

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTS  
AUSTRALASIAN SECTION

ISSUE NUMBER 36, MAY 2012

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



In my previous report I commented on the increasing number of dental graduates and their employment opportunities. Since then I have seen this topic mentioned in other publications and newsletters. I was therefore reminded of a statement from the Dean of an American Dental School I heard some years ago - "It has been said that there are more dentists than there are dental professionals".

Unfortunately this may be true, as some dentists see practice as a business and not as a profession. This is certainly not restricted to the profession of dentistry or even Australia.

What is a professional and what sets a professional aside from a non-professional? I have previously elaborated on this topic, but because of its importance, it is valuable to re-emphasise some points. There are a number of core values that can be applied to being a professional and each may have their own list. These may include, not in any order of priority, the following - veracity, justice, autonomy, tolerance, compassion, competence, collegiality and integrity.

One core value is **veracity**. Professionals are truthful and honest. Patients know that their dentists have special skills and knowledge that they do not, so they trust and are vulnerable. Dentists can be tempted to rationalise treatment options to patients that are tilted towards greater advantage to themselves. Yet expensive treatments often are not the best care in terms of patient well-being. It is essential for the professional to understand each patient's circumstances sufficiently to know what is best for each patient and not to be tempted to allow business issues to influence treatment decisions.

Professionals are **just**. Issues of fairness are pervasive in dental practice. The broad approach is to ensure that one provides the greatest amount of care, of the most enduring type, to the greatest number of people, at the least cost and in the most socially acceptable manner. Also professionals accept their patient **autonomy** - their independence. While this is regulated to some extent by privacy legislation, the principle of respect for autonomy is the foundation for informed consent and protection of patient confidentiality. Yet the patient's right to self-determination is not absolute. Dentists must weigh up the benefits and harms and promote and uphold competent practice consistent with

contemporary standards of oral health care.

Dentists must not consider differences over which patients have absolutely no control, such as age, gender, race and ethnic origin. Professionals must have **tolerance** and each individual has the right to have their heritage respected.

Also professionals have **compassion**. In accord with the World Health Organization definition that "health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity" dentists must be sensitive to each patient's cultural pattern, environmental factors and mental state. Each can impact on diagnosis, treatment planning and patient management. This sensitivity is a special art, for assumptions can be very misleading when communicating and providing care.

Professionals must also seek to be **competent**. To be effective, and more importantly to avoid producing harm, requires a commitment to constantly seek new knowledge and to develop one's skills through continuing professional development programmes. Participation must be because there is value in learning and not because it a requirement of a regulatory body. In addition the professional must have the wisdom and self-control to refer patients when they are deficient in a particular area of knowledge or skill.

As well as learning, professionals have a commitment to **collegiality**. Professions are strong when their members freely share knowledge with colleagues and mentor younger professionals i.e. true professionals do "profess". This can be by teaching, lecturing at scientific programmes, submitting articles for publication or even accepting responsibilities of office.

All of these core values apply to five broad functions of dental practice. These five functions are clinical care, education, research, programme administration and policy development. Or, to say it another way: to do, to teach, to learn, to manage and to judge. Most individuals think of dental practice in terms of clinical care but special knowledge and skill in all five categories are needed by every dentist. Most dentists devote the greatest proportion of their time to providing clinical care, but some devote a substantial amount of time to teaching, research, programme administration or policy development. **Integrity**, often considered the sum of living by all core values, is of equal value to individuals working in every category of dental practice.

Our aim should be that that the number of professionals practising dentistry equals the number of practising dentists.

**President:** David Thomson  
**Treasurer:** Peter Noblet AM  
**Registrar:** Jackie Robinson

**Past President:**  
**International Council:**  
**Regents:**

Dick Cook AM RFD  
Clive Ross CNZM  
David Crum, John Owen AM, Keith Watkins

**Vice President:** Jackie Robinson  
**Editor:** Jennifer Smyth AM

One person who does meet all of these criteria is Dr Peter Noblet. Dr Noblet has been a Regent for the Australasian Section for several years. More recently as treasurer he has expertly looked after the section's financial matters. Unfortunately Dr Noblet has resigned from the Board of Regents effective the end of the current financial year. Peter has held a number of positions on various professional organizations including President of the Dental Board of South Australia. His contribution, corporate knowledge and willingness to advance the profession will be missed. He has been a personal friend for many years and on behalf of all Fellows I thank him for everything that he has done as a true dental professional.

David H Thomson

## REGISTRAR'S REPORT

### 2011 - 2013 Officers for Section Viii (Australasian Section)

David Thomson, President  
 Richard Cook AM, Past President  
 Clive Ross CNZM, International Councilor  
 Jackie Robinson, Vice-President/Registrar  
 Peter Noblet AM, Treasurer (to June 30 2012)  
 Jenny Smyth AM, Editor  
 David Crum, Regent  
 Keith Watkins, Regent  
 John Owen AM, Regent

### Membership

The Australasian Section of the International College of Dentists currently has 587 Fellows comprised of:

Active Members	499
Retired Members	77
Masters	2
Honorary Life Members	6
Honorary Members	3

517 Fellows live in Australia. 61 Fellows live in New Zealand and 9 Fellows live in other parts of the world (Cambodia, Eritrea, Fiji, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, The Netherlands and the USA.).

### Australia Day Honours

Members of Section VIII continue to be recognised at the highest levels for their services to dentistry and to community oral health. Recipients of 2012 Australia Day Honours included Emeritus Professor Louise Brearley MESSER (VIC) for service to the dental profession, particularly in the field of paediatric dentistry, as a clinician, academic and researcher and Dr Edward Richard STREET for service to dentistry

and to the dental profession, as an Oral and Maxillo-Facial surgeon, to Medicine, and to the international community. Congratulations to these Fellows on this well-deserved recognition.

### Vale Fellows

Sadly we have learned of the passing of a number of Section VIII Fellows since the last newsletter:

- Peter Kaleski OAM (NSW)
- Phillip Murray (NSW)
- Tony Roseman (VIC)

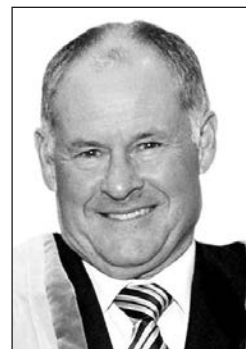
### Future Section VIII Inductions

The next ICD induction ceremony and luncheon will be held in Auckland on Thursday, August 16 2012 in conjunction with the NZDA Biennial Conference. The next ICD induction in Australia will be held in Melbourne in 2013 in early April at the time of the ADA Biennial Congress.

An invitation to the Auckland Induction is included with this newsletter together with a nomination form for new Fellows. All fellows are encouraged to nominate dental colleagues whom they know to be contributing to dentistry and to oral health in the community above and beyond their usual roles.

For further information contact the Registrar: jackie\_robinson@iinet.net.au.

## TREASURERS REPORT



On 30th June I will be stepping down as Treasurer of the College after 5 years in the position.

During this time, the members' funds have more than doubled and the College is in an excellent position to pursue its aims and objectives. This has been achieved in part by the generosity of fellows making donations in addition to their subscriptions. This year donations amount to over \$8000.

It behoves all fellows to identify and promote aid projects that can be considered on their merits by the College Regents. The 2010-2011 accounts have been audited and reflect the College's ability to provide financial assistance in the immediate future.

It has been a privilege to have served the College and it is with mixed feelings that I retire as the South Australian Regent. I will, however, look forward to attending College functions in the future.

Peter Noblet May 2012

# INTERNATIONAL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

This year at International Council level has seen a major revitalisation of the College. A dynamic Secretary General Jack Hinterman, an invigorated Editor of the Globe, Dov Sydney, a balance sheet that balances and an Executive Committee that is putting huge energy into improving communications.

We have witnessed an expansion of the College presence into areas such as Africa, Vietnam, Kurdistan and the like under the current Presidency of Garry Lunn (Canada) and a continuing growth of membership around the world of very high quality Fellows. It is an exciting and rewarding time to be a part of this team.

I would strongly encourage Fellows to visit the website at [ww.icd.org](http://ww.icd.org) and look at the updated format and also open the ICD Facebook page which is being updated almost daily. For someone, like myself, who might be described as a "flat earther" I am amazed at the number of hits the site has had in a very short time.

The average number of hits per day on our website since we moved in January was 2350. The highest single day recorded during that period was 3750. **On the day that the The College Today Newsletter was released we had over 35,000 hits on the website!** That means that readers clicked on TCT items of interest and went to the website for more information. In the first 20 hours since the mailing, 30 percent have opened the e-mail – a very good figure.

A major achievement has been the opening of a College region in Africa; this has been the culmination of huge energy put in by the Section XX representative, our Past President Manfred Seidemann and Jack Hinterman. It's exciting to see these new enthusiastic Fellows coming into the College and bring a new dimension into the College family. The revitalization of Vietnam and the establishment of Fellows in Kazakhstan is also a great step forward.

The College structure is also moving towards modernisation and working as an effective International organisation. The Council is being streamlined, and the budget strictly controlled to ensure dues received from the Sections are being put to most effective use.

Section Registrars are becoming more conversant with how the International body and central office works and are contributing very well to requests and input to the Globe which is now providing a wonderful window on some of the amazing projects the College is engaged in around the world.

Our Section can be very satisfied and proud of the contribution we are making in our own area of interest but I urge you to look and read what others are doing and if you have ideas where our Section can be involved or build on our current activities please communicate these through our Registrar, Jackie Robinson.

An important decision was made at the last Annual meeting in New Delhi to give our Section the responsibility of holding the 2014 Annual meeting of the Council at Large. This is a breakthrough as hitherto every even year was held in the US in conjunction with the American Dental Association meeting. This matter will be discussed at our Board meeting which will be held in Auckland in August 2012.

The incoming President, Dr Leon Aronson, will take office in October and brings a wealth of experience, immense dedication and is a wonderful warm and friendly person. The President elect Dr Woon Yang from Korea will also provide excellent support and dedication to the Executive table.

Minutes of the New Delhi meeting are available from the website; minutes of the Executive meeting held in Vancouver (I attended via Skype) are also available so if you have any questions or suggestions from either of these sources or in fact anything that appears on the website please feel free to contact me. [clivross@ihug.co.nz](mailto:clivross@ihug.co.nz)

I am sure there is more we can do within our own area of interest and urge you to come forward with any long term projects which you might feel would benefit from our support.

As our Section International representative and now a member of the College at Large Executive team, our Section is in an excellent position to contribute.

In conclusion, I can assure our Fellows the College is in good heart and growing in strength and stature every month as new initiatives progress.

Clive Ross. May 2012

## REPORTS FROM FELLOWS

### Donations of Dental equipment and supplies to Tonga - Dr David Goldsmith

Dental health services in the Pacific island nation of Tonga are struggling as the general economic malaise in the Kingdom puts a severe strain on the resources of the dental department. Their dental budget has hardly changed in a decade yet the cost of materials and equipment has gone up whilst the value of the Tongan Pa'anga has gone down. Annual visits of Multidisciplinary Volunteer dental teams have been offering support to the dental facilities throughout the Tongan islands annually since 1996 greatly helping to keep the department operating productively over that time. The most recent visit was in November 2011.

Over the past 12 months, donations from dentists and dental supply companies around Australia have enabled us to put together a 20' shipping container of badly needed supplies. These have been collected with the aim of helping the Tongan dental department to deliver as broad a range of dental services to the indigenous community as possible. Further volumes of dental prosthetic equipment and supplies were added by Ballarat Dental Prosthetist Bill Davies and thanks to the generosity of the Ballarat St John of God Hospital a large amount (filled a 3 tonne truck!) of medical supplies and equipment were also added. The container was packed and freighted from a Rotary DIK depot in Geelong in September 2011. The (incomplete) list below will give some idea of the generosity of the donors and what we were able to put together.

#### Dental supplies and equipment

12 Boxes assorted dental supplies, 5 Adec dental chairs/units fitted with cavitron scalers, 8 dental stools 2 Kavo dental chairs with carts, Suction motors, Jun-Air Compressor, portable Cavitron unit, 2 mobile operating carts (Adec / SDI) W Green unit with spittoon, 8 cartons of Colgate Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Burs, 3 X-ray machines, Pros. Lab. Supplies 5 Boxes of dental equipment (curing lights, amalgamators etc.), Gloves, 2 Autoclaves, Rotary Endodontic handpiece, NiTi files and assorted supplies, boxes of uniforms, Oral Health Education material, Die Stone, pumice, Denture teeth, plaster, and 5 Mobile Dental Cabinets.

The dental department has the expertise to install, maintain and repair these dental chairs and has spare parts.

#### Medical supplies and equipment

86 boxes of Medical supplies, 2 Wheelchairs, Defibrillator, Microwave, Humidicrib, 2 ECG machines, 4 Blood Pressure monitors, Anaesthetic machine, Gowns, Laryngeal masks, laryngoscopes, Iv sets, Bone saws and drills, batteries, charger, Inadine dressings, Hip prostheses (7), harmonic scalpel gear, suture

material assorted ambulance equipment, Diathermy tips, assorted consumables, oxygen masks and much more.



*Opening the container with Medical and Dental staff*

Three volunteers with a close relationship with the Tonga dental department over many years, dental nurse Camille Lewis, Tongan dental Therapist Talihou Latu, (now working as a dental prosthetist in Ballarat) and dentist David Goldsmith travelled to Tonga in November 2011 to accompany the container and distribute the donated goods.

### Sihanoukville Dental Project. Cambodia update - Dr Petrina Bowden

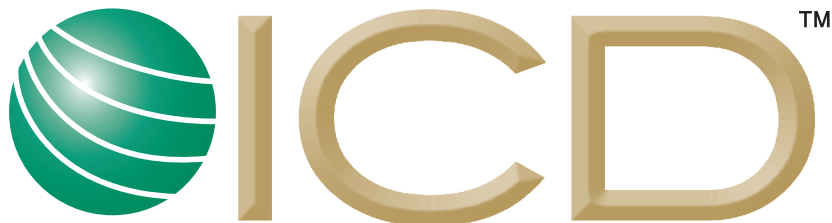
In 2011 we had a number of volunteer Australian dentists working for a week at a time. We are progressing in our treatments, increasing our preventive and dental education possibilities.

Unfortunately we have not had a dentist visit in the first 4 months of 2012. Our Cambodian dental nurse has been busy with simple dental treatments.

However I and a dental nurse from Richmond Road dental practice will be visiting for 10 days at the beginning of May. The Cambodian medical team have warned us that there are many children in pain and eagerly awaiting our visit.

We have a public facebook if any of the Fellows are interested to follow a typical volunteer week - <https://www.facebook.com/DentalVolunteering>. Each night we will upload images and tales of the day.

We have a shortage of dentists volunteering in 2012 so any ICD fellows that may be interested in volunteering please contact myself [petrinabowden@gmail.com](mailto:petrinabowden@gmail.com)



INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTS  
AUSTRALASIAN SECTION

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## INDUCTION CEREMONY AND LUNCHEON

**Club Lounge**  
**Level 7 Sky City Grand Hotel**  
**90 Federal Street, Auckland**

**THURSDAY, 16 August 2012**  
**12:30pm – 2:00 pm**

**\$60 (NZD)/\$50 (AUD) per person**

Dress: Lounge suit

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 complete and return this form by 3 August 2012 to:**

**In New Zealand:**  
**Dr Clive Ross CNZM**  
**Quay Towers**  
**Cnr Custom & Albert Streets**  
**Auckland 1010**

**In Australia:**  
**Dr Jackie Robinson**  
**10 Bendtree Way**  
**Castle Hill, NSW 2154**

Enquiries: (New Zealand) Clive Ross CNZM, 09 366 1322 or email: [clivross@ihug.co.nz](mailto:clivross@ihug.co.nz)  
(Australia) Jackie Robinson 0434 308 422 or email: [jackie\\_robinson@iinet.net.au](mailto:jackie_robinson@iinet.net.au)

**NOMINATION TO AUSTRALASIAN DIVISION  
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTS**

All nominations are considered at the annual Board of Regents meeting, to be held in Auckland in August 2012

Dr Jackie Robinson  
10 Bendtree Way  
Castle Hill, NSW 2154  
AUSTRALIA  
Email: jackie\_robinson@iinet.net.au

To make a nomination, please complete the details below. It is recognised that some of the information may be irrelevant to an individual and some sections below may have insufficient space. If appropriate, provide further information as an attachment. As the form indicates, nominations need to be proposed and seconded by Fellows of the College.

**Nominations must be received at least one month prior to the Board meeting (mid July 2012) to allow sufficient time for preparation for consideration at the meeting.**

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**CURRICULUM VITAE – CONFIDENTIAL**

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

PRIVATE ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PRACTICE ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ PRACTICE PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TERTIARY EDUCATION AND DEGREES: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT POSITION: \_\_\_\_\_

APPOINTMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS - POSITIONS HELD/SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

PUBLICATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTATIONS/LECTURES TO PROFESSIONAL GROUPS: \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHING EXPERIENCE – UNIVERSITY/TAFE: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNITY SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

AWARDS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

PROPOSER:(Print name) \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDER:(Print name) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_