Hi, how can we help you?

Australia-first digital hub transforms QUT student experience
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Spicing up student services

Meet Pepper – QUT’s latest robot recruit.

The world’s first personal humanoid robot that can recognise emotions, Pepper will ultimately form part of HiQ, the new student experience at QUT.

Students now have the most advanced and interactive digital campus experience in Australia thanks to the project to transform student engagement at the university.

HiQ, an Australia-first digital student services hub, enhances the student experience through a combination of state-of-the-art technology and peer-to-peer support.

A 17.5 metre-wide (42m²), interactive digital wall is the centrepiece of HiQ, complemented by self-service touchscreens giving students access to a wealth of information ranging from on-campus events to computer availability.

The wall uses ‘gesture and swipe’ interactivity enabled by Kinect cameras, similar to that used in video gaming.

Harnessing software used by global companies including Disney, Pixar and Mercedes-Benz, the screen is designed to maximise interactivity between people and digital content.

Several students can interact with it at once, and the wall showcases student work and opportunities, like testimonial videos from those on overseas exchanges. The displays can sync with more than 200 digital screens across QUT’s three campuses.

A new mobile app and refurbished student website have also been rolled out with HiQ, and student concierges are available to help with enquiries.

In the future, the HiQ experience may include interacting with Pepper. QUT is working on connecting Pepper to an AI assistant, a question-answering computer system that incorporates artificial intelligence, analytical software and machine learning.
The pairing will allow Pepper to ask questions of the students to refine their queries and give them the information they seek.

QUT Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Technology, Information and Library Services, Judy Stokker, said HiQ represented a new era for student engagement.

“HiQ is a one-stop shop for students to access information and services in a seamless and streamlined way,” she said.

“We have collaborated with students throughout the process and delivered a student-centred approach that meets the needs of the modern student through the latest technology.”

Ms Stokker said QUT is also concurrently working with Eight Inc., designers of the original Apple Store experience, to reimagine and design the future state of the student engagement experience.

“HiQ focuses on student services through mobile first, smart search capability, and interactive displays. More complex needs will continue to be supported via chat, phone and face-to-face interactions,” she said.

“Our physical spaces are vibrant and will assist and engage students, allowing them to fully immerse themselves in their QUT experience.”

The digital wall, which is housed within the V Block library at QUT’s Gardens Point campus, was designed and built by audio visual specialists Corporate Initiatives. The software was developed by Videro.

A second HiQ service point is located at the R Block library at Kelvin Grove campus.

As well as its potential role with HiQ, Pepper, created by SoftBank Robotics, will be used for a social robotics program.

The robot mimics human behaviours such as following a conversation by looking at whomever is talking.
“Pepper is probably the most ‘personable’ robot on the market in terms of its perceived emotional intelligence, making it a fantastic platform to investigate the suitability of social robots, which is still a very new field.

“What we learn from human-computer interactions with Pepper will inform the next generation of service robots, building an effective social component into their task-oriented programming.”

The $1.5 million social robotics program is funded by the state government’s Advance Queensland initiative.

Ms Ward said her team would explore the different applications of these robots across a range of settings and conditions, and their effectiveness in each.

“While a social robot in every home is probably a long way off, I see a place for social robots supporting human staff in every hospital, aged care facility and classroom, as companions and helpers—and there are no doubt many more settings we haven’t even considered yet,” she said.

Pepper’s strong student focus will also see it spend time interacting with students and the public at The Cube, the university’s signature science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) engagement space.

QUT students and visiting high school students will also be able to experiment with Pepper, coding programs for her to run.
Entrepreneurship has emerged as a must-have skill to shape and accelerate careers but requires the “spirit of a pirate” for success, says leading MIT educator Bill Aulet.

The entrepreneur-turned-teacher (pictured above centre) led 118 of the world’s brightest innovative thinkers from 35 countries through the rigors of the MIT Global Entrepreneurship Bootcamp at Gardens Point campus in March.

The highly-selective camp condensed a one-year MIT course into a week-long, action-based learning experience for budding entrepreneurs chosen from more than 6000 applicants across the world.

Participants experienced the challenges of creating a start-up in just one week, a feat that typically takes years, and did so while weathering the unfolding crisis of Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

“You learn to really understand how to apply the concepts for a specific new opportunity and in entrepreneurship, every good opportunity is a new one,” Mr Aulet said.

“That’s the point of innovation.”

Since its inception in 2014, the MIT Global Entrepreneurship Bootcamp participants have collectively launched 95 new ventures and raised more than US$32 million.

Research by CSIRO on tomorrow’s workforce over the coming 20 years revealed Australia’s unique conditions—a ‘perfect storm’ of forces meaning job seekers are increasingly creating their own jobs.

Enter the era of the entrepreneur.

A year after leaving Brisbane in 2014 with nothing but a backpack, Australian Leanne Kemp immersed herself into London’s epicentre of financial services.

Her insurance knowledge, tech experience and business savvy led to opportunities within emerging blockchain technology; as a result Everledger was born.

“The idea was novel, a little crazy but indeed possible and two years later here I am with a global team across four continents,” Ms Kemp said.

The tamper-proof digital verification system secures records indefinitely to reduce fraud, black markets and illegal trafficking of luxury goods.

More than one million diamonds have been uploaded to Everledger, which permanently tracks a stone’s origin, colour, clarity and ownership.

The company also registers fine wine, using information about the cork, label and bottle.

Back in Brisbane for QUT’s hosting of the Times Higher Education Young Entrepreneurial education essential to 21st century careers
Universities Summit, Ms Kemp said education and emotional intelligence were fundamental to how people were trained for the workplace.

