

The Alumni  
Newsletter of the  
**Victorian College  
of Pharmacy**  
Monash University

# Alchemy

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Staff at the Centre.

## Brief items

### Celebrating achievements!

The past six months have seen an extraordinary level of medals, prizes and grants awarded to the College community.

Congratulations to all whose ongoing contributions to pharmacy and the community have been rewarded. Read on to find out who won what ...



## Centre to aid drug development



The Centre for Drug Candidate Optimisation was officially opened at the Victorian College of Pharmacy on 16 December by Victorian Minister for Innovation, the Hon. John Brumby.

The Centre is a unique venture established at the College with a \$4 million grant from the State Government's 2002 Science, Technology and Innovation Infrastructure (STII) Grants program.

Professor William Charman (1981) and Associate Professor Susan Charman from the College are co-directors of the Centre. The Centre has been established to work collaboratively with commercial and not-for-profit research organisations by providing ready access to state-of-the-art

instrumentation and highly qualified and experienced drug development scientists to fill the crucial gap between drug discovery and drug development.

Professor Charman said the Centre's mission was to identify and select drug candidates with optimal developmental properties. "This means they will be easier and faster to develop into new drug products, thereby decreasing the cost of development and time to market," he said.

The Centre began operations in January 2003 and now employs 22 research staff with research revenue running well ahead of budget. It is currently working on 12 collaborative projects with Australian and international partners.

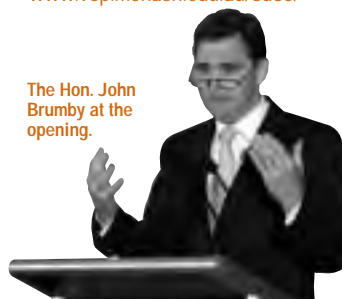
One such project is the key role the Centre has already played in a publicly-funded project from the Medicines for Malaria Venture/

World Health Organisation/Ranbaxy Laboratories in designing and selecting a new drug for malaria which is currently being advanced towards human trials in 2004.

"Malaria still causes 300 million acute cases annually with over one million deaths, and this new drug is hoped to be a significant advance in providing a new treatment for this terrible disease," Professor Charman stated.

- For further information contact Professor William Charman, tel: 613 9903 9519, email [bill.charman@vcp.monash.edu](mailto:bill.charman@vcp.monash.edu) or visit [www.vcp.monash.edu.au/cdco/](http://www.vcp.monash.edu.au/cdco/)

The Hon. John Brumby at the opening.



### The College's commitment to rural pharmacy

There is a shortage of pharmacists in Australia. Hardest hit are rural areas suffering from chronic understaffing in both hospital and community pharmacies.

The College has introduced several measures to address this shortage, some aimed at increasing the number of graduates who are likely to practise in rural areas, and others aimed at assisting pharmacists already in these locations.

The measures include increasing the coverage of rural issues within the Bachelor of Pharmacy program, compulsory rural placements, the Bachelor of Pharmacy Rural Entry Scheme, academic pharmacist staff in rural areas and the pharmacy 'branch' of the Rural Practice Association 'Wildfire'.

- See page 4 for more details.

## The history of the 'War Memorial' College

A prominent brass plaque on the side of the College's administration building reads 'War Memorial Building', yet current students, staff and visitors to the College may pass it every day not knowing why it is there and what it means.

In fact, there are many references to the College community's close links with the Returned & Services League (RSL) and the important roles that students, staff and graduates have played in Australia's defence efforts. These include the recognition of the College as an official war memorial college, the Sub-branch clubroom, the Book of Remembrance in the lobby and the foundation stone – laid by the

Governor of Victoria General Sir Reginald Alexander Dallas Brooks (a distinguished British general who had previously been Commandant-General of the Royal Marines) before a guard of honour of ex-service pharmacists on 30 October 1957.

But how did these links with the armed services result in the naming of the Parkville campus?

In 1946, ex-service personnel began returning to civilian life. Some resumed their pre-war employment but many had enlisted directly from school and needed to find a new career. In response, the Federal Government introduced the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme, which encouraged and assisted ex-service personnel to take up secondary and tertiary courses.

These subsidised places for ex-servicemen resulted in the College receiving more than 200 applications in 1945. As well, a number of men who had been released from apprenticeships to enlist in the services resumed their studies. By 1946, total

enrolments exceeded 470 and student numbers further increased in the following years. A decision was taken to move to a new site and several years of discussion with governments ensued.

In 1946 an application to form a 'Sub-branch of the Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmens Imperial League of Australia' was signed by 15 students and supported by industry practitioners. The early years of the group were very successful and in 1948 membership exceeded 120.

Meanwhile, the property in Royal Parade was purchased and a War Memorial Building Appeal Fund was launched under the direction of business and pharmacy industry leaders. On 29 March 1960 the new College was opened by General Sir Dallas Brooks, who inspected an honour guard of returned servicemen pharmacists and was escorted by the President of the Victorian Chemists Sub-branch of the Returned Servicemen's Associations.



The Book of Remembrance, and the Book of Remembrance display case (above) in front of the picture of Sir John Monash in the Sissons Building foyer.

## RSL group still meeting after 53 years

The current president of the Chemists RSL Sub-branch is Allan Beavis, of Geelong.



Chemists RSL Sub-branch ANZAC Day meeting, April 2003.

"During the war I was stationed in England with an RAF squadron and spent a year as a navigator on Mosquitos, completing 55 operations over Germany. I attained the rank of Flying Officer and was awarded a Distinguished Flying Medal.

Before the war I was a junior teacher but had trouble settling back into teaching, so at 21 I took

up the government offer and became a pharmacist. I've never regretted that decision. After 27 years of owning a pharmacy I took up locum work, finally retiring four years ago.

I joined the Chemists RSL Sub-branch soon after the war and have been president since 1996. Over the years we've been involved in many community

activities and have donated funds to purchase equipment for the College.

Now we meet twice a year, around ANZAC Day and at Christmas. Two of the original 15 students still attend. We share the camaraderie of the services as well as our professional lives, so it has been a valuable networking and friendship group for us all."

## Famous soldiers who graduated from the College

Many graduates from the College served with great distinction in the armed services. They include:

- Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop AC CMG OBE who was renowned for his work tending to the soldiers on the infamous Burma-Siam railway
- Major David Cossar who held the senior position of Assistant Director General Medical Services (Pharmaceutical) during the First World War and did much to raise the professional standing of pharmacists among the medical community
- Dr Cyril Tonkin OBE who also served in the First World War in the medical corps and on combat duty
- Dr Geoffrey Rosevear Kurlle, who served in the 19th Field Ambulance Medical Corps in the Second World War and went on to study medicine and become Director of the Peter MacCallum Clinic.



Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop AC CMG OBE giving an Opening Ceremony address.

## Chemists RSL Sub-branch gift to the Foundation

At their Christmas lunch in December, the members of the Chemists RSL Sub-branch decided to make a generous donation of \$3000 to the Foundation.

Most of this gift will be directed towards the erection of flag poles at the College's entrance on Royal Parade. The remainder will be used by the Foundation to support excellence in teaching and research.

Allan Beavis, President.



## The College's commitment to rural pharmacy

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The College has introduced several measures to address this shortage, some aimed at increasing the number of graduates who are likely to practise in rural areas, and others aimed at assisting pharmacists already in these locations.

The College has increased the coverage of rural issues within the Bachelor of Pharmacy program and in 1999 introduced compulsory rural placements. The placements are intended to allow students to experience rural practice and to encourage those who may not have considered it to practice in a rural area upon graduation. So far, several hundred students have spent three weeks in rural areas predominantly in Victoria. Professor Roger Nation, Head of the Department of Pharmacy Practice said "The rural placement program has been a great success. Students return from their placement with very positive stories about their experience and many indicate that they would now consider rural practice at some time in the future." Any rural pharmacists who would like to enquire about becoming a preceptor for students on placement should contact Katrina Fitzsimon, tel: 613 9903 9043 or email pep@vcp.monash.edu.au

Another program aimed at increasing the number of pharmacists on the ground in rural areas is the Bachelor of Pharmacy Rural Entry Scheme. This was recently launched to encourage more students from rural areas to enter the Bachelor of Pharmacy course, knowing from research that these students are more likely to return to rural areas upon graduation.

