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.

**Analytik Jena | MEP Instruments Free Seminar:** Closing the Gap Between AAS and ICP  Introducing the new Multi Elemental Analyser for C, N, S and Cl

**Science EXPOsed** The NSW Office for Science and Medical Research (OSMR) Science EXPOsé competition is an annual, state-wide competition open to students from Years 7 to 10.

**Att : Especially Northern Rivers Region** Royal Australian Chemical Institute Inc. (Qld Branch) has invited members of our branch to attend the Qld. Branch Dinner Seminar – 17th June 2008

**The RACI NSW Branch Committee strategy meeting** Saturday June 14th at the University of Sydney.

**Position Available for a part time science teacher:** Junior Science The McDonald College

**L’Oréal Australia For Women in Science Fellowships:** Applications are now open for the 2008 L’Oréal Australia For Women in Science Fellowships.

**Western Sydney Section –RACI Seminar :** Sustainability- some chemical solutions for a tricky problem, **Speaker** Professor Thomas Maschmeyer **When:** Tuesday 27th May 2008 **Venue:** University of Western Sydney Campbelltown Campus (CR 5, Building 22)

*Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm **Thursday May 29th.** We welcome all article suggestions and ideas*
**RACI Conference:** 3D at the Cove- Drug Discovery & Development, 13-17 July at Couran Cove Island Resort, Queensland

**Advances in Heterocyclic Chemistry and Medicinal Chemistry:** One-Day Halpern Symposium in Honour of Prof. John Bremner University of Wollongong Thursday 10th July 2008

*Its here!!! The New 2008/2009 Entertainment Book has arrived:* This book has been an important fundraiser for our branch the last few years. Purchase your brand new 2008/2009 Entertainment™ Book *now* to receive over $15,000 in valuable offers, valid through 1 June, 2009. The Entertainment™ Book is your guide to the best restaurants, hotel accommodation, attractions, sports and leisure activities... all with 25% to 50% off or 2-for-1 offers. In NSW there are four books available
Newcastle, Central Coast and The Hunter (including Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens and the Hunter Valley)
Parramatta, The Hills, Blue Mountains and Macarthur
Sydney (includes Sydney CBD, Eastern Suburbs, Inner West, Southern Suburbs and more...)
Sydney North (includes North Sydney, the Northern Beaches, Upper and Lower North Shore and more...)
We can also obtain interstate editions if you have friends in other states.

**Important Dates in Chemistry’s History May 23-29**

**Website of the Week:** This week we look at Australian National Chemistry Quiz
See: [http://www.xenware.net/ancq/?id=1260](http://www.xenware.net/ancq/?id=1260)

**Events coming up this week:**

➤ 27th May :Western Sydney Section : Seminar Sustainability- some chemical solutions for a tricky problem

**Missed an edition of our weekly E-News?** We now have an archive of old editions! Please see


Please scroll down for further details.....

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Analytik Jena has more than 150 years of experience in the fields of optical spectroscopy and elemental analysis (AAS, UV-VIS, EA & TOC). Analytik Jena provides a 10 year warranty on optical components lending reliability to innovation.

In June 2008 MEP Instruments Pty Ltd will be offering a series of free seminars on Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy using the latest generation of Analytik Jena Spectrometers. An international group of expert speakers will present and guide through the presentations and workshops:

**Speakers:**

- Dr Burzu Ozmen, Analytik Jena, Germany
- Andrea Glomb, Analytik Jena, Germany
- Ritthirong Wongprachan, Analytik Jena, Thailand
- Atipong Saiyud, Analytik Jena, Thailand
- Bancha Veokeki, Analytik Jena, Thailand

The full day event will cover:

- The Fundamentals of High Resolution Continuum Source AAS
- New Applications in flame and graphite furnace techniques using the contraAA.
- Demonstration of Aspect CS Software and ContrAA Video
- Experience tomorrow's technology today with the multi EA 5000 for C, N, S and Cl
- Applications in multi element analysis

**Venues and dates:**
16th June Auckland Parnells  
18th June Brisbane Riverview Hotel  
20th June Melbourne Metropole Hotel  
**23rd June Sydney ANZ Stadium**  
25th June Perth Rendezvous Observation City Hotel

**Full details and seminar registration:**
Online: [www.mep.net.au/seminars/?ref=231b](http://www.mep.net.au/seminars/?ref=231b) Email to Katherine kh@mep.net.au or call MEP Instruments Pty Ltd, PO Box 1880, North Ryde 2113, Phone 02 98786900. Fax: 02 98786999

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The NSW Office for Science and Medical Research (OSMR) Science EXPOsé competition is an annual, state-wide competition open to students from Years 7 to 10. Students are encouraged to think about the potential for science to impact on their future. This competition forms part of Science EXPOsed <http://www.osmr.nsw.gov.au/scienceexposed> and the newly established NSW Scientist of the Year Awards <http://www.osmr.nsw.gov.au/science_communication/science_promotion/scientist_of_the_year>. The competition is being run in Terms 1 & 2 of the 2008 school year, in collaboration with the NSW Department of Education and Training <http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/secondary/science/new/index.htm>, and builds on the current science Years 7-10 syllabus. Results of the competition will be announced in Term 3.

