

**THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CHEMICAL INSTITUTE INCORPORATED
ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY DIVISION**

**MINUTES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 27 SEPTEMBER 2006**

Burswood Entertainment Complex, Perth, Western Australia

Meeting commenced at 4:30 pm local Perth time, 27 September 2006.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair, Associate Professor David Davey, welcomed members of the Division to the Annual General Meeting. Approximately 15 members attended the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes were accepted without any amendment (moved by Associate Professor Ian McKelvie and seconded by Professor Paul Haddad).

3. Matters arising from Previous Meeting

Dr D.Wong reported that a link for the URL of ARNAS was included in the Analytical Chemistry Division webpage.

4. Report from the Treasurer

Associate Professor Simon Lewis advised members to refer to his report presented in the Division Meeting on 5 September 2006. The Division's account remained unchanged as there were not many activities since the report made on 5 September 2006.

5. Report from the Chair

Please refer to Attachment I.

6. General Business

6.1 Office Bearers 2006 – 2008

Chair:	Professor Neil Barnett (Deakin University, VIC)
Past-Chair:	Associate Professor David Davey (University of South Australia, SA)
Chair-Elect:	Vacant
Secretary:	Dr Danny Wong (Macquarie University, NSW)
Treasurer:	Associate Professor Simon Lewis (Curtin University of Technology, WA)

State representatives:

Australian Capital Territory – Professor Bill Maher (University of Canberra, ACT)

New South Wales – Dr Clarrie Ng (Sunreay Consulting Pty Ltd, NSW)

Northern Territory – Professor David Parry (Charles Darwin University, NT)

Queensland – Dr Brian Krieger (Department of Emergency Services, QLD)

South Australia – Dr Claire Lenehen (Flinders University, SA)

Victoria – Dr Nichola Porter (RMIT University, VIC)

Tasmania – Professor Paul Haddad (University of Tasmania, TAS)

Western Australia – Associate Professor Roland De Marco (Curtin University of Technology, WA)

6.2 Proposed 19th Analytical Chemistry Conference, 2008 (Interact 2008)

Associate Professor David Davey reported that no State Groups had hitherto volunteered to host Interact 2008. However, the Division had received invitation to consider organising the conference as part of The 5th World Congress of The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) to be held in Sydney in August 2008 (<http://www.setac2008.com/>). Associate Professor David Davey also informed the Division that the two participating groups of Interact 2006, The Environmental Division and the Australasian Society for Ecotoxicology, had decided to jointly organise their conference with SETAC in 2008.

Following a discussion, the Division concluded that the World Congress of SETAC would be too large-scale a conference for the Division to jointly hold Interact 2008. A suggestion was to organise the 16th Research and Development Topics Meeting in a bigger scale to accommodate Interact 2008.

7. The 14th RACI Research and Development Topics Meeting at University of Wollongong, December 5-9, 2006

Associate Professor David Davey reminded members of the Division that the organisation of this Meeting was progressing well and members were encouraged to attend the Meeting at University of Wollongong.

8. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

Biannual Report – Analytical Division RACI

Report of the Chair for 2004-2006

This report reviews some of the achievements of the past two years, and suggests some initiatives that Division may examine in the future.

Interact 2004.

Interact is the biannual conference of the Analytical Chemistry Division, and is jointly held with several other participating Division / Societies. Interact 2004 was held in Gold Coast between the 4th and 8th July inclusively. The organising committee were able to sustain a smooth running and friendly event in a large venue. The convention centre accommodated up to 6 concurrent streams. The conference by design followed a similar structure to that adopted for Interact 2002. Analytical, Ecotoxicology, Environmental and Electrochemistry streams were retained; however, where there were overlapping interests between the streams this was encouraged.

The exhibition area was well situated and was used as a gathering area for refreshments during the day. Poster presentations were grouped according to streams with each group presenting half their posters on each evening.

Some 350 delegates attended the event, a \$12000 profit was obtained and Division benefited from that welcome return.

Interact 2006.

