

DENTAL ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



PICTURED: 5th Year BDS group, Professor Eric Reynolds (left) Dr Julia Gellatly (Back Centre) and Dr James Newby (2nd from right). Students presented excerpts of their research projects to fellow students and staff members.

THE 41ST ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR STUDENT RESEARCH Presentations was held on Thursday 28th and Friday 29th October 2010. 4th and 5th year Bachelor of Dental Science students, 3rd year Bachelor of Oral Health students and final year PhD and Doctor of Clinical Dentistry students presented excerpts of their research projects to fellow students and staff members. Professor Reynolds opened the ceremony with the annual awarding of prizes. Prize donors attending the ceremony included Ms Gemma Kennedy, President of the Victorian Dental and Oral Health Therapist Association, Ms Deidre MacKechnie, Dental Health Services Victoria, Ms Amanda Smart from Oral B and Ms Lenore Tuckerman from Colgate.

The Bachelor of Dental Science students presented a wide range of research abstracts, including :
An analysis of children's television advertising in relation to oral health; Dog bites, epidemiology, demography, injuries, treatment, legislation and public health; Treatment outcomes for bisphosphonate related osteonecrosis of the jaw; Computed tomography (CT) analysis and 3D reconstruction of an ancient Egyptian mummy from the Greco-Roman period.

MELBOURNE DENTAL SCHOOL'S 41st Annual Research Day Presentations

The Bachelor of Oral Health students' research presentations were impressive as well with topics ranging from The role of the oral health therapist in relation to the management of children with clefts of the lip/palate; Oral health promotion for Afghan and Iraqi refugees in Shepparton; and Oral health of children in Cambodia; and the Oral health care needs of Sri Lankan refugees and Aboriginal children.

We congratulate our students on their wonderful presentations to the School. Appreciation is also extended to the Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch and the Victorian

Dental and Oral Health Therapy Association for their sponsorship of our student research days programme. Association for their sponsorship of our student research days programme. **D**

THE SCHOOL HAS HAD A CHALLENGING YEAR IN 2010. The lack of a first year intake into the BDSc and other external factors, such as the global financial crisis, resulted in less income such that the School has not been able to replace all staff who recently retired. This has resulted in increased workloads for staff particularly at a time when the School is introducing a new Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) curriculum and designing the new Melbourne Oral Health

Training and Education Centre (MOHTEC) at 723 Swanston Street to enable a critical expansion of school infrastructure to accommodate the planned increase in student numbers and more intensive clinical training. However, even



: From the Head :

under these challenging conditions the School has performed very well in 2010.

The School has been very successful with respect to research grants in 2010. The new CRC for Oral Health with \$31.6 million of government funding has been formally established with all participants now signing the Participants Agreement. Congratulations also to the School's Section of Oral Anatomy, Medicine and Surgery on receiving a prestigious Australian Research Council Discovery grant of \$290,000 and to the Oral Biology Research Group who received three of the four National Health & Medical Research Project grants awarded nationally to Dentistry. The value of the three NH&MRC grants awarded to the School is \$1.5 million.

It is very pleasing to report that the School's budget allocation from the Faculty in 2011 will be greater than that received in 2010. This increased income will be used for new staff positions to help alleviate workloads and also to provide specific expertise required for the new DDS curriculum. One of these new positions has already been created and

an appointment made, so it is a great pleasure to welcome Dr Rita Hardiman to the dental school in her role as Lecturer in Orofacial Anatomy. Other new positions that are being created are a Lecturer in Oral Biology, a Lecturer in Restorative Dentistry and a Lecturer in Clinical Communication. There has also been a restructure of some existing positions to compensate for the loss of staff in certain areas. The restructuring has resulted in the creation of a new position, Director of Teaching and Learning and Associate Professor Michael McCullough has agreed to take on this new role. This position will be supported by another new position of Director of Clinical Education at Associate Professor level which replaces the previous Clinical Dean position. Matthew Hopcraft will hold this new position in the School. On behalf of the School may I congratulate Michael and Matthew and thank them for taking on these very important leadership roles within the School. Further new positions in the School will be required as the later years of the new DDS are introduced and MOHTEC at 723 Swanston St. is established.

The School said farewell to one of its senior staff in late 2010. Professor Michael Burrow has resigned to take up a position in the Hong Kong University dental school. He has made an outstanding contribution to the Melbourne Dental School over many years so we thank Michael for his contribution and wish him well in his new role.

Congratulations to Joseph Palamara who was promoted to Associate Professor in this year's promotion round. This is an impressive achievement recognizing Joseph's long standing contribution to the School in teaching and research in biomaterials.

The documentation for the accreditation of the DDS by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) has been submitted and a site visit conducted by the ADC in August. The overall response of the ADC visitation team was congratulatory; praising the innovation and high quality of the submission. It is expected that the School will receive New Program Accreditation for the DDS before the end of the year. All the staff involved in preparing the documentation for accreditation should be congratulated and I would particularly like to thank Dr Menaka Abuzar for her outstanding

contribution and leadership. It is very gratifying to see the substantial interest shown by prospective students both national and international in the Doctor of Dental Surgery such that there will be no problem filling the available places in this new course with high quality students.

Most school staff have been actively engaged in the schematic design of MOHTEC with the lead consultants Blomquist and Wark. The schematic design is progressing well and all those involved are excited with the potential for this state-of-the-art facility offering clinical simulation, diagnostic imaging, private practice experience and new Continuing Professional Development opportunities.

The success in attracting research funding, the implementation of the new DDS program and the establishment of MOHTEC in 2011 provide excellent opportunities for the School to continue to grow and be the leader in dental education and research in Australia and to enhance its already substantial international reputation.

