

Engagement

Priority: To engage in productive partnerships to further the region's interests, in particular.

■ Taking leadership in initiatives designed to foster economic and social development including the development of the Knowledge Precinct and associated Technology Park, and providing direct input to regional economic planning

Engagement Audit

In 2005, University staff undertook an audit of the regional engagement projects being conducted. Outcomes will underpin the development of the University's Regional Engagement Strategy to be finalised in 2006.

Knowledge Precinct

Refer to page 11.

Technology Park

The University of the Sunshine Coast established the Innovation Centre Sunshine Coast Pty Ltd as a subsidiary company supported by all three levels of government and by the business community. The aim of the Innovation Centre (IC) is to create jobs in knowledge-based businesses in the Knowledge Precinct developing around the University at Sippy Downs. As a first step towards achieving this aim, the Innovation Centre operates a technology business 'incubator' supporting the start-up and growth of innovative businesses.

Since opening in February 2002, the Innovation Centre (IC) Incubator has supported the start-up and growth of 15 new businesses in a variety of sectors and is now widely recognised as a breeding ground for dynamic and innovative businesses.

University Recognised by OECD

Refer to page 30.

■ Participating in regional infrastructure planning and assessment, including the proposed Sippy Downs township

State of the Region 2005 – Sustainable Business

The University, in conjunction with the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA), examined the future of business on the Sunshine Coast at the inaugural State of the Region Conference. State of the Region 2005 – Sustainable Business brought together key state and regional decision-makers to discuss future trends, how to create trends and how to develop sustainable partnerships between business and local Government.

Community Groups

Senior staff of the University were actively involved in the Sippy Downs stakeholders group, the Chancellor Park Community Group and the consultation groups relating to the upgrade of the motorway and the Sippy Downs town plan. The University hosted the meetings of the Maroochy and Caloundra Councils that resulted in the Councils agreeing to jointly oversee the development of Sippy Downs in both municipalities.



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Community Interaction

Activity	2004	2005
School and campus visits	58	87
Headstart		
• student applications	94	145
• student enrolments	94	114
• attrition rate	30%	18%
Keep PACE		
• number of sessions offered	9	19
• total attendance	310	579
Schools Excellence Expo		
• number of entries	90	111
• number of participating schools	8	10

■ Providing continuing education aimed primarily at updating work-related skills and knowledge

Programs Designed to Increase Skills

In 2005, a series of Graduate Certificate programs were developed to provide employed professionals with upgraded skills and qualifications. The Faculty of Science, Health and Education offered teachers a program entitled *Scaffolding Action in the Middle Years* (saMY) in response to the need to increase the skills of teachers involved in the middle phase of schooling.

Australian Curriculum Studies Association

More than 200 delegates from interstate and overseas visited the University for the Biennial Conference of the Australian Curriculum Studies Association (ACSA). Conference keynote speakers were from the forefront of curriculum practice and research, internationally and nationally.

World Scallop Experts Meet

One hundred scientists, fisheries managers, economists, processors and fishermen from 15 countries met to discuss scallops as part of the 15th annual International Pectinid Workshop. The workshop discussed the world's scallop industry, the aquaculture of scallops and general scallop biology and management. The international workshop was supported and sponsored by the University of the Sunshine Coast, fisheries management agencies, hatcheries and fishing companies from around Australia.

International IT Conference

QUESTnet2005 (Queensland Education, Science and Technology Network) was supported by the University of the Sunshine Coast and hosted by the Australian Catholic University. During the conference, held at the Hyatt Regency Coolum, 300 computer networking specialists heard about the next generation of the internet (internet 2), discussed issues of IT security, wireless broadband data and the future of computer networking. The University of the Sunshine Coast will host the event in 2006, which will again be held at Coolum.

Workshops Focus on Weight and Health

Five health promotion workshops were held at the University with the focus on *'Obesity or Health at Every Size: Strategies for change'*. Facilitated by Lily O'Hara and Jane Gregg from the Faculty of Science, Health and Education, workshop participants discussed a range of issues related to people's weight and developed strategies for 'health at every size' for use in their personal or professional lives.