Interact 2006 was held between 24th and 28th September 2006 at the Burswood Convention Centre in WA. This splendid location was the site of a very successful 12 AC conference some years back. The theme of the 2006 conference was 'air, water and earth'. The committee under the leadership of Ms Oana Chirila from the National Measurement Institute in WA worked diligently in 2005-6 to ensure the conference success. The Interact committee included representatives of 3 RACI Divisions, the Society of Ecotoxicology and the Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand, and commercial sponsors. Division invited both its 2005 and 2006 Medallists to the event. Later in this report the changes to the Analytical Medal are discussed and the presentation for 2006 highlighted.

Connect 2005.

Connect, the 12th National Convention of RACI, was held in Sydney from the 3rd to the 7th July 2005. Dr Danny Wong was the official Division representative on the organizing committee; Dr Clarrie Ng filled in for Dr Wong while he was on sabbatical leave. Cooperative sessions with Environmental, Cereal, Physical and Electrochemical Divisions were well attended, expenses being shared with those divisions.

The conference gave an extraordinary overview of the world of science, with quality presentations in chromatography and mass spectrometry, quantum theory, self- assembling molecules, and medical applications of electrochemistry, to name a few.

A highlight of note was the quality of poster sessions.

Interact 2008, Interact 2010 and Connect 2010.

There were no submissions presented at the AGM in Perth to host Interact 2008. This was partly due to the news that SETAC will be held in Sydney in 2008 and Environmental Division intends to join the Ecotoxicologists for that international conference. Electrochemistry Division and the Clean Air Society would be happy to join Analytical Division for a smaller Interact conference either in 2008, or at an alternative date. The successful collaboration between the participating groups is worth preserving.

Division will also need to follow developments for 2010. Connect will run in Melbourne using a symposium style of presentation. Pacifichem uses a similar mode of delivery to delegates. The question of possible competition between Interact and Connect in the same year must be considered. One consideration would be that Interact join with Connect in that year with the two conference names being retained and jointly advertised.

Division Medallists and other Honours.

In 2004, Associate Professor Ian McKelvie, from Monash University was the Division Medallist. He has carried out outstanding environmental studies using elegant flow analysis techniques, which have been applied nationally and internationally to water quality and oceanographic studies. On returning from overseas, he accepted at short notice an invitation to address the R & D Topics Meeting at Melbourne University.

Professor Milton Hearn who leads the Centre for Green Chemistry at Monash University was the 2005 Division Medallist. His distinguished teaching and research career and over 500 publications have led to him receiving a number of other important awards.

Dr Serge Kokot of QUT was the 2006 Lloyd Smythe Medallist. Serge Kokot has specialized in Chemometrics very successfully in recent years, building on a distinguished teaching career. Both Professor Hearn and Dr Kokot presented talks at Interact 2006. Each received a testimonial acknowledging their Medal achievement at Interact.

The occasion of the Lloyd Smythe Medal presentation at the Interact dinner in 2006 was an outstanding event attended by Professor and Mrs Smythe. Professor Paul Haddad gave a talk concerning the Medal, the career of Professor Smythe, and the formative experiences of a number of our leading chemists under Professor Smythe's tutelage (Professors Haddad and Noller, and Dr Kokot amongst them). Associate Professor David Davey, as Division Chairman, presented the Medal, while Professor Smythe and the 2006 Medallist Dr Serge Kokot gave responses.

Division Medallists and other Honors.

Past Division Medallists were recognized in other ways in 2005-6. Professor Philip Marriott's win of the Applied Chemistry medal reflects the strength of analytical science in Australia at this point in our history. Professor Paul Haddad was elected as Fellow of the Academy of Science in 2005, and received a Federation Fellowship in 2006. The Division saw these signal honours as recognising both the personal standing of Professor Haddad, and also the importance of analytical science to the national scientific endeavour.

Professor Brynn Hibbert, a past Chairman and Medallist of the Division, and present holder of the Professorial Chair of Analytical Chemistry at the University of NSW was selected as Royal Society of Chemistry touring lecturer for Australasia in 2006.

