SYDNEY SCIENTIFIC MEETING & DINNER

Following the successful induction and dinner meeting held in Melbourne last August, it has been decided to hold a dinner meeting in Sydney on Friday July 21st at the Hotel Inter-Continental. We have been fortunate to secure Dr. Stephen Chen as our lecturer for the preceding scientific session.

This will be the only college function in this Olympic year and will provide an opportunity to meet college friends before our next Triennial Convocation on Friday 4th May 2001 at the 30th Australian Dental Congress in Brisbane.

Also this Newsletter pays a well deserved tribute to Master Fellow Syd Dobbin AM who became our second International President at the World ICD meeting in Chile last October.

Sadly we farewell six of our Fellows who lost battles with cancer since our last issue.

Also we congratulate John Southwick AM and Geoff Heithersay on their prestigious awards.

THE PRESIDENT
This year is a special and historical one in the life of the Australasian Section of the College. In November 1999 Dr. Sydenham Dobbin AM was elected President of the International College of Dentists at the World Wide Council Meeting of the College held in Santiago, Chile. Dr. Dobbin is only the second Australian to hold this prestigious position, the first being Dr. Gordon Rowell in 1978, and we congratulate him on this well deserved honour. He has given outstanding service over many years to dentistry and to the International College at both National and International levels, and this recognition is just reward for his efforts.

In recent years the Section has been extremely active in assisting projects aimed at improving the delivery of much needed dental services to our near neighbours in the Pacific region. Several of our Fellows have been and still are involved in providing further teaching aids, giving up their valuable time to visit these areas to run courses and conduct workshops, to implement Public Oral Health Programmes and to provide educational material to local teaching and nursing staff. The Board is dedicated to continuing this support, particularly where much initial work has already been achieved and is most grateful to these Fellows for their remarkable efforts and continued enthusiasm.

A half day lecture programme sponsored by the College will be presented by Dr. Stephen Chen in Sydney in July to be followed by a dinner. Please support the College and make this a successful occasion.

GEOFFREY HALL.

REGISTRAR’S REPORT

The membership of the Australasian Section of the College stands at 413. The Section includes 63 Fellows from New Zealand, 1 resident in Malaysia, 1 from South Africa, 2 from Fiji and 1 from Papua New Guinea.

Following the success of the Induction Ceremony and Dinner in August last year in Melbourne the College will this year be holding an Induction Ceremony for new Fellows in Sydney on 21st July 2000 (see separate notice in this Newsletter). One Fellow of the Australasian Section, Dr. JT Barnard of South Africa, was inducted into the College at a Ceremony in Mexico City in October 1999.

The Australasian Section has been involved in support of activities in a number of Pacific countries. Reference Journals and funding for dental instruments and materials have been funded for Papua New Guinea. Dr. John Southwick was sponsored in a visit to the Solomon Islands late last year and a report on this visit appears also in this Newsletter.

Student exchange programmes have been sponsored between the Dental Schools in Brisbane and Fiji and the Section has contributed further funding for equipment to the Fiji School.

The next scheduled Convocation of the College will be held in Brisbane in May 2001, in conjunction with the Australian Dental Congress and it is hoped to hold a College Luncheon during the New Zealand Dental Association meeting in October this year.

ROBERT J F BUTLER.

AUSTRALIAN PRESIDENT OF ICD

Dr. Sydenham Dobbin AM of Yass was elected President of the International College of Dentists at the World Wide Council Meeting of the College in Santiago, Chile, in November 1999.

Syd Dobbin served with the RAAF and RAF in Australia and overseas as a Spitfire pilot in World War 11. After the war he enrolled in the Dental Faculty, University of Sydney and graduated in 1950. After a two year short service commission in the Army, he left for private practice in Yass New South Wales.

He was very active in civic affairs, being elected to the Yass Municipal Council in 1953 and serving on Council for 30 years, during which time he was the Mayor for nine terms. Dr. Dobbin was responsible for the introduction of fluoridation into the local water supply in 1956, Yass being the first mainland Australian town to fully fluoride its water supply.

He was President of the Southern Tablelands group of the NSW Branch of the Australian Dental Association for a time and in 1972, was invited to Fellowship of the International College of Dentists. He served on the Board of Regents of the Australasian Section for 15 years, was President for three years and has been the World Councillor for the Australasian Section of the College for the past five years, being elevated to the rank of Master of the College. In 1986, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia, for service to dentistry and the community.

Dr. Dobbin’s dedication to education and service has been exemplified over many years. He has managed to find time to lecture on the efficiency of water fluoridation in many States of Australia, and on preventive dentistry in countries such as Western Samoa, Cook Islands and Singapore. In 1990, Dr. Dobbin delivered a paper at the first educational meeting of the International College of Dentists in Singapore. He was responsible for much-needed aid to Samoa following the country’s devastating cyclone and has been instrumental in arranging aid to other Pacific island countries.

Dr. Dobbin still enjoys a busy practising life in Yass and looks forward to his forthcoming international role. He is quoted as saying “I feel proud and honoured as an Australian to be made President of the International College of Dentists, especially in an Australian Olympic year”.

Syd and Pat Dobbin
THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

I was invited as World President to attend the annual induction of Section 6 in New Delhi, India. It was a fascinating experience. India has 143 dental schools - some private, some Government funded. There is a certain amount of rivalry as can be expected. Despite this they have fewer members then we have in Section 8. At last count they have 369 members, and we have 421.

The induction ceremony, reception and dinner were splendidly organised, with dignity, pomp and ceremony. The President, Dr. Rafish Kakar and the Secretary General, Dr. Chandra and their wives made us most welcome and were very solicitous about our welfare.

Twenty new members were inducted. There will be no issue of the Globe this year. It will be published next year in a newer more interesting format at less cost. The money saved will be invested by a special new committee under Chairman Don Johnson, and it is hoped that within a couple of years the college will be more financial, and will be able to make donations to Sections who are under financial and have many worthy projects.

Trish and I have been invited to attend the annual meeting of Section 7 in Tokyo, Japan in May 2000. This is another section with smaller numbers, and older members.

Unfortunately this mixture will eventually see the demise of the Sections. We must keep the College principles going, and share the honour of being members by introducing younger nominees. We must aim to keep membership fees at an economic level.

S. DOBBIN A M, World President.

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOUR

for JOHN SOUTHWICK

His many friends and colleagues would have delighted to have seen the name of Dr John Southwick in the recent Australia Day Honours List. John was appointed as a Member in the Order of Australia (AM) for his services to dentistry and the professions.

John Southwick is in practice in Chatswood, Sydney and has an outstanding career which includes terms as both NSW Branch President and Federal President of the ADA. He has been a Councillor of the Dental Health Education and Research Foundation of the University of Sydney since 1980 and has also served as a Director of the Australian Dental Research Foundation.

More recently, John has served on the Executive of the Australian Council of Professions from 1991 to 1999, including election to the office of President from 1995 to 1997.

Congratulations John Southwick AM on a well deserved honour.

COLLEGE DINNER - SYDNEY - 21 JULY 2000

The Australasian Section of the College will be holding a Dinner in Sydney on Friday 21 July 2000, at the Hotel Inter-Continental, following the success of similar events held in various States on an annual basis. It is hoped that a number of candidates will be inducted as Fellows at this Dinner. On the afternoon of this date, Fellow Dr Stephen Chen, a Melbourne specialist and popular lecturer will be presenting an afternoon lecture series. Attendance at the lectures will be free of charge for Fellows.

Mark the date in your diary now. All Fellows will receive details of these events by mail in due course.

ICD NEWS FOR NEW ZEALAND

Last November New Zealand had a change of government from National to Labour, and the new government is congratulated on keeping the promise made to review dental student fees at the University of Otago. This year the fees have been made comparable to those of medical students and will save dental students about $11,000 per year. Past students will not be getting a refund, however.

Another change promised, that will not be so popular, is to change the recently privatised accident compensation insurance back to a state monopoly. The NZDA is against this policy.

Fellow Stuart J Edwards was, last October, elected as President of the NZDA and Fellow David Crum is Vice-President.

The International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons has honoured Fellow Marsden Bell with the Associations Distinguished Service Award in recognition of many years service, contributions as a Membership Chairman, role on the Foundation, and his position in the Asian Association.

We congratulate our Fellows on their achievements.

Plan for an ICD luncheon at the Biennial Meeting in Dunedin October 4th to 8th this year.

CLIVE ROSS.

THE LOUIS I. GROSSMAN AWARD

The American Association of Endodontists (AAE) has recently announced that it will be awarding the Louis I Grossman Award for the year 2000 to Dr Geoffrey S Heithersay AO of Adelaide Australia.

