

Vice-Chancellor's review

THIS HAS BEEN A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT AND GROWTH – A TRIBUTE TO ASTUTE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT AND EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS BY OUTSTANDING STAFF AND STUDENTS. OUR UNIVERSITY IS MOVING CONFIDENTLY FORWARD IN AN ERA OF UNPRECEDENTED CHANGE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION. EVENTS OF 2000 ADVANCED OUR STATUS AS A LEADING AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY WITH A GLOBAL REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE; AND OUR PLANS FOR 2001 AND BEYOND ARE FIRM FOUNDATIONS FOR A VERY BRIGHT FUTURE.



Strength, substance and innovation

National teaching awards and exceptionally positive graduate outcomes proved our strengths in teaching and learning. We drew a record enrolment of nearly 30,000 students in 2000, including most of Queensland's highest-achieving school leavers and a vastly-increased international student body.

Our second placing nationally for the third year in a row in the Research Quantum (the Federal Government's annual funds allocation based on overall research performance) headlined research strengths ranging from success in competitive funding rounds to discoveries of world-wide significance.

Many of these involved partnerships with business and industry – a trend which is escalating in tandem with our community interactions. Our UQ Ipswich Community Service and Research Centre, for example, by the end of its second year in 2000 had helped about 155 groups develop 80 partnerships with government and community agencies.

These and the many other success stories we have to report this year show we are well prepared for a looming scenario where universities will depend much more on private than on public funding. This preparedness is not an accident. Rather, it is allied to setting and actioning the

Key Operational Priorities in our Strategic Plan.

We aim, by 2004, to derive 55 percent of our total income from sources outside the Commonwealth Operating Grant; and I am extremely happy to report that this year we were already close to that goal with non-government sources accounting for 53 percent of our total income.

The Strategic Initiatives Fund set up some years ago to support those Key Operational Priorities has helped pave the way. Each year we put aside four percent of our Commonwealth Operating Grant plus five percent of tuition fee income; and this has proved very effective in leveraging external funds to advance strategic initiatives, particularly in teaching and research.

This year, for example, the Strategic Initiatives Fund contributed to projects as diverse as a new Centenary Learning Centre plus increased flexible delivery options for courses taught at UQ Gatton; our new Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies at St Lucia; the UQ Foundation Research Excellence Awards (to encourage early-career researchers); and state-of-the-art magnetic resonance (MR) imaging machines at Brisbane's Wesley Hospital.

The Wesley Research Institute is now a partner in our \$105 million Institute for

Molecular Bioscience, and this joint MR initiative heralds the creation of an international centre of excellence based in Queensland.

Forward-looking initiatives such as these strengthen the national and international profile we have developed over the past 90 years as a leader among Australia's 39 universities; and in the countdown to our centenary we will maintain the momentum with innovations in teaching, research, mutually-productive partnerships and shrewd management of our resources.

Our students, staff, graduates and other supporters have all contributed to the achievements outlined in the following pages. I believe that without their efforts, we could not have done so well, nor could we look forward so confidently to such a significant future. I thank them all for helping us advance our aspirations.

Professor John Hay
Vice-Chancellor