



International College of Dentists Australasian Section

Newsletter

Issue Number 19, March 2003

President's message

The International College

We are all Fellows of the International College of Dentists and this year we have a unique opportunity to attend an international meeting of both world dentistry and the College in Sydney in September.

The last time there was a World Dental Congress in Australia was in 1973 in Sydney and the last time the International Council of the College met here was in May 1988 under the President Francisus Lankhof. Rupert Dingle was the Australasian President at that time.

So this is the least expensive world dental meeting you will see for some time and I hope that many of you will avail yourselves of this opportunity to meet and greet your fellow dentists from other countries.

The Australasian Section of the College is now approaching its 40th anniversary, so we have a growing number of life members who are mostly retired and do not attend dental congresses. With this in mind I am arranging a dinner at the United Service Club in Brisbane on Tuesday evening May 13 2003, so our Queensland Fellows and their partners can get together, renew old friendships and tell the old stories once again.

Fellows from other States who find the venue and timing attractive will be most welcome too. In this newsletter there is an attendance slip to be completed and returned with your dinner subscription to our Registrar, Braham Pearlman (PO Box 520, St Leonards NSW 1590), who has the facility to process credit card payments should you wish to use this form of payment. I look forward to hearing from you all by the end of April.

Neil Henry
President



Registrar's report

Membership

The Australasian Section continues to thrive. 16 new Fellows were inducted in 2002; 11 in Melbourne in May and five in Auckland in September. The forthcoming International meeting of the ICD in Sydney in September of this year has generated much activity, and it is likely that 30 to 40 new Fellows will be inducted at that major Convocation.

Life Membership

I suspect that many Fellows are unaware of the criteria for award of Life Membership status. It is important to appreciate that, under the Regulations of the ICD, it is the prerogative, in fact the obligation, of the individual Fellow to make application for Life Membership on his or her own behalf. The conditions are laid down in By-Laws: the Fellow must have been a Fellow of the ICD for at least 10 years, and has (a) bona fide retired from practice, or (b) has reached the age of 70 years.

Applications should be made to the Registrar:

Email: brahamp@bigpond.com

Post: 10 Michael Cr, Valentine NSW 2280.

Obituary

We have received news of the passing of a most distinguished Fellow, Bruce Lindsay of Adelaide. Bruce was born in 1916, and following his schooling at St Peter's College where he excelled both academically and in sport, he entered Dental School in Adelaide, graduating with a BDS in 1939. He enlisted in the RAAF as a Dental Officer, served in the North West Pacific, and rose to the rank of Squadron Leader. Bruce entered practice in Adelaide at war's end, but soon recommenced study. He received his MDS in 1950 and then studied medicine, graduating with a MB BS in 1956. Following post-graduate studies in the UK, in particular at East Grinstead under Terence Ward, he set up in Adelaide as that city's first specialist Oral Surgeon. Bruce served the dental community in many capacities, particularly as President of the ADA SA

President:
Treasurer:
Regents:

Neil Henry AM
Gerald R Dickinson
Gerald R Dickinson, Richard G Cook AM, Clive B Ross CNZM, Peter Noble

Past President:
International Councillor:

Geoffrey C Hall AM
Geoffrey C Hall AM

Vice President:
Editor:
Registrar:

Robert Butler
Robert Butler
Braham Pearlman

Branch, and as President of the Australasian Association of OMFS. Bruce Lindsay was awarded a Fellowship of the ICD in 1962 in recognition of his outstanding career and contribution to Dentistry.

Change of details

I appeal to Fellows to communicate your changes of address and/or practice status so that Newsletters and notices can be sent out accurately.

Fellows Honoured

Two Fellows of the ICD were awarded the Medal (OAM) in the Order of Australia, General Division, in the 2003 Australia Day Honours list:

Harold Alexander Noble (Tamworth NSW) for service to the community of the New England region, particularly through health service organizations.

Leo Peter Ryan (Clayfield Qld) for service to dentistry, particularly through the promotion of oral health education and fluoridation of public water supplies, and through the Queensland Branch of the ADA.

Peter Barnard has been made a Fellow of Sydney University.

The Section congratulates those Fellows for their well deserved awards.

