

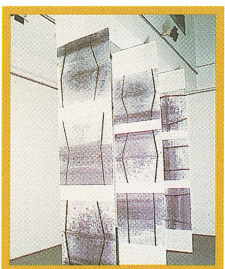
# PRENTICE BULLETIN



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KNOW UNIVERSITY  
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MELDS WORK AND  
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**For enquiries and mailing list  
amendments contact:**  
Client Services  
Room 207, ground floor  
Prentice Building  
Telephone (07) 3365 4400  
Facsimile (07) 3365 4477  
Email [info@prentice.uq.edu.au](mailto:info@prentice.uq.edu.au)



**THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND**

Number 76

June 1998

## Internet café construction revolutionises computing history

The design and construction of the world's largest internet café at the 7th International World Wide Web Conference held in the Brisbane Convention Centre was a logistical and technical feat which may have made computing history.

Two years in the planning, the internet café was built in just two days by a consortium of Prentice Centre, DSTC and Sun Microsystems.

Prentice Centre supervising engineer for network services Mark Williams said the

implementation of the café consumed the equivalent of almost five staff months.

"It consumed a significant proportion of our resources but this was leading edge technology based on nine virtual LANS with an ATM backbone and broadband microwave links back to the University of Queensland," he said.

Using 100 Sun Darwin series workstations, 20 BYTEPRO PCs, 50 laptops, seven kilometres of cabling and 1000 networking

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### RIGHT ON TRACK

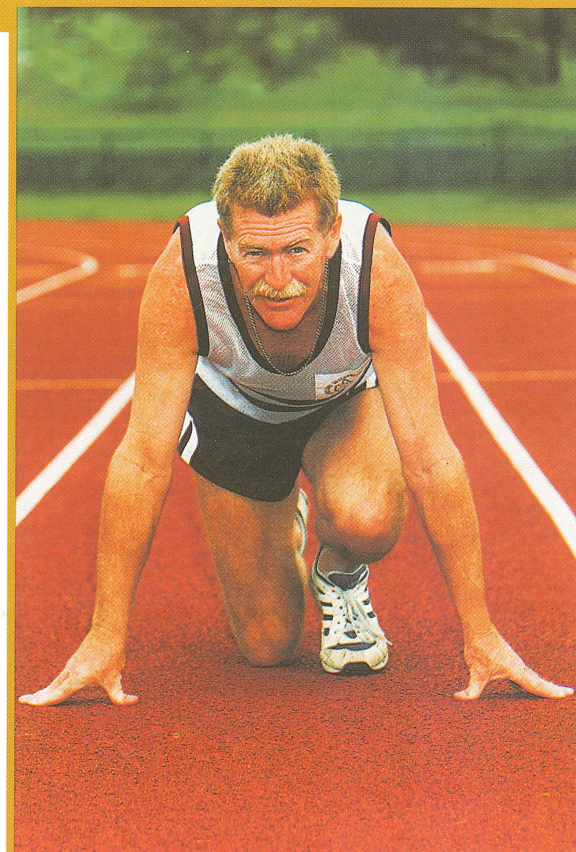
When Prentice Centre computer operator Steve Ford sprinted and jumped his way to three gold medals at the recent State Veterans Athletics Championships, he was just 10 months into his return to the sport.

A State representative at the Munich Olympics trials in 1971, Steve gave up athletics for other sports more than 25 years ago.

"I've played a lot of team sport since the 70s but I decided to go back to athletics last year — I was amazed to get the three gold at the State Championships," he said.

Steve won gold in the 100m sprint, triple jump and 110m hurdles in the 45-49 age group and was a member of the record-breaking 40-44 age group relay team.

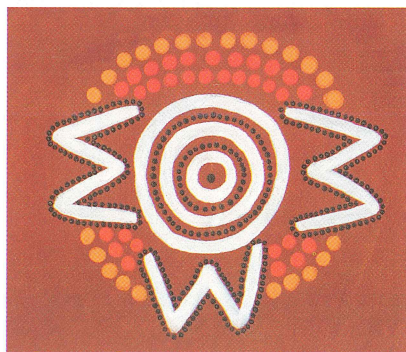
He then won gold in the 110m hurdle and silver in the triple jump at the Australian Championships in Brisbane in April.



Star turn ... golden athlete Steve Ford.



## Cafe built to suit conference needs



From page one

ports, the café attempted a world record with 172 simultaneous internet connections.

More than 1200 delegates attended the conference which was held for the first time in the southern hemisphere in April.

Prentice Centre marketing manager Kym Hosking said the Guinness Book of Record attempt was scrutinised by KPMG and the record was yet to be ratified.

