



INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTS
AUSTRALASIAN SECTION

ISSUE NO. 53 November 2020

President's Message



President Keith E Watkins

The past 12 months have been like no other with the COVID-19 pandemic impacting all our lives and with other wide-ranging disasters in so many parts of the world. In our Region, the long days in lockdown have dragged by slowly and yet, the year has passed quickly.

2020 was to have been an epic year for ICD with 100th anniversary celebrations planned around the world to culminate with an international celebration in Nagoya, the city where ICD was founded. But the pandemic dictated otherwise. The Section VIII Board has spent many hours over the past 12 months organizing centenary events in both Australia and New Zealand followed by the disappointment of needing to reschedule due to the pandemic. The Board has cancelled the Melbourne centenary dinner planned for 6th March 2021 and is working on rescheduling a centenary dinner in New Zealand. An induction ceremony and dinner are planned in Sydney next year on September 28 at the time of the FDI Congress. We will keep all Fellows advised of developments. We hope 2021 can be a year of celebrations!

I commend and thank the Board for their perseverance throughout the pandemic restrictions, for their constant determination to maintain normal operations. Over the past 12 months, the Board has repeatedly reviewed budgets and budget projections including an in-depth review of expenditure which will result in significant savings for the future. Succession planning continued. The Board welcomed both Jenny Ball (WA) to her first Board meeting in August 2019 and Rob Adams as the Regent-Elect for VIC in June of this year. Jenny organized the only face-to-face ICD event in our Section in 2020 – the WA Sundowner held in February. The Board continued to support future leaders of our profession through the 2020 ICD Young Dentists Volunteer grant (awarded to Haneen Alayan) and through sponsorship of the NZDA Young Dentists Speaker Day to held in February next year.

Due to pandemic disruptions to volunteer programs, approvals for 2020 ICD grants were delayed until September at which time the Board approved grants for oral health programs in underserved communities which can continue thanks to local networks and infrastructure established by project leaders. 2020 ICD grants were awarded to: the Adelaide Community Dental Outreach Program, the ADRF for community oral health research projects, the Healthy Kids Cambodia program, the Long Tan Dental Program in Vietnam, purchase two portable radiograph machines for the Cook Islands, the Gudfala Tut Skul school program in Vanuatu, develop webinar capabilities within the University of PNG Dental School, support the dental education of Timorese Ana Paula Salgado and dental equipment for the Queen Solate College dental students clinic in Tonga. This level of support for dental programs in underserved communities is only possible due to the generous donations made by our Fellows with their annual membership renewal payments. Thank you!

President: Keith Watkins
Registrar: Tom Tseng
International Councillors:

President-Elect: Rick Sawers AM
Regents: Ian Meyers OAM, Graeme Ting, Jenny Ball
Clive Ross CNZM, Jackie Robinson

Immediate Past President: John Owen AM
Editor: Petrina Bowden
Regent-Elect: Robert Adams

Remarkably, during this tumultuous time, our Section membership numbers have remained strong. Since the last induction ceremony in May 2019 in Adelaide, we have welcomed 63 new Fellows into Section VIII. I commend and thank all Fellows who have taken the time to nominate colleagues deserving of the recognition of ICD Fellowship. Your efforts are building the future of our Section.

Lastly, may I say wholeheartedly, on behalf of the Board, I wish all our Fellows and your families, a safe and happy holiday season and a bright new year in 2021!

Dr Keith E Watkins, President

Registrar's Report



Registrar Tom Tseng

Membership Statistics

The Australasian Section of the International College of Dentists now has a total membership of 788. This is comprised of:

- 668 Active Fellows
- 100 Retired Fellows
- 11 Honorary Life Fellows (including 1 Master)
- 9 Honorary Fellows

683 Fellows are from Australia and 89 from New Zealand. Fellows of our Section have spread to many parts of the globe with Fellows now living in Cambodia, Eritrea, Fiji, Hong Kong, Qatar, Timor L'Este, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, the UK and the USA.

76.5% of Section VIII Fellows are male and 23.5% are female.

2020 Queen's Birthday Honours

I am pleased to report that in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours, Fellow John Edward Matthews (VIC) was named a member (AM) in the general division of the Order of Australia for significant service to dentistry through professional associations and to education. Congratulations to John on this well-deserved recognition.