The Louis I Grossman Award is given to an AAE member for cumulative publication of significant research studies which have made an extraordinary contribution to endodontology. This is a very prestigious award as it has only been presented on 14 occasions during the 56 year history of the AAE. The list of recipients is truly a list of the great pioneers and endodontic researchers. Dr Heithersay has been recognised for his many publications throughout his career and particularly for his most recent work on invasive root resorption. It is a special honour for Geoff to be recognised in this way by the American Association of Endodontists as Geoff has conducted his research on a part-time basis whilst still maintaining a busy private practice and carrying out numerous teaching duties at the University of Adelaide. It is also a special occasion for Australian endodontics to be recognised in this way. Congratulations Dr Heithersay!

REPORT OF A VISIT TO THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

The purpose of the visit was to assist the Solomon Island Dental Service in the establishment of a comprehensive DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMME.

This programme was planned several years ago following visits by members of the "Dental Care to Share" group of dental academics from the University of Adelaide. At that time, there were four Dentists and eleven Therapists responsible for dental health maintenance amongst the 450,000 population of the Solomons Islands. As might be expected, these staff, which were mostly located in Honiara, had little time to deal with the dental emergencies. Consequently, staff had little time to plan or implement preventive action. Also, there were almost no dental services available in regional areas outside the capital.

The Dental Care to Share group asked how they might best assist the SI dental staff. The outcome was a plan to:-

- Provide regular updating workshops for dental staff
- Supply recent copies of dental texts and journals
- Assist with the introduction of a three tiered programme of public health dentistry over the next five to ten years.

This program is planned in three parts:

Stage I. An Oral Health Education campaign targeted at children and families, delivered by trained teachers and nurses.

Stage II A public health dental carries control program through fluoridation.

Stage III. Support with the establishment of a School Dental Service.

Stage I of this programme is well advanced, with draft Oral Health Information manuals, teaching charts, worksheets and OHE Posters having been prepared for both the Education and Nursing sectors.

Stage II is progressing, with permission given to trial fluoridated rice in two villages.

On this visit we conducted workshops with SI Dental Service Staff on methods of:-

- providing Oral Health Education instruction to Teachers and Nurses, using the prepared teaching resource material.
- Conducting fluoridated rice trials
- Carrying out a National Oral Health Survey, to enable monitoring of outcomes to be carried out over the next ten years
- Re-establishing the School Dental Service

We met with senior Government Officials in Health and Education, and the Australian High Commission AUSAID staff to report on progress to date in the implementation of the Public Oral Health Programme, and to re-confirm that they are satisfied with the approach being used.

The programme is proceeding successfully, and already has had quite an impact on morale of the staff. The Government has sent an extra ten people to Fiji for training as Dentists or Dental Therapists. It is expected that the OHE programme will be implemented throughout the whole SI by the end of 2001, and that a fluoridated rice trial and establishment of the first School Dental Clinic will be possible also by that time.
I wish to sincerely thank the College for its financial support for the air fare for this visit, and look forward to the further support from College Fellows with dental texts, journals and financial contributions over the coming years.

DR. JOHN McINTYRE

STUDENT OVERSEAS EXCHANGE - FSM/UQDS

September 1999 saw the completion of the Student Exchange programme between the School of Oral Health of the Fiji School of Medicine and the University of Queensland Dental School. This project was supported by the International College, the Academy of Dentistry International, ADA, Delta Sigma Fraternity and the Queensland Dental Alumni. It was a very successful exchange, and a good project.

In April/May 1999 two U O D A students Penelope Murphy and Justin Darby spent a fortnight at the School of Oral Health in Fiji and its outlying clinics. They have submitted quite detailed and very interesting reports of their experiences in Fiji which are available from the Registrar and which I commend to you. They both learned a lot of good dentistry particularly in the field of community Oral Health and obtained some invaluable experience in exodontia and Oral Surgery. They also made some good friends and made a significant contribution culturally and dentally to the exchange. Their comments with regard to conditions and equipment at the School of Dentistry and the community clinics are enlightening.

During the first two weeks in September, the two final year BDS students from Fiji, Apakula Sororu and Pio Koroi attended the Dental School in Brisbane. They were hosted there by Dr. Rod Marshall Stier Naco, a Fijian based at the school and the two Queensland students who had visited Fiji. They attended lectures with year 4 students and clinics with year 5. Also they attended Oral pathology seminars and the fracture unit at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. They enjoyed their exposure to the complex prosthodontics and orthodontics but felt it would be some time before these skills would be of much use in Fiji.