"Prentice Centre, as a leading IT organisation, became involved in this because the web conference is a world renowned and refereed conference," she said.

"It was a very special event for the consortium and the development of the world wide web in Australia."

### URL HELPS YOU PLAN FOR EASY ACCESS

To find out the congestion status of modems try this url:

<http://www.uq.edu.au/uqnet/modem-stats/>

Other useful information on modem congestion is available at the modem bank home page at:

<http://www.uq.edu.au/uqnet/modem.html>

If you have any further questions about Prentice Centre's internet services, phone internet product manager Kate Myatt on 3365 8546.

## Project chief earns university medal

The coordinator of the world's largest internet café added another impressive line to his curriculum vitae last month when he was awarded a University of Queensland Medal.

Prentice Centre supervising engineer for networking services Mark Williams completed a Bachelor of Arts honours degree in Chinese.

Already holding a Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Science degree, Mark completed the BA (Hons) degree in five years while working at Prentice.

He was awarded his medal on May 20.

**Right: Prentice Centre supervising engineer Mark Williams ... academic honours.**



### PROJECT PRESERVES ART COLLECTION

A two-year project to digitally record University of Queensland's art collection is being undertaken by Prentice Centre.

Chief photographer Chris Stacey said 100 of the 1700 works had already been archived on photo CD.

"The benefits of this type of storage are enormous," Chris said.

"The images will be permanently available electronically and the entire collection will be catalogued in detail for insurance purposes."

Formally known as the Darnell Art Collection, it is one of the first Australian university collections to be resourced internally.

Art Museum director Ross Searle said the collection which focuses on post-war Australian artists was established more than 50 years ago to make innovative contemporary art accessible to the Brisbane community.

"The growth of the collection has been made possible by generous bequest funds, gifts and the patronage of the

University's Alumni Association," he said.

"The digital archiving is an important next step in protecting the works but the pace of Prentice's work will depend on the amount of funding available."

Chris said the five-image resolution provided by the digital cameras being used would allow the images to be used on web pages or high resolution production in brochures.

"This is a long-term project with very significant benefits for the university," he said.

For more information on the project, phone Chris Stacey on 3365 2430.





# Prentice's cable guys know the uni inside and out

**After 15 years of laying cables, there's not much this team of technicians hasn't seen.**

Crawling through tunnels under the Great Court and squeezing through ceilings is all part of the job for the technicians who install and maintain University of Queensland's computer network.

Network Installation and Maintenance Section manager Brian McCormick said for the past 15 years the team of six had been laying cables across the network.

**"This cat was found a few years ago and because the tunnel is sealed and fairly dry, the cat was completely mummified — it was amazing."**

"Many staff know us because we are the guys climbing on their desks, moving their furniture around and poking our heads through the roof," he said.

Since the installation of optic fibre cable began 11 years ago, the 'Cable Guys' have laid more than 60km of line but their biggest job yet is the current installation at the new General Purpose South building, due for completion next month.

The information technology-intensive building has about 3000 connections.

The team's longest serving member is technical officer Lloyd Fischle, who was recruited from Telecom in 1981 to set up the University's own data and telephone network.

Lloyd said the most interesting job he had worked on was providing computer connections to more than 1000 college rooms.

The optic fibre cables between university buildings gives users the fastest and safest cable possible.

"The trouble with copper cable is its tendency for interference, especially during

electrical storms," Lloyd said.

"Prentice co-director Graham Rees made a break-through discovery when he designed the voltage differential line transceiver in the early 1980s and that revolutionised cable installation."

But the most gnawing problem for the installers is rats.

"Rats need to grind their teeth constantly, because if they don't the teeth keep growing and the rat can't feed — but their appetite for cables is a big problems for us," Brian said.

Repairing rodent damage is an ongoing job for Prentice maintenance crews.

But encountering rats on the job is not nearly as daunting for Lloyd as a mummified cat which was discovered in the Great Court tunnel.

"When the Great Court was completed about 40 years ago, the designers included

**Since the installation of optic fibre cable began 11 years ago, the 'Cable Guys' have laid more than 60km of line around the St Lucia campus.**

power, telephone and sewerage lines which made it all accessible from secured points.

"This cat was found a few years ago and because the tunnel is sealed and fairly dry, the cat was completely mummified — it was amazing."

Although a self-funded division, the Network Installation and Maintenance section offers quality work at prices below outside contractors.

**Phone Brian McCormick for more information on 3365 4166 or 0412 278 709.**



*Prentice Centre's Network Installation and Maintenance workers know the St Lucia campus from top to bottom.*

## did you know

### about Prentice Centre's conference services?

Prentice offers complete presentation services for anyone organising or presenting at a conference.

