Dear NSW RACI readers

Below are this week’s announcements from the RACI NSW Branch, a summary is given and then scroll down for the full text.

**Planning for National Science Week is underway** How can you be involved?

**Science meets Parliament** Dr Adam Cawley (NSW President-Elect & Hon. Secretary) will represent the RACI at SmP 2008 facilitated by FASTS on March 18th and 19th.

**A Review of the National Innovation System** This week we have posted the final call for submissions for this review our website (see [http://www.chem.unsw.edu.au/RACI/](http://www.chem.unsw.edu.au/RACI/))


**The RACI Western Sydney Section Honours Prize** IF YOU KNOW any 2007 HONOURS STUDENTS - they may be eligible for the 2008 Honours prize (RACI Western Sydney Section) – if they reside, or have done their research, in Western Sydney. **DEADLINE: MARCH 31ST 2008**

**RACI WESTERN SYDNEY SECTION Presentation**: Modern Radiation Therapy for Cancer Treatment: R&D at the Centre for Medical Radiation Physics Tuesday 25th March University of Western Sydney, Campbelltown Campus (Building 22, Conference Room 5). Further Details contact Dr Robyn Crumbie Tel 46203201 Email: r.crumbie@uws.edu.au

*Deadline for next week's edition is 5pm Thursday 13th March*. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas.
**2008 Sydney Science Forum:** Solutions for the Future: Sustainability through Clever Chemistry. USyd, 12th March, 5.30pm

**THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRIZES FOR SCIENCE NOMINATIONS** The call for nominations for the 2008 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science close on Friday 9 May 2008 5.00pm AEST. Eligibility criteria and selection information is available on http://www.dest.gov.au/scienceprize

**Nominations for awards administered through The RACI National Office are now open.** Full details are found at http://www.raci.org.au/national/awards/index.html. Each week this E-News will feature one of these prizes. This week a profile of the Citations is provided.

**Assist The RACI NSW Branch By Buying The Entertainment Book.** The Book You’ll Need To Find The Best Restaurants, Hotels Accommodation, Attractions, Sports And Leisure Activities In Sydney. Purchase Your Entertainment Book For $60 Now And You Will Receive Over $10,000 In Valuable Offers Valid Through June 1st 2008

**Olle` Prize** Nominations are now open for the Olle` Prize. It will be awarded to a member of the Institute who submits the “best treatise, writing or paper” on any subject relevant to the Institute’s interests. Nominations close 28th March 2008.

**Crystal Competition 2008.** Attention all teachers, parents, and students Do you want to have fun with Science? Would you like to do some simple chemistry experiments with your students? Then enter the NSW Crystal Growing Competition 2008 and learn all about growing beautiful crystals. For more info see our website: http://www.chem.unsw.edu.au/RACI/crystal_grow/crystal2008.html

**Website of the Week:** This week we look at the American Chemical Society’s National Chemistry Week Website http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=PP_TRANSITIONMAIN&node_id=1033&use_sec=false&sec_url_var=region1

**Do you have story idea or suggestion for the Weekly E News?** Please let us know! If any of our RACI members receive awards, we would love to hear about it. Stories about our RACI events are always welcome. If you have found a chemistry book or text particularly helpful -why not submit a review?

Please scroll down for further details.....

*Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm Thursday 13th March*. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas
Planning for National Science Week is already underway

This year National Science Week will be from 16 - 24 August. *Now*... that's months away I hear you say! True- however this week the NSW RACI has been contacted by two different organisations enquiring about the activities we will run this year. This is a great chance for many members to become involved!!

**Coming up**: The Annual General Meeting of the NSW National Science Week Committee:

- **When**: Monday 17th March 2007
- **Time**: 3:30pm - 5pm
- **Where**: Large Caley Room
- **Level 4, Brown Building**
- **Royal Botanic Gardens**
- **Mrs Macquarie’s Road**
- **Sydney**

Please RVSP to Danielle Stocks: [danielle.stocks@rbgs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:danielle.stocks@rbgs.nsw.gov.au) by Thurs 13th March for the meeting.

