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### The Jean Falkner Tahija and Geoffrey Wylie Lecture Theatres

"Jean Tahija described her life until her marriage as far from conventional. She is the daughter of a policeman, whose thinking, in Tahija's words, was ahead of his time: "'Women,' he often said to me, 'should have the same opportunities as men. Every career should be open to them, including the sciences, medicine and dentistry'."

When Tahija graduated in Dental Science in 1941, she was the only woman in her class of twenty-four. She worked as Registrar at the Dental Hospital for five years before leaving for Indonesia in 1947. Her husband was equally supportive of her right to a career, commenting that the Moluccas, with a population of more

than five million, had only one dentist. Practicing proved easier said than done. The Dutch dentist at the Macassar hospital refused to employ her, even as a volunteer. Almost four years later, however, an offer to the Jakarta public hospital was accepted. Tahija worked for two years in appalling conditions, grateful for her graduation present from her parents of a set of dental instruments, which she passed to a colleague on her retirement.

Tahija was an enthusiastic horticulturist, establishing a garden at Tugu, which she planted with both native and exotic trees, especially eucalypts and cinnamon. The *Cinnamomum tahijanum* is named for her husband and herself."

Pictured from  
*An Unconventional Woman*, the  
autobiography of Jean Tahija – Jean with  
her husband Julius Tahija.

"Their marriage, in 1946, was reported in the Melbourne Herald under the headline: 'Black Hero Returns for White Wife'. Jean Tahija protested and the adjectives were deleted from later editions. Julius was a war hero and a nationalist who became a senior government official and held the position of president of Caltex Oil in Indonesia for 15 years. The couple had two sons and lived in Indonesia after their marriage."

In her autobiography Dr Jean Tahija recollected with fondness her time as both a student and registrar at the Dental Hospital and was proud of the fact that she had been fortunate enough, as both a woman (at a time when tertiary education for women was unusual) and as person from a  
(...continued over)

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relatively humble background to have been able to train and practice as a dentist. In recognition of this, Dr Tahija gave a very generous gift to The University of Melbourne which has contributed to providing the School with the very best and latest in teaching technology in the new 103 seat raked lecture theatre on the ground floor of 720 Swanston Street. The School is very pleased to acknowledge the contribution of Dr Tahija by naming this Lecture Theatre after her.

The quoted passages (under image on page 1) are reproduced with permission from *150 Years: 150 Stories - Brief biographical sketches of 150 remarkable individuals associated with the University of Melbourne since its foundation in 1853*. Researched and compiled by Dr Juliet Flesch and Professor Peter McPhee, The University of Melbourne. This book is available from the History Department, 3rd Floor, John Medley Building, at a cost of \$20.00 plus postage. The story is accessible via: <http://www.unimelb.edu.au/150/150people/tahija.html>

Photo of Jean and Julius Tahija, courtesy of the Tahija family

### G. J. Wylie Conference Centre

“Geoffrey J Wylie, BDS, DDS (Toronto), FRACDS, died on the 29th September 1979 aged 40 years. Although a practising dentist for only seventeen years, few have made such a strong impact upon their fellow dentists, students and the community at large. Geoffrey loved dentistry. Clinical excellence excited him, and his sense of responsibility for dental health went far beyond the boundaries of his own private practice.

He excelled as a teacher and lecturer and his services were availed of widely in Victoria, interstate and overseas by his fellow practitioners; he made a valuable contribution to the teaching of dental students at The University of Melbourne. His

enthusiasm and extraordinary influence will long be remembered with gratitude and affection.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the cause of dentistry and in memory of his life and work, both as a dentist and a teacher, friends and colleagues of Geoffrey are launching an appeal during 1980 to establish a fund in The University of Melbourne to be known as the ‘Geoffrey John Wylie Fund’. The fund will permit a continuation of Dr Wylie’s work in the field of Conservative Dentistry in which he carried out his most significant work”.

