



INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTS  
AUSTRALASIAN SECTION

ISSUE NUMBER 39, NOVEMBER 2013

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr Jackie Robinson

The headline for this edition of the newsletter is "50th Anniversary Celebrations in 2014"! A gala dinner and induction ceremony will be held in Sydney on the evening of Saturday, 25 October 2014 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Section of the International College of Dentists. Please put this special event in your diaries! More details will be forthcoming as they are confirmed. We are very pleased and honoured that the International Council will be meeting in Sydney at that time to join us in our celebrations. We hope to see all of you at this special event in our history!

The last edition of the newsletter included a form to nominate worthy colleagues for Fellowship in the International College of Dentists. Thanks to your responses, for the first time in the history of our Section, we now have over 600 Fellows! Of course, our goal is not a number. Our goal is to ensure that those members of our profession who deserve the recognition of Fellowship are invited to join the International College. The Board continues to be impressed with the calibre of nominees who are being put forward. Nomination forms can be requested at any time from the Administrative Officer, Dr Ron Robinson, at [admin@icdsectionviii.org](mailto:admin@icdsectionviii.org) or accessed on the website ([www.icdsectionviii.org](http://www.icdsectionviii.org)). Thank you for your continuing assistance with identifying colleagues to invite to become Fellows.

Our Administrative Officer, Ron, continues to help us move forward with more efficient administrative processes. This year, for the first time, membership renewal notifications were emailed to members. And, thanks to the cooperation of our members in updating their email addresses last year, the number of email renewal notifications that bounced back was minimal (only 18!). Postal renewal forms have been sent where needed.

Each of us is honoured to be a Fellow of the International College for many reasons. One of the reasons is certainly the generosity shown by Fellows in our Section through their involvement with dentally related humanitarian projects in many parts of the world. This spirit of generosity is also demonstrated through the donations our Fellows make to provide financial support for worthy humanitarian projects sponsored by our Section. With their 2012 membership renewals, Fellows in our Section donated more than \$11,000! 27.5% of all Fellows included a donation with their renewal with donations ranging from \$10 to \$300. These donations are supporting outstanding projects, some of which are highlighted in this newsletter. You can read more about projects supported by our Section by visiting our Section website. We are very proud too that projects led by Fellows of our Section and supported by our Section have been profiled in The Globe which is distributed to ICD Fellows throughout the world. This tradition will continue with the March 2014 edition of The Globe.

While we are on the topic of the generous spirit of our Fellows, please join me in congratulating Dr David Sheen (NSW) who was recognised in the 2013 Queen's Birthday Honours for his work and guidance in developing oral health care in some of the most underserved areas of the world. Well deserved, David!

**President:** Jackie Robinson  
**Treasurer:** John Owen AM  
**Registrar:** Tom Tseng

**Past President:** David Thomson  
**International Council:** Clive Ross CNZM  
**Regents:** Rick Sawers, Keith Watkins

**Vice President:** David Crum  
**Editor:** Jennifer Smyth AM

## President's Message (cont)

Well deserved congratulations are also extended to Clive Ross CNZM on his re-election as Treasurer on the International Council of ICD.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our Section newsletter. Thank you to our Editor, Dr Jennifer Smyth AM, for compiling the content for us.

Wishing all of you all the best in life.

Jackie

## REGISTRAR'S REPORT



Dr Tom Tseng

The Australasian Section of the International College of Dentists currently has 621 Fellows comprised of:

Active Members	541
Retired Members	71
Masters	1
Honorary Life Members	5
Honorary Member	3

545 Fellows live in Australia. 64 Fellows live in New Zealand and 12 Fellows live in other parts of the world (Cambodia, Eritrea, Fiji, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, The Netherlands and the USA).

Correction to May Newsletter: Dr Syd Dobbin AM is both a Master AND an Honorary Life Member of our Section.