They stated that the trip was very educational and that their exposure to the advanced technology and equipment in the Brisbane Dental School would motivate them to improve dental services and treatment in Fiji.

DR. PATRICK CLAVER COMISKEY 1929 - 2000

Patrick Claver Comiskey passed away on the 22nd February. During the two long years of his illness, he displayed exemplary patience, courage and acceptance of his situation.

Pat was born in Gladstone, Queensland on 25th February 1929 and was educated at the Rockhampton Christian Brothers College, passing the senior examination in 1946. He was awarded a State Government Fellowship to study dentistry and graduated in January 1951. His first appointment was as dentist in charge of the Dawson Valley Hospital Dental Clinics.

In 1954, he moved to Toowoomba where he became dentist in charge of the Toowoomba Hospital Dental Clinic, and met the woman who was to become his wife, Carmel. They married in October 1956 and later moved to Broken Hill where Pat was staff dentist and acting superintendent of the Mines Dental Clinic. In 1959, he became an associate of Ted Cook in private practice in Renmark.

A growing family of four girls prompted the Comiskes to return, in 1963, to Toowoomba, where Pat again joined staff of the Hospital Dental Clinic. Those were happy days, and the Comiskes were blessed with two more children, both boys.

Pat’s acknowledged strengths in dentistry were in both the clinical and academic areas. In 1972, he gained, by examination, his fellowship in the Royal College of Dental Surgeons. In 1973, he was appointed Senior Dentist of the School Dental Service and when the School Dental Therapist Training Centre was set up, he became Principal of the Therapist Training Centre. Later he was appointed Principal Dental Officer - Training. The professional standards he set in that position made possible the successful implementation of the Commonwealth Dental Health Scheme throughout Queensland.

In 1982, he became Deputy Director of Dental Services, with responsibilities in both the Hospital and School Dental Services. This afforded him the opportunity to travel throughout the country Queensland, an area that he loved. On the retirement of the then Director in 1989, he was appointed to that position and became President of the Dental Board. He retired in August 1991.

Throughout his career, Pat held a strong conviction in the value of public health dentistry.

He was a staunch supporter of the Australian Dental Association, and during his years in Brisbane he attended every Annual Dinner until illness prevented him from doing so.

He was a quiet achiever, a loyal friend, a loving husband and an extremely proud father.

He had an innate ability to give support and to receive support from his co-workers, all of whom remember him fondly.

BRUCE JOHN WATERS BDS FICD 1935 - 1999

The sudden passing of Bruce, only a few months after his retirement this year, was accompanied by sorrow and a sense of loss by his family and a wide circle of friends, including other retirees looking forward to sharing some of those leisure hours that Bruce had earned after a lifetime in dentistry.

Bruce attended Cavendish Road State School in Coorparoo and completed his secondary schooling at Church of England Grammar School. During his four years at the University of Queensland he was involved in student affairs, graduating in 1958. Like other Queensland Government fellowship holders he worked in the State Government dental clinics for five years, doing his ‘time’ in Cloncurry, and then Ingham and Rockhampton.

It was in Ingham he met up with Keith Eriksen, starting a lifetime friendship involving Apex clubs and membership of the International College of Dentists.

In 1963 he joined Sydney graduate Max Tomkins in Townsville where he raised his family and spent the rest of his career. The practice expanded, partners including Terry McCarthy Rob McNab, Brian Creedy and many associates over the years, who have gone on the bigger and better things.

He and Max visited the mining town of Mary Kathleen on a regular basis from Townsville to run the clinic there until the mine closed.

He was a keen supporter of the ADA, and a regular attendee at Australian and overseas conventions, and, of course, the North Queensland conventions.

His family - Joan and children Jai, Sue and David, were his greatest joy in life and he was busy insillling his love of books and literature into his grandson William when illness prevailed. He loved squash and the surf. The annual family migration to the Gold Coast to celebrate Christmas with relations and friends was a tradition valued by all fortunate to be part of it.

His determination and dedication were driven by an obligation to do what he saw as right. He was probably the only person in Townsville who went to work the morning cyclone Aithea hit.

He was comforted in the last weeks by daily visits from Bishop Lewis, a long time leader of Bruce’s church, and even at the end the word ‘complain’ wasn’t in his vocabulary.

His life was one of enthusiasm, search for knowledge and care for his fellow man – ideal qualifications for his chosen career.

