

YEAR IN REVIEW

Vice-Chancellor's Review

2003 was a year dominated by sectoral speculation about the likely outcomes of the Commonwealth Government's proposed Higher Education reforms. By 19 December it was clear, with the passage of the enabling legislation, that 2003 would be the last year of a period of relative restraint in sectoral development.

The partial deregulation of the sector, greater support for regional universities, and transparent funding formulae were features of the reforms that had been pursued throughout 2003, have been achieved and will immediately benefit University of the Sunshine Coast.

The University is, as a result, poised to pursue its mission, with increased financial resources, even more concertedly from 2004.

Early in 2003 the University reaffirmed the main elements of its strategic plan for another year. Growth, along with distinctive and innovative developments, underpinned by a deep concern for quality, remain our priorities, and derive from our regionally focused but internationally significant mission.

As a result of the achievements in 2003 the University is now well positioned to benefit from further growth, broadening the range of disciplines, expanding research, and supporting even higher levels of community engagement, for economic and cultural benefits.

Despite a period of resource restraint, the University has continued to grow, in scale, complexity and in its influence.



“University of the Sunshine Coast is located just north of Queensland’s capital city, Brisbane. The name reflects our cultural and economic commitment to the region and the importance we place on community relationships.

Of equal importance is the culture we have developed at the University of the Sunshine Coast – a welcoming spirit that recognises and enables individuals in a progressive, innovative and entrepreneurial environment.”

It is increasingly being seen as one of the most powerful organisations within the region, and is continuing to address some of the most fundamental problems of the region, especially enhancing opportunity to access higher education, and influence the structure of employment.

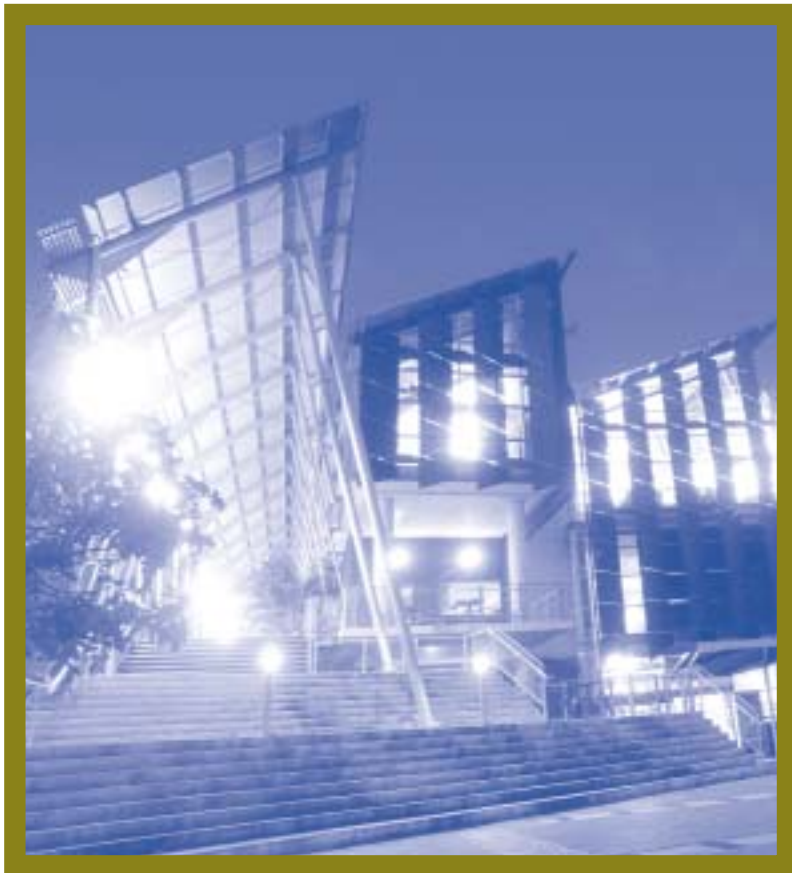
The region continues to grow, as does the demand for university places. Since the University's inception, the proportion of people engaged in full-time university study has increased threefold. Between 1996 and 2001 participation increased to 2,254 per 100,000, but was still 30 percent below the national figure of 3,250 per 100,000.

In advancing the role of the University within the region, close links were forged with all three levels of government, and support was provided by each of them.