The above is an extract of a letter sent on 9 June 1980 to friends and colleagues of Dr Geoffrey John Wylie by Professor E Storey, Dean of the Faculty of Dental Science and Dr Lloyd G O’Brien. In 1982 the Faculty recommended to Council that the capital in the fund be used to build a centre for postgraduate and continuing education and audio-visual development, reflecting both Dr Wylie’s particular interests and the growing general interest in audio-visual teaching materials. This led in 1984 to the “G. J. Wylie Conference Centre” being constructed on the 4th floor of the East Wing of the Royal Dental Hospital in Elizabeth Street.

With its move to Swanston Street, the School continues to recognise the link with Dr G J Wylie and his interest in teaching and audio-visual aids through the naming of the flat-floored 87 seat lecture theatre which houses a new generation of audio-visual teaching equipment.



## A word from the Head

The relocation of the dental school is now coming to a conclusion with a site being identified for the relocation of the Clinical Trials and Informatics Unit from the old building at 711 Elizabeth St. The new site for the Clinical Trials and Informatics Unit is 258 Queensberry St. This site needs refurbishment and will be fitted out with a fully functional two chair dental clinic that will be used for clinical research and other activities.

This now means the School of Dental Science will be located at three sites, the clinical school at 720 Swanston St in the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne, the Parkville node of the CRC for Oral Health Science at the Bio21 Institute of Molecular Science and Biotechnology and the Clinical Trials and Informatics Unit at Queensberry St. Managing and operating the School over these three sites will bring substantial logistical challenges and is a price we have to pay for being so successful and more than double the size we were ten years ago when the new dental hospital building was designed. The

new teaching year is well underway and we have now gained experience with our new teaching facilities. The view is still very positive although we have discovered a few minor, inevitable glitches which are rapidly being rectified. We remain extremely grateful to the Vice Chancellor Professor Glyn Davis for helping us establish these superb new teaching facilities.

Professor Davis has a new vision for the University of Melbourne called Growing Esteem and this vision is for the University to be a public-spirited institution highly regarded for making distinctive contributions to society in research, teaching and knowledge transfer. The University has now developed a strategic plan to implement Growing Esteem and part of that strategic plan is the transition to the “Melbourne Model” which will combine the best elements of Australian and international approaches to undergraduate liberal education and graduate professional training.

The Melbourne Model offers exciting possibilities for the dental school. By transferring our current Commonwealth Supported Places from the current five year undergraduate BDS to a four year graduate-entry Doctor of Dental

Surgery we would produce significantly more local graduates per year without the requirement of extra funding. This of course would be welcomed to help alleviate the workforce shortage. Further, a graduate-entry course would not be constrained by undergraduate timetables and semesterisation allowing year long clinical teaching. This would increase student clinical experience and access to dental care in the dental hospital; again definite benefits for the community. Input from all stakeholders will be sought on the Melbourne Model when full details are available and a decision to involve the dental school will be made only after detailed consultation.

Another important strand of Growing Esteem is to confirm the University’s reputation as a site of world-significant research, a national leader in research training and a destination of choice for eminent scholars and outstanding students. Part of the strategy to realise this vision involves a transparent and systematic review of research impact and quality across the University. This benchmarking has begun and at the recent Deans and Heads conference “How to Grow Esteem” in February 2006 a presentation entitled “Ranking of Melbourne Departments/Disciplines” was given by Professor Ross Williams, Director of the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economics and Social Research. Professor Williams used the Melbourne School of Dental Science as the exemplar department due to our international ranking with the top dental schools of the world, the Toronto and Harvard dental schools (Figure 1). This outstanding international ranking of the Melbourne dental school is a testament to its outstanding staff, students and alumni. CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE.

PROFESSOR ERIC REYNOLDS



Figure 1: Benchmarking of the Melbourne Dental School with the other national dental schools and the top two international dental schools, Toronto and Harvard.



Dr. Frederick Barnett

## Obituary

### Dr Frederick Barnett, MDS, LDS, DDS(Tor), FRACDS A Notable Professional

“Dr Barnett, Fred to all who loved and respected him, graduated in 1949 in one of the larger years of the post-war era. He took his further studies to the Masters Degree in Melbourne in 1965 followed by the DDS in Toronto in 1970.