Ms Kemp said people had a tendency to panic reading headlines like: “Will your job exist in the next five years?”.

“We shouldn’t see new technology as a threat but as an opportunity to reinvent ourselves and our environments,” she said.

Ms Kemp said a strong technical and business background had played in her favour when it came to establishing and scaling start-ups but acknowledged more need for cross disciplinary graduates.

“When you work in the tech industry and walk into a room not understanding how the engineering runs, you’re at a huge disadvantage for being able to project how you are going to grow and sell a business solution,” she said.

“It is clear, beyond learning linguistics at school, every child should be able to communicate with code.

“Both the education and court systems need to catch up on social and technology impacts and as part of this we need to embed the learning and tooling into our social fabric.”

There’s little doubt the world of work is rapidly changing. So too is the higher education sector.

A report by The Foundation for Young Australians estimates a young person today will have five career changes and an average of 17 jobs in their lifetime.

It represents a shift in focus for education institutions, with recognition to teach skills transferrable across countries, careers and industries.

Catering to the growing demands of the innovative and technology-driven global economy, QUT established a start-up incubation space to nurture the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders.

The QUT Foundry is a co-working and mentoring space which brings together student entrepreneurs, staff and alumni to support them in transforming innovative ideas into real-world business solutions.

Mr Aulet agrees the future lies in breeding a new mix of “innovative pirates” for the 21st century who also have the precision skills of a Navy SEAL.

MIT Global Entrepreneurship Bootcamp at QUT

✔ More than 6000 applications
✔ First time held in Australia and second time outside US
✔ 118 entrepreneurs from 35 countries selected
✔ Since 2014 bootcampers have launched 95 new ventures and raised more than US$32 million
Whether for individuals seeking new skills or businesses searching for organisation-wide change solutions, education evolves but is always essential.

QUT EX is a transformation of QUT’s executive education activities, drawing on skills and knowledge from across the university to offer tailored outcomes to government and industry organisations.

“Very simply, QUT EX is about taking QUT to the world,” Bob O’Connor, Executive Director of QUT Graduate School of Business, said.

“In today’s volatile environment, organisations face a range of ever-changing issues, problems and challenges, and very few of those sit in a single discipline.

“For example, to build a hospital there is an engineering dimension, a construction dimension, a finance dimension, industrial relations, project management and a wide variety of technical, organisational, political and stakeholder contexts,” said Mr O’Connor.
“QUT EX offers a distinctive advantage to corporate and government organisations, bringing together all of QUT’s expertise to create a solution that exactly fits the client’s requirements.”

Previously focused on delivering courses from the award-winning QUT Business School, QUT’s corporate education programs—from leadership skills to an Executive MBA—have been recognised in the world ranking of Executive Education providers by the UK Financial Times.

Organisations including Arrow Energy, the Australian Public Service Commission, Queensland Urban Utilities, the Federal Department of Defence and several Queensland Government departments have benefitted from QUT’s corporate education courses.

“With QUT EX, we are taking a university-wide approach to providing local, national and international corporate and government organisations with comprehensive solutions that deal with every aspect of the issues they are facing. It is a unique package and provides our client organisations with a unique advantage,” Mr O’Connor said.

“I don’t know of any other university, in Australia or the world, offering that.”

Mr O’Connor said QUT EX worked with organisations to ‘co-design’ programs that met their needs.

“They could be a few hours or over several months. Organisations need to be agile and so do we in our delivery,” he said.

“QUT EX will appoint academics from across QUT’s faculties so clients will have access to a deep and diverse pool of expertise and collaborative, creative approaches.”

As well as building QUT’s reputation with domestic and international companies by sharing its capabilities, the expanded set-up offers academics a chance to continue their own learning.

“It creates opportunities for our staff in real-world teaching and research. Academic staff engaging and facilitating classes with industry—that’s as real world as it can be,” Mr O’Connor said.

“They will bring back highly current, complex examples of what business and government is facing that they can then share with our students.”

With companies forced to ‘reinvent themselves every few years’, Mr O’Connor said individuals needed to regularly upskill.

“Companies are challenging their employees to take on new skills and transform their capabilities,” he said.

“Our role is not just to teach them the theory, but show them how it can be applied effectively.

“The mantra we use is ‘learn it Monday, use it Tuesday’. It should be based on research and backed by academic rigour, and be something you can use as soon as you are back in the workplace.

“By integrating the whole of QUT we can address business issues in their entirety—helping the customer completely solve their problem, not just a piece of their problem.”

www.qut.edu.au/qutex

Bob O’Connor says QUT EX is about taking QUT to the world.
Distinguished professors

Professors Kerrie Mengersen and Dietmar W Hutmacher have been awarded the Distinguished Professor title by QUT Council.

Mathematician and statistical scientist Distinguished Professor Mengersen makes an outstanding contribution to research in a wide variety of areas from cancer mapping in Australia to jaguar conservation in Peru.

Distinguished Professor Hutmacher was recognised for his major contributions to the field of biomaterials. Professor Hutmacher is a world leader in personalised regenerative medicine, spearheading the development of patient-specific 3D printed implants.

Inspirational leadership

Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Coaldrake has been honoured with the 2016 CASE Asia-Pacific Leadership Award in recognition of his inspirational guidance and development of a strong culture of advancement at QUT.

Conferred by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, the award was presented in April at the 2017 CASE Asia-Pacific Advancement Conference in Singapore.

CASE President and CEO Sue Cunningham said the award was acknowledgement of Professor Coaldrake’s drive and commitment to the higher education sector.

QUT ranked in world top 25

QUT has been ranked in the global top 25 in the prestigious 2017 Times Higher Education Young University Rankings.