Edwina Hine (NSW Coordinator) will be attending the meeting to so she can keep RACI up to speed with plans for the event – however we would encourage other RACI members to get involved – if you think this is an area you could help out with – contact the RACI NSW Office – all volunteers would be welcome.

**Science meets Parliament**

Dr Adam Cawley (NSW President-Elect & Hon. Secretary) will represent the RACI at SmP 2008 facilitated by FASTS on March 18th and 19th. He is keen to hear from RACI members who have issues that they wish discussed with the parliamentarians that he will meet. SmP is the opportunity for chemists to provide their input to innovation policy so please contact Adam ([a.cawley@usyd.edu.au](mailto:a.cawley@usyd.edu.au), 0407 127 388) with your views. The topics proposed by the board to date are: Critical importance of research infrastructure, Public and private sector R&D collaboration, and Science education – what role the commonwealth in expanding the responsibilities of universities and public sector research agencies?

*Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm Thursday 13th March*. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas.
A Review of the National Innovation System

Earlier this year the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr, announced an expert panel chaired by Dr Terry Cutler would conduct the wide-ranging review of the National Innovation System. As part of the review, the panel will also consider all aspects of the Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Program. It will examine the overall strategic direction of CRCs, looking at the full range of issues, including governance and program design matters, the level and length of funding needed to support the program's objectives, as well as its overall scope and effectiveness.

Some of the Senator’s media releases were posted on our website last week. This week we have attached his final call for submissions to the review. [http://www.chem.unsw.edu.au/RACI/](http://www.chem.unsw.edu.au/RACI/)

Many RACI members will be following the developments of this review in the coming months. More information can be obtained at the following website. This website is updated each week with new information:


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### National Measurement Institute Training Courses

**Estimating measurement uncertainty in routine analysis**  
**13–14 March NMI Lindfield**

An uncertainty statement is an essential part of any analytical result. This two-day course will give you a solid grounding in the estimation of measurement uncertainty in routine analysis.

**Analytical method validation course**  
**11–12 March NMI Lindfield**

It is essential to understand method validation if you want to make sure that your analytical results are accurate and robust. This two-day course explains the general principles of method validation and demonstrates some practical techniques that can be applied in the laboratory. We explore some case studies in interactive workshops based on actual chemical analytical methods. Traceability and measurement uncertainty are also covered.

For more information visit the Website [http://www.measurement.gov.au/training](http://www.measurement.gov.au/training)

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Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm Thursday 13th March. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas.
Honours prize REMINDER – deadline March 31st.

IF YOU KNOW any 2007 HONOURS STUDENTS - they may be eligible for the 2008 Honours prize (RACI Western Sydney Section) – if they reside, or have done their research, in Western Sydney. They can be enrolled in any University or any department, as long as chemistry has been part of their research. Deadline 31st March 2008. For enquiries and information, contact Deidre Tronson, deidre@bowtie.com.au (or see online version of this advertisement).

**Please pass this information on to any colleagues in other departments who have Hons students who may be eligible**

The 2008 Honours prize (RACI Western Sydney Section) will be awarded for the best Honours thesis produced in 2007 by a student who is resident and/or has studied or undertaken research in western Sydney (1) throughout the year.

The RACI Western Sydney Section Honours Prize is now open to... applicants enrolled in ANY University, within ANY department/school/faculty. The project must include either ‘pure’ or ‘applied’ chemistry. This could be applied to fields such as agriculture, horticulture material science, nanotechnology, pharmacy, neuroscience, medicine, biochemistry, biology, environmental analysis, forensics, or any other discipline. The winner will give an oral presentation at a meeting of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute Western Sydney Section during 2008 (date to be determined). This is an opportunity to showcase the research to a range of RACI members and other students.

