



WEEKLY "E" NEWS- from the RACI NSW 22nd February 2008

Dear NSW RACI readers

Below are this week's announcements from the RACI NSW Branch, a summary is given and then scroll down for the full text.

The Office Bearers Workshop, Chemistry Education Forum, and 2008 Presidents Dinner were a great success last Saturday.

Science meets Parliament Dr Adam Cawley (NSW President-Elect & Hon. Secretary) will represent the RACI at Smp 2008 facilitated by FASTS on March 18th and 19th.

A Review of the National Innovation System During Saturday's Branch meeting RACI members were informed that the National Innovation System was going under review. RACI members who have an interest in this review, can check out the following website. <http://www.innovation.gov.au/innovationreview/Pages/home.aspx>

The RACI Western Sydney Section Honours Prize IF YOU KNOW any 2007 HONOURS STUDENTS - they may be eligible for the 2008 Honours prize (RACI Western Sydney Section) – if they reside, or have done their research, in Western Sydney. **DEADLINE: MARCH 31ST 2008**

Nominations for awards administered through The RACI National Office are now open. Awards include: Applied Research Award, Biota Award for Medicinal Chemistry, Centenary of Federation Teaching Awards in Chemistry, Citations, Cornforth Medal, C.S. Piper Prize, Distinguished Contribution to Economic Advancement, Distinguished Fellowship, Green Chemistry Challenge Awards, H.G Smith Memorial Award, Jim O'Donnell International Travel Awards, Leighton Memorial Medal, Masson Memorial Scholarship Prize, Organometallic Award, and Rennie Memorial Medal. Full details are found at <http://www.raci.org.au/national/awards/index.html>. Each week this E-News will feature one of these prizes. This week a profile of the **Biota Award for Medicinal Chemistry** is provided.

Assist The RACI NSW Branch By Buying The Entertainment Book. The Book You'll Need To Find The Best Restaurants, Hotels Accommodation, Attractions, Sports And Leisure Activities In Sydney. Purchase Your Entertainment Book For \$60 Now And You Will Receive Over \$10,000 In Valuable Offers Valid Through June 1st 2008

Olle` Prize Nominations are now open for the Olle` Prize. It will be awarded to a member of the Institute who submits the "best treatise, writing or paper" on any subject relevant to the Institute's interests. Nominations close 28th March 2008.

NSW RACI Branch Office opening hours have now been confirmed

Do you have story idea or suggestion for the Weekly E News? Please let us know! If any of our RACI members receive awards, we would love to hear about it. Stories about our RACI events are always welcome. If you have found a chemistry book or text particularly helpful -why not submit a review?

Please scroll down for further details.....

*Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm **Thursday 28th February**. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas*

The Office Bearers Workshop, Chemistry Education Forum, and 2008 Presidents Dinner

Last Saturday, 35 of our members and others interested parties met at The Ranch Hotel at Epping for our annual office Bearers Workshop, held jointly this year with our Chemistry Education forum. It was very productive day, RACI members were able to hear from all the groups and sections and learn about the activities they have planned for the year.

The Chemistry Education Forum generated great interest. We had visitors from TAFE, several Universities, and an early child hood educator who teaches gifted toddlers chemistry. Associate Professor Charles Fogliani AM discussed the development of the Australian National Chemistry Quiz, from its inception in 1982 to what it is today, whilst Joe King highlighted some software developments for Chemistry educators to assist them in identifying specific knowledge or skills using real-time assessment and student performance analysis and to provide access to related resources.

Dr Siggie Schmid spoke on the teaching/research Nexus in Chemical Education, and the advantages gained by students who undertake bridging courses in chemistry before they begin undergraduate Science studies (if they have little chemistry background). Julie Haeusler from the NSW Department of Education and Training, spoke on the IT developments enhancing students chemistry education. Many in the forum's audience were surprised by the virtual online experiments she demonstrated.