Representatives from the College have been traveling to regional areas throughout Victoria in the past few months to promote the Rural Entry Scheme, which has been running as a pilot program for several years. Senior staff have so far met with prospective students, parents, career advisers and local pharmacists in Traralgon, Wangaratta and Hamilton.

Under the Rural Entry Scheme, rural students who are in good academic standing will have an enhanced opportunity for selection into the Bachelor of Pharmacy course. A Monash University scholarship valued at \$6000 p.a. for four years fulltime study will be awarded to the highest ranking rural applicant for the Bachelor of Pharmacy. For further information on the scheme visit [www.adm.monash.edu.au/ssd/sarb/schols/2004/mufpharms.html](http://www.adm.monash.edu.au/ssd/sarb/schols/2004/mufpharms.html)

**Pharmacy student Raylene Kwok, pharmacist Jodie Le (1999) with pharmacist and manager Craig O'Meara (1986) in the Oven Street Guardian Pharmacy, Wangaratta. Jodie was one of the first recipients of a place in the pilot program of the Rural Entry Scheme.**

The College is also working hard to understand the special needs of rural pharmacists and has programs to foster rural pharmacy research. Flexible delivery is an important aspect considered in the development of new postgraduate courses – making these easier to access for rural pharmacists. To help address rural issues, the College also has academic pharmacist staff in rural areas – Anne Leversha, based at the Monash University School of Rural Health in Traralgon and Kevin McNamara at the Deakin and Flinders University Department of Rural Health based in Warrnambool. Anne has been responsible for setting up the pharmacy 'branch' of the Rural Practice Association 'Wildfire', and both Kevin and Anne have been working to further improve the rural placement program.

## 41st anniversary for Louis and Barry

**Congratulations to Professor Barry Reed (1963) and Associate Professor Louis Roller (1963) who both recently celebrated their 41st year of service as academic staff members. Both completed the last year of the old apprenticeship course in 1962, which included time at the Swanston Street site and the new Parkville campus, joining the staff on graduation as demonstrators in 1963.**

Louis has carved a career in pharmacy practice and is well known for his case study articles in the Australian Journal of Pharmacy, and as a provider of lectures and courses to the PSA CPE programs. He is a member of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, on the editorial board of the Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary and a writer for Therapeutic Guidelines: Antibiotic. He is the Associate Dean Teaching. Louis says he "feels extremely privileged to have had a small part in improving practice standards in Victorian pharmacy and to have had such wonderful students to work with."

Barry's career has been in pharmaceuticals, where he has been Professor of Biopharmaceutics for 26 years. His research interests are in the delivery of drugs via the skin. He



is a founder of Acrux, a company established to commercialise 'spray-on' drug delivery technology. President of the Pharmacy Board for seven years, Barry notes that "present day pharmacy courses are becoming more like the four year apprenticeship course I started almost 45 years ago!"

**Professor Barry Reed (left) and Associate Professor Louis Roller (right).**

## PSA, the Board and the College combine to raise funds for children's charity

Dr Craig Rayner (1995), a lecturer in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, Joe Brizzi (1989), the Deputy Registrar of the Pharmacy Board and Matt Connolly, a laboratory technician in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry, had a chilly start to winter when they lost hair and raised money for the Starlight Children's Foundation.

All three had their heads shaved on 3 June before a huge crowd of students and staff from the College, the Board and the PSA (Vic branch)

in Cossar Hall. Every falling lock was projected onto the big screen and fourth year Pharmacy students Chris and James won the auction to shave Craig's head on an ambulance stretcher. There was also a very successful sausage sizzle and cake stall, with all profits given to Starlight.

The event showed a tremendous sense of community within the Pharmacy organisations at Parkville from which Joe and Craig presented \$2011.80 to the Starlight Children's Foundation. Special thanks to Klass Kutters hairdressers for



**Matt Connolly (left), Dr Craig Rayner and Joe Brizzi (right).**

Bestseller 'The Pharmacist's Mate' by American writer Amy Fusselman weaves the tale of her own life in with her father's World War II journal, written while he was a pharmacist's mate on the Liberty ship George E. Pickett.

## Pharmacy in the Philippines

**Two staff from the College have just returned from Manila in the Philippines, where they delivered a program that taught local pharmacists how to best inform patients about their medications.**

Greg Duncan (1985) and Dr Kay Stewart from the Department of Pharmacy Practice, who have experience in educating pharmacy undergraduates in communicating to patients, were invited to set up the two-day program by the Western Pacific Pharmaceutical Forum (WPPF). The WPPF had been given World Health Organisation funding to run a training program for pharmacists in medication counselling skills.

"In the western Pacific, many people are poorly educated about their medications, not knowing the importance of adhering to the correct dosages or possible side effects," Greg said.

"The WPPF thought it would be good to encourage people to ask for information about their medicines," he said. "But because this is not the way pharmacy is



practised in many western Pacific countries, we wanted to make sure the pharmacists had the communication skills to answer patient questions."

The program, attended by more than 160 pharmacists, consisted of workshops and case studies designed to illustrate basic communication principles. Kay and Greg were assisted in running the program by Dr Wai Keung Chui, a pharmacist involved with the WPPF and an academic at the National University of Singapore.

Kay said the training focused on pharmacists being aware of the level of health literacy among patients, using appropriate terminology and making sure the messages being received by patients were the ones the pharmacists wanted to send.

"The response to the program was encouraging, with 95% of the participants saying they found the program valuable and 60% saying they were confident about training others," she said.

## John Hurley retires

John Hurley, senior lecturer in Medicinal Chemistry, retired at the end of 2003 after 32 years of teaching. John estimates that he has come to know about 5000 'delightful young people' during his time at the College. John was

always popular among the staff and students and we wish him all the best in this new phase of his life. A special dinner was held for him on 17 December, where 75 staff and friends gathered to send him off in style.



## 100th case study article

Congratulations to Associate Professor Louis Roller (1963) and Dr Jenny Gowan, who recently published their 100th case study article in their Counselling Casebook section of the Australian Journal of Pharmacy. Their first article in 1995 was titled 'Beta-blockers in eye drops and asthma'. The casebooks began as simple drug interaction problems, developing into comprehensive

pharmaceutical care to the more recent medication management scenarios. Each has emphasised the human and psychosocial aspects of pharmacy practice. The 100th article, published in May 2003, was titled 'Illness behaviour and the pharmacist'.

Dr Gowan is also known for her long involvement with pre-registration training. Over more than 18 years at the PSA (Vic

branch) she has been involved in the training of 2500 students. Dr Gowan has just taken up a new position at the North and NorthEast Division of General Practice and she continues her appointment as special lecturer in the Department of Pharmacy Practice.

## Inflammatory diseases under attack



Small molecule cytokine antagonists.

**Monash researchers are working on a compound that blocks the negative effects of a protein that is fundamental to the development of arthritis and other inflammatory diseases.**

Macrophage Migration Inhibitory Factor (MIF) activates cells to release harmful products into sites of inflammation and may also promote the growth and accumulation of harmful cells. Associate Professor Eric Morand from the Department of Medicine at Monash Medical Centre and Dr Magdy Iskander from the Department of Medicinal Chemistry at the College have developed molecules that work as potent inhibitors of MIF.

Dr Iskander said work was continuing on designing compounds that would block MIF effectively. "We are conducting optimisations to increase the potency of these compounds and make them into potential drugs," he said.

They have established a company, Cortical Pty Ltd, to

are widely used to treat inflammatory disease or to enable lower doses to be used. MIF is one of a family of proteins called cytokines that are involved in inflammatory diseases. As such it is an emerging therapeutic target. "Our technology has the potential to make the first 'small molecule' cytokine antagonist, which could replace conventional treatments with a convenient tablet," said Dr Morand.