The Innovation Centre, for example, a key in the University's regional economic strategy and supported by three levels of government, became Australia's Incubator of the Year after only just over one year of operation. A technology park continues to be planned with governments.

The University and a technology precinct, are at the heart of a rapidly emerging new urban community at Sippy Downs, in which non-government and public education sectors are strongly represented. The latest expression of an emergent knowledge community has been the construction of a new State College, in which the University has been involved in planning.

The University is also concerned about cultural infrastructure and has commenced work on a Art Gallery. Additions to the sporting infrastructure are being planned too.



Environmental issues have also been a central concern and the new environmentally sensitive Claymore Road has been completed on the edge of the campus adjacent to the Mooloolah River National Park.

Whilst Sippy Downs has been the focus for the major developments including new academic initiatives such as the introduction of the joint nurse education program, the University has also extended its reach to Gympie, Noosa, Brisbane City and has established important bases on Fraser Island.

Mounting community support is reflected in the success of the Foundation's fundraising activities, and in a range of other important ways that help the University.

With the approach of the tenth year since planning commenced in 1994, it is quite an extraordinary list of successful accomplishments to which the staff, students, community and successive councils have variously contributed.

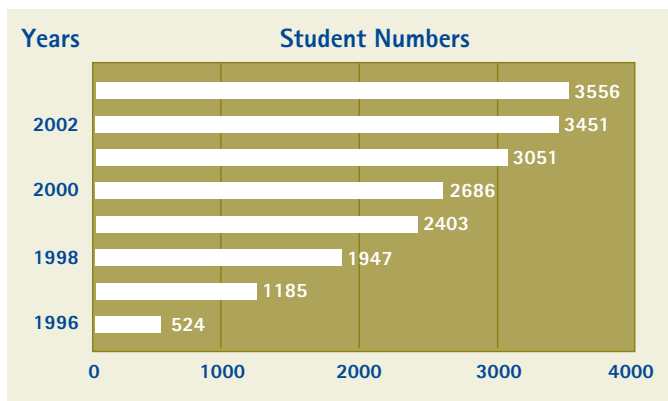
From a boggy canefield a new and major University has emerged that is poised to embark on another period of growth which will hopefully lead to achievements in 2004 to 2008 which will even surpass those of recent years.

Professor Paul Thomas
Vice-Chancellor

STATISTICS

Student population growth

At the 31 March census date of 2003, the University had a total student population of 3,556, an increase of three percent on 2002.



Student load

The University's student load increased in 2003 by just under 72 EFTSU. (Student load calculations exclude exchange students.)

Student load	2002 EFTSU*	2003 EFTSU
Operating grant student load	2316.75	2289.625
Research Training Scheme places	15.0	20
Other (includes full fee-paying international, postgraduate and non-award student load)	307.375	401.25
TOTAL STUDENT ENROLMENT 2003 (all sources)	2639.125	2710.875

*EFTSU – Equivalent full-time Student Unit

Faculty population and gender split

The Faculty of Business was the largest faculty in 2003 and experienced the greatest growth, with a 3.4 percent increase in student numbers.

Faculty	Population 2002	Population 2003	% change	Female %	Male %
Arts and Social Sciences	1000	1012	+1.2%	69	31
Business	1407	1455	+3.4%	50	50
Science	918	899	- 2.1%	52	48
Non-award	129	191	+48.0%	65	35
TOTAL	3451	3556	+3.0%	57	43

Age distribution of students

In 2003, 62.2 percent of the student population was mature age (21 years and over), a one percent increase on 2002. The average age was 26, however the under 20 age group had the largest number of students, and represented 37.8 percent of the student population.

Program type	<=20	21-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total	Avg Age
Bachelors	1284	729	309	360	213	81	2976	25
%	43.1	24.5	10.4	12.1	7.2	2.7	100%	
Honours		14	8	7	5	1	35	30
%		40	22.8	20	14.3	2.9	100%	
Postgraduate Coursework	13	55	119	70	36	293	37	
%		4.4	18.8	40.6	23.9	12.3	100%	
Higher Degree Research		1	7	13	24	16	61	43
%		1.6	11.5	21.3	39.3	26.2	100%	
Non Award	59	93	11	12	6	10	191	24
%	30.9	48.7	5.8	6.3	3.1	5.2	100%	
TOTAL	1343	850	390	511	318	144	3556	26
% TOTAL	37.8	23.9	11.0	14.4	8.9	4.0	100%	

First in family to attend university as an undergraduate student

The University continued to achieve its aim of enabling people to access university education, with 34 percent of the undergraduate student population (excluding Honours students) the first in their family to attend university.