To enter the competition, students must do the following:

1. Choose a NSW scientist
2. Describe the chosen scientist's work
3. Predict how the scientist's work may contribute to the future

The winning entry will be the one that best communicates how the chosen scientist's work may be applied in the future.

There are two divisions in the competition:

**Division One:** Open to students currently enrolled in Year 9 or Year 10 at any NSW-based secondary school.

**Division Two:** Open to students currently enrolled in Year 7 or Year 8 at any NSW-based secondary school.

There are two categories in each division:

1. Multimedia (Video, web site, PowerPoint or PDF presentation)
2. Essay

**First Prize:** Prize package in each category includes:

- $300 to go to the winning student
- Invitation for the winning student, their teacher and their guardian to attend the NSW Scientist of the Year Awards Ceremony in September 2008
- Opportunity to meet the NSW Scientist of the Year following the Awards Ceremony
- Entry featured at the Science EXPOsed event in October 2008

Resources page to get you started:
Royal Australian Chemical Institute Inc. (Qld Branch)
Branch Dinner Seminar – 17th June 2008

"Starch Structure: Your Dinner & Your Life Expectancy"

The Qld Branch invites us all – and especially members in Northern NSW

All RACI members, colleagues and interested persons are invited to attend the Queensland Branch Dinner Seminar.

Date       Tuesday, 17th June 2008 (6.30 pm for 7:00 pm start)
RSVP       Thursday 12th June 2008 (for catering purposes)
Venue      The Ship Inn
            Cnr Stanley & Sidon Streets, Southbank Parklands
            1st Floor Function Room – enter via the “Griffith Graduate Centre” at rear of The Ship Inn.
Cost
$40.00 for all RACI members
$45.00 for all non-members
(Cost includes – Entrée, Main Course and 1 drink per person with the meal - Domestic Beer, House Wine or Soft Drink)
(Note: Full bar facilities are available at own cost)

Speaker    Professor Robert (Bob) Gilbert
Awarded the RACI 2007 Leighton Memorial Medal
In recognition of eminent services to chemistry in Australia

• Professor Robert G (Bob) Gilbert is Research Professor in the Centre for Nutrition and Food Science, University of Queensland. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and of the RACI, is author of 340 papers, 4 patents, and 2 books (on unimolecular reactions and on emulsion polymerisation). His research interests cover a wide range of polymer science, with recent emphasis on starch as a polymer.

Abstract

• For a polymer scientist, starch presents a challenge: while a simple homopolymer of glucose, it is highly branched, and one can identifying has six levels of structural complexity, from nm to mm. Starch comprises half our food energy, and structure-property relations are needed to improve our nutrition with regard to diabetes and obesity, now reaching epidemic levels. This talk will be on research to stop this evening’s dinner killing you.

Registration Forms are available from the Qld Branch Office. Please return completed forms, with payment, to Ruth Meaney (RACI Qld Branch Coordinator) by email, fax, or mail by THURSDAY 12TH JUNE 2008 for catering purposes.

Ruth Meaney, RACI Qld Branch Coordinator        PO Box 667 Mt Gravatt     Qld    4122
Email: qld-raci@raci.org.au           Phone / fax: (07) 3420 4223

Deadline for next week’s edition is 5pm Thursday May 29th. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas
**Strategy meeting - Saturday June 14th**

The RACI NSW Branch Committee will be holding a strategy meeting on Saturday June 14th at the University of Sydney. The aim of this exercise is to examine the relevance of NSW Branch activities to its members and how these can be improved. If you have criticisms of the current Branch operations and/or ideas for improvements in the delivery of services to RACI members, please contact Adam Cawley (Secretary) by email: a.cawley@usyd.edu.au, phone: 0407 127 388 or via the office (RACINSW@chem.unsw.edu.au). This is your chance to have a say on the future direction of the RACI in NSW so don’t be content as a couch critic, we will value all comments.

