Message from the Regent

It was good to catch up with ADI Fellows from the world over at the September FDI World Dental Congress in Stockholm. Former Australasian Regent Reg Hession was installed as President of the ADI, a proud moment for Reg and wife Pam, and for all of us in this Section. It’s a position I am sure he will take on with all of his usual panache and energy. There was some detailed discussion at the ADI Board meeting about the future role that ADI can fill in providing continuing education for colleagues in less fortunate locations than ours, and it will be interesting to see how this develops with time. There are a number of individual projects already undertaken by ADI, and there could well be some obvious benefits in co-coordinating and collaborating with other agencies, such as FDI, for example. There are extensive networking opportunities that have a great deal to offer. I wish Reg good luck for his term in office.

Simon Shanahan has been our man on the ground in Perth as planning proceeds for our Convocation next March, immediately prior to the 2009 ADA Congress CSI:Perth. There is more detail elsewhere in this News, but I am anticipating a good turnout for what promises to be a great night. The two venues Simon has identified are stunning, and the programme should allow plenty of opportunity to catch up with colleagues and friends, as well as a meaningful Convocation.

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Message from the Regent

The Convocation is in many ways the highlight of the ADI calendar, an opportunity for new Fellows to be given recognition for their service to the dental profession, and so I encourage you to mark the date – March 11 – in your diaries now.

As 2009 looms rapidly into view for all of us, the prospect of a long summer break starts to seem like a reward for simply getting through December. The last stanza of a busy year is frequently even more hectic than what has gone before, at the surgery, socially and just about everywhere else, but Christmas is such a good time of year that it’s all worth it. I guess most of us will have the chance to get away from it all for a few days at least, but some of our Fellows will be providing those essential services that our communities rely on so much. I thank them for their service. It can often be taken for granted, but one consolation could be a slightly less crowded, albeit slightly delayed, vacation.

I’m looking forward to seeing many Fellows in Perth next year. Until then, have a relaxing time over the Christmas period, and keep safe.

At the recent FDI World Assembly in Stockholm in September, ADI held its Annual International Board of Regent’s Meeting. Mark Goodhew, Regent of our Section was represented by fellow New Zealander John Bell, as Mark had some NZDA Presidential duties to perform within the FDI.

At this meeting our own Reg Hession AM was installed as President of the International Body. His two year term commenced on 1 November 2008 when Sue Bishop’s term was completed. Congratulations Reg, on this high achievement. Whist there were fewer attendees, particularly from the USA, (presumably due to the global financial crisis) the meeting was very successful.

The Board Meeting was complemented by the presence of the new four Regents from the new European Sections: UK – Peter Swiss (UK), Northern Europe – Philippe Rusca (Switzerland), Southern Europe – Gerhard Seeberger (Italy) and Eastern Europe – Vladimir Sadovski (Russia) were confirmed in their positions by President Sue Bishop.

The Academy is pursuing actively, the development of a Nordic Section; to complete the restructuring of its European regional development.

There were a number of new fellows inducted at the Convocation of Fellows, mainly from the Eastern European Section, with more to follow from Armenia, resulting from the enthusiasm expressed by Armenian Fellows.

Under the guidance of our new President the Academy can look forward to an even more exciting future.

News from Abroad

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John Frederick Lavis was a doyen of the dental profession both nationally and internationally. He graduated BDS from the University of Adelaide in 1945 having attained equal top marks in his final examination. He was admitted to the degree MDS within the same university in 1954 and established his own North Terrace practice orientated towards crown and bridge in which field he excelled. He served on Council of the ADA (5th Australia Branch) from 1955-1967 and was President in 1962.

John was an inaugural Fellow of the RACDS and was President from 1972 -1976. John spent time at the Eastman Dental Hospital and University of London finally returning to Adelaide. He served on Federal Council of the ADA for 11 years and was the Vice President of Congress in 1976.

Among his many achievements, he was a Fellow of the ICD serving as President from 1982-1985 and was also a Fellow of this Academy. John was heavily involved in Apex, Royal Flying Doctor Service and several charities. He received the Distinguished Service Medal from the ADA (SA Branch) in 1980 and Life Membership in 1997. In recognition of this outstanding service to dentistry and the community he was admitted as a Member of the Order of Australia in 1981.