Vale Fellows

Since my previous report in May, we were sorry to learn of the passing of these Section VIII Fellows: Robert "Bob" Cook AM (VIC), Bruce Drysdale OAM (VIC), Harris "Harry" Lewis AM (NSW), Euan Pearce (New Zealand) and Ralph Reid (QLD).

IADR Ryge-Mahler Award

Fellow Professor Martin Tyas has received the Ryge-Mahler Award, a prestigious award from the Dental Materials Group of the International Association of Dental Research (IADR).

Nominating Deserving Colleagues

I encourage all Fellows to consider nominating professional colleagues who they consider deserving of the recognition of Fellowship of the International College of Dentists. The Section VIII nomination form is available on the Section VIII website (<http://www.icdsectionviii.org>) or from the Section VIII Administration Officer (admin@icdsectionviii.org).

Future Section VIII Induction Ceremonies

Due to the impact of COVID-19, Section VIII induction ceremonies planned for 2020 have had to be rescheduled to 2021. The Board continues to review events scheduled in 2021 in relation to the pandemic and local restrictions. Invitations will be sent to all Fellows in due course for ICD events as they are confirmed to go ahead.

Dr Tom Tseng, Registrar

2020 BOARD UPDATE

Although the pandemic has prevented any face-to-face events over the past seven months, the ICD Board has held three video conferences since May to progress Section VIII business.

Considerable time has been spent this year planning, re-evaluating and re-scheduling ICD centenary events that were to be held in both Australia and New Zealand in 2020. Fellows will be advised of changes as well as confirmation of new dates in due course. Pending finalisation of plans for the FDI Congress in Sydney next year, an induction ceremony and dinner are tentatively planned for the evening of Tuesday, 28 September 2021.

The 2020 Fellowship renewal notices were distributed from mid-September and renewal fees were held to 2018 levels due to the impact of COVID-19.

As noted in the President's Message in this newsletter, the Board delayed approval of 2020 ICD grants until the September Board meeting to allow time for project leaders to assess the impact of the pandemic on their programs in 2020 and to advise the Board accordingly. Six grant applicants requested that their applications be held for consideration in 2021. The Board approved nine grants after being advised that established infrastructure and local personnel allowed continuation of the programs in some form in 2020.

Throughout the year, the Board has reviewed nominations of new Fellows at each Board meeting. The Board thanks all Fellows who take the time to nominate deserving colleagues for ICD Fellowship. 49 nominations have been proposed during this calendar year with 43 of the nominations successfully finalised to date. The Board is particularly pleased to add three new Honorary Fellows to the Section VIII membership this year: Prof Alastair Sloan (VIC), A/Prof Catherine Snelling (SA) and A/Prof Janet Wallace (NSW). Section VIII now has nine Honorary Fellows.

Other items of business progressed by the Board since the previous newsletter include:

- Budgets/budget revisions
- FY2020 audit
- Sponsorship of the 2021 NZDA Young Dentists Action Group's Speaker Day
- Succession planning, including appointment of our newest Board member, Rob Adams, as Regent - Elect for Victoria (see article in this newsletter)

- Development of a "South Pacific Strategy"
- Section VIII recognition for departing ICD Secretary-General Jack Hinterman
- Development of a "Perpetual Fellowship Roll" to honour vale Fellows of Section VIII
- Awarding of new Honorary Life Memberships (*see article in this newsletter*)

The Board will hold its final meeting for the year on December 4.

NEW SECTION VIII HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

The award of "Honorary Life Member" was introduced by the Section VIII Board in 2006. Honorary Life Members are Active or Retired Fellows in good standing who have made an outstanding contribution to Section VIII as determined by the Section VIII Board of Regents.

The first Section VIII Honorary Life Memberships (HLMs) were awarded in 2007 at a special ceremony in Sydney. International President Don Johnson and Section VIII President Braham Pearlman awarded inaugural Honorary Life Memberships to Syd Dobbin AM (NSW), Derek Freeman AM (NSW), Neil Henry AM (QLD), L Peter Ryan OAM (QLD), Tom Speed (New Zealand) and Geoff Hall AM (SA). Since that time, HLMs have been awarded to Robert Butler (VIC), Dick Cook AM (WA), Don Heffron CBE (NSW), Peter Noblet AM (SA), Jackie Robinson (NSW), Ron Robinson (NSW) and Clive Ross CNZM (New Zealand). The Board is pleased to advise that Honorary Life Memberships have recently been awarded to David Crum ONZM (New Zealand), John Owen AM (WA), Jenny Smyth AM (QLD) and David Thomson (QLD). This brings the current number of HLMs within our Section to ten. Formal presentations of Honorary Life Memberships for these deserving Fellows will be incorporated into Section VIII induction ceremonies in 2021.