This honour meant that Professor Hibbert was invited to give lectures at many New Zealand and Australian universities. His schedule took him to major cities in both countries, a most tiring itinerary, but one he accomplished with his usual flair.

R & D Topics Meetings 2004-2006

University of Melbourne, Victoria 2004.

The R & D events are sponsored by Analytical Chemistry and Environmental Divisions. Professor Neil Barnett from Deakin University has continued his mentoring of R&D Topics. An outstandingly successful event was held in Melbourne with industry sponsorship a feature. Associate Professor Ian McKelvie, from Monash University, the Division Medallist for 2004, gave an excellent address to the conference.

Monash University, Mt.Eliza, Victoria 2005.

Monash University students hosted the R&D Topics meeting in December 2005 at Toorak College. Again, substantial sponsorship was obtained from commercial quarters for a very well run event for which the Monash team should be justly proud. Professor Milton Hearn presented his first 2005 Medal talk at the event.

University of Wollongong, NSW 2006.

This outstanding student-run event will be held at University of Wollongong in December 2006. Analytical and Environmental Divisions are again sponsors; our Division has increased its support for student attendance this year.

***In Vino Analytica Scientia*, Melbourne 2007**

Analytical Division will be the formal sponsor for '*In Vino Analytica Scientia*' to be held in Melbourne in July 2007. Given Australia's position as a wine exporter, and the strong chemical analysis emphasis of the conference it is appropriate for Division to support the event. The conference is a prestigious European conference for wine chemists, and this is its first time in Australia. Professors Neil Barnett and Philip Marriott will join the organising committee, and Neil Barnett will be a member of the Presidium for the event.

New Initiatives

Programs at Group level need to be maintained and strengthened. The sharing of experiences across state borders is beneficial in finding new ways of enticing members to meetings. It is essential that we share information between Divisions and Branches, and particularly signal well ahead of time that a visitor is available to tour, so as many members as possible can benefit.

It goes without saying that links between Australian and overseas universities, organizations and kindred societies should be strengthened. At present, we maintain these contacts mostly through personal exchanges, and partly through invitation to members as plenary and keynote speakers. A more formal and less *ad hoc* means of continuing such associations could be a useful endeavour for Division.

Division agreed to provide more financial support for such travel by Medallists or touring speakers. The R & D Topic Meeting focuses our efforts on young professionals and more should be done in that regard. In that spirit Associate Professor Ian McKelvie's suggestion that profit from the Flow Analysis IX conference at Deakin in 2004 be channelled to future R&D Topics Meeting events was supported enthusiastically by Division.

Finances

At the midpoint in any year, more than 40% of our financial reserves are committed. Of course this is largely due to floats required by conference commitments, and there is the promise of a good return on the outlay. Division finances are a concern if they follow a downward trend; at present they appear sufficiently stable to support our traditional activities, and perhaps to extend ourselves into some new territory. Our treasurer held a number of discussions with RACI HQ and has managed to clarify the way finances are presently handled between the central body and Division.

New Awards

Division decided to recognize the contribution of past Medal winners to Analytical Chemistry by naming the Medal after outstanding winners. The Division Medal was renamed the Lloyd Smythe Medal in 2006 honoring the contribution of Professor Smythe to Australian Science as the first Professorial Chair of Analytical Chemistry in the country.

Division is to have a new award in 2007, an Early Career Medal. Again it will be named to recognise prominent Analytical Chemists who have had a mentoring role in developing talent in Analytical Chemistry.

Thanks

Appreciation is recorded for the efforts of State representatives on Division and those who serve State Group committees.

Special Thanks to:-

Honorary Secretary, Dr Danny Wong, Macquarie University.

Honorary Treasurer, Associate Professor Simon Lewis, Curtin University

Chair-Elect Professor Neil Barnett, Deakin University for his continued mentoring of the R & D Topics Meeting.

David Davey

Division Chair 2005-6