Involvement with local, national and international communities remained central to University life. We collaborated with industry, business and professional groups in our teaching and research, and co-operated on projects with government at all levels.

Major community-based initiatives in 1998 included:

— fostering community partnerships between the new UQ Ipswich campus and the people of the Ipswich region via the Friends of UQ Ipswich group;
PARTNERSHIPS

— establishing a Development Council to advise on community priorities relevant to University development strategies;

— redesigning our Web site www.uq.edu.au as a service to the community and internal users, rather than an organisational view of information;

— an International Fair in partnership with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation to celebrate cultural diversity and the advantages of a global outlook.

SERVICE THROUGH TEACHING

An extensive range of professional, community and continuing education programs included school liaison programs (see pages 16-17), free public lectures, workshops and seminars.

The Summer School offered a record 104 subjects to the public and enrolled students in fields such as arts, business, law, government, biological sciences and engineering.

The Institute of Modern Languages enrolled more than 2100 people in 33 languages and offered evening classes as part of the School for the first time. In another first, programs were tailored for particular businesses, with classes conducted off-campus.

The Institute of Continuing and TESOL Education (ICTE) marketed English language and continuing education programs intensively in South America and Western Europe to expand its market base and counteract a downturn in student numbers following the Asian economic crisis. ICTE offers courses offshore and in Australia. Staff administered 1373 International English Language Testing

Sharing of expertise generated international benefits as well as advantages for Queensland and the rest of Australia.

Research nurse Kristina O’Dwyer checks Henry Macrae, held by mother Tracey, as part of a skin cancer prevention study by the Centre for Health Promotion and Cancer Prevention Research in the Social and Preventive Medicine Department.
Undergraduate projects, community benefits...

- five market research projects in Asia for Australian firms (Agribusiness)
- investigating rural pollution for the Queensland Department of Natural Resources (Natural Resources)
- work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities (applied health science, indigenous primary health care)
- mapping streams, soils and slopes in Brisbane's catchments (Geographical Sciences and Planning)
- a community-based physical activity advice service for people with disabilities (Human Movement Studies)
- excavating and cataloguing artefacts on St Helena Island, a former Moreton Bay penal colony (History, Classics and Ancient History, Anthropology and Sociology)
- a development plan for the Treetop Sanctuary conference centre and retreat south-west of Gatton (Wilderness Reserves and Wildlife)

System (IELTS) tests to students applying for entry to formal study programs in Australia, making ICTE the seventh-largest IELTS centre in the world.

SERVICE THROUGH RESEARCH

Our staff contributed to the welfare of communities locally and internationally by generating new knowledge in diverse disciplines. The results of their work (for examples, see pages 29-32) can have far-reaching implications for humanity.

SHARING EXPERTISE

Sharing of our expertise generated international benefits as well as advantages for Queensland and the rest of Australia.

Overseas activities included participation in AusAID-funded programs such as:
- professional development courses for science, maths and English teachers from the Philippines, as part of the Philippines-Australia Project in Basic Education (PROBE) (Graduate School of Education);
- hosting the first fellows under a program to help Thai universities overcome perceived personnel shortfalls in science and engineering; and
- hosting the first two exchange visitors under a scheme to strengthen South Africa’s rural reconstruction and development capacity.

We concluded exchange agreements with overseas institutions (see page 18) including the Higher Education Learning Program Institute (HELP) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and the University of Economics in Prague, Czech Republic.

Staff from the School of Natural and Rural Systems Management carried out a four-month analysis of alternatives for delivering aid to small and vulnerable countries, to help the Federal Government target aid more effectively.

Contributions to conservation included work by an interdisciplinary team to solve pollution problems in Moreton Bay and its rivers (see page 29), and co-operative projects whereby Environmental Management Centre staff worked with businesses to lift efficiency and minimise waste. One such project reduced oil and grease levels in wastewater at a major bakery by more than 80 percent, saving $5000 a month.

Centre for Software Maintenance staff also worked with Queensland businesses to ensure Year 2000 compliance for computer systems.

Botany Department scientists helped Queensland and Northern Territory police in several drug-related cases and one homicide by providing evidence based on analysis of plant samples and pollen. This can place a person at the scene of a crime.