Dr Iskander said work was continuing on designing compounds that would block MIF effectively. "We are conducting optimisations to increase the potency of these compounds and make them into potential drugs," he said.

They have established a company, Cortical Pty Ltd, to

commercialise their research. Cortical has raised \$2 million in first close venture capital financing. Cortical also received a \$250,000 grant through the latest round of the Federal Government's Biotechnology Innovation Fund.

Diseases as diverse as arthritis, psoriasis, asthma, multiple sclerosis and colitis are characterised by inflammation and may be targeted with drugs from Cortical's R&D.

For further information visit [www.cortical.com.au](http://www.cortical.com.au)



## Ben Tehan's prestigious position at GlaxoSmithKline, UK



**Congratulations to Ben Tehan who has been appointed to a prestigious position in the Drug Design section at GlaxoSmithKline UK. GlaxoSmithKline is a world-leading research-based pharmaceutical company with a powerful combination of skills and resources headquartered in the UK and with operations based in the USA.**

Ben's role is in the discovery research phase of drug design at the Harlow site, which has approximately 2000 researchers. His main priority is to provide support for the psychiatry CEDD (Centre for Excellence in Drug Design), based around modelling of 7-TMs. Other tasks are pharmacophore development, library design, compound selection and ADME analysis, as well as general modelling support.

Many of these research tasks dovetail closely with the work he presented in his PhD thesis and from two months of work experience at Celltech, UK, as part of his PhD.

His thesis, entitled 'Computational Design of Novel Antipsychotics' has been accepted for the award of PhD. It describes the application of several modern computer modelling techniques to the design of antipsychotic drugs.

A series of novel structures was discovered, predicted to be effective in controlling the symptoms of schizophrenia without producing the serious side effects of currently prescribed antipsychotics.

On a personal note, Ben and his fiancée Fran are planning their wedding for August 2004, so overall it will have been a most successful 12 months!

## ARC grants

The Australian Research Council (ARC) fosters excellence, partnerships and the highest ethical standards in research and research training in all fields of science, social sciences and the humanities. ARC Linkage Grants are prestigious Commonwealth Government grants designed to build links between research centres in Australia and overseas by funding collaborations.

### Novel drug delivery systems using dendrimers



**Congratulations to Dr Chris Porter, a senior lecturer in Pharmaceutics and Professor Peter Scammells, head of the Medicinal Chemistry Department, who have been awarded an ARC Linkage Project Grant.**

The grant is for three years and includes financial contributions from both the ARC and Melbourne-based pharmaceutical/biotech company Starpharma. Starpharma specialises in the research, development and commercial application of dendrimers to achieve polyvalent (ie multiple) interaction with biological targets across a wide range of diseases. The grant will support a postdoctoral scientist and a postgraduate scholarship over the three-year period and will investigate the use of dendrimers as novel drug delivery systems.

Dendrimers are synthetic, nanoscale compounds with unique features and functionalities, which provide potential benefit for the

Professor Peter Scammells (seated) and Dr Chris Porter.

development of dendrimers both as pharmaceutical agents in their own right and as improved drug delivery vectors.

"This venture will link the drug delivery and synthetic chemistry expertise of Monash University with the experience and technological background of Starpharma in the design and synthesis of novel dendrimers," said Dr Porter. "The technology offers the potential to synthesise an almost unlimited range of multi-functional nanosized materials and the attendant opportunity in terms of drug delivery is enormous. Award of this grant will greatly assist in facilitating an exploration of these exciting applications."

**Stop Press! Dr Chris Porter has been promoted to Associate Professor from the beginning of 2004 in recognition of his outstanding performances in teaching and research.**

- For further information contact Dr Chris Porter, email [chris.porter@vcp.monash.edu.au](mailto:chris.porter@vcp.monash.edu.au) or Professor Peter Scammells, email [peter.scammells@vcp.monash.edu.au](mailto:peter.scammells@vcp.monash.edu.au)

### 3-D structures of the enzymes



Dr Ossama El-Kabbani.

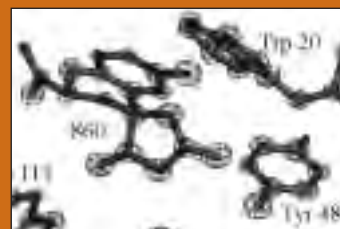
Dr Ossama El-Kabbani from the Department of Medicinal Chemistry has also recently been awarded an ARC Linkage-International Award for his research into 3-D structure determination using X-ray crystallography. Dr El-Kabbani will work with Professor Akira Hara from the Gifu Pharmaceutical University in Japan to study the structures of two mammalian enzymes - L-xylulose reductase which is a drug target involved in diabetes and dimeric dihydrodiol dehydrogenase to establish a new family of enzymes that links mammalian cells with single-celled organisms.

"The award will strengthen the relationship between the College and Gifu Pharmaceutical

University, which is the college's sister university in Japan. Now that we have determined the 3-D structure of L-xylulose reductase we know the exact locations of the potential binding-sites that could be targeted by drugs. This should speed up the development of new drugs for the treatment of diabetes sufferers" Dr El-Kabbani said.

The team at Gifu Pharmaceutical University are purifying the enzymes and providing them to researchers at the Victorian College of Pharmacy where they are being crystallized so that the structures can be determined using synchrotron radiation.

- For further information contact Dr Ossama El-Kabbani, email [ossama.el-kabbani@vcp.monash.edu.au](mailto:ossama.el-kabbani@vcp.monash.edu.au)



By utilising the synchrotron sources currently available to Dr El-Kabbani in the USA, France and Switzerland he obtains high resolution images of the drugs bound to the enzymes (bottom) and investigates the interactions between the drugs and the catalytic residues of the enzymes (top).

## NHMRC grants for studies to optimise the dosing of antibiotics

**Professor Roger Nation, Head of the Department of Pharmacy Practice, and Dr Craig Rayner (1995) a lecturer in the department, received two project grants totalling \$395,638 from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to minimise the development of resistance to, and improve the safety of, two antibiotics – colistin and linezolid.**

Multi-drug resistance in bacteria is increasing at an alarming rate. "We believe there are smarter ways of using antibiotics to minimise the development of resistance and minimise the toxicity of antibiotics," Professor Nation said.

Professor Nation, Dr Jian Li and Dr Rayner from the College are working with colleagues from the University of South Australia (Dr Robert Milne) and the Women's and Children's Hospital Adelaide (Professor John Turnidge and Kingsley Coulthard), to investigate the use of colistin in treating the lung infections of patients with cystic fibrosis (CF).

"In CF patients, the bacteria *Pseudomonas* shows high resistance to commonly used antibiotics and is a major cause of death," said Professor Nation. "However, colistin appears to be an effective treatment and we are investigating how this antibiotic, which has been around for 40 years, could best be used to help CF patients."

Professor Roger Nation (left) and Dr Craig Rayner (right).

Dr Rayner and Professor Nation, in collaboration with colleagues at the Austin and Alfred Hospitals, are also trying to find ways of increasing the lifespan of a new 'last line of defence' drug – linezolid – which has been available in Australia for the past two years.

"There is already resistance to linezolid occurring and there are some questions over its toxicity," Dr Rayner said. "We want to increase the usefulness and life-span of this last-line antibiotic by

developing new dosing strategies that have a reduced possibility of resistance emerging, while minimising potential toxicity to patients."

- For further information contact Professor Roger Nation, email [roger.nation@vcp.monash.edu.au](mailto:roger.nation@vcp.monash.edu.au)

## One million dollar grant for NMR spectrometer

The Department of Medicinal Chemistry, in collaboration with the University of Melbourne and RMIT University, has been successful in obtaining an ARC Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) grant which will be used to purchase a new NMR spectrometer for each of the participants.

When the University and government contributions are combined, the College should have close to \$1 million to buy a 500 MHz NMR spectrometer with a cryogenic probe.

NMR spectroscopy is an important tool in chemical, pharmaceutical, biological and medical research. NMR

spectroscopy provides information that enables the identification and structural elucidation of organic molecules. As a technique, NMR is routinely used to study biomolecular structure and dynamics, particularly of proteins and peptides. This technique is non-destructive and requires only milligram quantities of material.



