



Macquarie University Hospital opens

A new era in healthcare

Alum Brian Heath

Life in the danger zone

Mount Isa lead contamination

Local mining the cause

Equity scholarships

Helping our students succeed

BROTHERS IN ARTS

A donation by Andrew Birch brings his late brother's artwork to Macquarie

FROM THE VC's desk



Macquarie University's goal is to be recognised as a world-leading university in research, scholarship and teaching.

But without hard work and financial investment such words are merely empty public relations jargon.

I want to assure you that we are doing all that it takes to reach our goals.

All told, we are pumping one billion dollars into creating great facilities for students, staff and the public – new classrooms, laboratories, research spaces, a state-of-the-art library, sport and recreation, and many other projects.

I'd like to draw your attention to the article on page 10 which focuses on one of these projects: the Macquarie University Hospital, signalling the start of a new era in health care.

As the first private teaching hospital on a university campus in Australia, it will combine excellence in clinical care, medical education and research. As the article rightly notes, "this hospital is like no other".

Also set to be completed in the next few months is the multi-million dollar library, specially designed to help students, scholars and researchers to learn and to develop their skills. Constructed to high levels of sustainability, it will operate 24/7 and utilise robotic technology in the storage and delivery of books, journals and the like.

Other projects soon to come on stream include the development of the Hearing Hub and the Cochlear building, world-class facilities designed to help experts to understand and treat hearing, speech and language disorders.

Work was recently completed on new science laboratories and a Faculty of Arts building designed for teaching and research in film, television, radio and multimedia; and general refurbishments to existing buildings and student accommodation continue.

Last year the Macquarie University Train Station opened for business, and today thousands of students, staff and members of the public take advantage of the connections it provides to the City and nearby suburbs. Getting to and from the University has never been easier.

To see and hear for yourselves, go to my video blog at www.vc.mq.edu.au/vblog/detail.php?id=31 where you can watch an online guided tour of many of our new projects. You can also use the video blog to comment on what you've seen.

Professor Steven Schwartz
Vice-Chancellor
Macquarie University

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matters

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Executive Editor

Mark Williams

Publications Manager

Jayne Denshire

Editor

Fiona Crawford

Designer

Anne Marleen Hissink

Contributors

Lyn Danninger, Shelley Dempsey, Margaret Jakovac, Caroline Jenkins, Christine Paul, Michael Romei, Rachel Sullivan, Josh Wakerman, Greg Welsh

Cover Image

Effy Alexakis

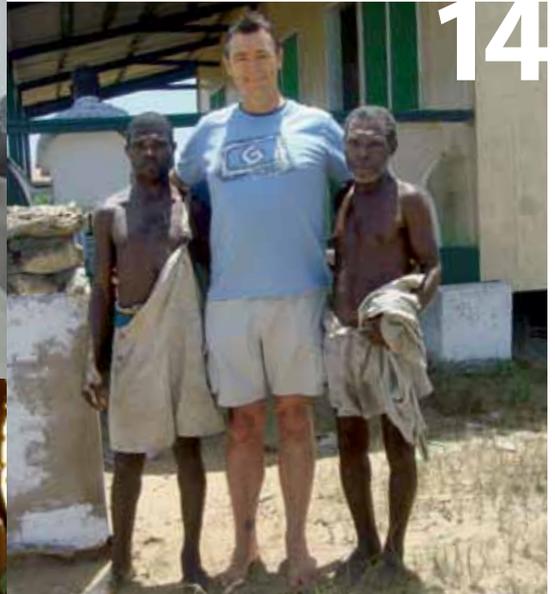
For further information about the Office of Institutional Advancement, to update your contact details or to subscribe to *Macquarie Matters*, visit our website:
www.mq.edu.au/advancement

For editorial queries, contact:
macquarie.matters@mq.edu.au
Phone +61 2 9850 1393

If you prefer to receive your copy of the magazine in electronic form, contact us via our website.

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Andrew Birch donates a selection of his late brother Stephen's art to Macquarie.

Tough times don't last.

Macquarie alum Brian Heath is a man who will never die thinking 'if only...'. Conquering all manner of obstacles in the pursuit of his ambitions, Heath has spent the best part of the last five years living his dream in some of the roughest and most dangerous places on earth.

Heath wanted a job that challenged him every single day; one that had him wanting to dive out of bed each morning; one that bore little resemblance to the traditional 9-5. An alum of the Macquarie Graduate School of Management – he graduated with an MBA in 2003 – Heath needed to live and breathe his dream. After much perseverance he achieved it, though it wasn't the fantasy most would expect.

For Heath, it was the brutal reality of a war-torn Iraq that he sought. After working for almost nothing with orphans and lawyers in Latin America for a year and completing a six-month stint in the London hospitality business, he was able to secure a position on the executive committee for Orascom Telecom Iraqna in Baghdad. It was a move that was rife with danger, but one that Heath tackled head on.