Dr David Crum ONZM (New Zealand) served on the ICD Section VIII Board from 2010 to 2017. David became a Fellow of ICD in 1996. In 2010 he joined the Board as a Regent for New Zealand. David became the Board Vice-President in 2014, progressed to

President in 2015 and served as Immediate Past President for another two years.



Dr David Crum ONZM

Throughout his time on the Board, David was a strong advocate for New Zealand. The New Zealand membership grew by 21% during David's period on the Board: from 60 New Zealand Fellows in 2010 to 76 New Zealand Fellows in 2017. The largest New Zealand induction in the history of the Australasian Section was held in Auckland in August 2015 during David's Presidency with 17 new Fellows being inducted.

David fostered and led the Section's strategic plan which was initiated in March 2014 and continues to guide the Section VIII Board today. David is passionate about supporting young dentists and about ICD developing early relationships with young dentists in our Region. Under his leadership, a Future Leaders Forum was organised as part of the Section VIII 50th anniversary celebrations in Sydney in 2014 and ICD sponsorship for the NZDA Young Dentists Action Group Speaker Day was initiated. David also influenced introduction of the Section VIII Young Dentists Volunteer grant launched in 2019. David, along with Jenny Smyth AM, was instrumental in organising goods funded by our Section which were shipped to Fiji following the devastation of cyclone Winston.



Dr John Owen AM

Dr John Owen AM (WA) is currently serving as Immediate Past President on the Section VIII Board. John has been a Fellow of ICD since 1992. John joined the Section VIII Board as Regent for WA in 2011. He subsequently served in the positions of Treasurer, Vice-President and President over the next seven years.

John is a passionate advocate for the recognition of ICD Fellowship. Under John's chairmanship of the WA ICD local nominating committee, the number of nominations of WA Fellows increased substantially resulting in 106 Fellows from WA now compared to 66 WA Fellows in 2015 (an increase of 37%). The calibre of nominees from WA has remained outstanding.

John also demonstrated leadership of the WA ICD local organising committee with the introduction of "Sundowners" for WA Fellows with emphasis on introducing new WA Fellows to their WA ICD colleagues.

The Kimberley Dental Team, founded and operated by John and his wife Jan, is one of the volunteer programs supported by Section VIII over many years. John's leadership in serving the Aboriginal communities of WA, as well as those in need in Perth, is a shining example within the College.



Dr Jenny Smyth AM

Dr Jenny Smyth AM (QLD) has been a Fellow of the Australasian Section since 1990. She became a Regent representing Queensland on the Board in 2009. Always an active and enthusiastic member of the Board, Jenny distinguished herself further by taking on the role of Editor for our Section in 2010. Jenny filled the role of Editor until the end of 2015 when she handed the position over to Petrina Bowden, our current Editor.

During Jenny's time as Editor, the ICD newsletter became a full colour publication. Jenny ensured that

reports on all projects financially supported by our Section were included annually in the newsletters. These reports raised the profile of projects led by Fellows of our Section, fostered the generous donations made by our Fellows each year with their membership renewal payments and established the Australasian Section as a leading Section in supporting dentally related humanitarian projects within ICD.

Although no longer a member of the Board, Jenny is a member of the subcommittee developing a “South Pacific Strategy” for Section VIII.



Dr David Thomson

Dr David Thomson (QLD) served on the Section VIII Board from 2003 to 2015. David was appointed as the inaugural Speaker for International Council meetings in Sydney in 2014 and served as Speaker for four consecutive Council meetings.

David was admitted to the International College of Dentists in 1988. He served on the Board of Section VIII in the positions of Regent, President and Past President. David’s organisational skills contributed significantly to the Board and are well recognised within the International College. He brought a wealth of organisational experience from local to international levels with him to the Board. David departed the Section VIII Board when his term as Immediate Past President ended with the installation of new Board Officers in Brisbane in March 2015.