The School of Land and Food produced a marketing manual, New Crops DOOR Marketing – Do Our Own Marketing Research, to help farmers assess the viability of new products.

Academics and researchers served on advisory and review boards. For example, the Microbiology Department was represented on the committee which reviewed biological research proposals for the Australian Antarctic Division.

Individuals also accepted numerous appointments related to their disciplines. These ranged from advising the Australian National Training Authority on educational issues to heading Volunteer Queensland, a body representing more than 320 non-profit member groups and around 1000 associate member community groups. This organisation has placed around 40,000 people in volunteer work since it began in 1982.

TOWN AND GOWN

We maintained a vigorous graduate and corporate relations program, working with the Development Office, Convocation, the Alumni Association of the University of Queensland Inc, graduate associations in Australia and overseas, and the Friends of UQ Ipswich. Ties with the Friends developed as the UQ Ipswich opening date of February 1999 date advanced (see pages 22, 38).

The Annual Appeal met its $700,000 target with gifts totalling $701,487 from 2287 donors. These included graduates (33 percent by value), business (48 percent), friends (10 percent) and parents (5 percent).

This generosity funded a wealth of initiatives (see also page 40). For example, Brisbane City Council, companies and individuals gave a total of $17,000 towards the cost of staging the Brisbane Early Music Festival.

Founded and organised by the School of Music, the Festival celebrates music of the 17th and early 18th centuries with choral and instrumental performances by University, local and interstate musicians. This year it was a winner in the 4MBS Classic FM annual awards honouring organisations and individuals for their support of fine music in Brisbane.

Gifts apart from the Appeal included:
- $100,000 for advanced research into Alzheimer’s disease;
- $15,000 from Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron towards the Moreton Bay Research Station and Study Centre;
- $5000 from the Myer Foundation for the Close Ties art exhibition at the University Art Museum; and
- $5000 from Grainco Limited for an international student scholarship in agribusiness.
Firms and professional bodies including veterinary associations gave more than $200,000 in total towards cardiology research in companion animals.

Graduate and community support also helped establish three new professorships – including an Australian first. Donations of more than $1.6 million raised by the Australian Dental Association in conjunction with the Development Office funded a chair in general practice dentistry, the first of its kind in this country.

Money raised from the private sector complemented $700,000 initial funding from the University in establishing the $1.4 million Sir Gerard Brennan chair in administrative law, named after the Chief Justice of the High Court who is a graduate of the University. The Kratzmann Chair in Psychiatry was set up at Toowong Private Hospital, owned by the Kratzmann family whose members have pledged $750,000 over five years.

We launched the Development Council to help build links with alumni, industry, business and the community. The Council is an honorary body consisting of influential community members who will help in setting strategic directions, prioritising projects and identifying key individuals or groups likely to facilitate the success of projects.

Community decision-makers and opinion leaders were also closely involved in University life via initiatives such as the Commerce Department’s executive-in-residence scheme and adjunct professorships.

Adjunct professors work closely with us for mutual benefit – not simply to teach, but also to help shape new directions. We made about 20 appointments (some from interstate and overseas) this year and arranged for a similar number to begin early in 1999, boosting the total to nearly 100.

Bachelor of arts graduate Geoffrey Rush, who received an honorary doctor of letters degree from the University last year, was named 1998 Alumnus of the Year, an award funded annually by the Alumni Association. His portrayal of pianist David Helfgott in Shine earned him an Academy Award, a Golden Globe Award and a British Association of Film and Television Award in 1997. Dr Rush was heavily involved in drama societies and theatre on campus as a student from 1969-71.

SHARING RESOURCES

Our $9.8 million Library upgrade (see pages 21, 34) resulted in state-of-the-art physical design and computerised catalogue access. Five hundred personal computers across the system are available for public use. Databases are also accessible through the Internet (www.library.uq.edu.au).

The Library trialled a research database, Expanded Academic ASAP, in three schools. Demand increased greatly towards the end of the year as students accessed the facility through the Internet to prepare for examinations and assignments.

