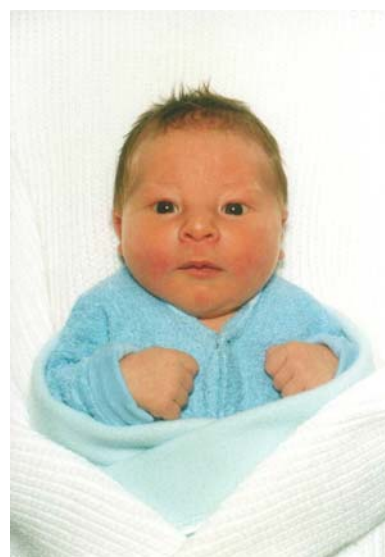


## **WELCOME TO:**

- **Dr Milko Novic**, a Postdoctoral Fellow, who will be working with Professor Paul Haddad and the ACROSS Group for a year. Milko is from the National Institute of Chemistry, Ljubljana, Slovenia and many will recall his visit to the School last year for five weeks in March/April. This time Milko is joined by his family.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

- Thomas and Jacquie Rodemann on the birth of their son, Liam Peter, on Sunday, 15th June 2003.
- Andrew Grosse on his appointment as Technical Officer for the Level 2 First Year Teaching Laboratories in Hobart.
- Jun Wang on his appointment as a postdoctoral research fellow with Dr Michael Gardiner in June following submission of his thesis.
- Dave Graham on his appointment as a postdoctoral research fellow with Dr Brian Yates in June.



## **CONFERENCES & FIELD TRIPS**

### **Air & Waste Management's 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibition San Diego 22-26<sup>th</sup> June.**

**by Tim Jordan**

Although all the brochures said "Visit us in Sunny San Diego", I quickly came to the realisation that the "June Gloom" was here to stay – overcast skies with temperature in the high-teens to low-twenties. Still, I was here to



attend the A&WMA's annual conference. Well that's what I told them anyway... With a couple of days to "acclimatise", I headed for the San Diego's big tourist drawcard, the zoo – well worth a visit, with lots of tigers, apes, and polar bears keeping me busy for most of the day.

Off to the conference, which started early Monday morning with the student presenters having an introductory breakfast and setup of posters, then off to hear Eileen Claussen from the Pew Center on Climate Change fire a few broadsides at the Bush administration's disregard for the

Kyoto Protocol – I kept quiet on the fact that Australia hasn't signed up either. Back to the posters, with judging occurring throughout the afternoon – I ended up getting third prize! Then off to the "number 2 rated beach in America" for a BBQ and bit of beach volleyball, with US Navy fighters flying regularly overhead – San Diego has a huge Navy presence, with a large naval airbase and Navy SEAL training base nearby, and two aircraft carriers in port.

Coming from Tasmania, I was a bit of a novelty for many of the attendees, with the usual "G'day mate" and Tasmanian Devil quips - luckily for me the zoo had a Devil, so I just told them to go and see the real thing!

By the end of the conference, the June Gloom had left, so I got to soak up a bit of the Californian sun, making it that much harder to come back to Tasmania, mid-winter.

**Dr Brian Yates** was an invited speaker at the **International Conference on Computational Science in Melbourne** in early June where he talked about his work on web-based experiments in computational chemistry. He was also invited to be a plenary speaker at the 19th RACI Organic Conference in Lorne in early July. This talk was warmly received and included a bit-part for an 8 year-old (Brian's son). Dr Jason Smith also presented an excellent talk at the conference and described some clever synthetic work.

### TechTrain 2003 Conference

By Jarrod Coad

The University of New South Wales played host this year to TechTrain 2003, a national conference held for and organised by technical staff, to encourage skill development and knowledge sharing by technical officers from a wide variety of schools and universities across Australia. The theme of this year's conference was *Solutions*, with many presentations in such streams as Nursing, OH & S, Management, Environmental, and Techniques and Procedures. The conference was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of July, in The Scientia, UNSW's brand new conference centre, designed to provide a suitable venue for large and small scientific and professional conferences.