On his return home he took up a part-time position in the Dental School teaching advanced restorative procedures and achieved registration as a Prosthodontist in 1981. His later working life was shared between his specialist practice and his continuing teaching responsibilities at the Royal Dental Hospital and the Faculty.

Fred taught and mentored generations of both undergraduates and post-graduates, many now specialists in their own right. His teaching methods, precise and demanding as required, embodied much subtlety and supportiveness. A student experiencing difficulty with a preparation would likely be praised for the work done but it would be suggested ‘it might be better if we removed a gnat’s whisker here and a gnat’s whisker there’ and demonstrated by quickly finishing it off. He could make the most difficult task look simple with his control, knowledge and skills.

Fred was dedicated to his profession and to this Association. He spent many years on some of our most active committees – Graduate Education, Dental Nurses Training and Dental Health Education amongst them. Never one to shirk responsibility, he participated actively in extra-mural activities; his suburban Group B; the Dental Study Club; the Society for Occlusal Studies; the Prosthodontic

Society; Melbourne Congress committees; and the Delta Sigma Dental Fraternity.

Fred’s other love was Rotary, for very many years in the Essendon Club and then as Charter President of the Gisborne Club. Many benefits to those communities and his home town Macedon, where he also practised part-time, came about as a result of his enthusiasm and leadership.

We shall all miss Fred Barnett, his learned self, his technical excellence, his caring, but above all else his kindness, his friendship, his inimitable humour and his love of life, brought to a sad end by several years of advancing ill-health.

The Branch extends its sincere sympathy to his beloved wife Val and his extended family of children and grandchildren. He has earned his rest.”

In memory of Fred, the Barnett family have set up an annual award for the most improved final year student in dental prosthodontics. This award will commemorate Fred’s particular interests in the well-being and progress of students and in dental prosthodontics and will be presented to the recipient by members of the family at the School’s annual award ceremony.

Reproduced with permission from the Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch.

## Alumni News

### Congratulations to Alumni on Australia Day Honours

It was a pleasure to receive the news that three of our Dental alumni had received Australia Day Honours for services to the profession:

**Dr Ross Bastiaan (Class of 1974) BDS(1974/1973) MDS(1976/1976)**

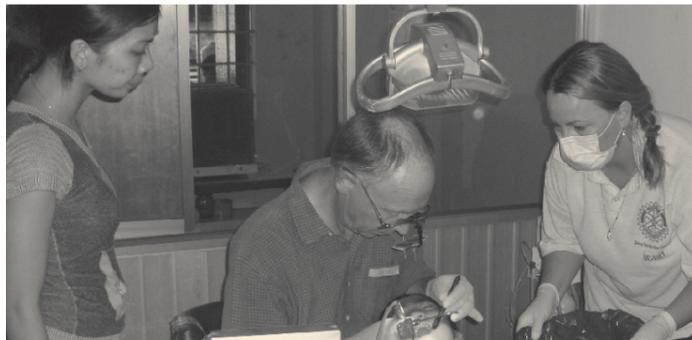
Made a Member of the Order of Australia for service to the preservation of military history, particularly through designing and sculpting commemorative information plaques placed throughout the world on Australian battlefields of the two world wars, and to the dental profession.

**Dr Roland Goldberg (Class of 1961)**

Awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to community health, particularly in support of Rotary International projects.

**Professor Emeritus John Thonard (Class of 1950)**

Made a Member of the Order of Australia for service to dentistry and the advancement of dental education, to the promotion of dental research, and to improved multidisciplinary health science networks.



Dr Tony Robertson, Dianne Brewer (dental assistant) Amanda Leen (fifth year dental student) Dr John Boucher and Francesca O'Connor (DA)

## Student Perspective

### Vietnam Experience

By AMANDA LEEN  
CLASS OF 2005

In November 2005, 4th year undergraduate BDSc student, Amanda Leen, was selected by Dr Jamie Robertson to go to Vietnam with the Rotary Australia – Vietnam Dental Health Program. Thanks to the generous support of a GC Corporation scholarship Amanda was able to take up this opportunity and on her return she wrote of her experience:

“I think it was of great value for me to be exposed to Vietnam in the way of the project, to go to the places as well as meeting and working closely with so many locals”. Once in Vietnam, Amanda found herself working with Drs Boucher and Robertson, veterans of three previous trips.