DR. ERNEST WAGNER MBE 1908 - 1999

A long and important chapter in the history of dentistry in Queensland has closed with the death on 11th September of Dr. Ernest Wagner, an Honorary Life Member and Past President of the Australian Dental Association (Qld Branch).

Dr. Wagner was born in 1908 one of a large family, his father being well known as the headmaster of Ironside State Primary School for many years. He was educated at Brisbane Grammar School and later apprenticed to Dr. Cedric Barnes, one of Brisbane’s leading dentists. His formal education in dentistry was completed at the Queensland College of Dentistry from which he received his Diploma (LDQ) with distinction in 1929.

After graduation Ernest established a practice at Toowoong where he built up a reputation as an excellent practitioner particularly in prosthetic dentistry. After World War 11 he transferred his practice to the City and for several years practiced in association with Dr Keith Brain.

Always keen to further his education, Ernest Wagner was partly instrumental in forming the Dental Study Club of Brisbane in 1939, the first of such to be formed in Australia. He twice served as this Study Club’s President and was elected a Life Member of the Club in 1979.

Ernest’s life long interest has been prosthetic dentistry, in which discipline he worked to become a master, a teacher, and for many of his patients, a saviour. He was instrumental in introducing overseas lecturers to
A dedicated family man with a long history of service to his community, Arthur was a popular and willing helper to his many study clubs and musical societies and anyone else who sought his assistance. He was an outstanding Australian Dentist who will be sadly missed by colleagues and patients. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife, Millicent, his three sons, daughter and grandchildren.

HUGH DALEY KENNARE A.M. 1925 – 1999

The late Hugh Kennare had a most distinguished and varied career. His schooldays in the years before the war were spent at Christian Brothers College in Wakefield Street, Adelaide. During the 1939-45 war he served in the South West Pacific with the 79 Fighter Squadron of the RAAF.

On discharge he commenced the Dental Course at the University of Adelaide. He had a most distinguished academic career culminating in his being Dox of the course in final year. In the years which followed he conducted a very successful practice in Adelaide.

Leaving this he and his family went to Papua New Guinea where he worked at a dental clinic at Wewak. He spent two years there before returning to Adelaide to spend a short period in private practice.

He then commenced what was to be the most significant period of his professional life. He was put in charge of the Hedging School Dental Service which he built up to a most impressive organisation.

Children from all over the State were seen, many of whom would otherwise never have received dental care. The emphasis was on education and prevention. To assist in this, an army of School Dental Therapists had to be trained and a training school was established, at first in Hindmarsh Square and later at Somerton Park. The success of the SA School Dental Service was such that it attracted recognition both nationally and internationally.

Dr. Kennare’s service was acknowledged by an award within the Order of Australia.

Hugh’s years of retirement were spent at Victor Harbor where he was able to give time to his other passion – music.

Hugh Kennare was an enthusiast. His enthusiasm was infectious and it infected all who came into contact with him. He created a School Dental Service of loyal and dedicated followers. His work lives after him.

To his wife and family we extend our most sincere sympathy.

DR. JOHN REGINALD GOODHART 1947 – 2000

John Goodhart passed away suddenly on the 7th of January while on holidays in London.

John had a distinguished career in the field of Prosthodontics. After graduating from the University of Adelaide in 1970 he obtained his M.Sc from the Eastman Dental Institute in London.

His appointment in 1974 as Senior Dentist and later Senior Specialist Dental Consultant at the Adelaide Dental Hospital brought him into contact with many students and post graduate trainees. He maintained his appointment and contact with trainees throughout his career.

John attended St Peters College from 1952 – 1955 and enjoyed success academically and excelled in sporting achievement especially in rowing, swimming and football. He continued his football career playing for University of Adelaide making all Australian selection.

John was a fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons serving as examiner for the college for several years. In further recognition of his services to Dentistry he was inducted as a Fellow of the International College of Dentists in 1996 and in 1998 as a member of the Academy of Dentistry International. He was also a member of the Academy of Australian and New Zealand Prosthodontists, the Australian Prosthodontic Society and the Australian Dental Association.

John was a keen supporter of post graduate education and provided many practical thought provoking courses over the last 20 years.

John passionately loved the profession of Dentistry and maintained a very busy specialist practice. He was absolutely dedicated to the wellbeing of his patients. He was always available to colleagues for help and advice. John Goodhart was a very special person loved and respected by all who knew him. His contribution to Dentistry has been enormous and his loss will affect all of us.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his beloved wife Tji daughter Devi, his Mother and family.