## Point of Interest

Actor George Reeves, (1914-1959) famous for playing Superman, was born in tiny Woolstock, northeast of Fort Dodge, as George Keefer Brewer, the son of a pharmacist.



Professor Roger Nation, Michael Dooley (1987), Dr Jennifer Marriott (1971) and Bill Scott (1970) (left to right).

## Pharmacy Guild of Australia grants to enhance the role of pharmacists in healthcare

The Department of Pharmacy Practice has been successful in receiving funding for research projects in the Investigator Initiated Projects component of the Pharmacy Guild Research and Development Grants Program. Both projects involve collaborations by the College with academics and health professionals across Australia.

The first project 'Improving Australians' access to prescription medicines: Development of pharmacy practice models' has received approximately \$159,000 and will be investigated by Dr Tracey Bessell (Monash Institute of Health Services Research), Dr Jennifer Marriott (Victorian College of Pharmacy, Monash University) (1971), Dr Lynne Emmerton and Dr Lisa Nissen (both University of Queensland).

This project aims to develop practice models within the context of the Australian healthcare system that:

- provide consumers with improved, responsible and safe access to prescription medicines
- optimise pharmacists' and doctors' skills and time
- reduce the inefficient use of health resources.

The second project 'Improving medication management of palliative care patients:

enhancing the role of community pharmacists' has received approximately \$219,000 and will be investigated by Professor Roger Nation (Victorian College of Pharmacy, Monash University), Michael Dooley (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Victorian College of Pharmacy, Monash University), Dr Julia Fleming (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre), Dr Simon Wein (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre), Dr Jennifer Marriott (Victorian College of Pharmacy, Monash University), Dr Maria Pisasale (Mercy Western Palliative Care) and Bill Scott (Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Victorian branch).

The aims of the project are to:

- increase awareness among community pharmacists of the role of palliative care as an integral part of the healthcare system and of the role of community pharmacists in delivery of medication management as part of palliative care services

- improve access of people in metropolitan and rural communities to effective palliative care services

- enhance the knowledge and skills of community pharmacists in medication management to allow them to work collaboratively with other members of the healthcare team, including palliative care specialists and general practitioners

- provide the educational base for the development of palliative care as a specialised professional service provided by community pharmacists who would work in collaboration with palliative care specialists and general practitioners

- evaluate the impact of the educational program on the knowledge and skills of community pharmacists and on the management of a group of palliative care patients receiving their pharmaceutical care through community pharmacy.

## Travelling fellowship for wound care expert

Jan Rice has been awarded one of the prestigious Monash R.L. Williams travelling fellowships for 2003.

Jan, a registered nurse, has been manager of Education and Clinical Services within the Wound Foundation of Australia (WFA), part of the Department of Pharmacy Practice, for 10 years, and has held this role since the Foundation's inception.

In this role she and her five staff conduct research into wound management and undertake new product evaluations. The majority of her time is spent delivering specialist education programs for graduate nurses, medical, podiatry and pharmacy students, pharmacists, general practitioners and practice nurses throughout Victoria, interstate and overseas.

She also works at the Foundation's outpatient clinic for people with chronic non-healing wounds at the Austin & Repatriation Medical Centre and consults on patients with chronic



Jan Rice.

wounds in aged care facilities and private homes. Jan, whose special area of interest is developing protocols or pathways for wound management in the elderly, has also been involved in developing the previous Graduate Certificate in Wound Care into a Graduate Diploma and Masters program.

Jan is also a member of the Surgical Committee of Interplast Australia, a non-profit humanitarian organisation founded by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and Rotary International, which provides voluntary medical teams to undertake programs of plastic and reconstructive surgery in neighbouring developing countries.

The fellowship will enable Jan to attend the Second World Wound Healing Congress in Paris in 2004 and conduct visits to the

Wound Healing Institute at The Churchill Hospital in Oxford, and the Skin Research and Wound Healing Division of Investigative Sciences at the Imperial College Faculty of Medicine in London.

"This study tour will help me to keep aware of current international trends in both chronic and acute wound management," said Jan. "I am especially interested in investigating the use of Biological Wound Debridement (larvae therapy) – a method of debridement not currently employed in our practice. I will also be looking at the use of cerium in wound healing and the possibility of including cerium into our treatment regimes for those awaiting burns surgery or those too ill to undertake surgery."

## Formulation Science receives RACI accreditation

The Bachelor of Formulation Science, which was introduced in 2000 and had its first graduation in 2003, has been granted accreditation by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI), to recognise the major part that chemistry plays in the broad spectrum of formulation sciences. The benefits of RACI accreditation to students include:

- Bachelor of Formulation Science undergraduate students and recent

graduates may apply for Associate Membership of RACI

- after four years of approved work experience in a chemistry-centred industry or workplace, Bachelor of Formulation Science graduates may apply for full membership as an MRACI Chartered Chemist
- access to a wide range of professional activities, conferences, publications, on-going skills development and networking

- financial incentives, such as discounts on services such as insurance, car loans and mobile phones.

- For further information about RACI visit [www.raci.org.au](http://www.raci.org.au)
- For further information about the Bachelor of Formulation Science visit [www.vcp.monash.edu/bformsc/index.html](http://www.vcp.monash.edu/bformsc/index.html)



# Centenary Medal winners

**Congratulations to those in the Victorian pharmacy community who were honoured for their services to Australian society with Centenary Medals. Read all about their contributions to the profession and to the many varied communities they have served. Thanks to the Victorian branches of the PSA, Guild and SHPA for helping us track down the winners. If we have missed anyone out, please let us know!**



<p><b>Beverley Baxter 1987</b> For service to business</p>		<p>As Branch Committee Member and Victorian Chair of the Women and Young Pharmacists Committee of the Pharmacy Guild, Bev Baxter has worked over many years to maintain the status of pharmacy and increase the participation of women in its ownership and leadership. As a community pharmacist and fifth-generation Victorian small business owner, she has also worked tirelessly to promote small business in her locality. Bev was named Leader Newspaper Glen Eira/Port Philip Small Business Award winner in 2002, the first pharmacy statewide to win such an award.</p>
<p><b>Michael Beahan</b> For services to Parliament and the community</p>		<p>Currently Director of Government Relations for the Guild, Michael Beahan served as a Senator for Western Australia in the Federal Parliament for nine years. He was chairman of the Senate for three years, a role that involved administering Parliamentary departments, managing 1200 staff and a budget of \$100 million, representing Parliament overseas and welcoming international delegations to Australia. Prior to entering Parliament Michael was state secretary of the Western Australian Labor Party, a member of the National Executive and chairman of the National Campaign Committee. From 1998-2001 he was director of the Pharmacy Guild of Western Australia and has always been a strong supporter of community pharmacy.</p>
<p><b>Dr Graeme Blackman</b> For service in providing leadership in the pharmaceutical industry</p>		<p>Dr Graeme Blackman has been involved in pharmaceutical research and consultancy since 1977, when he was appointed to the faculty of the College. From 1982 to 1986 he was Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry and since then has been chairman and managing director of Institute of Drug Technology Australia Ltd. Dr Blackman is vice-chairman and treasurer of Medicines Australia and chairman of the Leaders Group of the Commonwealth Government's Action Agenda for the Pharmaceutical Industry. In 2003 he received the Royal Australian Chemical Institute's Leighton Memorial Medal, awarded for eminent services to chemistry in Australia. He is also chairman of Anglicare Victoria.</p>
<p><b>Craig Keating 1979</b> For service to the Heywood community including through the hospital and sport</p>		<p>Craig Keating has been a Board member of the local Heywood hospital for more than 15 years, undertaking chairperson and other executive roles. During that time the Board has overseen a \$5.2 million redevelopment that included the building of a dementia ward, acute beds and the provision of a range of primary services. He has also been heavily involved in the local football and cricket clubs, including as president of the Heywood Football Club for 16 years and league delegate for 14 years. Craig and his wife Sue, also a pharmacist, have owned the Heywood pharmacy for over 20 years.</p>
<p><b>John Daffey 1964</b> For service to Australian society and medicine</p>		<p>John Daffey was a community pharmacist for 35 years, an early member of the Chemart Board, a member of the Australian Community Pharmacy Authority and the Board of the College, president of the PSA (Vic branch) and national president from 2000 to 2001. He has been involved in many important team initiatives for the profession including the amalgamation of the College with Monash University, the whole of profession effort that successfully argued for ownership and custody of the scheduled medicines before two separate COAG Reviews and the negotiations for the Third Guild Government Agreement. He still serves as a member of the Agreement Management Committee.</p>