**Martin Hitchman, Barclay Sayer,** and I arrived in Sydney the day before the conference; Martin and I in comfort from Hobart Airport, and Barclay leaving at the crack of dawn from Launceston. Unfortunately, noone had told Sydney we were coming, and thus the expected blue skies and sunshine were nowhere to be seen, with nothing but rain and grey skies greeting the arrival of three Techs from Tassie.

Despite the grim refusal of our hotel bus to actually arrive and collect us from Sydney Airport, we finally arrived at our hotel, only to dump our bags and head back out into the unexplored wilds of Randwick. The driving rain and cold winds only fuelled our desire to find something interesting to do in Sydney. After spending much of the afternoon walking around with one umbrella between three people, and stunning tourists with our complete insensibility towards the rain, the Technicians Three took in a movie, ate dinner, and walked almost all the way back to the hotel – missing a perfectly serviceable bus due to a certain Senior Technician not paying any attention...

Day One of TechTrain dawned rather too early, but after making a brief (well, not too brief) stop at the hotel's (very) full breakfast buffet, we strolled the two blocks to the UNSW campus, and found the venue for the conference. Well, that's not quite true. Due to some rather dodgy directional advice from another TechTrain attendee, and my desire to find a newspaper and a Coke before reaching the conference, we ended up almost completely circumnavigating the campus in wet and windy weather.

Despite this feat of navigation, we were still fashionably early, and in time to register, receive a nice showbag of TechTrain goodies, have a coffee, and inspect the exhibit hall well before the opening speech by the VC of UNSW. Well, some of us inspected the exhibit hall, carefully taking note of the exhibits from chemical and equipment suppliers; others were rather more interested in the free chocolates, pens and talking to the exhibitors.



Throughout the day, there were many interesting presentations, on topics from OH&S in laboratories, to managing student access electronically, to the development of safety instruction materials. All this, accompanied by lavish morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, left us wearied, but still prepared to undertake the final challenge of Day One – the Conference Dinner!

The Conference Dinner, held at Coogee Plaza, a bracing ten minute walk from our hotel, proved to be an almighty success, with highlights including the open bar, the buffet, the chance to socialise with many other technical officers from around the country, the open bar, the music supplied by a band of UNSW students, the open bar, and of course, not to be forgotten, the open bar.



Day Two of TechTrain opened much more quietly than the first, as many of the assembled technicians were of the opinion that the light was rather too bright, and thus attended the Guest Lecture at 8.30am wearing sunglasses and desperately clutching coffee. Despite this, the anecdotes of the Guest Lecturer, an astronomer from UNSW, had the room laughing within the first ten minutes. Recovering mightily, the assembled hordes of technical staff returned to the lecture theatres for a morning of presentations, followed by a hearty lunch.

The Technicians Three made an inspection of the UNSW Chemical Science Department after lunch, and then attended several special interest discussion groups to round out their TechTrain experience. The wine and cheese

gathering to close the conference was also attended, and most unfortunately TechTeam Tasmania did not bring home the lucky door prize of a gourmet basket.

Despite this last disappointment, TechTrain 2003 proved to be a very useful and educational experience, in several ways. The chance to meet and talk to many other technical staff from both other fields and other states was a great one, allowing the sharing of knowledge, and many of the presentations were very educational, giving us many ideas about why and how we can improve and develop our methods and skills here in Tasmania. It was also very interesting to investigate the Chemical Science department of a larger university, and see how the problems and successes they have had compare to our own experiences at UTas.

**Dr Andrew Bowie** is currently participating in an **international field expedition in the North Atlantic**. The project, which is one of the first Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems CRC research cruises, is entitled: "Dust inputs and their impact on iron distributions and productivity" and will be on-board the RV Weatherbird II, which is owned by the Bermuda Biological Station for Research. Andrew will work alongside Peter Sedwick (Bermuda Biological Research Station) and Tom Church (University of Delaware) on this project, which is funded by the US National Science Foundation. The collaborative work will involve measurements of wet/dry atmospheric deposition fluxes of trace elements, aerosol solubilities, physico-chemical iron speciation and upper water column biogeochemical studies. The project also underpins a SCOR/IUPAC iron intercalibration initiative using chelating resin extraction FI techniques.