**Position for a part-time science teacher**

0.8 position, all junior science available.
The McDonald College
17 George St
North Strathfield
Contact Dianne Wilson Head of Science 9752 0563 for details

**L’Oréal Australia For Women in Science Fellowships.**

Applications are now open for the 2008 L’Oréal Australia *For Women in Science* Fellowships. The Fellowships recognise scientific excellence by early-career women in the life sciences, material sciences, physical sciences, mathematics or engineering, who have completed their PhD or equivalent in the last five years. The Fellowships are supported by the Australian National Commission for UNESCO and endorsed by the Australian Academy of Science. Three Fellowships will be awarded, each for $20,000. The Fellowships are intended to help early career women scientists to consolidate their careers and rise to leadership positions in science. The Fellowships are awarded to women who have shown scientific excellence in their career to date and who have an appropriate research plan that will be assisted by the one-year Fellowship. Last year four fellowships were awarded to:

- Jenny Gunton from the Garvan Institute for her study exploring the link between Vitamin D and diabetes.
- Ilana Feain from CSIRO for her study of black holes and their role in the birth and death of stars and galaxies.
- Catriona Bradshaw from Monash University for her study of the transmission of a common genital infection - bacterial vaginosis
- Sarah Pryke from Macquarie University for her study of the evolution and conservation of Gouldian finches.

There’s more information online at <http://www.scienceinpublic.com/loreal> . The closing date is Friday 20 June 2008.

*Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm Thursday May 29th. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas*
When: Tuesday 27th May 2008
Venue: University of Western Sydney
Campbelltown Campus (CR 5, Building 22)

Programme:

6.00 Wine & Cheese
6.30 Special Guest Speaker: Professor Thomas Maschmeyer
(University of Sydney)

The world is standing at the technological threshold of a revolution that is driven by the need for truly sustainable (industrial) processes, both in the production of chemicals as well as in the generation of fuels and power. At current rates of resource usage, if a world population were to operate with Australian standards of living, it would require between 4 – 6 planets. In addition, concomitant greenhouse gas emissions would have a dramatic impact on the world’s climate. This talk will outline how one might be able to address some of the basic problems associated with these issues from a chemical perspective. The talk will not only be directed at a general audience and canvas aspects of ‘the bigger picture’, but it will also cover very recent research results from our group in the area of photocatalytic splitting of water with sunlight to create hydrogen, 200 litres/(hour.m²).

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

For additional information please contact:
Dr Robert Kaziro (4620 3207); Email: r.kaziro@uws.edu.au

Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm Thursday May 29th. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas.
The RACI 3D at the Cove- Drug Discovery & Development, 13-17 July at Couran Cove Island Resort, Queensland

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to join us at ‘3D at the Cove’, the 2008 follow-on meeting from the very successful ‘Drug Design Amongst the Vines 2006’. This drug discovery and development conference is organised by the Biomolecular Chemistry Division of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and held at Couran Cove Resort from 13 July to 17 July 2008.

At this meeting you will be able to hear the latest developments on all medicinal chemistry topics, such as drug discovery targets and modes of action (GPCRs, Kinases, Ion Channels and proteases), indications (antibacterials, pain, Oncology, Inflammation, CNS disorders), as well as a dedicated session on the Australian Biotech Industry.

It is especially exciting to have this meeting on one of Queensland’s secluded Island resorts, allowing ample opportunity to interact and really get to know all delegates (this year limited to 160) and plenary speakers. It is the quality of the talks and the warm interaction that make these meetings a very memorable experience. Couran Cove offers the best Australian beaches and rainforest in our Sunshine state and will provide a wonderful setting for our scientific meeting.

Wim Meutermans
Conference Chair, Biomolecular Chemistry Division

Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm Thursday May 29th. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas
One-Day Halpern Symposium in Honour of Prof. John Bremner University of Wollongong
Thursday 10th July 2008
McKinnon Building, 67.104
8.30 a.m. registration — 9.00 a.m. start

Prof. John Bremner has recently retired from his academic position at the University of Wollongong. To celebrate his outstanding career as a researcher and teacher the School of Chemistry is organizing a one-day symposium on Thursday, 10th July 2008. The theme of the symposium will be on heterocyclic and medicinal chemistry, the two topics of John's major research interests.

The following eminent researchers have accepted invitations to speak.
- Dr Jonathan Baell (The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research)
- Prof. Martin Banwell (Australian National University)
- Prof. David Black (University of NSW)
- Prof. Bill Denny (University of Auckland)
- Prof. Tim Gallagher (University of Bristol)
- Dr Kevin Winzenberg (CSIRO Molecular and Health Technologies)
- Prof. Brian Yates (University of Tasmania)

After the conclusion of the one-day symposium activities John Bremner will be presenting the Halpern Lecture at 6.00 pm followed by dinner at a local restaurant. The members of the organizing committee would like to invite you and your colleagues and research students to participate in this exciting day of science, to celebrate with John his long and distinguished research career and his contributions to Chemistry, nationally and internationally.

Please e-mail or fax your registration details (see below) to Louisa Willdin at louisa@uow.edu.au [fax (02) 4221 4287] before 10th May 2008.