The rankings, which assess the best 200 universities 50 years old or younger in the world, ranked QUT 24th in the world, up four places from last year, and in the top two Australian universities included in the rankings.

QUT also hosted higher education leaders from more than 30 countries at the Times Higher Education 2017 Young Universities Summit in April, the first time the summit had been held in the Southern Hemisphere.

Robotronica, the free robotics and technology spectacular, will return to QUT’s Gardens Point campus on August 20.

The one-day event showcases the latest developments in robotics and interactive design. The previous Robotronica, held in 2015, attracted more than 18,000 visitors.

For more information, visit www.robotronica.qut.edu.au
Golden bananas

Distinguished Professor James Dale has produced a golden-orange fleshed banana, rich in pro-vitamin A.

The humanitarian project, backed with close to $10 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, aims to improve the nutritional content of bananas in Uganda, where the fruit is the major staple food in the daily diet.

"The East African Highland cooking banana is an excellent source of starch. It is harvested green then chopped and steamed," Professor Dale said.

"But it has low levels of micronutrients—particularly pro-vitamin A and iron—and the consequences of vitamin A deficiency are severe."

He said it had been estimated that 650,000–700,000 children world-wide die from vitamin A deficiency each year with a further several hundred thousand going blind.

Professor Dale’s research involved extensive laboratory tests at QUT as well as field trials in north Queensland which have resulted in the identification and selection of banana genes that could be used to enhance pro-vitamin A in banana fruit.

"We’ve taken a gene from a banana that originated from Papua New Guinea and is naturally very high in pro-vitamin A but has small bunches, and inserted it into a Cavendish banana,” Professor Dale said.

"Over the years, we’ve been able to develop a banana that has achieved excellent pro-vitamin A levels, hence the orange rather than cream-coloured flesh.

"We tried and tested hundreds of different genetic variations in our lab and in field trials in Queensland until we got the best results.

"These elite genes have been sent to Uganda in test tubes where they have been inserted into Ugandan bananas for field trials there.”

Professor Dale said another pleasing aspect of the project was the fact that young Ugandan students who came to QUT to undertake their studies, had now completed their PhDs and were overseeing the research and field trials in Uganda.

This scientific achievement was published in the prestigious Plant Biotechnology Journal.
3D printing to target breast cancer

Patient-specific implants will deliver life-saving treatment.

World-leading personalised medicine research combining regeneration and chemotherapy is being led by QUT’s Distinguished Professor Dietmar W Hutmacher (pictured).

Under an Advance Queensland grant, Professor Hutmacher is directing a multidisciplinary team which is developing biomaterial (bioink) software and hardware to enable surgeons to use patient-specific 3D printed implants containing anti-cancer chemotherapy for implantation after mastectomy for breast cancer patients.

Professor Hutmacher said the highly porous light-weight biodegradable scaffolds are combined with the patient’s own fat tissue.

“The chemotherapy drugs on the surface of the scaffold allow drugs to be delivered to the cancer site instead of the whole body as is the current practice,” he said.

The scaffold, which is 3D printed with a biodegradable polymer, combines the chemotherapy and the patient’s own cells obtained from liposuction of the thigh or abdomen, growth factor, and regenerative proteins isolated from the patient’s own blood.

Professor Hutmacher said that in a related project the team had developed 3D in-vitro cancer models.

“We use these to study various anti-cancer drugs’ efficacy and release mechanisms so we can take the best combinations and load them into the 3D printed breast scaffold,” he said.

“The chemotherapy drugs on the surface of the scaffold allow drugs to be delivered to the cancer site instead of the whole body as is the current practice.”

“One of the aims of the grant is to perform the research that will enable individualised drug therapies so that each patient receives the right amount and combination of chemotherapy drugs needed to kill off potential cancer cells in the remaining tissue.

“This means patients will have much lower and fewer doses of chemotherapy and lower side effects.”

Professor Hutmacher said QUT and Translational Research Institute biomedical scientists were working closely with surgeons to ensure research was rapidly translated into practical therapies for patients.

“The rapid advances of translational research in tissue engineering have started a new era in personalised medicine,” he said.

“Regenerative medicine will grow as more individualised medicine paradigms to create predictive, personalised, and pre-emptive solutions for tailored delivery of patient-specific healthcare.

“For many national and international universities the goal of bringing engineers and clinicians together to translate from bench to bedside is only a paper exercise. Yet, we are very proud at QUT that without having a medical faculty we ‘walk the talk’.”

Professor Hutmacher mentors a multidisciplinary team composed of biomaging specialists, TRI director and QUT Professor Carolyn Mountford, breast surgeons Professor Owen Ung and Dr Clement Wong as well as two industry partners, spin-off company Biofabrication Design Solutions (BDS), and 3D Industries.

He has been awarded the title of Distinguished Professor by QUT and is the recipient of the 2017 European Society of Biomaterials International Award for his major contributions to the field of biomaterials and strong collaborations with biomaterial scientists in Europe.
Madison Ainsworth

QUT Biomedical Science graduate Madison Ainsworth began her dual international masters in biofabrication this year and will study in Utrecht next year for the European component of her masters degrees. She will focus on the regeneration and enhancement of bone growth in 3D printed scaffolds, under Associate Professor Mia Woodruff, who leads the Biofabrication and Tissue Morphology Group at QUT’s Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation.

Madeline Hintz

One of the first to complete the dual international masters in biofabrication degree, Madeline Hintz is now working as a clinical research associate to monitor translational research. During her masters study, Ms Hintz developed a library of breast shapes for the 3D printing of biodegradable scaffolds and designed a cell-laden ink to 3D print miniature breast cancer tumours. These constructs may be used to verify the effectiveness of a planned treatment before human trials, or to find an effective drug therapy for an individual’s tumour to aid treatment.

