

# News

Academy of Dentistry  
International  
Australasian Section



## Message from the Regent

I think I'm going soft – I have really noticed the cold this winter! The Southern Alps from my bedroom window have the biggest coating of snow I can recall and the local papers are full of reports from happy ski-field owners who are doing great business in some tough times. It's good to hear some positive news at this time of the year. Perhaps like the Jackson 5 (are they the Jackson 4 now?) I'll have to 'blame it on the boogie' – whatever the boogie is – for the increase in grumpy people I am coming across. It sure can't be "sunshine, moonlight, good times" right now.

I've met grumps in the surgery – but my long-suffering receptionists have to wear most of it. I've met grumps at dental meetings – some colleagues are noticing a little less busy-ness.

And I've met some grumpy journalists – but perhaps I'm mistaking their usual cynicism for grumpiness.

I'm no longer surprised at the way most media people approach a dental story. The latest interviews I've had stemmed from a survey undertaken by a large manufacturer of toothbrushes. I don't know how scientific it was, but apparently a third of New Zealand women are putting off a regular check-up at the dentist because of the current recession. The response from media people was an almost gleeful angle that dentists were now 'feeling a bite out of their pockets'. My response to it was that forgoing preventive care was a false economy over the long term and that for many people dentistry simply isn't on the priority list. It's a common theme that we are members

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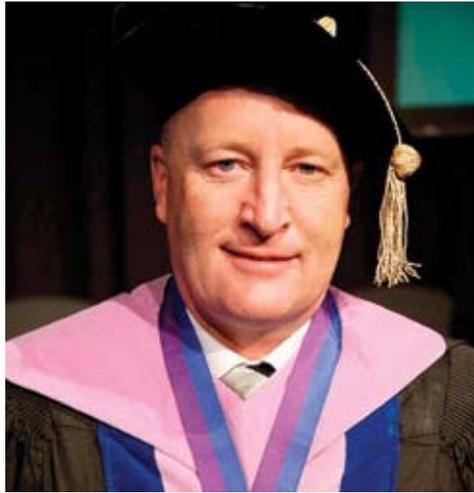
## At a glance

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# Message from the Regent

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of a profession, certainly, but one that is sometimes suspected of just drilling, filling and billing – and not in that order of importance.

This column is not going to solve an alleged image problem for dentistry, or change the superficial thinking of some journalists, but it's worth remembering that practical demonstrations of altruism can do a lot to change perceptions in the public mind.

Reg Hession has mentioned elsewhere the donation by this section to the Salvation Army for rebuilding efforts after the Victorian bushfires.

Many Fellows are involved in charitable projects here and overseas. Whatever you are involved in, it may not be glamorous or exceptionally newsworthy, but it does count in the long run. You can be sure your local community needs to know about it, but let our esteemed Editor know as well – other Fellows are most interested to learn of these projects and it may just inspire someone else.

Enjoy the rest of winter and consider making a quick visit to the best snow in years!

Mark Goodhew

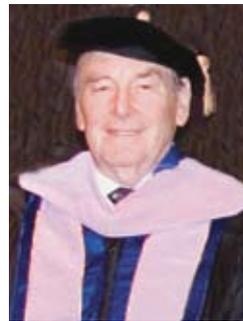
## News from Abroad – International President reports

Since the very successful Convocation held by the Section in Perth (March 2009), the Executive Committee of the Academy met in Chicago at the end of May. On that occasion, I was able to report that the unspent funds of the Academy provided for the Asian Tsunami victims of 2005 and held in trust by the ADI Foundation, were supplemented by the Australasian Section and given to the Salvation Army to provide relief for the victims of the Victorian bushfires. The members of the Executive Committee were delighted to receive a letter of thanks from the 'Salvos', which delineated the direction in which support would be provided to the survivors.

As the Academy grows in stature and prominence in international dentistry, it was decided by the Executive to establish a small *ad hoc* Committee to review future directions of the Academy, with a preliminary report to be provided to the Meeting of the International Board of Regents to be held in Honolulu in September 2009.

Plans are well advanced to ensure that the forthcoming ADI Convocation and related activities which are to be held in conjunction with the 150th Annual

Session of the American Dental Association in Honolulu in September will provide a significant milestone in the advancement of the Academy. The Event will mark 35 years since the Academy was formed and a number of prominent guests from dentistry and related fields will be in attendance. Details of the ADI Meeting appear elsewhere in this Newsletter and further information will be provided in the next edition of the International Communicator.



## Reg Hession

### Prior to 31st October

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Government's Investment Allowance.

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## Across the Tasman



The New Zealand Fellows

would like to congratulate Professor Robert Love on being appointed Chair of the Dental Council of New Zealand and Colonel Hugh Tregrove on being promoted to head the Armed Forces Medical Unit – the first dentist to be appointed to this position. Other news includes Dr Neil Hewson being made an Honorary Member of the NZDA, in his capacity as President of the Australian Dental Association. Finally, congratulations to Dr Stewart Edward who continues as Chair of the Lakes District District Health Board.

On a finishing note, many New Zealanders are looking forward to seeing a display of the All Blacks' true potential following recent games where the coaching staff have chosen to hide their tactics in preparation for the upcoming Tri Nations.

Karl Lyons

### Further snippets from Convocation ...



# In the Lives of the Fellows

The ADI records with pride and congratulates the following Fellows who received recognition in the Queen's Birthday Honours list 2009.