John Frederick Lavis was a cultivated man. He was stroke oarsman for the Prince Alfred College in his final year. He was a devoted family man survived by his dear wife Nan, and three daughters, Deb, Mary Jane, Rebecca and three granddaughters. His particular personal attributes were ones of gentleness and ability to strengthen the faint hearted, support the weak and help the afflicted, be they family, patients or friends.

He had a love of good music, in particular English choral music and attended carol services at Kings College Cambridge with Nan to which he referred in a letter to the editor of this newsletter in the December edition 2006. He was intelligent, articulate, erudite, generous in praise and an accomplished orator of some wit.

His wonderful command of the English language made him a sought after public speaker. His love of Shakespeare was well acknowledged and he was known to quote many a verse. How fitting it is that one of his favourite passages from Julius Caesar (Act 5, Scene 5) may now be so aptly applied to this remarkable man.

His life was gentle, and the elements so mix’d in him that Nature might stand up And say to all the world. ‘This was a man!’

Geoffrey Hall, AM, Trevor Martin, Anthony Bartlett, SC, Scott Rankin, Eddie Street (Ed)

Mark your Diary

When       Wednesday 11 March 2009
Time       Convocation – 4.30 pm
           Dinner – 7.00 for 7.30 pm
Location   Convocation – Government House Perth
           Dinner – The Weld Club

The Convocation and dinner promises to be an outstanding event in the ADI Calendar.

Government House, situated in the heart of Perth will be the setting for Convocation. This truly magnificent setting will prepare the stage not only for the induction of new Fellows into the Academy but also the wonderful evening to follow. Dinner will take place at the nearby Weld Club (Heritage listed).

The Weld Club was founded in 1871 and named after the then Governor of Western Australia, Sir Frederick Weld. The club is built in the style of Queen Anne and will be a most suitable venue for an evening of fine food, wine, entertainment and conviviality.

Invitations will be sent out under separate cover.

From our NZ Correspondent

All has been pretty quiet ‘across the Tasman’ except for two things:

1. New Zealand had its general elections on 8 November 2008, and the Regent’s wife, Jo Goodhew, who was standing for the National Party, was re-elected to Parliament as the MP for Aoraki (Rangitata) with a very healthy majority. Not only that, but she is also now a member of parliament in the new National Party led government. Congratulations to Jo on this result and also to Mark for all of his support.

2. The All Blacks continued their winning performances in the Tri-Nations and the Bledisloe Cup taking both trophies. Plans are afoot to continue this winning way through to, and including, 2011.

Karl Lyons
From the News Desk

Christmas comes but once a year, and when it does it brings good cheer!
Or does it?

The last twelve months have been memorable ones for many reasons. In recent times with the world economy collapsing around us, global warming and climate change, a new prime minister in both our regions, we might well ask – where are we heading, in which direction and are we heading up or heading down? It is interesting to note that during the world-wide Great Depression of the 1930s, whilst most people were out of work and living in poverty, primary health care workers i.e. dentists and doctors, were relatively immune. As we enter a phase of possible further economic downturn, we may be grateful that we as a healing profession will probably weather the storm better than most. If we as a professional body of people suffer, how much worse is it for those who do not come under the protective umbrella which we have historically come to enjoy? If the world’s leading economies continue to falter, how much worse will it be for the poorer economies of the world? It is said in many ways “Of him who has much, more is expected”. None of us is born equal. The more we have, the more we should give. So this Christmas how about giving something of yourselves to further the work of the Academy in some form or another? We need more volunteers, we need more equipment and books, and we need more money. We also need your feedback. Contact John Pearman our secretary when you are ready to assist.

In the meantime I hope you all have a happy Christmas (and dare I say it), prosperous New Year. See you at Convocation in Perth, 11 March 2009.

Fleet Street – Editor

Poets’ Corner

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
The holly bears the crown:
O, the rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

(Traditional)

Kings Park, Perth

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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.

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