The team’s first location was Ben Tre where they were joined by an interpreter and “several dentists from the National Institute of Oro-Stomatology in Ho Chi Minh City and the Ben Tre dental staff”. Working conditions were rather basic and “there were 25 twelve year-old children to be seen in each morning or afternoon session [but] the general protocol we had ensured things moved along as quickly as possible: examine a child, see what we could do best for them, write it down on a wall-chart, give LA where appropriate, then send them back to the waiting area while more children were examined. After not too long, one of the operators would call them back for their treatment. Due to the rate of untreated decay being shockingly high, many children in Ben Tre needed far more treatment than we could give them.”

“Having the luxury of so many children being examined, I planned and treated, all while in the company of two experienced private tutors, which was great. I also became expert at recording the WHO standardised exam that Jamie wanted us to carry out to get a better idea of disease profiles in the area. Dr John Boucher and I were sent by the local health authorities to a school with two mirrors, two probes, a headlamp and a bunch of exam sheets to fill in. The school then kindly presented us with 100 children to examine in one hour. We negotiated that down to 50 and managed to get them done in 80 minutes. Whilst I have not seen the collated data, I would approximate that the average number of teeth per 12 year-old child with untreated carious lesions was 8 or 9”.

“There were no tourist sights per se in Ben Tre, but we made our own fun at lunchtimes and in the evenings. At night, the town was pretty quiet aside from the hum of motorbikes up and down the main street. With John and Tony’s guidance, we found the local ‘lake’. Alongside the lakeside esplanade were a collection of coffee shops and I quickly learned to order my favourite – ka fe sua nam – or hot coffee with milk. Doesn’t sound very exciting, but Vietnamese coffee is roasted in butter and percolated right over your cup so it’s very rich and fresh. The addition of condensed milk makes it even more delicious. On our last night in Ben Tre there was a send off party – a dinner and get-together with the staff we had been working within the health centre”.

“Back in Ho Chi Minh City for the weekend, there was an unofficial race to see who of the team could get to their room, put their bathers on and be the first at the hotel’s pool with a beer in hand. The weekend was



sightseeing, dinners with all the project teams and more time at the pool. Then there was a celebration dinner for the 10-year anniversary of the project, with several long-serving members being honoured by the local authorities. On Tuesday morning it was back to work, as we made the journey to Vi Thanh, an isolated new province in the southern Mekong delta area. This time the clinic was in the local hospital, situated right on the river. We tried to perfect our ‘Vietnamese dental commandments’ that is, open mouth, bite together and spit out, but many of the children dissolved into wild giggles at our communication attempts and only actually opened their mouths, etc. when the interpreter repeated what we’d just said. In Vi Thanh we were treated to excellent food and hospitality and we saw how everyday life and the river are so closely linked. Once we finished, we donated the remainder

The school then kindly presented us with 100 children to examine in one hour. We negotiated that down to 50 and managed to get them done in 80 minutes.

of our consumables before returning to Ho Chi Minh City”. Amanda found the experience both challenging and rewarding and is particularly grateful to those who made it possible for her to go, especially Dr Jamie Robertson. (This is an edited version of a report of Amanda Leen’s experience submitted to the School of Dental Science after her trip. Amanda encourages any students thinking of applying for the project “to go for it!”) Photos reprinted with permission from the ADAVB.

## Research News

DR STUART DASHPER  
HEAD OF ORAL BIOLOGY SECTION AND  
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

The Oral Biology Section of the School has now successfully moved into its new homes in the new Dental Hospital and the Bio21 Institute. In December, researchers and postgraduate students joined the rest of the School and moved into the sixth floor of the new Dental Hospital to a world class laboratory and some brand new state of the art equipment including a confocal microscope, flow cytometry, bacterial biofilm fermenters and surface plasma resonance analyzers. This equipment will be used to further our understanding of oral disease and develop new treatment and preventive modalities.