Keeping Pace

The Keep PACE program, a series of free information sessions and workshops for students, parents and the general community commenced in 2004. Proving extremely popular, the number of sessions expanded in 2005 to 19 with 579 people attending (refer left).

Public offered Free Career Counselling

As part of the Keep PACE Program, the University offered a series of free career counselling sessions to members of the community. These were publicised widely in the media and due to an overwhelming response, the University extended the number of sessions offered. Personal career counselling session will be ongoing throughout 2006.

The Headstart Program

The Headstart Program is designed to give high school students a taste of university and help create a seamless transition from school to university. As part of the program Year 11 and 12 students complete accredited undergraduate university courses while still at school. The Program, which commenced with a five-school trial in 2003, has become popular, so much so, that numbers were capped in 2005 to 60 students per semester. The aims and objectives of the Program were revisited during the year and it was agreed to allow for natural expansion in 2006.

Sunshine Beach State High School had a group of students who wished to participate in the Headstart Program. To meet this demand, a special session of the program was conducted at the school campus.

RoboCup

Dance, rescue and soccer are words not usually associated with robots, but for 28 teams of local school students the challenge was to build a robot to compete in one of those categories for the RoboCup spectacular. RoboCup, held at the Innovation Centre, was a joint project between Education Queensland and the University and focused on students learning the skills of collaboration and preparation while learning more about the disciplines of mathematics, science and technology.

Maths Tournament

The 2005 Maths Tournament, held in the University's Innovation Centre auditorium, featured more than 500 secondary school students, teachers and parents from across the Sunshine Coast, from Beerwah in the south to Noosa in the north. Students formed 82 teams and competed to find the maths champions.

Beerwah Testing

Twenty-six Year 8 students from Beerwah High School visited the University for sport science testing; these students would have previously had to travel to Brisbane for these services. Beerwah State High School have been the Sunshine Coast Athletics Champions for the last ten years and the University's Centre for Healthy Activities, Sport and Exercise (CHASE) is helping them continue to succeed.

Intensive Language Learning

A unique collaboration between the University, local high schools, international University of the Sunshine Coast students, staff and the community gave local high school students from Bribie Island to Coolum an opportunity to enhance their language skills. At four intensive language days held at the University during 2005, Year 11 and 12 students had the opportunity of speaking languages such as French, German, Japanese and Indonesian with native speaking international students and members of the Sunshine Coast community. Sessions incorporated vocabulary exercises, as well as activities, games, general interaction and language immersion.

Enterprising Day for Young Entrepreneurs

More than 230 business students from high schools across the Sunshine Coast attended a Business Enterprise Day. The Faculty of Business and the Business Educators' Association of Queensland jointly sponsored the day, which attracted students from Coolum State High School, Kawana Waters State High School, Beerwah State High School, Pacific Lutheran and Matthew Flinders. These school students set up and operated their own small businesses as part of their school curriculum. The Business Enterprise Day was designed to provide students with a greater understanding of entrepreneurship at work.

■ Encouraging regional support for and use of University facilities and cultural opportunities

Reform in Queensland: The Post-Fitzgerald Era

This conference provided a timely review of the reform process across the media, criminal justice, parliament, and the bureaucracy in the Post-Fitzgerald era. The University hosted the conference, in association with the Queensland divisions of the Institute of Public Administration Australia and the Institute of Management Consultants. It provided a comprehensive review of the reform process with distinguished speakers from the media, the criminal justice system, parliamentary processes and bureaucracy.

Voices on the Coast

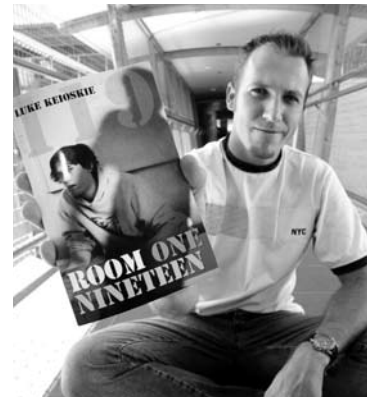
This popular annual literary festival, celebrated its tenth year in 2005 and the University of the Sunshine Coast graduate, published author and now creative writing tutor, Luke Keioskie, was one of the many presenters to take part. Mr Keioskie graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) and his first novel, *Room One Nineteen*, was launched during the 2005 Voices on the Coast. The main attraction at the festival was Li Cunxin, author of *Mao's Last Dancer*, who spoke at a sold-out literary breakfast. Following the success of 2005 Voices on the Coast festival, Mr Cunxin returned for Voices Plus – an extension of Voices on the Coast that was held at the University on the weekend of August 20 and 21, coinciding with the University's Courses for Careers Day.



Local students welcomed the RoboCup challenge.



Professor Andy Hede, speaking at the Reform in Queensland conference.



First-time author Luke Keioskie launched his novel at Voices on the Coast.

Art Gallery Attendance Figures

Ten exhibitions were held in the University gallery in 2005 and Gallery attendance figures rose to 10,361, up almost 30 percent on 2004. A report produced by the Regional Galleries and Museums of Queensland listed the University Gallery as having the highest percentage of educational visits when compared to total visits of any gallery in Queensland. Approximately 48 percent of visitors to the Gallery were part of a school or educational group.

High school students from more than 20 high schools in the Sunshine Coast region exhibited their artwork at the Gallery as part of the Education Minister's Awards for Excellence in Art (Regional 2005).

The Gallery started the second half of its 2005 program with an exploration of the mushrooming communities on our beautiful coast. Coodabin/Shoodabin by popular Cooloom artist Blair McNamara pondered the paradoxes of the current construction craze brought on by the 'sea-change' phenomenon in the artist's seaside community of Cooloom. Of the 10 exhibitions in the Gallery in 2005, the most popular exhibition was Coodabin/Shoodabin, which attracted over 2000 visitors.

In September the Gallery hosted an exhibition of small-scale sculpture designed to complement an International Sculpture Symposium at the Maroochy Bushland Botanic Gardens. Eight artists from around the world (Japan, South Korea, Spain, France, Slovakia, USA and Australia) plus local artists took part in the exhibition of exquisite small-scale sculpture.

Gift of Aboriginal Art Work

In 2005, Chris Simon of Yanda Aboriginal Art gave Aboriginal artwork valued at \$124,000 to the University, bringing the value of his donation of artwork to around \$300,000. The large Aboriginal paintings are hung in the spacious Innovation Centre auditorium.

ASQ Concert

Australia's leading chamber ensemble, the Australian String Quartet (ASQ), performed at the University. Proceeds from the *Take Flight* concert went toward supporting the University Art Gallery. The performance included a special guest appearance by Li-Wei Qin, a gifted cellist, who has been described as a 'superstar of the cello' and whose work has received international acclaim.



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Indicators of Success

■ Number and nature of regional involvements by staff

An audit is currently being undertaken, as part of the development of the University's Regional Engagement Strategy, of the number and nature of regional involvements by staff. This data will be available for the next reporting period.

■ Regionally relevant projects by research institutes and centres

The University was invited in early 2005 to participate in a project run by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on university regional engagement. The OECD project brings together twelve regions from across the world, with a view to strengthening the contributions of higher education institutions (HEIs) to their regions. Our region – the Sunshine-Fraser Coast – involves two universities – USC and the Wide Bay Campus of USQ.

In early November, an International Peer Review Team, appointed by the OECD, visited the region. They met with key stakeholders, including students on both campuses, to test the contents of the Self Evaluation Report. Preliminary feedback from the OECD is highly complimentary of the way the University is undertaking an 'engaged' process in preparing the Self Evaluation Report. The final report will be placed on the OECD's website for international scrutiny.



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