

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REVIEW

This has been one of the most exciting and productive years in our history. Our University of the Year award capped a year of optimal outcomes which were remarkable for their scope as much as for their significance. They ranged across all levels of students and staff and all disciplines in our 59 departments and schools; and their reach was international.

We recognised and encouraged excellence in our own ranks through scholarships, research grants and awards for good teaching. Our students, graduates, and staff drew accolades world-wide; and we completed the first stage of our new high-tech campus at Ipswich, to open in 1999.

TEACHING

The University of the Year award celebrated a consistent record in achieving outstanding outcomes for graduates. Our new graduates seeking jobs achieved Australia's highest employment rate for three of the past four years, and more than a third chose further studies.

Our staff excelled in national competition for teaching grants and teaching awards, and student demand increased as we continued to attract talented students. This year we enrolled 78 percent of the State's top-achieving school leavers with Overall Positions (OPs) of 1.

RESEARCH

Competitive funding round outcomes confirmed our status as a leader among Australia's comprehensive research-intensive universities. Significantly, we advanced from fourth place to second in the Research Quantum – the Federal Government's annual funds allocation based on overall research performance – and we again topped the nation in funding for industry-sponsored research.

We announced funding to proceed with the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, attracting State, Federal and other support for the \$100 million project which is globally unique in its range of genomic research. Research outcomes included overseas collaborations, internationally-significant results and a high completion rate for postgraduate degrees.

MANAGEMENT

We streamlined administration and maximised resources through reviews and responsible management. International benchmarking commended our management processes and performance and helped identify areas for improvement.

Highlights included development of our third major campus at UQ Ipswich plus extensive relocations, construction and staffing to establish a Student Centre at St Lucia as a one-stop shop for at least 80 percent of all student enquiries.

COMMUNITY

Partnerships with local, national and international communities generated mutual benefits through collaborations with business, industry and the professions; and through initiatives such as our adjunct professorship scheme.

We particularly welcomed community interest in UQ Ipswich and enthusiastic support for our first International Fair. The day-long event, staged in partnership with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, attracted 20,000 people to a celebration of cultural diversity through music, dance, crafts and cuisine.

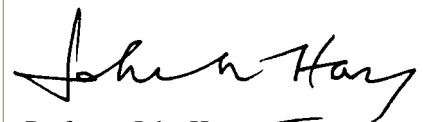
OUTLOOK

I am particularly pleased to report that, in reviewing the first year we have worked

to our new five-year Strategic Plan, we are right on track for a very bright future.

UQ Ipswich will open as planned in 1999 and stage two will be ready to accommodate a second student intake in 2000. The Institute for Molecular Bioscience will begin construction in 1999 for completion early next century. We will maintain a proactive approach to academe with new courses and teaching methods; and our prospects for maintaining a dynamic research profile seem secure.

Events recorded in the following pages testify to the talents of students, staff, graduates and other supporters who have helped mould our present. Without their efforts, we could not have done so well, nor could we look forward so confidently to the future. I thank them all for helping us advance our aspirations.



Professor John Hay
VICE-CHANCELLOR

(From left) Institute for Molecular Bioscience Director Professor John Mattick, Federal Science Minister John Moore and Professor Hay during a laboratory inspection following the announcement of the key Federal and State Government funding commitments to establish the world-first Institute.