NEW REGENT-ELECT FOR VICTORIA

As part of its 2019 succession planning review, the Board created the position of “Regent-Elect”. A Regent-Elect is appointed to serve as a non-voting member of the Board during the final year of the President’s term of office. A Regent-Elect becomes

a voting Regent on the Board at the changeover of officers when the President departs the Board.

The Board is pleased to advise that **Robert (Rob) Adams** has been appointed as Regent-Elect for Victoria. Rob will replace Keith Watkins on the Board representing Victoria when Keith completes his term as President next year.



Dr Robert Adams

Rob has been a Fellow of Section VIII since 2008. He completed his Bachelor of Dental Science at the University of Melbourne in 1981 and subsequently completed Masters of Defence Studies (University of New England) and Forensic Medicine (Monash University) in 1997 and 2018 respectively.

Rob is currently a partner in a private general dental practice in Surrey Hills, Victoria. He was previously a dental officer at St Vincent’s Hospital, Melbourne; a partner in a general dental practice in Blackburn; and a mentor in the Community Outreach Program of the Melbourne Dental School. Rob assists with the forensic identification for the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, including the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Disaster.

Rob has had a distinguished defence force career since joining the Army Reserve in 1984 and being commissioned into the Royal Australian Army Dental Corps. Promoted to the rank of major in 1990, he attended the Reserve Command and Staff College and in 1994 became the first reservist to be given technical responsibility for Army Dental Services in Victoria. In 2003 Colonel Adams was promoted to Colonel Consultant in the Defence Health Service Branch, Canberra responsible for dental clinical policy in the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

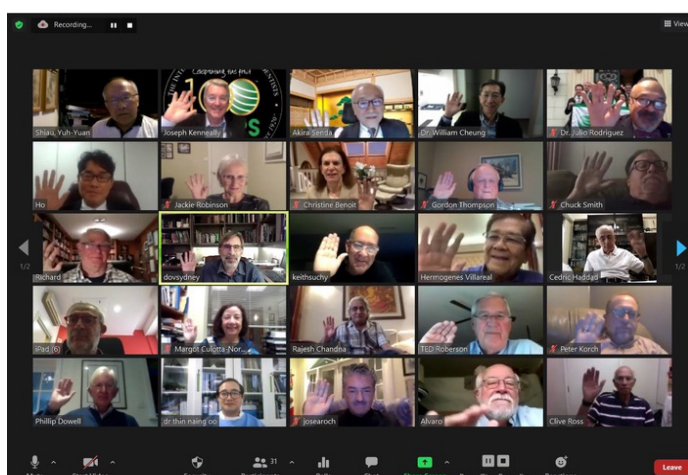
Rob’s other interests include Scottish highland drumming. In 2000 Rob participated in the Golden

Jubilee of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and the Tribute to the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday as lead drummer with the Pipes and Drums of 5/6 Battalion, Royal Victorian Regiment. Robert is currently a director of the Victorian Scottish Heritage Cultural Foundation.

Rob is also a keen hockey player with the Camberwell Hockey Club and was previously chair of the Eastern Zone for Hockey Victoria.

2020 VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Representing all 16 Sections, the 40-member governing body of the International College of Dentists, the International Council, convened via video technology on October 29th for their first-ever virtual annual meeting.



To accommodate the challenge of organizing a meeting with Council members from 19 different time zones, the International Council meeting was limited to one hour, allowing enough time for decision-making on items of the highest priority. A pre-meeting information and discussion session was held on Zoom where Council members were briefed on the virtual meeting agenda and discussed the initiatives.

The historic virtual International Council meeting went off flawlessly. Key decisions included reactivating a Section XX Region to represent Fellows on the island of Hispaniola, adopting a 2021 College budget, and passing guidelines allowing Sections to recognize new Fellows in the absence of an induction ceremony. Additionally, individuals were honoured for services

and contributions to the International Council and the worldwide College.

As a result of the pandemic and upon the recommendation of the 2020 Nominations Committee, the International Council extended the 2020 officers' terms until the International Council meeting to be held in Nagoya, Japan in September 2021. The current officers are: International President Akira Senda (Japan), International President-Elect Richard M. Smith (USA), International Vice President Ho-Youl Chang (Korea), International Treasurer Keith Suchy (USA), International Editor Dov Sydney (Israel) and International Past President Clive Ross (New Zealand).