<p><b>Ross Ollquist JP 1964</b> For services to the Churchill community</p>		<p>Moving to Churchill in 1967, Ross Ollquist established the town's only pharmacy and provided services to the community there until his retirement in 2002. Over the years he has been a Morwell City Councillor, and an active member of the Churchill Citizens' Association, Lifeline LV, cooperating churches, Regional Consultative Committee, CFA, YMCA rowing, Apex and is now a Paul Harris Fellow in the Rotary Club of Hazelwood. Ross was also instrumental in the funding submission, establishment and management of the Churchill Community Health Centre.</p>
<p><b>Elizabeth Ollquist 1967</b> For services to the Churchill community</p>		<p>Elizabeth Ollquist continues to work parttime in the pharmacy she and Ross established 36 years ago. Her involvement with the local community has included honorary roles with the local kindergarten, school councils and the local swimming club, as well as volunteer work with the Latrobe Information and Support Centre and local primary schools. Elizabeth served as a Morwell City Councillor for over five years and was on the fundraising committee for the establishment of a 38-bed aged persons' hostel, a cause that she continues to support through participation on its Board of Management.</p>
<p><b>Geoffrey Sussman 1961</b> For service to gymnastics and sports administration</p>		<p>Geoff Sussman has been involved in Australian elite sport for almost 40 years. He was chairman of the Australian Diving Association for 10 years and diving manager of the Australian team at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, and is currently a member of the Australian Swimming Drugs Commission. For more than 17 years he has served as president of the Victorian Gymnastics Association, overseeing development of a \$5 million dedicated centre and membership of more than 20,000. Geoff, co-founder of the Wound Foundation of Australia, is involved in research, clinical practice and lectures on wound management at universities across Australia and New Zealand and is internationally recognised for his work in this field.</p>
<p><b>Joan Lindros (nee Bell) 1953</b> For service to the Geelong community through the conservation movement</p>		<p>Joan Lindros has been an activist for the environment for many years at regional and state levels. She has spent 12 years on the Council of the Victorian National Parks Association, and is president of the Geelong Environment Council. Previously, she served on the National Parks Advisory Council and the Western Coastal Board. In 2001 Joan was nominated for the Victorian Honour Roll of Women, acknowledging women who have made a major contribution to the community since Federation. That year, she also received the United Nations Association World Environment Day 2001 award. Joan works as a community pharmacist in Geelong and Queenscliff.</p>
<p><b>Elizabeth Delzoppo OAM (nee Panther) 1954</b> For voluntary community services to local government and welfare</p>		<p>Retired pharmacist Elizabeth Delzoppo has a history of involvement with community activities, including president of the Shire of Buln Buln, chairman of the Regional Boards of Education and Agriculture, CYSS/Skillshare, Westgrai Accommodation for the Disabled, PROCEED Continuing Education, Neerim South High School Council and as District and Divisional Girl Guide Commissioner. She is currently on the Board of Anglicare Victoria and a member of the Gippsland Anglican Synod. A recipient of the Order of Australia Medal, Beth is also a life member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.</p>
<p><b>The Hon John Delzoppo 1953</b> For serving as speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly</p>		<p>After working in partnership with his wife in a local pharmacy for 30 years, John Delzoppo was elected to the district of Narracan in 1982. He was a Member of Parliament for 14 years, holding the position of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly from 1992 to 1996. John held a number of parliamentary positions including Shadow Minister for Transport, Local Government, Water Resources and Property and Services. Active in his local community, John was a Councillor for the Shire of Buln Buln for 20 years and is a member of the General Synod of the Anglican Church.</p>

**Point of Interest**

Carl Spitzweg, (1808-1885), a German artist famous for picturesque portraits and scenes of petty bourgeoisie in the Biedermeier period, was also a pharmacist.

# Congratulations to SHPA GSK Medal winner Michael Dooley



**Michael Dooley (1987), senior lecturer in Pharmacy Practice and Director of Pharmacy at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, is the 2003 recipient of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) GlaxoSmithKline Medal of Merit.**

This is an annual award by the Society in recognition of outstanding contribution to the practice of hospital pharmacy in Australia. In his role at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Michael has expanded pharmacy involvement in research, the development of pharmacy technician career paths, delivery of formal educational programs and risk reduction through medication safety initiatives. He has also contributed

to developments in pharmacy practice overseas and has been invited by a number of hospitals in Asia to advise on the development of oncology pharmacy services. "I'm very proud and privileged to have received this award from the Society," said Michael. "It is a real honour to be recognised by my peers in this manner, and I would like to thank the many colleagues who have contributed their support, guidance and expertise."

Michael received the award at the SHPA Federal Conference in Canberra in November, where he delivered the formal award oration, entitled 'Looking Beyond the Immediate: the Challenge of Clinical Practice and Research'. A transcript of Michael's oration will be published in the Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research – visit [www.shpa.org.au](http://www.shpa.org.au)



## Dr Colin Reddrop

In the second issue of *Alchemy* we profiled distinguished graduate Dr Colin Reddrop (1971) who was then Vice President and Head, Respiratory and Inflammation Therapy Area, AstraZeneca Research and Development in the UK. Dr Reddrop is now Vice President, Global Drug Development Portfolio & Strategy at AstraZeneca in the UK. Congratulations Colin.

## Alumni benefits

All graduates of the College since the Monash amalgamation in 1992 and those who graduated prior to then are part of the global community of Monash University Alumni. This entitles you to take advantage of a wide range of privileges including:

- discounted borrowing rights to the libraries
- networking
- career services
- performing arts discounts
- discounted rates at sport and recreation facilities on all campuses.

• For further information visit [www.monash.edu/alumni/](http://www.monash.edu/alumni/)

# Alumni profile: Gary Werts



**Now a senior associate with Deacons, a law firm focusing on pharmacy and biotechnology, Gary Werts gained his first degree from the College in 1983.**

"After qualifying as a pharmacist, I worked in hospital pharmacy at Epworth and later helped to set up the hospital pharmacy at The Avenue. I chose private hospital pharmacy as I thought it offered significant aspects of both hospital and retail pharmacy.

After a few years, I moved to Darwin with my wife to manage a retail pharmacy. It was a great opportunity. Darwin offered adventure and a chance to develop my business skills – and a lot of other young people were moving there. The fact that the owners of the pharmacy were based interstate meant that I had a high degree of autonomy in running the business, which I really enjoyed. Darwin's first private hospital was established at the time and I took on the additional role of setting up its hospital pharmacy.

The pharmacy PBS dispute in the late 1980s and early 1990s triggered an interest in law for me. I enrolled part time at the Northern Territory University in 1990, initially to study contract law and other subjects that impacted on my pharmacy business. As my interest in law increased, I made a decision to change professions. This led to me transferring to Monash University and returning to Melbourne to complete the final year of my law degree full time. Being a qualified and experienced

“ My principal area of practice is commercial law, specialising in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries with an emphasis on pharmacy practice, pharmacy manufacture and research, development and commercialisation of biotechnology. ”

pharmacist meant that I was able to work in community and hospital pharmacies on weekends and holidays to finance my studies.

After graduation, I worked for a short time as an advisor on the health and pharmacy industries with a major accounting firm before commencing my legal articles at Dunhill Madden Butler, now Deacons, where I'm currently a senior associate.