"I assessed the risks before I went, did my will, made my mind up about committing to it and decided, 'what the heck, you only live once'," says Heath, whose fearless attitude is a core component in his strongly held belief that you should always stick to your life game plan, regardless of the obstacles.

"It was an opportunity of a lifetime. It was fascinating to get a first-hand account of a different culture in combination with it being a war zone and place of intense political activity. But I set myself some pretty clear personal guidelines about safety and being kidnapped after some incidents; carry a 9mm pistol at all times, to use it if necessary, to make the decision to not go without a fight and not to end up in an orange jump suit on Al Jazeera."

Heath now feels more comfortable discussing his experiences in Iraq, having left the country in April 2008 after living there for



Brian Heath is living a life most of us could not even begin to comprehend, but it's a life that has taken him around the globe.

three years. The move was prompted by the hostile takeover of Orascom Telecom, but Heath claims that despite being unable to move around without a bodyguard, the constant risk of ambush and continuous explosions, he could have remained there for another 12–18 months.

"The grade of international people you meet in terms of their attitude and spirit of adventure is unrivalled, as opposed to working at home," reveals Heath, who cites having dinner with Ramsey Clark – the former US Attorney General and Saddam Hussein's defense attorney – as one of many unforgettable experiences. In addition to this, he was also involved in assisting many of his Iraqi employees in leaving the country by writing scholarship references, using his own money to pay for necessities or additional skills training, and organising immigration applications.

Heath says he would have been happy to go to any of the "final frontiers" – from North Korea, to Iran, to Burma – and regrets having missed out on a position he applied for in Afghanistan.

Following his intense experience in Iraq, Heath took some time off to clear his head and re-organise his life. He spent time in Panama, put some final touches on his website (www.chimdingo.com) and returned to Australia and New Zealand to visit family. But he also kept his foot in the employment pool, knowing he would face significant hurdles in the wake of the global financial crisis.

"I had interviews – all at my own cost – in Panama, El Salvador, Mexico, London and surrounds," says Heath. "I had some offers but they were withdrawn as the spiral worsened. Agents were clutching

Tough people do



at straws, no one had budgets, and the news in London every day was gloom and despair.

"During this time I drew upon the confidence and belief in myself in that if I could manage to do a difficult MBA in a short period, then I should be able to do most things. I just reminded myself that I had the backing of an MBA from a respected institution. It had opened international doors for me previously, so I knew I'd be ok."

After what had proved to be a very tough year for Heath, his patience and positive attitude saw him once again land on his feet. A former contact from Iraq contacted him and encouraged him to come to Ghana and work with some friends – albeit for very little financial reward.

"I was helping in a private security company doing a due diligence, some forensic accounting, re-branding and general turn-around," he says. "I was also doing some project management around property development and writing a few strategic reports and business development bids for people. I was basically doing this for free with the expectation that there would be some equity or bonus profits in the future, and living off a shoe-string at my mate's house."

Heath is currently occupying the role of acting general manager at DiscoveryTel Communications, and says that doing business in West Africa can be extremely challenging.

"The Ghanaian cedi has devalued from near par to about 1.45 to the US dollar, and attracting foreign investments can be difficult. Interest rates for businesses are prohibitive, ranging anywhere from 12–35 per cent, and obtaining loans without a bank guarantee or assets to secure it is virtually impossible."

Heath admits he is keen to relocate from Ghana by the end of 2010, but for now, has no plans to return to Australia permanently. Ideally he hopes to be able to move to Panama/Latin America, where he can work in management consultancy and raise enough funds to establish a bar in Panama.

"I had a lot of spare time in Iraq, so I conceived the plan for this and did all the writing and design work prototypes," he explains. "I have gradually been taking all the steps along the way, even though

"If I succeed, I succeed. If I fail, I fail. But at least I tried, and I'll never die wondering."

sometimes I am considered a little mad, though that is more because people haven't been to Casco Viejo in Panama.

"As I told friends, there is no going back. If I succeed, I succeed. If I fail, I fail. But at least I tried, and I'll never die wondering."

This is the sentiment that has defined Heath's life, and one that he would encourage more people within his industry, as well as outside it, to adopt.

"Stick to your personal plan and dreams and work your career around that," he says. "Some people get lucky, however, for a lot of us, for whatever reason and often beyond our control, it just doesn't go according to plan. So then you need to concentrate on your core competencies and be prepared to take a few chances.

"I'm basically an average guy, reasonably intelligent, and fundamentally pretty shy. So if I can do it and achieve even some moderate success and my small dream, anyone can. Never give up." ■



MACQUARIE
UNIVERSITY

SYDNEY ~ AUSTRALIA

Balaclava Road, North Ryde, Sydney, Australia
Telephone +61 2 9850 7111, Facsimile +61 2 9850 7433
Macquarie University CRICOS Provider Number 00002J

www.mq.edu.au/advancement