International Meeting

The International Meeting of the ICD in Sydney in September, in association with the FDI World Dental Congress is shaping to be a spectacular and appealing Convocation. Information on the meeting is available elsewhere in this bulletin, and I urge Fellows to take the opportunity to meet, not only their local colleagues, but to make new contacts with overseas Fellows from many parts.

Braham Pearlman
Registrar

ICD dinner in Brisbane

The Board of Regents has followed a policy of staging ICD functions in various States to facilitate the attendance of Fellows resident in that State. These functions, of course, are open to all Fellows and interstate attendees and their guests are most welcome.

The next such event will be held in the form of a President's Reception and Dinner on Tuesday, 13 May 2003, at the United Service Club in Brisbane. The Dress is Lounge Suit and the cost is \$60, per head. RSVP: to the Registrar by 9 May 2003.

An attendance slip is included with this Newsletter for your responses.

Important date

The Convocation and Luncheon of the Australasian Section of the College will be held at the Star City Ballroom, Sydney, at 11.15 am on Wednesday, 17 September 2003. A registration slip will be mailed with the next Newsletter but make sure you have this in your diary now. The cost will be \$75 / head and partners of Fellows are welcome. The International President of the College, Dr Minoru Horiuchi, will be in attendance, as will other international dignitaries.

Fellows in office

ICD Fellows in this Section continue to feature prominently throughout the profession.

- Dr David Houghton has been elected as Federal President of the Australian Dental Association.
- Dr David Crum is the President of the New Zealand Dental Association and is soon to take up the position of Executive Director.
- Dr Peter Alldritt has been elected as President of the Australian Dental Association (South Australian) Branch.
- Dr P Hugo Sachs has been elected as President of the Australian Dental Association (New South Wales) Branch.
- Dr Ross Bastiaan OAM RFD is now the President of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons.
- Dr Rick Olive has been elected President of the Australian Dental Council.
- Dr Brent Stanley is President of the New Zealand Dental Council.
- Dr Robin Whyman, previously Executive Director of the New Zealand Dental Association, has moved across the Tasman and taken up the appointment as General Manager (Clinical Services) for Dental Health Services Victoria.
- Dr Karen Brook has been elected President of the New Zealand Association of Orthodontists.
- Dr Peter Noblet, immediate past president of the Australian Dental Council, has been awarded Life Membership of the Australian Dental Association (South Australian Branch).

A unique media release!

As mentioned in the Registrar's Report, Fellow Peter Ryan was honoured in the recent Australia Day Honours List. Typically of Peter's dedication to the health of the community, he has used this occasion to highlight the lack of progress in achieving fluoridation of the Brisbane water supplies, by issuing the following media release.

My Australia Day Award of an OAM is probably the least deserved of all those awarded.

Whilst the others were awarded as a reward for achievement, mine was awarded for lack of achieving water fluoridation for Queensland.

It might, therefore, be better described as a Failure Day Award.

The award does reflect well on the caring profession of Dentistry and, by the same token, reflects poorly on our State Parliament which alone amongst all the Australian states has consistently and adamantly refused to embrace this important public health preventive measure, recently described by the New England Journal of Medicine as one of ten great achievements in public health of the twentieth century.

There is little doubt that inadequate legislation is the prime cause of Queensland's lethargy in introducing what is the cornerstone of preventive dentistry. The Act in Queensland specifies that it is local authorities who, by jumping through a series of hoops including a referendum on the subject, may move to introduce the measure. On the other hand, they are allowed simply to remove it on a whim.

The Royal Commissioner into the Fluoridation of Water Supplies stated, "fluoridation ... should not be left to local authorities. It is a matter for the decision of Parliament. A referendum as a means of arriving at this decision is not only without constitutional warrant but is highly unsuitable as well. It follows ... that to refer the matter to a forum both technically incompetent and constitutionally incapable would constitute an abrogation of Parliament's responsibility."

The Queensland Parliament has abrogated this responsibility.

There is no stated intention or desire to correct the anomaly. No political party in Queensland includes fluoridation in its

health policy. The Parliament is happy to state that 'the buck starts here' and devolve its responsibility to the local authorities who are forced by legislation to pass the buck, happily enough in many cases, to the comfort of a referendum.

All the political participants thereby remain relaxed and comfortable and all the caring professions are left to deal with the fallout that an incurable disease brings. As usual, it is the poor and deprived, the vulnerable, the very young and the very old, the indigenous and the uncared for who suffer the most from their loss of protection.