**Professor Paul Haddad** and **Dr Mirek Macka** went to HPLC2003 where Paul gave an invited plenary lecture and presented a poster and Mirek presented a talk "New Developments in Indirect Photometric Detection in Capillary Electrophoresis" co-authored by Cameron Johns and Prof Paul Haddad and 5 posters (co-authored by Wenchu Yang, Cameron Johns, Thomas Rodemann, Marion King, Brett Paull, Paul Schuman, and Paul Haddad). Mirek then accepted an invitation as a Visiting Professor to Masaryk University (Brno, Czech Republic), where he worked at the Department of Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Sciences, on collaborative projects in areas of analytical chemistry, gave a departmental seminar, and had great fun with some 'real chemistry' in a different area of research than he normally does, namely looking at clusters of elements such as P and Se in laser plasma of a top-of-the range MALDI-TOF instrument (or should it read 'unreal chemistry'? - a lot of these compounds exist only in this laser plasma in vacuum, are proven by the TOF-MS, but not isolated). The purpose of this was to acquaint himself with the technique of MALDI -TOF, as on- and off-line hyphenations with separations methods such as CE of HPLC are becoming increasingly popular.

## **THANKS TO SEMINAR SPEAKERS**

### *Postgraduate Introductory Seminars*

- \* **David Vercoe**, "Interactions of Pitch Components at a Molecular Level"
- \* **Fang Wang**, "Determination of Fluoroacetates, Chloroacetates and Bromoacetates in Environmental Samples by Ion Chromatography"

**Dr Matthew Shaw**, University of Tasmania

"Chelating Substrates for the Chromatographic Separation of Metal Ions"

**Dr Jason Smith**, University of Tasmania

"Mechanism of Hydrazide Oxidation: Implications for the Treatment of Tuberculosis with Isoniazide"

**Sandra Garland**, School of Agricultural Science, University of Tasmania

"Sulphur Chemicals in Blackcurrants"

## **CHEM CLUB ACTIVITIES**

Here are the dates for events coming up this semester.

Friday July 25th	Brew Off
Friday August 15th	Cocktail Party (80's theme)
Friday September 12th	Murder Mystery (bigger and better!)
Friday October 17th	Chem Club Dinner (venue TBA)

We're also considering a mini-golf tournament, and a footy-beers-and-meat-pies night in C1 (next good game that's on a Friday evening!). Ideas or designs for a Chem Club t-shirt are more than welcome, just contact Adele or Lauren.

Keep up to date with club events at the website: [www.tuu.com.au](http://www.tuu.com.au) (follow link to societies).

## **SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY RESEARCH DAY/EVENING**

The School of Chemistry will be holding a Research Day in the Hobart building on **Thursday August 14**, including a **Seminar Afternoon** and **Research Evening**. Similar meetings were held in 1994, 1997 and 1999 and were great successes.

The aim of the day is to provide information on research that is taking place within the School to students within the School, other University Schools and industry.

School of Chemistry staff will present a series of short seminars on their research interests between 2:10 and 5:00 pm, including a 30 minute break for afternoon tea. Second and third year students should note there will be no practical classes during the week of August 11 to 15 to provide the students with the opportunity to attend the Seminar Afternoon.

More than thirty posters depicting the results of current work in the School will be displayed in the foyer of the Hobart Chemistry Building during the Research Day. The Research Evening will commence at 6:30 pm with a light meal and opening by Dr Paul Gee, Scientific Affairs Manager, Tasmanian Alkaloids. Staff and research students will be on hand in the evening to discuss aspects of their research with visitors from other University Schools and industry.

If you would like to attend the Research Evening would you please

RSVP to Dr Andrew Seen by **Thursday August 7**.

**Dr Andrew Seen**  
**School of Chemistry**  
**Private Bag 75**  
**University of Tasmania**

**Thank you for your contributions for this issue of ChemNews.**  
**The next ChemNews will be issued on Friday, 26 September 2003**  
**Please e-mail all contributions (as and when you think of them) to**

[Secretary@chem.utas.edu.au](mailto:Secretary@chem.utas.edu.au)

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<http://www.science.utas.edu.au/chem/news.asp>