Herston Biofabrication Institute to serve hospitals of the future

QUT has partnered with Metro North Hospital and Health Service to establish the Herston Biofabrication Institute, the first institute in Australia dedicated to 3D technologies for the hospitals of the future.

The institute will use revolutionary 3D imaging, computational modelling and printing technology to manufacture patient-specific tissue to replace lost or damaged bone, cartilage and other tissue.

Led by Associate Professor Mia Woodruff (pictured), the institute is set to become a world-leader in tissue regeneration and personalised medicine.

"It will focus on developing biofabrication in 3D imaging, 3D computer modelling and visualisation and 3D cell culture and 3D bio-printing to create customised engineered tissue implants, some containing the patient’s own cells," she said.

Professor Woodruff, from QUT’s Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, said the institute would bring together researchers and clinicians in chemistry, biology, physics, technology, mathematics, engineering and applied clinical practices.
At just 20 years of age, and halfway through her law degree, Learning Potential Fund scholar Hayley Fox has big aspirations to make a difference in the world.

“Law is something I have been passionate about for a very long time, and I cannot express how grateful I am to be studying it,” said Hayley.

“I’m grateful not only because it’s the pathway to my biggest dream, but because it’s been a rollercoaster getting here.”

As a 14-year-old, Hayley thought dropping out of school was her only sensible option.

Growing up in Wallaville (50 kilometres south west of Bundaberg), Hayley had watched her parents struggle to make ends meet and support their six children. They divorced when Hayley was 10, and gradually all five of Hayley’s brothers dropped out of school.

Seeing the financial state the family was in, Hayley reasoned that if she left school, she would be able to contribute to the family financially.

But when a close family friend, Nick, was left in a coma following a serious farm accident, Hayley’s future was thrown into perspective.

“Not only were my family going through a devastatingly emotional experience, but we were engulfed in the confusion that comes with workers’ compensation and negligence claims, and the logistical and financial challenges of giving Nick the best support we could by bringing him home,” said Hayley.

“It was really hard to see my family hurt so badly, and I realised I wanted to be the link between rural families and their access to legal assistance.”

In her final years of school, Hayley was juggling work as a tutor and gymnastics coach to provide some income for her family, while living in a caravan on the property as the house had become too full to accommodate everyone.

But her determination to succeed overcame the challenges facing her, and Hayley submitted an application for a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) at QUT and graduated from high school with an OP3.

It was after submitting her application to university that Hayley’s mother had to have a heartbreaking discussion with her daughter about the realities of Hayley’s tertiary aspirations.
BDO awarded for workplace giving

Congratulations to BDO Australia, who were recently recognised with a 2016 Workplace Giving Excellence Award for their support of the QUT Learning Potential Fund.

BDO took home the silver award for Best Launch or Refresh (Small Employer) after establishing a workplace giving program to fund their BDO Learning Potential Fund Scholarships.

The scholarships provide support to disadvantaged students undertaking a Bachelor of Business (Accountancy) or Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Laws (Honours).

QUT alumnus and BDO Partner, Bernard Curran, says the scholarships bring a new aspect to BDO’s philanthropic work and are well embraced by BDO staff.

The QUT Learning Potential Fund welcomes Hugh Nalder as Chair

The QUT Learning Potential Fund is pleased to welcome Hugh Nalder, Director of Hugh Nalder & Associates, as Committee Chair.

Dr Nalder has a longstanding relationship with the university, having previously been a member of QUT Council for 11 years, serving as founding Chairman of qutbluebox until 2016, and having been a passionate advocate for the fund and member of the LPF Committee since 2011.

Dr Nalder has taken up the voluntary role of Chair for a two-year term, following the previous Chair, Dr Ray Weekes. During his term Dr Weekes helped build the fund from a $26 million endowment in 2014 to $44 million in 2017. Together with his wife Penny, Dr Weekes also established a new scholarship in tribute to Dr Weekes’ mother—the Joy Forrester Learning Potential Fund Scholarship. The QUT Learning Potential Fund students extend their gratitude to Dr and Mrs Weekes for their support.

“Mum sat me down and explained we didn’t have the money for me to move away for university, and that my chance of studying law would heavily rely on securing a scholarship,” said Hayley.

“When I received the official offer to study my course, I wanted to accept it more than anything. But instead I had to wait and see if any of the scholarships I’d applied for would come through and make everything possible.”

A few weeks later, Hayley received word that she would be receiving a Tim Fairfax AC Learning Potential Fund Scholarship.

The Learning Potential Fund provides scholarships to students facing financial disadvantage to help them complete their studies—a goal it has been achieving consistently, with research showing recipients are significantly more likely to finish their degree than non-recipients.

“Everything was starting to fall into place. I was able to pay rental bond, move to Brisbane, and purchase textbooks and a laptop for my first semester at university,” said Hayley.

With only a couple of years left of study, Hayley is now within reach of achieving her dream of providing legal support to rural communities.

“The Learning Potential Fund is the reason I am able to strive for my dream of helping vulnerable people,” said Hayley.

“Without it, I would not be where I am today.”
As the only Australian to crack the Forbes’ 30 Under 30 gaming list, QUT alumnus Lisy Kane has made her mark in an industry dominated by men.

The Melbourne-based game producer at League of Geeks has worked on the critically acclaimed titles Armello (2015), Hand of Fate (2015), and Push Me Pull You (2016).

She—along with fellow alumni Sarah Moran and Tammy Butow—is also co-founder of start-up company Girl Geek Academy which encourages women, who are still underrepresented in the gaming industry, to learn and create using technology.

“For me, I’m incredibly passionate about Girl Geek Academy because I want to be able to help the past me,” she said.