Our services include

- audiovisual equipment
- web page design
- video production and copying
- digital photography
- printing, copying and scanning
- graphic design

**Phone Charles Costanza on 3365 9078**

**[editiomedial]**

*The Prentice Bulletin is published by EditioMedia. Phone Suzanne Oxford on 0413 875 806.*



## Photographic passion fuels Carl's work by day and by night

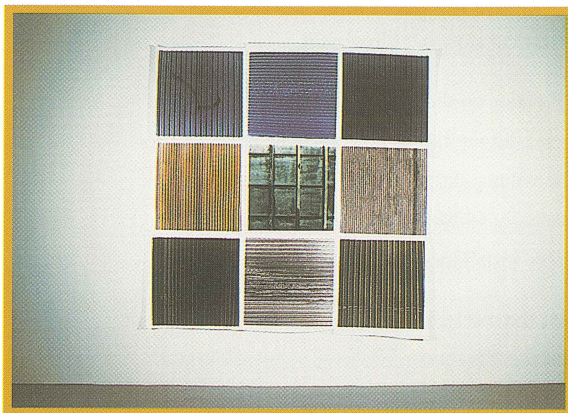
Only a fortunate few have the opportunity to combine their passion and their work, but for Prentice Centre photographer and freelance artist Carl Warner the blend is perfect.

Carl, who describes himself as a photographic artist, was invited to exhibit his industrial images, A

*Concrete Pasture*, at the University Art Museum from March to May.

In one of the four spaces Carl used three drop-screens of calligraphy-type paper to depict three ink jet images of concrete pylons.

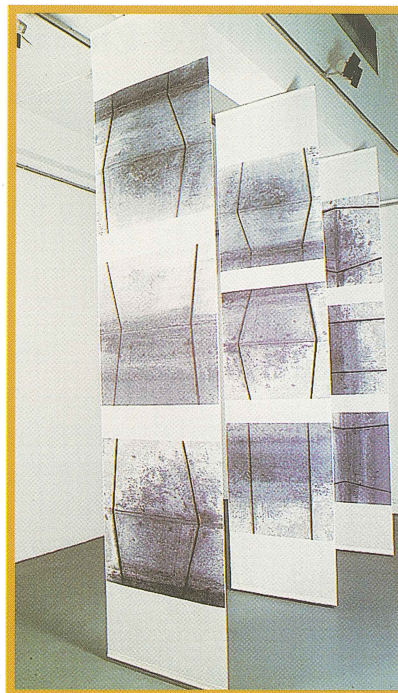
"The paper is virtually translucent and the



*Carl draws his inspiration for his art from industrial images and materials. Above is one example of his work.*

viewer walked around the centrally placed screens - these diaphanous forms are a far cry from the heavy original object," he said.

Carl says photography is the process of transforming a thing into an image - concrete to paper to light.



*The gentle images in Chris' collection are a far cry from the heavy, gritty reality of industrial zones.*

A wooden factory wall, roller doors and unframed photographs of industrial sites were the inspiration for another three exhibition spaces.

During the past 10 years, Carl has exhibited in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Cairns.

His works appear in the Queensland Art Gallery, Artbank, Brisbane City Gallery and the Ipswich Regional Gallery.

When Prentice Centre clients want something 'arty' or unusual, Carl often gets the job.

"My Prentice work gives me the opportunity to familiarise myself with technology and then corrupt it to my purposes."

He used photographs of the University's sandstone walls to design a backdrop for the Law Faculty web site.

"At Prentice I primarily work on producing slides and prints and design Powerpoint presentations."

**For that special presentation, contact Carl Warner on 3365 7561 or email [c.warner@prentice.uq.edu.au](mailto:c.warner@prentice.uq.edu.au)**



### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Tried and true tips for getting the most out of your computer

*by Jane Wilson, computer education officer*

This number is actually a field. If you click on it, it will get a grey box around it.

(To delete a field, drag across it with your mouse so that the text goes white, then press the delete key.)

To display the total number of pages in your document you need to add another field:

- Choose insert field from the insert menu.
- Select document information from the list on the left hand side and then choose NumPages from the list on the right hand side. Click on OK.

For more information, contact Jane on 3365 4292 or email [jane@cc.uq.edu.au](mailto:jane@cc.uq.edu.au)

Our website is <http://prentice.uq.edu.au/education>

#### POWERPOINT

Slides look best if you choose a dark background with light coloured text.

Overheads look best if you use a light background with dark text.

#### WORD 6/7/97

To insert an automatic page number in the header or footer of your document:

- Choose headers and footers from the view menu
- Click on the first button on the header/footer toolbar to change to the footer (if required).
- Click on the white button with the blue #.

This inserts an automatic number at the insertion point.