The prize will be awarded to a project that demonstrates a high level of innovation, creativity and contribution to chemical knowledge. If more convenient, the thesis may be spiral- or ‘perfect’-bound. The final examination grade is not a determining factor. Students should forward a copy of the thesis plus a covering letter containing personal details (including student’s email address) to one of the contacts below. The thesis will be returned.

DEADLINE: MARCH 31ST 2008. Earlier submission is encouraged.

Enquiries and submission to:
Dr Deidre Tronson (FRACI), 21 Eagle Creek Rd, Werombi, 2570.
Ph 02 4653 1430; email: deidre@bowtie.com.au.
OR leave the thesis, clearly marked "WSS Honours Prize", at the RACI office, UNSW.

[1] 'Western Sydney” is defined by the following postcodes: 2076-2077; 2111-2126; 2128; 2133; 2140-2168; 2170; 2171; 2173; 2174; 2176; 2177; 2190-2200; 2205-2214; 2216-2234; 2558-2560; 2563-2579; 2745; 2747-2768; 2770; 2773-2787; 2790
RACI WESTERN SYDNEY SECTION
Modern Radiation Therapy for Cancer Treatment: R&D at the Centre for Medical Radiation Physics
2008

When: Tuesday 25th March 2008
Venue: University of Western Sydney
Campbelltown Campus
(Building 22, Conference Room 5)

Programme:

6.00 Wine & Cheese

6.30 Special Guest Speaker: Professor Anatoly Rosenfeld (University of Wollongong)

Professor Rosenfeld will talk about new technologies like Image Guided Radiotherapy, Tomotherapy, Gamma Knife, Synchrotron Therapy, Proton Therapy and Heavy Ion Therapy and his developments in these fields.

Everyone is welcome to join the speaker and committee for dinner (own expense) at a local restaurant after the presentation.

For additional information please contact:

Dr Robyn Crumbie Tel. 46203201

Email: r.crumbie@uws.edu.au

Deadline for next week's edition is 5pm Thursday 13th March. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas.
INVITATION: 2008 Sydney Science Forum


The Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor David Day, requests the pleasure of your company at Solutions for the Future: Sustainability through Clever Chemistry to be delivered by Professor Thomas Maschmeyer

Wednesday, 12 March 2008
5:30pm for 5:45pm – 6:45pm
Eastern Ave Auditorium, The University of Sydney

Greenhouse gases produced in the production and processing of power are having a dramatic impact on our climate. At our current rate of resource use, we would need between four and six whole planet earths to support the world population, if everyone was to live like the average Australian. How can we produce energy to power our modern lifestyle, in an environmentally sustainable way? At this Sydney Science Forum, one of Australia’s leading scientists will let you in on the latest chemical technologies being pioneered in the quest to solve our energy crisis. Join us as we explore the power of chemistry and how it is driving the revolution in the way we generate power.

RSVP
Though the lecture is free, bookings are essential as places are limited.
Book online http://www.science.usyd.edu.au/school/forum/
or email ssf@science.usyd.edu.au
or phone 02 9351 3021 to reserve up to 5 places

About the presenter
Professor Thomas Maschmeyer is currently a Federation Fellow and Professor of Chemistry at the University of Sydney. Much of his work involves producing chemicals in the bulk chemicals, intermediates and pharmaceuticals industries more sustainably, using new fundamental insights at the molecular and nanoscopic level.

THE PRIME MINISTER’S PRIZES FOR SCIENCE NOMINATIONS

The call for nominations for the 2008 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science close on Friday 9 May 2008 5.00pm AEST. Eligibility criteria and selection information is available on http://www.dest.gov.au/scienceprize
The major Prize, the Prime Minister's Prize for Science, is one of the nation’s most highly-regarded awards and the premier national award for scientific achievement. It is awarded for an outstanding specific achievement or series of related achievements in any area of science advancing human welfare or benefiting society, and has been awarded previously to such luminaries of Australian science as Frank Fenner, Donald Metcalf, Jacques Miller and Graeme Clark.
The Prime Minister's Prizes for Excellence in Science Teaching in Primary and Secondary Schools were introduced in 2002, to honour our inspirational science teachers. Many of today’s most prominent Australian scientists have credited their teachers with generating the interest and enthusiasm for science that they have carried with them throughout their subsequent careers.

Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm Thursday 13th March. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas
**Nominations for awards administered through The RACI National Office are now open.**

**Awards include:** Applied Research Award, Biota Award for Medicinal Chemistry, Centenary of Federation Teaching Awards in Chemistry, Citations, Cornforth Medal, C.S. Piper Prize, Distinguished Contribution to Economic Advancement, Distinguished Fellowship, Green Chemistry Challenge Awards, H.G Smith Memorial Award, Jim O'Donnell International Travel Awards, Leighton Memorial Medal, Masson Memorial Scholarship Prize, Organometallic Award, and Rennie Memorial Medal.


Each week this E-News will feature a profile of one of these prizes.

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**This week’s a profile... Citations - For Contributions to Chemistry and the Chemical Profession**

There are a considerable number of chemists - members of the RACI - who make substantial contributions to chemistry and especially to the progress of the profession over a period of many years. To provide recognition of these contributions, the RACI has initiated a series of citations.

* The Royal Australian Chemical Institute shall have an award entitled "The RACI Citation".
* Up to three citations may be awarded in a calendar year.
* The award of a citation shall be made for significant contributions to chemistry and the chemical profession.
* Nominations may be submitted by a person seeking the award or by Branches, Divisions or by two members of the RACI
* Nominations for the award shall include a general statement of the nominee's contributions to chemistry and the chemical profession together with curriculum vitae and any relevant details of publications, patents and other supporting material.
* The Board shall appoint an adjudication panel to consider nominations and to make recommendations. The Board reserves the right not to make an award if no suitable applications are received.
* The adjudication panel's recommendations shall be based upon the significance of some or all of the following:
  - Contributions to research, development or applications of chemistry,
  - Contributions to chemistry in other disciplines or technologies,
  - Contributions to chemical education,
  - Contributions to the promotion of chemistry, and
  - Service to the RACI

Five (5) copies of the nominations should be forwarded to the RACI National Office, 1/21 Vale Street, North Melbourne, Victoria 3051 by the due date.

Applications close 5 pm Eastern Standard Time on 30th April each year. It is recommended that all nominations be submitted by email (awards@raci.org.au). Receipt by National Office of each nomination will be acknowledged.

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Deadline for next week's edition is 5pm Thursday 13th March. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas.
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The Royal Australian Chemical Institute Inc, NSW Branch
Is pleased to announce...

The 2007/2008 Entertainment™ Book is still available and due to overwhelming popularity, supplies are running low! Featuring many of Sydney's best restaurants, cafes, hotel accommodation, attractions and activities... all with valuable 25% to 50% off and 2 for 1 offers, each book contains over $10,000 worth of offers that you and your family can use between now until June, 2008. Examples of some of the businesses featured in the SYDNEY & NORTH editions include:

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Books are $60 (incl. GST) plus $6.40 for postage. Fund raising for ~ Thank you for your support!

For $60.00 the book pays for itself in just two visits to a restaurant or one family day out.

Entertainment Books will be available for a limited time only...while stocks last. Remember to order additional copies for gifts, work colleagues, friends or relatives before they're gone!

~ The Royal Australian Chemical Institute Inc, (NSW Branch)~ racinsw@chem.unsw.edu.au

Name: ___________________________________________ Phone: ________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________________________

Edition required: ______ x Sydney Total amount enclosed: $_____________________

Method of payment: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Credit Card No.: __________/_________/_________/_________ Expiry Date: ___/____

Signature ________________________________

Deadline for next week's edition is 5pm Thursday 13th March. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas.
The NSW Branch invites nominations for the Archibald D Ollé Prize.