At the end of February the remaining half of the Oral Biology Section moved into the third floor of the Bio21

Institute on Flemington Road. This too is a world class laboratory which offers researchers an exciting and unique opportunity for collaboration in this multi-discipline Institute.

Researchers at the School of Dental Health and Medical Research Council grants to continue their studies in the microbial aetiology of periodontal disease and the development of novel anti-caries agents. These prestigious and highly competitive grants will enable this important research to continue for another three years and reflect well in the quality of research being undertaken in the School.

Relocation of a core node of the Oral Biology Section and CRC for Oral Health Science researchers to the Bio 21 Molecular Science and Biotechnology Institute is now complete. Relocation to these premises provides increased access to collaborative opportunities. Other participants in the Bio21 Institute include the University of Melbourne faculties – Science, Land and Food

Resources, Veterinary Science and Medicine and Engineering – and the premiere research institutes: the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and the Howard Florey Institute. The commitment of the State Government to oral health science research in Victoria has been further demonstrated through the provision of \$3.95 million to support the relocation of CRC-OHS researchers to the Bio 21 Institute.

And finally, we are very pleased to announce that the CRC for Oral Health Science website is now live! Please visit the new site at <http://www.crcoralhealthscience.org.au/>

## Stop Press!

Dr Stuart Dashper and Professor Eric Reynolds’ publication “pH regulation by Streptococcus mutans” has been ranked by the prestigious Journal of Dental Research as the 13th most cited dental paper of all time.

The work presented in this article examines the mechanisms by which Streptococcus mutans, the oral bacterium regarded as the major causative agent of dental caries, produces acid and tolerates acidic environmental conditions. The production of lactic acid lowers the pH at the tooth surface to below the critical pH for enamel demineralization, which can lead to cavitation. If the ability of the bacterium to tolerate acidic pH could be reduced it would act as a preventive measure for dental caries.

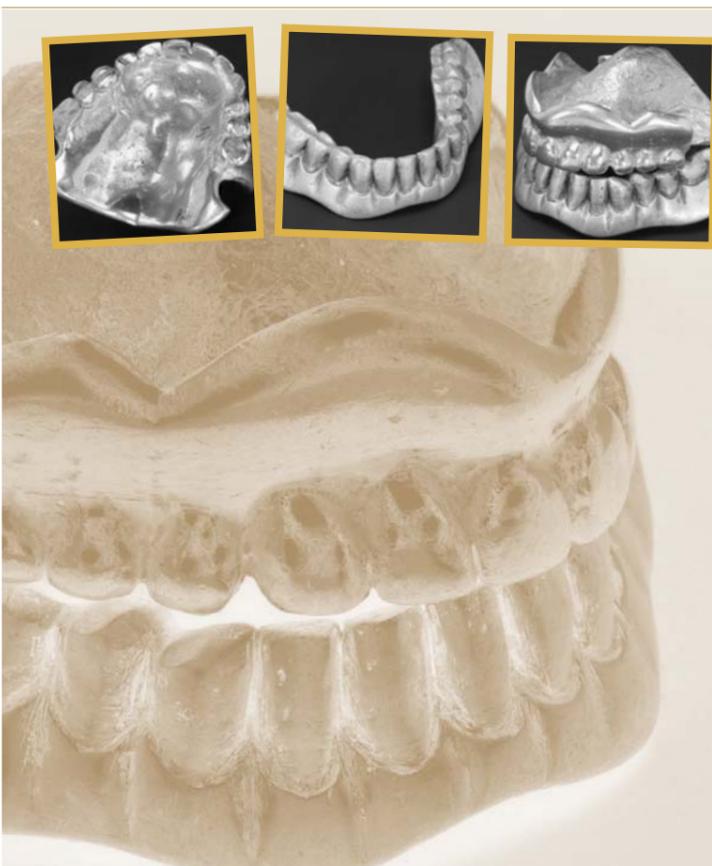
## From the Dental Museum

### In Praise of Ivory Towers

Sand cast aluminium dentures, made by Captain Gordon Marshall RACD. POW. c.1941-1944

These dentures were made by Captain Marshall when he was a prisoner of war in Ambon. The dentures were made from aluminum salvaged from old army water bottles and scrap from planes. They were sand cast using standard dental technology under extremely difficult conditions.