My principal area of practice is commercial law, specialising in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries with an emphasis on pharmacy practice, pharmacy manufacture and research, development and commercialisation of biotechnology. Significant issues that I've been involved in over recent years include the F.H. Fauldings takeover, the acquisition of a clinical trial centre and the preparation and drafting of advice on pharmaceutical supply and the Internet.

During 2003 I was seconded to the legal department of GlaxoSmithKline, where my role

involved negotiating and drafting agreements for promotions and marketing, product manufacture and supply, research, confidentiality/secretcy, clinical trials, privacy and product distribution, as well as general corporate and compliance advice and supervision of litigation.

Now back at Deacons, I'm keen to continue legal practice in the health, pharmaceutical and biotechnology fields. I provide advice to clients ranging from individual health practitioners through to multinational companies. My work involves some travel (national and even international), which I enjoy. For example I attended the BIO International Biotechnology Convention and Exhibition in Toronto and presented at a venture capital conference in Singapore. My job also offers exposure at a global level to the deals most people only ever see the final outcome of, and involvement in the realisation and commercialisation of many great ideas."



## The 130th anniversary of the C. L. Butchers Library



The staff of the C. L. Butchers Library.

### The C. L. Butchers Memorial Library at Parkville has been serving the needs of the College for more than 60 years.

Established in 1873 for use by local members of the Pharmaceutical Society, the library's print offerings have grown to comprise approximately 20,000 volumes of books and periodicals. This includes several original historic runs of pharmacy journals and a number of rare books. The name of the library was changed to C. L. Butchers Memorial Library following the death of C. L. Butchers (see right) in 1941.

The library maintains its specialised collection, which is considered to be the most important collection of its type in Australia. Today, increasing emphasis is placed on electronic access and a wide range of databases and full-text resources are available both within the library and remotely.

The location of the library has changed over the past 60 years, as have the roles of the staff and the expectations of students. Library staff are constantly upgrading skills and integrating new electronic systems to provide better service. That every staff

member and student has enjoyed access to the library staff at some point is indicative of their commitment. These staff members contribute greatly to the College's reputation for excellence and the family atmosphere that exists on the campus.

• For further information contact the library, tel: 613 9903 9514 or visit [www.lib.monash.edu.au/pharmacy/](http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/pharmacy/)

## Staff profile: Maxine Cuskelly



Maxine was appointed as Library Manager, C. L. Butchers Memorial Library, in November 2002. Previously, she worked in academic and research libraries within both university and TAFE settings and also worked in the Australian Public Service.

"The things that I missed most during the time away from

academic libraries were the interactions with students and staff in a cooperative and energetic environment, with a very professional team of library staff. I find working closely with the Faculty of Pharmacy exciting and stimulating, and enjoy the atmosphere that working with large numbers of students creates.

I feel privileged to be working in a great library, and feel passionate about making these

wonderful collections and services the spirit of the scholarly community here at Parkville. Being part of this library team is an honour. We all look forward to making the library a more exciting place to be and we will continue to look for ways to extend our activities and new ways of offering access and support to all of our clients."

## Who was C. L. Butchers?

Charles Leslie Butchers was a pioneer of pharmacy for over 40 years. From his first role as a correspondence clerk in the office of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria (PBV) and the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria (PSV) in 1897, he went on to become a major supporter and driving force for pharmacy in Australia. He held significant positions within the PSV, PBV, Pharmaceutical Defence Limited and the Federated Pharmaceutical Guild of Australia. He was the editor of the Australasian Journal of Pharmacy from its inception, through its relaunch as a Federal journal in 1920, until his death in 1941.

Due to the remarkable nature of his commitment to pharmacy, a memorial fund was established in 1942 by representatives from all the pharmaceutical organisations he had served. As he had been a generous donor to the library and an enormous support to both the students and staff of the College, it was decided that these memorial funds would be directed to the establishment and continuation of the C. L. Butchers Memorial Library. The Dean of the College at that time, A. T. S. Sissons, noted of Charles "No one was a warmer supporter of the Student's Library, or donated books more freely to it, than he did."



### C. L. Butchers

**19 August 1878**  
Born in Hobart

**1897**  
Takes up position as correspondence clerk for PBV and PSV

**1906**  
Passes the Society of Accountants and Auditors (England) exams

**January 1913-1941**  
Becomes General Secretary of PDL and Honorary General Secretary of the Australasian Pharmaceutical Conference

**1 February 1913-1941**  
Commences role as Acting Registrar of the PBV

**31 March 1913-1941**  
Appointed Secretary of the PSV

**January 1920-1941**  
Begins his role as editor of The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy

**1928-1941**  
Becomes the first Federal Secretary of the newly formed Federated Pharmaceutical Service Guild of Australia

**1937-1941**  
Becomes the Federal Director of the Drug Trade Defence Council

**June 1941**  
Awarded an Honorary Membership of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

**8 October 1941**  
Dies unexpectedly

# 88 years of experience!

## Staff perspectives on the past, present and future of the library service

Hong Bernard



Hong Bernard started at the library as a library officer 15 years ago when the library system was still on slips of paper. She notes the amount of change the library has been through, particularly the computerisation of the library and its evolution through three computer library systems, GEAC, PALS and Voyager. She likes the small library environment. "It is good because it enables you to specialise in the subject area. The changes in computer systems mean the job is never stagnant. In a small faculty you know the people – and the students and staff here are great!" Hong holds a Bachelor of Science degree and a Bachelor of Education, and has completed a Graduate Diploma in Library Studies at Melbourne University.

Rosemary Miller



Rosemary Miller has worked at the library for nine years as a part time library and administrative assistant. Many years ago she worked in administrative positions in the Business Faculty, Victorian College of Advanced Education (now Deakin University) and at the Catholic Education Office. She observes that the most noticeable thing since she started at the library has been change. Each change in the computer systems requires months of work to make sure that all books are still included accurately in the catalogue, as systems are never completely compatible. Now academic staff have the catalogue and electronic journals on their desktop computer, and students can access lecture notes online. "The best thing about the Pharmacy library is the students. The worst thing is the heavy books."

Eileen Reed



Eileen Reed started work at the library in 1972 in what was meant to be a temporary six-week position helping out on the circulation desk. That was 31 years ago. In Eileen's time at the library she has seen a lot of change. Computerisation has streamlined the library. At the same time, however, the size of the student population has doubled, as has the collection. Eileen notes that students borrow fewer books now that their lecture notes and journals are online. Staff also use the library less as they now have access to databases and to online journals from their own PCs. The focus of the print collection has changed as a result, being much less geared to staff and research and more focused on students and teaching.

Petha Reed



Petha Reed commenced at the College as a temporary technical assistant in Pharmaceutics approximately 20 years ago. One job led to another and she joined the Microbiology department as a technician. In 1994 she started at the library. She considers the library to be an important research and teaching library, supplying information to academics, industry and science students. "I felt from the onset that it was a useful and worthwhile job. It also enabled me to get to know the students on a more personal level. I would be happy to see my working life out in this library as I have many fond memories of the students and staff who have passed through it."

Jurek Wysoczanski



Jurek Wysoczanski has worked in the library for 13 years, initially as an acquisitions librarian. He believes that "Our students are polite and devoted to their profession. The library itself is essential to the students of the College. Here at the College, the library staff know most of the students and staff by their first names." Jurek has noticed that the mindset of the students and staff has changed with the advent of computers – they now expect more electronic versions of things.

### Did you know?

Hong once chased a man down the street for stealing books from the library. She managed to grab hold of his jacket but he slipped out of it, taking the books with him. Despite her valiant efforts, he was never caught. However, the incident happened a long time ago and this type of exciting activity does not occur these days!

### Did you know?

At present Rosemary is also undertaking formal studies in the library field – the Graduate Diploma in Information Management at RMIT University.

### Did you know?

You used to be able to smoke in the library! "The library had a smoking end and a non-smoking end and ashtrays were provided. The cleaner used to empty the ashtrays on the floor and vacuum up the ash and butts – I could never understand that," Eileen laughs.

### Did you know?

Petha is her real name, but she has always been known as 'Woods'.