In addition, the recommendation of the Secretary General Search Committee, adopted by the Executive Committee, was forwarded to the full Council which unanimously ratified the appointment of Joseph Kenneally (USA) to the position of Secretary-General replacing Jack Hinterman.

Clive Ross CNZM (New Zealand) and Jackie Robinson (NSW) are the International Councillors representing Section VIII.

THE TIES THAT BIND Do you have a dental necktie to donate to the BDA Museum?



Amongst its vast collection of dental artifacts, the British Dental Association Museum has a collection of dental neckties. Dr Nairn Wilson, an ICD Fellow of Section V (Europe), has contacted each Section of ICD asking Fellows to donate dental ties from their respective countries. An early Section VIII tie featuring the ICD key has been donated from our Section. Below is the request from Dr Wilson. Please contact him directly if you have a tie to donate.

Dear Section VIII Fellows,

Dental neckties, in common with all forms of ties, are going out of fashion. Dental ties, including dental school, academy, college, society, sports team and club ties, are believed to date back to the early 1920s. Since that time hundreds of different dental ties, including dental novelty ties, are believed to have been produced around the world. The BDA Museum Dental Tie Archive is an important addition to the Museum's extensive and professionally maintained collection of dental archives. To date the Dental Tie Archive includes just over 100 different dental ties, each with a provenance relevant to the last hundred years of the history of dentistry. I am anxious to substantially increase the number of ties in the unique Archive before many, irreplaceable, now unworn dental ties are discarded.



I am reaching out to Fellows of Section VIII to ask them to donate whatever dental ties they can bare parting with to the BDA Museum Dental Tie Archive. It is most helpful if donations to the Archive are identified in a covering note or by means of labels before being mailed to me c/o the British Dental Association Museum, 64 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 8YS, UK. I will look forward to the possibility of adding Australasian dental ties to the colourful, history rich Archive. Donors will have their name added to the list of donors to the Archive. All donations will be acknowledged.

Your assistance in my quest to bring together a unique global collection of dental ties is greatly appreciated.

With very best wishes,

Prof Nairn H F Wilson

Emeritus Professor of Dentistry, Chair College of General Dentistry

Cheshire, UK, SK9 7GS

nairn.wilson@btinternet.com

SECTION VIII PROJECT UPDATES

Projects supported by Section VIII are adapting to the changing post COVID-19 world. COVID-19 has curtailed travel, which has resulted in preventing many Section VIII volunteers being unable to participate in projects this year.

SMILES FOR THE PACIFIC, FIJI

Wow! Talk about upheaval and continued disruption! 2020 has thrown a curly one at us all and no one foresaw the chaos. Being an overseas charity, Smiles for the Pacific has been hit hard and with no volunteers or lecturers being able to visit Fiji or any of the island group, we have gone into semi hibernation at present.

However, in July and August SFTP ran a series of 5 lectures /webinars that were shared free on the Zoom network with anyone who showed an interest. Publicity through Facebook and the like meant the message got through. Some very generous specialists shared their wisdom free of charge on topics including oral medicine, implants, wisdom teeth and endodontics. The audience reached as far as colleagues in Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Timor Este. Remember we have a wonderful knowledge bank that is easy and free to share so please consider this successful template to utilise during these trying times.

Like everybody we are waiting for COVID to do a fast exit or at least be adequately contained so that some resemblance of normality can return and SFTP along with everyone else can get back to allowing volunteers to volunteer! We have several waiting in the wings including the 2020 ICD Young Dentist Volunteer recipient, Dr Haneen Alayan. We are also anxious to enable a dental technician, Alfred from Honiara (Solomon Islands) to travel to Australia and/or New Zealand to further his learning and take that back to his clinical work but alas we will have to be patient.

It's been a difficult year all round as clinicians connected with SFTP in New Zealand and Australia struggle to maintain momentum with their own practices and staff. One thing is for sure, there is always someone worse off than we are.

Dr Jonathan Cole, jcole@xtra.co.nz

PROJECT YETI, NEPAL

The year started hopeful, with the teams set to be in Nepal in April, but as news of the virus spread, all visits were cancelled. I am aiming to take teams in April or later in 2021, even if it means going in the wet season, providing it is safe to travel.