	Student's age						Total
	<=20	21-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50+	
First person in family to attend university	431	258	82	127	84	21	1,003
% of undergraduate student population	34	35	27	35	39	26	34%

STATISTICS

Permanent home residence of on-campus students

The Sunshine Coast community, one of the fastest growing regions in Australia, continued to show high demand for a regional University, with 78 percent of students being permanent residents of the Sunshine Coast.

State/Region	Students
Sunshine Coast	2536
Caboolture Shire	207
Caloundra City	543
Cooloola Shire	69
Kilcoy	5
Maroochy Shire	1479
Noosa Shire	233
Other Queensland	452
Brisbane	329
Central West	1
Darling Downs	31
Far North	4
Fitzroy	12
Mackay	3
Moreton North	3
Moreton South	20
North West	2
Northern	1
South West	6
Wide Bay	40
Interstate	75
ACT	1
New South Wales	43
Northern Territory	10
South Australia	4
Tasmania	5
Victoria	11
Western Australia	1
Overseas	194
No information	5
TOTAL	3262

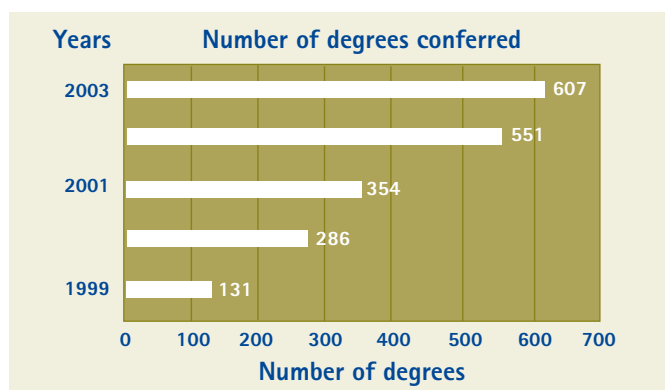
International students by faculty and mode

In 2003, 307 students from 28 countries were enrolled at the University. The highest number of international students studying on-campus was from the United States of America through the Study Abroad program. A large number of international students studying on-campus also came from Japan. International students studying off-campus include those undertaking programs online and programs offered in Fiji and through Shanghai JiaoTong University.

Faculty	Mode of Study/Students			Total
	On-campus	Off-campus (postgraduate research)	Online	
Arts and Social Sciences	27			27
Business	39	30	90	159
Science	19			19
Other (Exchange/Study Abroad)	102			102
TOTAL	187	30	90	307

Graduate numbers

The University reached a total of 1,858 graduates in 2003, with 607 testamurs awarded in April at Graduation. Since the first graduation ceremony in 1999, 71 graduates have graduated with further qualifications from the University of the Sunshine Coast.



Graduate employment outcomes

In 2003, 59 percent of graduates responded to the Graduate Destination Survey/Course Experience Questionnaire circulated by the Graduate Careers Council of Australia. The national response rate was 62.7 percent.

The survey results showed that 83 percent of University of the Sunshine Coast respondents were employed full-time or part-time, or enrolled in full-time study. Of those employed full-time, 44 percent were working on the Sunshine Coast, while 28 percent were based in Brisbane. The median starting salary for these graduates was \$35,440.

Graduate satisfaction

In 2003, respondents of the Graduate Destination Survey/Course Experience Questionnaire gave the University of the Sunshine Coast the following ratings:

Overall satisfaction*	92%
Generic skills	92%
Good teaching	88%

* 2003 national average 89.8 percent overall satisfaction. *Graduate Careers Council of Australia.*

STATISTICS

Staff qualifications

The 2003 staffing report released by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) placed the University of the Sunshine Coast as the leading institution in Queensland in terms of the proportion of academic staff, excluding casuals with Doctorate or Master's degrees (83 percent). This was 13 percent ahead of the national average of 69 percent and ahead of most of Australia's metropolitan universities.

