

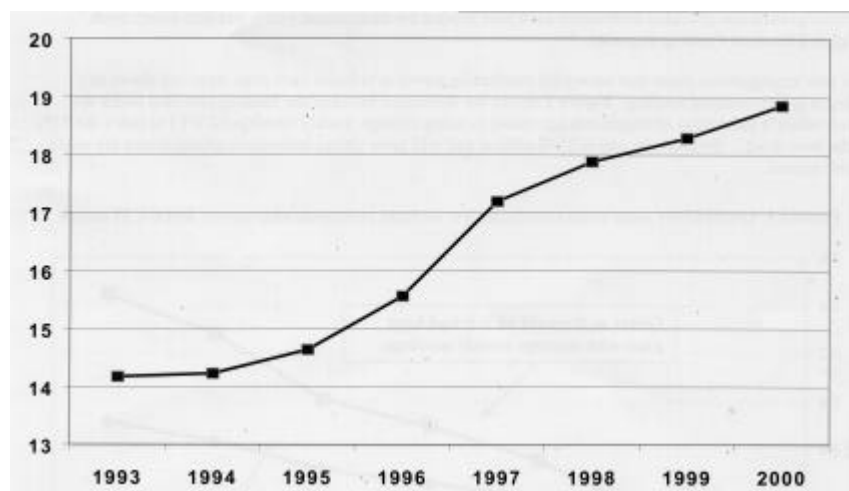
ChemNews Selects

School of Chemistry
University of Tasmania

14 December 2001
No. 2001/02

By Head of School, Professor Allan Canty

The continuing funding difficulties experienced by Australian universities is illustrated in the diagram supplied by the Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee (<http://www.avcc.edu.au>), showing student/staff ratios for the period 1990-2000. For the School of Chemistry this ratio stands at 17 in 2002, for a complement of 10.25 academic staff across the Hobart and Launceston campuses.



The School has 7.25 academic staff located primarily at the Hobart campus, and the most recent time at which the School had less staff than this was in 1959 when the student/staff ratio was 8. Despite these depressing statistics, the School has experienced considerable growth in student numbers since 1959, and a remarkable growth in research activity illustrated by success in research grant activity documented below.

Important contributions towards the current success of the School, and its ability to weather financial stringencies, have been efficiencies resulting from adoption of new technologies, ongoing changes in teaching programs to ensure that teaching loads are at manageable levels, and financial and other support that the School receives from the wider community. Of particular note is the support from Tasmanian industries (Eckart Granules, Pasminco, Tasmanian Alkaloids, Woolmers Inn) and CSIRO Molecular Science for the Visiting Lectureship program, annual series of lectures from staff of Pasminco and the CSIRO Marine Laboratories, support for scholarships and vacation work placements for our students, and research collaboration. This support not only assists our role in education and research, but provides a considerable boost to morale in the School and confidence in its future. We look forward with energy and enthusiasm to 2002.

NEW RESEARCH GRANTS FOR 2002

A series of new grants have been awarded in recent months:

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH GRANTS (ARC)

- *Discovery Project Grant* for **\$750,000** (over 4 years) to **Prof Paul Haddad** and Prof Milton Hearn for "On-line Preconcentration in Capillary Electrosparations Using Segmented Capillaries".
- *Discovery Project Grant* for **\$245,000** (over 3 years) to **Dr Michael Gardiner**, **Dr Brian Yates** and Dr R Anwender for "New Look N-Heterocyclic Metallocenes of the Lanthanides Based on 4-Azapentalenyl Anions".
- *Linkage Infrastructure Grant* for **\$707,000** to Prof Milton Hearn, Prof P J Marriott and **Prof Paul Haddad** for "Hyphenated Separations/Mass Spectrometry Technology for Protein and Natural Product Characterisation".
- *Linkage Infrastructure Grant* for **\$675,000** to Prof Larry Forbes, **Dr Brian Yates**, Dr G Walker, Prof G Paltridge, Prof W Budd, Dr NL Bindoff and Dr R Warner for "High Performance computing for mathematics, chemistry, engineering and climate research".
- *Linkage Project Grant* for **\$67,635** (over 3 years) to Dr J C Ellison, **Dr Andrew Seen**, Mr P Hedge and Mr P Bradbury for "Assessment of the potential consequences of large-scale eradication of rice grass from the Tamar Estuary, Tasmania" (supported by DPIWE)

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH GRANTS SCHEME (IRGS):

- **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"

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (AINSE):

- **Dr Brian Yates** \$6,905 for "Modelling of Radiopharmaceuticals for Tumour Diagnosis and Therapy".

The above new grants are in addition to ongoing grants for 2002 to Prof Allan Canty (ARC: \$60,681); Dr Adrian Blackman, Mr Des Richardson and Dr Karen Stack (SPIRT, Norske-Skog: \$22,283); Dr Michael Gardiner (ARC: \$52,302); Prof Paul Haddad (ARC: \$100,727); Prof Paul Haddad and Dr Greg Dicoski (SPIRT, Newcrest Mining, Osleach: \$40,000); Dr Mirek Macka (ARC-ARF: \$73,257); Dr Barry O'Grady and Mr Perran Cook (National Heritage Trust: \$4,000); and Dr Vicki Tolhurst (ARC-APD: \$59,922).

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 Rudi at a luncheon on Wednesday, 28 November.



NEWS FROM FORMER GRADUATES

The Weekend Australian has carried news of significant improvements in technology in the handling of molten magnesium and reduction in associated greenhouse gas emissions, both resulting from postdoctoral work of Simon Cashion at the CRC for Cast Metals Manufacturing at the University of Queensland. This work will find early application in the large scale magnesium production plant projected to produce 25% of the world's magnesium metal when metal when established in Queensland. Simon (known as "Cash") completed BSc(Hons) in 1989 under the supervision of Dr Michael Hitchman.

VALE

It is with sadness that we note the death of Dr Ralph Bick (24 October 2001) and Professor Bernard Ralph (May 2001). Ralph Bick contributed at an exceedingly high level to research and teaching in organic chemistry as a member of staff from 1951-1981. Professor Ralph was a Lecturer in the School during the 1940s, he held a series of positions in Melbourne, the UK, and Sydney before becoming the Dean of Biological Sciences at UNSW.

COLLEGE AFFILIATIONS (TASMANIAN)

of school students or former students mentioned in this edition of ChemNews Selects:

Andrew Seen - Don College Brian Yates - St Virgil's College Simon Cashion - Launceston College

and correction to the previous edition of ChemNews Selects (2001/01):

Jarrold Coad, who was awarded BSc(Hons) HU in 2000, attended Dominic College.

NEW WEB SITE

Faculty of Science & Engineering's new web site came on line on 14 September. The address for the Faculty is <http://www.scieng.utas.edu.au/scieng/> and the address of the new School of Chemistry web page is

<http://www.scieng.utas.edu.au/chem>

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