Message from the Regent

Fellowship: Past, Present and Future

Fellow is a word originally derived from the Old Norse 'feolaga' and was absorbed into Middle English around the time of the 8th or 9th Century AD. Feolaga was actually made from two other Norse words, one which also came to the modern English vocabulary as 'fee' (as in money, or cost) and the other as 'lay' (as in setting down). So a feolaga / fee-layer / fellow was originally understood as a ‘business partner’ in the sense of ‘one who puts down money with another in a joint venture’.

It was adapted as an early academic term at Oxford and Cambridge as they developed in the 14th century: Fellows were part of the corporate body which constituted a College, partners originally having to purchase the rights to be there.

It was taken further down this academic track by the Royal Society, that first and most famous scientific group which formed first in Oxford and then moved to London around the time of the English Civil War, Cromwell’s Parliament and the restoration of the monarchy. But the Royal Society took the concept of collegial partnership as it established itself in uncertain political times and altered it subtly towards a more altruistic endeavour.

Its original members besides being important scientific pioneers were expected to have the financial capacity

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to put down ten shillings (equivalent to approximately £1500 now) for admission to the Society, and subscribe a shilling per week without expectation of any eventual reward except the recognition of their peers and perhaps some measure of prestige.

The Royal Society needed the income to carry out the experiments the members were conducting, and to rent rooms in which to demonstrate these experiments and hold lectures for the Fellows.

Robert Hooke, Edmund Halley and Isaac Newton were all early Fellows. Halley and Newton certainly didn’t indulge in any warm feelings of fellowship between the two of them; they apparently did not speak to each other for nearly 30 years, after a dispute about who was to be credited with the discovery that planets moved in elliptical orbits. They are legendary figures, but were Fellows not only by virtue of their intellectual capacity or fundamental, world-changing discoveries, but only after having been scrutinized as able to pay the subscription could they be known as Fellows of the Royal Society.

The important thing to note is, not only did they make a sacrifice in time and money, they expected little or no tangible financial return.

If you aren’t already aware of him, I want to introduce to you the name of a scholar called William M. Sullivan, who is an academic staff member of the Carnegie Foundation at Stanford and who has studied and written extensively on the value of professionalism to society.

He is convinced that there is now a deep-seated scepticism of the value of professions to society; that there is a developing if not fully developed attitude amongst the public and politicians that the open market, technicians – people who have a technical competency in whatever field they work – and measurable standards of practice are the ingredients required to provide an adequate level of professional services to the public.

Sullivan thinks that an embrace of what he describes as “civic professionalism” may be one way of restoring public faith in the professions. He describes civic professionalism as a strong sense of overt public responsibility, both to one’s profession and to the community one lives in.

In my opinion it is a return to the original concept that led to the evolution of professions. It suggests a basis for the professions in altruism and service for the public good.

It suggests that there is far more to being a professional than simple technical mastery or use of the latest technology, or financial reward, interesting and important though those aspects may be.

It suggests that as individual professionals we are in the fortunate position of being able to give more than we get, and thus to help improve our communities.

In this way we may be able to restore some measure of trust from the public towards the health professions. But more than that, our society will be better off with professions than without. I think that a sense of Fellowship is a significant part of what constitutes a truly professional person.

I wish you a safe, happy Christmas and summer.

Mark Goodhew

Across the Tasman

Sadly no New Zealand Fellows received National honours, or were reclassified as Knights or Dames when our government reintroduced the titles.

The main item of news is that our Regent, Mark Goodhew, completed his term as President of the New Zealand Dental Association in August at the very successful NZDA Regional Conference in Wellington. Mark was a very effective, efficient and considerate President and was able to very successfully carry out his multiple roles including NZDA President and Regent of the Australasian Section of ADI, whilst still continuing in his dental practice supporting his family and his wife, Jo, the Member of Parliament for Aoraki (Rangitata).

On behalf of the New Zealand Fellows, thanks Mark. New Zealand Fellows will also be happy with the outcome of the Bledisloe Cup, tinged with disappointment seeing at least one Kiwi recently singing Advance Australia Fair.

Karl Lyons

Jacarandas in bloom
A t the end of September 2009, the American Dental Association celebrated its 150th Anniversary in the youngest State of the USA, Hawaii.

The events were staged in Honolulu and the Academy played a part in the proceedings by conducting a Convocation and Gala Dinner to mark the 35 years since its inception.

The Annual Meeting of the International Board of Regents of the Academy and of the ADI Foundation also took place and these events provided for considerable fruitful discussion.

Since its inception, ADI has enjoyed a very sympathetic relationship with the American Dental Association and this was progressed in Honolulu.

Three years ago, the sum of USD10,000.00 had been committed by the Academy to match a similar sum provided by the American Dental Association, to conduct a programme on “volunteering” at a World Dental Congress. Unfortunately, due to recent programme constraints, this has not occurred. In Honolulu and with the agreement of the American Dental Association, it was decided to produce that programme at its next Annual Session, in Orlando, Florida, 2010.