The dentures demonstrate the enormous ingenuity and skill of Captain Marshall and the resourcefulness characteristic of many in the profession during war time. They also highlight that creativity and innovative endeavours are often produced under the most adverse conditions. According to the Honorary Curator of the Dental Museum, Emeritus Professor Henry Atkinson, “Captain Marshall, as a dental student would have had some contact with the casting of metal at the Australian College of Dentistry but to achieve this result in the appalling conditions of a disease ridden prisoner of war camp, where he finished as acting medical officer is almost beyond belief”.



# Conferences

This year's global meeting of the International Association of Dental Research is being held in Brisbane from the 28th of June to the 1st of July and provides our postgraduate students with an excellent opportunity to attend and participate in an International conference. The School's Research Committee and the CRC for Oral Health Science has offered a total of 21 travel grants to postgraduate students to pay for registration, travel and accommodation. This will help to ensure a strong representation from the School of Dental Science with a number of staff also attending. For more information go to <http://www.iadr.org/>

## 84th General Session & Exhibition of the IADR

1st Meeting of the Pan-Asian-Pacific Federation

(Australian/New Zealand, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Southeast Asian Divisions of the IADR)

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

Meeting Venue:

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, June 28 -  
Saturday, July 1, 2006

Exhibition Dates:

Wednesday, June 28 – Friday,  
June 30, 2006

Website of International Association  
for Dental Research

<http://www.dentalresearch.org/meetings/brisbane/index.html>

## Dental & Oral Health Therapists Conference in Darwin August 2006

We would like to extend a special invitation to all Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists and to our overseas dental and oral health therapist colleagues to come to Darwin and share your experiences of practice and vision with us, develop new friendships and create the basis for a future international association.

This is the conference where the many successful activities from Australian and international dental and oral health therapists' practice can be celebrated and shared.

We would also like to invite dental hygienists, oral health and other health care providers, educators, policy makers, researchers and academics to join us to share the successes and learning's of the past and explore the issues, problems and solutions that will shape the future of oral health primary care.

We are planning a conference that will develop learning and collaborations in an exotic location with a lively social program.

COME AND BE BLOWN AWAY IN  
DARWIN!

Website:

<http://www.adta.net.au/conference2006/>

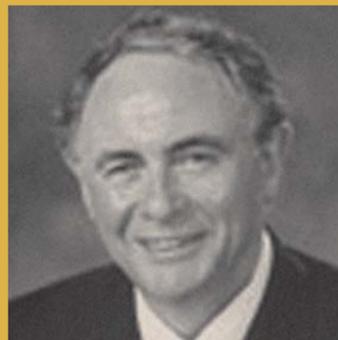
## Professor Newell Johnston

Foundation Dean and Head of School of Dentistry and Oral Health Griffith University

Professor Johnson is a graduate of The University of Melbourne (BDS with Honours) and took an MDSc immediately afterwards, the first person to do this by full-time research. He then spent four decades based in the United Kingdom, firstly taking the fellowship in Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, then in academic teaching and research posts in the Universities of Bristol and of London, and for the Medical Research Council and the Royal College of Surgeons of England – the latter as Nuffield Research Professor of Dental Sciences. Latterly, at King's College London, he was Professor of Oral Pathology, head of the Oral health Research Group, and Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Oral cancer and Precancer. In 2005 he became Foundation Dean and Head of the School of Dentistry and Oral Health at Griffith University, enthusiastically accepting the challenge of creating innovative curricula and world class research within a unique suite of oral health programmes in the first new dental school in Australasia for 60 years.

