



International College of Dentists

Australasian Section

Newsletter

EDITOR N. HENRY

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INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE MEETINGS 1996-1997

It has long been acknowledged that there is a need for more frequent opportunities for fellows to meet and to hold additional induction ceremonies outside the convocations held at the time of Australian Dental Congresses. To fulfil this need, three meetings have been arranged for fellows and their partners in 1996 with small induction ceremonies to accompany them. Regent Geoff Hall will host a meeting to be held in Adelaide on Friday May 3rd. President Don Heffron has organised a dinner (vide the Presidents message) in Sydney on Friday August 2nd. The New Zealand Biennial Meeting at Rotorua in September 1996 will be the venue of the Third function with an accompanying induction ceremony. In mid 1997, it is hoped to hold a meeting of those fellows who will be attending the Third Darwin Dental Convention. All fellows and their partners who can attend any or all of these meetings will be welcomed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I sometimes hear expressed the question, 'What does the college do?'. Such queries occur as, like most of our Fellows, the college is a quiet achiever seeking neither fame nor publicity. It does not produce new graduates or embark on research... It does try to encourage an appreciation of quality in dental service and ethical practice. It also helps in areas where the geography imposes education problems or the provision of comprehensive dental services is still in the early stages of development. A consolidated list of our projects over the past decade is quite impressive. The recent completion of a project of student exchange reported in this newsletter is one example as was the bringing of our two Fijian Fellows to our National Congress to advance their knowledge, and then be able to take this knowledge back to the subsequent meeting in Fiji.

The convocations held at each National Congress have always been well attended and successful, but they are limiting in that they are generally 3 years apart and some of our Specialist Fellows primarily attend Specialist Congresses. As the Perth Congress is not until 1998 the College is holding a number of local meetings in 1996 which should allow many more of our Fellows to attend. Firstly, Regent Geoff Hall is going to organise a function on May 3rd in Adelaide when our South Australian Fellows and their partners can meet as a local group and any inductions can be processed.

Similarly on 2nd August, in Sydney, Dame Leonie Kramer has graciously accepted our invitation to attend and to provide the occasional address at an induction and dinner function. In September at the New Zealand Biennial Conference being held in Rotorua a convocation, induction and luncheon meeting will be held. These always prove to be excellent and successful meetings; our New Zealand hosts being most generous in their organisation and hospitality.

Our Editor will provide more information about these in our next

newsletter, but if these involve your area, or you will be travelling to one of these areas in 1996, pencil in the dates now. To our Fellows recently elected at the Tasmanian meeting these functions will provide a wonderful opportunity to meet their peers in the most pleasant of ways.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

As at 31st July 1995, the membership of the Australasian Section stood at 360, an increase of some 14 over the previous year, and includes 60 Fellows from New Zealand and 2 from Fiji. Since the last Newsletter, life membership has been granted to the following Fellows:

Dr A Robert Carter
Dr Maurice W Dingle
Dr The Hon. Derek Freeman AM
Dr Fred R Henning
Dr John F Irwin
Dr Graham J Mount AM
Dr Andrew E Vern-Barnett AM MBE

Fellow Dr John Muller has been honoured with an Award in the Order of Australia.

The Australasian Section has offered to sponsor one day or two half day lectures at the 1998 Australian Dental Association Congress in Perth and also forwards journals and reference books to the Fijian Dental and Medical School, including the donation of an annual subscription to the Australian Dental Journal. In order to provide an opportunity for Fellows to meet and for induction of new Fellows, the Section will be holding Formal Dinners in both Sydney, on 2nd August 1996, and Adelaide, on 3rd May 1996. There will also be a Luncheon and Induction ceremony in Rotorua in September 1996 at the New Zealand Dental Association Conference. The next scheduled Convocation will be held in conjunction with the Australian Dental Congress in Perth in March 1998.

DENTAL STUDENTS OVERSEAS ELECTIVE PROGRAMME

This programme organised by the A.D.A.'s Education Committee comprised of a 4 week stay at the Prince Phillip Dental School, Hong Kong by 2 students, Kala Rajagopalan and Robert Stewart from Adelaide Dental School and a reverse visit to the Adelaide Faculty of Shadow Lui and Kenny Tong, two students from Hong Kong.

This first student exchange, which has proved to be a most successful project, was sponsored by the A.D.A., the University of Adelaide Alumni Association, the International College of Dentists and the Academy of Dentistry International. Dr John Booth of Adelaide who organised the programme must be congratulated on its success.

