



International College of Dentists Australasian Section

Newsletter

Issue Number 33, November 2010

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Since the last newsletter the Convocation and Induction Ceremony of the College was held in Christchurch, NZ on 19th of August 2010 during the NZDA Conference.

International President Dr. Manfred Seidemann of Chile attended the Board meeting and gave the keynote address at the Convocation.

The Convocation was well attended and 22 new Fellows were inducted (6 in absentia). I thank the NZDA for their assistance in hosting the Convocation, particularly our newest Regent David Crum for his contribution.

We and the NZDA were fortunate with the dates chosen, given the destruction which occurred in Christchurch two weeks later from the earthquake. I am grateful there was no loss of life from this severe earthquake and pass on my sympathy and best wishes to all those affected.

Another sad event since the last Newsletter was the death of our Australasian Section Vice President, Dr Gerry Dickinson, on 8th August after a long battle with illness. Gerry's obituary appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

His loss to the College, and to me as a personal friend and colleague over 30 years, is significant and his wise counsel will be missed.

The Board of Regents resolved to approach Dr Keith Watkins to fill the vacancy for Victorian Regent and I am pleased to advise that Keith has accepted. He will attend his first Board meeting in Brisbane in March 2011.

The Convocation and Induction Ceremony in Brisbane during the 34th Australian Dental Congress are planned for the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre for Friday 1st April 2010. Details appear with this newsletter.

The record of the Australasian section of the college over recent years has been one of steady growth in numbers of fellows and continued performance in support of oral health related projects in the Southern Pacific area and South East Asia.

Many of these projects are driven by Fellows of the College and it is gratifying to be able to support these generous Fellows of our section of the college. The list of the projects appear in the Registrar's report.

I look forward to seeing many Fellows in Brisbane and to meeting newly inducted fellows at that meeting.

Dick Cook
President

Queen's Birthday Honours

Dr John Owen (WA) and Dr Bill Winspear (NSW) were recognised on the 2010 Queen's Birthday for their outstanding contribution to dentistry in our region over many years. We congratulate them on their well deserved recognition.

President: Dick Cook AM RFD
Treasurer: Peter Noblet AM
Registrar: Jackie Robinson

Past President:
International Council:
Regents:

Braham Pearlman
Clive Ross CNZM
David Crum, Keith Watkins

Vice President: David Thomson
Editor: Jennifer Smyth AM

REGISTRAR'S REPORT



Board with International President Manfred Seidemann

2010 Board of Regents

Richard Cook, AM, President
David Thomson, Vice President
Clive Ross, CNZM, International Councilor
Braham Pearlman, Immediate Past President
Jackie Robinson, Registrar
Peter Noblet, AM, Treasurer
David Crum, Assistant Treasurer (NZ)
Jenny Smyth, AM, Editor
Keith Watkins, Regent

Membership of the Australasian Section (Section VIII)

The Australasian Section of the International College of Dentists currently has 573 Fellows which comprises:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Active Members | 484 |
| Retired Members | 77 |
| Honorary Life Members | 9 |
| Honorary Members | 3 |

497 Fellows live in Australia; 69 in New Zealand and 7 in other parts of the world (Cambodia, Eritrea, Fiji, Malaysia, Singapore, USA).

An analysis of ages of Fellows within our Section shows a healthy balance of experience and new talent which bodes well for our future.

| Year of Birth: | Number of Fellows: |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1910 – 1919 | 5 (1%) |
| 1920 – 1929 | 42 (7%) |
| 1930 – 1939 | 75 (13%) |
| 1940 – 1949 | 164 (29%) |
| 1950 – 1959 | 182 (32%) |
| 1960 – 1969 | 81 (14%) |
| 1970 – 1979 | 14 (2%) |
| YOB unknown | 10 (2%) |

If any Fellow can advise the current addresses of the following Fellows, please notify the Registrar (jackie_robinson@iinet.net.au)

Dr R B Guise
Dr Peter E Martin
Dr Roger K Newbury

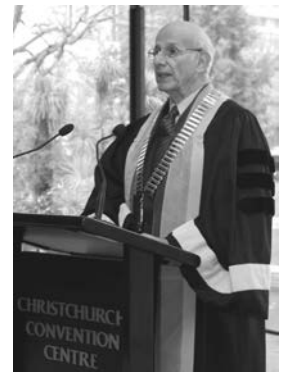
2010 Induction of New Fellows and Address by International President Manfred Seidemann

Section VIII hosted an induction ceremony and luncheon in Christchurch, New Zealand on August 19 as part of the New Zealand Dental Association Biennial Conference. The induction and luncheon were attended by 60 Fellows and guests. 16 new Fellows were inducted at the ceremony with an additional 6 new Fellows inducted in absentia.

The highlight of the Christchurch induction was the presence of International President, Manfred Seidemann.

Address by Dr Seidemann

It is a distinct privilege, a high honour and a pleasure for me to be here, in Christchurch. This day is very special and important for you and for the International College of Dentists. I truly appreciate your warm invitation and am very grateful for your kindness and hospitality, which has already made me feel very much at home with you.



The Fellows of our International College of Dentists send you their warmest greetings and best wishes. I also bring fraternal salutations and congratulations from our College's International Council and the Executive Committee. The College-at-Large is very pleased with your endeavours and your many accomplishments. It is a great honour to represent our College at this Event.

Today, we are gathered to celebrate important past and present achievements of the Australasian Section and of our International College of Dentists-at-Large. Let's start by recalling the founding of the International College of Dentists' Section VIII-Australasia. On October 12, 1963, in Atlantic City, New Jersey, U.S.A., the International Council authorized the formation of an Autonomous Section in Australia. On May 30, 1964, in Perth, Western Australia, during the Australian Dental Association Congress, International Past President Gordon Agnew delivered the Charter, inaugurating Autonomous Section VIII. Soon afterward, the Section elected its first Executive Committee, which was presided by Fellow A. Gordon Rowell.

The granting of Autonomous ICD Section Status to your territory was not a special favour. It was the result of the hard, constant and efficient work performed by the Fellows of Australia and New Zealand. The territory's elevation to Section Status constituted the rightful recognition by our College of the excellence and dedication of the Fellows and their Leadership in forming this ICD Region.

Our modern-day world is globalized. Globalization of dental knowledge was precisely the concept established and practiced 90 years ago by our College's Founding Fathers. Today, the legacy of these two idealists is a vast network of outstanding, ethical dentists to disseminate state-of-the-art, scientific and professional dental knowledge. In other words, the 11,679 ICD Fellows distributed in 101 countries, which includes you, too, dear Candidates, who in a few minutes, will become part of the unique global network of Fellows of the International College of Dentists.

The International College of Dentists has a long and fascinating history. Its unique creation can be summarized as follows: Our College was visualized in 1920 to perform two Innovative Missions: To disseminate the latest scientific information in Dentistry; and To promote cordial relations within the Profession. To fulfill its global purpose, our College implemented a singular network of select, internationally recognized, highly ethical, outstanding dental professionals with innate humanistic qualities. These are the ICD Fellows!

Initially, every country in the world, as well as every province and state of the larger countries, was to be represented by at least one Fellow. For this purpose, countries were asked to nominate the ablest, most progressive, best educated, ethical practitioners. However, this system was recognized as being too restrictive, and was modified to enable **"every highly qualified ethical dentist"** to be offered the opportunity for ICD Fellowship.

Our College definitely has a strong moral commitment to its Founding Fathers, as well as to our Profession. Our College's Expanded Objectives and strong ethical message are its bloodline. These factors continue to vigorously stimulate our College to reach areas not yet fully served by the I.C.D.

Expanding the I.C.D. to under-served geographic areas, and inviting highly qualified ethical dentists to ICD-Fellowship will lead to unprecedented improvements and achievements. Indeed, the unbroken chain of leadership that started with Louis Ottofy and Tsurukichi Okumura will bring state-of-the-art knowledge to numerous new dentists. Cordiality will be accentuated in dental profession relationships. Ultimately, the patients will be the great beneficiaries. You, my dear Friends, are the ones who can continue to transmit and build what was intended 90 years ago in Tokyo.

The ICD-Fellows' Overall Mission was clearly defined by Louis Ottofy and Tsurukichi Okumura in 1920. Today, you will become ICD-Fellows because you **"Do the right thing," not for the applause or a reward, but because it is "the right thing to do."**

Our International College of Dentists is a model organization. From the outset, it has united in Fellowship dentists of different nationalities, cultures, languages, races, ethnic origins, religions, political preferences, social backgrounds, countries and regions. Fellows are "equals among peers." The International College

of Dentists is indeed a mixture – a true "amalgam" – of distinguished, ethical, prominent professionals.

Our I.C.D. continually fosters understanding, respect and goodwill. It constantly promotes professionalism, academic pride, and Ethics. To facilitate its mission and communications, the College has an Official Language: English. Our College's actions are altruistic, with outreach programs generously and silently developed and financed by its Fellows. To satisfy its commitments, our International College of Dentists requires the active and enthusiastic participation of each one of its Fellows. Without this collaboration and commitment, our College could not carry out its noble aims. Enthusiasm and active involvement are synonymous with *ICD-Fellowship*. In this context, throughout the world, our College has many Educational and Humanitarian Projects. Indeed, Indifference and inertia are incompatible with our International College of Dentists.

Because of its uniqueness, I would also like to mention the recently launched Philippines Section's Humanitarian Project – a vigorous partnership with the Gawad Kalinga, or GK, Movement. "*Gawad Kalinga*", in the Filipino language, means "to give care".

The ICD-GK Project focuses on providing educational support to squatters or homeless people – helping them change their frame of mind and attain a stable occupation. In addition, it teaches them self-esteem and moral values. It is aimed at helping the uneducated and unskilled to learn a trade to be able to earn a decent living. Essentially, the Project gives the indigent the tools and the attitude to transform their lives and thus become useful and respected citizens. The Project also seeks to stimulate the intellectually and materially affluent to "get involved," inculcating the "pleasure of giving and caring".

The ICD-Gawad Kalinga Project's immediate objective is to assist the mendicant-homeless-migrants in taking control of their lives and in building their self-esteem. The ultimate goal is to eradicate poverty. The Project brings out the best in all of the participants, regardless of their intellectual, social and material conditions.

Today, we will be participating in a very solemn Formal Act: The Celebration of Section VIII's Induction Ceremony. We will honor and officially welcome 16 outstanding colleagues who have accepted the *Invitation to Fellowship* in our International College of Dentists. Two of these Colleagues will be granted the Distinction in absentia.

As you receive the "*Key to the College*" and the "Hand of Fellowship," you will be entrusted with the responsibility of accepting the nine Objectives of the International College of Dentists. The last three are: To preserve the history of Dentistry; To accept the responsibility to evaluate the performance of other colleagues and, if appropriate, become a sponsor for those colleagues who qualify for Fellowship; and To encourage and support projects of a humanitarian nature.

New Fellows inducted:



(Left to right):

1. Bradley P Wright, QLD
2. Soni Stephen, Surry Hills, NSW
3. Mohammed Shorab, Auckland
4. Edward Peel, Gordon, NSW
5. Sathananthan Kanagaratnam, Auckland
6. Alan Isaac, Hamilton
7. Susan Gorrie, Christchurch
8. Peter Fowler, Christchurch
9. Irene Euler-Kennedy, NSW
10. Mary Cullinan, Dunedin
11. Neil Croucher, Whangarei
12. Malcolm Coombs, NSW
13. John Boyens, Dunedin
14. Elizabeth Ashby, Christchurch
15. Jules Kieser, Dunedin
16. Morris Rapaport, Bellevue Hill, NSW

Inducted In Absentia

Helen Boocock, QLD
Peter Russell, QLD
Guy Burnett, SA
Alastair Stevenson, NSW
Tim Cutler, VIC
Paul Taylor, NSW

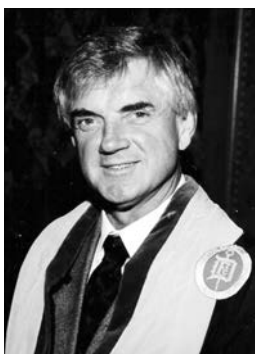
2011 Induction of New Fellows

The next induction ceremony to be held in Australia will be the evening of Friday, 1 April 2011 in Brisbane at the time of the Australian Dental Association Biennial Congress. An invitation is included with this newsletter. We hope to see you there!

OBITUARY

Gerald Richard Dickinson

MDS, FRACDS, FICD. 21/12/1940 - 9/8/2010



Gerry was born in St Arnaud, a country town in Victoria's wheat belt. In 1959 he commenced Dentistry at Melbourne University graduating in 1963. After achieving his Masters in Orthodontics in 1968, he was in specialist practice in Melbourne until his retirement.

Gerry became a Fellow of

the International College of Dentists in 1985. He subsequently served on the Board of Regents of the Australasian Section of the International College of Dentists for 12 years from 1998—2010.

Regent 1998—2001

Treasurer 2002—2005

Vice-President 2006—2010

Ill health prevented Gerry from accepting the position of President in 2008.

He was an active member of the ADA. From 1967 to 1978, Gerry served on the Fluoridation Committee of the ADAVB and, together with Gavan Oakley, was instrumental in achieving the fluoridation of Melbourne's water supplies. This is arguably the greatest Public Health measure ever seen in Melbourne. He served on the ADA's Professional Provident Fund's policy advisory committee for over two decades and in 2000 received the Branch's Distinguished Service Award for this and his work on the 1993 ADA Congress.

Gerry gave more than 30 years of continuous service to the Australian Society of Orthodontists. Commencing on the Victorian Branch executive in 1975 through to 2007 when he retired from the chair of the ASO Foundation for Research and Education. Between those years Gerry was Chairman of Congress in 1984 and ASO Federal President from 1993 to 1996. In 2006 he was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the ASO.

He was involved with the University of Melbourne first as a teacher in Anatomy and Orthodontics and later on Faculty. More recently he was a board member of the Co-operative Research Centre for Oral Health Science where he worked closely with Professor Eric Reynolds. Gerry was instrumental in recently securing a large donation which will form the nucleus of a trust fund to support the Orthodontic Chair at the Melbourne Dental School.

Married to Anne, they had 4 children and 5 grandchildren and he was proud of them all. He loved the outdoors and was a keen sportsman with skiing, cycling, running and golfing among his many interests.

Gerry made a massive contribution to the profession of Dentistry, to the International College, to the specialty of Orthodontics and to the University of Melbourne. Everything he did, he did with enthusiasm and passion. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Acknowledgements to John Armitage who provided this information.

Vale Fellows

The College also records with regret the death of Keith Eriksen a general practitioner from Queensland and the deaths of George Linn and John Hawke from Auckland, New Zealand since the publication of the last newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the recent meeting of Regents in New Zealand audited financials for 2009/10 were tabled. The College is in a sound financial position and has \$150,000 on term deposit with the CBA. The interest from this investment greatly contributes to the activities of the College. The subscriptions for the current financial year are currently being received. On behalf of the College, I would wish to express our sincere appreciation to the many generous Fellows who are making an additional donation.

PROJECT SUPPORT

As part of their 2009 membership renewals, members of our Section generously donated more than \$8,000 to support humanitarian dental projects in our Region. This allows our Section to expand the level of support we are able to offer for worthwhile projects to improve oral health and support dental education in our communities. Our Section has a particular focus on supporting dental education in Fiji and PNG for the under served South Pacific countries.

Our members are encouraged to bring to the attention of the Board projects to be considered for support. The Board will next meet in March 2011 in Brisbane and decisions will be made on allocation of funding for projects for the following 12 months. Please write to the Registrar
jackie_robinson@iinet.net.au for information about making submissions to the Board.

At the 2009 and 2010 Board meetings funding was approved for:

- Oral Health Education program in Nepal
- Travel fellowship for teaching in the Dental School in Papua, New Guinea
- Treatment of preschool children and oral health education in Long Tan, Vietnam
- Fiji School of Dentistry – financial support for member of teaching staff to accompany students to the Asia Pacific Dental Student Conference in Japan in August.

Report on the Long Tan Dental Clinic In Vietnam

Since my last report there have been two visits of Fellows to the clinic in Long Tan Vietnam. In September, Dr Simon Freezer accompanied by two hygienists and his wife spent a week at the clinic examining and

treating the local children and adults and in November Dr Greg Jaunay with his wife and another two hygienists the good work for another week. Approximately six hundred ART restorations were placed as well as dozens of extractions being performed with some anterior cosmetic restorations being placed by Greg.

Further visits will take place in November by Dr Steve Shelton, a dentist from Ballina, and in December by Dr Martin Lao, a periodontist from Adelaide. Next year in February I plan to visit the clinic again to do a little bit of work and monitor the progress that has been achieved.

This year AVVRG completed the building of a kindergarten at Nui Dat where the Task Force was based during the war. The People's Committee of Ba Ria /Vung Tau Province have asked us to treat the children attending the kindergarten and naturally we have acceded to their request. As always, the AVVRG gratefully acknowledges the support of the College in helping us provide dental treatment to the villagers of Long Tan.

Colin Twelftree

The Fiji School of Dentistry

The Australasian Section of the College is committed to provide support to the Fiji School of Dentistry. In 2008/2009 funding was provided by the College to assist with endodontic education of a graduate from the School, Dr Arpana Devi and in 2010 funding was provided to Dr Anumala to accompany students to the Asia Pacific Dental Students Association Congress held in Japan.

Dr Braham Pearlman, Regent and Past President of the Section recently visited the School and below is his report followed by reports from Dr Devi and Dr Anumala.

Report by Dr Pearlman

The BDS program at the Fiji School of Medicine was inaugurated in 1993. Its first cohort graduated in 1997. Whilst the School is by now an established Fijian Government educational institution, it still suffers shortcomings in staffing, funding and facilities.

Deborah and I caught the early air service from Nadi to Suva on Wednesday August 25th. It is only a short flight of about twenty minutes by medium-sized jet to land in the capital of the country. We have holidayed before in Fiji, but as a tourist staying at a resort on the West Coast, there is insulation from the troubled politics of the country. We felt some trepidation in landing in the nerve centre of the island, where we would be directly involved in a Governmental educational institution. We should not have worried: the inherent Fijian warmth and hospitality was just as evident in Suva as in any luxury resort on the other side of the island.



We were met by Joe, a driver of the University, who welcomed us in typically relaxed and friendly manner, to drive us via the centre of the city, with a constant commentary, to the Dental School. There we were met by Dr Leenu Maimanuku, Acting Head of Department, in the School of Dentistry, which is an integral part of the Fiji School of Medicine of Fiji National University.

The political difficulties at a National level, particularly between the Government and Australia, fortunately have not impacted on overseas support to the Dental and Medical Schools, which are reliant on such foundations as AusAid, NZAid, the European Union and WHO programs.

We toured the Faculty facilities. The Dental School, while only 5 years old, is not well maintained and appears much older. The physical facilities, which are integrated with the Medical School, are substantial though somewhat fractionated by distribution throughout the larger medical faculty. Whilst some areas of Dentistry are well catered for, others, such as Dental Laboratory facilities, are small, cramped and rudimentary. By far the biggest problem is that of staffing. Salaries for University staff are not attractive and it remains for a dedicated few to carry the burden of comprehensive undergraduate training. There is a drift evident in young potential educators to leave for greener pastures once they obtain a marketable higher postgraduate qualification. An example is Oral Surgery, where there is a great need for treatment of patients, and though Operating Theatre facilities are available, there are no applicants and thus no staff Oral Surgeon within the Faculty. Urgent vacancies for a Prosthodontist and Prosthetic technician are also listed in the School. The Medical School has a fully equipped Pathology laboratory, but no Pathologist on staff, so services are very limited. There is a severe lack of technical services, particularly in maintenance. For example, a radiographic processor sits unused in the Dental School because there is no one trained to render it functional. Other major problems are maintenance and parts for equipment. We were shown an OPG radiographic machine, which was donated by an Australian group and costs some A\$5,000 to set up, only to find that that model was now superseded and parts such as cassettes are not available, and it has never been functional. An Australian Rotary group purchased and equipped a mobile dental clinic, but the School was landed with the prohibitive cost of A\$35,000 for transportation of the large vehicle to Fiji.

My first duty was to present a seminar to BDS 2, the second year of the dental program. The Dental School, as part of the Fiji National University, functions as a regional training centre, so that of the 18 students in second year, there are 9 from the Solomon Islands, two Samoans, one each from Vanuatu and Kiribati, as well as 5 national Fijians. The class boasts also one other student, labelled International: a Korean whose parents were resident in the country when she began the program.

I presented a lecture with following discussion on Cause-related and Maintenance Periodontal Therapy. They are a lively group, particularly the Samoans, and were responsive in discussion. They expressed a major concern that they would eventually practice in communities with only slight awareness of dental therapy and low education in personal dental care. Students from the region are supported by their respective national governments, although they are, I understand, free to remain in Fiji to practice following graduation.

General dental practice in Fiji is, with the exception of a small coterie of modern state-of-the-art practices in the capital Suva, limited by extremely low fees, rudimentary dental awareness of the communities they serve, questionable infection control and sparse dental laboratory facilities. It was reported that most provincial dentists are obligated to complete their own dental laboratory procedures, due to both lack of availability of laboratories and low overall fee levels. Implant therapy, Cerec crowns, Laser teeth whitening, Orthodontics, Veneers and other Cosmetic Dental services are freely advertised in the CBD of Suva, but the availability of such upmarket facilities drops off dramatically with distance from the capital. Mandatory CPD has been introduced recently, but expectations are unrealistic because so few dentists have the resources to attend programs, mostly offshore for them..



The Department of Oral Health, Fiji School of Medicine had arranged for me to present a hands-on course on Periodontal Crown Lengthening in the School

Facilities. Although advertised locally to general dental practitioners, most of the attendees were members of Faculty. Following a lecture presentation and a video instructional program, available by courtesy of Todd Redwood, Director of the ADA NSW Centre for Professional Development, the participants were able to carry out surgical procedures on Porcine jaws set up in similar fashion to such programs in Australia and NZ. The course was attended by Dr Vikash Singh whom I had met previously: a highly competent practitioner and teacher at the School, also current President of the Fiji Dental Association. Vikash and Leenu form the backbone of the FDA, but they have little support, and very few resources to create a stable infrastructure.

After lunch and a tour of the Hospital and University Health Sciences, we met with Dr Maimanuku and Dr Bernadette Pushpaangali, Senior Lecture in Dental Public Health. Bernadette was inducted as a Fellow of the ICD at the most recent Australian Convocation in Perth, March 2009. The Faculty has requested help from the ICD for an initiative to set up training programs within the school at the level of Postgraduate Diploma. The project is designed to elevate selected graduates to prospective staff recruits in some dental disciplines. The plan involves eventual research opportunities leading to award of a Masters degree. It is hoped

that apart from local tuition, electronic means might be utilised for remote learning from Dental Schools in Australasia.

To complete the day, we were escorted by Leenu to a park in the centre of the city to visit an annual Expo for education and professional services. The School had set up clinics within a marquee for examination and dental advice to the public. The limitations in resources and staff at the Dental School are counterbalanced by strong motivation and enthusiasm of the dentists who work there and the Expo was an example of them donating their time to provide services to improve public dental health. A delightful feature of the Expo was an avenue of the most exotic stalls serving food of Islander and Indian cuisine.

Reluctantly, we journeyed back to Suva airport for our return flight to Nadi. I don't think this will be our last visit to Fiji or its Faculty of Dentistry

Report from Dr Devi



Few graduates have been able to undertake post-graduate training in clinical areas abroad as this is not available locally. Most of them join the Dental School in Fiji as academic staff members, while others who do train abroad would not normally return to Fiji due to the many reasons related to dentists and job opportunities.

After graduation when I was offered the Rotary ambassadorial scholarship, I decided to do a Postgraduate Diploma in Dental Studies in Endodontics at University of Western Australia, training under the guidance of Professor Paul Abbott. My stay there for a year was made possible by organizations like the International College of Dentists, the Pierre Fauchard Academy and the University of Western Australia.

All these grants helped me improve my knowledge and skills in the specialist field of dentistry. The help from all these organizations enabled me to come back with a wealth of knowledge to impart to the students here in Fiji where it was most needed.

Since I started work back home, things are different compared to the way things were done in Perth. Materials and instruments were always provided on time in Perth. I seemed to have forgotten that I am back home and expected that things would be the same. All the graduates from Fiji have been taught by Professor Abbott in Block Teaching, but on graduation due to the lack of funds being made available to the numerous centres, important instruments and materials which could help a clinician to provide better endodontic treatment are not provided. This significantly deters most of the graduates from providing treatment options to patient who would not have a good prognosis.

At the moment I do a lot of clinical supervision for the senior years so that I can help them locate canals or advise them as to how to make a good diagnosis. I try everyday to make clinical practice easier for the

students. I help them realize that there are different ways to do things but the best way is the way that helps one to achieve a long term good prognosis.