Archibald Ollé was very active in the chemical and scientific life of NSW in the first 40 years of the twentieth century, and his wife, who outlived him, left a bequest to the RACI NSW Branch to his name with an annual prize. It is awarded to a member of the Institute who submits the “best treatise, writing or paper” on any subject relevant to the Institute’s interests. Examples of previous winners include books and book chapters on key areas of chemistry, as well as critical scientific and technical reviews.

The NSW Branch Committee controls the Prize and has established the following conditions:

1. Nominations are invited from candidates themselves or from persons knowing suitable candidates and must be members of the RACI.

2. Each nominee shall submit a single scientific work published during the period 1st January 2007 until December 2007.

3. Nominations must be in writing, setting out the name, address, academic qualifications and present position of the nominee and be signed by the nominee and nominator.

4. Where the work involves more than one author, the nominator should arrange for all the other authors to send an indication of the contribution of the nominee. Though submission of multi-authored works is not discouraged, authors should be aware that in the past the adjudicators have found it very difficult to establish the relative merits of single and multi-authored works in terms of making an award to an individual.

5. Nominations should be addressed to:
The President
The Royal Australian Chemical Institute Inc. NSW Branch
School of Chemistry
UNSW
Sydney 2052
And must be lodged on or before Friday 28th March 2008

6. In all matters relating to this Prize, the decision of the NSW Branch Committee shall be final, and the Committee may not make an award if, in the opinion of the assessors, the submissions are not of a sufficiently high standard.

The result will be communicated to all entrants and will be published in “Chemistry in Australia”

Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm Thursday 13th March. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas
Crystal Competition 2008

Attention all teachers, parents, and students

Do you want to have fun with Science? Would you like to do some simple chemistry experiments with your students? Then enter the NSW Crystal Growing Competition 2008 and learn all about growing beautiful crystals.

The competition is aimed at Primary and Junior Secondary school students with 3 ‘closed’ divisions: K–Year 3, Years 4–6 and Years 7–8. Also there is an Open Division for students from K–10 in which entrants may grow any crystal of their choice.

Is your school involved??

For more info see our website:

Events coming up this week

- 2008 Sydney Science Forum USyd: Solutions for the Future: Sustainability through Clever Chemistry 12th March Wednesday Eastern Ave Auditorium, The University of Sydney 5pm
- NMI Training Courses: Running next week see page 3 for details.

Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm Thursday 13th March. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas.
Website of the Week

This is a new section of the newsletter where we will review a useful or interesting website that one of our members will have recommended. (*Opinions expressed in this article are not those of the RACI as a whole, rather the author of the article*)

This week we look at

**American Chemical Society’s National Chemistry Week 2008 Theme: “Having a Ball with Chemistry” Website**

[See: http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?_nfpb=true&_pagelabel=PP_TRANSITIONMAIN&node_id=1033&use_sec=false&sec_url_var=region1](http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?_nfpb=true&_pagelabel=PP_TRANSITIONMAIN&node_id=1033&use_sec=false&sec_url_var=region1)

Why in the world would I suggest our American equivalent website? As mentioned earlier in this weekly E News we want all members to consider how they may chip in during National Science Week. And did you know the RACI also runs a National Chemistry Week (July 19th -26th)? This site is full of ideas that we could adopt in years to come.

If you can spare a moment the American site is worth a look - you will be able to see after 20 years just how Chemistry and Science Weeks can grow. Their merchandise page is also worth a look.

*Edwina Hine (NSW Co-ordinator)*

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**Do you have any story ideas and breaking news?**

*Please let us know! If any of our RACI members receive awards, we would love to hear about it. Stories about our RACI events are always welcome. If you have found a chemistry book or text particularly helpful - why not submit a review? Why not recommend a website?*

You can also support RACI (NSW Branch) by placing an advertisement. (*Please note these do incur a small fee). Our E news reaches over a thousand members.*

The deadline for the next issue appears at the bottom of each page. Contact [racinsw@chem.unsw.edu.au](mailto:racinsw@chem.unsw.edu.au) for further details.

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*Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm Thursday 13th March*. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas