

## Tribute for loss in mystery wreck P4



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Air Personnel pay tribute to the victims of the 1943 aeroplane crash during a ceremony held near the crash site at Cleveland Bay in Townsville.



From left, David Jones, Brent Robino, Joplin Carpenter and Alan Griffiths prepare for battle outside the Cairns Courthouse.

# Students win in court

Law students at James Cook University in Cairns are celebrating a major victory, after successfully presenting a case in the Cairns Courthouse.

Joplin Carpenter and Alan Griffiths argued their way through the early heats to the final hearing of this year's Moot Competition, which is sponsored by local firm The Law Office.

"Mooting is a time-honoured tradition for law students," said moot coordinator and law lecturer, Mandy Shircore.

"The competitors are given a case to research and present in court. Thanks to really impressive support from local legal professionals, The Law Office Moot Competition is held in the Cairns Courthouse, before real-life judges.

"Access to the courtroom and participation by local legal professionals

makes this a very valuable and practical exercise for the students," Ms Shircore said.

"It allows them to sharpen their skills in research, advocacy and persuasion."

The Cairns team competed against Townsville finalists David Jones and Brent Robino, arguing a complex civil law problem involving sexual abuse in schools.

They were judged on their written submissions and their advocacy skills by a formidable panel: Justice Stanley Jones of the Supreme Court, Judge Sarah Bradley of the District Court, and Magistrate Tina Previterra.

"Every lawyer remembers their university mooting days," said Managing Partner of The Law Office, Anthony Lagois. "It's a fond memory of the combination of dread and delight of facing their first courtroom.

"It really is invaluable experience, and we are delighted to support the law school of our local university."

Mr Lagois said the organisers were indebted to local professionals who had willingly given their time and skills to ensure the success of the competition.

"The level of support, including two Judges and a Magistrate volunteering their time to judge the final, really is very impressive," Mr Lagois said. "The Law Office is thrilled to create an ongoing opportunity, providing JCU law students with unprecedented access to local legal professionals."

Cairns student Joplin Carpenter was judged best speaker in the final hearing.

"Presenting the case in a real courtroom and getting feedback from the judges is a fantastic learning experience," she said.

- LINDEN WOODWARD

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Top: Air Personnel pay tribute to the victims of the 1943 aeroplane crash during a ceremony held near the crash site at Cleveland Bay in Townsville. Above: A group of JCU students searched the Cleveland Bay area for a plane wreck that has never been recovered.

cover story

# Tribute for loss in mystery wreckage

The remains from one of Australia's worst aeroplane crashes are hidden somewhere in northern Queensland's Cleveland Bay off the Townsville coastline. Three James Cook University Maritime Masters students recently took on the challenge of trying to find the wreckage from the 1943 crash.

The students, Bradley Garrett, Erika Stein and Nicolas Bigourdan, were assisted with their search by Townsville historian Peter Murray who has spent two years investigating the crash.

The accident is said to be Australia's fifth worst air disaster with all 27 people onboard dying when the C-47 (Dakota) plane crashed into Cleveland Bay. Most of the passengers were American

personnel from the 345/500th Squadron on their way to Sydney, via Archerfield airfield in Brisbane, having just taken off from Garbutt airfield in Townsville.

"Shortly after take off, as the plane was gaining altitude, it somehow lost power and crashed into the sea," Mr Murray said.

Jim Eddy and Tal Epps were scheduled to be on that fatal flight. Jim Eddy was meant to be one of the pilots along with his friend Harold Wilson, but he arrived late from another destination. Mr Eddy said he can't recall ever knowing what caused the accident.

"Accidents like this one had many possible causes – mechanical failure, over-loading, sabotage, pilot factors or other unknown

conditions," Mr Eddy said. Mr Murray's research has found no evidence of the aircraft wreckage ever being recovered which may explain why the cause of the accident remains unknown.

The JCU Masters students decided to search for what would be the biggest part of the wreckage — the two engines. After researching the most likely place where the wreckage would be within the vicinity of Alligator Creek mouth in Cleveland Bay, the students searched an area covering one square kilometre using a magnetometer towed behind a boat.

The day of their search the water visibility was very low because of windy conditions, making the hunt more difficult. After searching the area as best as possible, the students returned to shore with no missing plane pieces. However the students say this is only the first step, with the potential for further searches to be carried out in other areas.

"It just means that the wreckage is not in the area we searched," Nicolas Bigourdan said. "It could be just outside the search area or maybe it has drifted down the bay further," he said.

This air disaster was one of many during World War II in the northern Queensland area.

"During the whole war period there were over 200 crashes in the Townsville area, another 200 in Australian air space north of Ingham and approximately the same number along the east coast of Australia," Mr Murray said.

"This aeroplane crash of August 7, 1943 at Cleveland Bay however, was somewhat unusual and more devastating than most of the others."

According to Tal Epps who was originally meant to be on the plane, the C-47 flight was on its way to Sydney to give the group some rest and recuperation.

"Our group had been active in combat since April that year, no one had had any time off, so a week in Australia's largest city was a dream come true," Tal Epps said.

A commemorative plaque has recently been established in Townsville, in memory of the people who lost their lives in the crash. A joint USA and Australian service was held in August during celebrations for the 60th anniversary of Victory in the Pacific Day, which celebrates the end of World War II.

Representing the families of the American personnel who lost their lives in the C-47 plane crash was Prudy Drew, the niece of the pilot of the plane, Harold Wilson. At the time of the crash Prudy was only two years old however she came to Australia from Wenatchee in Washington State especially for the VP60 commemorations to honour the memory of her uncle.

As the only person representing any American family linked to the fatal crash, Mrs Drew unexpectedly became the representative for all the American's affected by the air disaster.

Stories from her family members revealed that the family was told little about the crash, only that Harold was taking off when his plane crashed into the sea.

"My father always thought the plane had been sabotaged," Mrs Prudy said. "I guess that was easier to think than that the plane had just gone down."

Both Peter Murray and the JCU Maritime Masters students plan on continuing their research into the crash and the remains of the plane.

— KATRINA KALLESKE



Peter Leggat with the Inaugural Vitae Lampada Medal for Excellence in Medical and Health Education.

## Top award

An award for outstanding contributions to medical and health education has been given to JCU's Associate Professor Peter Leggat.

The Inaugural Vitae Lampada Medal for Excellence in Medical and Health Education, recognises Dr Leggat's contributions to postgraduate medical and health education.

The award particularly recognises Dr Leggat's contributions in helping to make JCU's postgraduate public health programs one of the largest in Australasia and one of the leading public health and tropical medicine programs globally.

The medal was awarded at a ceremony in Brisbane in June during an inaugural two day Vitae Lampada Conference.

Patron of the Vitae Lampada Conference, Major General Professor John Pearn, AM, RFD, translated Vitae Lampada to mean "the burning torch of life".

Associate Professor Leggat said he was proud to be amongst the initial torch bearer for this prestigious award.

"JCU has become a globally recognised leader in the development and delivery of international programs in public health and tropical medicine," he said.

Officially opened by the Governor of Queensland, Quentin Bryce, AC, the conference brought together leading medical and health science researchers and philanthropists associated with hospitals, universities, research institutes, industry and the community.

# VC's view

A regional university has a special responsibility to the people of the area it serves. This is even more so when the university is so far removed from the capital city of its state, which in JCU's case is the furthest distance in Australia.

Our mission statement puts it this way:

*James Cook University will advance the economic, social, cultural, intellectual and environmental well-being of tropical Queensland, the nation and the world by delivering world-class education and research outcomes across the range of disciplines, with particular emphasis on subjects of special relevance to the tropics and our location in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.*

It is worth noting that order – "tropical Queensland, the nation and the world". We are also charged under the Act of Parliament that created James Cook University to "provide courses of study or instruction ... to meet the needs of the community".



We have been meeting the needs of our communities for 35 years initially from our base in Townsville and then gradually spreading our efforts to a second major campus in Cairns, and the learning centres in Mackay, Mt Isa, and Thursday Island.

On the latest Graduate Survey figures we have been doing a good job. We received a five star rating from our graduates for overall satisfaction with their courses, the quality of our teaching, and their acquisition of generic skills.

JCU refines its Mission Statement in its seven Priority Objectives. One of these is *participation*, and there we commit ourselves to 'promote and facilitate the participation of those relatively under-represented in higher education,

especially rural, remote, and Indigenous people' (Millennium Document p.18).

In attempting to fulfil this mission, JCU offers the opportunity of tertiary education to a wider range of people than some other universities. Many come from families with no tradition of tertiary education; for many it is a struggle to forego income in order to study. Some of those to whom we offer a chance decide that tertiary education is not for them. For others the lure of paid employment now rather than later becomes irresistible. Some find that the opportunity we offer them is the transforming event of their life.

We welcome the rewards we get from those who succeed. But now we stand to be punished for those who do not beat the odds and who contribute to our attrition rates, which are worst in the first year, as might be expected. We face a dilemma, one of many in the currently difficult and fast changing environment we find ourselves in. Should we continue to take a chance on students only some of whom will make it, or should we be much more selective about the students to whom we give a chance?

This is just one element of a debate we need to have about the shape and nature of the University over the next few years.

**Professor Bernard Moulden**  
**Vice-Chancellor and President**

## Fresh science showcase

Two Cairns James Cook University students were among a group of 13 young scientists chosen from around Australia to take part in a national competition.

The Fresh Science competition gave the scientists a chance to present their work in Melbourne during National Science Week.

Jellyfish researcher Matthew Gordon and rainforest researcher Romina Rader represented JCU at Fresh Science.

Ms Rader is looking into the secretive nocturnal habits of some of Queensland's small mammals by exploring rainforest canopies.

She said finding out which mammals use the canopy, why they are up there

and whether their presence is good or bad for the forest are important research questions.

"We need to know what species are there in order to protect them as well as understand the important processes to which they contribute," she said.

Meanwhile, Matt Gordon is tracking the movements of potentially lethal animals in the water. He is using the latest ultrasonic technology to track box jellyfish.

Mr Gordon aims to make northern Australia's beaches safer by developing a computer model capable of predicting where and when jellyfish will occur.

"There are several long held theories regarding where box jellyfish are found



Matt Gordon

and why they move from one area to another," he said. "However until now there has been limited evidence to support them."

More information about Fresh Science can be found at [www.freshscience.org](http://www.freshscience.org)



## alumni profile

### Javiera Soto

Rehabilitation Case Manager: 1st Battalion Royal Australian Regiment of the Australian Defence Force

"Apart from valuable qualifications, I also developed strong working relationships and long lasting friendships with JCU academic and support staff"

## Diverse range of options

What course did you study at JCU and when did you finish?

I studied a Bachelor of Sport and Exercise Science and finished it at the end of 2003.

Why did you choose to study at JCU?

JCU Townsville offered a diverse range of study options that suited my desires at that point as a high school graduate.

I subsequently found that the course has very high standards and provided me with qualifications that I now utilise in my career.

What did you gain from studying at JCU?

Apart from valuable qualifications, I also developed strong working relationships and long lasting friendships with JCU academic and support staff.

These relationships have been very important in my development as an exercise physiologist.

What have you been doing since you graduated?

Initially I worked as a private practitioner (exercise physiologist) for organisations such as Work Cover Queensland, Heart Health Program (JCU), as well as providing services for private clients. Currently I am employed by the Australian Defence Force as a rehabilitation case manager based at the Lavarack Barracks.

What are the most enjoyable parts of your career?

One of the enjoyable parts of my career as a rehabilitation case manager is that I work as part of a multi disciplinary team that is focused on returning injured defence force members to their normal working environment. My work environment is quite challenging and stimulating but also very satisfying. As a result of my experiences so far, I appreciate the need to keep up to date with new developments in my field.

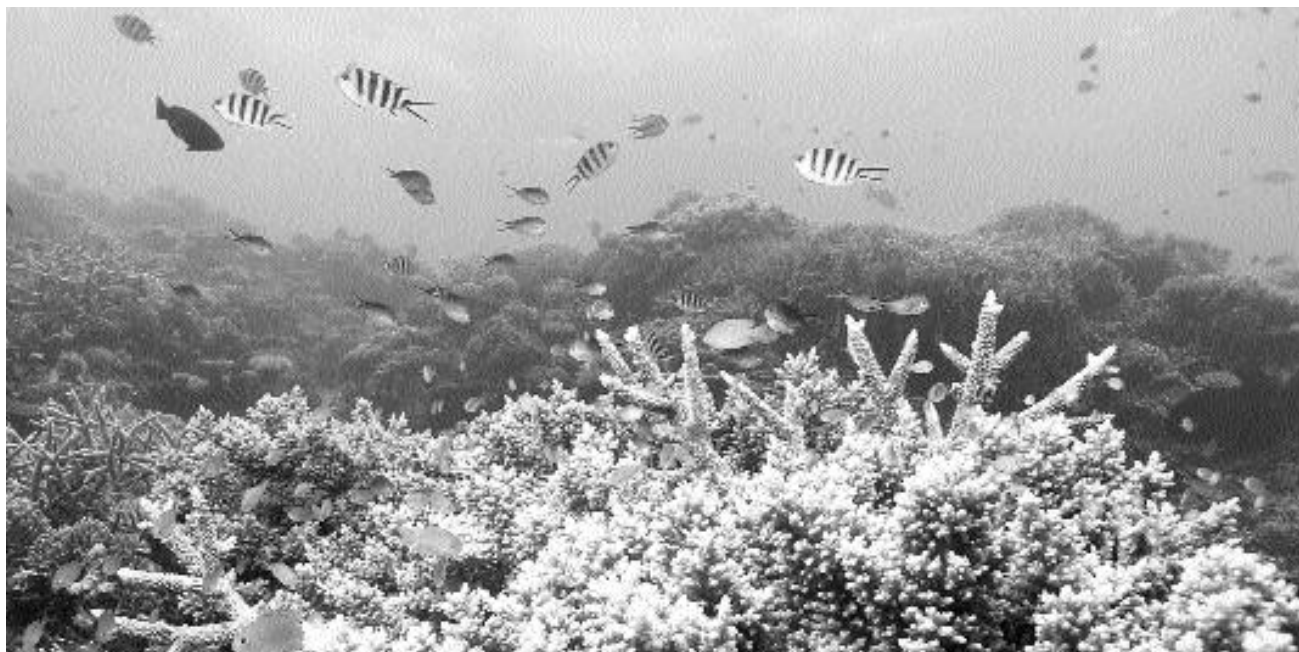
What are the most valuable aspects of your degree in relation to what you are doing now?

The Bachelor of Sport and Exercise Science degree provided me with a strong knowledge and skills base to undertake a career as an exercise physiologist.

The subject areas that have been particularly useful include sport and exercise nutrition, exercise testing and prescription, lifespan development, sports medicine, environmental exercise physiology and sport and exercise behaviour. All of these subjects are useful in my role as a rehabilitation case manager.

What are your goals for the future?

At this point in time I am intending to complete a postgraduate qualification in exercise rehabilitation, with prospects of employment overseas for a period of time.



Top: The Great Barrier Reef will be monitored to help stop coral bleaching. Photo courtesy of Reef Check Australia.  
Right: Professor Mal Heron with a high frequency radar that will help monitor the Great Barrier Reef.



JCU student Kirsty Taifalos is looking into the experiences of 'donor' children.

# Reef to go under radar watch

JCU researchers are leading the way in a project that aims to research coral bleaching by using high frequency radar signals.

A new remote sensing instrument that is set to be up and running by May 2006, will allow researchers to see and predict the ocean's movements, without them having to get their feet wet.

After three years of hard work on the project, which was the brainchild of JCU Professor of Physics Mal Heron, the research team has been granted support worth more than half a million dollars. Professor Heron said while that's enough to buy and install the radar, they still need more funding for running costs.

The funding boost came from an Australian Research Council Equipment Grant with support from JCU, Queensland University, the Australian Institute of Marine Science and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration in the United States.

Professor Heron estimates that it will cost between \$30,000 and \$40,000 per year to conduct research and maintain the equipment. The funding will see JCU head

a five-year project that is linked with an international study that aims to understand and predict the patterns of coral bleaching in the Great Barrier Reef. This natural phenomenon destroys the world's reefs and can even lead to the extinction of some species of coral.

"There is not really anyway you can prevent coral bleaching," said Professor Heron. "It's just something you need to understand and work with."

"The HF radar will help us predict in the short term and help us understand the processes better, that is, the physical parameters which drive the coral bleaching."

The HF radar gathers data by using remote sensing of the sea surface. The radar is on shore and receives echoes from the sea surface.

"From the echoes we can determine the surface currents, wave heights and the wind direction from every point we choose to look at over the ocean," Professor Heron said.

The new sensing instrument will map the patterns of the sea in Queensland between

Gladstone, Heron Island and Lady Elliot Island, around the Capricorn and Bunker Reefs.

Professor Heron said the location that has been chosen is ideal and will give JCU an opportunity to make a real contribution to the international coral reef project. The HF radar signal can cover an area of around 200 kilometre square, and is the same kind of technology that is used for coastal security.

According to Professor Heron, the radar will pick up any ships sailing within its range and it can even detect if a tsunami is heading our way.

"You can see a tsunami when it enters the continental shelf (the outer reef) and if we were in Gladstone we would be able to give about an hour's warning, which is better than anyone else is doing," he said.

The researchers are hoping to bring new data out on a website, which will have maps of what the surface currents are doing every hour.

"Knowing what the currents are doing over the last six hours will be significant information to search and rescue services because if you have a man-over-board type

of alert then you know where the current is taking them."

Professor Heron said researchers could already predict what the tide will be and what direction the wind is going but he hopes his research will be able to foresee the things that happen below the sea surface. For example, what eddies - a whirlwind in the water - are doing.

Professor Heron said that JCU students have a great opportunity to become involved with this project. Students from various disciplines including Mathematics, Physics, Engineering and Oceanography can take part in this research. The research team has already received phone calls from overseas students who are interested in the study.

"If we are really smart with these projects we should be able to project forward and see if we can predict what will happen in the next six hours," he said.

It will even help people looking for the best fishing spots. The HF radar can locate fronts in the water, giving the location of the biomass, which will show the best places to look for fish.

— NIKKI ROBINSON

## Donor children secrecy lifts

More than 25 years ago the first child conceived by in-vitro fertilisation was born. Since then IVF has become common practice for parents who cannot conceive naturally, with a portion of these pregnancies coming from 'donor' sperm.

The now grown-up children that were brought to life through the first 'donor' pregnancies are being given the chance to voice their concerns and experiences.

A James Cook University Social Work and Community Welfare honours student, Kirsty Taifalos, is going to be looking into the relationship between donor offspring and their non-biological parents. She is particularly interested in issues relating to discussion of their conception, a topic that Ms Taifalos said is quite secretive.

"Historically there has been a veil of secrecy surrounding the issue of conception by a donor because of the sensitivity experienced by the people involved in the process and by society in general," Ms Taifalos said. "However now there are adult donor offspring who are able to speak of their own experiences and how their lives have, or have not, been affected by the process."

"Donor conception is becoming more common these days and it's really important that we learn about how donor offspring have been affected by their conception."

"There could be implications which potential donor families are not aware of because no-one has taken time to find out how donor offspring children cope with knowing the facts of their conception."

Ms Taifalos's study will focus on the relationship between donor offspring and their non-biological parent who has brought them up.

She is inviting donor offspring to contribute their personal stories, in particular how they were informed of their conception, how they feel towards their parents as a result of being told or the affect it had on their identity. Anyone wanting more information can contact her via email: [Kirsty.Taifalos@jcu.edu.au](mailto:Kirsty.Taifalos@jcu.edu.au)

# Tracking Tully's sediment

Earth Science researchers are tracking sediment in the Tully region on its journey to the Tully River and out to sea.

Although sediment and water quality are of wide concern, project leader Dr Wenchuan Qu says this is the first time researchers will actually study where the sediment is coming from.

A specialist in sediment processes, Dr Qu is working with Dr Paul Nelson, a lecturer in JCU Earth Sciences and senior scientist with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

"We are beginning with a few basic questions about sediment movement in the Tully catchment, including the history of sediment movement prior to European settlement," Dr Qu said.

"We know there has been large-scale erosion of the mountains in the past because the floodplains we see today were formed when that sediment was deposited. That process of deposition is continuing, so we need to understand its history and then see if patterns of sediment movement have changed."

A recently developed technique known as fingerprinting will be used to link sediment in the Tully River with its various sources.

"This involves measuring a range of sediment properties, such as elemental content, radio-nucleides and mineral magnetic properties, to develop a unique 'fingerprint' description that will



Dr Wenchuan Qu taking a soil core from a stream bank.

enable us to trace the sediment to its source," Dr Qu said. "It's a technique I've used extensively in Netherlands and China, but this is the first time it will have been used in Australia's wet tropics."

Dr Qu and Dr Nelson plan to contact up to 40 local landholders, seeking access to gather samples throughout the Tully catchment area.

"Our aim is to collect samples from areas of different geology and land use, and in a range of sub-catchments," said Dr Nelson.

Dr Nelson, who has worked as an agricultural researcher for 17 years, said the current study would not be able to give landholders feedback on sediment flow from individual properties.

"The scale of this project is much broader," he said. "We'll be aiming to trace sediment back to a sub-catchment, or a category of land use. In the longer term, however, we hope this work will contribute to the development of monitoring tools that will help landholders track their progress in sediment management."

## Med students win trophy

Two James Cook University sixth year medicine students who represented Australia at an international conference, have been praised for their research efforts. Townsville student Peter Piliouras and Cairns student Philip Stokes attended the Asian Medical Students Conference, which brings together around 300 medical students from the Asia-Pacific region. Peter and Philip represented Australia and presented a paper about Teledermatology in Australia, and earned themselves the second place trophy in the judging of best presentation. Their paper focused on the use of telemedicine technology in helping diagnosis in dermatology,

particularly for the high number of melanomas in Australia.



Peter Piliouras and Phillip Stokes with their trophy.

## Surprise role

A James Cook University academic will be the chairperson of a new committee being formed by the Royal Australian College of General

Practitioners. Associate Professor in the School of Medicine, Jill Thistlethwaite, will be the chairperson of an education sub-committee for pre-vocational training in general practice throughout Australia. The committee is one of five starting next year under a new Australian initiative.

"We will be looking at the curriculum for the education and experience of medical students within the discipline of general practice and provide strategy and direction for placement of interns in general practice," Associate Professor Thistlethwaite said. The prestigious appointment of chairperson was a surprise for her, as she had only applied to be on the committee.



## student profile

**Matt Young**  
Second-year student  
Marine Biology Advanced &  
National Geographic Channel  
presenter

# Passion for the sea

**Marine Biology Student Matt Young combines his study at JCU with presenting work for the National Geographic Channel, giving him a chance to combine his love of nature, adventure, geography and travelling while sharing his experiences and knowledge.**

**Why did you choose to study at JCU?**

JCU's reputation as a world leader in Marine studies and their excellent facilities were the major factors influencing my decision. The opportunity to live and study in the tropics was a bonus too.

**What attracted you to the degree you chose?**

I've always had a passion for the sea. Surfing and fishing are two of my favourite pastimes. This close

interaction with the water environment has instilled a strong admiration and respect for the ocean and its inhabitants.

To be able to contribute to the conservation and preservation of these breathtaking ecosystems would be a dream.

**What parts of the course do you enjoy most?**

The field trips and practicals are fantastic. The hands-on work literally brings the theory to life! The advanced course also comprises fortnightly seminars in which guest lecturers provide insight to cutting edge research.

**What are your plans when you finish your degree and what kind of career do you envisage?**

I hope to eventually combine my studies with my presenting work to help highlight research and conservation issues to the world.

**What do you like most about studying at JCU?**

At JCU the lecturers and tutors are more than willing to help out with advice and guidance. This personal touch is extremely valuable, as you're never treated as 'just a number'.

**When you're not studying, what keeps you busy?**

Much of my time is spent working on programmes for National Geographic Channel. When I'm not studying or working, I'm out fishing or exploring the waterways around Townsville.



Far left: Illegal shill bidding on the internet is largely undetected but that could be changing. Left: JCU PhD student Jarrod Trevathan has worked out how to track illegal shill bidders.

# Detecting fake net bidders

In 2001 three men were indicted on charges of shill\* bidding on eBay. They were using more than 40 buyer IDs to push up sale prices in art auctions and collected more than \$450,000 in payments. One of the men was given a four-year prison sentence, while the other three were ordered to pay hefty fines.

Shill bidding refers to the fraud where a seller or their agent masquerades as a sincere buyer, bidding for their own item to inflate the sale price.

The internet and auction websites such as eBay have

made it easier for sellers to orchestrate shilling by using multiple buyer identities.

Shill bidding is illegal and has become a serious problem in online auctions. Reported high-profile cases of shilling are only the tip of the iceberg, as most shill bids remain undetected.

However, Jarrod Trevathan, a PhD student from James Cook University's School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences is helping to detect the illegal actions of shill bidders. He's tracing their tracks and defining their most common characteristics and

behavioural traits. Mr Trevathan's latest paper, *Detecting Shill Bidding in Online English Auctions*, is set to help courts of law and legitimate website bidders detect illegal shillers. In his paper Mr Trevathan lists six common behavioural traits of shill bidders.

"Firstly, a shill is just really bidding to lose an auction," Mr Trevathan said. "So if they win, they've failed their task and the seller must re-auction their item.

"Therefore, people can recognise that shilling is

occurring if a particular item has been subsequently re-auctioned."

The second most common characteristic is that shill bidders tend to operate exclusively in auctions held by one particular seller.

"If a shill and a seller are in collusion with one another, then a pattern begins to form. A shill will always bid in auctions held by a particular seller."

According to Mr Trevathan when a shill's behaviour is examined over several auctions they will have a high bid

frequency, but few or no winnings.

"This is due to the shill continually outbidding legitimate bids to inflate the final price, but stopping short of winning," he said.

The fourth characteristic Mr Trevathan discusses in his paper is the frequency or the time interval between a shill's bids.

"It's advantageous for the shill to outbid a legitimate bidder in a small time period. So as soon as someone has outbid the shill, the shill will instantly outbid them," he said.

"Generally a shill wants to give legitimate bidders as much time as possible to submit a new bid before the closing time of the auction."

According to Mr Trevathan, the fifth characteristic of a shill is that they will usually bid the minimum amount required to outbid a legitimate bidder.

"If the shill bids an amount that is much higher than the current highest bid, it is unlikely that a legitimate bidder will submit any more bids and the shill will win the auction."

Finally, shills tend to be within close geographical proximity to each other and Mr Trevathan gives two reasons for this.

"Firstly, if the seller has several aliases, they will be registered in the same location," he said. "Secondly collusion among

bidders typically occurs amongst friends that live or operate near each other. This is because the costs of communication and coordinating the shilling process are less than over long distances."

In his next paper, Mr Trevathan hopes to look at multiple shillers, whereby people shill bid in groups, making it harder to detect.

"So far I've mainly focused on cases where there has been one shill bidder in one auction. Researching multiple shillers across a wide variety of auctions will be much more challenging, but something that I'll definitely look at in the future," he said.

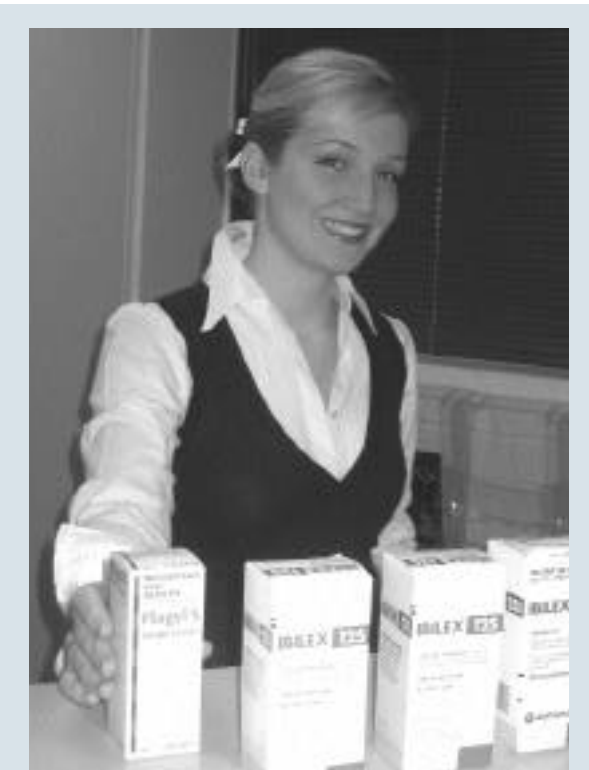
"That way we might have some means by which cases of shilling can be taken to court and we can say that there is a certain possibility that this person is engaging in dubious behaviour."

*Detecting Shill Bidding in Online English Auctions* is currently in submission to be published. Mr Trevathan is planning to head to Tasmania next January to present his findings at the Australasian Computer Science Conference.

— CLARE ROBINSON

\*Shill (noun): an accomplice of a hawker, gambler, or swindler who acts as an enthusiastic customer to entice others.

-The Compact Oxford English Dictionary of Current English, 2005.



JCU Pharmacy Student Kristen Anderson is Queensland's Pharmacy Student of the Year.

## Pharmacy takes second State title

A fourth-year James Cook University Pharmacy student has been named the Queensland Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Student of the Year for 2005.

Kristen Anderson competed against four other finalists from other Pharmacy schools in Queensland and will now represent Queensland in the national final.

The final competition is being held in October in Melbourne during the Pharmacy Australia Congress. Kristen will be competing in a patient counselling competition against the finalists representing all other States.

The win gives JCU a perfect record in the competition with this being the second year of the competition and the second year that a JCU student will be representing Queensland in the final.

Kristen has excelled throughout her studies at JCU, gaining high distinctions in all her subjects except one and for that she was awarded a distinction.

"Kristen's consistently high performance in her studies, along with her results in this competition is evidence of the commitment of our Pharmacy Staff to the training of quality graduates for the profession," said Professor Beverley Glass, Chair of Pharmacy at JCU.

# Professor in profile

## Prof Brendan O'Connell

PhD Monash, CPA, CMA, ASIA

Head of Accounting and Finance Program, School of Business

Areas of expertise: corporate governance, financial statement fraud, corporate collapse areas, business ethics.

# Impact on key moves



What attracted you to your field of work?

The opportunity to work in a field that directly impacts on key decision making in business. Financial considerations are vital in all types of business — large and small. People with strong financial skills are in high demand in all parts of the world.

What advances would you like to see in this field?

My research interests are in the areas of corporate governance, financial statement fraud and corporate collapse. Hence, I would like to see advances that help reduce the likelihood of fraud and corporate failure. The cost to the American economy of the collapses of Enron and WorldCom was immense. Similarly, in Australia the decline of HIH Insurance impacted dramatically on investors and the insurance industry in general. To date, our responses have mainly been legislative. The core causes of failures of corporate governance and fraud have not been addressed. For example, the present system of rewarding managers encourages them to drive the stock price up in the short-term with whatever means is necessary. We need to identify ways of rewarding managers for outstanding long-term performance of their company against their peers.

Where did you work before you came to JCU?

I worked at Monash University in Melbourne for over eight years. This is also where I completed my PhD. I moved to the US and spent two wonderful years with the University of Richmond in Virginia. I also spent around three years at Deakin University.

What's one of the most interesting jobs you've had?

I worked as an investment banker with Bankers Trust (BT) in Melbourne in the late 1980s and early 1990s. It was a high pressure, high achieving environment. I analysed many of Australia's largest companies on behalf of the bank and traded securities in the Australian bond market.

What's the best advice you've ever been given?

My first boss at BT, Bob Esselmont, gave me invaluable advice during my time there. I remember he once said to me that if you attend a meeting and sit there and say nothing then you have failed because you have failed to contribute. I always remember that and tell my students why it is important to be an active rather than passive participant in classes. Another one of his sayings was that nothing in this world is too complex to understand if you just make the time and effort to

break it down and examine it piece by piece. This is particularly valuable advice for a financial analyst.

Who has been the most significant influence on your career and why?

Bob Esselmont (referred to above). His words of wisdom seem to apply in any walk of life. He also helped me to achieve the confidence to realise my potential.

What do you like to see students take away from their studies?

I like to see them develop their generic skills such as good oral and written communication skills and the ability to critically analyse a problem. The world is increasingly competitive and to survive and prosper these skills are paramount.

What are your favourite books/authors or other interests outside of work?

Well I like to read about successful people so the biographies of famous politicians and business people are always of interest to me. It amazes me how so many of them came from such relatively humble, ordinary beginnings. I am also a sports nut so I like to read the biographies of sports stars.

If you weren't in this area of work, what do you think you would be doing?

Probably working as a financial analyst in industry.

# Finding a treatment for common killer

A team of James Cook University researchers is working on finding a new treatment for the tenth most common cause of death for men.

The group has received more than \$1 million in funding to investigate mechanisms leading to artery weakening, a condition named aortic aneurysm.

"While this is the tenth most common cause of death for men, it is relatively under investigated," said JCU Associate Professor in Surgery Jonathan Golledge (pictured).

He said aortic aneurysm affects around five percent of men over 60, being five times less common in women.

"Unless the condition is diagnosed by an incidental test, such as ultrasound, patients are usually unaware of its

presence until rupture of the aneurysm occurs, which is commonly fatal," he said.

Associate Professor Golledge created the vascular biology research group at JCU, which won a prestigious National Institute of Health grant to fund the work over the next four years.

"At the moment, there is no medical or drug based treatment for aortic aneurysm," Associate Professor Golledge said. "The only treatment is through surgery."

"The grant will let us study the role of newly discovered proteins in the artery weakening process," he said.

"The proteins were originally identified to play a role in bone turnover but we have recently demonstrated high concentrations within biopsies of aortic



aneurysm. In the experimental situation the proteins encourage human cells to undergo changes seen in weakened arteries.

"The work is targeted at developing a new medical treatment for aortic aneurysm."

Anyone interested in joining the research group can contact Associate Professor Golledge by email at jonathan.golledge@jcu.edu.au

# Research focus

## Recent research grants

Funds: \$128,714 over four years from the Sugar R&D Corporation. Investigator: Kylie Anderson with help from Mohamed Sallam. Topic: SCRS (Ramu Stunt) is a major disease of sugar cane in PNG. This project aims to develop an innovative predictive model for possible SCRS incursions through the Torres Strait.

