

CHEMNEWS

School of Chemistry - University of Tasmania
23 November 2001 No. 05/01

CHEMNEWS COMES OF AGE

By Professor Allan Canty

This year completes the 21st year of publication of *ChemNews*. Early issues of *ChemNews* are collected in bound volumes in the secretarial area, and make for interesting reading. Changes in style and content are particularly evident, with a gradual transition from a formal "notices" style to a mixture of notices/news/social calendar style, together with the introduction of an external newsletter entitled *ChemNews Selects*.

In this issue I would like to make particular note that the 21st anniversary coincides with the retirement from the School of the founder of *ChemNews*, Dr Barry O'Grady. The founding of *ChemNews* is one example of the many important contributions made by Barry to the School and the chemistry profession more generally. We thank Barry for his initiative in suggesting *ChemNews* in 1980, we assure him that *ChemNews* is not "retiring" and we look forward to his occasional contribution of *ChemNews* articles in the coming years.

WELCOME

- To Dr Wenchu Yang from Xuzhou Medical School, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow working with ACROSS for the next 12 months.

WELCOME BACK

- To Professor Jim Fritz of Iowa State University who is a Visiting Research Fellow with ACROSS for six weeks - his fourth trip.
- To postgraduates, Alison Magill, Dave Graham and David Nielsen who have returned from a year in Wales at Cardiff University with Professor Kingsley Cavell.
- To Kirsty Hawkes, a former undergraduate of the School of Chemistry, who is undertaking her PhD at Cardiff University under the supervision of Professor Kingsley Cavell. Kirsty will be visiting the School for 12 months with Dr Brian Yates as her acting supervisor.

FAREWELL

- To Dr Barry O'Grady and Dr Rudi Thomas from 31 December 2001. Barry and Rudi joined the School in 1968 and 1969, respectively, and have seen many changes during that time. In 2002 there will be only one staff member predating their arrival. We thank them for the contributions to chemistry over this extensive period, and look forward to interacting with them during their retirement. Barry was farewelled at a dinner on Friday, 26 October, attended by present and past colleagues in the University and the wider community; and a lunch is scheduled for Rudi on Wednesday, 28 November.



- To **Kai Ling Ng** who returned to Singapore at the end of October to complete her thesis. On submission of her thesis (probably in December) she will take up a postdoctoral position at the National University of Singapore.

VALE

Dr Ian Ralph Connolly Bick died on 24 October 2001. Ralph contributed at an exceptionally high level to the research and teaching program in organic chemistry. Ralph was a member of staff from 1951-1981 and contributed in many significant ways to the progress of the School, principally in organic teaching and in natural products and synthetic chemistry. In cooperation with current staff, an obituary for *Chemistry is Australia* is in preparation by Professor John Bremner of the University of Wollongong. Professor Bremner was a close colleague of Dr Bick.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Mel Done** and Guy Denney who are getting married on 8 December.

To Recipients of offers under the **Institutional Research Grants Scheme (IRGS) 2002:**

- **Dr Mirek Macka:** \$13,000 for "Light Emitting Diodes as Light Sources for Compact Portable Photometers and Photometric Detectors"
- **Dr Andrew Seen:** \$10,000 for "A Source Apportionment Analysis of the Contribution of Wood Heater Emissions to Launceston Air Pollution"
- **Dr Jason Smith:** \$10,454 for "Biomimetic Approach to the Synthesis of Alkaloids: Dinuclear Manganese Complexes as Mimics of Cytochrome P450 in Oxidative Phenolic Coupling"
- **Dr Vicki Tolhurst:** \$10,454 for "Exploiting Nature's Structural Features for the Preparation of Modern Catalysts"
- **Dr Brian Yates:** \$15,000 for "Design of Radiopharmaceuticals for the Diagnosis of Melanomas"

SEMINARS

Thank you to seminar speakers. The School would also like to thank Dr Brian Yates for organising the seminar program once again this year.

Dr Miroslav Macka, School of Chemistry

"To Buffer or Not To Buffer, That Was The Question"

Honours final seminars

Tell Tuttle, "Identification of Novel $\alpha_v\beta_3$ Integrin Antagonists"

Bjorn Lunstedt, "Bioactive Compounds in Marine Chemistry"

Jeff Mason, "Rapid Capillary Electrophoretic Separation of Opiate Alkaloids"

Farewell seminar

Dr Barry O'Grady, School of Chemistry

"My Fortunate Career – 51 Years of Chemistry"

PhD final seminar

Michael Batten, School of Chemistry

"Chelating Imidazole Ligands in Catalysis"

Prof Tony Haymet, Department of Chemistry, University of Houston

"Nucleation: Experiment and Theory"

CHEMISTRY CLUB NEWS

By Vicki Tolhurst

This year saw the inaugural RACI/Chem Club Trivia Night. Seven teams competed to find who really had the best knowledge of all things trivial. The night consisted of twelve rounds of questions, topics including news and current events, sport, music and entertainment, science, and of course, chemistry. Competition was tough with most teams being even up to the last round where the question "Name as many as possible National Parks within Tasmania" sorted out those in the know from those who didn't. The overall winning team was "Room 308" (Michael Gardiner, Jason and Francis Smith, Michael Batten, Susan Oates and Jun Wang) who won with a 23 point lead from their nearest opponent. The team members received the perpetual RACI/Chem Club Trivia Night trophy, a suspended gold question mark.