In the terms of materials and instruments challenges, we are trying to get the recommended ones, but I think it will take a few more months to grasp the processes involved in getting the right things at the right time.

It's really a wonderful feeling to come back to your country and help out in the things that you know there is a need and this would have not been possible without the help of the International College of Dentists.

Report from Dr Anumala of the APDSA

The 37th Asia Pacific Dental Student Association Congress in 2010 was held in Japan. A group of 3 dental students from the Department of Oral Health (DOH) Fiji attended accompanied by an academic staff member, Dr. Anumala. This was the second time Fiji participated in an APDSA congress; the first participation was in 2006. This was a great platform for Fiji students to establish student networks and get acquainted with other students from the Asia – Pacific region.

The Congress started with an Opening Ceremony where all the student representatives from different countries were introduced. A Congress like this provides an excellent opportunity for students to present and discuss their scientific research and listen to scientific lectures from invited speakers. Other activities that were incorporated into the congress program were a city tour, cruise and a Tokyo hospital tour. An AGM was held where representatives discussed current and future meetings. The highlight of the congress was the Cultural Night where all the countries presented their cultural performances.

A total of 12 countries participated this year from different universities throughout the Asia-Pacific region and included Japan, Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Czech Republic and Australia.

I thank the International College of Dentists for sponsoring my registration.

Kimberley Dental Team August 2010 Mrs Jan and Dr John Owen

Fellows of the College are active in many ways in providing oral health care assistance to communities within Australia and Dr John Owen from Western Australia has provided the following report.



In August, the (Kimberley Dental Team) returned for our fifth trip to Halls Creek and Kimberley communities to provide almost a month of dental care and dental health education. Jan and I travelled from Perth to the top end of the Kimberley by helicopter

from Sunday the 1st August to Wednesday the 4th, 15 hours of flying over some of the greatest places on earth.

For the first time, we visited communities outside of the East Kimberley to provide dental care. At the invitation of the Kalumburu and Gibb River communities, we were able to provide a full day and a half at Kalumburu and then a busy half day (6 hours) at Gibb River Community. At Kalumburu, we used Dental Health Services equipment and materials, relocated from the school to the Kalumburu Health Clinic. The school had "boxed" everything dental, as they were very keen to "clearout" this equipment as space was at a premium. The Remote Area Nurse Practitioner in charge, Lex Criddle, was more than happy to accommodate us and safely store everything for future visits. Sister Mary Scanlon from the Benedictine Mission, who had extended the invitation on behalf of the community, made us most welcome and was very appreciative of the dental care, including 20 extractions, we provided to the 28 community members seen and treated at the clinic.

Friday afternoon we flew south to the Gibb River Community. Here we were met by the most enthusiastic Sister Mary Jane. Mary Jane is both a sister of the Church and the Community health sister. She had been liaising for almost 12 months with Dr Dennis Gregory and his National Dental Foundation Team of 5 who were prevented by weather conditions in May 2010 from their planned trip to Gibb River. Sadly for them, but great for us, as it was like Christmas with Jan and Mary Jane opening the numerous boxes of donated materials and equipment that had arrived months earlier. We worked until sunset getting the "new dental clinic" ready for business on Saturday morning. The donated dental chair was still sitting on the homestead veranda as the clinic was quite small and Mary Jane needed some guidance on where best to place it.

We opened the clinic at 8:30 am sharp on Saturday morning and what a surprise to see 8 men of all ages ranging from 17 to 45 years in their dark blue station gear, lined up ready for advice and care. Gibb River Community is a million acre working station owned and run by the community. All of these men had varying degrees of pain and only a couple had ever seen a dentist before. By three o'clock we had seen 21 members of the community and undertaken 7 extractions. It had been many years since a mobile dental service visited regularly. We promised to return in two weeks time with another dentist for the day and to continue to assist the community regularly in the future.

We travelled South East across the "centre" of the Kimberley & the King Leopold Ranges to Halls Creek to meet the volunteer team who had flown into Kununurra and driven down by the picturesque Savannah Way. The team for week 1 included Dr Sue Anderson, Dr Richard Kozlowski and dental assistant Lana Sullivan. On Tuesday, John, Richard and Lana flew to Balgo Hills, an hour and ten minutes due south (240kms), for a busy day of patients and on Thursday, Sue, Jan and I flew to Ringers Soak where we set up a dental room in the medical clinic. Both of these community visits were well attended and the people were very grateful to have resolution of their acute and chronic dental pain and infections.