He is a Registered Specialist in Oral Medicine, in Oral Pathology and in Periodontology with the competent authorities in the UK and in Queensland.

In pursuit of his research activities in head and neck cancer and in the oral manifestations of HIV/AIDS, he remains Honorary Professor in the University of the Western Cape, South Africa; the University of Nairobi, Kenya; the Dr MGR Medical University, Tamil Nadu, India and the University of the West Indies, Trinidad. In 2005, he was awarded the Oral Medicine and Pathology Distinguished Scientist Award by the International Association for Dental Research and the Tomes Medal of the British Dental Association for distinguished services to the profession and the association. He is an Academician of the Academie Francaise Dentaire and of the Argentine Academy of Medicine.



## Louise Murray

Recently appointed Curator of the Dental Museum, Louise Murray brings experience of medical history, fine arts and archives to the collection.

Originally trained as an artist, Louise studied painting and graduated with a BA from the Victorian College of the Arts in 1984. She was involved in a number of exhibitions in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and extended her studies with a further BA in visual arts and women's studies from Monash University in 1994, and a Graduate Diploma in information management from RMIT University in 1995.

Upon completion of her diploma Louise was employed by the City of Melbourne where she was appointed archivist in 1996. Here she was responsible for the management of the city's archival collection and oversaw the transfer of the corporation's historic plan collection to the Public Record Office. In 1999 she was employed as curator/researcher by Museum Victoria and worked in the Human Mind and Body Program with the team responsible for the exhibition Medical Melbourne, one of the inaugural exhibitions at the new Melbourne Museum. Medical Melbourne explored five Melbourne based biomedical success stories and simultaneously investigated the lives and discoveries of four Australia Nobel Laureates in Physiology or Medicine.

Louise followed this with project work at the Immigration Museum where she undertook research and developed content for the Settlings interactive database which represented the different groups of overseas born people who migrated to Victoria in the 19th and 20th centuries.

She was subsequently employed by the University of Melbourne as a cataloguer with both the Medical History Museum and the Dental Museum where she was responsible for documentation of the collection and transfer of records into electronic format. Louise also assisted Ann Brothers, Curator of the Medical History Museum on a range of



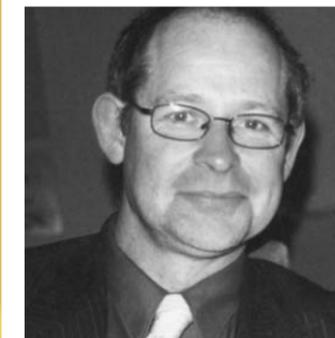
exhibitions and projects including Treating the Past – How Medical Melbourne Came of Age, and Being Patient – Care and Convalescence as a Practice in the Past.

Louise is currently working with the Honorary Curator Professor Emeritus Henry Atkinson on the development of the Dental Museum, following its relocation to new, dedicated premises in Swanston Street, and the inaugural exhibition which is due to open later in the year. She feels privileged to work with Professor Atkinson and with such a unique collection and looks forward to representing the many stories and objects that are contained in it.

# Profiles

## Catching up

### From the 1980's



#### Shane McGuire ('80)

"I completed university studies from The University of Melbourne in 1980. My first clinical work was as an associate dentist in rural Victoria. In 1983, the School Dental Service regionalised its operations and I successfully applied as a Dental Officer. This move suited my aspirations for a career in public dentistry and I remained there until

the formation of Dental Health Services Victoria in 1997.

I have been most fortunate in being afforded the opportunity in numerous roles within public dental management for the betterment of the less advantaged in our community. These roles have included management of sections of the School Dental Service and the Royal Dental Hospital.

Currently I belong to a group which contract manages dental services from community health centres and rural hospitals. These roles have exposed me to dealing with people at many levels, the complexities of managing large budgets, the evolving and systematic approach to risk identification and minimisation to name a few.

Through all of this I have maintained a close contact with my primary degree (BDS), including continuing to directly perform clinical duties.

In a nut shell, the move to public dentistry has been an excellent one for me-everyday is akin to a mini MBA".