## Growing Our Future Membership

All Fellows are encouraged to nominate deserving dentists in our Region for Fellowship in the International College of Dentists. It is only with the

assistance of all Fellows that we can ensure colleagues worthy of nomination are identified. Please think about colleagues you know who deserve nomination and put their names forward to the Board. Contact the Administrative Officer, Dr Ron Robinson, for a nomination form or for more information email: (admin@icdsectionviii.org) or visit the website (www.icdsectionviii.org). Nominations will next be considered by the Board at a Board teleconference to be held in November.

Thank you to those Fellows who used the nomination form enclosed with the May newsletter to make nominations!

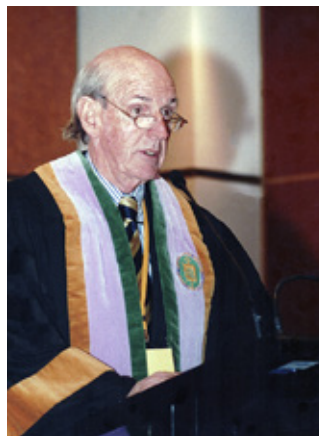
## Vale Fellows

Sadly three of our Fellows, Dr Geoff Hall AM, A/Prof Geoffrey McKellar and Dr Peter Sapir have passed away since the last newsletter. Our deepest condolences go to their families.

## In Memory of Dr Geoff Hall AM, MICD

**19 March 1935 - 17 October 2013**

**"a gentleman and a gentle man"**



It is with deep sadness that we advise Fellows of the passing of Dr Geoff Hall AM, MICD. Geoff was a Fellow of the Australasian Section of the International College of Dentists from 1976. He was elected to the Board of Regents in 1985 and served on the Board continuously until 2007.

1985—1988 Regent  
1988—1990 Treasurer  
1991—1998 Registrar  
1999—2001 President  
2001 - 2003 Immediate Past President  
2001—2007 International Councillor

As the International Councillor for our Section for 8 years, Geoff was highly respected at the international level and represented our Section on the Council with great professionalism, charm and dignity

service over more than 20 years to the International College. The status of Master is a zealously guarded honour within the International College of Dentists. The honour is awarded to Fellows who, on account of personal character, position of influence and honour, eminence in practice or in dental research, or other remarkable attainments in dentistry are recommended to the Board for special well-earned distinction. The nomination must be approved by the International Council. We were very proud to have had Geoff as a Master within our Section.

Our deepest condolences go to Nonie and Geoff's family and many friends.

### Future Section VIII Inductions

25 October 2014 - 50th Anniversary of our Section (Sydney)

March 2015 – ADA Congress (Brisbane)

August 2016 – NZDA Conference

### 2013 Membership Renewals

2013 membership renewals forms have recently been distributed to all Fellows. For the first time this year, the renewals forms were sent via email to all Fellows with email addresses (87% of our members). Amazingly only 18 email addresses were found to be inactive! Postal renewal forms have been sent to all Fellows without email addresses and to those 18 Fellows whose email addresses are inactive.

### Project Grants Supported by Our Section

Our Section can be duly proud of the support our Fellows generously give to worthy oral health projects in underserved regions. Our Fellows donated more than \$11,000 towards these projects with their 2012 membership renewals. At this time, our Section is supporting the projects listed below. More information about these projects is featured in this newsletter as well as in the next issue of The Globe, the international publication distributed to all ICD Fellows worldwide.

- Oral Health Projects in Cambodia (Callum Durward)
- Nepal Bhattendande Village School Program (Sandra Meihubers)
- Australian Dental Research Foundation (Ian Myers)
- Vietnam Long Tan Preschool Children & Oral Health Education (Colin Twelftree)

- M'Lop Tapang, Cambodia (Petrina Bowden)
- Kimberley Dental Team (John Owen AM)
- Community Outreach Dental Program (University of Adelaide)

Guidelines and application forms for Section VIII Grants can be requested from the Administrative Officer, Dr Ron Robinson (email: admin@icdsectionviii.org) or downloaded from the website (www.icdsectionviii.org).

Tom Tseng, Registrar

## PROJECT REPORTS

### AUSTRALIAN DENTAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (ARDF)

A \$5000 'ICD Community Oral Health Award' has been established and will be awarded to the highest ranking community oral health research grant application for the period 2014 – 2016. The ARDF Research Advisory Committee will determine in November which research project from the current applications will be nominated to receive the 2014 – 2016 award. Details will be published in the next newsletter.