On Wednesday Jan and John flew to Kununurra to meet with the regional dental and medical hierarchy at the hospital. Dr Judy Darbyshire from DHS Perth and Dr Thrivalen Naidoo, Area Dental Officer and staff, convened a very productive meeting on how best to coordinate and integrate the dental services between the government

and aboriginal medical services. Valuable information on the inefficiencies, communication, perceived and real flaws in the current system were discussed with several trial scenarios considered. Liaising with communities to coordinate care is a major but critical challenge if better outcomes are to be obtained.

Over the weekend we had Team Alpha swap over in Kununurra and the new team, Team Bravo, drove down to join us in Halls Creek. For week 2, Jan and I were joined by experienced KDT dentist Dr Daniel Cocker, dental assistant Leah Sieler and two final year dental students, Naomi Kohan and Moses Lee.

Daniel had been to Balgo in May and was keen to return with John and Leah for another very full day of patients. When the Team arrived at 9:30am after the 70 minute flight, we were greeted by 33 patients waiting to be seen, all with their medical histories filled in. We pushed hard, undertaking 22 extractions and 4 fillings.

Wednesday was a clinic free day and we set off northwards by helicopter and car to visit the Warmun and Crocodile Hole communities. We were made very welcome and treated to lunch by Megan and Eamonn of Gija Total Health. This was a great opportunity to see the plans for the future health clinic and the dental area allocated within. Our temporary "donger" at Warmun will be equipped and stocked as a dental clinic by early February 2011 when we next visit. The hope is that with good coordination, any member of our Team or dental profession will be able to assist this great community if they wish during their travels. Before heading home, we called into the Disability House to treat a long time resident (MVA, 1979 when a teenager) who was suffering considerable dental pain. This avoided the 400 km, four hour, return trip to either Halls Creek or Kununurra in his wheel chair in the back of a van. To be able to assist in this manner is invaluable and makes us very proud of our Team.

Dr Don Rechichi, Jan and I have been working with the Royal Flying Doctor Service over the past six months on a dental initiative. This has the potential to assist greatly with the provision of dental service to remote areas. Transport, accommodation, facilities and people are the four key ingredients. There is no doubt our profession has the people.

Next year we are planning an early February reconnaissance trip to Kununurra and its outlying communities and Warmun to finalize the setup of the new clinic. The Kimberley Dental Team will be in the Kimberley from mid May and all of June in a concerted effort to dovetail care as so many patients are now returning for follow-up treatment, scaling, restorations and obtaining anterior partial dentures to replace teeth lost due to caries, periodontal disease or physical injury. Our first trips were definitely ones of acute symptom relief, but we are now seeing many patients becoming well aware of the general health and comfort benefits of being dentally fit. You create demand for a better oral health status through education and provision of sound and appropriate care. Surely, successful prevention comes from respectful advice, dental health education and early treatment. Progress is very rewarding for all.

Jan and John Owen www.kimberleydentalteam.com



International College of Dentists Australasian Section

INDUCTION CEREMONY AND DINNER

Meeting Rooms P1 & P3/4 (Plaza Level)
Brisbane Convention Centre
Merivale Street
Brisbane, QLD

FRIDAY, 1 April 2011
6:00 pm (Induction followed by dinner)
\$130 per person

Please join us in welcoming our new members.

Dress: Lounge suit

I will/will not attend the 2011 Induction Ceremony and Dinner in Brisbane.

NAME: _____

I will be accompanied by: _____
(preferred name)

Additional guest(s): _____

Special dietary requirements: _____

Cheques to be made payable to "International College of Dentists".

Credit Card Payment: Mastercard Visa Bankcard Amount to be deducted: \$ _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name of Cardholder: _____ Signature: _____

Please return by 25 February 2011 to the Registrar: Dr Jackie Robinson
10 Bendtree Way
Castle Hill, NSW 2154

Enquiries: Jackie Robinson
0434 308 422 or email: jackie_robinson@iinet.net.au