We would love to let other Alumni know what you have been doing since graduation!

Interested?

Please send 100 words and a photo to the Editor, Dent-al, School of Dental Science, The University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010 Australia  
email: [sifonios@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:sifonios@unimelb.edu.au)

## 20 YEAR REUNION OF THE CLASS OF 1985

By DR MARTIN WHELAN

On Friday 3rd March, a 20 year reunion was held for the BDSc graduates of 1985. The idea to hold the reunion came about 6 months earlier on the 10th tee of a local golf course where 4 of the graduates were having probably the worst game of their lives. They became the organizing committee comprising of Martin Whelan, Attilio Biondo, Kevin Miller and Chris Harris.

Tracking everyone down didn't seem to be too much of a problem thanks to the ADA directory and there always seems to be someone who had a contact for that elusive person who could easily qualify for one of those "Where are they now" shows.

A series of newsletter notices leading up to the big night gave us a better than expected response with 33 of the 48 graduates attending. Special note was made of those who flew interstate just to be there on the night. They included from Queensland – Claire O'Grady & Richard Streit; from NSW – Jan Sheridan and from WA - Caroline Marrison.

The night was held at a function room in No. 3 Station Pier Restaurant. The warm night made it a perfect venue as those attending were able to mingle on the pier at water's edge as well as within the open modern function room.

For many it was the first time seeing each other since graduating. Some had difficulty recognizing each other whilst others looked almost the same as the day they graduated. It is fair to say, however, that after 20 years many were showing signs of aging with the customary appearance of the grey hairs, 'beer' guts and receding hairlines.

There was a mix of general and specialist dentists and some that had even moved on to other careers. Although there was the usual conversation about where people were practicing, most of it was about



personal life experiences – whether they were married, had children etc. And there was reminiscing about those classic moments during the course.

Just about all who attended stayed until the restaurant staff politely asked (told) us to leave. A sizeable group of graduates showed they still had the stamina of uni days by kicking on at a bar nearby. The sore heads next day 'though brought home the reality that 20 years on, you pay a higher price for that stamina.

Our thanks go to all those attending particularly the interstaters. It was really a party atmosphere on the night and was one of the best nights out judging by the comments and emails following the event. We highly recommend attending a reunion to any graduates or even better organizing one yourselves. It is guaranteed to be one of the best nights out you will have in a long time!

If you are organising a reunion, please contact us for a list of graduates for your year. You might also like to use the newsletter to advertise your reunion. To ensure you continue to receive information about reunions, please let us know of address changes.

### **Pictured top:**

Mary Mougos, Attilio Biondo, Michelle Fleiszig, Caroline Marrison, Andrew Langton-Joy, Andrew Barnes,

### **Pictured above:**

Andrew Langton-Joy, Paula Lesse, Paul Gardner, Livio Mazzoni, Martin Whelan, Richard Streit, Claire O'Grady, Carmel Buckley, Andrew McAliece

### **Middle Row (Standing from Left to Right)**

Andrew Langton-Joy, Zelco Matie, Vadim Rogelburg, George Papadopolous, Sebastian Frazzetto, Don Watkins, Jan Sheridan, Chris Harris, Robbie Schwartz, Stephen Cottrell, Brett Sonnberger, William Wong, Mark Salanowski, George Dimitroulis

### **Front Row (Seated from Left to Right)**

David Clinch (enjoying a beer!), Andrew Barnes, Mary Mougos, Caroline Marrison, Kevin Miller, Michelle Fleiszig, Nilla Pradolin, Mellie Munir

**Kneeling (from Left to Right)** - Attilio Biondo, Ray Montag

**Missing** - Where was JB (Janis Brown) when we took the photo!

## From the editors

We hope you enjoyed reading this edition of Dent-al, the School of Dental Science's newsletter for alumni.

We would be very pleased to have your feedback on this issue and if you would like to contribute in any way, or have any suggestions for future issues, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

The next edition of Dent-al will be in June/July 2006. If you have any items of interest, please let us know.

Editors:

Sandra Turner  
Jennifer Sifonios

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