“I’ve been in that position of being unsure of the tech sector, being scared and fearful of the unknown.

“Being able to empower more women to learn technology, start their own businesses and help build the internet drives this passion and makes me incredibly proud of what we’ve achieved and continue to achieve.”

Ms Kane, who graduated with a Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Creative Industries from QUT in 2013, encourages up-and-coming gamers to surround themselves with supportive people from the industry.

“Ask someone out for a coffee, talk to someone on Twitter and be fearless,” she said.

Entry to the prestigious Forbes’ 30 Under 30 list allows members access to perks, including Forbes networking events and workshops.
Inspector shares real-world experience

With more than 30 years’ experience in the Queensland Police Service, Inspector Christopher Emzin—a barrister with a QUT law degree—is undertaking a 12-month stint with the School of Justice as the university’s first visiting police associate.

His role includes guest lectures, mentoring students and assisting with research, and improving links between police, students and Crime and Justice Research Centre researchers.

Inspector Emzin has worked in prosecutions, the flood crisis review group and counter terrorism, and is a former Queensland State Water Police Coordinator.

“I can complement the world-leading learning and research environment of QUT with my contemporary, real-life experiences,” Inspector Emzin said.

Filmmaker shining global bright light

Globe-trotting QUT interactive and visual design graduate Jessie Hughes is making a name for herself on the international stage. She is pictured here on location in Guatemala shooting her virtual reality film Amor de Abuela (A Grandmother’s Love). Made as part of the Oculus/Facebook 360 for Good Bootcamp for Filmmakers and Nonprofits, it aims to raise awareness of the Global Brightlight Foundation and its mission to bring solar power to the 1.3 billion people worldwide who live without power.

Sweet success flows to Hive

Staying simple but small has helped put three QUT alumni on the path to entrepreneurial success in the increasingly competitive inner-city apartment market.

QUT graduates Daniel Brennan, Dominik Waldmeier and Natalie Saint-Forrester established Kelvin Grove based company Hive Student Accommodation.

Within two years the company’s turnover reached $500000.

The trio manage high quality, affordable student housing for ‘niche’ small-to-medium (50-150 bed) complexes built and owned by investors.

“It has been a fast-paced two years as we went from no revenue and $10000 in seed funding to managing 500 rooms,” Mr Brennan said.

“Our occupancy rates averaged 96 per cent capacity.”

Hive’s first purpose-built complex opened in January 2017 in Kelvin Grove, close to QUT.
Is coral a rainmaker?

A world-first study led by QUT’s Professor Zoran Ristovski has led a multinational team of scientists on a voyage over the Great Barrier Reef that aimed to find out if coral creates rain.

Data from the month-long journey aboard the CSIRO’s Investigator will help the researchers understand the role coral plays in emitting cloud-forming airborne particles into the reef’s atmosphere. The team gathered and analysed coral-produced particles in the air over the reef and over adjacent rainforests for ongoing research.

Solar technology trial

QUT and Japanese manufacturer Sumitomo Electric have joined forces to trial cutting-edge solar/battery technologies for Queensland.

Sumitomo has installed a powerful concentrator photovoltaic (CPV) solar tree in Brisbane, which is being operated and tested by QUT researchers.

Professor Ian Mackinnon, from QUT’s Institute for Future Environments, said the partnership would complement and boost QUT’s existing renewable energy research program.

“It gives us the opportunity to study the operation of large-scale renewable energy generation and storage technologies in Queensland’s climate,” he said.

Professor Mackinnon said CPV technology was around 2.5 times more efficient than standard photovoltaic technology and ideal for places like Queensland that receive high levels of direct sunlight.

“Although they look similar to traditional photovoltaic panels, CPV systems have a layer of lenses over the top of the photovoltaic cells that concentrates the sunlight and makes the system far more efficient,” he said.
Carbs during workouts help immune system recovery

Eating carbohydrates during—or immediately after—intense exercise helps to minimise exercise-induced immune disturbances and can aid the body’s recovery, QUT research has found.

Dr Oliver Neubauer and Dr Jonathan Peake, from QUT’s Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, led a research review of studies about exercise and immunity.

They found the best way to avoid unfavourable changes in the immune system during a post-workout recovery was consuming carbs during or immediately after the exercise.

The paper was published in the Journal of Applied Physiology.

Climate change top concern of ‘millennials’

Sixty-three per cent of young Australians rank climate change as the most serious issue facing Australia—three times the number in any other geographical area of the world, a global survey has found.

The World Economic Forum survey, conducted by their Global Shapers network, canvassed more than 26,500 millennials (people aged 20 to 33) around the world.

QUT business and mathematics graduate Nicholas Johnson leads the World Economic Forum Global Shapers Brisbane hub which administered the survey in Australia. Mr Johnson was also QUT’s 2016 Alumni Student Leader of the Year.

Your perfect (online) match might not be ‘Mr Right’

A QUT study of 41,000 online daters has found they often ignore their own ‘wish list’ of partner characteristics when taking their first step towards love.

The research by QUT Business School behavioural economists Stephen Whyte and Professor Benno Torgler spread around the globe after it was published in a leading ‘cyberpsychology’ journal.

“This study provides quite unique findings in that people may state a preference for an ideal partner but they are more than happy to initiate contact with potential love interests that bear no resemblance whatsoever to that ‘Mr or Mrs Perfect’,“ said Mr Whyte, who is a QUT business graduate now studying his PhD.

“I think these are really encouraging findings for people searching for that special someone online.”

CRCs to transform food and transport systems

QUT will be a lead research partner in two new Cooperative Research Centres announced by the Australian Government that aim to help transform Australia’s food and transport systems.