## CAMBODIA ORAL HEALTH PROJECTS

ICD has supported a number of dental projects in Cambodia this year. These include:

A project with the Ministry of Health to develop an oral cancer awareness pamphlet and poster. Oral cancer is one of the most common types of cancer in Cambodia and yet the public has very little awareness about what oral cancer is, how to detect it and how important it is to seek help at an early stage.



Translation of a booklet for the families of children born with cleft lip and palate. Based on similar books from New Zealand and Australia, this

booklet will be very helpful for families of children with clefts who are sometimes so shocked to see their newborn with a cleft that they want to abandon the child. The non-governmental organisation (NGO), Friends of Clefts in Cambodia (FCIC), is carrying out this project.

The new OMFS Masters training program. A donation was made for purchase of some essential instruments and to aid some of the poorest patients to get the treatment they urgently need. This program is being led by Dr Barbara Woodhouse and Dr John Arvier. Volunteer OMF surgeons are warmly invited to teach in this 4 year program. In Cambodia there are only two OMF surgeons for 15 million people.

The prison dental service. One-2-One is the only provider of prison dental services in Cambodia and relies on donations to keep running. All those involved are volunteers.

Instruments for dental nurses school in Kampong Cham province. An additional donation of instruments was made in 2013 to help provide a better clinical experience for students. Dental nurses primarily work in rural areas of Cambodia providing ART restorations, extractions, scaling and prevention.

Cambodia Smile Project for preschool children and mothers. This project has collected valuable information on the causes of rampant caries in the preschoolers in Cambodia and is now introducing interventions which we believe will improve both the general and dental health of the children.

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of the ICD in supporting these worthwhile projects in Cambodia over the past three years.

Callum Durward, callum\_durward@hotmail.com

## NEPAL VILLAGE SCHOOL PROGRAM



The children of Shree Kali Devi and Himaljyoti schools continue to benefit from daily tooth-

brushing programs at the schools supervised by the teachers under the guidance of the dental team from the Community Health Development Society (CHDS) Nepal. The installation of toilets and taps/sinks through our allied sanitation program has improved the overall hygiene environments at the schools and enabled regular hand washing.

CHDS operates two dental clinics per year in each school which provide essential preventive dental care, oral health advice and training support to the teachers. The school principals embrace the programs as an essential component of the health and hygiene routine for the kids. A total of 600 children participate in these programs and the CHDS team also provides hand washing hygiene, nutrition and oral health advice to mothers' groups in the villages and training of local allied health workers.

In April 2013, a volunteer dental team from Australia worked with the CHDS dental team to provide care to the villagers as well as providing outreach care to some remote communities including children from a rural orphanage. The funds from ICD have contributed to the ongoing school and village programs and we are looking to expanding the program to nearby schools in 2014.

Sandra Meihubers, sm495@ozemail.com.au

## VIETNAM - LONG TAN CLINIC



I am pleased to report to Fellows that the Long Tan clinic project is not only proceeding well but expanding its

area of influence. Our primary concern is to treat the children of the Long Tan area but we have extended treatment to other nearby kindergartens.

Since my last report there have been many visits but in future, we have been asked to restrict our visits to a team approximately every two months. In September last year, I accompanied Dr David Holliday, another orthodontist, for a week. Visits were made in November by Dr Graham Parry and his staff and in December Dr Martin Lao, a periodontist, led a team to the clinic.



In January this year, we had our first Vietnamese speaking team, Dr Jnguyenpham and his sister. working in the clinic. Having Vietnamese speaking members of the team has proved to be such an asset that we are trying to have at least one Vietnamese member in each team. Dr David Hua, who also speaks Vietnamese, went in March this year and Dr Wyn Nguyen will be going in May. I will be visiting again in August and another fellow, Dr John Denton, will be travelling there in October. We have further visits planned in November, December, February and April next year but we welcome further expressions of interest.

As can be seen from the type of dentists and specialists visiting Vietnam, whatever your speciality, you could be of great use leading a team. I encourage anyone who is interested to contact me.

