



Staying connected: Students using the Mobile Learning Kit, right, and creator Deb Polson.



Milking education out of mobiles

It might look like they are playing with their mobile phones, but high school students are learning like they never have before with a new game designed by QUT researchers. The Mobile Learning Kit, or "MILK", is a unique SMS treasure hunt game that uses simple web and mobile technologies to connect students with curriculum in everyday environments. MILK has been so successful in helping students learn, it was named a top three finalist in the International Handheld Learning innovation competition.



Plato for the playground

Teaching philosophy to primary students has been so revolutionary for one Brisbane school that QUT will undertake a nation-first step by adding the subject to its Bachelor of Education degree. Buranda State School, in Brisbane's inner south, was transformed when principal Lynne Hinton, a 2007 Outstanding Alumni Award winner, added philosophy to the school's curriculum 10 years ago. Evidence that teaching philosophy has made a positive difference to the school's numeracy and literacy standards has prompted QUT to make philosophy part of the early childhood and primary strands of the QUT Bachelor of Education from 2009.



Jamming robot puts the rhythm into algorithm

Professional and aspiring musicians may soon have an alternative to worn-out, inflexible karaoke-style backing tracks and drum machines with a new digital program created at QUT. Creative industries PhD researcher Toby Gifford has created an artificial musical accompanist, called Jambot, which can listen to music and improvise musical rhythms and melodies to it. Mr Gifford is expecting to complete his PhD next year and will look at the commercialisation of Jambot after that.