### Did you know?

Jurek was a sports journalist in Poland where he studied physiotherapy with physical education as well as journalism. He speaks Polish, German, Russian and Swedish.

## Student News

### Staff vs students soccer matches

Students challenged staff and postgraduate students to four mixed soccer matches in September and October 2003, played at Princes Park. At the first match on 24 September between second and third year students, an unfortunate forfeit saw the third years earn points by default. However the second match was aggressively played on 26 September between first and third year students, and with hard work the first years managed to hang on 1-0. In game three, staff came up against the second years and were triumphant 2-1, proving that experience can prevail over youth and stamina. In the last match on 10 October, the dominating staff team faced the even younger first years and were triumphant again 3-1! At the end of the four matches, the top two teams entered the grand final held on 17 October. The unbeaten staff faced a rejuvenated first year team who trained hard all week during lunch breaks. As ultimate underdogs, the first years came back with team spirit to win 2-1 and claim the Parkville Multicultural Society Annual Soccer Championship trophy!

Thanks to Dan Malone (1994), assistant lecturer in the Department of Pharmaceutical Biology and Pharmacology for organising the staff involvement in the event, and John Minh Nguyen from first year SRC committee for mounting the challenge and organising the student teams.



## Memorial to a special young student



The College community was greatly saddened by the tragic loss of Mathew Peck, who passed away in a river accident while on holiday in South America. Mathew was a Bachelor of Pharmacy student between his first and second years of study. We give our sympathy to his fellow students, friends and family who are devastated by this loss.

All students at the College are precious, but Mathew's zest for life and generosity of spirit made him memorable and greatly affected those around him. He had a passion for helping people and this informed his choice of pharmacy as a career. His parents note that Mathew had a driving ambition to cure cancer; a high ambition, but one that Mathew insisted was possible. He was sure that something simple had been missed in the research to date and he very much wanted to help find that missing link.

“Mathew was a loving, friendly, adorable, fun-loving, intelligent, hard-working, generous, down-to-earth young man. I feel so privileged that we were close friends.”

Dhineli Perara, fellow student and one of Mathew's many close friends.

Mathew's other passion was travel. He had travelled around Australia with his family at an early age and also had been an exchange student in China in Year 11. He could speak three foreign languages and was backpacking through Ecuador when he died while washing at a river bed. On his trip, Mathew would often take a beggar he had met during the day out to dinner. This was not an uncommon action for Mathew, who would do the same for Melbourne street kids – sharing a meal and his time with them, giving them hope and letting them know that someone cared. “That was just the kind of guy he was,” remembered his close friend and fellow student, Susie Rudd.

The College is working with Mathew's family and friends to create a travelling scholarship to honour Mathew's life and to continue Mathew's ideals and commitment to international health issues.

To establish this scholarship, Mathew's friends and family have held their first fundraising event, with more events planned. The College and others who knew him have donated money to help set up the scholarship. Mathew's friends have also sponsored a child in Ecuador through World Vision in his honor.

The scholarship will be granted annually to an undergraduate Bachelor of Pharmacy student to travel to a developing country and undergo a program of work experience. It seeks to encourage students in the pharmacy course who share Mathew's passion for travel and humanitarian aid and to enrich the College community with newfound global perspectives.

More donations are needed to ensure that this is a substantial memorial to a much loved and missed young man. Cheques should be made payable to: The Mathew Peck Travelling Scholarship, Monash University. Tax deductible receipts will be issued. All donations are tax deductible within Australia.

We extend our sympathy to Mathew's parents Gerard and Marilyn and to his younger brother Nathan, and we hope that this memorial helps them with their grief.

For further information contact Sarah Vincent, tel: 613 9903 9507, email sarah.vincent@vcp.monash.edu.au

“The tragic death of Mathew earlier this year brought great sadness ... In making this donation, I do so in memory of Mathew Peck with the hope that the scholarship will provide to young people with similar achievements to Mathew's encouragement both in travel and education.”

Frank Way, family friend and donor.

## YAA Young Achievers Program – young pharmacists getting down to business



College students are taking part in the Young Achievement Australia (YAA) Business Skills Program for the first time this year. Five students have formed a company called Oceayan with a pharmacy trainee from St Vincent's Hospital and five other tertiary students. Competing against 300 other such YAA student businesses nationwide, their team is supported by Sigma. The product they have developed is a unique child growth chart that features learning activities based around sea creatures and can be personalised with family photos.

Through the program, students aim to learn how business and the Australian economy operates and experience first-hand the rewards and pitfalls of everyday business life – all important skills that will aid them in their future careers. Each group is connected with a mentor who helps them develop and market their product.

The Oceayan team have already launched their growth chart and found early success at the Pharmacy Fair where they made their first sales. Sisi Jin, Managing Director of Oceayan and a fourth year student at the College, said

that the YAA Project had been an invaluable experience and she would encourage other pharmacy students to participate next year. The students are hoping to donate a portion of their earnings to Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital.

**Stop Press! At the State awards in December, Oceayan won Best Annual Report nationally and Joseph Le was presented with National Business Person of the Year.**

For further information contact Oceayan, email oceayan-yaa@yahoo.com.au or tel: 0403 343 405.

## Singapore International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation Congress

The College recently part funded three undergraduate students to attend the 49th International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF) Congress in Singapore.

The IPSF was founded in 1949 with the objective 'to study and promote the interests of pharmaceutical students and to encourage international cooperation among them'. The students attended as an ideal opportunity to establish relationships with other student organisations and individual pharmacy students. This is the first time the IPSF congress has been held in Asia. The Congress involved two scientific symposiums – one on the role of pharmacists in ambulatory care and one on ACC, nutrition and therapeutic drug management, plus clinical skills workshops.

Workshops were also held on the Neema project, a student-

organised Village Concept Project that aims to attain a sustainable improvement in a population's health conditions and living standards. The Neema Project is the first Village Concept Project to be initiated by IPSF. The goal of the project is to improve the health status of residents in Kiromo Village, Tanzania. This includes setting up a dispensary and providing health education, with the hope that the dispensary will be self-supporting by the end of 2004.

“Attending the Congress was a tremendous experience,” said Michael Delaney, Bachelor of Pharmacy student. “I know it has re-ignited my desire to practise pharmacy.”



Pharmacy students Thomas Donovan (far right), Michael Delaney (far left), and Andrew Phillips (second from left) with other delegates at the Congress.

## The interstate cricket challenge – NSW vs Victoria

The return match between Victoria and NSW was held at the Hume and Hovell Cricket Ground on 13 April. A match dinner was held the night before with guest speaker ABC sports commentator Peter Wilkins, and special guest Graham Halbish, former CEO of the Australian Cricket Board.



Guest speaker Peter Wilkins.

### Excerpt from Victorian Captain Bernie Borg's match report

Following the disappointment of the defeat by NSW at Bradman Oval in 2002, I promised the Victorian pharmacists we would do anything in the ruthless pursuit of victory.

On an overcast day that threatened rain, NSW won the toss and batted. Steven White (1-3 off 7 overs) and Paul Wickham (0-16 off 9

overs) opened the bowling and bowled a superb opening spell, restricting NSW to 1 for 15 after 10 overs. Peter Cramp (3-19 off 6) and Geoff Crisp (2-19 off 7) continued to apply the pressure and by the 21st over NSW had slumped to 5-54. The remaining wickets were shared around and in the end NSW were dismissed for 109.

The Victorian response started well with Divesh Sanghvi (24) and myself (50 retired) putting on 78 for the first wicket. Gary Pollard (9 no) and Peter Cramp (14 no) confidently hit the winning runs despite having to bat on a difficult wicket in driving rain. In the end, a magnificent Victorian victory.

I do encourage pharmacists wanting to participate in next year's match in NSW at the Bradman Oval on Sunday 4 April 2004 to contact me at [bernieborg@bigpond.com](mailto:bernieborg@bigpond.com) or vice-captain Geoff Crisp at [gmsbj@bigpond.com](mailto:gmsbj@bigpond.com)

- Visit [www.vcp.monash.edu.au/alumni](http://www.vcp.monash.edu.au/alumni) to see Bernie's full report.