We have made it our prime objective to seal every fissure in the Long Tan area and have recently received approval from the Vietnamese Government to send teams of hygienists and therapists only as long as they perform preventive work which includes sealing fissures. This approval greatly improves our flexibility in providing treatment. The other main treatment is ART type restorations which are needed in the younger children. Fortunately, the older children seem to have a much lower caries rate and, hopefully, sealing the fissures will provide them with a good dentition for the future. Unfortunately, there is still some need for extractions which is why it is still necessary to include as many dentists as possible with the teams.

AVVRG and the Dental Hygienists Association of Australia acknowledge the financial support of the Section VIII ICD in continuing this very worthwhile program.

Colin Twelftree, twelftree@internode.on.net

## M'LOP TAPANG, CAMBODIA



Section VIII of ICD is generously supporting this program and with the funding I have purchased a second dental

chair. In addition, ICD funds have provided a contribution towards a current final year dental student's volunteer visit in July 2013.

During this visit we were able to successfully install our new Chinese made dental chair complete with new compressor. The second chair allows two dentists to volunteer together which allows many more children to be treated and also a more enjoyable experience for volunteers. An unforeseen advantage was the courage it gave the children to walk down to the treatment room in pairs rather than on their own!

The western standard infection control and increasing equipment have resulted in many NGO charities in the region requesting dental treatment in the clinic hence expanding the number of children seeking dental treatment. We are able to provide more comprehensive treatment than other outreach dental programs.

In addition there have been two Australian final year dental students who have volunteered for a week. Their sharps exposure was closely supervised due to their limited experience. Over a week we saw 119 children, did 68 extractions, 71 restorations and 48 cleans in the clinic and one outreach visit. For the first time more restorations than extractions!

With the increased exposure through ICD and participation at the ADA Congress volunteer stand in April, we have had an increased number of volunteers. However, we are still looking for more.

Petrina Bowden, petrinaBowden@gmail.com

## Dental Volunteering in Cambodia



For one week in July, I joined Dr Petrina Bowden and Brianna Jobson with sponsorship by the ICD to volunteer with M'Lop Tapang .

Volunteering in Cambodia has been one of the most rewarding and enjoyable experiences of my life. Having lived in Australia for my whole life, I didn't know what to expect of Cambodia and sure enough when I landed, I witnessed a whole different environment. More than 30 years on, Cambodia is still recovering from the effects of the Khmer Rouge. In Sihanoukville approximately 30% of the population live on less than \$1 a day, one

third of the population has no access to clean water and more than two thirds have no access to clean toilets.

One of the biggest problems in this community is the increasing number of street children, many of whom are exposed to street and gang violence, child abuse, drug use and isolation from the community. M'Lop Tapang is one organisation that has done an incredible job in caring for these children and bringing hope to this community. It was an honour being a part of M'Lop Tapang to provide much needed dental treatment to the local children.

In this week, we provided a range of treatment including not only extractions, but also cosmetic restorations, cleaning and root canal treatment. I enjoyed being able to contribute a variety of treatment options and treating many challenging cases. For instance, many of the children had severe dental fear and anxiety and if emergency treatment was not required, we chose to treat conservatively, often undertaking cleaning or cosmetic restorations to boost the patient's confidence and social wellbeing. This highlighted to me the importance of managing our patients as people, rather than as sets of teeth that need fixing!

One particularly memorable experience was when we joined an outreach team of teachers and medical staff to visit a rural village. The village is comprised of less than 10 families and mainly young children. The atmosphere exemplified a strong sense of community and family. The whole village supported itself by farming, fishing and selling baskets. There were no cars, no televisions, and the only access to medical and dental care was through M'Lop Tapang. It was a privilege being included in this community and we realised how blessed we are to live in Australia with access to everything we could possibly need or want.

This opportunity has given me a brief insight into the culture and community of rural Cambodia. It has taught me many practical clinical lessons and given me a new perspective on what I want to achieve as a dentist. While getting a job and serving our local community are still my priorities, I won't forget that our role as dentists can take us around the world to help make a difference to those far less fortunate than us.

