



Vice-Chancellor's review

In 2006, after completing our first decade in December 2005, we held a variety of celebratory events for different audiences throughout the year under the 'Power of Ten' banner. That first decade has provided an excellent foundation for even more rapid development currently and across the next decade.

The Coast continues to expand demographically but the University's expansion proportionately exceeds that pace and scale by a considerable margin.

The AUQA (Australian Universities Quality Agency) team, whose work so preoccupied us for most of the year, and culminated in an October/November visit, commended USC for "its significant achievements since its inception".

The preliminary AUQA report, provided to the University in late 2006, also included other important commendations on regional engagement and student support and was overwhelmingly positive and empathetic about some of the obstacles that had been overcome. In particular, however, research was affirmed as a priority, as reflected in the University's Strategic Plan and budget initiative monies.

Whilst the University continues to have one of the fastest growth trajectories in the country, staff and student attitudes and experiences remain those associated with an institution of human scale, and are strongly committed to the University's continuing success.

In 2006 we saw developments occur in the range of academic programs, constructive reviews of key academic areas, and increasing investment in research—all within a substantially increased budget envelope.

Accompanying the growth in staff and student numbers and academic programs, there was a major building program including one for Science, Health and Education, Student Affairs and The Chancellery, the commencement of a Health and Sports Stadium (page 36), and funding was received for an 'Accelerator', as part of the job-generation strategy with high-tech business start-ups.

In addition to on campus developments, 'The J' at Noosa was opened officially, with the University committed to expanding opportunities there.

TAFE collaboration increased, and the links with Chancellor State College and the Queensland Department of Education, Training and the Arts are outstanding, as are the links with a hugely increasing number of businesses, for work integrated learning experiences. In a similar vein, AUQA was also impressed with the GO (Global Opportunities) Program.

Research interests grew on Fraser Island, in Mooloolah River National Park with the scuttled HMAS Brisbane and in a range of health and nursing areas. All are consistent with USC's focus on regional engagement and sustainability.

Engagement activities continue to be impressive with a plethora of initiatives spanning the University, and the region. That level of engagement was a focus for the OECD study in which USC participated, and was the subject of an international conference in Copenhagen in which both the University and region were strongly represented, and where USC and the Sunshine Coast gained an important profile.

Internationalisation increased in 2006 and reviews of strategy were commenced to optimise on campus numbers.

The Foundation's activities resulted in the increasing number of people aligned with and supportive of the University, accompanied by more alumni connections.

Teaching staff won Carrick Awards and USC was again an Employer of Choice for Women.

The environment of the University itself and the surrounding national park and the evolving Sippy Downs town centre remain a major preoccupation, and dominated the year-long major review of the Master Plan, to be finalised early in 2007.

In addition to new buildings, further landscaping and protection of kangaroo habitat with specifically designed fencing were undertaken.

In this brief overview, therefore, it will be evident that physically and academically the University continues its remarkable growth, with committed support internally and in the external community. It is rapidly and impressively building on early foundations to become one of the potential rising stars of the twenty-first century sectoral environment.

Professor Paul Thomas AM
Vice-Chancellor

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The Power of Ten: Celebrating our First and Future Decades



The University of the Sunshine Coast opened in 1996 to serve the needs of the Sunshine Coast community. Since then the University has achieved many milestones, ranging from the construction of award-winning buildings to the development of research sites and the establishment of strong partnerships with overseas institutions.

Tenth anniversary celebrations in 2006 included a number of special events involving staff, students and the wider community. The Power of Ten at Twilight event for staff and friends included a dedicated art exhibition and the launch of a book detailing the University's history. Other Power of Ten events held during the year included an alumni reunion, an Australian String Quartet concert and a Power of Ten debate on the topic 'celebrities make good role models'.