The $210 million Food Agility CRC and the $234 million iMOVE CRC will both drive change through digital innovation.

The iMOVE CRC is charged with delivering reduced congestion, fuel use, emissions and crashes, and improved freight coordination, productivity and international competitiveness, and lifestyle and wellbeing.

The Food Agility CRC will work with the agri-food industry to pursue Australia’s opportunities to provide fresh and processed food for a global population expected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050.

Links QUT Alumni Magazine—Issue One 2017
How do you embrace an opportunity before it’s reality?

Or respond to a challenge that hasn’t yet arrived?

With technology disrupting organisations on an unprecedented scale, everyone is longing for a crystal ball to see if the next wave is one they can ride—or one that can wipe them out.

Partnering with industry, QUT aims to offer a glimpse of the future, identifying opportunities and challenges before it’s too late.

“In a world that is so opportunity rich, organisations and their leaders need capabilities that go far beyond established problem solving skills,” Professor Michael Rosemann, QUT Executive Director, Corporate Engagement, said.

“In the digital age, the amount of what you don’t know will increase. However, organisations tend to focus on looking inside as opposed to sensing what is possible. We call this stage unconscious incompetence, i.e. they don’t know what they don’t know.

“In this context, universities can help make sense of this environment, with early identification, validation and assessment of emerging trends—working out what developments will have true impacts that require recognition and what is just noise.”

Professor Rosemann said QUT worked with corporate partners across industries, from local hospitals and high schools to ASX-listed companies and global businesses.

“We are in most cases industry agnostic. As a consequence, we can broker successful concepts across industry sectors and we are open for business for anyone,” he said.

“QUT has the needs of its corporate customers at the core of all our engagements so our collaborations are driven by the partner’s requirements.

“The scientific mindset and toolset of our academics provides our partners with new pathways and improves their evidence-based management practices.”

QUT’s corporate partnerships include everything from student internships lasting a few weeks to in-depth research projects and transdisciplinary partnerships spanning several years.

“It is not enough anymore to react to and solve one specific problem. Leaders today need to proactively identify important developments and translate how these will impact their industry,” Professor Rosemann said.

“For example, if you are in car insurance you want to know when the driverless car will be commonplace, and how it will affect your business model.

“We try to be an opportunity creator. We want to open up new perspectives so you can see what else is possible and not just fix what is broken.”
Julianne Alroe, CEO and Managing Director, Brisbane Airport Corporation

“Brisbane Airport Corporation (BAC) is a strong believer that working together with the university sector can drive innovation and critical thinking while enhancing organisational culture and value.

The partnership between BAC and QUT has allowed us to realise many innovative projects together that have helped Brisbane Airport earn its reputation as one of the best airports in the world. In return, the engagement of students and combining teaching with cases from ‘the real world’ provides invaluable experience for undergraduates.

One of the achievements we’re most proud of is becoming the first airport in Australia to be recognised as a dementia-friendly organisation by Alzheimer’s Australia. This recent accreditation was the result of a joint project and research grant between BAC and QUT’s School of Nursing. As a result, an action plan was delivered that included auditing of existing facilities, the development of dementia-friendly traveller guides and dementia awareness training for key airport staff.”

Professor Marek Kowalkiewicz is an example of a flourishing corporate partnership. Professor Kowalkiewicz is the QUT-based PwC Chair in Digital Economy—a partnership between QUT’s Business School and Science and Engineering Faculty, PwC, the Queensland Government and Brisbane Marketing.

Professor Rosemann said an example of the ‘intellectual agility’ QUT uses to support partners was the ongoing, 15-year relationship with Brisbane Airport Corporation (BAC).

“We have worked with BAC to find solutions in a wide range of areas across various disciplines, from assessing water quality and making airports more accessible for people with dementia, to jointly designing the world-first Digital Departure Card,” he said.

Partnerships also allow QUT researchers to identify research opportunities early.

“This helps reduce what we call ‘research latency’—the time from when a topic emerges to when we conduct credible research,” Professor Rosemann said.

“We are working with organisations at the forefront of their industries and it inspires researchers to think about topics they may not have engaged with previously. You don’t come up with these ideas just sitting at your desk.”

Professor Rosemann said QUT was committed to forming and nurturing long-lasting relationships to help navigate continuously evolving environments.

“Our ambition is to be a trusted innovation partner so when an organisation needs to transform, our research-informed insights can help them on that journey,” he said.

“We provide a comprehensive offering so partners can interact with our academics, as well as our students or entrepreneurs to gain insights and inspirations.

“The future is filled with a multitude of opportunities and challenges and our role is to help others understand today what tomorrow’s world looks like.”
In the spotlight

Tracey Vieira has been a trailblazer since graduating from QUT in 1994.

CEO of Screen Queensland and 2016 Telstra Queensland Business Woman of the Year, Tracey Vieira is credited with orchestrating an economic revival for the local film industry.

When she took over the reins in 2014, Screen Queensland was struggling. Fast forward three years and the organisation is riding high under her leadership, with recent big budget international films including *The Shallows* and *Kong: Skull Island* giving the state a substantial financial boost.

Before joining Screen Queensland, Ms Vieira was Executive Vice President—International Production—of Ausfilm in Los Angeles. Over 10 years she attracted more than $1.5 billion of production spend to Australia. She previously held senior roles with the Pacific Film and Television Commission and the Queensland Events Corporation.

"Taking on the CEO position at Screen Queensland really redefined my career. I loved working in the US but to be able to turn around an organisation in crisis reminded me of why I got into the industry in the first place," Ms Vieira said.

It’s a career trajectory that reads like a film script and it all began when she was a Brisbane schoolgirl with big dreams of working in film and television.