Richard Lee,  
Final year dental student, University of  
Queensland

## KIMBERLEY DENTAL TEAM

The volunteer Kimberley Dental Team (KDT) was formed in 2009 by John and Jan Owen to assist aboriginal children and their families in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia. The reconciliation choir, Madjtil Moorna, had been invited to work with the school children in Halls Creek and we were keen to be involved. Once well respected elders, Doreen Green and Robyn Long, heard of our dental backgrounds, they quickly informed us of the considerable dental problems the children of Halls Creek suffer including pain, swelling, discomfort and absenteeism due to dental problems and inequity in access to care.

After thirty years in the dental profession, we were not prepared for the acute /urgency rate of 38% in the 133 children we screened. With an incredible amount of professional, community and corporate support, 33 Teams have now provided 38 weeks of volunteer dental services, providing 165 "dentist weeks" and 124 "dental assistant weeks" and 27 final year "student weeks" though the University of WA. We average teams of 9 volunteers per week and have seen, assisted and treated over 3500 people.

As an idea of what is a "normal tour / trip", our 12th trip commenced in late July, with Jan and John setting off to drive from Perth with the new Toyota workmate and KDT accommodation van. There was a scheduled stop at the Karalundi Aboriginal Community School 60km north of Meekatharra where we screened the children then to Warmun School where we ran a dental session.

In the first week KDT staffed three clinical locations in Halls Creek with one team at the hospital dental clinic, another with the dental trailer in the main street and the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services dental truck at the school.

In week two, there was a continued focus at our three Halls Creek locations as well as screening at the Frail Aged Centre and an oral health education session with the staff, a helicopter trip across the Durack range to Gibb River community and a planned trip to the community of Warmun. We had the added excitement of a luncheon and clinic viewing by the Governor His Excellency Malcolm McCusker, Mrs Tonya McCusker and their daughter Mary on the Wednesday.

In 2011 Geoff was awarded the status of Master in the International College of Dentists in recognition of his many years of clinical practice, services to the dental profession and his tireless



Shortly after, a small team set off with the KDT dental trailer to Warmun. However, we lost control and rolled the car and van just out of Halls Creek. Sadly, the vehicles were written off and the occupants suffered serious but 'mendable' injuries.

The accident and loss of our car and clinical trailer naturally changed the nature of the August trip. Instead of a week spent at the Kutjungka, a quick re-evaluation was required. We decided to spend a further two days at Halls Creek. Once in Billiluna and without our van we needed to improvise so set up on the verandah of our accommodation with limited gear but still managed to provide a comprehensive service for 15 people.

This program is not just about the dentistry. It's very much about promoting engagement with our community at large. Service delivery is clearly an essential element in improving outcomes in health for Indigenous communities, but Jan has been a leader in the crucial role of the building of trusting and meaningful relationships with community members. This respect and friendship have been pivotal in enabling many to be comfortable and confident in accessing the free care our teams provide, greatly reducing the urgency rates and improving health.

We firmly believe this commitment to community will last a lifetime for our young students and volunteers..

Many hundreds of individuals, companies and organizations have assisted KDT with resources and guidance, but in particular we thank the Rotary Clubs of Perth and Heirisson, Lotterywest and the McCusker Charitable Foundation, Section VIII of the International College of Dentists, Wrigley's / ADA Foundation, ANZSPD, Dental Partners and dental supply companies SDI and Henry Schein Halas.

Jan and John Owen AM,  
john.owen@owenorthodontics.com.au

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH DENTAL PROGRAM UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE



Dr John Reed (volunteer dentist), Emma Bailey (student), 'Mark' (patient), Sharon Reed (volunteer Dental Assistant) and Margie Steffens (Manager, Community Outreach Dental Program)

The Community Outreach Dental Program is an initiative of the School of Dentistry at the University of Adelaide and provides an opportunity for dentistry and oral health students to experience working with a segment of the population to whom they would not normally be exposed. The ethos behind the program is to provide thinkers and professionals of the future with a strong sense of social justice and dedication to improving the quality of life for marginalised and vulnerable people in the community.

