

FACULTY CITATION

AWARD WINNER

*For sustained commitment
to encouraging and
stimulating active learning
through
authentic tasks and
learner-centred
environments in
environmental economics*

**DR PETER GRIGGS, SENIOR LECTURER
FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**

What does being acknowledged by JCU and your peers for influencing students' learning through your teaching practice mean to you on a professional level, and on a personal level?

Being recognised as someone who has influenced student learning through my teaching practice is personally very rewarding, especially as it reinforces that the University values good teaching. I appreciate being recognised for doing a good job in teaching students.

You have a rich teaching career and valuable experiences that have shaped your teaching style, but what drives you to teach well?

My main motivation to teach well comes from being taught very poorly in several classes as an undergraduate during late 1970s. I was determined that if I ever taught at university, I would try and ensure that my students would be taught in an engaging manner so that the classroom experience was a joy, instead of an ordeal that contributed little to their understanding of the subject material being covered. I also enjoy teaching. Everyone says that research is creative, but designing interesting, varied and engaging teaching activities is creative and sometimes challenging.

In what way has student feedback regarding the way in which students experience your teaching style, informed your teaching practice?

Student feedback has been vital in assisting the evolution of my teaching style. Having students tell you (either formally or informally) what works, what they like in classroom activities and where lectures/tutorials need improving or the activities are unclear has underpinned the development of my teaching of environmental economics. Receiving positive feedback from students about the use of learner-centered activities and real-world scenarios encouraged me to persist in using these strategies in my teaching.

What are some of your current research interests?

My research interests fall into the broad areas of agricultural and environmental history and historical geography. Currently, my long-term goal is to write a book on the environmental history of Queensland since European settlement in the 1820s. Presently, I am writing a paper titled "Protecting the pastoralists: marsupial, dingo and fox destruction in Queensland, 1877-1930". This paper is about the state-sanctioned slaughter of millions of animals in Queensland to enable pastoralism to flourish and the abuses of the system that was set up to pay the scalpers who killed the animals.



Dr Peter Griggs - 2011 Faculty Citation Award Winner