Studying at QUT helped make those dreams come true.

"I had a love of film and television and the degree at QUT fuelled my passion for this business. QUT was where I truly found a love of learning which has stayed with me to this day and enabled me to grow with the constant change in the business I am in," said Ms Vieira, who also sits on the Advisory Board to Australians in Film.

"Interestingly during my studies at QUT, I first started exploring gender in screen and that has now come full circle for me in that I am delivering meaningful policy to drive gender equality in the screen industry."

Other QUT alumni to win Telstra Business Woman of the Year awards include Dr Rosemary Wigan, Marisa Vecchio, Deborah Kilroy, Dr Sally Pitkin, Dr Mary Magee and Lyn Russell.
Leading the way

With the tenacity to earn a near-perfect grade point average while leading a variety of student engagement initiatives, Nalongded Luanglath is not one to let fear of a challenge defeat his will to achieve.

It is this attribute, among others, that has seen Nalongded named 2017 QUT Alumni Student Leader of the Year.

Nalongded received the award in recognition of his determination to create support and opportunities for student communities, as well as his outstanding academic achievements.

His drive to succeed was ignited at an early age by the challenges Nalongded has faced since birth, with a condition called osteogenesis imperfecta (OI) greatly restricting his physical abilities.

As a young man with a disability, Nalongded aims to demonstrate that with the right support, disability does not preclude a person’s potential to achieve.

“Positive attitude is good—but in and of itself alone is not enough,” Nalongded said.

Opportunities like the Australia Awards Scholarship Nalongded received have given him a platform from which to encourage other young people in his home country of Laos to consider a similar path.

“Particularly in developing countries, people with disabilities have significantly less encouragement or opportunities to pursue education or professional careers,” Nalongded said.

“My main personal objective is to remove stigma around disability and mental health issues in my community through advocacy and education.”

Receiving an overall degree grade point average (GPA) of 6.75 (out of 7), Nalongded was also the 2015 recipient of the QUT Business School International Undergraduate Prize, which is awarded to the international Bachelor of Business student with the highest GPA for all subjects undertaken over the prize year.

Now in his honours year, Nalongded has ensured his time as a QUT student is just as fulfilling outside of his academic results, establishing the QUT Lao Student Club (QULTSC) in 2014 and participating in a variety of other clubs and associations.

Nalongded was presented the award at the QUT Alumni Student Leadership Award ceremony in May.

QUT Alumni Manager Ken Gideon said that the Student Leadership Awards are a valuable opportunity for dedicated students to be recognised for their efforts.

“These students are our future alumni, and it’s incredibly important to us to recognise the contributions they’ve already made to the university community and their fellow classmates,” said Ken.

“We’re always amazed at the level of commitment shown by our winners not only to their studies, but to making the world a better place. We’re very proud to be able to recognise that.”

Also receiving recognition at the awards were the following students, who each received a 2017 QUT Alumni Student Leadership Excellence Award:

• Ria Bhagat—Bachelor of Journalism/Bachelors of Laws (Honours)
• Timothy Hui—Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
• Julian Loh—Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
• Josh Loyd—Bachelor of Engineering
• Chenoa Masters—Bachelor of Education (Secondary)
• Fred Duku Silver—Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Laws (Honours)
• Damien Slinger—Bachelor of Engineering
• Kristy Winter—Masters of Applied Science (Research)

Congratulations to all of the winners.

For more on the QUT Alumni Student Leadership Awards, please visit the QUT Alumni website: www.qut.edu.au/alumni
Entrepreneurship in fashion

QUT Fashion School hosted 25 Indonesian fashion and textile designers, entrepreneurs and members of the Indonesian government recently for a two-week professional training course in international fashion business for the federal government’s Australia Awards in Indonesia Program.

QUT fashion academic Carla Van Lunn designed the course to give key Indonesian designers and retailers insights and skills to enter the international marketplace.

“While Indonesia has a large population that supports many home-grown fashion businesses internally, its fashion industry wants to look outside the domestic market to grow their businesses,” said Ms Van Lunn, who previously conducted a pre-course workshop in Jakarta.

Ms Van Lunn said Indonesian and Australian designers were well-positioned to take advantage of the large and lucrative global resortwear market, thanks to our warm weather and coastal lifestyles.

International Business Readiness for the Fashion and Textiles Sector is the second QUT-run Australia Awards short course supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

New alumni benefits

QUT is proud to announce the latest benefits for alumni—thanks to partnerships with Corporate Impact and CompNow.

Corporate Impact provide video content services, one-on-one training, customised training courses and team building filmmaking workshops. Established by QUT alumni and actors, Guy Edmonds and Matt Zeremes, Corporate Impact uses their experience in the entertainment industry to provide practical and engaging services to companies looking to improve their team culture and marketing collateral. Having previously worked with clients such as Samsung Australia, Mumbrella and Imagine Aust, Corporate Impact [www.corporateimpact.com.au] now offer an exclusive deal for QUT alumni: a five per cent discount on all services, and five per cent of your bill donated to the QUT Learning Potential Fund.

Australian owned and operated IT supplier, CompNow, has also joined forces with QUT to offer a discount on Microsoft products and support to the QUT Learning Potential Fund. Not only do alumni receive up to 10 per cent off Microsoft products and accessories purchased through the exclusive portal [http://bit.do/comp-now], but for every 10 products sold, CompNow will donate a Surface Pro 4 i5/128 tablet to a Learning Potential Fund student.

To find out more about the benefits available to alumni, visit [www.qut.edu.au/alumni/benefits-and-special-offers](http://www.qut.edu.au/alumni/benefits-and-special-offers)
QUT Call-to-Action

At QUT, we are so proud of our alumni, and love to hear about your adventures and interests once you’ve graduated.