The last Project Yeti team, led by Tim Topalov, went to Chialsa and Kopan in September 2019. There will be a backlog of work which will keep the 2021 teams very busy. Each year in the monastery and nunnery, there is a new intake of approximately 100 monks and nuns, which means we will be treating double that number in 2021. The young new arrivals are often in a poor dental state. This increased workload will be offset by each team spending longer in Nepal. Furthermore, there will be plenty of supplies which have been accumulated for 2021 to perform the treatment needed. There have been many applicants for 2021, so once travel is safe and effective treatment for the virus is available, I am confident there will be no shortage of volunteers.



It was very cold while they were last in Nepal! It snowed, and the clinic had no heating. It takes a special type of person to cope with all the testing issues that arise. Chris Hodge who also went to Chialsa splinted a patient who had a fractured leg.

Working at an altitude of around 2700m with people who live a very barren life can be a life changing experience.

George Manos, georgemanos1972@gmail.com

STAY IN TOUCH

Experience the Digital Globe

To begin reading the GLOBE online, go to: www.icd.org/the-globe-journal-annual/ and scroll down to "The 2020 Globe".

Section VIII Website

For more photos and regular updates on Section projects and events, visit our Section website: www.icdsectionviii.org

Section VIII Facebook Page

For more photos, locations and regular updates on projects and events, check out our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ICDAustralasian

Please forward any news or updates you may find interesting to our Editor, petrinabowden@gmail.com for uploading to our Section Facebook page or our Admin Officer, at admin@icdsectionviii.org for uploading to the Section VIII website.

ADELAIDE COMMUNITY DENTAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

In March 2020 South Australia went into stage 3 restrictions which meant only essential dental care could be undertaken. This meant that students were unable to attend the Community Dental Outreach clinic. However, thanks to our volunteer dentists, we continued to provide emergency and essential dental care.

July 2020 saw us back with our students and our full complement of patients and additional precautions. The down time gave us an opportunity to review our work practices and compliance and facilitated grant writing.

Now that we are back in full operation, we are finding the need has increased with more people struggling with less work and unable to access dental care due to financial distress. Adding to the workload are

international students who are unable to find casual work to supplement their scholarships and are not eligible for public dental care.

A letter of thanks from one of our recent patients, 'Will', reinforces the importance of the program in the community. Along with dental problems, Will has experienced years of neglect and ill health coupled with lack of finances. He was thrilled to have his teeth cleaned, fillings completed and a partial upper denture made to replace missing teeth. His smile and thanks for the care from our clinic assistant Amanda, volunteer dentist Dr Greg Cocks and our BDS and BOH students were heart-warming as expressed in a simple statement "thanks to Dr Cocks a true gentleman. A creator of smiles". Will called the students "world class". He said he can now have his photo taken with his family without embarrassment!

If it weren't for organisations such as ICD and our greater dental community who continue to show generosity and support, we would indeed be in dire straits and our hopes for our 10th anniversary in 2021 would be in jeopardy.



Left to right Joanna, Dr Greg Cocks, Penny, Xin, Lucy, Seated Will

Thank you, ICD, for supporting us over the years and the lives you have helped us turn around.

Margie Steffens OAM B.Sc. Dent (Hons). ADDH, FICD
Manager Community Outreach Dental Program
margie.steffens@adelaide.edu.au

KIMBERLEY DENTAL TEAM (KDT)

As with the past two years, two trips were scheduled this year to provide five clinical weeks. This schedule has now been put off to 2021 with most volunteers expressing a desire to be involved. Approximately 40 volunteers were to be involved in our 2020 teams. We are very disappointed that our four final year students and second year paediatric registrar will miss out on their KDT experience and will not have the opportunity to work with the best teams in the profession and meet our many great aboriginal patients and community friends.



My wife, Jan, and I visited the region in August and were able to replenish supplies of toothpaste and brushes to communities such as Pandanus Park, Bayulu School, One Arm Point and Beagle Bay. Most communities were still on full visitor restrictions. We visited Yuri Yungi, the Aboriginal Medical Service in Halls Creek, to meet the staff and look at the upgraded dental facility. We also visited the hospital dental rooms to assess the equipment and undertake minor repairs.

Sessions of KDT Southern in 2020 were also cancelled amid COVID concerns. At this stage any session in 2021 will depend on developments. KDT continues to provide oral health packs on request to homeless shelters, health centres, refugee clinics, playgroups and schools across the state.

