

QUT 1985-1992

From a purely academic perspective my Bachelor of Applied Science in Physics and Masters in Medical Physics, both undertaken at QUT's Gardens Point campus, represent my most fulfilling times as a developing student, and the academic awards received from the time carry much personal satisfaction. Even with some questionable 70s style architecture which has since been rejuvenated, the campus setting adjacent to the Botanical Gardens and the Brisbane River memorably added to a most enjoyable educational experience.



QUT's Medical Physics program was then by far the leading program of its kind in Australia, and it is arguably still the leader. The Physics Department waved the flag of being a "University for the Real World" long before the well-known advertising campaign came into existence and had its own particle accelerator for nuclear physics experiments. The particle accelerator sadly has long been decommissioned and existed well before the now almost commonplace instalment of modern (but quite different) particle accelerators within hospital Nuclear Medicine departments. Using the accelerator I was fortunate to undertake an interesting and "impacting" (pardon the physics pun) neutron bombardment project with biological connectedness, in the form of neutron activation analysis in phantom (i.e., thankfully pretend) mice. I was actually the first QUT Medical Physics student to be employed within the Physical Sciences Department of the Royal Brisbane Hospital/Queensland Health. Some might consider the Department's Director at the time as quite imposing if not infamous, obviously complex institutionalised politics abound in any large Government health entity and for a balanced perspective one must consider opinions from a range of detractors and supporters to present fair commentary. However, I believe it fair to say that several in the local Medical Physics scene of my generation and older may well attribute significance to the perceived employment barrier elimination and how it paved the way for many QUT Medical Physics graduates to follow.

Directly following my Bachelor's degree and prior to my Master's degree I followed in my Sister's footsteps by completing a Graduate Diploma of Teaching at McAuley College (now the Australian Catholic University) in 1988. One of the photos below is from an early teaching video. It was a great time for graduations, here on the right is my Sister's in 1985 (University of Queensland) and mine in 1992:

