



COMMUNITY

The University of the Sunshine Coast was created to serve the greater Sunshine Coast region. Emphasis is placed on community involvement across all facets of the University, and is demonstrated by the large number of linkages, programs and research projects in place throughout the Sunshine Coast.

The objectives

- Partner a range of local organisations to ensure a vibrant and stimulating environment locally and regionally.
- Attract government and private support for cultural and leisure infrastructure to benefit the University and regional communities.
- Initiate a program of cultural events to appeal to a broad spectrum of the regional population.
- Build on the success of the University's regional business incubator, the Innovation Centre, and establish a technology park in partnership with governments and business.
- Pursue joint projects with shire councils and other organisations to increase local graduate employment opportunities.
- Establish a close working relationship with Chancellor State College, the new high school developed on a site adjacent to the University's campus

during the second half of 2003. The new college will accept its first intake of students in January 2004.

- Communicate consistently to all stakeholders and interested parties the University's commitment to its academic, cultural, economic and environmental mission, as well as its values, goals and strategic priorities to all stakeholders and interested parties.
- Pursue private funding to accelerate the University's development and capacity to respond to a changing and competitive sectoral environment.

The achievements

Education links

- Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Thomas, was appointed as Chairman of the Queensland Tertiary Administration Centre (QTAC) in mid-2003.
- The University continues to build relationships with other education providers throughout South-East Queensland with an emphasis on high schools within the Sunshine Coast region. In particular, University staff maintained close ties with Education Queensland throughout 2003 as it proceeded with plans to develop an education precinct

adjacent to the University's campus. The precinct will include the new Chancellor College, which, in conjunction with the established Chancellor State School, will provide P-12 education in association with the University and Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE.

- The Headstart Program, which allows high school students to participate in accredited university courses while still at high school, continued successfully. Forty students from eleven schools were enrolled in 22 different courses achieving an 88 percent pass rate.
- 2003 saw the introduction of the Ambassador Program involving a team of University students presenting program and lifestyle information to schools and community groups. Their unique insight into University life drew strong praise from the 33 schools they visited.
- The Summer School, trialed in January 2003, proved very successful with both students and staff gaining huge benefits from the experience. Thirty-three students attended the programs which were run by each of the three faculties.
- The Australian Sports Commission recognised the University as a Sport Education Agency Provider and authorised it to deliver Level 1 and Level 2 Coaching Principles Courses.

COMMUNITY

- Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Thomas and Mayor of Maryborough, Councillor Alan Brown, signed a Memorandum of Understanding in March to develop closer links with education and research. The University's Fraser Island Research and Education Centre at Kingfisher Bay is located within Maryborough, and a second facility on the island, at Dilli Village, is expected to be leased to the University in early 2004.

Industry and business links

- Senior University staff continued to meet with federal, state and local politicians and officers in 2003 on the development of the proposed science and technology park to be built adjacent to the University's campus. The proposed park would provide a 'next stage' location for companies graduating from the Innovation Centre's business incubator, as well as a base for established technology and knowledge based companies attracted to the park.
- A new Chapter of the Public Relations Institute of Australia (PRIA) was launched on the Sunshine Coast in 2003 with the strong support of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. PRIA Queensland President, Robina Xavier congratulated the University for its active support of the industry on the Sunshine Coast.
- The Sunshine Coast's new Arts Incubator (artSynC) joined forces with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in May to initiate its membership drive and unveil its online portal. ArtSynC is an independent not-for-profit organisation that aims to develop arts on the Coast.
- Facilities Manager, Mark Bradley, was appointed as a member of the new South East Queensland Regional Electricity Council. The committee has been created to offer expert advice to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, the Hon Stephen Robertson MP.



The Honorable Justice Marcus Einfeld received the award of Honorary Doctor of the University.

Community events

- More than 400 of the 600 graduating students celebrated the successful conclusion of their studies at the 2003 Graduation ceremony. Graduates from 38 degree programs, including a cohort of graduates from the Masters programs offered in Fiji and China, participated in the proceedings which were attended by more than 2,000 people. The Hon Justice Marcus Einfeld, President of the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and Australian representative at the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate. Honorary Senior Fellowships were awarded to Sunshine Coast community figures Sir Clem Renouf, Rod Forrester and Ted FitzGerald.
- Close to 2,000 people visited the University for the annual Courses for Careers Day on Sunday August 24. Visitors toured the campus and facilities, spoke to staff and students and attended seminars about course and program offerings. The Schools Excellence Expo showcased the outstanding talents of 74 local high school students as they competed in Arts and Social Sciences, Business and Science categories for over \$4,000 in cash prizes.

