Past President’s message

We have recently seen a most successful Convocation in Adelaide in March, in which a large number of new Fellows were inducted into the College, who were attending the Australian Dental Congress. The event was very well attended, including many Fellows from interstate. Following the formal Convocation, we enjoyed an excellent luncheon which had been organised by our South Australian Regents.

As reported at the Convocation and elsewhere, the College continues to be a source of funding for philanthropic projects in this area of the world and we remain open to proposals from Fellows for assistance in such endeavours. Of course, the College-funded activities are just part of the efforts of our Fellows who, as leaders of the profession, are involved in a number of projects in South East Asia and the Pacific. It is the duty and privilege of this section of the College to provide grants to assist such endeavours.

By the time you read this, Dr Clive Ross will have been installed as your President for the next two years. Clive conducts a specialist restorative practice in Auckland city and has had a most eminent career in Dentistry. It is difficult to summarise his outstanding curriculum vitae, and do it justice, due to the high number of professional highlights. He has served his profession with distinction, both in New Zealand and internationally. A past Chairman of Council of the New Zealand Dental Association, he also chaired the New Zealand Dental Council for six years. He has been chosen to serve on a number of Government committees and statutory bodies and was honoured by the Queen, in 1998, with the distinguished award of Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit. Internationally, he has served on a number of dental committees and working groups and his international career received the highest approbation with his election to the Presidency of the FDI World Dental Federation in 1991. The Australasian Section of the International College of Dentists is indeed honoured to have such an individual to serve as its President and I wish him well for his period of office.

On a personal note, it has been a privilege to preside over this Section of the College and I thank you for your support. I would like to thank, in particular, the Board of Regents who are responsible for the ongoing organisation of the College, which relies on the efforts of a small number of volunteers to organise functions, manage its finances, review requests for aid projects, liaise with our head office in the USA, publish our Newsletter, deal with correspondence and maintain our data base of Fellows. Whilst I am loathe to single out any one of our hardworking Regents, I must give special thanks to our Registrar, Braham Pearlman, for his diligent organisation during my term of office.

Your membership of this organisation, as a Fellow, denotes your potential or function as a leader of the profession. Please continue your efforts to ensure that our dental standards remain at their highest level.

Registrar’s Report

The Australasian Section of the ICD continues to flourish. Our numbers are the highest in our history, with a total of 500 Fellows. That includes 339 Active Fellows, of whom 40 are from New Zealand, and 4 are residents of South East Asia and the Pacific. Life members number 136 in all, of whom 25 are New Zealanders.

The Section is sad to note the recent passing of Dr Robert Sharp AM, a Life Member, previously of the RAAF, in which he had a distinguished career.

The most recent Convocation of the Section was held in Adelaide, in conjunction with the Australian Dental Association Congress in March of this year. It was an outstanding success, with some 160 Fellows and partners attending the Convocation at which 35 New Fellows were inducted. The meeting was held in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, a sumptuous venue, which was maintained in the President’s lunch following the formal proceedings.

The Convocation was marked by a change of Office Bearers, noted elsewhere in this Newsletter. Dr Rob Butler has headed the Section for two years with his customary excellence of leadership and efficiency of administration.
In fact his time of office was extended prematurely, when he was obliged to step in at short notice to conduct the International Meeting in Sydney in 2004, because the then President, Dr Neil Henry AM was unavailable due to illness. Neil has subsequently made a full recovery and has only recently retired from the Board of Regents.

The next Australian Dental Association Congress is scheduled for Sydney in March 2007, and as customary, a full Convocation of the Section will be organised in association with that meeting. However, there are likely to be two Convocations held in 2006: one in Wellington, New Zealand, in conjunction with the New Zealand Dental Association Biennial Congress, and possibly a Melbourne meeting, at the time of the ADA Victorian Branch meeting/ADIA Exhibition in late April.

Regional fellowship meetings are always well attended. A particularly successful evening was held in Adelaide recently, staged by the two South Australian Regents, Peter Noblet and Geoff Hall. A series of short presentations by Fellows involved in overseas aid projects intrigued and fascinated those fortunate enough to be in the audience. A Queensland regional meeting is in the planning.

Lastly, a Registrar's recurring lament: a plea to Fellows to let the new Registrar know of any significant changes in your own or other Fellows' circumstances - changes of address, honours received, life changes, including the final one.

Dr Braham Pearlman
Retiring Registrar, Australasian Section ICD

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**ICD Australasian Section has a new Registrar**

Dr Jackie Robinson of Sydney was elected Registrar of the College's Australasian Section at the meeting of Regents on 4th March.