Dr Ian Jamie discussed the ASEL Project and how it can help develop the practicals that are taught at undergraduate level in universities. Associate Professor Joanne Jamie told the forum how her Indigenous Outreach Program evolved from her research within indigenous community on Bush medicines. Dr Jenny Jones involved the forum audience as she explained "Teaching Chemistry for Deeper Understanding". The forum concluded with Dr Chris Fellows who runs the science in the Bush program up at the university of New England.

Over the coming weeks many of the issues and ideas raised during the day will be discussed in this newsletter. Some of the interesting points that were discussed over the forum included: Why do students find understanding chemistry difficult? When should we begin teaching children chemistry? Are students given enough opportunities to experience hands on chemistry?

During the evening the annual President's Awards Dinner was held. NSW RACI members enjoyed the evening catching up with each other, and were able to recognise the outstanding efforts of some our colleagues. NSW Citations were presented to Associate Professor Charles Fogliani AM, and Dr Chris Fellows for the contributions to chemistry education. Associate Professor Janice Aldrich –Wright, and Robert Geyer were presented their RACI fellowships. The 2008 NSW Presidents Award recognised Professor Barbara Messerle for her ongoing support of the RACI.

If you wish to contribute some thoughts from the day for this newsletter –please send them to racinsw@chem.unsw.edu.au and keep an eye out in the coming weeks we hope to have some photos from the days events .

*Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm **Thursday 28th February** . We welcome all article suggestions and ideas*

Science meets Parliament



Dr Adam Cawley (NSW President-Elect & Hon. Secretary) will represent the RACI at SmP 2008 facilitated by FASTS on March 18th and 19th. He is keen to hear from RACI members who have issues that they wish discussed with the parliamentarians that he will meet. SmP is the opportunity for chemists to provide their input to innovation policy so please contact Adam (a.cawley@usyd.edu.au, 0407 127 388) with your views. The topics proposed by the board to date are: Critical importance of research infrastructure, Public and private sector R&D collaboration, and Science education – what role the commonwealth in expanding the responsibilities of universities and public sector research agencies?

A Review of the National Innovation System

During Saturday's branch meeting RACI members were informed that the National Innovation System was going under review. Earlier this year the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr, announced the wide ranging review would be conducted by an expert panel chaired by Dr Terry Cutler. As part of the review, the panel will also consider all aspects of the Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Program. It will examine the overall strategic direction of CRCs, looking at the full range of issues, including governance and program design matters, the level and length of funding needed to support the program's objectives, as well as its overall scope and effectiveness.

Many RACI members will be following the developments of this review in the coming months. More information can be obtained at the following website:

<http://www.innovation.gov.au/innovationreview/Pages/home.aspx>

Honours prize REMINDER – deadline March 31st.

IF YOU KNOW any 2007 HONOURS STUDENTS - they may be eligible for the 2008 Honours prize (RACI Western Sydney Section) – if they reside, or have done their research, in Western Sydney. They can be enrolled in any University or any department, as long as chemistry has been part of their research. Deadline 31st March, 2008. For enquiries and information, contact Deidre Tronson, deidre@bowtie.com.au (or see online version of this advertisement).

****Please pass this information on to any colleagues in other departments who have Hons students who may be eligible****

The 2008 Honours prize (RACI Western Sydney Section) will be awarded for the best Honours thesis produced in 2007 by a student who is resident and/or has studied or undertaken research in western Sydney ⁽¹⁾ throughout the year.

The RACI Western Sydney Section Honours Prize is now open to... applicants enrolled in ANY University, within ANY department/school/faculty. The project must include either 'pure' or 'applied' **chemistry**. This could be applied to fields such as agriculture, horticulture material science, nanotechnology, pharmacy, neuroscience, medicine, biochemistry, biology, environmental analysis, forensics, or any other discipline.

The winner will give an oral presentation at a meeting of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute Western Sydney Section during 2008 (date to be determined).

This is an opportunity to showcase the research to a range of RACI members and other students.

The prize will be awarded to a project that demonstrates a high level of innovation, creativity and contribution to chemical knowledge. If more convenient, the thesis may be spiral- or 'perfect'-bound. The final examination grade is not a determining factor.

Students should forward a copy of the thesis plus a covering letter containing personal details (including student's email address) to one of the contacts below. The thesis will be returned.

DEADLINE: MARCH 31ST 2008. Earlier submission is encouraged

Enquiries and submission to:

Dr Deidre Tronson (FRACI), 21 Eagle Creek Rd, Werombi, 2570.

Ph 02 4653 1430; email: deidre@bowtie.com.au.

OR leave the thesis, clearly marked "WSS Honours Prize", at the RACI office, UNSW.

[1] 'Western Sydney' is defined by the following postcodes: 2076-2077; 2111-2126; 2128; 2133; 2140-2168; 2170;2171; 2173; 2174; 2176; 2177; 2190-2200; 2205-2214; 2216-2234; 2558-2560; 2563-2579; 2745; 2747-2768; 2770; 2773-2787; 2790

Nominations for awards administered through The RACI National Office are now open.

Awards include: Applied Research Award, Biota Award for Medicinal Chemistry, Centenary of Federation Teaching Awards in Chemistry, Citations, Cornforth Medal, C.S. Piper Prize, Distinguished Contribution to Economic Advancement, Distinguished Fellowship, Green Chemistry Challenge Awards, H.G Smith Memorial Award, Jim O'Donnell International Travel Awards, Leighton Memorial Medal, Masson Memorial Scholarship Prize, Organometallic Award, and Rennie Memorial Medal.

Full details are found at <http://www.raci.org.au/national/awards/index.html>

Each week this E-News will feature a profile of one of these prizes.

This week's a profile... [Biota Award for Medicinal Chemistry](#)

Biota Holdings Ltd will fund the award of an annual medal and prize for Medicinal Chemistry to encourage the design and development by younger chemists (with less than 12 years of professional experience since completing their most recent relevant qualification of BSc, BSc (Hons), MSc or PhD) of small molecules as potential therapeutic agents.

The value of the prize shall be \$5,000. The prize may be used in any way to assist the professional development of the recipient e.g. to assist the recipient to travel to international meetings and to spend time visiting overseas laboratories.

Only financial members of the RACI will be eligible to apply for the Biota Medal for Medicinal Chemistry.

Applications will be called for each year at an appropriate time in Chemistry in Australia and would be treated as commercial-in-confidence.

The Medal will awarded to the chemist judged to be responsible for the best drug design and development paper published, patent taken out, or commercial-in-confidence report in the previous calendar year concerning small molecules (less than 1,000 Da) as potential therapeutic agents.

The award would be administered by the RACI who would appoint a panel of three judges, at least one of whom would be from the RACI Biomolecular Chemistry Division of Medicinal and Agricultural Chemistry.

The judges would be required to sign appropriate secrecy agreements in order to preserve the intellectual property rights of the applicants.

The award may be shared if the judges agree that more than one applicant is equally worthy of the award.

The award shall be subject to the approval of the RACI Board.

The recipient shall deliver a lecture on the topic of the award at a suitable national meeting of the RACI or one of its Divisions.

Applications (4 copies) close 5 pm Eastern Standard Time on 30th April each year. It is recommended that all nominations be submitted by email (awards@raci.org.au). Receipt by National Office of each nomination will be acknowledged.

*Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm **Thursday 28th February**. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas*



*The Royal Australian Chemical Institute Inc, NSW Branch
Is pleased to announce*

THE **entertainment** BOOK
The 2007/2008 edition is available NOW...

The 2007/2008 Entertainment™ Book is still available and due to overwhelming popularity, supplies are running low! Featuring many of Sydney's best restaurants, cafes, hotel accommodation, attractions and activities... **all with valuable 25% to 50% off and 2 for 1 offers**, each book contains over \$10,000 worth of offers that you and your family can use between **now** until June, 2008. Examples of some of the businesses featured in the **SYDNEY & NORTH** editions include:

•Alchemy 731	•Altitude	•Bayswiss	•Luna Park
•360 Bar and Dining	•Omega	•Donut King	•Taronga Zoo
•Neo Restaurant	•La Grillade	•Pizza Hut	•Opera Australia
•Nick's Bar & Grill	•Voiaj	•Video Ezy	•Sydney Symphony
•Morgans Restaurant	•Coast Restaurant	•Randwick Ritz	•Sydney Tower & Oz Trek
•Shores Restaurant	•Sirocco	•Hoyts/Greater Union	•Australian Jockey Club

Books are \$60 (incl. GST) plus \$6.40 for postage Fund raising for ~ Thank you for your support!

For \$60.00 the book pays for itself in just two visits to a restaurant or one family day out.

Entertainment Books will be available for a limited time only.....while stocks last. Remember to order additional copies for gifts, work colleagues, friends or relatives before they're gone!

~ The Royal Australian Chemical Institute Inc, (NSW Branch)~
racinsw@chem.unsw.edu.au

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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Edition required: _____ x **Sydney** Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

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Ollé Prize

DUE ON FRIDAY 28th MARCH 2008

The NSW Branch invites nominations for the **Archibald D Ollé Prize**.

Archibald Ollé was very active in the chemical and scientific life of NSW in the first 40 years of the twentieth century, and his wife, who outlived him, left a bequest to the RACI NSW Branch to his name with an annual prize. It is awarded to a member of the Institute who submits the “best treatise, writing or paper” on any subject relevant to the Institute’s interests. Examples of previous winners include books and book chapters on key areas of chemistry, as well as critical scientific and technical reviews.

The NSW Branch Committee controls the Prize and has established the following conditions:

1. Nominations are invited from candidates themselves or from persons knowing suitable candidates and must be members of the RACI.
2. Each nominee shall submit a single scientific work published during the period 1st January 2007 until December 2007.
3. Nominations must be in writing, setting out the name, address, academic qualifications and present position of the nominee and be signed by the nominee and nominator.
4. Where the work involves more than one author, the nominator should arrange for **all** the other authors to send an indication of the contribution of the nominee. Though submission of multi-authored works is not discouraged, authors should be aware that in the past the adjudicators have found it very difficult to establish the relative merits of single and multi-authored works in terms of making an award to an individual.
5. Nominations should be addressed to:
The President
The Royal Australian Chemical Institute Inc. NSW Branch
School of Chemistry
UNSW
Sydney 2052
And must be lodged on or before Friday 28th March 2008
6. In all matters relating to this Prize, the decision of the NSW Branch Committee shall be final, and the Committee may not make an award if, in the opinion of the assessors, the submissions are not of a sufficiently high standard .

*The result will be communicated to all entrants and will be published in
“Chemistry in Australia”*

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NSW RACI Branch Office

The office hours have now been confirmed.

Monday and Wednesday

9:00 AM To 5.30 PM

Tuesday – office closed

Thursday

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Friday

1:00 PM-5:30 PM

This is a general guide for the office times – as RACI events and meetings arise the times maybe subject to change so I can assist at these events and attend these meetings as required.

Edwina Hine NSW Branch Coordinator

(W) 02 9663 4960

(F) 02 9385 6141

(M) 0419 729 515

racinsw@chem.unsw.edu.au

Events coming up this week

- **Chemistry Education Group:** Business Meeting. Monday 25th, School of Chem, USyd, 5pm.

Do you have any story ideas and breaking news?

Please let us know! If any of our RACI members receive awards, we would love to hear about it. Stories about our RACI events are always welcome. If you have found a chemistry book or text particularly helpful -why not submit a review?

You can also support RACI (NSW Branch) by placing an advertisement. (please note these do incur a small fee). Our E news reaches over a thousand members.

The deadline for the next issue appears at the bottom of each page. Contact racinsw@chem.unsw.edu.au for further details.



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