Local and visiting athletes used our $2 million eight-lane running track and associated field sports facilities, officially opened in 1998. Visitors included the Brisbane Bears, Victorian Institute of Sport, New South Wales Academy of Sport and Queensland Academy of Sport. Elite student athletes, such as Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Kate Godfrey (see page 25), also trained on campus.

Chaplaincy supported off-campus groups through programs such as: the Schools in Transition Project, the Cult Awareness and Information Service, and the Family Friendship Program.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Twenty thousand people converged on campus for the inaugural University of Queensland/Australian Broadcasting Corporation International Fair in October.

The Great Court – a space the size of 40 suburban building blocks – was transformed into a fairground featuring music, dance, crafts and cuisine from around the world, reflecting the diversity of our student body which represents more than 80 nations (see page 17).

The University’s 35,000-specimen mosquito reference collection was sorted, re-pinned, re-labelled and databased this year thanks to a $35,000 gift from retired Entomology Department researcher Dr Elizabeth Marks. Her gift, made through the Annual Appeal, funded the work by graduate research assistant Jodie Cheesman (right). The mosquito collection is part of the University’s Insect Collection dating from the early 1920s – the largest of its kind in any Australian university.
Continuing professional education included:

- business courses for solicitors intending to become principals (Graduate School of Management);
- professional development courses for surgeons and Ambulance Service paramedics (Anatomical Sciences);
- an update for high-school science teachers (Centre for Molecular and Cellular Biology);
- distance education courses in general practice, primary health care and addiction studies at graduate certificate, postgraduate diploma and masters levels (Graduate Health Studies Program);
- short courses for professionals in the seed industry (School of Land and Food);
- professional development courses for dentists (School of Dentistry); and
- instruction in specialised Geographic Information System software for geography teachers (Geographical Sciences and Planning Department).

Strolling players entertained the crowd and performers on the purpose-built stage included the University Symphony Orchestra, the Queensland University Regimental Band, a presentation of the ABC’s Playschool program and dancers from countries as diverse as Ireland, Spain and the South Pacific islands.

The finale was Symphony at Sunset, a global musical tour (including a contemporary piece for didjeridu and orchestra) by the Queensland Symphony Orchestra conducted by internationally-acclaimed Maestro Werner Andreas Albert, an adjunct professor in our School of Music.

Other highlights of the year included:

- sponsorship of the Sciencentre Roadshow, a science exhibition touring Queensland regional centres to demonstrate the value and potential of science and technology by relating them to everyday life;
- events for school students, teachers, members of the public and leaders of business and government at St Lucia during National Science Week, Medical Research Week and Engineering Week;
- Gatton College Open Day, the Mine Open Weekend at the University’s Experimental Mine and other open days (see page 16).

LEISURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

Customs House, our base in Brisbane’s CBD, opened every day except public holidays as a cultural, educational and heritage facility. The premises were in demand for University, corporate and public sector business presentations, seminars and catered events; and again proved popular as a recreational venue.

A full School of Music program comprised one of the four Early Music Festival concerts, two dinner concerts, six twilight concerts and 11 Sunday concerts. Some events were free of charge, including Sunday tours of the historic building. Free art exhibitions organised by the University Art Museum helped to increase the number of Customs House visitors by 14 percent. Brasserie trading increased by 23 percent and banquet business increased by four percent.

The 80-member University of Queensland Symphony Orchestra celebrated its 25th anniversary with a gala concert in Mayne Hall at St Lucia. The program included performances by the School of Music choir and vocal ensemble Concentus. Orchestra members performed as smaller groups (e.g. string orchestra, chamber orchestra, brass ensemble) in regional
centres and Brisbane schools; and ELISION, an internationally-recognised contemporary music ensemble based at the University, travelled to Europe for a concert series in Belgium and a broadcast recording for Radio Bremen. Cracka Theatre Troupe toured secondary schools in south-east Queensland and northern New South Wales to present a 50-minute history of Australian drama. The student troupe also mounted at the University’s Avalon Theatre a production based on the youth festival known as Schoolies’ Week.