Dr John Owen AM, www.kimberleydentalteam.com

HEALTHY KIDS CAMBODIA

Like most dental teams, the Healthy Kids Cambodia team had to reduce their provision of care across 2020. As we get back into a more regular workflow, it has been great to have the chance to reflect on what has been achieved during this intermission. As reported in the previous newsletter, the team

spent time refurbishing stores and maintaining relationships using social media platforms to make sure our many partners stay connected. As the lockdown restrictions have been lifted, the team have been able to diversify to some extent and they spent time training government staff in health centres about the oral health of preschool children. Presently, schools are in the process of opening with a limited capacity and as such, there are plans to deliver care to children in multiple different districts including five schools for children with special needs. The Healthy Kids Program was again grateful to be the recipient of an ICD grant to support our ongoing work. We feel cautiously optimistic that our work will continue to build in 2021 as a lasting and sustainable contribution to improving the oral health of children in Cambodia.



Dr Tida trains community health centre staff in oral health promotion and placing fluoride varnish

Dr Bethy Turton,
bethy.turton@gmail.com

PNG WEBINARS

Due to risk of the spread of COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Dental District at the University of PNG, with the support of ICD, has moved to online webinars. This has allowed presentations from overseas experts. A recent presentation was given by Dr Elizabeth Sari from La Trobe University on her research into Areca (betel) nut use in Indonesia. In addition to PNG dentists, people from the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Indonesia were able to participate in the webinar. In her presentation, Dr Sari noted that the degree of ripeness of the Areca nut is directly related to the amounts of polyphenols and arecoline. An unripe Areca nut contains a higher concentration of polyphenols and arecoline compared to a ripe Areca nut. This finding suggests that consuming ripe, rather than unripe Areca nuts could lower the potential

development of oral submucous fibrosis which can lead to oral cancer. She also found in her research that unripe Areca nuts are consumed in the West Papua region of Indonesia which is adjacent to PNG and has a similar culture. These findings were accepted with enthusiasm as they inform a new public health approach to reducing the prevalence of oral cancer in countries where betel nut consumption is common.

Dr Len Crocombe, leonard.crocombe@utas.edu.au
Dr Mahmood Siddiqi, mssiddiqi1@hotmail.com

GUDFALA TUT SKUL PROGRAM, VANUATU

The ICD grant to support translation of documents for the Gudfala Tut Skul Program in Vanuatu was indeed timely. Missionary worker, Danny Cooke, is assisting Gudfala Tut with the introduction of the first “Brush in a Box” kits in two small rural schools, including a French-speaking school on the island of Tanna. Danny reported that the teachers at the latter school speak French, Bislama and local languages, but not English, hence the importance of translating key documents, instructions and posters into Bislama and French.



“Brush in a Box” delivery to the French school, Lpikel

Dr Barry Stewart,
blstewart17@gmail.com

LONG TAN DENTAL PROJECT, VIETNAM

In the interim period till global volunteers can travel to Vietnam, the AVVRG* Long Tan Dental Project is proceeding with provision of equipment and consumables to empower local service providers. Presently, due to the COVID situation in Australia and Vietnam, there is no direct provision of volunteer Australian service work so we are seeking funds to

help supply crucial equipment and consumables for our local service delivery partners in the Vietnamese dental community to continue the good work in the interim and as a means to “future proof” the project to enable our volunteers to “hit the ground running” upon resumption of international travel, hopefully in 2021. The AVVRG does not want to see all the hard-fought gains over the last 20 years evaporate due to a loss of momentum in getting our message out about healthy dietary habits and good oral hygiene as well as provision of preventive and interventive dental care provided to the local Vietnamese community. Support and funding are now more crucial than ever as it is becoming more onerous for the AVVRG to raise funds due to the impact on charitable donations of the 2019 Australian bushfires as well as the significant global economic downturn due to COVID 19. Should any ICD Fellows wish to nominate as a volunteer when travel resumes or wish to talk to the AVVRG about financial support of the program, please contact me. If you have soon to expire or excess stock or equipment you no longer use that you would like to donate, please contact me. Best wishes and stay safe in this difficult time.