The Japan Section, through its Regent Dr Koji Yamakawa has invited ADI to hold its mid-year Executive Meeting in Osaka, Japan, in June 2010. Planning is under way to do so, in conjunction with a Scientific Programme developed by the well-known presenter Dr Terry Tanaka (USA). The Japan Section is also developing plans to conduct a Convocation at that time for the induction of new Fellows. As ADI Fellows may attend any Function conducted by the Academy, Japan, June 2010 may provide an additional opportunity for Fellows to travel. Be assured that Dr Tanaka’s programme will be presented in English, as despite his Japanese ancestry he is as American as ‘Uncle Sam’.

The ADI Convocation in Honolulu produced a very highly qualified group of inductees and it was warming for me to compare them with those who were inducted in Perth.

I have no doubt that we are attracting to our ranks people of great substance, which bodes well for the future. The new Fellows appeared to be delighted to become part of ADI and this was enhanced by the dignified and friendly proceedings which prevailed.

The Gala Dinner to mark 35 years of ADI endeavours was well attended and it was my pleasure to welcome to the Function as guests, the CEO of the Australian Dental Association, Mr Robert Boyd-Boland and his charming wife Wendy.

At the Gala, auctions were conducted to raise funds for the ADI Foundation and three copies of my book The Square Pegs and other Stories which had been donated by the Australasian Section were purchased well, along with a number of other donated items.

In the Lives of the Fellows

‘Let us now praise famous men’

Brian Wheeler OAM

The ADI is proud to announce that ADI Fellow Brian Wheeler was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the recent Queen’s Birthday Honours list.

Brian was awarded his OAM for services to dentistry particularly the Australian Dental Association (SA Branch) and the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia, Central Operations and Australian Council.

Brian having served on a number of ADA committees is a past President of the ADA (South Australian Branch).

He graduated from the University of Adelaide in 1969 and is in general dental practice at Stirling in the Adelaide Hills. His involvement with the RFDS began in 1975 when he was part of a dental team supplying dental services to outback settlements on the Transcontinental Railway across the Nullabor.

He was later President of the RFDS Central Operations and RFDS Australian Council between the years 1991-2000 and was elected a Life Member of the RFDS in 2002.

His life of service has been strongly influenced by such luminaries as Rev Fred McKay who succeeded the Rev John Flynn (founder of the RFDS and Australian Inland Mission).
Editor’s Notes

Recently I attended the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) and witnessed the current exhibition - A Review of 140 years of Photography.

Prominently displayed on entering the exhibition is the well known quotation by Henry David Thoreaux (1817-1862) “The question is, not what you look at but what you see”

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950), himself a writer, musician and photographer, once said that photography is often disparaged as an art form by those who believe that when a lens is in a box it is mechanical, but not when in a man’s head.

Every picture tells a story and provides a message if we are prepared to see it. When we look at the photographs in this newsletter of jacarandas, poincianas and fir trees we may see many things including a reminder that this year is nearly over, that school and university examinations are in the air and that Christmas time will soon be with us, but above all else, that life goes on whether it be winter or summer.

The message that I see is, that this time of the year should be one of festivity and rejoicing.To that end I would like to wish all our Fellows, their families and friends a truly joyful Christmas and for those who have suffered loss or pain during the year, let this great festival of Christmas be a time of healing and hope.

These greetings are offered with special significance. This is my last Christmas newsletter as editor as I demit office following the next newsletter (April 2010). After five years as editor, like every tree and flower of the field, a good prune will improve the stock.

Fleet Street – Editor

Poets’ Corner

Tannenbaum

O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum, wie treu sind deine Blätter!
Du grünst nicht nur zur Sommerzeit,
Nein auch im Winter, wenn es schneit.
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum, wie treu sind deine Blätter!

Ernst Anschütz, 1824

Forthcoming Events

Note: These meetings are for the Association(s) NOT the Academy. ADI events being held in conjunction with a meeting are noted or highlighted:

ADI BREAKFAST AND CE MEETING
February 28, 2010, Chicago Dental Society Midwinter Meeting – Breakfast Meeting Reservations

CANADIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION
CDA Annual Meeting 2010/Journées dentaires internationales du Québec (JDIQ)
**ADI Canada Section 25th Anniversary – May 31, 2010
Convocation and Banquet - May 31, 2010
Hotel Inter Continental, Montréal, Québec

**ADI (JAPAN SECTION) CONVOCATION AND DINNER – Saturday 3 June, 2010
Osaka, Japan

FEDERATION DENTAIRE INTERNATIONAL (WORLD DENTAL CONGRESS)
Brazil September 2-5, 2010

**ADI Convocation and Luncheon TBA

AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION
Orlando, Florida October 9-12, 2010

**ADI Annual Convocation TBA

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**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
username “member” password “adint”

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