My hope, vain though it may be, is that recognition of this problem by the committee of the Australia Day Awards, by awarding an OAM, may initiate moves in our Parliament to bring Queensland into line with the rest of the country. I am not holding my breath until it comes about.

Each of these awards, while concentrating on a single 'sung hero', includes a host of unsung heroes. I would long ago, for example, have given up the fight for equitable health care for our community, were it not for the wholehearted support of my professional colleagues. This has been and continues to be a team effort.

Well done, Peter.

Elections

There will be an election for the Board of Regents of the College in July this year and a postal ballot will be conducted, if necessary. The relevant By-Law of the College requires that:

- '12 (a) The Board of Regents shall be composed of seven members elected by postal vote to include at least one Regent from each of New Zealand, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia.
- (b) Nominations for the Board of Regents suitably seconded must be submitted in writing to the Registrar at least sixty days prior to the General Meeting.'

(The 'General Meeting' will be the Convocation of the College held on Wednesday 17 September 2003.)

International ICD meetings in Sydney

The ICD will be conducting its International Council Meeting in Sydney in the days preceding the FDI World Dental Congress in September 2003.

These business meetings for the Council will take place on Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 September and there will be a Dinner at the Hotel Intercontinental on the evening of Monday 15 September.

Of particular interest will be the College's Convocation and Luncheon on Wednesday 17 September at the Star City Ballroom at Darling Harbour. A large number of new Australian Fellows will be inducted at this function. Guests are welcome. Please note this date in your diary now. Further details will be provided in due course.

Life Membership

A Fellow in good standing may apply to be elected to Life Membership if the Fellow has been a member for at least 10 years and has (a) bona fide retired from practice or (b) has reached the age of 70 years. See the Registrar's report for further information.

FDI World Dental Congress

The FDI World Dental Congress will be held at Darling Harbour in Sydney from 18-21 September 2003. As detailed elsewhere, the Congress will be associated with the international ICD meetings and social events which will precede it.

Australian dentists will be provided with a unique opportunity to attend a World Dental Congress on their own doorstep. Apart from the opportunity to mix with their overseas colleagues in an exciting social programme, the Congress will also offer a scientific programme of a standard not normally able to be offered in this country. The programme will include the latest scientific and clinical information on a range of issues; from minimally invasive treatment of dental caries to regenerated tissue engineering; from the latest treatments of sports injuries to current infection control procedures.

In the Exhibition Halls adjoining the Convention Centre, the FDI 2003 World Dental Trade Exhibition will showcase the latest advances and innovations in dentistry and provide opportunities for delegates to test recently released products and acquaint themselves with new treatment techniques and procedures.

An array of social, sporting and accompanying person programmes have been organized to take advantage of the beauty and diverse cultures of Sydney.

Early indications have been given of a very high level of interest from overseas delegates and hotels are filling up. The discount for 'early bird' registrations concludes on 30 April and it is suggested that those intending to register do so now to take advantage of this discount and to ensure accommodation. Registration forms are available from:

FDI Congress Managers

GPO Box 128

SYDNEY NSW 2001

Tel: + 61 2 9248 0800

Fax: + 61 2 9248 0894

Email: dental@tourhosts.com.au

Or, you can register online at:

www.tourhosts.com.au/fdi

Whereabouts unknown

The assistance of Fellows is requested in locating contact details for the following Fellows, whose mail has been returned.

N Egan (ACT)
MS Godfrey (Vic)
PP Gray (NSW)
EF Simpson (NZ)
E Weir (NSW)



President's Reception and Dinner

Venue: United Service Club,
82 Wickham Terrace, Brisbane
Date: 6.30pm, Tuesday May 13 2003
Cost: \$60 per head
Dress: Lounge suit

I, _____ will / won't be attending the ICD dinner at the
United Services Club on Tuesday 13 May 2003. I will be accompanied by _____

Preferred First Name

Surname

I enclose a cheque (made out to International College of Dentists) / credit card details for \$ _____

Credit Card details:

MasterCard Visa Expiry date: ___ / ___

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Please return by 9 May 2003 to:
Dr Braham Pearlman
Registrar
PO Box 520
ST LEONARDS NSW 1590