Funds: \$4615 from the Queensland Nursing Council. Investigator: Joanne Tollefson. Topic: Explore the lived experience of chronic, persistent, non-malignant pain with adults living in rural North Queensland.

Funds: \$17,600 over two years from the Australian Institute of Nuclear Science & Engineering Awards. Investigator: Bob Carter with help from David Fink. Topic: To establish the beryllium fluxes across the New Zealand continental margin and to use ocean drill cores to test for variations in solar irradiance through time.

Funds: \$49,019 over three years from the Predictive Mineral Discovery CRC.

Investigators: James Cleverley and Nick Oliver. Topic: A multi-scaled 4D understanding of the world-class orogenic gold mineral system of the Eastern Yilgarn Craton.

## Recent research contracts

Funds: \$10,304 from Agricultural Consultants Inc Australia Ltd. Investigator: Alan Hauquitz. Topic: Assist Papua New Guinea to develop a coordinated, feasible and relevant research program to assist in control of their HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Funds: \$427,238 over three years from the CRC for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Chief investigator: Gavin Begg. Topic: Determination of management units for grey mackerel fisheries in Queensland and the Northern Territory.

Funds: \$132,893 over three years from CSIRO (ACIAR). Investigator: Paul Nelson. Topic: Produce effective means of correcting cation imbalances in soils that grow oil palm crops, the most

important income earning crop in Papua New Guinea.

Funds: \$1050 from the Queensland Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries (ACIAR). Chief investigator: Paul Southgate. Topic: Provide appropriate training in aspects of maintenance and culture of microalgae for a member of the aquaculture staff of the Ministry of Fisheries Tonga.

Funds: \$37,905 from the CRC for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Investigator: Gavin Begg with help from Anne Penny and Annabel Jones. Topic: Processing and ageing of biological samples of key priority fish species of the Great Barrier Reef Line Fishery.

Funds: \$11,003 from the Queensland Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries (ACIAR). Investigator: Paul Southgate with help from Hector Acosta-Salmon. Topic: Assess half pearl production in Kiribati (South Pacific Islands) and provide training in half pearl production techniques.





The JCU Mackay Study Centre graduates who attended the ceremony, (top, from left) Amanda Sulter, Jane Matsen, Di Jenkins, (bottom, from left) Carol Huskie, Lorraine Wirth, Angela Milosevic and Tara Francis.

## Mackay graduates celebrate their achievements

**G**raduating students at the Mackay Study Centre celebrated during a semi-formal ceremony at the end of June.

This year there were four Bachelor of Community Welfare graduates and seven Bachelor of Social Work graduates from the Mackay Study Centre. As well, one of the previous Community Welfare students graduated with a Graduate Certificate in Research Methods.

The prize for best overall student achievement in the Bachelor of Community Welfare at any JCU

campus this year went to Mackay student Amanda Sulter.

Cindy Reck from the School of Social Work and Community Welfare in Mackay said it was important to recognise the achievements of the Mackay students and the ceremony was a chance to thank the local tutors for their ongoing work and commitment to the University.

"All of our tutors work in the Mackay human service industry and are an extremely integral part of the success of the Mackay Study Centre," Ms Reck said.

The 5th Australasian Conference of Sustainable Tertiary Education is being held at JCU Cairns on **September 21 to 23**. Contact: Lania Lynch on (07) 4042 1536 or email [lania.lynych@jcu.edu.au](mailto:lania.lynych@jcu.edu.au)

Professor Craig Veitch from JCU's School of Medicine will present his inaugural lecture on **September 22**. The topic is *Rural health: past, present and future*. The lecture will take place at 5.30pm at the Southbank Convention Centre in South Townsville.

The English Learning Centre in Cairns has organised a visit to Orpheus Island for JCU students from **September 23 to 26**. Contact: Clive Parker on (07) 4042 1042.

The Townsville Research Festival of Life Sciences is being held at JCU Townsville on **September 30**. The festival provides "Life Sciences" researchers from JCU, the Australian Institute of Marine Sciences, CSIRO, Department of Primary Industries and the Townsville Hospital, a chance to present their scientific results in a poster session. The afternoon of scientific excellence and gourmet foods will be held from 4pm to 6pm at JCU Townsville's Nursing Sciences undercroft.

Three poverty experts will present a series of seminars in Queensland during October. The *Voices from the Margins* series begins at JCU Cairns on **October 5**. The three speakers are from Europe's largest public housing estate. They will also present in Townsville on **October 10** and **October 12** and then in Brisbane and the Gold Coast. For more details contact Roseanna Bone on (07) 4781 4969 or [roseanna.bone@jcu.edu.au](mailto:roseanna.bone@jcu.edu.au)

*The brain on drugs: Recent developments in our understanding of ecstasy, speed and cannabis*, will be the topic for a Jocelyn Wale seminar on **October 7**. It will be presented by Associate Professor Iain McGregor from the Department of Psychology at the University of Sydney. The seminar will be held at JCU's Townsville campus at 4.10pm in the Padua Lecture Theatre and teleconferenced to JCU Cairns campus in room A1.129. Contact: Rochelle Doherty on (07) 4781 4182.