If you need to book your accommodation, you may find this website useful. www.tourismwollongong.com.au

Name: ____________________________________________
Affiliation: ________________________________________
e-mail: ____________________________________________
I will attend: _______________________________________
1. One-Day Symposium in Honour of Prof. John Bremner
   Staff, $55
   Student, free
2. The Halpern Lecture (free lecture)
3. Dinner at a local restaurant (cost not included in registration fees)
Payment: Cheque Bankcard MasterCard Visa
Cardholder name: ___________________________________
Card Number: _______________________
Expiry Date: _______________________
Signature of cardholder: _______________________
Cheques should be made payable to The School of Chemistry, University of Wollongong. Please e-mail or fax your registration details to Louisa Willdin at louisa@uow.edu.au [fax (02) 4221 4287] before 10th May 2008.
Purchase your brand new 2008/2009 Entertainment™ Book now to receive over $15,000 in valuable offers, valid through 1 June, 2009. At the same time, you’ll be helping community fund-raising!

The Entertainment™ Book is your guide to the best restaurants, hotel accommodation, attractions, sports and leisure activities... all with 25% to 50% off or 2-for-1 offers. Plus, My Bookings™... Compare rates, check availability and book your accommodation online. Here is a sample of the many well known businesses providing valuable offers in the new Sydney and Sydney North Entertainment™ Books...

The following appear in both the Sydney and Sydney North editions

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For a complete listing of participating businesses or more information about Entertainment™ Books for other cities, please visit www.entertainmentbook.com.au .. Contact Edwina Hine NSW Branch Coordinator. RACINSW@chem.unsw.edu.au

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Important Dates in Chemistry’s History May 23-29

23  
b. 1854 Edgar Fahs Smith, researcher in electrochemistry and history of chemistry; Three times President of ACS.

24  
b. 1686 Gabriel D. Fahrenheit improved thermometers by using mercury (Hg, 80) 1720; invented Fahrenheit temperature scale.  
b. 1640 John Mayow discovered that air contained two gases, one of which supported life & combustion, spiritus nitro-aerous (oxygen); recognized the role of oxygen in the combustion of metals; recorded a correct anatomical description of respiration
> Aaron Dexter appointed first Professor of Chemistry & Materia Medica at newly organized Harvard Medical School, 1783.

25  
b. 1865 Pieter Zeeman studied the influence of magnetism on the nature of radiation, splitting of spectral lines (Zeeman Effect); Nobel Prize (1902) in Physics with Hendrik A. Lorentz in recognition of the extraordinary service they rendered by their researches into the influence of magnetism upon radiation phenomena.  
b. 1915 Paul J. Scheuer “father of marine natural products”.

26  
b. 1865 Max Julius Louis Le Blanc, research on electrochemical polarization and electrodes; introduced the hydrogen electrode.  
b. 1895 Helen Marie Dyer, who did research on chemotherapy, was born on this day. She received an award from ACS in recognition of distinguished service by a female. She was the oldest member of CSW when she died at the age of 103.

27  
b. 1840 Lars F. Nilson discovered scandium (Sc, 21), 1879.  
b. 1857 Theodor Curtius, researcher in chemistry of hydrazines and azides; Curtius rearrangement; characterized benzoylglucylglycine.  
b. 1904 John C. Bailar, Jr., discovered optical inversion & explained stereospecificity in complex inorganic reactions  
b. 1909 Mary Fieser researcher on quinones, natural products, and steroids; coauthored texts in organic chemistry with her husband.

28  
b. 1887 Kasmir Fajans established radioactive displacement law & initiated concept of heat of hydration of gaseous ions.

29  
b. 1781 Henri Braconnot, isolated glucose from plant material such as sawdust, linen or bark by boiling in acid; prepared “xyloidine”, a precursor for plastics, by treating starch, sawdust, and cotton with nitric acid.  
b. 1794 Antoine A. B. Bussy isolated magnesium (Mg, 12), 1828.  

Ref: Monthly Historical Events In Chemistry by Leopold May, The Catholic University of America  
http://faculty.cua.edu/may/Chemistrycalendar.htm

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**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

**Australian National Chemistry Quiz**

See:  [http://www.xenware.net/ancq/?id=1260](http://www.xenware.net/ancq/?id=1260)

I recommend all our members to take a look at the ANCQ website. This portal gives all the necessary information about the upcoming National Chemistry Quiz. The quiz has been running over 20 years now, and is run by Associate Professor Charles Fogliani – a long time and very active RACI member. It is now an international quiz involving 117,000 students from 15 countries which will be held in Chemistry week this year. It is exciting to think of our members reaching so many people- encouraging them to have an interest in chemistry

Edwina Hine *(NSW Branch Coordinator)*

**Events this Week**

- 27th May: Western Sydney Section: Seminar **Sustainability- some chemical solutions for a tricky problem**

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