PUBLIC LECTURES
Our academics were among eminent local and overseas speakers who shared knowledge and encouraged debate by giving free public lectures and seminars. Speakers this year included:
- High Court judge, author, playwright and University graduate Justice Callinan;
- physicist Professor Paul Davies (University of Adelaide);
- scientist, medical doctor, engineer, author and science commentator Dr Karl Kruszelnicki (popularly known as Dr Karl);
- University adjunct professors such as political journalist and columnist Michelle Grattan (Journalism) and writer, broadcaster, film-maker and mental health campaigner Anne Deveson (Occupational Therapy); and
- Professor Paul Bailes (director, University’s Centre for Software Maintenance).

COMMUNICATIONS
We contributed to informed public debate through expert commentary and communicated our progress and activities to the public through the mass media and targeted publications. Regular events such as open days and school liaison activities (see page 16) and our participation in programs such as National Science Week also kept the public informed.

Media and Information Services facilitated communication through:
- public lectures;
- news releases and pre-recorded radio interviews;
- advertising, with a particular focus on our selection as 1998-99 Australian University of the Year, and the impending opening of UQ Ipswich;
- corporate publications including the Research Report and Annual Report; and
- publications such as University News (a free fortnightly newspaper with a total internal and external circulation of 14,000), Graduate Contact (a bi-annual magazine distributed free to about 100,000 graduates worldwide) and The University of Queensland – Ipswich Bulletin (a community newsletter detailing developments at UQ Ipswich, see pages 22, 38, 44).

Journalism students and staff produced The Queensland Independent, the Department’s monthly community newspaper; a weekly radio current affairs program broadcast on 4RPH (Radio Print Handicapped); and a daily radio news program broadcast through Bay-FM. The newspaper and radio stories were published internationally on the Web (www.uq.edu.au/mjn/uq). The Department also ran a course for school students editing school newspapers.

Postgraduates and staff at the Media and Cultural Studies Centre, a research unit in the English Department, launched an Internet journal, M/C – a journal of media and culture is an amalgam of reviews, news and views (www.uq.edu.au/mc/). The University of Queensland Union (Student Union) welcomed one-third community membership of more than 120 clubs and societies. The Union provides a wide range of facilities many of which are open to the community, including the Schonell twin-cinema complex and Cement Box Theatre. UQ Sport’s recreational sports facilities and services at its sports medicine centre are also available to the public.

OUTLOOK
Increasing interactions drew the University closer to the wider community of which it is a part, strengthening old ties and forging new partnerships at every level. This trend will continue for our mutual benefit, through initiatives such as the following.

- The Library will expand its schools program by offering all Queensland schools, including those in remote areas, access to the research database Expanded Academic ASAP.
- The Triple P parenting support program developed in the School of Psychology will be introduced at 15 child health centres around Queensland in conjunction with the State Government.
- The Institute of Modern Languages will widen its program to meet business and community language needs by designing client-specific courses for in-house delivery.
- The Faculty of Engineering, Physical Sciences and Architecture will develop a Science Olympics kit for schools to use during Science Week and a competition for schools each to have their own Scientist in Residence.
- The Library and the Faculty of Engineering, Physical Sciences and Architecture will launch a Virtual School of Engineering to help secondary school students to develop research and problem-solving skills through collaborative work.
- The Faculty of Biological and Chemical Sciences will conduct a four-day professional development conference for secondary school teachers.

Catering for special needs...
Free public talks organised by departments included:
- the Overseas Chinese Lecture Series and the Chinese Intellectual History Series, with international speakers (History);
- The Asian financial crisis: the role of financial markets seminar (Economics);
- Public Intellectuals, Books and Discourse – discussion series featuring well-known Australian commentators (University Bookshop); and
- Philip Bacon Galleries Lecture Series in Modern Art (Art History and University Art Museum).

Catering for special interests...
Free public talks organised by departments included:
- Positive Parenting Program — agreement to train Queensland Health staff in the internationally-recognised Triple P program (Psychology)
- Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre (QADRA) — launched with Queensland Health to treat drug and alcohol problems
- LATCH-ON — Australia’s first university-based literacy and technology skills course for young people with Down syndrome (Down Syndrome Research Centre)
- Children’s Life Skills Clinic for children having difficulties with balance and everyday tasks such as fastening buttons (Occupational Therapy)
- free clinics in disciplines including dentistry, physiotherapy, and speech pathology and audiology