Student councillors Drs Viv Burgess and Lindsay Richards in Adelaide and Dr Eli Schwartz, associate dean of Prince Phillip Dental School in Hong Kong must be recognised for the important part they played in the student exchange.

From the summarised student reports which follow, it can be seen that all four dental students broadened their knowledge of dental study and practice and gained experience of different patients by living and learning in different dental schools, communities and cultural environments.

The Australian students, Kala Rajagopalan and Robert Stewart reported that the programme had met all of its objectives and drew attention to cultural differences that exist in densely populated Hong Kong and the increase and diversity of the

pathology that brings. The friendliness of the Hong Kong students and the co-operation of the staff made their stay very pleasant. They were impressed by the mobile Dental unit which visited the aged and handicapped homes.

They agreed that this exchange had been a terrific experience and the highlight of their undergraduate studies. They stated that the programme gave them the chance to broaden their perspective of another culture and of dentistry and that they felt proud of representing their country overseas and acting as ambassadors for future exchanges.

Shadow Lui and Kenny Tong from Hong Kong, both commented on the problem based learning which was in operation in the Adelaide Dental School and the more positive attitude of the Australian dental patients they saw. They enjoyed the visit to the private practices and were impressed with their spaciousness and design and the helpful cheerful dental assistants when compared with private dental clinics in Hong Kong.

However, they both considered Prince Phillip Dental School compared more than favourably with Adelaide especially with regard to equipment and the number of Dental Assistants available to students. They felt they had broadened their views of dentistry and increased their knowledge. They found the Australian students and staff friendly and helpful and the experience rewarding.



Left to right; Kenny Tong H.K., Kala Rajagopalan S.A., Shadow Lui H.K., Robert Stewart H.K.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

FLUORIDATION

Peter Ryan attended the Birmingham International Symposium on Fluoridation on June 1st and 2nd which was held to celebrate 50 years of water fluoridation.

An impressive list of speakers from fluoridated countries delivered papers on all aspects of fluoridation of water supplies. This was followed by a series of papers from U.S. speakers and panel discussion on the subject.

The conclusion of the meeting was that there was no substitute for water fluoridation. It was stated that supplements were not only an inappropriate method of fluoride distribution but also expensive, selective and of poor cost benefit to the community. They were a prime cause of fluorosis which was attracting supercritical attention, not from the profession, which accepts mild fluorosis but from the community which does not. It was reported that there were cheap fluoridation plants operating in small villages in Israel (600 to 1200 people) which were a novel concept in delivering water fluoridation to small communities.

It was also agreed that proliferation of concerned and conflicting local and government authorities had made the extension of water fluoridation more difficult. However water fluoridation must continue to be advocated by the profession as our most effective community dental health measure.

Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop Memorial

Ross Bastiaan, who received an A.M. for constructing and placing bronze plaques to mark Australian battlegrounds in the various countries in which Australian soldiers fought, also contributed to Dr. "Weary" Dunlop's Memorial in Melbourne.

His design for the forecourt of the memorial of 22 railway sleepers commemorating the 22,000 Australian men and women captured by the Japanese in World War 2 included railway spikes salvaged from the Burma jungle. The eight steps leading to Peter Corbett's statue of Dr. "Weary" Dunlop commemorated the 8000 POW's who died in captivity and these are faced with the names of the 121 Australian medical practitioners who tended the sick and dying men. The staircase is flanked by two of Ross Bastiaan's sculptured plaques representing the stories of Changi prison and the Burma-Thailand railway. Two further plaques tell the unique story of Weary Dunlop's life.

A brilliant design and a fine memorial to a great man - well done once again Ross and your Appeal Chairman Mr. Peter Nixon.

AROUND THE WORLD

NEW ZEALAND

Paul Swinburn has recently retired from many years of practice in his speciality of Oral Surgery. Paul will be well known to many in the region as a Past President and Member of the List of Honour of the Asian Pacific Dental Federation.

Dr Clive Ross also retired as chairman of the Dental Council of New Zealand on April 28th, 1995 after 6 years at the helm during a period of great change, a new Dental Act and regulations governing disciplinary procedures.

He was succeeded by the deputy chairman, another New Zealand Fellow, Dr David Marshall, a general practitioner from Napier. Dr Marshall has been a member of the council for 10 years and has served his community in Hawke's Bay in a number of important positions in local government and cultural affairs.