Dr Greg Miller, Dental Team Leader,

dentaloutreachaus@gmail.com

**Australian Vietnam Volunteers Resource Group*

M’LOP TAPANG, CAMBODIA

In 2019 we experienced the difficulties of overcoming persistent flooding due to over development and little supporting infrastructure. The clinic was moved upstairs out of high-water flood levels. Unfortunately, we lost most of our consumables during the initial flooding. We are slowly restocking where possible. Amazingly, one of the submerged chairs has survived, but the older chair could not be repaired.

M’Lop Tapang has had no dental visits since November 2019. Both the January and February 2020 trips had to be cancelled due to uncertainty about COVID safety for volunteers. Our resident Cambodian dental nurse has continued with exams, cleans and some fissure sealants. Extreme pain cases that could not wait have been taken to local Cambodian dentists for treatment. We look forward to recommencing active treatment in 2021 when conditions allow.

Dr Petrina Bowden,

petrinabowden@gmail.com



Due to continuing uncertainty about COVID restrictions, the centenary celebration scheduled for 6 March 2021 in Melbourne has been cancelled.

The next Section VIII induction ceremony and dinner in Australia are scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, 28 September 2021 in Sydney, at the time of the FDI Congress.

As plans for the FDI Congress are under review, all Fellows will be kept informed of developments and invitations to the ICD function will be sent in due course when confirmed.

Global ICD centenary celebrations are scheduled in Nagoya, Japan on 20 – 22 September 2021. The College Office will keep all Fellows informed about the global events.

TIMOR LESTE DENTAL PROGRAM

COVID-19 put a stop to our volunteer teams heading to Timor Leste this year. However, our fixed clinic and school dental program continue to run in Maubara. Ana Tilman and Nico Pires, our two dental therapists, are still treating patients in our Maubara Clinic, and when TL’s COVID restrictions allow, they visit the schools for their prevention program as well. COVID-19 has made it exceedingly difficult to get supplies to the Maubara team. It took over four months to send consumables from Melbourne to Darwin and through to Dili and a further three weeks to get the supplies released from customs.

Back home in Australia, we have developed an electronic clinical record application that will be rolled out next year when we get back into Timor Leste. We are also working on a compact incinerator design for sharps disposal in Maubara. Currently, the Ministry of Health takes used sharps to the dump which is not a suitable option.

Newsletters go digital only!

As previously advised to all Fellows, the Board approved digital only distribution of the Section VIII biannual newsletters commencing with this edition. Previously, more than 70% of Fellows had already opted out of receiving hard copy newsletters. Digital copies of newsletters are sent to all Fellows in the database who have email addresses and only 13 Fellows in the database do not have email addresses.

Changing to digital only distribution of newsletters will result in a savings of approximately \$2,600 per year. These funds will then be applied to supporting volunteer programs in under served communities in our region!

The ICD grant relates to Ana Paula's dental studies in Fiji. After much stress for David Sheen and his team, Ana Paula was able to commence her studies at Fiji Uni only to be hit by COVID isolation policies two weeks later. It was a very trying first semester for her - new country, new university, new course, no social interaction and no local academic support network. This was all overlaid with the death of a close family member for which she could not return home. Despite this, Ana Paula is a stoic, very determined and hardworking individual and she was given much support by David and his team and a number of our volunteer dentists from Australia via WhatsApp. We are extremely pleased that Ana Paula passed her first examinations under such difficult circumstances.

Dr Blanche Tsetong, Program Coordinator,
tsetongb@hotmail.com

Be the change you want to see in the world, Gandhi

Village School Oral Health Program, Nepal

This has indeed been quite a crazy and tough year. There is nothing much to report for our Nepal project sadly. The schools in Nepal have been closed since April and movement to remote districts has been limited/curtailed. Bishnu stays in contact with the remote schools in our program, and in the early COVID days managed to send some toothbrushes and paste, which would have been distributed to the kids and families.

Separate to the direct dental work, but connected.... the Paul Pholeros Foundation is running a competition for the design of a portable hand washing unit, one that can be carried along with the mobile dental equipment, and deployed in our dental camps to enable hand washing at point of entry.

**THE PAUL PHOLEROS FOUNDATION NEPAL
PORTABLE HANDWASHING 2020 CHALLENGE**

We have had many entries and are looking forward to the final designs, then local trialling, evaluation, and implementation with our partners in Nepal.

Hopefully, our dental teams will be operating again soon, but so hard to know - the COVID numbers in Nepal are worrying.

Dr Sandra Meihubers AM

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