Professor Eric C. Reynolds
AO FICD FTSE FRACDS

COVER STORY: MELBOURNE DENTAL SCHOOL'S 41ST ANNUAL RESEARCH DAY PRESENTATIONS - The Bachelor of Dental Science students presented a wide range of research abstracts: An analysis of children's television advertising in relation to oral health; Dog bites, epidemiology, demography, injuries, treatment, legislation and public health; Treatment outcomes for bisphosphonate related osteonecrosis of the jaw.

Pictured left: B0H 3rd year students with A/Prof Julie Satur 2nd on left.



PICTURED LEFT: Viet Nguyen
ABOVE: Field team on the front steps of Phu Giao District Hospital

Rotary Australia-Vietnam Dental Health Program

STUDENT REPORT
by Ms Viet Huong Nguyen

IN MARCH 2010 I WENT WITH DR JAMIE ROBERTSON to Vietnam with the Rotary Australia-Vietnam Dental Health Program (RAVDH). Those two weeks of my life proved to be filled with the most interesting and enriching dental experiences that I have had to date.

The field team I was working in comprised dentists Martin Tyas, John Boucher and David Whelan, as well as dental assistants Joanne Gardner, Merryn Campbell and Barbara Forbes. All group members were veterans in working in the Vietnamese rural settings. The field team worked for one week each in Tan Hiep in Kien Giang Province and Phu Giao in Binh Duong Province.

We also recorded the WHO standardised chart for 12 year old children to attain data on the disease profiles of each location.

The team's first location was Tan Hiep District Hospital in Kien Giang province where we were accompanied by an interpreter

and a dentist from the National Hospital of Odontostomatology in Ho Chi Minh City, and personnel staff from the clinic. We cleaned,

rearranged and set up for the week's work ahead as soon as we arrived at the location. The working conditions were basic but the work done during the time was efficient and effective.

There were around 20-25 twelve year old children presenting to the dental care venues set up by the RAVDH project each morning and afternoon session. The children were pre-selected for attendance by local dentists. Dental instruments and consumables were brought from Australia.

Early in each clinical session, the children were examined and then triaged by treatment needs and relative difficulty. Decisions had to be made for the most effective treatment that we could do for all of the children in each session. We also recorded the WHO standardised chart for 12 year old children to attain data on the disease profiles of each location.

The treatment provided ranged from simple and complex restorations of permanent anterior and posterior teeth, fissure sealing permanent molars and premolars, pulp extirpations of permanent incisors, to extractions of symptomatic permanent and primary teeth. Conventional glass ionomer cement (Fuji IXTM, GC Asia Dental Pty Ltd, Singapore) was used for sealants and posterior restorations; some anterior teeth were restored with resin composite. If the child required extractions, consent was confirmed by the parent.

With the high rate of untreated decay in the Kien Giang province many children needed far more treatment than we could provide. There was excellent hospitality by the local hospital staff in Tan Hiep. Evenings were shared over authentic

(...continued over)