By Lauren Wise

Well since last *ChemNews* the Chem Club has assisted the RACI with the quiz night, see Vicki's report above. The night turned out to be a huge success and looks as if it will become an annual event. Congratulations to lab 308, no bias here whatsoever, on taking out the night. There were photos from the night but I seem to have misplaced the disc, look out for them on the Chem Club web page which now has photos from, the 1st BBQ of the year, Brew Off, the banana eating competition and the cocktail party - thanks Doug!

Well we have one more final event for the year, sort of a Christmas function. Due to the popularity of golf within the department we have decided to play golf, the mini version to help players like myself who have no idea how to wield a golf club. This is to be held on Friday, 14th October at the Putt Putt course at Moonah to be followed back at the School of Chemistry by a festive BBQ to mark the end of the year, well almost the end. Look out for emails regarding this event which should be fun and there will be a prize for the team with the best score.

Finally I would like to take this bit of space on the page to thank those who have helped make the Chem Club function this year: Helmy (chief organiser and ideas person), Matt and Phil (bottle shop runs and bar persons), Traill (wacky ideas man), Juliette, Sam and Adele (our esteemed 2nd years on the committee who worked hard on the cocktail party), Alison (helping out with ticket sales and at events), Shep (organising the beer coolers, being a keen supporter of the club even when in Queensland, Shep did quiz night by correspondence), the staff and students of the School of Chemistry for their support of the club this year - I am sorry if I have missed anyone in the process. And finally to all the members of the Chem Club: thank you for turning up and supporting our events this year. I hope everyone has a good Christmas and break over the New Year. I look forward to seeing everyone in 2002 at more Chem Club functions.

MELBOURNE CUP

By Peter Traill

Big Winners in Cup Sweep!

Matt Shaw, John O'Reilly and Joe Hutchinson all had the horse that came LAST! For being such losers they managed to get their money back. Vicki Tolhurst and Greg Dicoski suffered the major let-down of the day when their poor nedly was scratched before the race. The real money was spread around and, of course, the Head of School managed to get a first prize. This was only because Paul Haddad did not enter this year. Other winners were Sun, Helmy Cook and Rudi Thomas, Jason Smith and Jun Wang for the \$2 sweeps with Rudi winning the \$1 sweep and minor placing being taken by a couple of outsiders (Jennifer and Angie). Next year might have to be a "Professor Free" sweep so that others can have a chance to win!



A big thank you to Peter Trill for organising the sweeps and the scrumptious chicken and champagne lunch.

FOOTY TIPPING

By Phil Zakaria

September 29th, 2001, will be remembered for Brisbane's victory in the Grand final against Essendon. But another, no less impressive, victory was also sealed on this day. The 2001 Chemistry Footy Tipping Competition had been a close run event all year, challengers had come and gone, and the excitement come finals time was truly electric. It took a special man to calmly see through the haze of excitement, focus on the job at hand, and pick the winners, one week at a time. The victor this year had fought hard for the last couple of years, but alas in the 99 and 2000 seasons he was destined to be the bridesmaid and never the bride, but as they say third time lucky and his determination was clearly evident. Congratulations go to Paul Haddad for a sterling performance, in the end winning by 8pnts. Second place went to Phil (me, one of the perks of running the thing I guess) while third was a tie between Dave Graham and Lauren Wise. Dave also won the prize for getting the most 8's during the season (a very impressive 2!). Finally it should be noted that the Toilet Seat of Shame this year went to Shep for a comprehensively last, this prize is on display in the Chemistry tea room for those interested. Now there is nothing else to do except wait for next year. Go Essendon!

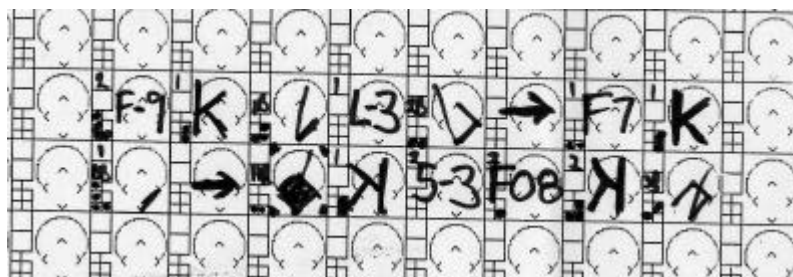


So, WHO'S FOR BASEBALL?

By Doug McLean

And it's one, two, three strikes your out...

The Yankees lost in what could have been a historical fourpeat, sadly enough in the bottom of the 9 the Diamondbacks made a remarkable recovery. The come back was reminiscent of the amazing performances by New York at the end of games 4 and 5. The Arizona Diamondbacks won the 2001 World Series, and baseball is now over for yet another year.



Next year however baseball with have many new and enthusiastic antipodean fans rooting for their favourite team while eating red hotdogs with mustard and drinking beer, thanks to the feeble efforts of our own multinational baseball freak Doug McLean. The baseball

appreciation training events were made possible with the help from Lauren Wise, Joe Hutchinson, Doug McLean (Chemistry) and Omar Hansan (Pharmacy).

Most who attended now appreciate the RBI, the K, the full count and the artistic liberty of the homerun. The challenge of scoring a game was won by Alison Magill, for which she received no prize other than accolades from the envious.

Lots of fun was had by all.

... at the ole ball game.

**Thank you for your contributions for this issue of *ChemNews*.
The next *ChemNews* will be issued on 1st March 2002
Please e-mail all contributions (as and when you think of them) to
Secretary@chem.utas.edu.au**