- The University sponsored an Association of Women Educators (AWE) event in October with the aim of encouraging more girls to maintain their interest in Information and Communications Technology. GLITTER, or Girls Learning IT Together, brought women from the worlds of business and education together at the University for a series of inspiring presentations, interesting panel discussions and a practical "hands-on" workshop for the girls to test their skills.
- An exciting line-up of performers and events was assembled in July for the first NAIDOC Week celebrations to be held at the University. Open to the public, the celebrations formed part of a national program of events organised by NAIDOC (National and Aboriginal Islander Day Observance Committee) which was designed to promote a greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their culture.
- More than 5,000 visitors viewed the nine exhibitions held in the Gallery in 2003.
- A fundraising performance by the Australian String Quartet was organised by the University Foundation.
- Three Information and Communications Technology seminars were held to encourage alumni networking. These activities were supported by a grant by the Information Industries Bureau of the Department of Innovation and Information Economy.
- An alumni relations event was held in Shanghai for MBA graduates – the first University of the Sunshine Coast alumni event to be held overseas.
- More than 400 scientists from Europe, the USA, Asia and Australia attended the 13th International Symposium on the Biology of Actinomycetes (ISBA), which was sponsored by the University of the Sunshine Coast. Lecturer Dr Ipek Kurtböke worked with a 25-member international scientific advisory committee to bring the ISBA to the Southern Hemisphere for the first time.

Community support

Community support increased in 2003. The annual giving of cash and in-kind totalled \$526,241. This included \$71,662 from the Cassamarca Foundation in support of Italian Studies, \$45,000 in-kind support of artwork, and \$20,500 was given by numerous community groups and individuals to benefit students. An in-kind gift of \$140,000 to support campus enhancement activity was also received. Support from various sources totalled \$666,241.

The number of scholarships, bursaries and prizes offered to students by the University increased to more than 50 during 2003 with the development of:

- The Scholarship Fund
- The Millennium Masonic Lodge Bursary
- Caloundra City Council Scholarship
- Keith and Rebecca Grisman Bursary
- Bruce and Dorothy Lambert Prizes for Innovation
- RACQ Prizes in Tourism
- Buderim Ginger Prize for International Business
- Garland Waddington Prize in Business

The Future

School and Community Links

- Develop the KEEPPACE (Program for Advancing Community Education) for students, parents and the community. This program recognises the difficulty people have in keeping pace with current information. Free public information sessions and workshops will be offered throughout the year on topics such as 'Academic writing and study skills', 'Finding information using online resources' and 'Developing career skills'.
- Produce a *Guidance Officer Directory* – a comprehensive directory of University programs, services and contacts which will assist schools in working more closely with the University. The Directory will be launched on the annual Guidance Officer Orientation Day, 4 June 2004.
- Launch the School Links Program in June 2004. This program offers school students a range of university experiences, from attending a business lecture or viewing the science laboratories, to full day intensive language, creative writing or art and design workshops.
- Expand the University's Summer School Programs in 2004 to include a Fraser Island 'Spring' School as well as continuing the highly successful languages summer school.
- Update the *Experts Guide* for the media. This Guide provides the names of academic staff members, an overview of their areas of specialisation and contact details. The current version of this publication is widely used by journalists.

The Foundation

- Encourage the Sunshine Coast community to participate in the University's annual appeal. Awareness events are planned off campus.
- Formalise and unveil the donor/sponsor recognition areas.
- Promote the bequest and planned giving program.
- Feature visiting exhibitions of outstanding local, national and international artworks in the new Art Gallery to open in July 2004.
- Continue to focus on fundraising for the new Art Gallery. The Australian String Quartet will return for a benefit concert in May 2004.
- Continue to expand the alumni relations area with events planned for University graduates residing on the Sunshine Coast and overseas.



Zonta Bursary goes to Lyndal Lyndal Thompson with Dr Robin King Cullen, President of Zonta Caloundra.