The DEST figures put the University within the top five of the 39 universities in Australia:

- 1st Avondale College
- 2nd Australian Catholic University
- 3rd University of Technology, Sydney
- 4th The Australian National University
- 5th University of the Sunshine Coast

Research funding

Funding received from the Department of Education Science and Training (DEST) increased in 2003, to a total of \$568,070.

DEST research funding received	2002	2003
Institutional Grants Scheme	\$119,186	\$128,019
Research Training Scheme	\$305,954	\$434,959
Research Infrastructure Block Grants	\$3,997	\$5,092
TOTAL	\$429,137	\$568,070

Resources

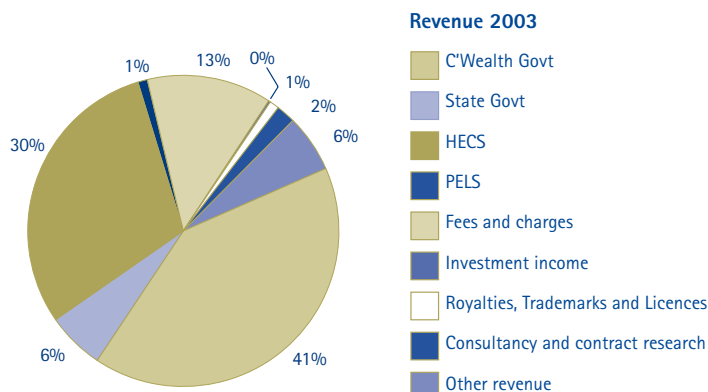
The University had a student:computer ratio of 10:1 in 2003. The Library collection included 65,210 print and audiovisual resources and approximately 10,400 electronic resources.

In 2003 the University of the Sunshine Coast was ranked number one in the country for the fifth consecutive year for the proportion of its total library budget that is spent on information resources. (*Council of Australian University Librarians*).

Finances

Total revenue for 2003: \$39.906m
(Total revenue for 2002: \$32.520m)

Revenue from fees and charges (including fee-paying students) was \$5.200m unchanged on 2002



Expenses 2003

Total expenses for 2003: \$34.424m
(Total expenses for 2002: \$31.341m)

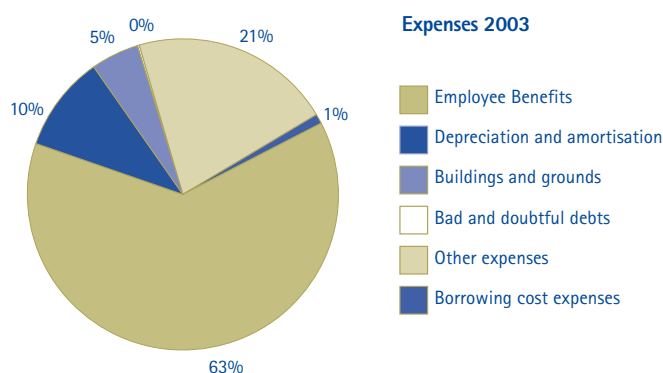
Payments for employee benefits (salaries and related expenses) totalled \$21.381m, up from \$18.733m in 2002

Expenditure on buildings and grounds was \$1,813m, an increase of 10 percent on 2002

Total equity at December 31, 2003: \$64.228m
(Total equity at December 31, 2002: \$57.418m)

Liquidity ratio at December 31, 2003: 2.15:1
(Liquidity ratio at December 31, 2002: 2.67:1)

Borrowings at December 31, 2003: \$6.997m
(Borrowings at December 31, 2002: \$4.427m)



Expenditure on consultancies

The table below shows the expenditure on each category of consultancies under the State Purchasing Policy.

Category	\$
Professional/Technical	669,934
Communications	24,348
Finance/Accounting	42,886
Information Technology	58,307
Human Resource Management	6,707
Management	5,925
General	4,015
TOTAL	812,122

Controlled entities

The Innovation Centre Sunshine Coast Pty Ltd was formed by the University of the Sunshine Coast on 26 October 2000, under the University of the Sunshine Coast Act, 1998, Part 2, s6. Financial statements are audited by the Queensland Audit Office. The primary purpose of the company is to provide regional leadership and support for new businesses designed to create wealth and generate employment opportunities on the Sunshine Coast.

The financial performance of the controlled entity is shown in the Consolidated Statements in the University's financial statements for the year ended 31 December, 2003.