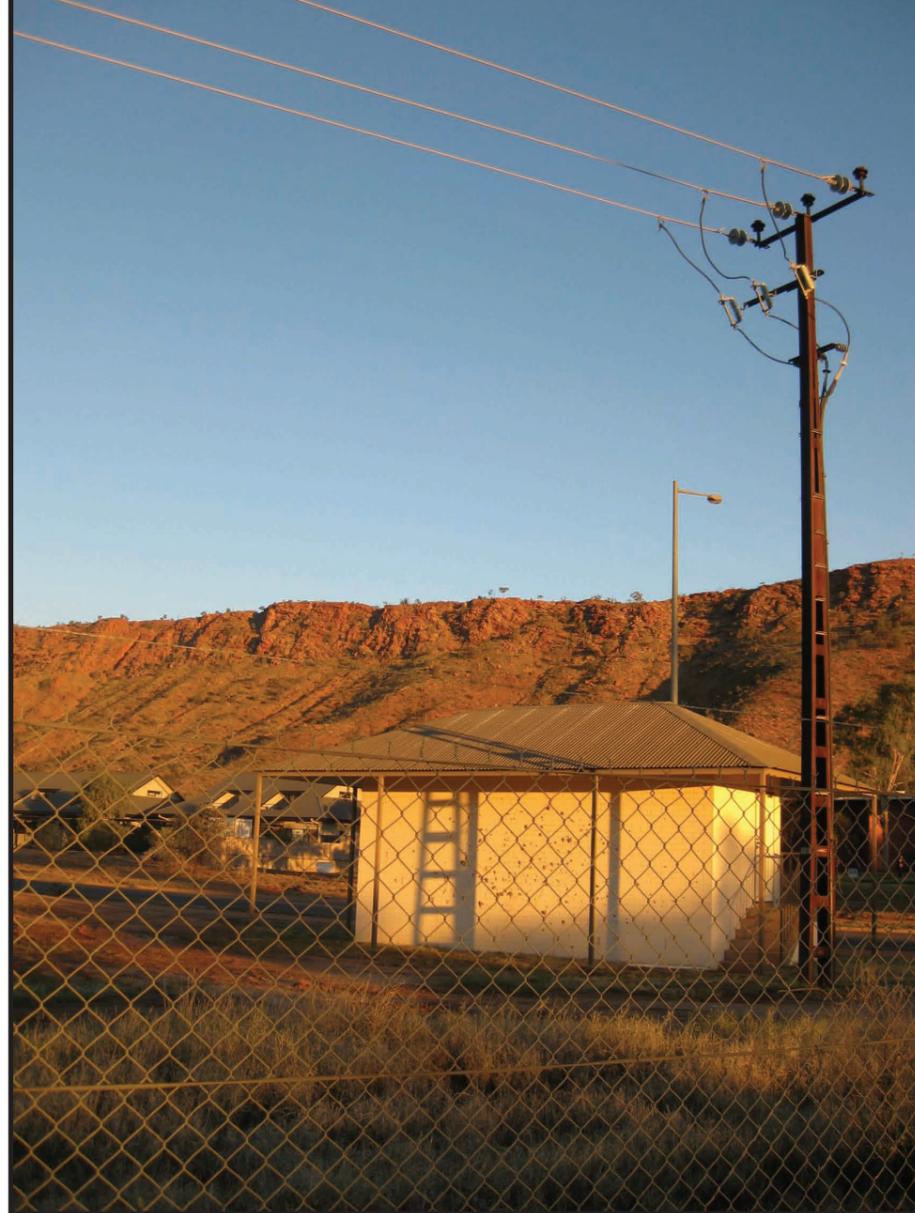


(...continued from previous page) Vietnamese cuisine, as well as a visit to Rach Gia, the capital/administrative centre of Kien Giang Province.

After the six hour drive back to Ho Chi Minh City for the weekend, we recharged our batteries at home base with all the project teams, ready again to leave for Phu Giao in the second week where similar work was carried out.

It was on my return, more than a month later, that I was able to reflect on the opportunity I was given. The experiences and challenges encountered in those two weeks in the way of working within a tight dental team, humid and basic living conditions, interacting with local schoolchildren, and rural locals, as well as travelling to the different provinces were all impressionable to me. From working with such experienced team members I witnessed the delivery of swift yet effective dental treatment which will benefit the local school children. It was encouraging to be able to observe ongoing oral hygiene programs previously established by the RAVDH project in 2007 in Tan Hiep. The Vietnamese teachers and students partake in supervised tooth brushing as a daily part of their school activities. The local primary school also employs a dental hygienist who examines and individually provides oral hygiene and dietary advice and instruction for children every day. I feel privileged to have been involved in this oral health project, and am still amazed at the impact the RAVDH project has had and will continue to have. This was a unique, challenging yet most rewarding experience that I would love to repeat.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank GC Corporation for their generous support of the scholarship and support for the Rotary Australia Vietnam Dental Health Project. Additionally, thank you Jamie for your admirable mentorship and leadership. Thank you also to Martin Tyas, John Boucher and David Whelan for being outstanding role models and mentors. I am extremely grateful to have been a part of this program, and hope that it will continue to touch Vietnamese people as it has myself. **D**



National University Rural Health Conference

REPORT
by Ms Clare Lin

IN JULY THIS YEAR THE MELBOURNE DENTAL SCHOOL sponsored me to attend the 2010 National University Rural Health Conference (NURHC) in Alice Springs. On the flight from Melbourne to Alice Springs, the sprawling city, patchwork of farms and green ranges below us gave way to an Australian landscape I had never before experienced. It was a vast, sparse, ochre-coloured land which spilled out into the distance with no distinct periphery, beneath an endless blue sky. Alice Springs proved to be a beautiful backdrop to our conference and was an appropriate setting given that this year's theme was 'Central to Health'.

NURHC saw over 400 medical, dental, nursing and allied health students, together with a range of stakeholders and health professionals, converge on the Red Centre. The conference was designed to bring together young, enthusiastic and curious students to enhance their understanding of rural and remote health care and to promote discussion and awareness of current issues in these fields. I thought it would be a wonderful opportunity to connect with like-minded students from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds and to hear from current health professionals and rural and remote health bodies.

It was a busy three day program with an interesting line up of guest speakers, a variety of workshops, tours of local hospitals and social networking events in the evenings.

On our first day, we were fortunate enough to go on a tour of the public dental facilities in Alice Springs with Dr Elise Beachley, a graduate from The University of Melbourne, who now works as a dentist in Alice Springs. The clinic was much like a community dental practice in Melbourne and was run by a handful of dentists, dental therapists and dental assistants, treating patients eligible for public dental care. I was quite surprised at the relatively modern appearance of the clinic and how well equipped it was. As Dr Beachley explained, one of the most significant differences about the Alice Springs clinic is the massive area it is required to service. People travel from up to 600km away on dirt roads to access dental treatment. However, for many people, travelling such distances is not feasible and so they are forced to live without dental care. To improve access to the wider population, the clinic

runs two fully equipped dental vans which travel out to communities to provide treatment. Dr Beachley's typical routine is a week working at the clinic and then a week spent travelling to, and working in, a remote community. She and her dental nurse will treat anyone and everyone who walks through the door of the dental van. As visits to any one community are infrequent, demand is usually high and this can mean working into the evening in order to see every patient. Despite the long hours, Dr Beachley seems to genuinely enjoy the work and the lifestyle of working in remote health. She is able to travel to many different communities, work on a vast array of patients and provide care to people who may otherwise go without. However, access to dental care in remote Australia continues to be a major and serious problem and much more needs to be done to improve access in these areas.

During the conference, the guest speakers spoke on a range of topics, including their own experiences in rural and remote practices, government policy, approaches of national health bodies in tackling the current problems in these arenas, and the challenges and rewards of working in remote Indigenous communities. For me, one of the most interesting speakers was Dr Alyssa Vass. Dr Vass has extensive experience in clinical medicine and public health and has worked as a health educator for Aboriginal Resource Development Services (ARDS), focusing on health education with indigenous people. She highlighted some of the cross-cultural challenges facing those who work with indigenous people in the health sector. Dr Vass explained that in some communities, indigenous languages are predominant and little English is spoken. In these communities, indigenous languages have not evolved to describe certain Western health concepts. It is therefore difficult to relay important health messages to indigenous communities, without much of it being lost in translation. For instance, the concept of