The dental clinic opened in September 2011 offering dental services to people who have suffered homelessness or have difficulty accessing conventional care. Over this time the centre has seen enormous success through involvement from University staff, final year dentistry and oral health students, private dentists and allied health professionals who have all volunteered their time at the clinic.

Services offered such as basic restorative care, prevention and dental education are enabling a range of extremely needy people in our community to gain timely access to both emergency and comprehensive dental care.

The program has grown considerably and now works collaboratively with staff and patrons from day centres for the homeless, with district nurses, social workers and the Red Cross Refugee Services. Over 300 treatments have already been provided to patients.

The project also provides the University's dentistry and oral health students with improved learning outcomes, enabling them to gain experience in providing appropriate and functional care for socially disadvantaged patients who have potentially complex dental and medical problems.



The gathering of data through 'Oral Health Impact Profile 14', a standardised measure for recording population oral health, is an added benefit of the program and has ensured a client focused approach specific to the individual. Data collection also opens up research opportunities from a target group that traditionally has little interaction with dental services.

The program has taken its message to the streets through public health campaigns at Homelessness Expos, Adelaide Central Market, University staff and student Health Expos and Community Outreach Centres.

Our graduating dentistry and oral health students continue to offer their services post-graduation, a real sign of commitment and social justice. Our current dentistry students recently organised a unique fundraising event - the inaugural Dental Students Sleep Out for Homelessness. Students, together with the Dean and other staff, were sponsored to sleep out on a cold August night to raise funds for the program and to give them insight into the discomfort and disadvantage of homelessness.

To find out more about this program visit:  
[www.adelaide.edu.au/dentalclinic](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/dentalclinic)

Julie Marshall, Development and Alumni Officer  
Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Adelaide

## DENTAL PROJECT FOR VANUATU

A not-for-profit professional dental service has been set up for disadvantaged Ni-Van people in Vanuatu. A volunteer dental team, led by ICD Fellow Dr David Goldsmith, has just returned from a two week visit to Port Vila to initiate the project

Vanuatu is an independent Pacific Island nation reported to have 89% unemployment and a high dental caries rate. There are 83 islands and 123 different languages in Vanuatu and proper dental facilities and dentists are only available on two of these islands (Efate and Santo). Occasionally volunteer medical and dental teams visit some of the other islands for short periods by yacht.



A low mileage (13,000 kms) truck with an ex-government mobile dental clinic has been renovated mechanically and the dental

equipment inside professionally serviced. A new portable generator supplied by the Australasian Section of the International College of Dentists allows the unit to be used in the many areas where there is no electricity available. Incidentally, the locals were in awe of our generator! This mobile clinic is now able to perform most forms of clinical dental work in air-conditioned comfort for both patient and operator.

We have registered a Charitable Trust in Vanuatu called the "Happy Smiles Charitable Trust" - to own and administer the project. The right hand drive vehicle is registered and roadworthy to drive on roads in Vanuatu and local sponsorship is helping with many of the running costs. The dental mobile attracted a lot of attention driving around Port Vila.

The team attended a meeting of the newly formed Grassroots Rotary Club in Port Vila. We took the truck to their evening meeting and lit it up with the generator and they were thrilled to be involved and to walk through the mobile dental clinic. .

Port Vila dentists, Dr Felipe Lemos and Dr Marcel Cruz, and the Novo Dental staff will take the unit to outlying villages once a fortnight to provide free clinical dental treatment. Once logistics and the required paperwork are in place, we will be encouraging Australian dentists to volunteer to work in the unit and support the local dentists. Grassroots Rotary has offered to help with informing the villagers, providing security, food and accommodation when needed and to offer cultural experiences and information. A Novo dental nurse fluent in English, French and Bislama will accompany all volunteers.

We would like to encourage a roster of volunteer dentists and dental health care workers to support the Novo dental group and to extend this free dental treatment to other islands in Vanuatu. This will be an ongoing volunteer dental aid project with a realistic life span of 8-10 years.

David Goldsmith, [dgold@netconnect.com.au](mailto:dgold@netconnect.com.au)