



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday, 6 September 2005

### **CAN QUEENSLAND OUST THEIR SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURS TO TAKE OUT THE 2005 AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY GAMES?**

With the Australian University Games returning to their original host city in 2005, will the Queenslanders be ready to hoist their Southern neighbours from the winners' podium and take out the overall championship trophy?

Commencing on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, the Games return to Brisbane after first being held in the River City in 1993. Ever since then, the champion title has been dominated by The University of Sydney taking out the Games seven times, the University of Melbourne twice and University of Wollongong and Monash University each taking out overall winner bragging rights once each.

Expected to field their largest team ever, Queensland University of Technology will have over 360 students competing in every event except the Basketball, Australian Rules, Women's Badminton, Softball, Kendo and Diving competitions.

Overall winners at the Northern University Games in Cairns in July, QUT team manager Karen Bucholz is confident they have the goods to put up a tough competition.

"Team moral is high especially after our win in Cairns at the regionals where many of our teams then became number one seeds for the nationals.

"To win the AUS Games would be the pinnacle especially for all the hard work the Sport Office and team manager's have done this year with recruitment, but a top 5 would be a good goal," said Bucholz.

Also ready to take on the Southerners and great local rivals of QUT, The University of Queensland will be out to take advantage of the home town Games with the St Lucia campus hosting the Athletics, Soccer and Volleyball competitions.



The University will field a large team with over 340 competitors ready to win gold. Not set on defending their 2005 AUG Athletics reign, team manager Megan Walker said the team is ready to pounce into a top three finish with very competitive teams in all but four events.

“Team UQ is looking for a big performance from all our teams and would really like to continue on from our successfully 2nd place at NUG with a top three overall finish at AUG, which is our best chance because it is in Brisbane,” said Walker.

Team UQ’s chances has been boosted with the inclusion of a number of world class athletes including Athens Olympian Robert Newbery (Diving), current world cup number one ranked triathlete Anabelle Luxford who will compete in the 5,000m athletics race and cycling’s road race, and rower Sam Conrad who recently took gold at the World Rowing Championships in Japan.

With over 6,000 competitors set to converge on Brisbane, the 2005 AUG will be the largest yet with 26 sports to be decided over six days, commencing with a spectacular Opening Ceremony at South Bank’s Piazza from 6:30pm on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> of September.

*For further information please contact Toni Bush, Australian University Sport on (07) 3832 9874 or 0403 182 089.*

