Sporting honours

An elite university traditionally provides opportunities for recognition in non-academic arenas, and this year the athletes in our ranks celebrated personal bests at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and other venues. Student life also included the following sporting highlights.

- Applied science student Alison Lever, a national recordholder for discus throwing, was named our Sportswoman of the Year.
- Swimmer Heath Ramsay (business/commerce) and volleyballer Steven Keir (human movement studies) shared our Sportsman of the Year award after competing in the Sydney 2000 Olympics and winning University Blues.
- Toby Jenkins (waterpolo) and Thomas Murphy (rugby) also won Blues. Half Blues went to Mark Abercromby, Stuart Anderson, Andrew Cameron and Duncan Long (athletics), David Cooper (basketball), Ross Larsson (rugby) and Karen Wright (netball).
- Our team won the men’s title at the National Athletics Club Championships at Stadium Australia in Sydney with a total of 304 points – 27 ahead of the nearest rival. Our women’s team finished in second place with 291 points.

- Kenny Muckan, Travis Shorey, Trevor Fournille and Max Lenoy were in the Queensland indigenous tertiary sevens rugby league squad which won a three-match series against a combined international squad from New Guinea, New Zealand and the South Pacific.
- The Senior B Coxed Four men’s team of Ben McGechie, Mark Wilson, Sam Kingston and Steven Cook won a silver medal at the Australian Championships in Sydney. Our squad of 12 rowers placed second overall.
- Marcus Katter (business management/law) and Nikki Egyed (human movement studies) won the men’s and women’s events of the 16th annual Great Court Race.
- Nikki Egyed won the 1500m, 3000m and 3000m steeple-chase and took part in the women’s 4x400m relay at the Australian University Games, where we tied with Melbourne University for the women’s overall title. Our athletes also won the men’s overall title and consequently claimed the combined title.
- John Horrigan (applied science) set a record of 1.05.34 in the men’s event of the second annual Walkway Challenge and Sheryl Axelsen (applied science) won the women’s event. The Challenge, a 500m footrace for undergraduates, is UQ Gatton’s equivalent to the Great Court Race.

- OLYMPIANS AT SYDNEY 2000 INCLUDED...

- Natalie Cook, former physiotherapy student: gold (with Kerri Pottharst), women’s beach volleyball
- Clover Maitland, former human movement studies student: gold, women’s hockey team
- Susie O’Neill, human movement studies (deferred): gold; women’s 200m freestyle; silver, women’s 200m butterfly; silver, 4x100m medley relay; silver, 4x200m freestyle relay; competed in other events
- Kieren Perkins, human movement studies (deferred): silver, men’s 1500m freestyle
- Michael Blackburn, human movement studies: bronze, open Laser series (sailing)
- Dean Puller, former arts student: bronze (with Robert Newbery), men’s synchronised 3m springboard final; competitor in other finals
- Heath Ramsay, business/commerce: men’s 200m butterfly semi-finals
- Marina Hatzakis, science: women’s double sculls final
- Steven Keir, human movement studies: men’s volleyball team finals
- Juanita Feldhahn, veterinary science: women’s road cycle race
- Alison Lever, science: discus qualifying
- Bronwyn Thompson, physiotherapy: high jump qualifying
- Sarah Houbolt, arts: Paralympic events for visually-impaired swimmers

Arts graduate Lizel Moore represented South Africa in the women’s triathlon and science graduate Adelene McIvor (nee Rainbird) was in Ireland’s 4x400m women’s relay squad (athletics).