year.

Professor Peter Coaldrake, AO
Vice-Chancellor
Leading Australian artist William Robinson recently donated all of his Archibald Prize entry artworks to QUT. Valued at $4.85 million, the collection is made up of the seven artworks Dr Robinson submitted for Australia's premier art award between 1984 and 1995. The most valuable donation ever made to QUT's art collection includes two artworks that won the prestigious prize: Equestrian self portrait (below) and Self portrait with stunned mullet. The artworks are included in the exhibition William Robinson: A Portrait of the Artist at The William Robinson Gallery at Old Government House.