In 2016, as part of the QUT Call-to-Action campaign, we assembled an impressive group of Learning Potential Fund scholarship recipients (pictured above) to call members of our alumni community and help strengthen the ties between graduates and students.

These calls offered an opportunity for us to hear your memories and insights, and give you the chance to catch up on news and events at QUT. During the call, students also asked our alumni to consider making a financial contribution to the Learning Potential Fund.

The campaign ran for four weeks with students speaking to almost 1000 alumni and raising in excess of $40000—a tremendous achievement!

This year we are doing it all again—with more students. We hope you enjoy your conversation with one of our students and that you will consider making a donation to the Learning Potential Fund to support our students experiencing financial need.

Bank Australia Scholarship

Bank Australia has demonstrated its commitment to ensuring financial disadvantage is not a barrier to education, having recently established a scholarship for the QUT Learning Potential Fund.

The scholarship has been set up in perpetuity, with Bank Australia donating $125000 to ensure this gift will keep on giving.

The 2017 scholarship was recently awarded to Bachelor of Education (Secondary) student, Amanda Robertson.

Bank Australia CEO Damien Walsh said the Learning Potential Fund is a great way for the organisation to build on a long-term commitment to addressing educational disadvantage.

“We’re in business to create mutual prosperity—which means creating value for our customers, the communities they live in and the planet we all live on. The Bank Australia Learning Potential Fund Scholarship is a great example of mutual prosperity in action,” he said.
Chapter news

Young Alumni Chapter
The QUT Young Alumni Chapter has relaunched and has been busy planning exciting events for the year ahead. If you’re a QUT Alumnus aged 35 and under and want to get involved, follow the QUT Young Alumni Facebook page (www.facebook.com/QUTYA), or email young.alumni@qut.edu.au – we’d love to hear from you!

Community of Former Staff (CoFS)
The Community of Former Staff (CoFS) Alumni Chapter has organised a Pre-Christmas Luncheon for 22 November 2017 at Southbank Institute of TAFE Restaurant. They hope to see many of you there. Members will receive an invite in the next few months.

Canberra Alumni Chapter
The Canberra Alumni Chapter is relaunching this year. We are looking for a few enthusiastic alumni in the ACT who might be interested in helping us plan engagement activities. Please email alumni@qut.edu.au if you are interested in becoming involved.

Sydney Alumni Chapter
The Sydney Alumni Chapter is very excited to have a group of alumni assisting with engagement in Sydney. The last event was on 9 June and coincided with Vivid. For more information, please email alumni@qut.edu.au

Nursing Class of 1987 Reunion
Were you or someone you know part of the inaugural Bachelor of Applied Science (Nursing) degree at QIT starting in 1987? If so, we’d like to hear from you. Please contact alumni@qut.edu.au or 07 3138 1837 for more information about a reunion for the first group to undertake a nursing degree in Queensland.
Over the past generation global university rankings have become an entrenched part of the higher education landscape, and they have in turn spawned an industry of commentary and analysis which has raked over the benefits and limitations of these assessments—and what it means to be ‘world class’—when applied to organisations as complex as universities. One of those limitations is that the standard rankings, which rely heavily on past research activity, provide only a partial view of the scope and impact of universities around the world.

For example, the Irish rankings expert Professor Ellen Hazelkorn has pointed out that the top 100 universities in the prestigious Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) represent only 0.5 per cent of the world’s universities and some 99.6 per cent of the world’s higher education students attend other institutions. The architect of the ARWU, Professor Nian Cai Liu of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, has openly acknowledged that their methodology favoured universities which are heavy in medicine and natural science, and he noted that universities established after 1911 ‘did not have a fair chance’.

This is a serious deficiency in the picture presented by most of the rankings. There is vastly more high-quality education and research going on around the world than accounted for by the older elite universities, including in several Asian nations which have made strong commitments to knowledge-based development. Universities are today much more closely linked to the needs of society and individuals than ever before. In large part this is because of the establishment of new institutions over the past half a century with new expectations and mandates for relevance.

QUT’s hosting of the Times Higher Education (THE) Young Universities Summit serves to remind us of the importance and dynamism of many of these newer universities. Of course critics can point out that 50 years is a rather arbitrary cut off, and flaws remain in efforts to measure activities beyond research, but the achievement of institutions of the calibre of Singapore’s Nanyang Technological University, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and, of course, QUT should be acknowledged and celebrated.

Global rankings of universities are here to stay, and the methods they use will continue to evolve. They provide useful benchmarks as well as a spur to further improvement, and in QUT’s case we can take considerable encouragement that our research performance is indeed world class as shown by our ranking in the top 300 globally by both ARWU and THE. But we should always keep in mind that any single ranking is at best a limited representation of what universities are and what they should be. QUT has always held to its defining ethos as a university for the real world, and that means linking our research and education to the needs of students, industry, the professions and wider society in ways that improve lives and advance understanding. As a young university we have come far, and we intend to show much more is possible for a university that is focused on both academic excellence and relevance to the real world.

Professor Peter Coaldrake AO
Vice-Chancellor
William ROBINSON, *Passing storm, late afternoon, Beechmont* 1993, ‘Mountain’ series, fourth of five, oil on linen, QUT Art Collection
Donated through the Australian Government’s Cultural Gifts Program by William Robinson, 2017

Dr William Robinson AO has donated to QUT five large works that form the Mountain Series, strengthening the university’s collection which now boasts 182 of his works.

The William Robinson Gallery is situated in Old Government House on QUT’s Gardens Point campus in Brisbane city. The gallery is open Sunday to Friday from 10am to 4pm, closed Saturdays.