*'Leaders of the people, by their counsel and by their knowledge'*

## Officer of the Order of Australia AO

### Major General Professor John Hemsley Pearn AO, MD, RFD

Honorary Fellow

For service to medicine, particularly in the areas of paediatrics and medical ethics, to medical history, and to the community through injury prevention and first aid programs.

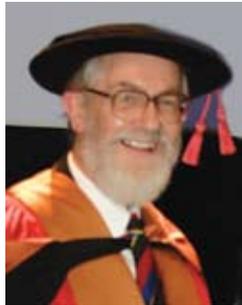
Professor John Pearn receives the highest honour in Queensland by being made an Officer of the Order of Australia.

For more than four decades he has worked as a paediatrician at the Royal Children's Hospital in Brisbane.

Professor Pearn was also Surgeon-General of the Australian Defence Force and joined the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami response team and was a member of the Australian Medical Response Force in Rwanda 1994.



## Member of the Order of Australia AM



### Professor Martin John Tyas, AM – DDSc

For service to dentistry and dental education, to the Australian Dental Association and the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons and through the development of industry standards.

## In the Field – *Equal Health in India since 1997*

In 1997 efforts first began to establish a dental overseas aid project in Southern India. From this, *Equal Health Inc.: Australian Health Professionals, Overseas Aid Fund* was born.

In 1998 four dentists and four dental nurses made their first trip to Tamil Nadu. This group joined with an optical team that had been to India for the previous two years. Optician, Paul Clarke, had established a partnership with an orphanage in a remote rural area north of the city of Chennai. Our goal over four weeks was to work with the residents and staff of the orphanage at Orrakadu and also the surrounding villages. A clinic was installed in a newly built mud brick building and work began!

1999 saw the official creation of Equal Health as a secular charity in its own right. Our status as a tax deductible

entity followed as did the expansion of the range of services to incorporate Medical, and then Allied Health divisions, to our overall efforts. So this year we celebrated a decade since the official inauguration of our group.

Over these years we have expanded and now take a regular team of 60 volunteers on a yearly camp to India. We work at five locations throughout three Indian states – always with the poorest and least able villagers in rural settings where health facilities (especially dental!) are generally totally absent.

Our future aims in Equal Health, in particular the Dental division, are to focus on community development rather than simple service delivery. Virtually all the people we treat are semi-literate at best and live a subsistence existence without facilities for adequate nutrition let alone dental health provision.

Nevertheless, they are welcoming, eager

for our help, and certainly wish to improve their lot in every way.

We have established good links with the Indian Dental Council over the years and look forward to an evolving, active and continuous role. Having been personally involved since the inception, it is gratifying to see how vibrant and energetic the group continues to be. We have matured into a ten year (plus) organisation and many of the Academy's Fellows are 'alumni' of Equal Health camps to India and the other countries we have worked in.

All Fellows are welcome to join us next year, or one day in the future.

*Simon Shanahan,  
Chairman, Equal Health Inc.*



## Editor's Notes

One of the complaints we all make in life is lack of time to do the things we want to do, when really, we should live each day as if there were no tomorrow and yesterday never was.

This dictum is beautifully described in the old Sanskrit poem, Salutation of the Dawn, attributed to Kalidasa an Indian poet who lived from 353-420 AD. His message to live each day to the fullest is as meaningful today as it was all those centuries ago. In the same way, Rudyard Kipling's exhortation 'to fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run' reminds us of how important it is to live life in the present tense.

Morning Glory, *Ipomoea ea indica (I learii)*, the flower of the dawn blooms early in the morning and shrinks down at eventide. It is a flower that lives for the day.

We too, should look to the dawn and seize the moment, seize the day. In doing so it is incumbent on us all to share this philosophy with others and assist them to live more fulfilling and healthier lives. As Fellows of this Academy, the opportunity to help others, particularly in under developed countries, is staring us in the face.

*'Lost, yesterday, somewhere between sunrise and sunset... two golden hours each set with 60 silver minutes. No reward is offered, for they are gone for ever.'*

Horace Mann (1796-1859)

Fleet Street – Editor



Convocation diners enjoyed a musical entrance.

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It would be appreciated if letters, articles, photos etc are sent in high resolution, electronic format or TIFF (cmyk) where possible. We look forward to hearing from you.

Special thanks are due to Henry Schein Halas and Medfin for their generous sponsorship of this Newsletter, Elizabeth McCray for her publishing skills and ADAQ for its support.

## Poets' Corner

Listen to the  
Salutation of the  
Dawn!

Look to this  
day!

For it is Life, the  
very life of Life.

In its brief course lie all the verities  
and realities of your existence:

The bliss of growth;

The glory of action;

The splendour of beauty;

For yesterday is already a dream,

And tomorrow is only a vision;

But today, well lived, makes every  
yesterday a dream of happiness,

And every tomorrow a vision of  
hope.

Look well, therefore, to this day!



From *The Sanskrit*

## Forthcoming Events

\*\*ADI 35th ANNIVERSARY CONVOCATION

USA Dental Association

September 29-October 1, 2009 – Honolulu, Hawaii

Contact Dr Robert Ramus

3813 Gordon Creek Drive

Hicksville OHIO 43526US

email: rramus@bright.net

\*\*ADI (AUSTRALASIAN SECTION) CONVOCATION  
AND DINNER – Wednesday 30 March, 2011

34th Australian Dental Congress

March 31-April 4, 2011

Brisbane, Queensland

For more details see ADI website

[www.adint.org](http://www.adint.org)

username "member"

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This information is not viewed by the general public.



Induction of new Fellows in the Grand Ballroom  
Government House ,Perth.