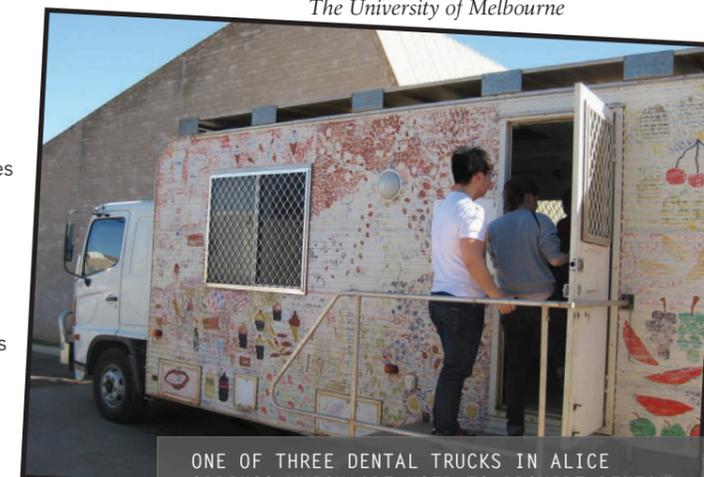
microscopic bacteria that cause disease cannot be easily articulated in some indigenous languages. Dr Vass told us of the confusion she and her colleagues faced when trying to explain that organisms that were too small to be seen could be the source of disease. ARDS is dedicated to overcoming such challenges so that health education, a crucial part of disease prevention, can reach indigenous communities.

During the three day conference my understanding of the existing health problems and possible solutions for rural and remote Australians was significantly enhanced. It became clear to me that part of the solution involves the participation of as many Australian health

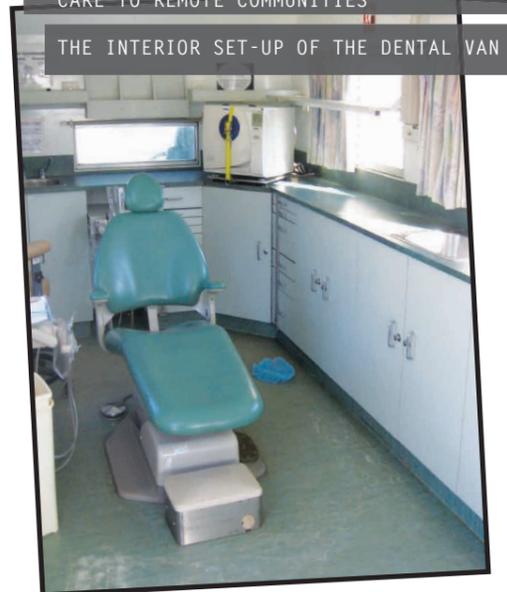
professionals as possible, in projects aimed at improving the health outcomes of people in these remote and poorly serviced areas. **D**

Clare Lin is a Fourth Year Bachelor of Dental Science student at The University of Melbourne

Dr Beachley and her dental nurse will treat anyone and everyone who walks through the door of the dental van



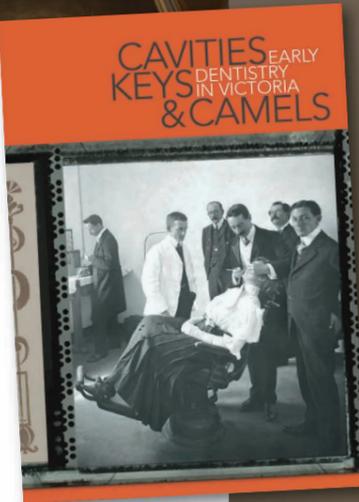
ONE OF THREE DENTAL TRUCKS IN ALICE SPRINGS WHICH ARE USED TO PROVIDE DENTAL CARE TO REMOTE COMMUNITIES



THE INTERIOR SET-UP OF THE DENTAL VAN



Cavities, keys and camels: Early dentistry in Victoria



PICTURED ABOVE, TOP TO BOTTOM:

Exhibition showcase: *The Australian College of Dentistry* (Photographer Michael Crooks)

Exhibition Catalogue: *Cavities, keys and camels: Early dentistry in Victoria*, University of Melbourne, 2010

Leather roll-up case with dental instruments, c.1800, case: leather and linen; instruments: nickel-plated steel and ivory, 4.5 x 68.0 x 32.0 cm, reg. nos 214, 215, 216 and 217

A RECENT EXHIBITION FROM THE HENRY FORMAN ATKINSON DENTAL MUSEUM; *CAVITIES, KEYS AND CAMELS: EARLY DENTISTRY IN VICTORIA*, Leigh Scott Gallery, Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne, explored the social history, technical developments and professional foundation of dentistry in Victoria. It did so under the themes; 'colonial dentistry', 'early dental literature', 'the first practices', 'education and training', 'pioneer female dentists', 'early dental instruments', 'itinerate dentistry' and 'pain relief and anaesthesia', to name but a few.

The exhibition drew upon the extensive collection of the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum and other cultural collections of the University of Melbourne including; the Ian Potter Museum of Art, Special Collections in the Baillieu Library, the Medical History Museum, the University of Melbourne Herbarium and the University of Melbourne Archives. It presented the story of dentistry in Victoria from the early days of European settlement and establishment, to the beginning of the 20th century when an organized and qualified profession began to emerge.

Included in the exhibition *Cavities, keys and camels* were examples of the Museum's collection of early photographs, documents and publications. Amongst the photographs on display were some from the early 1900s when the school and hospital had newly located from Lonsdale Street to the purpose built hospital and school in Spring Street. These photos show students in the 'vulcanite room', 'gas room' and 'conservative clinic' of the Australian College of Dentistry and the Melbourne Dental Hospital, often treating a patient, but always under the watchful eye of a demonstrator or visiting honorary. In preparing for the exhibition the Museum was fortunate to receive generous support from the Russell and Mab Grimwade Miegunyah Fund for the conservation treatment of many of these historical photographs which record in such detail the early training of students and activities of both the hospital and college. The Russell and Mab Grimwade Miegunyah Fund also supported the conservation treatment of another

exhibition item — a leather roll-up case with dental instruments — which originated from a time when dentists travelled on horse back and when as little as three instruments made up the basic dental kit.

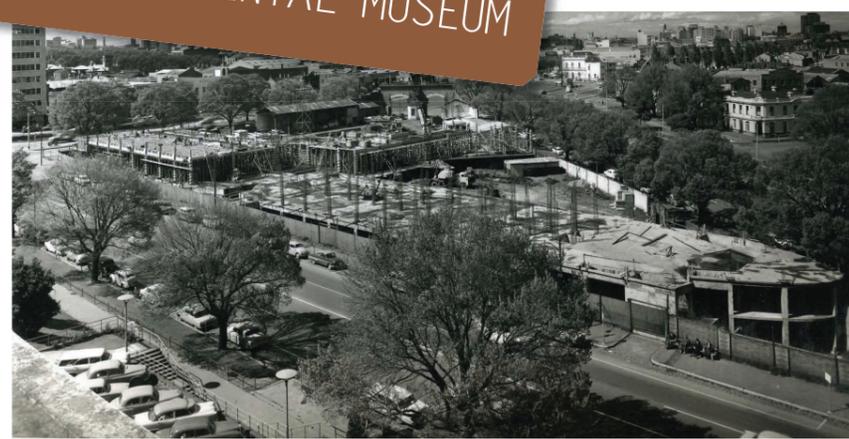
Objects from the museum's collection relating to education, training and practice were also on display as were a number of items from collections external to the University. The Victorian Branch of the Australian Dental Association, the Geoffrey Kaye Museum of Anaesthetic History and private collectors, all supported the exhibition by generously lending items from their collections. A colour catalogue with an introductory essay by Professor Emeritus Henry Atkinson is available and was made possible through the support of the University's Cultural and Community Relations Advisory Group and the Melbourne Dental School.

For further information regarding the exhibition visit the museum's website at <http://museum.dent.unimelb.edu.au/>

Cavities, keys and camels: Early dentistry in Victoria an exhibition from the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum, 9 September to 28 November 2010. **D**

Louise Murray

FROM THE DENTAL MUSEUM



PICTURED LEFT, TOP: Photographer unknown, Early stage of construction of the Dental Hospital of Melbourne viewed from the Royal Melbourne Hospital, 1959, black and white photograph, 12.0 x 23.0 cm. Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum, reg. no. 1240/10/23



PICTURED LEFT, BOTTOM: Demolition of 711 Swanston Street, 31 May, 2010, colour photograph, Melbourne Dental School (Photographer Chris Owen)

The End of a Dream

Henry F. Atkinson

AT A RECENT MEETING ATTENTION WAS BRIEFLY AVERTED FROM THE AGENDA TO THE ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE ACROSS THE ROAD AT 711 ELIZABETH STREET. Here excavators were tearing

up concrete slabs and pushing down walls with abandon, other machines were digging great holes. It suddenly dawned that this was the end of an era in which generations of dentists had pinned their hopes on professional fulfilment when after almost 50 years in the wilderness of Spring Street, the 'old building' had been left for the 'new building'; the school and hospital, in Elizabeth Street.

In 2005, when the school and hospital had once again outgrown its accommodation, all were packed and moved to new premises at Swanston Street. With the departure of staff and students and with the conclusion of the celebrations, there was a sudden flash of memory to the

decommissioning of a warship, when after a life of service, a ceremonial farewell, the vessel was left to be sunk as an artificial reef or sold for scrap. Similarly the Elizabeth Street building, following years of service to teaching and research which had strengthened and expanded the profession, now lay empty and discarded awaiting the wrecker's ball.

The first few dentists who met in the early 1880s in the new settlement of Port Phillip with the determination of developing a future for their as yet unrecognised profession, considered two essentials for obtaining and maintaining public support; the treatment of the poor and the education of dentists. In 1890, with great expectations for their first hospital, albeit in that odious fly infested area above a horse and carriage bazaar, their hopes flourished, but only for a short while. Politics, collapsing land booms and gold rushes reduced public support and patronage to the extent that different premises, with lower weekly rents, were essential if the service was to continue.

Unfortunately, the hoped for improvements failed to materialise. Public and professional meetings were convened to resolve the

It suddenly dawned that this was the end of era in which generations of dentists had pinned their hopes on professional fulfilment

problems facing the hospital. Finally in 1897, the Australian College of Dentistry, a new educational body which took over the activities of the hospital, was established. As prosperity returned

to the general community, so did the fortunes of the institution. Pupils of the college were now paying both apprenticeship and tutorial fees, funds stabilised and with progress steady, a move to larger premises was considered necessary.

After many unsuccessful approaches to governments for funds for land and assistance

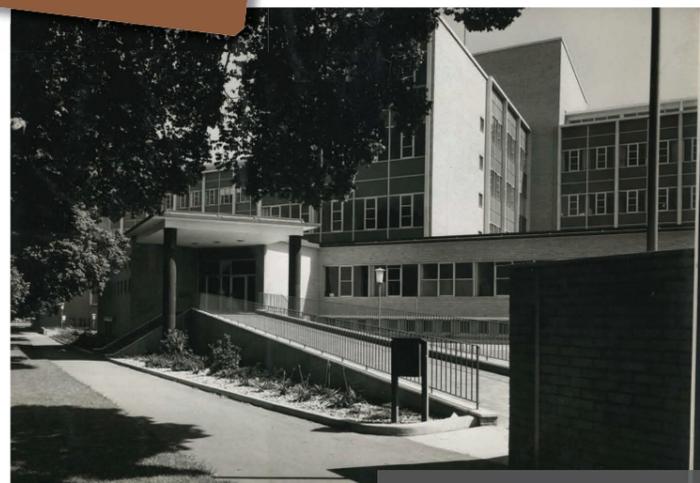
(...continued over)

(...continued from previous page)

to construct a suitable building, the members of the college council took matters into their own hands and raised a bank loan on their own surety. In a relatively short time plans were produced and a building constructed. With full pomp and ceremony the building was entered in 1907 with the hospital as a tenant paying rent to the college.

Recognition by The University of Melbourne as one of its colleges, the formation of a faculty, the awarding of degrees and the recognition of the significance of research by local workers drew the establishment closer to academia. After the First World War, a move to the University campus was proposed together with the appointment of a dental professor. The proposal progressed to the making of sketch plans which showed changes in that the college remained on campus, but with the hospital in the Melbourne General Hospital opposite. As time passed, other academic proposals took precedence and the plan fell out of favour.

The first professor of dental science was appointed in 1924 and made significant changes in the administration of the institution moving some teaching procedures from hospital to college control and completely separating the financial accounts. These actions led to the next application for funds to the government being successful. With the appointment of the succeeding professor of dental science and the allocation of the Haymarket site for a dental school and hospital, serious planning commenced. Politics, wars, shortage of funds and conflict over the design, which included a ward of 24 beds, caused what at the time seemed to be a never ending series of delays. Eventually after the Second World War with the government's intervention, plans were finalised,



After many unsuccessful approaches to governments for funds for land and assistance to construct a suitable building, the members of the college council took matters into their own hands and raised a bank loan on their own surety.

Photographer unknown, Patients' entrance Dental Hospital of Melbourne, Flemington Road, 1963, black and white photograph, 24.5 x 37.0 cm. Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum, reg. no. 1240/10/23

contracts let and the building, except for the ward, completed. With the great day dawning in May 1963, the mirage of the 'new building' became fact when it was formally opened.

Once the problems of staffing and responsibility for the different areas occupied by the hospital and faculty had been solved, the Australian College of Dentistry was disbanded. On entry to the new building a greater harmony ensued between the occupants, services were expanded to country areas, teaching and research advanced rapidly with the appointment of new professors and senior staff appointments were made in both clinical and academic spheres. But, back to the analogy, like any ship on the high seas it was not all plain sailing. The as yet unresolved saga of the ward, the reduction in the student quota, opposition to the proposal for the fluoridation of public water supplies which issued from the dean's office, proved to be running sores. The explosion in the flue of the incinerator, the failure of the gas supply due to the collapse of the internal mains and their replacement with bottled supplies, other wars and student unrest were all dealt with following well established traditions as the building with its inhabitants sailed into a new century. **D**

PROFILES

DR NEIL HEWSON

Dr Neil Hewson has maintained an association with The University of Melbourne since his graduation with a Bachelor of Dental Science from The University of Melbourne in 1977.

Following a stint in private practice in the United Kingdom, Neil returned to The University of Melbourne as a demonstrator in the School of Dental Science in 1986. From this beginning, Neil continued his association including involvement on the Curriculum Review Committee, as a Board member for the Victoria Centre of Oral Health Science, Senior Fellow for the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, and continues his commitment to education in his current appointment as Clinical Associate Professor.

Neil has received various awards for his advocacy efforts on behalf of the dental profession, including a 2008 ADAVB Dentistry Achievement Award and ADAVB Honorary Life membership awarded in 2001. Neil is also a fellow of the International College of Dentists, the Academy of Dentistry International, and the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

Neil will be completing his role as the President of the Australian Dental Association (Federal) in November after involvement with the organisation since 1991. In recent times, Neil has played a key role in lobbying Federal Government for improved oral health policy for Australians.

Neil will continue to serve on the Federal Council of the Australian Dental Association, in addition to his duties as the director the Australian Dental Council and Director of the Australian Dental Research Foundation Inc.



Dr Neil Hewson



Dr Zamirah Zainal Abidin

DR ZAMIRAH ZAINAL ABIDIN

Zamirah attended Universiti Putra Malaysia graduating in 1998 with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. During her undergraduate years, she developed an interest in research, gaining experience by working as a part-time research assistant during the earlier years as a veterinary student. For her final year research project Zamirah investigated the potential of an intranasal vaccine against pasteurellosis in goats and worked as a research assistant after her graduation for a year before undertaking a Master of Veterinary Science, where she worked on characterizing a potential vaccine candidate against haemorrhagic septicaemia in cattle and water buffaloes.

After graduating with her Masters degree in 2002, Zamirah decided to join academia to expand her career in research and teaching, as a research assistant for 6 months then she was accepted for a post as a lecturer in Faculty of Dentistry, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (The National University of Malaysia), based in Kuala Lumpur.

In this position, she teaches Pharmacology to second year Doctor of Dental Surgery and Master in Orthodontics students, as well as being a Year 2 Coordinator. Juggling teaching and research commitments proved to be a

challenge, especially as a newcomer in dental research. However she developed collaborations with other dental academics, as well as those with a life sciences background. Involved in several research projects, her main was an interest in identification of salivary biomarkers of oral and systemic diseases by proteomics approach, which will lead to development of prognostic and diagnostic kits.

To further pursue her research in the application of proteomics to achieve her research goals, she secured a scholarship from Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education, and in July 2007 enrolled in Melbourne Dental School as a PhD student in the area of Dental Science under Drs Paul Veith, Yu-Yen Chen and Assoc. Prof. Stuart Dashper. For her PhD project, she is employing a comparative proteomic approach to study the interactions of the bacteria that are responsible for the periodontitis. This could lead to new the identification of new biomarkers for early disease detection.

Zamirah appreciates the opportunity of studying and living in Melbourne, where she experiences new cultures in social, learning and working environment with great support from local and international friends, as well as staff in The Melbourne Dental School and the University as a whole. She will definitely miss this when she eventually returns home after her studies.



Kheng Tan pictured with Associate Professor Wendell Evans at 2nd Meeting of IADR Pan Asian Pacific Federation (PAPF) and the 1st Meeting of IADR Asia/Pacific Region (APR) China, September 2009

MR KHENG TAN

Kheng Tan, PhD candidate, CRC for Oral Health Science, University of Melbourne

Kheng arrived Australia in 2000 to pursue a Bachelor of Biomedical Science at The University of Melbourne. Although arriving in a foreign country to study was a challenge to Kheng, it did not take him long to enjoy the conducive learning atmosphere and adapt himself to the Australian culture and environment. Kheng has been an active member in various committees representing International students to improve the welfare and well-being of other International students.

He continued his scientific studies by completing an Honours degree in Department of Biochemistry at The University of Melbourne, investigating the effect of stress hormones (glucocorticoids) on the liver in order to understand glucose metabolism in diabetes condition. He followed the group to the Department of Biochemistry at Monash University to continue on the research as a research assistant. During this time, Kheng realized his passion for Science and the need to further his studies in order to contribute more to the community. After looking around, he decided to pursue his PhD in the CRC for Oral Health Science owing to the interesting project offered,

excellent facilities and funding. Supervised by Dr Christine Seers, A/Prof Stuart Dashper and Prof Eric Reynolds, Kheng is investigating on the interactions of two periopathogens - *Porphyromonas gingivalis* and *Treponema denticola*.

Without prior experience in handling microbes, working with fastidious oral bacteria was initially a huge hurdle but these obstacles were soon overcome with the support and training from dedicated supervisors and helpful staff. Kheng has obtained some interesting results revealing metabolic interactions and dependency between *P. gingivalis* and *T. denticola* that have important relevance for the progression of periodontal diseases. The work earned the well deserved recognition of various scientific communities and Kheng has been awarded with ISME travel award, ASM Becton Dickinson Award (Vic), Colgate Travel Award and 2nd prize for Hatton Award. Kheng has presented posters and given oral presentations at several international and national conferences.

Kheng is now writing his thesis and would like to stay in the CRC for Oral Health Science to further his research. His dream is to characterize the interactions of *P. gingivalis* and *T. denticola* in more depth so that new therapeutic targets for combating these pathogens can be identified.

Continuing Professional Development



PICTURED ABOVE: Dr Charles Goodacre & Anne Stewart.
RIGHT: Workshop in progress.



2010 Pre-Convention Workshop

ON THURSDAY 29 July the Melbourne Dental School Continuing Professional Development Program held its first Pre-Convention Workshop. The workshop was headed by Professor Charles Goodacre, one of the pre-eminent prosthodontists of today. Dr. Goodacre presented concepts of current preparation design and presented techniques by using his own videos accompanied by live demonstrations. Participants were then given the opportunity to carry out these preparations under his supervision, along with the expertise of some of Melbourne's leading prosthodontists, Dr. John Locke, Dr. Gerry Clausen, Dr. Gordon Burt and Dr. Roy Judge. The feedback obtained from the participants was of positive and beneficial experience and an ideal way to provide hands-on learning in conjunction with the excellent program being offered at the ADAVB Convention. We would like to express our sincere thanks to all our presenters for offering their time and wealth of experience and making the program a success.

Thanks also to Samantha Vassallo La Rosa, Mario Smith, Sue Dobell and Elly Flitzanis for their valuable assistance in organising the lab sessions prior to and on the day. We are also grateful to Lisa Stonehouse from Henry Schein Halas for supplying us with our equipment needs. **D**

*Dr Roy Judge, Director
Continuing Professional Development*



2010 Ceramics Symposium

THE MELBOURNE DENTAL School Continuing Professional Development Program was proud to present the 2010 Ceramics Symposium at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on Friday 8 October. This two-day program consisting of an all day lecture and subsequent optional hands-on laboratory session was designed to overview the literature and materials with regards to the success and failure of ceramic restorations.

The lecture was chaired by Dr. Chris Evans and our guest speakers were Dr. Tony Rotondo, Professor Michael Swain, Dr. Eric Tan and Dr. Jim Ironside. We had over 100 attendees to the lecture on the Friday and 40 participants attending the hands-on lab session on the Saturday. At the lab session, Dr. Ironside led the participants through the various ceramic restorations clinicians would want to provide their patients based on the types of materials discussed in the lecture component of the symposium. Dr. Gordon Burt and Dr. Graham Woolley also offered their expertise at this session.

I would like to thank the Australian Prosthodontic Society for their kind support of this program, as well as Sam and Elena, Mario and Elly from the Melbourne Dental School. **D**

*Dr Roy Judge, Director
Continuing Professional Development*



evident
Dental Practice Based Research Network

Implant Complications in Practice

Get on board now!
We have places available for new practices to become involved.

Introduction
As the implant experience in Victoria is well developed, this evident project seeks to gain information about the past experiences of practitioners that will then drive a prospective investigation describing the incidence and management of implant complications.

Aim
To conduct a retrospective record audit of implant restorations placed in private dental practices in Victoria since 2005.

Who can be involved?
Practitioners who:

- have placed and/ or restored implants between 1 January 2005 – 31 December 2009; and
- will allow an evident research assistant to access their patient records to collect data about implant placement and restoration

What would you be asked to do?

- Allow an evident research assistant to access your patient records to complete a research grid about restorative and surgical implant cases within your practice (**absolute confidentiality will be maintained**)
- Meet with a research assistant twice – an initial meeting to provide an overview of your practice record-keeping and allow access to your records and a final meeting to help answer any queries and allow you to review the data that has been collected

Why you should participate?

- Help generate an evidence based approach to implant management that will benefit both your patients and the profession
- Be kept informed about changes in treatment planning and maintenance regimes
- Be part of one of evident's first projects that will ultimately contribute to improved oral health

Who are the researchers?
Chief Investigator A: Dr Roy Judge
Chief Investigator B: Dr Denise Bailey
Associate Investigators: Dr Jolene Chapman, Dr Robert De Poi, Dr Andrei Locke, Dr Jeremy Stenson, Dr Simon Wylie, Dr Tim Stoitz, Mr Michael Lacy, Mr Arun Chandu
Research Assistants: Ms Karen Escobar, Ms Wendy Thomson

For more information please contact the evident Coordinator – **Meaghan Quinn**
Ph: (03) 8825 4603 or Email: coordinator@evident.net.au
Visit: www.evident.net.au

The project is proudly supported by the Australasian Osseointegration Society (Victorian Branch) Inc, the Australian Society of Periodontology (Victorian Branch) and the Australian Prosthodontic Society (Victorian Branch) Inc.
 This is an evident DPBRN project (evident is a joint venture between the ADAVB and CRC-OHS).

EVIDENT DENTAL PRACTICE BASED RESEARCH NETWORK (DPBRN) is an exciting joint venture between ADAVB and the Cooperative Research Centre for Oral Health Science (CRC-OHS) at the Melbourne Dental School. Places are available for new practices to become involved.

2011

THE 2011 CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF DECEMBER AND WILL BE MAILED TO ALL VICTORIAN REGISTERED DENTISTS, THERAPISTS AND HYGIENISTS. THE PROGRAM WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEB SITE www.dent.unimelb.edu.au

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT SAM AND ELENA ON (03) 9341 1506 OR AT cpd-dent@unimelb.edu.au

NEWSINBRIEF

Awards, Scholarships & New Appointments

At the recent **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR DENTAL RESEARCH** meeting in Kiama, NSW four staff members from the Melbourne Dental School received awards. Congratulations to Associate Professor John Harcourt - Alan Docking Award (1), Dr Samantha Byrne - Oral Biology Award (2), Dr Nathan Cochrane - Community and Preventative Dentistry Award (3), Dr Orit Oettinger-Barak - Colgate Senior Competition (4)

AT THE RECENT IADR CONFERENCE IN BARCELONA Dr Matthew Hopcraft won first prize in the post-doctoral category for the best poster in geriatric oral research. Mr Kheng Tan (PhD candidate) was awarded Second Place in the Senior Basic Science Section of the IADR/ Unilever Hatton Award Competition (5).

The following students have been awarded \$8,000 each as recipients of the **GORDON CASTLES SCHOLARSHIP** which is available to support the studies of research-based students in either undergraduate or graduate. The funds allow for up to \$25,000 per annum for as much as 3.5 years. Recipients: Qiaohui Yang (PhD), Thomas Park (Bachelor of Dental Studies), Wei Hong Toh (Bachelor of Science Honours)

The following **NEW APPOINTMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE SCHOOL:**

Dr Matthew Hopcraft has been appointed as Director of Clinical Education and carries the title of Associate Professor. Associate Professor Michael McCullough has been appointed Chair of Teaching and Learning. Dr Menaka Abuzar has been appointed Chair of the Doctor of Dental Surgery Curriculum Committee. Professor Mike Morgan has been appointed Chair of Knowledge Exchange. Dr Joseph Palamara has been promoted to Associate Professor. **D**



Vale Associate Professor Victor West

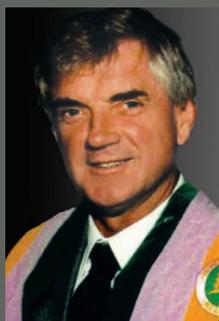
The School regrets to advise of the passing of Associate Professor Victor West who taught undergraduate orthodontics for many years. Many readers will remember Vic as a very talented singer, amongst other interests. Victor leaves behind his wife Denise and his three daughters, Sharna, Prani and Tamsin and four grandchildren.

Gerry was a valued colleague who shared his time and knowledge with sincere generosity and will be sorely missed by those who knew him.

Gerry's involvement with the School began as a dentistry undergraduate in 1959 and continued through his Masters degree in Orthodontics in 1963. Gerry continued as a teacher in Anatomy and Orthodontics and later joined the Faculty. His continued involvement led to significant benefits for The University of Melbourne including his assistance to secure a large donation which will form the central trust fund to support the appointment of an Orthodontic Chair at the School.

Gerry was a valued member of the Governing Board of the CRC for Oral Health Science from July 2003 to December 2009. As an independent member, Gerry provided practical guidance and foresight which will have a continued impact on the future of oral health research in Australia.

The contributions Gerry made extended beyond the dental profession, playing an instrumental role in achieving the fluoridation of Melbourne's water supplies leading to improved oral health for all Melbournians. Our deepest sympathies are extended to the Dickinson family.



Gerald Dickinson 21/12/1940 ~ 9/8/2010

The School was saddened to learn of the passing of

Gerald (Gerry) Dickinson, a long term supporter and contributor to The University of Melbourne.

DENT ALUMNI NEWSLETTERAL

Editor: Jennifer Sifonios

CONTACT

Postal Address:
Melbourne Dental School
Faculty of Medicine,
Dentistry and Health Sciences
The University of Melbourne
VICTORIA 3010 AUSTRALIA

Street Address:
Melbourne Dental School
The University of Melbourne
720 Swanston St
CARLTON 3053 VICTORIA

T: 61 3 9341 1500
F: 61 3 9341 1599
E: sifonios@unimelb.edu.au
www.dent.unimelb.edu.au