The Victorian team included: Bernie Borg (Captain) (1987), Geoff Crisp (Vice-Captain) (1978), Manny Chessari (1976), Peter Cramp (1981), Bill Davy, Erric Dimatos (1993), Jeff Facey (1997), Dale McGough (1981), Gary Pollard (1969), Divesh Sanghvi (2002), John Tassoulas (1989), Peter Tassoulas (1989), Steven P. White (1988), Paul Wickham (1997).

## Upcoming reunions in 2004

So far there has been a formal dinner, a cocktail party, a lunch and an afternoon tea organised by graduates for their fellow alumni from the 1950s to the 1980s. The following reunions are planned for 2004.

**1994** 10th anniversary reunion (on Saturday 1 May) organised by Suzanne Caliph and Dan Malone. Contact Suzanne on 613 9903 9625 or email [suzanne.caliph@vcp.monash.edu.au](mailto:suzanne.caliph@vcp.monash.edu.au) Dan can be contacted on 613 9903 9576 or via email [Dan.Malone@vcp.monash.edu.au](mailto:Dan.Malone@vcp.monash.edu.au)

**1979** 25th anniversary reunion organised by Ingrid Norton and Diana Nowak. Diana's phone number is 613 9844 5055 and email [martin@redcentre.com](mailto:martin@redcentre.com)

**1969** 35th anniversary reunion organised by Bev Baxter. Contact her at work on 613 9568 5126 or email [bhb3006@aol.com](mailto:bhb3006@aol.com)

Dates for these reunions will be finalised soon, so make sure we have your correct address by filling in the update form.

If you are interested in organising a reunion for your year, please contact Sarah Vincent at [alumni@vcp.monash.edu.au](mailto:alumni@vcp.monash.edu.au)

You get to do the fun stuff – hunt down lost addresses, collect

photos of everyone from their student days, and choose guest speakers, the date and what kind of event you think your year would like best! Due to Monash's privacy code, Sarah can't give out current addresses of alumni (that's why she does the mailouts) but she can help advise you about everything else ... guest speakers, tours of the College, catering, etc.

## 1983 reunion

The '80s, particularly 1983, were a time of big shoulder pads for women and pastel jackets over white t-shirts for men. People danced to Spandau Ballet and Culture Club, saw films such as *Flashdance* and *Return of the Jedi* and were keeping in shape with *Jane Fonda's Workout Book*.

That year also saw the graduation of the Bachelor of Pharmacy class of '83. And 20 years later Annette Lilley (nee Dibella) and Amanda Maher (nee Lang) thought it was time to get everyone back together to celebrate each others' achievements and catch up with old friends. The reunion, a cocktail party, was held on 25 October in Cossar Hall. It was a huge success, with approximately 65 attendees and some of the group still partying in the early hours of Sunday morning. Throughout the night a slideshow of over 300 photos from their student days played continuously on a giant screen over the stage. The slideshow was collated by Ashim Marfatia and Joseph



Tesoriero. The guest speaker was Dr David Taylor, who began as a demonstrator the same year that the class of '83 started their studies. A newsletter (not unlike the Valetes in the College yearbooks) covering the past two decades of peoples' lives was compiled to commemorate the event.

"We decided to organise the reunion because we thought 20 years since graduating was a huge milestone and one that should be celebrated," said Annette. "I'd forgotten what a great bunch of people were in my year. The atmosphere throughout the night was heart-warming and the reunion served to rekindle many friendships."

"Annette and I organised the reunion because we had recently renewed our friendship and thought it would be great to catch up with other people from our year," added Amanda. "We were thrilled with how many attended and I thought it was wonderful how relaxed everyone was on the night and how old friendships just seemed to pick up from where they were 20 years ago."

However, Amanda and Annette did clarify that exercising to Jane Fonda was never high on their list of priorities (although Amanda did once go to a ball as Olivia Newton-John in her 'physical' phase!).

## Latvian reunion

On 26 August, the first community reunion was held when a group of graduates with Latvian backgrounds and their partners visited the College for a lunch and tour.

The gathering included pharmacists who had graduated as early as 1961 and all were surprised to see how much the College had developed since their student days.

"It was a privilege to be able to host the luncheon in the PSA Boardroom," said reunion organiser Valda Comber (1972). "Many of the

attendees had never been there or seen the wonderful antiques and memorabilia from years past. During our tour of the College it was wonderful to hear many of the stories about events that had occurred, especially in the labs."



# Victoria Fellowship for pharmacist Tam Vuong



In the May 2002 issue of *Alchemy*, we reported on the research of pharmacist Tam Vuong (1998). Her PhD project is investigating the role of a community liaison pharmacist in tackling the issue of medication misadventures. This can occur when patients discharged from hospital become confused over the alterations to their medication regimens. In Australia, around 140,000 hospital admissions each year are associated with the misuse of medicines, with around half these cases considered to be preventable.

In recognition of her work the Governor of Victoria, John Landy AC, MBE recently presented Tam with a Victoria Fellowship in a ceremony at Government House.

The highly respected Victoria Fellowship recognises emerging innovators in science, technology

and engineering and consists of six travel grants of up to \$15,000. Tam plans to use the fellowship to travel to Canada and the USA to find out how they are tackling hospital admissions due to medication error. She will visit several leading institutions in medication policy research, including the Canadian Institute for Health Information, the

Harvard School of Medicine and the Harvard School of Public Health.

Although the results of the community liaison pharmacy project are yet to be finalised, evidence to date indicates that the service was extremely beneficial in identifying and preventing medication problems in patients discharged from hospital.

“ I am very excited about the opportunities that the Fellowship has provided me and hope that it will help me to make a difference to patient safety in Australia. ”



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## Valda Comber retires from PSA (Vic branch) presidency

Valda Comber (1972) recently stepped down from her two-year term as President of the PSA (Vic branch). John Illot, the Chief Executive Officer praised Valda for her sense of duty and her receptiveness to new ideas during her tenure in this important leadership position in the September issue of the *Society News*. Valda has always believed in giving back to her community, being Councillor of the PSA (Vic branch) since 1994, a preceptor in the College's student placement program and a participant in the Drake University undergraduate rotation program. Valda aims to focus on her community pharmacy in Altona North and on her duties as a Board member of the College's Foundation.



## QCPP winners

Congratulations to graduates Marek and Libby Malter (both from 1969) and Murray Fry (1982) who were winners in the 2003 Quality Care Pharmacy Program (QCPP) Awards. The Mareks' Maleny Amcal Pharmacy in Queensland won the Australian QCPP Pharmacy of the Year award, and Murray Fry's Amcal Pharmacy at Camperdown won the Victorian state award.

The QCPP is an industry-developed quality assurance program, developed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia with the assistance of other industry stakeholders, aimed at raising the standard of customer service in individual pharmacies across Australia.

## Queen's Birthday Honours list

Congratulations to graduate Dr John McEwen, director of the Adverse Drug Reactions Unit of the Therapeutic Goods Administration, who was awarded the Public Service Medal for 'outstanding public service in advocating drug safety through the monitoring and reporting of adverse reactions.'

## Alumni news

Let us know your news!  
Fill in the update form and keep us informed about your personal and career achievements.

## Update form

Please help to keep us – and your fellow alumni – up to date with your latest news. Fill in the update form, tear it off and send it to:

**Alumni Newsletter**  
Victorian College of Pharmacy  
Monash University (Parkville Campus)  
381 Royal Parade  
Parkville Vic 3052 Australia  
or fax to: 613 9903 9058  
(confidential fax).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_  
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Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Business address \_\_\_\_\_  
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Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (H/B) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (H/B) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax (H/B) \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation year \_\_\_\_\_

### News about yourself

*(Please send separate sheet if required)*

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Have you received any postgraduate or additional professional qualifications since graduating?

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Would you like further information on ...

- organising a reunion for your year?  
 2004 alumni cricket challenge?  
 going on a tour of the college?  
 postgraduate study at the College?