Fellow W. Marsden Bell of Auckland has been elected an Honorary Fellow of the RACDS (OMS).

At the meeting of the FDI to be held in Hong Kong in October this year Clive Ross, who became its President in 1992, will complete his term of office. It has been a productive period for FDI with a new company structure based in the UK in place and more effective publications presenting current information to the members.

At the Regional Meeting of the New Zealand Dental Association to be held in Palmerston North at the end of September this year Kevin S. Alderson will be installed as the President of the Association, Jeffrey R. Annan will be the Vice President and Stewart J. Edward will become the Honorary Treasurer.

FIJI NEWS

During August Graham Mount visited Fiji as one of the principal speakers at the Annual Fijian Dental Association Meeting.

While he was in Suva he delivered 155 kilograms of dental materials, journals and instruments to the new Dental School during a three day visit arranged by Fellow Jo Tuisuva, head of the school. This material had been donated by Michael Williams of G.C. Dental Company, Janice Pitt from 3M who supplied light curing composites from their recent promotion and the South Australian Dental Service who gave surplus handpieces and burs. Fred Henning also donated materials from his practice.

Owen Makinson and Graham Mount have developed a series of practical exercises for the Fijian students to learn how to use these new materials.

However, neither the school nor the attached public Dental clinic have curing lights at the present time. Should any fellow be able to assist with surplus curing lights, they are requested to contact the Registrar Rob Butler at the A.D.A. office in Sydney who will arrange transport of the equipment to Fiji.

The Registrar received letters from our two new Fijian Fellows expressing their appreciation of our help with their attendance at the Australian Dental Congress in Hobart.

STATE NOTES

QUEENSLAND

Past President Rupert Dingle and Alix are travelling to Europe and Canada on an extensive overseas trip to see old College friends and great grandchildren.

Bruce Kidd from Cairns is State President of the Queensland Branch. Keith Eriksen from Townsville is recovering from major cancer surgery and Mike Bennett formally of Innisfail is building a new home in Redlynch in Cairns.

John Muller who is President of the Dental Alumni, recently hosted alumni meetings in North Queensland. On behalf of the Dental Alumni he presented the Dental School library with new computers for their multi-media centre.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Preparations are underway for the third Darwin Dental Convention which is planned for mid 1997. The chairman of the organising committee, Fellow Kerry Eupene hopes that the convention will provide an opportunity for College members to meet and visit Darwin. Remember that the College was instrumental in initiating the first convention in 1984 through Bob Norton.

For more information contact the secretary Dr Fred Mitchell. GPO Box 4046, Darwin 0801.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

An induction ceremony for Fellows and partners is to be held in Adelaide at the Adelaide Club on Friday 3rd May 1996. This is an advance notice to mark your diaries.

It is sad to report that Fred Henning has retired following a stroke from which he is recovering slowly.

Fellows Graham Mount, Kevin Allen and John McIntyre accompanied Dr Hien Ngo on a one and half day visit to the Institute of Dentistry at Hanoi, Vietnam on route to the I.A.D.R. meeting in Singapore in July. They gave lectures and practical courses to staff and students.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The 29th Australian Dental Association Congress will be held in Perth in March 1998. The planning for this meeting is already underway, under the chairmanship of Fellow Dick Cook. Other Fellows involved with the Congress Committee are John Owen. Stuart Gairns. (Vice-Presidents), Peter McKerracher (Secretary) and Patrick Colgan (ex-officio as an Executive Officer of the Australian Dental Association).

It is interesting to reflect that the last National Congress to be held in Perth was in 1973. At that time the following Fellows were actively involved: Ken Sutherland AM(President) Bob Tuner (Secretary) Brian Atkinson (Treasurer) Denis Cosgrove and Peter McKerracher (Scientific Programme Chairman and Deputy respectively).

Fellow Patrick Colgan was elected an Honorary Life Member of the Australian Dental Association (W.A. Branch) for his outstanding service to Dentistry and to the Association in this State.

Fellow Bruce Barlett was recently awarded the Distinguished Service Award of the Australian Dental Association (W.A. Branch) for his long and varied Service to the Profession in W.A.

Fellow John Owen, President of Western Australian Branch returned recently from climbing K2 in Pakistan. He reckons that climbing 6000 metres in -20 degrees Celsius is a cakewalk compared to modern clinical practice and the management of the Western Australian Branch.



The Australian Dinner Table group at the F.D.I., Vancouver, October 1994

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