Fellows are asked to direct changes in their contact details to Jackie via one of the following addresses:-

Email: jackie_robinson@iinet.net.au or

10 Bendtree Way
Castle Hill, NSW 2154
telephone: (02) 8850 0546

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**Editorial Notice**

The Newsletter editor welcomes contributions from fellows which can be sent to:-

8th Floor
68 St Georges Tce
PERTH WA 6000 (Hard copy)
OR
dick@orthodonticclinic.com.au
(emailled copy -photographs acceptable)

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**Email Addresses**

In common with many organisations, the Australasian Section of the ICD can foresee cost savings and increased convenience to fellows by electronic distribution of the Newsletter.

While this may not happen in the life of the current Board of Regents it is planned to add emails of fellows to the address database.

To this end fellows are asked to forward their email addresses to either of the above addresses to start this process.

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**Oral Health Project Support**

The Australasian Section of the International College of Dentists supports many worthwhile oral health related projects throughout the Asia-Pacific Region. Due to the increasing number of requests for ICD support, criteria have been introduced to assist the Board of Regents in comparing the wide variety of requests and to assist the Board in making informed decisions on which projects can be supported. The Board seeks to support those projects which are most likely to achieve a sustainable improvement in oral health and which, of course, are within the financial means of the Section to support.

For further information or to request an application for ICD project sponsorship, please contact the Registrar - email: jackie_robinson@iinet.net.au.

All requests for project support will be considered at the annual ICD Board of Regents meeting.

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**Promotion for one of our Fellows in the Army Reserve**

Dr Janet Scott (her title in civilian life) has been promoted to the position of Commanding Officer of the Third Health Support Battalion, which is a field hospital.

Lieutenant Colonel Scott has also been promoted to the rank of Colonel and is the first Reserve Dental Officer to be promoted to Colonel in a non-consultative position.

She is the first dentist to command a Health Support Battalion and the first female in the Royal Australian Army Dental Corps to be promoted to Colonel.

Colonel Scott was commissioned in the Army Reserve in 1982 as a Captain in the 4th Field Dental Unit and since has had an outstanding career rising through the ranks to her last posting as the Senior Health Officer, 9th Brigade, at Keswick Barracks, Adelaide.

Colonel Scott was a recipient of a Prince of Wales Award and served as Honorary Aide-de-Camp to the Governor of South Australia from 1992 to 1998.

She is a specialist maxillo-facial surgeon and has her own private practice in Adelaide.
**Queensland Fellows Dinner - May 2005**

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

A dinner has been organized in Brisbane at the United Services Club 182 Wickham Terrace on Friday 13 May 2005. It will be held in the Moreton Room from 7.00pm. The dress is lounge suit and the cost will be $70.00 a head. For further information please contact:-

Dr. David Thomson, Craigston, 217 Wickham Terrace Brisbane 4000 (Tel: 07 3236 9477) or Dr Neil Henry, P.O. Box 18, Wynnum QLD 4178 (Tel: 07 3396 1233) by 6 May 2005.

**ICD Adelaide Dinner Nov 2004**

A very successful dinner for South Australian Fellows and their partners was held in November 2004 at the Adelaide Club. Some sixty people attended including the then President of the College, Rob Butler who addressed the gathering.

Apart from being a very pleasant social occasion, the dinner created an opportunity for fellows to informally discuss the role and relevance of the College.

After dinner, four local fellows spoke briefly about their professional commitment in another country.

Bob Jones with respect to surgical training in Bangladesh

- Colin Twelftree relating to his involvement with an orphanage in Vietnam.

- Hien Ngo with regard to dental education at Ho Chi Minh City Dental School and finally

- Terry Yuen about his role as coordinator of the Lions East Timor Dental Project.

All the speakers were quite inspirational and deserve the support and admiration of the College and its fellows.

**Lions’ East Timor Dental Project by Terry Yuen March 2005**

I first went to East Timor in Year 2000. There was only one dental clinic providing extraction services.

Lions Clubs donated $25,000.00 and Lions East Timor Dental Project was born in Year 2001.

A modern dental clinic was established at Policlinic PAS, a suburban community clinic in Dili. The clinic is situated at Becora about 3 km from the city centre. It is equipped with a mobile dental chair and a mobile ADEC cart with high speed, slow speed and ultrasonic scaler. There are a mobile suction unit and a mobile dental light. The equipment can be packed into the back of a car for an outreach service to the remote villages.

The program supports the employment of an East Timorese Dental Nurse who runs the clinic on a day to day basis. Australian dentists visit the clinic once every 3 months to teach and mentor the Dental Nurse and also discuss the role and relevance of the College.

The challenge for the Australian dental profession is to maintain the support on a long-term basis.